

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1001

Lana looked at the figure that was reflected behind her and felt her heart skip a beat.

She turned her head slowly, and immediately, Jeremy's handsome yet terrifyingly grim face was reflected in her eyes.

The man was standing with his back against the light. His very being was exerting a tremendous amount of pressure on them, as if there was an iceberg on their shoulders. At this moment, he was emitting a terrifying aura.

Lana felt her heart skip a beat, but she quickly calmed down and remained cocky. "Jeremy, did you kidnap me? Let me go now!"

Her tone was as cocky as usual. Of course, she knew she would not be able to fool Jeremy anymore as he had remembered everything.

Lana looked at the emotionless man and lifted her head as much as she could.

"Jeremy, you're such a smart man, yet don't you know who's more compatible with you? Eveline's not a match for you. As long as you stay with me and agree to be my man, I'll let you experience the real joy of being a man—"

Slap! Jeremy directly slapped Lana across her face.

"Ah!"

Lana yelled in pain, yet Jeremy still had no emotions on his face.

However, the colder and calmer he was, the more one would feel that this was the calm before the storm.

Lana did not know how many slaps she had received these past few days. Her face felt hot, and she started tasting blood in her mouth again.

Jeremy had exerted so much strength into that slap. It was clear how much he despised her and wanted to chop her into pieces.

Before Lana could register the pain, Jeremy yanked her up by the collar.

The man's close-up features made Lana's heart throb.

However, the coldness in Jeremy's eyes woke her up, and at that moment, she was petrified.

"Jeremy, don't do anything stupid. I did manipulate you when you lost your memories, but when you almost died on the ship, I was the one who saved you—"

Slap!

"Ah!"

Jeremy slapped her again, and Lana felt her muscles start to cramp from the pain.

“How dare you say that you’re the one who saved me?” Jeremy grabbed Lana’s collar and slowly took away her freedom to breathe.

The man’s eyes were dark and icy. Looking into his eyes, Lana could see the fiery flames of fury and the murderous intent in his frightening stare.

“If you hadn’t tried to get close to me so shamelessly and used Eveline’s trust of Adam to make her take the pills she shouldn’t have taken, I wouldn’t have needed to take her to the island.

“I know Eveline resented me at that time, but she still cared about me. As long as she gave birth to the child safely, I wouldn’t even care if she blamed me, but what did you do instead?”

Jeremy’s eyes became sharp.

“You wanted to kill her.

“You wanted to kill my Linnie!”

“Jeremy, I-let go...” Lana’s face was red, and Jeremy’s grip around her neck was getting tighter and tighter.

“For the sake of Madeline and the children’s safety, I was forced to ask her to leave the ship with the children. I knew that Linnie was in a lot of pain and was reluctant to let me go, but she had to. I could imagine how much pain she was in when she thought I had died at sea.

“However, I didn’t die. I was saved by an evil woman like you out of your ‘so-called’ kindness. You even

manipulated my memory loss and made me believe that we were dating. Heh, dating?”

There was a look of mockery in Jeremy’s eyes.

“Lana, you’re pathetic. Even though I had lost my memories and even though I thought you were my woman, I never once touched you at all!”

“...” Lana did not expect Jeremy to mock and humiliate her at this moment. In her torment, she felt humiliated as well.

She was extremely confident ever since she was young and thought all men would be attracted to her. Even if it was not all men in the world, at least the men she was into would worship her like she was a goddess.

However, Jeremy was an exception. No matter how she tempted him, he was still like an iceberg who was unable to be melted by her charm and passion.

Naomi was shaking in fear as she listened to every word. She knew Jeremy’s target was Lana, so she pretended to pass out and play dead at one side.

When Lana thought Jeremy was going to suffocate her, he let go of his hand.

“Cough, cough!” Lana lay on the ground in a fetal position while coughing violently.

However, after wheezing and gasping for air for a moment, she was smacked in the face with a pack of cigarettes.

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Those were the cigarettes she smoked and also the ones she gave Jeremy back then. However, the ones she gave Jeremy was added with something else.

When Jeremy smacked the cigarette box on her face suddenly, Lana knew what was going on.

