

Chapter 21

Jeremy was fearful. He felt like there was a hidden thorn in his heart stabbing him mercilessly. He picked up Madeline without any hesitation.

When Meredith saw this from one side, she stepped forward to stop him. "Jeremy, where are you taking Maddie?"

However, Jeremy ignored her and sped to the hospital while holding Madeline.

Throughout the way, his brain was occupied with the ment he first met the girl when he was young. That ment was delicate yet quiet and contented. It kept on replaying in his brain. 16 Jeremy's heart was beating frantically. He somehow forgot that he was supposed to be in disdain of Madeline and carried her to the ER frantically.

She had said she was pregnant and it was his. However, his body was now stained with her blood.

Jeremy felt as if he was being suffocated by something invisible. This was the first time he hoped that Madeline would be okay.

He paced back and forth as he waited outside. He felt extremely anxious.

At this ment, a nurse walked out. Jeremy stopped her and asked, "What's happening? What's wrong with my wife?"

The nurse looked at Jeremy. There was resentment in her tone as she said, "You're really something else as her husband. She's pregnant, and she was still running around in the rain. Not to mention, she's covered in wounds all over. She has a cold and is bleeding from her genitals. It's up to God whether the child will be saved."

Jeremy felt like he could not breathe. The suffocating feeling made his mind go blank. There was only one thing on his mind; it was for Madeline to be saved no matter what.

After a long time, the door to the operating ro opened.

Jeremy rushed to the bed and found Madeline unconscious. Seeing her colorless face, Jeremy felt a pang in his heart.

He could not help himself fr holding Madeline's cold hand as his eyes displayed a solemn gaze. 'Madeline, tell me. Why did you call me Jez? Why do you know about my prise with Linnie when I was young?' 17

Madeline was brought to the VIP ro where she slept drowsily. She vaguely felt seone holding her hand as the warmth slowly seeped into her skin. Her body did not feel so cold anymore.

When Madeline woke up, it was already the next day. While trying to move, she noticed that seone was holding her hand tightly.

She widened her eyes in dumbfoundedness and saw Jeremy leaning against the bed. His hand was holding hers tightly. It felt so warm.

Madeline looked at what was happening with a dazed look on her face. She felt as if she were dreaming. Jeremy opened his eyes the ment he felt movement.

When he saw Madeline looking at him stupidly, he touched her forehead. She had had a fever the night before, but it seemed like it had gone away.

Madeline was in disbelief at Jeremy's gentle gestures. " Jeremy ..." She called out to him. Her voice was hoarse, and her throat hurt. "Don't talk. Let me fetch you a glass of warm water." "Jeremy..." Madeline's eyes turned red, and she felt like all of her wounds had been healed.

Jeremy helped her up and fed her some water.

He did not ask her about what had happened when they were kids upon seeing her in such a weak state.

Madeline leaned against Jeremy's chest. At this moment, his gentleness felt so surreal. 19 "Jeremy, why did you..." "When did you have the baby? Why didn't you tell me?" His tone was gentle. He had never talked to her like this before. 31

Madeline was stunned as she held the glass of water. She remembered telling him clearly.

When Jeremy saw that Madeline was in a state of daze, he did not say anything more. "You should rest now. Just tell me when you're better." He then carefully helped her lie down.

Madeline was tearful. She was a little joyous too.

Had he remembered their promise because she had called him Jez before falling unconscious? Or was he now feeling remorseful because she almost had a miscarriage?

No matter what the reason was, Madeline was happy.

At the very least, Jeremy would look at her now.

Jeremy wanted to stay with Madeline a little longer. However, he ended up leaving after seeing that he had a few phone calls for his company. When he was about to near the lift, he heard Meredith's voice from the other end of the corridor. "Doctor, is that true?" Meredith sounded astonished. "Please don't tell Maddie's husband about this!"

Chapter 22

Upon hearing this, Jeremy's expression changed.

He walked nearer and saw that Meredith had her back against him. She was talking to Madeline's doctor. "Why is this happening ? I never expected Maddie to do sething like that..." Not long after, Meredith was heard sighing.

Jeremy had not gotten the full story. However, when he was about to go forward and question them, the doctor frowned and said awkwardly, "Sigh! It's against my medical ethics to lie, but your sister is really sething else. She isn't pregnant, but she insisted on pretending to b e pregnant. She even used fake blood to pretend that the baby had been affected. When we found out, she threatened to kill herself and forced us to lie with her. We're speechless!" 30

Jeremy's face was immediately covered with a layer of ice after he heard this.

She was pretending?

Madeline was pretending to be pregnant? Her blood was also fake? "I can understand why Maddie would have done that, but I never would've imagined she'd threaten to kill herself and force you guys to lie to her husband. She's so headstrong!" "I think you should talk to your sister. Her husband will see through her fake pregnancy one day." The doctor turned around to leave after talking to her.

Meredith chased up to him. "Doctor, don't tell anyone about this, especially my sister's husband. I'm afraid that h e might kill her if he finds out."

The doctor sighed helplessly. "You should take care of it yourself. At the end of the day, there's nothing wrong with Madeline. She can be discharged at any time." "Thank you, Doctor! Thank you, Doctor!"

Meredith thanked the doctor as he walked away.

After thanking the doctor, Meredith sighed and frowned. "Maddie, you've gone over the top. I can forgive you for pretending to be me and lying to Jeremy that you're his childhood friend. However, how could you lie about being pregnant? Sigh!"

Meredith sighed and turned around. She lifted her head and saw Jeremy in the distance. Consequently, she let out a shocked expression.

She looked at Jeremy timidly. "Jeremy, when did you get here?"

Jeremy looked at Meredith who was so nervous that she was rubbing her hands together. He suppressed his anger. "You're aware of that woman's scheme, and you're still trying to lie to me for her?" 15

Having heard Jeremy's words, Meredith was stunned for a few seconds. Nevertheless, she looked at him with a puzzled look on her face and said, "Jeremy, I don't know what you're talking about? Who? Who did I help? You must have misheard me."

When Jeremy saw that Meredith refused to tell him the truth, he frowned. "I heard what you said to the doctor, and you still want to lie to me?"

Meredith shook her head, and her eyes turned red from grievance. "Jeremy, I'm not lying to you. How could I lie to you?" "Are you still not going to tell me the truth?" "Jeremy..." "Alright, if you don't want to tell me the truth, I'll ask her myself!" Jeremy turned around; his eyes were cold. "Jeremy, no!" Meredith ran over and grabbed Jeremy's arm. "Jeremy, don't be angry. Please don't be angry!"

She sobbed. "I'm sorry, I shouldn't have lied to you. However, if I hadn't lied for Maddie, you wouldn't be able to forgive her. That's why I..."

Meredith grabbed Jeremy's arm and looked at him with tears in her eyes. "Jeremy, please don't blame Maddie. She knows she's at fault. I know she won't do such a thing ever again! "It's my fault. It's all my fault! I shouldn't have stayed with you after your wedding. I caused Maddie to

fake her pregnancy out of jealousy. I also shouldn't have told Maddie about what happened when we first met and made her have that sinister idea. That's why she lied and told you that she's that little girl. It's all my fault, Jeremy. Just put all the blame on me!"

Jeremy's eyes were extremely dark when he heard this.

It was all fake!

She was only trying to make him pity her!

She was a pathological liar indeed. Why would he think that she was the little girl that he wanted to protect? That girl was Meredith!

Flames of wrath rose up in his chest as he recalled how gentle he had treated Madeline just now.

Consequently, he turned around and charged back toward her room. Meredith called out after him frantically. However, a smirk had already appeared on her lips.

Madeline had closed her eyes when Jeremy barged in with a dark expression on his face. Her heart skipped a beat. "Jeremy, what's wrong?"

Jeremy did not say anything. He walked toward the side of the bed slowly.

Madeline felt the aura of death coming from him. However, just as she was about to speak, Jeremy reached out his hands and grabbed her by the neck.

"Jeremy..."

At that moment, Madeline could not breathe. Her pale face turned red. "Madeline Crawford, you deserve to die." Jeremy moved his lips frigidly. His dark eyes were staring at her as if he wanted to see

through her. "It would've been fine if you had only pretended to be pregnant, but how dare you impersonate Meredith? Did you really think you'd be able to get away with it?"

What...

Madeline's eyes widened in confusion, but she could not say anything as she was being choked. She could only see Jeremy's eyes. They looked like they were about to slice her with a knife a million times. "Madeline, since you had the nerve to lie to me, you should know what the consequences you should suffer are!"

After he said that, he pushed Madeline away.

Madeline was like a broken doll that was being thrown away. She fell from the bed, and her head hit the corner of its frame. Additionally, the IV drip in the back of her hand was ripped out, and she trembled from the excruciating pain.

She placed her hand on her stomach subconsciously and got up despite being in pain. Subsequently, she sat on the floor and grabbed Jeremy's pants. "Jeremy, I didn't lie to you. I'm really pregnant. I have the doctor's proof. You can take me for an ultrasound now. Jeremy, please trust me for once. Just once, Jeremy..."

Chapter 23

"Heh."

Jeremy scoffed lightly. He looked down at Madeline coldly with his dark eyes. "Madeline, I underestimated you. You even managed to bribe the doctors here to make them lie to me about your pregnancy. Do you think I'm a fool? Do you think I'd be fooled so easily?"

Madeline lifted her head and sobbed sadly. "No! I haven't lied to you, Jeremy! Why would I lie to you about something like that? I really am pregnant! Jeremy, you don't believe me? Touch my stomach. The child really is here..."

Madeline stood up with all her might and grabbed

Jeremy's hand. She wanted him to believe her. She wanted him to feel the life that was already forming in her stomach.

However, Jeremy pushed away her hand. "Get lost! Don't touch me with your filthy hand!" Jeremy's eyes were as sharp as knives. "You're not pregnant. However, even if you really are, I'll abort it because you do not deserve it! Madeline, a woman like you will never have the chance to have anything to do with me!" 32 "Jeremy!" When Madeline saw that Jeremy was about to leave, she chased after him while stumbling. She grabbed his arm. "Jeremy, don't go. You told me you'd protect me forever! I am Linnie. Have you forgotten? Jeremy..."

Madeline begged for him to stay, but what she said triggered him. Almost instantly, she felt an intense aura of death. The next second, she was pushed to the ground by Jeremy. Consequently, Madeline clutched her stomach in pain. She could see the man's terrifying gaze through her tears. "Madeline, you deserve to die." "Jeremy ..." Cold sweat started to appear on Madeline's body due to the pain. However, Jeremy left after he said those hurtful words. He was not concerned about her wellbeing at all.

Madeline got up from the ground and smiled bitterly. Her eyes were filled with tears. 'Jez, you're no longer the boy Linnie once knew...'

Throughout the next few days, Jeremy did not show up. There was no word of concern at all. It was as if he had forgotten about her.

Madeline laid on the bed but did not recover even after a few days. On the contrary, she felt herself getting weaker and weaker. So, she asked Ava to bring her to a specialized hospital for a check up.

When the results came out, Madeline was shocked. "Miss Crawford, you don't have much time. If you don't abort the child, you don't have a

chance."

The doctor did not beat around the bush. Perhaps she had seen too much of life and death and was already numb.

Madeline's vision turned black for a while. If Ava were not there with her, she might have passed out.

She knew she could not delay treating the tumor. However, she had not expected misfortune to come so fast. "Maddie, you can have a child again, while you only have one life," Ava advised. She did not wait any longer before arranging the surgery for Madeline.

After a while, Ava came back with the receipt. Madeline held it in her hand with her face that was completely pale. All of a sudden, she crumpled it up and threw it into the bin.

Ava was stunned. "Maddie?"

Madeline's eyes were wet. She looked oddly determined. "I won't give up this child even if I die."

The tumor would worsen even if she were to abort the child. It was just a matter of time.

Not to mention, it might be the only trammel she could leave for Jeremy. It was difficult to sway Madeline's decision now.

Ava had no choice. She could only advise her to at least let Jeremy know about her condition.

Chapter 24

Nonetheless, Madeline shook her head and smiled bitterly. What was the difference between telling him and not telling him?

He would not care about her. To Jeremy, it would be best if she died.

For the sake of the child in her stomach, Madeline had to live positively.

The doctor told her that the child was contracting her.

The more the child grew inside her, the worse Madeline would become since the little dumpling's position was directly above the tumor that would worsen day by day.

Madeline submitted countless resumes online, and they elicited no response. However, in the end, she got an order.