“What did you put in the cigarettes?” Jeremy asked coldly.

Lana did not dare answer. She could only pretend to cough from shock.

Jeremy did not have time to beat around the bush with her, so he walked to the other side coldly.

When Lana saw this, she lifted her leg to kick Naomi who was playing dead.

“Get up! Bite the ropes off for me!” she ordered in a low voice.

However, Naomi continued to play dead. She thought Jeremy was only going to seek revenge on Lana. She only followed Lana into the car groggily after she drank too much. She was a victim here.

“Naomi!” Lana shrieked. When she was about to kick her again, she felt cold liquid pouring from her head to her toes.

“Ah!” Lana yelled.

Naomi bolted up abruptly since Jeremy was also pouring the liquid on her.

Then, when they took a whiff, they realized it was not ice water. It was gasoline!

Lana and Naomi were being drenched in gasoline!

“Jeremy, Jeremy, please let me go! Let me go now!” Lana was horrified, her face turning red and white simultaneously.

Jeremy towered over her with no emotions in his eyes.

“I want you to get a taste of how my in-laws died.”

“What?” Lana widened her eyes. “How dare you, Jeremy?! I’m Miss Johnson of the Stygian Johnson Gang! If something happens to me, my brother will never forgive you! You—”

“Do you think I’m scared of your brother?”

“...”

Lana was stunned. As she looked into Jeremy’s calm eyes, she knew Jeremy was not scared.

This man was not afraid of anything.

The only thing he was scared of was losing Madeline.

At this moment, Lana saw Jeremy taking out a matchbox from his pocket and reaching out for a match.

Lana backed away in horror. However, she still threatened him arrogantly, "Jeremy, do you really have the guts to kill me? If I'm dead, you'll be finished! Do you know what I added to your cigarettes? Slow-acting poison!"

Slow-acting poison?

Jeremy's eyes darkened.

Lana laughed while feeling pleased with herself. "You can only treat your confusion and delusions by continuing to smoke the cigarettes I gave you. If not, the poison will seep into your bones slowly, and eventually, you'll be tortured to death by the poison!"

"I can also tell you that Adam was the one who created this slow-acting poison that has the ability to control people. There's no cure for it at the time being! You have to depend on the cigarettes, or else you'll die! So, are you still going to keep me tied up? If I die, you'll die too!"

Lana's cockiness triggered Jeremy to strike the match. "Since I won't be able to continue living, then I'll send you off first."

"..."

"No! This has nothing to do with me!" Naomi finally said something, "Jeremy, no, Mr. Whitman, it has nothing to do with me! This is between you and Lana. Why do you have to involve me in this? Please let me go! Let me go now!"

Lana kicked Naomi angrily. "Are you going to just think of yourself at a time like this? Naomi, don't forget how you treated Eveline back then!"

Naomi was fuming as she lifted her leg and kicked Lana. "I was only carrying out your orders! Lana

Johnson, you're killing me!"

"Naomi, how dare you kick me! You..." Lana yelled angrily when suddenly, she saw a spark from the corner of her eyes.

She lifted her head and saw that Jeremy had already lit a match.

"Lana, my in-laws are waiting for you. Remember to repent your sins when you see them."

"N-No!"

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"No!"

Lana was so terrified that she started blabbering. In the next second, she saw Jeremy throwing the match on a stack of wooden boxes on the side.

It was as if the boxes had been doused in gasoline as well. The tiny flame on the match suddenly grew and started spreading all over the place.

However, before the fire could approach them, Lana and Naomi were scared frozen. Cold sweat started to form on both of their bodies.

Jeremy looked coldly at Lana. At this moment, she was so scared that her face was completely white.

"Lana, I won't let you die just like this."

Even more intense flames were burning behind his sharp eyes.

“You used me to kill my in-laws and caused me to never be able to be together with Linnie. So, I want you to slowly walk toward death while you’re in fear. I want you to experience how it feels to be framed and tortured.”

“...”

After he said that, Lana saw his tall and slender figure walking further and further away without any concerns until he had walked out of the abandoned factory.