It was for a small company. They wanted Madeline to design a pair of rings, and they offered her a decent price.

Of course, Madeline accepted the order. She worked the entire day in her room and only came downstairs to make herself food.

The child was three months old. However, it was winter, so she did not look like she was pregnant while wearing her sweater.

During this period, Jeremy did not ask about her, and she was already used to it.

All of a sudden, she heard footsteps at the front door. Furthermore, she saw Jeremy returning to the house.

The man was wearing a black leather jacket. There was an air of asceticism to him, and he looked alluring.

There were two bags with cartoons printed on them in his hands. When Madeline looked closer, she noticed that they were children's clothes.

She was surprised but still felt delighted and hopeful.

Nonetheless, she then heard Jeremy's cold voice saying, " These are for Mer."

When he spoke, he sounded gentle. However, his gentleness was for Meredith.

The hope in Madeline's eyes was crushed instantly. "Madeline, you couldn't possibly have thought that these are for you?" The man mocked as he questioned her, "How could I have a child with you?"

What he added crushed Madeline's heart.

She looked at his cold face with pain in her heart. "Jeremy, you're so devious!" "You expect me to be kind to a b*tch like you? Madeline, do you think you deserve it?"

He chuckled lightly. His deep eyes scanned Madeline's colorless face. Subsequently, he turned around and walked upstairs.

Looking at his back, a bitter smile appeared on Madeline's dry lips. She mumbled softly. "Jeremy, if I really don't deserve it, why did you make that prise back then?"

Madeline was on time for her checkup at the hospital.

Naturally, her body had weakened fr her last check up.

Ava was worried sick. She told Madeline to abort the baby again, but the latter only smiled. "Ava, can you go sewhere with me?"

The wind on the beach in the early winter felt like knives against their cheeks.

Ava did not know why Madeline had asked to ce here. When she was

about to ask her, Madeline said, "Ava, I have a request. If I don't make it, I hope you'll throw my ashes into this sea." Chapter 25

When Ava heard this, she became worried. " Madeline, Crawford, what on earth are you saying?" "I'm serious." Madeline smiled lightly. She looked at the azure ocean in front of her, and the beautiful memories resurfaced in her head once again. "This is where Jeremy and I pledged our love to each other," she said before quickly correcting herself, "Or rather, this is where my onesided love began."

Ava was stunned. Then, her brain registered what was going on. "So this is the place where you first met each other."

Madeline nodded and closed her eyes. The sunlight shone down on her round but bony face. "Back then, he told me, 'Linnie, when we grow up, I'll take you as my bride'."

Madeline said before slowly reopening her eyes. Subsequently, tears escaped her eyes and silently rolled down her cheeks.

Ava was furious. "All men are liars! Jeremy knew how to lie to girls at such a young age; you even fell into his trap!" "Yeah, I thought he was sincere. Not only did I think that, but I even thought that he was serious." "Maddie, just give up. That man is not worth your love," Ava advised. She felt sad at the thought of how invested Madeline was in him.

However, Madeline smiled. "Ava, it has been 12 years. I can't let him go."

Her love for him was bone deep. It was in her every breath.

How could it be easy for her to just let him go? "So, you're willing to sacrifice your life for that man?"

After Ava said that, an icy gust of wind howled, and its coldness

spreaded throughout Madeline's heart. "As long as he's happy."

She had lost herself ever since she fell for him when she first saw him. "Maddie, I don't think I'll have the chance to give birth to the child."

Madeline bent down and picked up a shell. Memories flooded her brain, and she smiled. "I won't have the chance to pester him anymore. He should end up happy. I'll be happy too because I'll be with my baby. I'll be buried in the sea with that beautiful memory forever and ever..."

Ava looked at Madeline. She did not know what to say.

Ava still saw happiness in Madeline's face at a time like this. How stupid was she? How much did she love that heartless man to make her think that she would be happy even in death?

After parting ways with Ava, Madeline went home.

When she arrived at the door, she saw Daniel waiting for her. When he saw her, he walked over to her with a worried look on his face. "Maddie, why didn't you answer my calls? Are you okay?"

Madeline was touched that Daniel was so concerned about her, but she had not forgotten what Jeremy had said to her. When she was about to say something, Jeremy appeared.

He got out of the car. He was wearing all black and looked terrifying. "Daniel, we haven't seen each other for so many years, and you're still longing for my wife, huh?"

His tone was mischievous, but it was obvious that he was being sarcastic.

Madeline felt humiliated, and at the same time, angry for Daniel. "Dan and I are innocent. Mr. Whitman, please respect your wife and your old classmate."

After she said that, she felt a cold air around her. "Wife? You still remember that you're my wife?"

Then why are you still talking with your old flame at my front door?" The man's question made Madeline weary. She did not want to explain herself anymore, but she did not want to involve Daniel in it. "Jeremy, I'll tell you once more. For the last time, I've only had one man my entire life and it's you!"

After she yelled at Jeremy hysterically, she turned around and ran back into the house.

After a while, Jeremy entered the house as well. His face was dark, and there was a layer of ice on him.

Madeline thought that Jeremy would humiliate her again. However, he said to her in an oddly calm manner, "Madeline, let's talk."

Chapter 26

Madeline was surprised by Jeremy's attitude. However, she did not try to flatter him like she used to. She calmly asked, "What do you want to talk about, Mr. Whitman?"

Jeremy was unhappy with how Madeline was addressing him that way. "What did you call me?" "Is there any difference? You never pay attention to me anyway, Mr. Whiteman."

Jeremy frowned. After a few moments of silence, he said, "Mer's stash is getting bigger and bigger. I want to give her status."

Even though Madeline knew Jeremy would force her to divorce him one day, it still felt like a bolt from the blue now that it was happening.

Madeline looked at the frigid man in front of her. She laughed in selfmockery. "What about me?"

She asked. All of a sudden, she felt like she and the baby in her stomach were the biggest jokes in the world.

Jeremy's intense and piercing gaze landed on Madeline's face. "If you remain obedient, we can stay this way."

Madeline burst out laughing after being dazed. "Mr. Whitman, are you saying that you want your legally wedded wife to become your mistress? You want that shameless mistress to be in my position, is that it?"

After she said that, Jeremy's face turned so dark that it looked horrifying.

Madeline felt a pang of pain in her heart. She bit her lip and clenched her fists. "Jeremy, unless I die, I won't let that two-faced b*tch Meredith get her way!"

After Madeline said that, she turned around and went upstairs to lock herself in her room,

Her heart was beating frantically. She was so scared that she would beg him to not divorce her if she were slightly slower.

After all, she had never changed her wish. As long as she could stay with him, she would be happy and satisfied.

However, his heartlessness was way beyond her imagination despite him having promised that he would stay with her forever. ***

Madeline moved out. She did not dare face Jeremy. She was scared that he would hand her the divorce papers once more. Not to mention, she was also scared that he would try to do everything he could to kill the baby in her stomach for Meredith's sake.

She had thought that Jeremy would ask about her after she moved out. However, a few days passed, and he never called her. It was obvious that he had not been he for those few days.

He must have been with Meredith, living their best lives.

At the thought of this, Meredith looked at the rings she had drafted. Consequently, her vision became blurry.

Back then, she had accepted the order fr a client. They had asked her to create a pair of matching rings.

When she first started having feelings for Jeremy, she had had this pair of rings in her mind.

She had imagined meeting him once more, falling in love, and eventually getting married. Then, he would put the ring she had designed herself on her own ring finger by himself. Nonetheless, at the end o f the day, that prise turned into ashes.

Madeline wiped away her tears and recposed herself to continue working on her draft. However, she received a call fr the psychiatric hospital where her only family member in the world was living.

She rushed over, and the nurse told her that her grandfather had cancer; it was lung cancer.

It was treatable but required very expensive surgery. Madeline sliced an apple for Len Samuels and handed it to him. "Grandpa, have an apple."

Even though Len was mentallyill, he looked benevolent and kind. He took the apple fr Madeline. "Eveline, you're here."

Madeline nodded and smiled. Eveline was her real name. As for her surname, she had no idea.

Ever since she could remember, she had no parents. She only had a mentally ill grandfather.

Madeline had thought that she would be the one mourning for her grandfather when he returned to the maker. However, for the looks of the current situation, she would leave before Len.

Madeline checked the price for the surgery and found that she needed about three hundred thousand dollars to treat second stage lung cancer.

Seeing the number, the light in Madeline's eyes slowly began to fade away. She felt as if her heart was being trapped by a net. It only became tighter and tighter, making it harder for her to breathe.

Three hundred thousand dollars. How would she get so much money?

Nonetheless, when she thought about her grandfather passing away because she did not have enough money for his treatment, tears blurred her vision. The pain of losing a loved one was so suffocating that it made it hard for her to breathe.

Nevertheless, the expensive cost of treatment made

Madeline fall into another state of despair. Eventually, when she was about to lose all hope, she remembered Jeremy.

He was her only hope.

Chapter 27

Madeline went to look for Jeremy immediately. The man looked as refined as always. He was sitting at his desk reading a few documents; he did not even lift his head.

When he heard that Madeline wanted to loan three hundred thousand from him, he burst out laughing. "Madeline, money is just a number for me. However, I won't give you a single cent."

Madeline gritted her teeth and continued pleading, "My grandpa has lung cancer, and he needs the money for his treatment. Jeremy, please, loan me the money. I'll definitely pay you back." "Pay me back? With what?" He knew she did not have the ability to pay him back. However, he suddenly said, "I can loan you the money, but you have to agree to what I asked that day."

Madeline clenched the corner of her shirt.

He wanted Meredith to take her position. Consequently, she would become his mistress.

Madeline suppressed the pain in her heart. She tried her best to stay calm. "Jeremy, aside from that, I can agree to anything."

Jeremy slammed his documents shut and stood up. His eyes were icy. "Aside from that, don't even think about getting a single cent."

When Madeline saw that he was about to leave, she no longer cared about anything. She grabbed his arm. "Jeremy, please help my grandpa. We can't delay his treatment."

Jeremy chuckled lowly. There was no warmth in his eyes. "So what? What does that have to do with me?"

Madeline felt a chill on her back. All of a sudden, the man in front of her looked oddly foreign and cold-blooded. As her eyes wandered, she felt pain in her chin. When she came back to her senses, she was met with Jeremy's sinister eyes. His eyes and eyebrows looked delicate; however, there was a sense of mockery in them. "For the sake of Mer, I'll give you an alternative. Since you want money so much, you can sell your body. Three hundred thousand dollars shouldn't be a problem with your face."

He pushed her away and walked away carefreely.

His icy words hammered on Madeline's heart. The tumor in her body started to act up once more.

She pressed on where the tumor was and took out a painkiller before swallowing it.

The man's cold words were still ringing in her ears as she tried her best to swallow her tears. Madeline gritted her teeth and stood up.

He was right. Under the current circumstances, she could only sell her body for her grandfather.

However, she neither entertained customers nor sold her body.

Instead, she walked into every private room in the nightclub with red wine that had been given to her by the manager.

The customers who visited the place were pretty generous, especially when they were faced with beautiful girls.

Madeline normally did not put on any makeup or doll herself up. She always looked clean and simple. However, that night, she was different from her usual self.

The customers looked at Madeline's pretty face that resembled nature itself and spent their money on her willingly.

Madeline only had one last bottle of wine in her hands. The manager saw that she was pretty good at it, so he gave her the most expensive alcohol in the shop and then sent her to the VIP room. He told her that the richest customers were all in that room. If she sold that bottle, she would receive one hundred thousand dollars as commission.

The number swayed Madeline. Thus, despite feeling unwell and reluctant to go, when she thought that her grandfather would be able to

receive treatment soon, she swallowed a painkiller and went.

Nonetheless, the moment she opened the door, she saw a face that made her heart skip a beat. Jeremy was leaning against the sofa lazily. He looked cold and conceited like a monarch. He had a dineering air to him that elicited fear in people's hearts.

At the same time, Meredith was also in the room.

Madeline had not expected Jeremy to be the richest customer that night.

Her body initially felt numb when she took the painkiller. However, it was starting to hurt.

Madeline did not want to humiliate herself, so she decided to leave. "Madeline, I didn't expect you to sell yourself for real." The man's cold voice was laced with mockery. Madeline's bones ached when she heard that. The next instant, Meredith walked up to her. "Maddie, it's you! Why are you here?"

Madeline wanted to puke when she saw Meredith's hypocritical face. "I'm different from you guys. You guys have come here to have fun, while I'm here to make money." 16 "Make money? Madeline, why have you become so depraved? Aren't you simply embarrassing Jeremy by doing this? You can tell me if you need money. How can you sell your body?"

Chapter 28

Sell her body?

Madeline had never said that she was there to sell her body, yet Meredith assumed as such immediately.

There was an inhuman glint in Jeremy's cold yet dineering eyes. It was getting more and more terrifying. He looked like Satan who had just ascended from hell. He wanted to rip Madeline into pieces very badly.

She had really ce to sell herself. 8

She could accept every man on earth for money!

She had even boasted that she had had only him so shamelessly before.

How cheap. "Maddie, listen to me. Go he. If not, Jeremy will b e mad. I won't be able to hold him back when that happens."

Madeline was disgusted by Meredith's soft and gentle tone.

She looked at Meredith while feeling amused. " He? Do I still have a he? Isn't my he being dinated by a shameless mistress like you?"

Meredith looked awkward. The corner of her lips twitched, and she looked at Jeremy aggrievedly. " Jeremy, don't be mad at Maddie. It's all my fault.

It's my fault for falling head over heels for you. all my fault." 15 It's

It was such a bitchy and hypocritical act, but Jeremy still walked over and held Meredith like he was blind. "You dummy, how is it your fault? The person I've been in love with all this time is you. The person who's at fault is this wishful thinking wan who shamelessly climbed into my bed." "The person I've been in love with all this time is you.'

When Jeremy said this, Madeline felt as if her heart was recklessly being trampled over. 23

Hehe. 33

When had Meredith bece the girl he loved this whole time?

Why did she remember the boy in her memory who had told her with his

back against the sunset,' Linnie, meeting you is the luckiest thing that has ever happened to me. I like you the most.'? 18

Madeline felt extremely sad. Not only was her heart breaking, but the tumor that could take her life at any time was also hurting immensely for se unknown reason.

She did not want to look at this eyesore of a sight. However, just as she was about to leave, she ran into seone.

She was in a daze, so she was not holding the bottle i her hand properly. Consequently, the bottle of red wine that cost a few million dollars fell onto the floor and made a loud sound.

Madeline's face turned white. All of a sudden, seone grabbed her wrist and dragged her out. "Maddie, long time no see."

The man's chuckle sounded in her ear, and Madeline flinched reflexively.

She lifted her head and saw a nauseating face.

It was Madeline's old flame, Tanner Long. He had assailed her with obscenities before and even forced her to sleep with him. Meredith was there when it happened. She had watched everything take place with a smile on her face. 24

Now, Meredith's face was filled with shock. "Sir, I know you. You're Maddie's exboyfriend. I remember you always staying the night at Maddie's old place."

After she said that, the temperature around them dropped to zero.

Madeline felt that it was ridiculous. Since when had Tanner bece her exboyfriend? "Maddie, it has been so long since we last saw each other. Now that we've run into each other, let's rekindle our relationship." Tanner was cooperating with Meredith. His smirk was

demonic and egotistical. He rudely pulled Madeline into his arms. Madeline could not fight against him. She was in immense pain, so she could not break free of Tanner's hold. "Let go of me!" She struggled with all her might. "Maddie, what's wrong with you? You weren't like this when you were with me. Did I not give you enough? Two hundred? What about two hundred this time? I always gave you a hundred back then." "Shut up! Tanner, shut up! I don't know..." "How could you not know me? We were so close to each other. I still remember that you have a mole on your left breast!"

Chapter 29

Before Madeline could finish talking, she was interrupted by Tanner.

He was able to point out a characteristic of her body. It was as if he had confirmed his past relationship with Madeline.

However, at this moment, Meredith had a surprised look on her face as she exclaimed, "Oh my gosh! Maddie, this guy isn't your exboyfriend? He gave you money every time you guys did that? Doesn't that mean you were selling your body for money? Maddie, how could you do that to yourself? You can sleep with any man as long as they pay you a hundred dollars!"

Madeline felt disgusted. She wanted to refute Meredith, but she felt a sudden intense pain at the place where the tumor was, and she could not say anything.

Her silence only seemed like tacit approval to Jeremy.

Before this, there was Daniel. Now, there was Tanner.

How many men did this woman have?

The veins on Jeremy's forehead began to protrude, and he felt disgusted. "Jeremy, why is Maddie like this? I feel so horrible."

Meredith looked disappointed, and it was as if she felt sorry for Madeline. "Jeremy, let's go. I want to be alone for a while."

Jeremy's cold eyes glanced at Madeline, and he merely allowed Meredith to take him away while holding his arm. "Jeremy... It isn't like that..."

Madeline could not make any noise due to the pain. She looked at Jeremy's back in despair. The latter glanced at her; his eyes were filled with disdain and disgust.

He believed what Tanner and Meredith had said. He believed that she was a cheap woman who was able to sell her body for money.

Madeline was dragged into a private room by Tanner. He had always lusted after Madeline but never had the chance.

Now that he was there, of course, he would not let his chance go.

Madeline wanted to run, but she was dragged back by him and thrown to the floor. The broken glass shards from not long ago cut open her palms, and blood began to spill from them. The sharp pain caused her to tremble all over. In addition with the pain from her tumor, Madeline struggled to stand up from the double dose of torture. 10

In her memory, Jeremy had frantically carried her to the clinic after her foot was sliced open by glass shards.

He had even said, 'Linnie, from now on, I'll always protect you.' 7

Nevertheless, she was now bleeding profusely now, and he had abandoned her.

What had happened back then was now a massive joke.

Madeline endured the debilitating pain and climbed to the door of the room. Tanner pulled her back easily and ripped away her clothes lustfully. Then, he pressed himself against her.

Just when Madeline began to think that she would not be able to escape, the door of the room was kicked open.

Jeremy noticed that Tanner was trapping Madeline under him, and immediately charged over after picking up a bottle of wine on the table.

Subsequently, he smashed it against Tanner's head. Tanner was in shock. He clutched his head and wailed in pain.

Jeremy grabbed Madeline in her dishevelled state and brought her back to their home.

Madeline's hands were covered in blood after having been sliced open by glass shards. In addition to the speeding car and Jeremy's tuggings, Madeline felt unwell. She felt as if she were going to split into half.

On the other hand, Jeremy was acting as if he had been possessed. He laid Madeline in the bathtub and sprayed water on her.

Madeline struggled. She felt like she was about to suffocate as water rushed into her nose and mouth. "Madeline, why are you so impatient? You started doing such things with a man the moment I left! I've never seen someone as cheap as you!"

Jeremy was livid as he grabbed the back of her neck. "And you have the nerve to say that I'm the only man you've ever had! Who else is there aside from Daniel and that tramp just now?"

Madeline felt as if she was going to die. However, the pain on her body was nothing compared to the words he had just said to her. "You can sleep with any man for just one or two hundred dollars, and you're

still pretending like you don't ;t want to bece my mistress. Madeline, you disgust me."

Chapter 30

'Madeline, you disgust me.'

His words of disgust felt like a million arrows to her heart. They had all been aimed at her already heavily damaged heart.

He believed Meredith's words so much that he would not even give her the chance to explain herself.

The icy water rushed into her mouth and nose. She was beginning to drown. However, she suddenly did not want to struggle anymore.

Wouldn't it be nice if she just died like this?

Nevertheless, just when Madeline closed her eyes in despair, Jeremy pulled her up and threw her to the floor.

Madeline was like a broken rag doll. Soaking wet, she curled up on the floor lifelessly.

The tumor in her body was extremely painful. It was so painful that even breathing made her suffer. Nonetheless, she lifted her head unbendingly. "I don't know that man. Jeremy, why won't you believe what I say..." "Why should I believe a sinister and cruel wan like you?" Jeremy grabbed Madeline's collar angrily. The mole on her left breast was showing through her tattered clothes. When Jeremy recalled what Tanner said, his deep eyes became filled with iciness and deviousness.

He ripped Madeline's clothes into pieces in his rage. He was like a tyrant who had lost his mind and was violently punishing her.

Aside fr pain, Madeline would not feel anything else.

She saw how Jeremy was looking at her, and his brutal aura made her tremble in fear.

Madeline took in a sharp breath. She felt as if her bones were going to be crushed as well. "Jeremy, no "Madeline, why are you still pretending? Don't you like this kind of thing? I'll fulfill your wishes." Jeremy's deep and alluring voice was taunting her.

When it ended, he threw a wad of hundred dollar bills at Madeline's face. He was treating her like a woman who had sold her body.

The blood in Madeline's body froze instantly. Nevertheless, she got up unbendingly. "Jeremy, I am your wife!"

The man slowly put on his clothes and looked at her in contempt. "How could I have a shameless wife who climbs into the bed of every man?"

Hiss.

Each and every one of his words hammered on her heart. "If it weren't for Mer, you'd be lying in the hospital." "Pfft." Madeline burst out laughing. "Right, it's all thanks to that twofaced b*tch. She was the one who made me this way."

Jeremy stopped turning around. His cold hands grabbed the back of Madeline's neck, and he pulled her toward him. "If you dare slander Meredith again, I'll make sure that old man in the psychiatric hospital will never receive treatment regardless of the hospital or even if you have money!"

Madeline's heart sank. Jeremy felt pleased when he saw her expression change. "Scared, huh? Madeline, let me tell you, this is just the start! I'll make you suffer if you dare plot against me and bully Meredith!"

After he warned her, he kicked her away mercilessly.

With a loud thud, Madeline fell from the bed with her body covered in wounds.

She did not have the energy to get up. She could only allow the intense pain in her body to continue to torture her.

Nevertheless, she knew she could not give up so easily. She still had her child and a grandfather who needed her.

The next day, Madeline woke up on the floor. She got a call from the manager of the nightclub in her drowsy state. The manager was firm. He insisted Madeline compensate for the wine that she had wasted.

Madeline did not have that much money. Plus, she needed money for Len's surgery. Without any other option, Madeline signed a certificate of indebtedness.

In one night, not only did she have to bear a debt of five hundred thousand dollars, but she had to fork out three hundred thousand dollars for the surgery. Madeline felt as if the sky was falling.

However, her current situation would not allow her to back down. She finished the ring designs she had drafted and sent them to the client in hopes that they would pay her soon. On the other hand, she accepted a few more orders with much lower prices.

Furthermore, someone from the upper management of a jewelry company seemed to be very fond of Madeline's designs. So, they invited her to their office to have a talk. 9

Before their meeting, Madeline took a painkiller. She was worried that her tumor would hurt when the time came,

After she met the executive in the meeting room, Madeline was slightly shocked.

Chapter 31

The other party was a refined and charming upper class woman.

After interacting with her a few times, Madeline knew that she was Eloise Patton, also known as Mrs. Montgomery. She was of the top four rich and influential families of Glendale.

For some reason, Madeline felt a close and dear connection with Eloise every time she talked to her.

The Montgomerys had a lot of assets under their name, and Eloise was responsible for the jewelry. She was very satisfied with Madeline's first draft.

Due to some special reasons, Eloise invited Madeline to her home the day she was supposed to hand in her final draft.

When she got there, she found out today was the 24th birthday of Eloise and Sean Montgomery's precious daughter, Brittany Montgomery.

Madeline then remembered today was her 24th birthday as well.

Looking at Brittany who had been pampered like a princess since she was a child, Madeline could not help but feel envious.

Ever since she was young, she did not know what was the love of a father and a mother. When she had the chance to be someone's mother, God decided to give her such a short life span.

She could feel a dull pain in her heart. Madeline took a deep breath and smiled.

No matter what, she needed to make 300,000 dollars for her grandfather's surgery.

When Madeline was about to go over and wish Brittany a happy birthday, Meredith wandered into her vision.

She was dressed stunningly and had her makeup nicely done. She was holding Brittany's arm as they took selfies together.

Meredith and Brittany were good friends. Madeline did not expect this.

To prevent any trouble, Madeline wanted to turn around and leave, but Meredith stopped her. "Maddie, it is you! I thought I was seeing things," Meredith greeted with a soft and gentle voice. "Why are you here?"

Madeline looked at her coldly. "It's none of your business." "Why is it none of my business? You're my sister and today is my best friend, Brit's, birthday. Everyone here is rich. What if you do something shameless like last time again? What should I do then?" she said softly, but the glint in her eyes was extremely sinister.

Madeline chuckled. "Sister? I don't have a two faced sister who'd seduce her younger sister's husband like you." "You..." Meredith's face froze. It was evident that she was feeling awkward.