The fire was getting closer to them, and it felt like the heat was going to get into contact with their faces at any second.

Naomi yelled at Lana in terror, “Lana, you dumb b*tch! You want to die, but I don’t!” She screeched, then yelled at the door, “Jeremy, don’t go! You have a chance to get back together with Eveline because...”

“Shut up!” Lana shrieked and stopped Naomi.

She was so scared that her hands were shaking. Beads of cold sweat were pouring from her body.

Of course, she wanted to live. However, it would be difficult to stay alive in this situation.

If she really were to die, she would want to hide the truth of Eloise and Sean’s deaths forever.

“I won’t let Eveline get the man I can’t get!” Lana yelled hysterically. “I want Eveline to be in pain, and I want them to never get back together!”

...

Yorick had prepared a plane and was about to send Lana back to F Country in the morning.

However, Lana had not come back since last night.

He was worried that Lana would cause trouble again, so he asked his men to find her. After they looked all over, they discovered that Lana and Naomi were taken away by Jeremy when they were in the bar last night.

When he remembered what happened three months ago, Yorick sensed that something was amiss.

He handed the information he got to Fabian and asked him to contact Madeline.

Madeline was changing her son's diaper when she suddenly received a call from Fabian. On the other end of the phone, she heard Fabian's anxious voice saying, "Eveline, can you ask your husband to release my sister since I've saved Lily before?"

Madeline was confused, but she sensed that something was wrong.

After she knew that Jeremy had kidnapped Lana and Naomi to an abandoned factory, Madeline immediately called Jeremy.

At the same time, Jeremy sent her a message.

There were only a few lines in the message. [Linnie, I've avenged our mom and dad. Please don't be sad anymore. You should find a good man and marry him. Don't tell Lily that I'm her birth father. There's no need for that.]

At the end of the message, he confessed to her once more. [Eveline Montgomery, I love you.]

Madeline felt her body going cold after she saw this message.

She immediately handed her child to Karen and drove to the address Fabian sent her.

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After arriving at the location before Fabian and the rest, Madeline watched the flames engulf the factory and understood what Jeremy meant by revenge.

She quickly ran through the metal doors to take a look at what was happening inside. Upon entering, she was met with Jeremy standing before the factory like an exquisite sculpture, rooted in place as he watched the flames feed aloofly.

Madeline felt her heart sink.

She quickly called the fire department and ran to stand in front of Jeremy.

It was then that the man realized Madeline had arrived. His dim eyes sparkled.

"What are you doing here, Linnie? Quick, leave." Jeremy quickly pulled Madeline away, not wanting her to be scorched by straying flames.

Madeline slapped his hand away, her eyes filled with worry and concern.

"What do you think you're doing? Have you any idea at all?"

"I know," Jeremy replied curtly, the flames reflecting in his frosty eyes. "She deserves to die."

"Yes, she deserves to die, but you don't have to play the executioner!" Madeline panicked, wanting to

run inside to look only for Jeremy to hold her back.

As she was struggling, Madeline's eyes moistened from the heat or something else she did not know. "You must know where Lana and Naomi stand! You can still stop before it gets beyond that point, Jeremy!"

Jeremy's hold on Madeline did not loosen. "They're not worth your pity, Linnie."

Madeline did not know how to explain to the man that she could not possibly pity Lana Johnson or Naomi Lionel.

"You're not avenging my parents, Jeremy. You're destroying your entire life! Stop!"

Yet, the man merely smiled by her ear. "My life turned dark the moment I lost you, Linnie."

"Once Lana dies, I'll surrender myself. I'll tell the police that I was the one who set fire to the Montgomery family, that I was the one who destroyed your home and killed my own parents-in-law."

Madeline shook her head, her tears falling from her glistening eyes due to the breeze. "Are you even listening to me, Jeremy? Let Lana and Naomi out now!"

"I'll avenge my parents myself! I don't need you to do it for me!"

"Do you hear me, Jeremy Whitman?"

Just then, Fabian and Yorick arrived at the scene as well. Staring at the burning flames in front of them, a bad feeling crept up.