At this moment, Brittany walked over. She was dressed head to toe in branded and luxurious clothing. When she was standing next to Madeline who was wearing something unpresentable, she looked dazzling.

She looked at Madeline with interest and then came to a realization. "Mer, so this is your shameless sister?"

When Madeline heard this, she was shocked.

It was evident that Meredith had talked badly about her behind her back. "Brit, it's fine. She's my sister after all. I'm just not destined to be with Jeremy." Meredith sighed sadly. Then, she looked at Madeline.

"Maddie, you should go. Don't try to steal something like last time." "How would this kind of disgusting person get invited to my birthday party?" Brittany's eyes were filled with contempt. "For Mer's sake, you should go now! If not, I'll get someone to kick you out!"

Madeline held the draft in her hands and smiled calmly. "Miss Montgomery, your mother was the one who invited a disgusting person like me here."

Brittany and Meredith looked at each other, shocked.

At this moment, Eloise walked out of the house and Brittany approached her immediately. She pointed at Madeline and said something in Eloise's ear.

Instantly, Madeline saw that there was a hint of rejection and disdain in Eloise's eyes when she was looking at her.

Madeline knew something was not right. However, she still smiled and greeted, "Mrs. Montgomery, I brought over the drafts that you wanted." "Please go now, Miss Crawford," said Eloise with an oddly calm tone. "I won't accept any of those drafts. As for your deposit, I won't take it back. Just treat it as the cost of lost labor. Please don't come to me ever again. I won't allow the jewelry design of Montgomery Enterprise to be tarnished by a dirty woman like you."

Chapter 32

After she heard that, Madeline knew she was finished.

She was not bothered if people humiliated or misunderstood her, but this business was too important to her. "Draft? Maddie, when did you become a designer?" Meredith was shocked. "Are you plagiarizing the designs on the internet and then claiming them to be yours like how you did when you were graduating? Maddie, why did you let yourself go so much?" Meredith looked at her in disappointment.

When Eloise heard this, her face turned even darker. She glared at Madeline in anger and left with her daughter.

Madeline felt a pang of pain in her heart after Eloise looked at her with such a disgusted expression.

She wanted to chase after her to explain herself, but someone pulled her back.

When Meredith saw that there was no one around them, she displayed a sinister smirk. "You see, you lowly peasant, don't even think about competing with me for the position of Mrs. Whitman. Madeline, you'll know what's the consequences of fighting over a man with me soon enough."

Madeline clutched the rejected designs in her hand and glared at Meredith's pleased smirk. She could

On the other hand, Jeremy sat on the sofa with cold air surrounding his entire body. Meredith was sitting next to him while sobbing sadly.

Madeline rolled her eyes in disgust after she saw Meredith's hypocritical act. She walked over and said magnanimously. "I'm here, Mr. Whitman. Are you going to lecture your legally wedded wife on behalf of your mistress?"

After she said that, Meredith stopped sobbing. Jeremy lifted his head as his deep eyes looked at her piercingly. "Madeline, did you forget what I warned you about?" His tone was so cold that Madeline's heart shivered. "Jeremy, it's fine. I don't blame Maddie. It's all my fault. You're Maddie's husband at the end of the day.

I shouldn't love you. However, Jeremy, I can't stop myself from missing you." Meredith reached out her hand pretentiously to stop the man who was about to lecture Madeline. 15 "Mer, you dumb child. You're still trying to help this thankless wench at this moment. Just look at how

hard she hit you!" Jon walked over with anger and pity.

Madeline finally saw the exaggerated handprint on Meredith's face. She had only hit her left cheek. However, both sides of Meredith's cheeks were printed with deep red handprints. Plus, her face was swollen and there was blood on the corner of her lips.

It was apparent that someone did something to the woman's wounds after she left.

Madeline scoffed without being able to control herself. "If you know you're at fault, then why are you still pestering my husband? Are you not disgusted by yourself, Meredith?" "... " Meredith's face froze. There was dissatisfaction in her eyes.

Madeline felt slightly pleased with herself. However, after a few seconds, she received a hard slap across her face.

Slap!

Jon struck her and Madeline immediately started seeing stars. She could taste the metallic taste of blood on the corner of her lips. Before she could process this slap, she received another slap on the other side of her face. Then, someone kicked her on her ankles, forcing her to kneel.

Madeline staggered and fell on the floor without warning. When she was about to stand up, Jon stepped on her right hand. "Was this the hand that you used to slap Mer?"

Chapter 33

Madeline grunted in pain instantly. Jon was using all of his might to torture her. It was as if he wanted so badly to crush her bones. Then, Madeline heard his pious reasons. "Jeremy, don't think that I'm going too hard on her. I'm her father and I can't stand seeing my own daughter being bullied like this! After Mer gives birth to that child, you'll know how it feels to be someone's parents." 9

As he said that, he rubbed his foot on the back of Madeline's hand.

Madeline's hand started to bleed again after getting stabbed by glass shards.

She did not yell out in pain nor did she beg for mercy.

Jeremy did not say anything. His handsome face was as cold as ice. To Madeline, he was tacitly agreeing to Jon's actions. "Jeremy, my face hurts. I'm so scared that my face will never recover." Meredith sobbed gently at this moment.

Jeremy frowned and glanced at Madeline in disgust. "She deserves this."

Then, he held Meredith and said, "You dummy, I promise that your face will be as beautiful as it was before. Well, I'll go rest with you in your room." His comforting words successfully made Meredith burst into laughter. At the same time, it successfully struck Madeline down. "No, you should accompany Maddie. I'm worried that Maddie will be jealous." Meredith pushed Jeremy away hypocritically. "I won't even care if this evil wand dies from jealousy." Jeremy walked past Madeline with an unbothered look on his face.

He turned around as Jon lifted his foot. Then, he stepped down on Madeline's wrist a few times.

Madeline gritted her teeth as her red and tearful eyes looked at Jeremy and Meredith's backs as they went upstairs in each other's arms. A pang of pain shot up in her heart.

After Jeremy walked into the room, Jon lifted his leg and kicked Madeline on the shoulder. He did not go easy on her at all. "I went easy on you today! If you dare to bully Meredith again, I'll ask someone to chop your hands

off! Scram!"

Madeline gritted her teeth and climbed up fr the floor challengingly. However, she did not submit to them. "If Meredith dares to provoke me again, I'll still slap her."

Jon did not expect Madeline to say that. When his brain registered what had happened, Madeline had already walked out of the door.

When she walked out of the house, she heard Rose grumble in an agitated voice, "Look at her arrogant face! Why didn't you stp on her more just now? Mer said that b*tch is drafting designs for people to earn a living. I want to see how she'll continue being so arrogant after her hand beces useless! I want t o see how she'll make money!"

It started raining lightly on this pitch black winter night.

Madeline came to the entrance of the psychiatric hospital in exhaustion.

Perhaps this was the only family member who could give her se cfort when she needed the warmth of a family the most.

However, today, she did not dare to face Len because she really had no ability to raise so much money for his surgery.

When she walked into the door, she saw the nurse who told her about Len's condition running toward her. "I just want to tell you that your grandpa is nowhere to be seen!"

Madeline could feel her heart sink. "What do you mean by that?"
"Your grandpa's missing!"

Madeline was stunned. Len was missing.

A mentallyill patient was missing. She did not know what would

happen to Len.

It would be fine if he ran into a kind person, but if he ran into bad guys...

She did not dare to overthink. She was about to call the cops when her phone rang. It was an unknown number.

Madeline's heart skipped a beat. Her intuition told her that this was not an ordinary phone call. Indeed, after she answered it, a man's threatening voice sounded from the other end of the phone, Madeline Crawford, your grandpa's with me. Prepare ten million dollars in exchange for him. If not, you can prepare for his funeral." "Don't hurt my grandpa! I'll give you the money, but I really don't have ten million dollars!" "You don't, but your husband does, no?" The man did not give Madeline the chance to say anything before he hung up abruptly.

Chapter 34

Madeline stood in the rainy winter night. Everything in front of her was pitch black.

Ten million was an astronomical number to her.

Despite being the madam of the number one rich family in Glendale, she never got any advantages from this identity of hers. On the contrary, she was battered and exhausted.

Madeline did not dare to call the cops hastily because she was concerned about Len's safety.

She did not have a choice. She could only ask for Jeremy's help.

However, perhaps Jeremy had blocked her number as she could not get through to him no matter how many times she called.

She thought about how her grandfather might be suffering now, so she went back to Crawford Manor.

She lifted her right hand and remembered how Jon had stepped on it just now. It caused her to be unable to exert any force with her hand.

Madeline knocked on the door with her left hand. The door was opened after a while, but before she could say anything, she was greeted by a bucket of cold water. "Scram! Don't dirty my front door! If I knew you'd hurt Mer so much, I wouldn't have agreed to take you into our family!" Rose held the bucket and yelled at Madeline angrily. After she yelled at her, she spat at her and slammed the door shut with a loud thud.

Madeline snorted. How ironic.

She used her bone marrow to save Meredith who was sickly before. However, she did not expect the family to bite the hand that fed them.

Madeline bit her lip hard and walked under Madeline's window. Then, she lifted her head.

The cold rain landed on her and she almost could not open her eyes. "Jeremy, I hope you can help me for the sake of our relationship!" She pleaded at Madeline's window. "My grandpa's sick and now he's been kidnapped. You're the only one who can help him now! Jeremy, I'm begging you!"

Madeline lifted her head to look at the window unyieldingly. However, after a long time, she did not get Jeremy's reply.

She tugged on the corner of her lips bitterly. When she was about to turn around and leave in disappointment, the door was opened.

Madeline's quiet heart skipped a beat. She ran over quickly. "Jeremy..." "Jeremy doesn't want to see you now. He's taking a shower in my room." Meredith's ugly and heinous smirk appeared in front of her.

The joy on Madeline's face vanished instantly. Her heart was hurting. However, she did not forget why she came here. "Meredith, this is about seone's life and death. Let me see Jeremy." "Jeremy said he doesn't want to pollute his eyes by looking at a dirty b*tch. Fr now on, he'll accpany me every night." Meredith looked at the drenched and pale Madeline with a pleased smirk on her face. "You peasant, do you know what will happen to you if you cpete for a man with me now? I warned you before. Don't try to go against m e!"

Madeline suddenly came to a realization after she looked at Meredith's malicious eyes. "Madeline! You hired seone to kidnap my grandpa!"

Meredith lifted the corner of her lips in a fake smile. "I just asked seone to buy that old thing a cup of tea." "Meredith, you b*tch! Just ce at me with your wicked plans! Why do you want to hurt my grandpa?"

Madeline could not suppress the anger rising in her chest. She grabbed Meredith's collar and slapped her across the face continuously. "Ah!"

Meredith wailed in pain. Her swollen and red face was even more swollen now after the blood rushed to her face. "Madeline, you b*tch! Let me go now! Jeremy, save me!" she yelled hysterically. However, Madeline did not stop.

She released all of the grievances that she suffered because of Meredith using this opportunity.

Chapters 35

"Why did I save a cruel witch like you with my bone marrow? Jeremy fell in love with a wan like you because he's blind!"

Madeline slapped Meredith again and again across her face. Everyone in the house came out after they heard the cmotion.

When Rose saw that Meredith was being slapped, she ran over and grabbed Madeline's hair. She even kicked her, but Madeline still held on to Meredith tightly. "Jeremy, it hurts! Jeremy, save me! Madeline's going to beat me to death!"

Madeline wailed and screamed. Finally, she alerted Jeremy. "Madeline, are you insane?" Jeremy dragged Madeline who was having an emotional breakdown away. Then, he gathered Meredith into his arms. 3 "Boohoo... Jeremy, I'm in so much pain. My face hurts! Maddie is insane!" Meredith complained as she leaned in Jeremy's arms.

Madeline rushed over. "Meredith, stop pretending. I should be the one crying! Why did I have to meet a twofaced b*tch like you?" "Jeremy, listen to that! That b*tch is yelling and slapping Mer in front of you and she's still saying that Mer wronged her. You should've divorced this woman a long time ago!" Rose came to the aid of her daughter who was suffering an injustice. 7

Jeremy's eyebrows were knitted together. There was a terrifying glint in his icy gaze. "Madeline!"

He parted his lips coldly and looked at Madeline like he wanted to rip her into shreds. "You keep on challenging my limit. Do you want to die young?" "Heh." Madeline scoffed bitterly. She was indeed going to die young. "Jeremy, just open your eyes and look closely. Are you holding a human or a beast?"