Fabian covered his mouth and ran to the window to take a look. "Lana and Naomi are both inside. The flames haven't gotten to them yet, but they're unconscious!"

Hearing him, Yorick immediately came up with a plan to get Lana out.

Jeremy watched coldly from the side as he carried Madeline and turned around. "Go, Linnie."

"I'm not going anywhere!" Madeline struggled out of his grip. "If you're just leaving like this, Jeremy, then don't appear in front of me again!"

She glared at him with her reddened and wet eyes.

"There's a back door we can use, Yorick, but I can't open it." Fabian's voice drifted from afar.

Madeline reached out to Jeremy. "You must have the key to the back door. Give it to me!"

Jeremy remained stoic.

Madeline ran toward him and reached out to rustle through his pockets impatiently. Instead of the key, all she found in his pockets were the rainbow shell he had been keeping carefully and the wedding ring Madeline had removed.

Her vision blurred as she stared at the man whose gaze grew colder by the second.

"Give me the key, Jeremy! Give it to me!"

Jeremy raised a hand to wipe her tears away lovingly. "Are these tears because of me?" He smiled. "Don't cry, I'm not worth it. Ryan's not bad for a significant other. I'm sure he'll be someone you can lean

on in the future.”

“You don’t even know who it is that I want to lean on the most! It’s you, it has always been you. Jeremy, please! Wake up and give me the key. Come back to me. You don’t have to make another mistake!”

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Watching Madeline’s eyes that were red from crying, emotion finally flashed through Jeremy’s gaze.

He could not ignore Madeline’s plea, let alone continue to go against her wishes.

“It’s under the door,” Jeremy finally said.

Madeline quickly shouted for Fabian, “It’s under the door!”

Fabian squatted and groped around, surprised to find the key.

Opening the door, he and Yorick then ran inside to carry out Lana and Naomi who had passed out.

As both Lana and Naomi had been doused in gasoline, embers of flame managed to catch on them while they were carried out.

Thank goodness for the firefighters who arrived in time and extinguished the flames.

Lana and Naomi were sent to the hospital where both were declared to not be in any life-threatening danger.

However, the ends of Lana’s already short hair were burnt and became choppy. The scent of smoke filled the strands of her hair.

Knowing that Lana and Naomi were alright, Madeline got into the car anxiously.

She could only imagine how much Jeremy must have hated Lana and himself to do such a thing.

Madeline reached out for a picture of Eloise and Sean, tracing it with her fingertips.

“Will you blame me for stopping Jeremy, Mom and Dad?”

She frowned, feeling conflicted.

She felt a boulder lodge itself on her chest at the idea that the man she loved had become her parents' murderer, putting her in a suffocating situation.

The more she thought about it, the more remorseful she felt.

There was no way she could erase the fact that Jeremy had killed Eloise and Sean, but here she was worried about their future together.

At that train of thought, Madeline felt guilty.

After buying a bouquet of white chrysanthemums and carnations, she arrived at the cemetery. Before she could walk over, she was met with the sight of Jeremy bending down to light candles and incense before Eloise and Sean's graves.

Madeline walked over to replace Jeremy's flowers and candles with new ones.

Jeremy stood rooted in place. His deep eyes were staring at Madeline who was paying him no heed.

“Can I have a day with the kids, Linnie?”

He was pleading, but Madeline ignored him to light candles quietly.

“I’ll redraft the divorce papers. You can have custody over the kids and every asset and property I own. I know they don’t mean anything to you, but it’s the last thing I can give you.”

At that, Madeline heard Jeremy walk away.

Pretending not to hear him at all, Madeline continued to light the candles. However, she could not hide the tears that were trickling from her eyes.

Time ticked away, and Madeline fell to her knees lifelessly. With her head falling forward, she started to sob.

Not too far away, Jeremy’s tears fell with hers as he watched Madeline’s kneeling and crying figure.

‘When we first met, even the wind that blew tasted sweet. I promised to protect and keep that happy smile on your face forever, yet I ended up being the one to destroy every bit of that sweet smile.

‘I’ve finally understood, Eveline, that loving a person doesn’t mean you’ll get to be with them forever.