Slap! Rose swung her hand down on Madeline's face. "How dare you say that about Mer?" "She is a beast!" Madeline lifted her unyielding gaze and looked into Jeremy's eyes. "Do you know what kind of cruel things your darling did? She kidnapped my grandpa and wants ten million for me!" "Maddie, what are you talking about? How could I do something as despicable as that?" Meredith said softly. She looked innocent and aggrieved. "Even though he's not my biological grandpa, we're still sisters. I treat Len as my own grandpa too. Plus, why would I

kidnap him?" "You want to get back at me! You want to force me to a dead end!" "I didn't..." Meredith's eyes were filled with tears.

She shook her head. "Jeremy, you have to believe me. I never did that. If I did, my punishment is that our baby will be stillborn!" "Mer, you dummy! How can you make that kind of oaths because of that b*tch?" Rose was heartbroken.

However, Meredith was calm. "I didn't do it, so I'm not scared." "Hehe." Madeline chuckled. The even more ironic thing was that Jeremy believed her.

He held Meredith even tighter as his icy gaze penetrated through Madeline. "You said your grandpa's been kidnapped?" "Yes!" Madeline had a confident look on her face. " She admitted that to me just now!"

Jeremy looked at her and did not say anything. However, he took out his phone and called the hospital Len was in. He asked whether someone named Len was missing. He was on speaker, and immediately, Madeline heard the nurse's sweet voice saying, "No, he's sleeping in his bed."

Every word was so clear and concise. Madeline felt as if all of her blood had been turned into ice.

She saw a layer of frost in Jeremy's eyes. He did not hang up the phone immediately. Instead, he asked, " How's that old man? Is he diagnosed with lung cancer?"

Chapter 36

When Jeremy asked that question, Madeline could already predict the answer.

Indeed, the nurse on the other end of the phone denied it. "What? Lung

cancer? Aside fr his mental health, his body is very healthy. How would h e get lung cancer? You must have made a mistake."

After she said that, Madeline felt her body temperature plummet.

Before Jeremy hung up the phone, the nurse said, You said he's missing just now? He did disappear for se time before, but he said his niece told him to hide because she's playing hide and seek with him."

When she heard this, Madeline understood everything.

Grandpa was not sick and he was not kidnapped. Meredith was the one who plotted all of this! "Maddie, I understand now. You deliberately asked your grandpa to hide so that you can frame me for kidnapping him." Meredith gained the initiative by striking first. She started crying tearfully. "Maddie, why'd you do that? I always saw you as my biological sister. How can you do this kind of thing t o frame me? Even if you hate me, you can't joke about your grandpa's life!" 20 "Why are you still asking her? This b*tch wants to use this opportunity to make Jeremy hate you!"

Rose cooperated in the act. "Madeline, you're so despicable! The Crawfords raised you and funded your university fees. How dare you bite the hand that feeds you? Not only did you steal Mer's boyfriend, but you even used these kinds of despicable tricks. You're so inhumane!" 1 The mother and daughter duo said simultaneously, placing all of those groundless crimes on Madeline.

Madeline felt lifeless all of a sudden. She knew that she did not need to explain anymore. Meredith had set this trap especially for her.

Even if she explained until her mouth broke, the man in front of her would still not believe her.

Despite that, she was still hopeful toward Jeremy." Jeremy, I don't care if you believe me or not, but I've never done those despicable things."

Slap!

After she said that, Madeline received a slap across the face. There was blood on the corner of her lips.

The burning pain seared Madeline's face. However, it was not as painful as the way Jeremy was looking at her. "Madeline, you're not only evil, but you're also devoid of conscience. You would go as far as cursing your grandfather just to get my attention. You even set a trap to frame Mer. I think you're just bored with your life."

Madeline turned her face to one side and scoffed lightly.

Idiot.

The man she loved was such an idiot.

Not only was he an idiot, but he was also blind. "Ah, Jeremy! My stomach... My stomach hurts all of a sudden..." Meredith started screaming pretentiously. "Jeremy, is something wrong with our baby? I'm scared..." "The baby must've been disturbed when that b*tch slapped you! Jeremy, send Mer to the hospital now. You might not even get the chance to be a father after you go!" Rose purposely made a huge fuss and exaggerated the situation.

Jeremy's expression changed as he carried Meredith worriedly to the garage. "Don't be scared. Our son will be fine."

Son. He had even checked the sex of the baby with her.

Madeline's heart was shattered. "Meredith is just putting on a show. Jeremy, are you blind?"

Thud!

Madeline yelled, but she did not expect Jon to lift his leg and kick her heavily on her chest. Madeline was unprepared and got kicked to the shrubs nearby. Her palm was sliced open by the jagged branches. Her bloody palm was decorated with old wounds and new wounds. 59

She stood up challengingly. However, she could taste the metallic taste of blood cing fr her throat. Then, she started viting blood.

Chapter 37

Jon and Rose were shocked when they saw Madeline viting blood, but at the same time, they felt pleased.

The duo shut the door and ignored Madeline. They did not care about her at all. It would be better if she died.

Madeline curled up in between the shrubs with her body covered with dirt and rainwater. She clutched her painful stach and watched as Jeremy carried Meredith into the car.

He could see her fr the rearview mirror, but he did not even want to look at her.

On the other hand, Meredith was staring at her. She smiled victoriously without a trace when she saw Madeline as pale as a corpse with her mouth filled with blood.

Madeline lowered her hand that was trying to ask for help hopelessly as she watched the car drive away.

Her tears and the rainwater blurred her vision.

He was so worried about Meredith's child, but he did not care about the child in her stach. He even wanted to kill the child in her stach.

Madeline chuckled lamentably. She was laughing at how sad her life was.

When did her life become like this? Perhaps it started from the moment she fell in love with the man that she was not supposed to fall in love with.

Madeline had to be hospitalized for a few days for her internal and external injuries. Thankfully, her child was fine.

No one asked about her these few days. Daniel was the only one who called her and asked about her condition. Madeline skimmed over this while pretending nothing happened. She did not want Jeremy to target Daniel anymore.

When she was discharged, the doctor told her in regret. She was unable to have an abortion to perform the surgery to remove her tumor in her current situation now.

When she heard this, Madeline did not have any sad reactions. On the contrary, she just smiled calmly.

When she walked out of the hospital, the warm winter sun landed on her thin face. She did not feel any warmth now, especially when she thought about how Jeremy treated her. It was as if she had a huge crack in her heart and the cold wind was invading it mercilessly.

Madeline was going to take the bus, but she saw a familiar figure at the side door of the hospital. When she looked closer, she saw that it was Eloise and her husband, Sean.

Even though Eloise was biased against Madeline and despised her after what her precious daughter told her, for some reason, Madeline still felt that Eloise looked amiable.

She saw Eloise frowning, looking pained. Then, she heard her mentioning something about the hospital, birthmark, and daughter.

Madeline figured she might be talking about her daughter, Brittany. As such, she did not want to disturb her. She turned around to leave.

At this moment, Meredith walked out of the hospital while grumbling. She knew Madeline was staying in this hospital. She wanted to go to insult Madeline when Jeremy did not have time to accompany her. However, she was told that Madeline had left before she got here.

She swore in agitation. Then, she lifted her head and saw Eloise and Sean standing at the side door.

Meredith put on a gentle and lovable smile. When she was about to go over and greet them, she saw Eloise leaning against Sean's chest sadly while saying, "I wonder where our daughter is? I wonder if she's doing well. Sean, please don't let Brit know that she's not our biological daughter." "Don't worry. Our daughter will be the only 24 years old young woman in this world with a butterfly birthmark on her lower back. I'll find her even if I have to flip the entire Glendale over!"

Meredith was stunned. She could not believe what she just heard.

She was pleased with the fact that Brittany was not their biological daughter. However, she was unable to accept what Sean said.

She remembered clearly that Madeline had a butterfly birthmark on the left side of her lower back! Plus, Madeline and Brittany's birthdays were on the same day. She was also 24 this year!

Chapter 38

Madeline went back to the house. She wanted to leave after packing her clothes. However, when she saw the baby clothes on the sofa, she could not help but hold them in her hands while feeling reluctant.

When she remembered that Jeremy was the one who bought these baby clothes for Meredith, she felt a pang of indescribable pain in her chest. 6

She touched her threemonth pregnant stomach. She could feel tears pricking the corner of her eyes.

However, Madeline wiped away her tears quickly.

She hated herself for failing to live up to expectations. That man was so cruel to her and yet she was still deeply worried and longing for this man who she could not get.

Madeline took a set of baby clothes and went downstairs. However, she did not expect to run into Jeremy and Meredith at the door.

When she saw Meredith walking over while holding Jeremy's hand intimately, Madeline's heart started hurting as if it was being stabbed by a million needles. "Maddie, where are you going?" Meredith asked while blinking innocently. She looked at the bags in Madeline's eyes and pretended to be curious. "Eh, Maddie, when did you go to the maternity shop? Do you want to give my baby a present?" Madeline had never seen a mistress who had so much courage like Meredith before.

She peered at Meredith in disgust. "You're proud of being pregnant with the child of a wedded man. Meredith, you're so thickskinned."

Meredith's face fell. She looked at Jeremy aggrievedly. "Jeremy, I think I should go home. I'm worried that Maddie will get jealous again. It's fine if she hurts me, but if she hurts our child, I'm worried that I won't be able to keep him."

She was saying that innocently, but she was obviously trying to enrage Jeremy. "You're not the one who should leave." Jeremy looked at Madeline with an icy gaze. "Scram. Don't ever appear in Mer's vision anymore." He warned coldly. Then, he pointed at the baby clothes Madeline was holding. "I bought those for Meredith's child. Who allowed you to touch them? Don't you know how filthy you are? How is my son

going to wear the clothes you've touched?"

He was calling her filthy. He was calling it his son.

Madeline could not endure the excruciating pain in her heart. She looked at the face that she had loved for years and her heart ached. "Jeremy, why are you so cruel to me? Is it just because you think that I planned for you to sleep with me? Is that why I've been an eyesore to you?"

However, do you know that time" "Maddie," Meredith interrupted suddenly. She walked over to advise her. "You can't blame Jeremy for being mad. He's a neat freak. You had so many relationships with different men and even slept with so many men for money. I can't even accept this, let alone Jeremy."

Hehe.

Madeline wanted to burst out laughing. Meredith's every word was filled with hypocrisy and provocation. However, Jeremy believed her every word.

His face became gloomy immediately. He then pulled Meredith back into his arms. "Don't you think that she's filthy? How can you touch her? Ce, let's go back to our room."

He held Meredith's hand and turned around. Madeline's eyes hurt from looking at the two of them. The pain went straight to her heart. Plus, Meredith even turned around and gave her a victorious smirk.

Madeline's heart sank. She knew that no matter what, she would not be able to hide how Jeremy felt about her.

She forced herself to not think about him. She worked hard to make her life go back to normal. After all, she was still hoping that she would be able to hold on until the birth of her child.

Madeline transferred Len to another hospital. It was obvious that

Meredith had bribed the nurse fr before.

Madeline left after she settled her grandfather's matters.

She then passed by a maternity shop. After hesitating at the door for a while, she went in.

She picked out two sets of clothes one pink and one blue.

Chapter 39

The baby in her child would be able to wear these no matter what their sex was.

Madeline was about to pay for the clothes. However, when she turned around, she saw Meredith.

It seemed as if she was alone. She had a sinister smile on her face. Madeline wanted to walk past her, but Meredith stopped her. "Maddie, you're in so much trouble and you're still i the mood to shop? Aren't the police looking for you?"

Madeline was confused about what she was talking about. Then, Meredith continued. "You're such a character as well. It's fine if you don't have talent, but why did you plagiarize other people's work? The cpany, Minora, is suing you for ruining their cpany's name. Plus, they're also suing you for breaching their intellectual property rights. If you're convicted of this crime, you're going to jail."

Madeline was puzzled. The cpany that Meredith mentioned was the cpany that entrusted her to design the couple rings.

However, that was her own creation. She never stole any designs, so how was this plagiarism? "Meredith, stop spewing nonsense! You're ruining my reputation by slandering me like this." "Maddie, stop pretending. This is not the first time you did sething so heinous," Meredith said with pity.