‘It’s not because I don’t love you enough, but because I’m not worthy. You deserve much better than me.’

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Jeremy gulped. Giving Madeline up, he forced himself to turn around.

He used the day to spend time with the children.

Lillian still called him 'Mister', but it was good enough for him.

The sky darkened, and Madeline returned.

Jeremy placed the newly signed divorce papers in front of her and felt dizziness wash over him.

Assuming it was the slow-acting poison Lana talked about, he suppressed his reaction to it and gave Madeline a gentle, small smile.

"I don't want you to suffer anymore, Linnie," he stated gently, "Having gone through so much, I've come to understand that true love doesn't mean possession. As long as you're happy, I'm happy. That's enough for me."

Hearing her son, Karen asked worriedly, "What are you saying, Jeremy? Are you actually breaking up with Eveline?"

She asked, but Jeremy did not answer.

Karen then walked to stand beside Madeline. "Mom has done so many horrible things to you before, Eveline. Yet you've forgiven me despite my horrendous acts. Will you not forgive Jeremy this time?"

"Yes, he made a mistake, Eveline, but he lost his memory and was under Lana's control. That evil woman—"

"Even if Linnie forgives me, I still can't forgive myself," Jeremy interrupted Karen.

Staring at the divorce papers, Madeline took the pen and signed her name at the bottom.

Karen sighed hopelessly as she watched.

Jeremy's heart fell into the void as frost began to shroud his entire being.

Pretending not to realize, Madeline took the papers and stood. She looked down and fixed her bag to avoid his gaze. "I'll have a lawyer process this immediately. You can visit the kids any time you want, but I don't want Whitman Corporation. I'll move out tomorrow. From now on, we are no more but strangers."

She quickly turned and left, fearful that her tears would soon betray her desire to stay.

"Can I hug you one last time, Linnie?" Jeremy's plea sounded from behind.

Madeline halted, her hands balling into fists as she closed her eyes. However, all that surfaced in her mind was her now ruined home. Ignoring him, she walked away.

Jeremy looked down despondently at the wedding ring on his finger before slowly taking it off.

The impression on his finger once the ring was removed was a testament to his reluctance to end this marriage.

Ever since he married Madeline all those years ago, he had never taken off the ring—not even when he thought she died.

However, everything would end today.

Placing the ring on the coffee table, he left silently.

Soon after, he arrived at the police station and claimed that he was the one who set fire to Montgomery Manor.

The chief superintendent recognized him and thought that Jeremy was joking when he confessed.

“Mr. and Mrs. Montgomery were your parents-in-law, Mr. Whitman. How is it possible that you killed them? Plus, our investigations have already shown that the fire was an accident and not arson.”

The superintendent stressed, refusing to accept Jeremy’s confession.

Jeremy had always been an aloof man who hated repeating himself, especially when his mind was still in a daze.

Thinking that it might be the slow-acting poison, Jeremy went to the hospital.

He had not planned to care about it, for the two lives he took were more than enough for a death sentence. He did not care if he was sick, but the police station refused to put him behind bars.

As such, he went to the hospital and did a blood test. While he waited for the results, he found a familiar figure flash before his eyes.

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“Adam?”

Jeremy followed after the figure and indeed confirmed that it was Adam.

Adam looked no different than how he did before—still gentlemanly with his glasses.

Yet, such a kind-looking man had also taken someone else’s life as an experiment subject.

How could Jeremy possibly forgive Adam for what he did to Madeline?

She had believed Adam, thinking that he was genuinely helping her when she was nothing more than a subject of an experiment to him.

Madeline still had no idea why he was so averse to her taking the pain medication Adam gave her.

Adam had returned to his office to get his research. However, he had not expected Jeremy to appear before the door the moment he sat in his office.

Panic flashed through Adam's eyes, but he quickly calmed.

"Jeremy Whitman? How can I help you?"

Locking Adam's office door behind him, Jeremy walked toward Adam with a domineering gaze in his eyes.

"You don't even have the most basic medical ethics at all, so how can you even call yourself a doctor? You have no right to wear that lab coat!"

Adam looked confused. "What are you talking about Jeremy?"

"You know what you've done!" Jeremy grabbed Adam by his collar. "Eveline believed you and even saw you as a friend, yet you treated her as an experiment subject! Damn you, Adam Brown!"

Jeremy sent a punch across Adam's face, flinging the man's glasses across the floor.

Adam frowned in pain and picked up his glasses. After putting them on once more, he smiled as if nothing was wrong.

“Shouldn’t you worry about yourself, Jeremy Whitman?” Adam showed his true self. “So what if I treated Eveline as a test subject? Had it not been for me, she would’ve died long ago in prison. Hmph. Don’t forget that you were the one who sent her there in the first place, Mr. Whitman.”

Adam was well aware of Jeremy’s weakness and aimed right at it. He chuckled when he saw the change in Jeremy’s expression before reaching into his drawer to pull out a bag of small and thin pills.

Jeremy recognized them as the pain medication Adam told Madeline to take.

“The pills Eveline Montgomery took were made with the same ingredients as the cigarettes you’ve been smoking over the past three months,” Adam explained.

Jeremy’s expression changed. “What?! You gave Eveline a slow-acting poison?”

“She didn’t take much, and with her pregnant body, it wasn’t that bad. Her symptoms seem to have already vanished as of now,” Adam’s reply placated much of Jeremy’s worry, but then he suddenly broke into a smile.

“So she isn’t my test subject anymore. You are.”

Jeremy relaxed greatly.

As far as he was concerned, he was content with Madeline being safe.

Adam saw through the cause behind Jeremy’s shift of expression. “You must love Eveline so much. It’s a shame you’ll never get to be with her again.”

He spoke as his computer showed the results of Jeremy's blood test.

His eyes fell on the report, and Adam smiled.

"It has only been three months, but Lana sure is a cruel woman. She made you smoke that custom cigarette every day to make you stay. Your blood has already changed to the point where you only have two choices before I invent the antidote."

Adam listed out slowly, "Choice one, you return to Lana's side and be her man. Continue to smoke that cigarette and slow the poison, though I don't suppose you'll take that option.

"Choice two, you wait for death to take you."

He smiled and continued, "Because even if I do invent the antidote, I can't give it to you. You'll never understand how rare it is for a mad scientist to be given the support—monetary and tactical—to do his own research, but the Stygian Johnsons do."

The Stygian Johnson Gang.

All hope vanished from Jeremy's heart at Adam's mention of the gang.

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As a mad scientist, nothing brought Adam more joy than achieving the results he wanted.

However, the only place that could give him the tactical support he needed was the Stygian Johnson Gang.

Adam himself did not have the ability, wealth, or power.

Jeremy did not completely believe Adam's proclamation, so he took his report and went to consult a professor he knew only to receive a similar reply.

The professor told him about the mutation in Jeremy's blood and advised him to do a full-body check-up so that the cause could be found.

However, knowing the cause, Jeremy also knew that treatment was close to impossible.

Thinking back to the two choices Adam gave him, Jeremy had already made his own decision.

He could very well hunt Adam down and kill him, but Madeline's frantic words deterred him. "Jeremy, please! Come back to me, you don't have to make another mistake!"

'I won't make this mistake again, Linnie.'

Throwing the test results into the trash, Jeremy left the hospital.

A black Rolls-Royce stopped before him just as he made his way to the car park.

The window rolled down, revealing a kind face behind it.

"Can we have a word, Mr. Whitman?" asked the middle-aged man politely.

Jeremy looked at the man. "Aren't you from M Country?"

"Quite the fine observation, Mr. Whitman. Can I have the pleasure of chatting with you in the car?" The man invited courteously again.

Jeremy rejected. "I'm sorry, I'm a little busy."

"Please wait, Mr. Whitman," the man called out and alighted the car, handing him a name card. "Please look at this, Mr. Whitman."

While giving it a cold glance, Jeremy's mind quickly supplied him with something at the sight of the four-letter contraction.

The middle-aged man smiled and invited him again. "Please get in the car, Mr. Whitman."

Jeremy did not reject him this time.

...