Madeline did not want to fight with Meredith anymore. She had been at the losing end a few times. She did not want Meredith to have any chance of framing her again. 9

However, it was as if Meredith knew that Madeline wanted to leave, so she grabbed her hand hurriedly and said in a gentle but loud voice, "Maddie, I know you hate me, but please don't kill my child. Ce at me if you want revenge. The child is innocent!"

This again.

Madeline had fallen for it the first time, so she would not allow Meredith to set her up again.

However, Meredith was even more devious than Madeline imagined. She pulled Madeline's hand and swung it all of a sudden. Then, she fell backward as if she had lost her balance. "Ah!" she yelled out in pain. The staff and custers of the maternity shop all looked over.

Then, Jeremy appeared just in time. He saw

Meredith on the floor holding her stach in pain. He carried her hurriedly. There was a puddle of blood where Meredith was lying on just now. 8 At this ment, Meredith's eyes were red. She shrieked at Madeline bitterly and hatefully, "

Maddie, why are you so coldblooded? Why'd you steal my boyfriend? And now, you even want to kill my child! I'm your sister!"

She fell into Jeremy's arms while looking like she was in immense pain. "Jeremy, I can't keep the child anymore. I can feel him slipping away fr my body..."

The onlookers all glared at Madeline in unison.

Jeremy was looking at her with so much malice. It was as if he wanted to kill her. "Madeline! If anything happens to my child, I'll bury you along with him!"

Madeline felt a gust of cold air rising from her feet. A bad feeling washed over her entire body.

Jeremy left her with a warning before leaving hurriedly with Meredith in his arms.

Madeline turned around to chase up to them, but the moment she stepped out of the shop, she was stopped by two cops. Seone had called the cops.

This familiar scene caused Madeline's scalp to feel numb. She remembered how she was beaten up badly when she was in the lockup. She almost lost her child.

If she went into lockup again, she might die there. She wanted to see the birth of Jeremy and her child before she died. She did not want to go in! "I didn't push her! She purposely fell!" Madeline was on the brink of an emotional breakdown.

Then, the sounds of criticism and gazes of disdain from the people around were all aimed at her. Everyone was sure that she was the one who did that heinous crime.

The cops handcuffed Madeline when they saw that she was refusing to cooperate. Then, they brought her into the cop car.

Chapter 40

Madeline was being held in the lockup. Two days later, she finally met Jeremy.

It was the same meeting room as last time. However, she looked even more battered than before. On the other hand, the man looked even angrier than last time.

He was like a demon from hell. The moment he came in, he grabbed Madeline's collar as his icy gaze almost penetrated her like an ice sword. "Madeline, what did I warn you about? Is it so hard to live a quiet life? Do you have to look for death?" "Jeremy, I didn't push her. Meredith was the one who purposely let go of my hand after grabbing me! You can look at the security footage if you don't believe me! There must be security cameras in that shop! Jeremy, you'll know the truth after you see it!" Madeline was holding onto the last chance at life. She kept on emphasizing her words. "The truth is you pushed Mer! It's clear as day on the security footage!"

What?

Meredith was stunned. Her mind went blank.

Jeremy showed her the footage. Madeline did not expect that this angle really made it look like she was the one who pushed Meredith.

All of her explanations had turned into lies.

She had nothing to say in front of this 'evidence' that was presented to her.

The fire in Jeremy's eyes burnt Madeline's heart. "Madeline, what do you have to say for yourself now? Mer lost her child. Are you happy now?"

She could not believe this.

Meredith really lost her child?

Madeline clutched her stomach subconsciously. The feeling of doom became more and more intense. She looked at the man's furious face and tried to explain herself. "Jeremy, I really didn't push her. I didn't push her this time and I also didn't push her the last time. These are all traps she set for me!" "Heh." Jeremy scoffed when he heard that. That scary smile caused Madeline to shiver. "Meredith lost her child and you're still trying to accuse her of framing you? Madeline, how can there be such a filthy, lowly, cruel, and evil woman like you?"

When he was saying that, he was grinding his teeth. His deep hatred and resentment were evident. "Not only did you hurt Mer, but you even have the nerve to plagiarize other people's work to scam others for money. Madeline, don't even think about seeing the sunrise tomorrow. I'll let you wish you're dead." 10

After he said that, he pushed Madeline away before leaving. His malicious eyes peered at Madeline deviously. Aside fr hatred, there was more hatred in his eyes.

Madeline wanted to get up after she was thrown to the ground. However, the pain in her stach stopped her fr doing so.

She grabbed Jeremy's pants with all her might when she saw that he was about to leave. "Jeremy, why are you so cruel to me? I'm carrying your child too!" 12 "Then you should bury that b*stard child in your stach along with Mer's child!" Jeremy said angrily. Then, he kicked Madeline's hand that was holding his pants.

Madeline's vision was blurred by her tears instantly. She was curled into a ball on the cold cement floor.

It was the winter in December, but it was not as cold and bonepiercing as the words that came out of his mouth.

Hot tears rolled down her cheeks, causing Madeline's vision to turn grey.

Everyone said happiness was like falling leaves on a mountain. Se

people would get more, se people would get lesser, while she might not even have the chance to get se.

Indeed, Madeline was convicted.

Plagiarism, infringement of rights, and an assault that led to a miscarriage.

She had to serve time for all of her crimes at the same time. Without a lawyer, Madeline was sentenced to three years in prison.

Chapter 41

After her failed appeal, Madeline was forced to accept this absurd disaster.

Three years.

She laughed bitterly.

It was still unknown whether she could live until the Madeline did not tell the officer about her day her child was born. pregnancy. She did not forget how she was so badly beaten when she told them.

However, her nightmare was still here. That night, Madeline was beaten up by a gang of bald prisoners.

Madeline did not have any energy to fight back. In addition to that, she was also being tortured by her tumor. She started trembling in pain.

She had no choice but to curl herself into a ball to prevent them fr kicking her stach.

This kind of situation would happen occasionally .

Fortunately, they did not hit her stomach. Madeline reported about this a few times, but nothing happened.

Every hopeless night, Madeline gritted her teeth in pain. She only managed to survive after thinking about the life that she was nurturing in her stomach. 'Jeremy, you're so cruel. 'I fantasized about you being as happy as me when we finally met again. However, I was the only one who was obsessed with this for 12 years.'

Even though Daniel asked someone to send her some medication to soothe the pain in her body, Madeline still felt her body getting weaker. There were a few times she felt like she was unable to hold on anymore, but her nurturing the child was the only thing that lit up her grey world.

Her child was almost ten months old. Since she was near her due date, Madeline had an even stronger intention to stay alive.

Thunder crashed on the night of the early summer.

Madeline felt her heart beating uneasily. Indeed, those prisoners had been looking for trouble again. She thought they would leave her alone after kicking and punching her, but this time, they pressed Madeline down on the floor the moment they came in. Two of the prisoners trapped her hands on her sides while the others ripped open her pants roughly before supporting her calves. 7

She could tell from her instincts what they were about to do with her child. She struggled with all her might. "What are you doing? Let me go!"

However, those people ignored her struggles and screams. Immediately, Madeline felt a debilitating pain coming from her stomach. She could even feel her water breaking. "Don't hurt my child! Please!" Madeline was begging for mercy while suffering from excruciating pain. The intense fear and the debilitating, indescribable pain of childbirth tormented her at the same

time.

Madeline was in so much pain that she felt as if she was about to split in half. Tears and sweat drenched her shirt. She felt as if she was being skinned alive. The pain was dissolving all of her limbs and bones.

She did not know how long this lasted. The pain caused Madeline to drift in and out of consciousness. While in her semiconscious state, she heard the child's string of powerful cries. "My baby..." she muttered. "Give me my baby." "Mr. Whitman said your b*stard child has to be buried with the baby his beloved wan lost. Madeline, don't blame us. We're just carrying out our duties."

His beloved wan...

Carrying out their duties...

Madeline closed her eyes fr exhaustion. Tears escaped fr the corner of her eyes.

Their child would be buried next to the b*stard child that Meredith had with another man. Was that humiliating or lamentable? 7

The next day, Madeline got up fr the floor and asked for help while enduring the fiery pain. She found the officer and said, "Last night, seone induced labor for me and escaped with my child after I gave birth to it."

The officer looked at Madeline in confusion and asked, "You were pregnant?"

Chapter 42

The officer's question caused Madeline's heart to freeze. It also made her ce to a realization.

This had already been planned fr way back. Everyone was in on this.

All of this happened because she fell in love with a man she should not have.

Madeline grabbed the cold iron bars in despair and knelt on the floor. 'Jeremy Whitman, if we could do this again, I'd rather not have met you...'

Madeline did not expect to live until the day she got out of jail.

Perhaps the medication Daniel asked his people to send over had amazing effects with tumors, or perhaps it was her strong will of wanting to see her child who was kidnapped after they forcefully induced labor on her. In short, she miraculously lived.

It was sunny the day she got out of prison. However, it could not get rid of the fog and pain that was kept in her heart for three years.

The torture from those thousand over days was printed all over her body and they were not going to fade anytime soon.

Madeline watched as Daniela and Ava ran over to her. When Ava saw how scrawny she was, she pulled Madeline who had no expression on her face into her arms. "Maddie, don't be scared. I'll stay with you from now on."

Madeline felt a surge of sadness rising in her chest. There was still someone in this world who loved her.

While looking at the dispirited Madeline who looked wan and sallow, Daniel felt extremely sorry and remorseful.

He kept on apologizing to Madeline. If he had not been out of the country when Madeline was in trouble, she would not have to face all these

hurdles herself.

He could at least have hired a lawyer for her.

Madeline looked at Daniel who looked extremely apologetic. "Dan, thank you. You don't have to apologize to me. You don't owe me anything." "The people who owe me are that cruel witch, Meredith Crawford, and that coldblooded man I was obsessed with for 12 years.'

After packing and tidying up, Daniel brought Madeline to Adam Brown for a full body checkup.

After they got the report, Adam looked at Madeline in shock. "I didn't expect my medication to have the magical power to stop the growth and worsening of a tumor." "Then, can she have the surgery now?" Daniel asked hurriedly. His tone was laced with concern for Madeline.

Adam frowned. "There's a high risk, so we can't do the surgery rashly. She can continue taking the medication. We can decide after some time."

After he heard that, Daniel was disappointed. However, Madeline was satisfied with the results. "Thank you, Dr. Brown. Thank you, Dan. If it's not for you guys, I wouldn't be here today. I'm just happy to be able to live this long." "What are you talking about?" Daniel looked at her with a stern look on his face. He reached out and grabbed her shoulders. "Maddie, I won't let anything happen to you."

When he said that, Madeline could see his affections for her in the twinkle of his eyes.

Daniel was an exceptional man. He had a great background, great looks, and great manners.

A man like him deserved a better woman and not her, a woman who had been married, incarcerated, and was also going to die soon.

She was not worthy.

She did not want to have any relationship with Daniel.

After they left the hospital, Ava insisted on taking Madeline to the beauty salon. She said she needed to give her a makeover so that she could start a new life.

Madeline could not argue against Ava, so she followed her.

When she sat in front of the mirror, Madeline watched lifelessly as the barber cut her dry and frizzy hair. It was as if she saw her fondness and obsession for Jeremy and the beautiful memories at the beach being cut away and destroyed.

Everything ended when he asked people to snatch away her child when she was in prison. They could never go back to how it was before.

A few hours later, Ava's eyes lit up when she looked at Madeline. "Maddie, it'll be such a waste if you don't take part in the pageants."

Madeline did not care whether she was beautiful or not. She looked at her shorthaired self and felt extremely foreign. However, this was good. This way, she could feel like she was really starting a new life for herself.

Chapter 43

The next day, Madeline bought se fruits and her grandfather's favorite snacks before going to the hospital.

She went directly to the ro her grandfather was staying in but realized her grandfather was not there.

Madeline went to the reception to ask about this. When the nurse saw that she was Len Samuels' family member, the nurse looked at her with a peculiar expression. Her tone was also unfriendly. "S o, you're Mr.

Samuels' granddaughter? Is this how you should behave as his grandchild? He has been dead for three years. Why are you still here? Go to the funeral parlor. His ashes are over there."

Clank! The fruits in Madeline's hands fell to the ground.

She widened her blank eyes and was stuck in a daze. The pain started to penetrate her entire body.

She thought her heart was dead. She thought it was so numb that it would not feel any pain anymore. However, this suffocating pain was making it hard for her to breathe.

Her grandfather was dead.

He had been dead for three years!

She had not even seen him for one last time!