Upstairs, Madeline stayed dazedly in the room until she received a call from Ryan. Walking downstairs, she found the wedding ring on the coffee table.

Madeline was stunned for a while before she went to take it.

The person's warmth had vanished, leaving the ring cold to the touch. The cool metal spread from her fingertip to the depths of her heart.

He had taken his ring off.

He had truly decided to let go this time.

Madeline's heartstrings tugged at the thought as her eyes fell on the letter 'L' that Jeremy had engraved

inside the ring through the blur of her tears.

He had engraved her name on the wedding ring all those years ago.

Jeremy.

Taking the ring, Madeline walked out to find Ryan already waiting for her.

Sitting in his car, Madeline gripped Jeremy's ring in her hand.

"Is something frustrating you, Eveline? Did Lana come and bother you again?"

"She didn't." Madeline snapped back to reality. Staring at Ryan's side profile while deep in thought, she asked, "You said I saved you before, Mr. Jones? I do believe that I've met you somewhere before now that I think about it. When did I save you?"

At that, Ryan gave a bashful smile. "It's a little embarrassing."

"Embarrassing?" Madeline was even more curious. "What happened?"

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Madeline asked curiously, only to find a bitter smile on his gentle features.

"Do you know how I became an amateur artist?" Ryan asked.

Madeline shook her head and smiled. "Do tell."

Ryan turned to look at Madeline. "You made me who I am today."

"Me?" Madeline was confused as Ryan began to tell her what happened years ago.

Back then, Madeline had just graduated high school. It was the summer break before university started.

Madeline had found a part-time job at a dessert shop, and when she walked out one day, she found an art stall by the road.

At that point in time, Madeline had not begun to pursue jewelry designing just yet, but art was something that piqued her interest. Walking over, she found the artworks rather interesting.

As such, she picked one up to take a look.

Just then, a boy came over to ask calmly, "Do you want it?"

She was shocked, but the boy continued before she could reply, "Just pay however much you think it's worth."

"..." Madeline was still an innocent lady, too embarrassed to place the art down after picking it up. As such, she rummaged through her pocket only to find a one-dollar coin. She could have paid using her phone, but that money was only enough for her school fees.

She placed the coin down, saying, "I'm sorry. I only have this coin on me now."

She then encouraged him. "There's a unique feel to your art style. Keep going, I'm sure you'll improve and achieve breakthroughs beyond your imagination."

Madeline then left with the piece of art, leaving the boy to pick up the coin she gave him with a smile.

At that, Madeline finally understood what Ryan meant when he asked if she still remembered the coin.

She forgot about this encounter long ago and may not have remembered it at all had Ryan not reminded her.

However, it only made Madeline more confused. "The Jones family is one of Glendale's four major rich families. Why would a young master like you be selling his paintings by the street?"

"I loved art and wanted to pursue it overseas, but my parents wanted me to take over the family business. We had a big fight that day.

"In a rage, my father called my art unorthodox and claimed that no one would buy it. He said that as long as I sold one before four o'clock that evening, then he'd let me study it overseas.

"Ten minutes before the deadline, you appeared."

Madeline finally understood.

While Madeline still thought that claiming she 'saved' him was a bit much, Ryan believed it just right.

"Your coin meant the world to me, Miss Montgomery. It's thanks to it that I managed to make my dream come true. Had I not left the country to pursue art, I might have regretted it for the rest of my life. A person's dream is priceless, after all."

His gaze grew serious, but he quickly broke into a smile. "While my profession now has completely veered off the path of art, I'm content with the fact that I got to make that dream of mine come true."

“What’s your profession now?” Mulling over the thought, Madeline realized she had no idea what Ryan did for a living.

When Ryan came to her in the beginning, it was merely to design a wedding ring and bottles of perfume as door gifts for the guests who would be attending his and Naomi’s wedding—not for his company.

“What do you do for a living, Mr. Jones?” Curious, Madeline could not help but ask.

Ryan simply gave a mysterious smile. “Perhaps you’ll find out one day.”

Perhaps?

It was as if his profession was a secret one.

Yet, Madeline’s gut told her that Ryan was not a bad person.