Madeline went to the funeral parlor and took her grandfather's ashes as well as his belongings.

It was in the evening of early winter and it was drizzling.

Madeline held her grandfather's urn and knelt in the rain. Tears rolled down her cheeks uncontrollably, blurring her vision.

The hurt and regret caused her heart to ache. She could never do anything to make up for it.

Ava ran over and held her, crying while comforting the other woman. "Don't cry, Maddie. It's all in the past. It's all over now."

With Ava's help, Madeline found a burial plot for her grandfather.

After paying her respects to him, she went back to the hospital to ask

about her grandfather's death. The nurse replied nonchalantly, "He died of old age."

Died of old age?

Madeline felt that something seemed fishy. Her grandfather was in tiptop shape the last time she visited him before she got incarcerated. Why would he die all of a sudden?

Even though she was suspicious, she could not suspect anything without evidence.

She found a butterfly shaped gold pendant in her grandfather's belongings. Her real name 'Eveline' was carved on it.

Madeline subconsciously felt that this was a gift from her grandfather to her. She felt a pang of pain in her heart and put the necklace around her neck with tears still in her eyes. This way, it would be as if her grandfather was always here with her.

She had been incarcerated for three years and could not keep up with the change of time in the outside world.

She wanted to find a job quickly, but she was still unable to forget about her child who was kidnapped after she was inducted into labor.

Madeline brought her resume for an interview at a new company. When she was at the front door, she saw Meredith getting out of an expensive car.

She would remember Meredith's face even if she had been burnt into ashes.

Madeline clenched her fists. When she started to feel an impulse rising in her chest, she heard one of the employees saying, "I'm so jealous of Meredith. Not only is she Miss Montgomery for the four major rich families now, but she's also going to marry my idol, Jeremy Whitman. She must've saved the universe in her past life."

When she heard that, her heart sank.

After she asked about this, she knew that Meredith was not the Crawfords' biological daughter. She was the Montgerys' child who got wrongfully picked up by someone else 28 years ago, which meant that she was Eloise's biological daughter. 1

Three years ago, Meredith transformed from a girl of an average household into Miss Montgery of the four major rich families in Glendale. Plus, she even gave birth to a premature baby boy for Jeremy two years ago. The Montgerys and the Whitmans all treated her like she was a gem.

Madeline was surprised by Meredith and Jeremy's wedding. She thought Jeremy would have married the love of his life the moment she went to prison.

However, the truth was that they were not married yet.

The interview went well and Madeline got the job. When she thought about how Meredith was Eloise's biological daughter though, Madeline felt unwell.

She tried to get more information about this matter. As such, she went on the internet and saw Meredith posting a photo of a baby on her Twitter account. It was a boy and he looked about two years old. The little boy's eyes and face looked almost the same as Jeremy's.

Chapter 44

Madeline was heartbroken.

A million arrows to her heart would not be as horrible as this.

She would never forget that night. She was cruelly inducted into labor and had her child forcefully taken away from her.

Until now, she still did not know whether that child was a boy or a girl. Did the child look like her or more like Jeremy?

Madeline looked at Meredith's Twitter account and saw her showing off furiously. She was showing off her expensive cars, her branded bags, and her reputable as well as famous biological parents. She was even showing off the cute son she had with Jeremy.

An evil wan like her had everything now. On the contrary, she, Madeline, had nothing.

How ironic.

There had been a few instances when Madeline wanted to look for Jeremy. However, she realized she did not have the courage to do so.

She had been tortured mercilessly in prison and it made her flinch at the very thought of it.

However, when she thought about her missing child, Madeline still took this step forward.

She stood in front of the mansion which she used to be the matriarch of and felt a certain bitterness in her heart. When she was about to press the doorbell, she saw Meredith walking out of the house.

She was dressed flashily and looked energetic yet arrogant. When she saw Madeline at the door, she stopped in her tracks with a hint of shock in her eyes. However, a pleased smile appeared on her face. "I was wondering who it was. It's my good sister. Why? When did you complete your reformation?"

She walked over in her high heels. Madeline wanted to spit when she saw her disgusting smirk.

Madeline did not want to waste any time talking to her. "Give me back

my child."

She was frank. Meredith's expression changed when she heard that. Then, her smirk became even wider. "Your child?" "Yes! My child! Give me back my child!" "Your child is dead," Meredith answered nonchalantly. "Jeremy said your b*stard child is buried along with the baby I miscarried."

Madeline's vision went black for a few seconds. She felt as if her heart had been sliced in half, bleeding profusely now.

She grabbed Meredith's collar in an emotional breakdown. "Nonsense! My child is definitely alive! Give me back my child! Give me back! I want to see Jeremy! Tell him to see me!" "Madeline, you're insane! Let me go. If not, you're going to suffer the consequences!" Meredith warned. However, Madeline could not control herself anymore. Her eyes were red and she was holding the other woman even tighter.

Meredith could not breathe, so she called the security over.

Madeline wanted to ask about the whereabouts of her child, but she felt someone strike the back of her neck. Then, she lost consciousness and passed out.

After some time, Madeline was woken up by someone slapping her face furiously. The fiery pain caused her to slowly regain her consciousness.

Meredith had her arms crossed while towering over her. "Madeline, I guess you learned nothing from your three years in prison," she said profoundly and bent down to poke Madeline's stomach. "I heard you have a tumor here. It'll worsen any time and take your life, right?" Her laugh was eerie. "Attack her! Especially this part!"

The hired thugs next to her had already been prepared. The moment Meredith gave her order, they started hitting Madeline's entire body,

especially the area where her tumor was.

Madeline curled her body into a ball, but she still could not hide from their punches. The pain from her lacerated flesh was nothing compared to Meredith saying, "Jeremy said your b*stard child is buried along with the baby I miscarried." 'My child...'

Chapter 45

Madeline's vision was blurred by her tears. However, she still could not believe Jeremy would be that coldblooded.

It was such a lively child. Could he really do that to a child?

Meredith yanked Madeline's short hair with all her might. She looked at Madeline's bare yet stunning face and could feel anger rising in her chest. Madeline, do you know who I am now? I'm Miss Montgomery, and I'm going to be Mrs. Whitman soon. Who are you to fight me?"

She kicked away Madeline who was too weak to fight back. Smiling maliciously, she said, "Didn't you want me to give you back your child?"

Madeline quivered. She could see Meredith holding a bottle that was about the size of a fist through her blurry vision. There was some white powder in it. "Your child is here."

What?

Madeline felt as if all of the blood in her body had been sucked dry and her flesh had also been scraped clean. She only had her bones left.

Her vision turned dark, but she could hear

Meredith's eerie voice saying, "How unfortunate. This is a child who just came to this world. This child was a chubby and cute baby with flesh and blood. However, this child has become ashes now. "Jeremy said the b*stard

child deserves this. Who told you to keep upsetting me? "Oh, this b*stard child was a girl. However, Jeremy did not even look at her before asking seone to take care of her. "Since you want her useless ashes, then I shall give them to you." Meredith pretended to be kind, but she was laughing sinisterly.

Madeline was in so much pain she was drifting in and out of consciousness. Her vision turned dark, but when she heard Meredith saying that, she regained it once more. Her eyes were red as she watched Meredith lift the jar. When she was about to crawl over to catch it, the hired thug stped on her back. She was being trapped underneath him.

Smash!

The glass jar smashed into pieces in front of Madeline's eyes. The ashes flew all over the place with se even landing on her face.

Madeline widened her red eyes. When she saw the ashes all over the floor, she had an emotional breakdown. "Ah!"

She screamed and wailed hysterically. Her pearly whites were stained with blood fr her rough beatings. She looked so tragic at this ment.

Jeremy just got to the door of the cellar when he heard a bonechilling scream.

His heart ached all of a sudden. He lifted his head to see a shorthaired wan kneeling on the floor while gathering the powder on the floor with both hands like she was crazy.

When Madeline saw Jeremy, she made an aggrieved expression. "Jeremy, I didn't want to do this to Maddie, but when I think about our deceased child, I get so sad..."

She found a reasonable reason to hurt Madeline.

Jeremy's eyes widened. He looked at the wan in front of him in disbelief.

She looked like she was crazy.

That was Madeline.

As he inspected her, Madeline lifted her head. Her face was bruised and there was blood on the corner of her lips. However, her eyes were pristine.

When he met her eyes, Jeremy felt a sudden shock.

Madeline did not expect to run into Jeremy again when she was in this state.

She gritted her teeth and used her last breath to run in front of Jeremy. Her bloody hands were covered with white ashes. She grabbed Jeremy's collar tightly. "Jeremy! Why? Why are you so cruel? That's our child! How could you be so cruel?"

Jeremy was stunned. He looked at the hysterical woman in front of him and his voice was as cold as before. "When did I have a child with you? Madeline, have you become confused after your incarceration?"

Chapter 46

Every word he said felt like salt on her fresh and bloody wounds. The bonepiercing pain made her entire body numb. "Hehe..." Madeline laughed pitifully.

It turned out he was so cruel that he even wiped away the presence of that child.

It turned out he was able to grind his own child's bones to dust for that

devil of a wan!

Madeline thought her heart was dead. She thought she would not be able to feel pain anymore.

However, she did not expect those wounds to start burning her again when she met that man once more. "Jeremy, I didn't expect Madeline to come to cause trouble for me the moment she got out of prison. I'm so scared. I'm so scared that she'll hurt our baby again. She killed our baby once. I don't want it to happen a second time."

Meredith leaned against Jeremy's chest while sobbing tearfully.

She was speaking so innocently, but it was evident that she was purposely lighting the fire of anger in Jeremy's heart.

Just as the wan expected, Jeremy frowned as his malicious and terrifying gaze landed on Madeline. "Madeline, do you think that three years in prison was too short for you? If you want to go back in there, you can tell me. Don't let me catch you harassing Mer again!"

He pushed Madeline away roughly and warned with a icy tone. His

protection and tolerance for Meredith were even more intense than before. It was all evident in his voice.

Madeline staggered and fell on the floor. She quivered fr the pain in her entire body.

When she recalled the beatings and sufferings fr those 1,000 nights and days, her heart started beating faster.

She did not want to go back to that place with no justice.

Madeline gritted her teeth and clenched her fist. The bonedeeep love that she had for Jeremy in her eyes suddenly changed drastically.

She hated this!

She hated everything that evil wan, Meredith, did! She hated this man's coldbloodedness and cruelty! She also hated him for allowing Meredith to do those things devoid of all morality directly or indirectly again and again.

Why should her precious daughter atone for this devil wan, Meredith's, crimes?

Meredith was the one who deserved to die! "Jeremy, let's go. Today is our darling's second birthday. Let's not make M and Dad and the rest wait too long for us," Meredith said sweetly. After she said that, she grabbed Jeremy's hand to turn around.

Madeline's heart had been sliced with a knife.

Heh, how ironic.

Today was also the birthday of her precious daughter who was killed mercilessly.

If she was alive, she would have been two.

She lifted her head to look at their backs. That image pieced her eyes like needles.

What kind of man was she obsessed with for so many years?

Those beautiful prizes when they were young had turned into an imaginary dream . Now, it was time for her to wake up fr this dream.

Madeline found a place to set up a tb for her lost child. It was right next

to her grandfather.

After Ava knew what happened, she was livid. She grabbed a cleaver and was about to go to demand an explanation fr Jeremy and Meredith. However, she was stopped by Madeline.

Who was Jeremy? With his identity and background, who in Glendale dared to cause trouble for him?

Chapter 47

Meredith had been one of the socialites fr the four major rich families in Glendale. If they crossed her, they might not be able to keep staying here.

She did not want Ava to get into trouble because of her.

After pondering about her painful experience, Madeline decided to start over.

She could only avenge herself and her dead child if she rose fr the brambles.

Two days later, Madeline went to work in her new cpany.

Se of the wounds on her face had not healed yet, so Madeline used se concealer to hide the bruises.

The ment she arrived at her office, before she could even sit down, she was called over by Eve Garcia her superior.

Eve looked like a strong and powerful businesswoman. She was dressed in the trendiest outfit and was beautiful. However, she had a resting b*tch face, so she looked dead serious. This made Madeline extremely nervous. She was worried that she would mess things up and fail her probation.

However, Eve was courteous to her. She told Madeline she could take her time and that she did not need to worry too much about things.

Madeline thought her superior was cold on the outside and warm on the inside. It was just that she was serious in speech and manner. When they were having lunch in the cafeteria, Madeline saw her sitting with a few of their female colleagues with a smirk of disdain on her face. "Madeline is such a useless piece of trash. She can't do anything right. If the boss hadn't told me to hire her, I wouldn't even want to look at her."

Madeline's heart started racing.

Who was the boss Eve was talking about? She recalled seeing Meredith in front of the office building. Was this company under the Montgerys? "Someone who has been incarcerated, used to work as a call girl, and plagiarized other people's work is in our department. I feel so disgusted! A woman like her even wants to take part in the design of our department. Aren't they worried that she'll tarnish our work?" Eve said in contempt. The sarcasm in her voice was completely different from her polite attitude earlier.

However, what she said made Madeline even more sure that this company was related to Meredith.

Meredith was the only person in the world who would talk bad about her and smear her name.

Despite being heartless, Jeremy would not do something so stupid and meaningless.

She knew how it felt to have a million arrows penetrate her heart, so Madeline was calm when she was faced with this kind of slander.

Madeline walked over and the two men eating with Eve saw her approaching. They stopped awkwardly and made eyes at Eve.

However, Eve kept on cursing and swearing, "I heard in order to climb into Mr. Whitman's bed, that shameless man even drugged him. How cheap! I, personally, can't bring myself to do that kind of thing. Only a prostitute like her would do something so shameless!"

She continued rambling. Suddenly, she noticed her colleague's expressions were off. She turned around in puzzlement and saw Madeline standing behind her.

Eve froze, then said in dissatisfaction, "Have you finished the things I asked you to do? Why are you standing behind me like a dead person?"

Madeline smiled calmly. "Nothing. I just want to see how a shameful man like you can put on one act in front of a person and then put on another act behind them. Did you talk bad about these two in front of other colleagues as well?"

After she said that, the faces of the two men sitting with Eve turned dark. Eve's face had also fallen.

She leaped up and was agitated. "Madeline, what are you saying? Do you still want to work here?"

It was lunchtime and there were a lot of employees in the cafeteria. Everyone was looking over at them.

Madeline calmly removed the work pass in front of her chest and threw it on Eve's face. "No, I don't want to work here anymore."
"You..." Eve's face turned green. She pointed at Madeline but could

not say anything.

Madeline turned around carefreely and saw two people standing at the entrance of the cafeteria. It was Meredith and Eloise.

Madeline only had resentment toward Meredith. However, when she saw Eloise, not only did she not mind Eloise misunderstanding her, but she even felt a kind of close and dear connection with her. However, Eloise was looking at her with so much contempt in her eyes.

Madeline felt her heart sinking without a reason. In order to prevent any more unwanted trouble, she decided to walk away. However, when she got to the door, Meredith stopped her. "Maddie, don't be like this. I know you need a job now. I spent so much time begging M to let you have a job here. Don't throw childish tantrums. Go back to your work please."

Chapter 48

Indeed, the reason she could get this job so easily was because of Meredith pulling se strings behind the scenes.

However, Madeline was not an idiot. How would Meredith be so kind? "Stop pretending. You don't feel disgusted, but I d o." She pushed away Meredith's hand that was trying to reach out to her in contempt.

Meredith tilted her body as if she was too weak and fragile. Then, she leaned against Eloise.

Eloise saw that her precious daughter was being bullied, so she walked over to Madeline in agitation and shielded Meredith behind her. "Madeline, don't be blind to what's good for you! If Mer hadn't begged me, I wouldn't have let a person like you work in my cpany!" Eloise said angrily. "Even though you're not Mer's biological sister, she never bickered with you despite you bullying her relentlessly. She was even so thoughtful of you. It's fine if you're not grateful, but you're even trying to

bite the hand that feeds you!"

It was this same phrase again.

Madeline was about to change her perspective about that idi now.

Until now, she had no idea what benevolence

Meredith had given to her. Meredith only gave her pain and more pain.

When Madeline saw Eloise protecting Meredith while scolding her, she felt another pang of pain in her heart. "It's fine, M. I can emphasize with Maddie. She has never had parents ever since she was young, so that's why her views are a bit skewed. Please don't be mad at her," Meredith grabbed Eloise's hand and said in an understanding manner.

Madeline was tired of explaining herself. She rolled her eyes and said, "How disgusting."

Eloise's face fell. When she was about to say something, Meredith stopped her again. "Maddie, if you'll feel better after yelling at me, then you should go ahead. I know you've suffered so much during the three years in prison." Meredith was speaking so sensibly. She even said to the employees in the cafeteria, "Maddie did a lot of bad things in the past, but everyone makes mistakes. Plus, she has served her time and has atoned for her mistakes. I hope you guys won't judge her. I'm thanking all of you in advance."

It was such a twofaced performance, but after she said that, every employee started praising Meredith's magnanimous behavior. Eloise was also looking at her daughter with a proud expression on her face.

Seone even praised Meredith for having the manner of a young lady from a noble family.

Madeline wanted to vomit when she heard that.

There were so many employees in the company. How many of them knew Madeline? After Meredith announced her past, she was forced to be labeled as despicable and shameless.

Some of them exclaimed about how she had served time.

A man who had served time was not good.

Madeline was so disgusted that she left without turning back. It was as if everyone in the room was blind, deaf, or out of their minds. They could not see the wonderful performance that Meredith was putting on.

She packed her bags to leave the office. However, when she got to the door, she was stopped. Madeline."

She stopped and turned around to see Meredith smirking widely at her. "Tch." Meredith scoffed. "When did you become so weak? Are you really going to resign and not work here? Do you think you can find jobs in other places after you step out of this door?"

Her words reminded Madeline of the reality of it all.

No wonder she kept running into walls when she was looking for a job. Meredith was the one behind it. "It's you, right?" "Right, it's me. I told everyone in all industries that there will be a man named Madeline Crawford. I told them that you've been to prison for plagiarism before and whoever hires you will be slapped with a lawsuit."

Her nonchalant attitude lit the fire of anger in

Madeline's chest.

However, she was not rash. She only asked calmly, 'Meredith, the way of heaven is fair, and the guilty will not escape. Your evil conduct will be exposed one day.' "Tch." Meredith snorted. "Madeline, don't be stupid. Do you still believe the myth of evil can never prevail over

good? If that was true, you wouldn't have been convicted of plagiarism three years ago. I only had to say that you plagiarized and in the end, you were indeed caught plagiarizing." 19

While she said that, she fiddled with the diamond ring on her ring finger.

Chapter 49

Madeline's eyes became dispirited. She could clearly see the ring Meredith was wearing and it was the very ring she had designed! "Madeline, you're talented. This ring looks nice. I like it, but most importantly, Jeremy was the one who put it on for me."

She was flaunting her ring, her pride clearly written all over her eyes.

Madeline curled her fingers and held the phone that was recording a video the entire time tightly in her hand. She smiled as she gritted her teeth. "Meredith, did you just admit to framing me for plagiarism even though I'm clearly the original creator?"

Meredith scoffed. "So what? Who's going to believe you? Who are you to compete with me?" "That's enough." Madeline tugged the corner of her lips and turned around after she said that.

When Meredith saw Madeline behaving weirdly, she could feel that something was amiss. When she finally realized what was wrong, Madeline had already gotten into the car.

After a while, a video went viral on the internet. 2 In the video, Meredith's face was clearly in the shot and every word she said was genuine and sure.

Madeline saw that the netizens were shocked by this. Then, some of them were even outraged by the injustice she suffered.

She had been falsely accused the entire time.

After a while, the comments below started to get out of control.

They were all saying that Meredith was forced to do that. They said that Madeline caused her to miscarry and that was why she did that. That was why this was understandable and forgivable.

Compared to Meredith losing her child, what was Madeline being falsely accused of plagiarism?

Could it even compare?

Madeline closed her eyes. She did not only lose her reputation, but she also lost her precious daughter.

However, who would care about that?

Madeline went back he, and when she was downstairs, she saw an expensive car parked at the entrance.

She walked over and the car door opened.

Jeremy walked out of the car. His tall and slender body was enveloped with the cold air of elegance.

Madeline was being inhibited by his grandeur alone.

She was terrified and wanted to avoid him. However, he stopped her, and there was a chilling glint in his deep, alluring eyes. "So what if Mer bribed seone to accuse you of plagiarism? You only lost your reputation, but what about Mer? You killed her child! What are you trying to do by putting that video on the internet? Have you not hurt Mer enough?" 'You only lost your reputation.'

He said that sentence so indifferently.

However, each and every one of his words was filled with defense for Meredith.

Madeline wanted to burst out laughing, and her eyes were slightly wet. She looked at him. "Indeed, it's not enough."

She clenched her fist and said those four words through her gritted teeth. "I'll make that b*tch's life a living hell even if I have to spend a few more years in prison!"

Madeline lifted her head unyieldingly. She stared at Jeremy with her red eyes and did not show any signs of weakness.

She wanted to leave after she said that, but Jeremy grabbed her wrist as he tightened his hold on her.

She saw the changes in his eyes. After a few seconds, he said, "Madeline, stop trying to challenge my limits. If not, I'll make you spend the rest of your life in prison."

Madeline's heart trembled. She would be lying if she said she was not scared. However, she would not allow herself to be weak in front of this man. She forced out a smile on her face despite the bone crushing pain evading her body. She pretended to be carefree and grinned. "If it'll

make you happy, you can hire someone to kill me right now, Mr. Whitman. I won't be around for long anyway. Worst case to worst, I'll just drag that b*tch down with me before I die."

Chapter 50

It was evident that Jeremy did not expect Madeline to have the courage to talk to him this way.

He initially wanted to teach Madeline a lesson, but suddenly, the expression in his eyes changed. His tone was as frigid as usual. "What do you mean by you won't live long?"

Madeline did not expect Jeremy to be concerned about this. Should he not be yelling at her and warning her not to harass Meredith?

She could not guess what Jeremy was thinking about. However, she did not want to tell him about the tumor in her body. "It's nothing. You don't have to be bothered by what a woman like me says, Mr. Whitman." After Madeline finished saying that, she pushed Jeremy away. Perhaps it was the psychological effect, but the spot in her body where the tumor was began to hurt.

However, Jeremy did not give up just like that. "Madeline, you're so stubborn. Are you trying to put on a pathetic act so that I'll feel sorry for you?"

Madeline was taken aback before she laughed lightly. "Yeah, I'm putting up an act again. How can a shameless and coldblooded woman like me compare to the love of your life? I think Meredith must be the purest and gentlest saint in your eyes!"

When she said this, she looked into Jeremy's eyes.

He was deep in thought for about two seconds before he opened his mouth. "You're right, no one is able to replace Mer in my heart. Ever since the first day I met her, I knew she would be the woman I want to protect for the rest of my life."

Before Jeremy could finish, his eyes became sharp and piercing. "So, if you dare to hurt even a strand of Mer's hair, I'll make sure you pay it back 100 and 1,000 times worse."

Every word he said felt like an ice sword slicing Madeline's flesh.

The invisible blood was pouring out of her body, but he could not see it.

Madeline's eyes were red, but she did not know whether to laugh or cry.

It turned out he had killed his own daughter so cruelly and heartlessly just to make Meredith feel better.

It turned out he wanted to protect Meredith the moment he saw her.

Then, who was she? He had always promised to always protect her when they were at the beach. What about his promise of taking her as his wife?

Was it a joke? Oh, no. In his eyes, she was nothing. She was not even a joke.

Madeline suddenly felt like she did not know this man in front of her. No, he was not a man. He was the devil.

After Jeremy left, Madeline went back to her room and curled up in bed from the pain.

She did not take any painkillers. She wanted the pain to remind her that she needed to be strong and live with a clear and sound mind so that

she could avenge her daughter.

Madeline started looking for a job again. In the end, the results were evident no company wanted to hire her.

She stood at the junction of the busy street and at the streetlight. Then, she started to space out.

How would she fight with Meredith in her current situation?

She saw a feasting and pleasure-seeking entertainment center not far away from her and she suddenly remembered something.

Before she got incarcerated, she was still bearing a huge debt.

She had been out for some time, but she never got any phone calls asking her to pay up.

Madeline thought the other party was not forcing her to pay because they felt sorry for her. After she asked about it, she found out that someone had already paid her debt for her.

The first person she thought of was Ava. She was worried that Ava had paid for her debt by taking a loan from a loan shark. However, the other party said that it was a man who paid for her.

Madeline's heart was beating extremely fast at that moment. Jeremy's face instantly appeared in her brain.

Was it him?

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