He brought her to an art gallery.

Madeline found her spirits slightly lifted.

Entering through the company doors as the only heir to the Montgomery Enterprise, Madeline placed her mind on work to distract her from her heartache.

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman’s Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1010

It had been an entire month and Madeline did not know where Jeremy was. She heard from Fabian that Yorick had given Lana a scolding and she was back in F Country now.

Still, how could a scolding be the end to the things Lana had done?

Madeline had not forgotten her parents' tragic end.

While Lana spent the month in F Country mingling with her 'bosom friends', they would sometimes ask her about the woman with the name of Eveline Montgomery who she had knelt and apologized to. Whenever Eveline's name was brought up, Lana would be ashamed of herself.

No one had dared to make fun of her ever since she was born, yet now she was everyone's laughing stock!

Lana did not want to stay in F Country anymore. Everywhere she went, it felt as if everyone around her knew of how she had knelt by Eveline's feet to apologize.

The more Lana thought about it, the angrier she felt. Without telling Yorick or Fabian, Lana secretly returned to Glendale.

Upon her return, the first thing she did was ask around about Jeremy. Knowing that he was no longer with Madeline, she was relieved.

Not that they would be together again when Jeremy was the 'culprit' behind Madeline's parents' deaths.

Madeline had no idea that Lana was back in Glendale as she had spent the month spending time with her kids and working. Sometimes, she would join Ryan for a meal as well.

She would still end up thinking about her late parents and missing Jeremy Whitman when she was alone in bed in the dead of the night. As of this moment, her eyes were closed and she was ready to sleep.

Her mind drifted over to Jeremy's text: [Find a good man and marry him. It's alright if Lillian doesn't know that I'm her biological father. There's no need for her to know.]

'There's no need?'

Madeline shot up in bed. Had he thought of a way to atone for her parents' death?

Madeline's heart raced uneasily.

'He wouldn't.'

He would not go to such extremes.

'He wouldn't.'

Madeline repeated to herself quietly as she hugged her blanket and lay down again.

In the dead of the night, the nightclub was bursting with activity.

Having had a few drinks, Lana began to fool around with a few strangers on the dance floor.

Under the flashing lights, her eyes fell on the man sitting alone in the corner.

The lights over him were dim, but one look was all it took for Lana to know that it was Jeremy!

There was no other man with such an ethereal appearance.

Still, Lana was wary as she remembered the forceful look in Jeremy's eyes when he poured gasoline over her and tried to burn her alive.

While she still wanted to approach him, the hellish persona he took upon that day gave her shivers. She made her way to leave.

She feared that Jeremy would try again since he did not succeed in burning her alive the previous time.

She could not believe that despite knowing he had been slowly poisoned, Jeremy would rather wait for death than be her man.

Was she that horrible a choice?

Could she not compete with Eveline Montgomery?

Indignant, she decided to leave the bar.

It had only been a few steps when the man she was thinking about suddenly appeared in front of her.

Lana staggered backward. "Jer-Jeremy Whitman!"

Afraid, she wanted to run but was surprised to hear the singular word Jeremy said...Married by Mistake: Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife chapter 1011-1020

July 27, 2021 by superadmin

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1011

Lana thought she misheard him, but she watched clearly as Jeremy's pretty thin lips parted to speak. "Cigarette."

Cigarette.

He had come to ask her for a cigarette.

Lana's eyes shone, the franticness within them vanishing at that moment.

She chuckled to herself. Not even the most determined man would be able to survive the torture of poison slowly killing them from the inside.

Lana walked toward him to smile appreciatively at his slightly hollowed features.

"I can give you the cigarette if you want, Jeremy, but you must willingly become mine." Lana gave her requirement as she stared at Jeremy with desire in her eyes.

Jeremy stared at the heinous smile and replied, "Fine."

Lana was elated, staring at him with her intoxicated eyes as she lowered her voice. "If that's the case, then how about you prove your determination? I've gotten a little scared of you since the day you treated me that way because of Eveline. Console me?"

Her words heavily hinted at Jeremy, and he understood.

"Hotel. Your pick," Jeremy replied curtly.

Lana was ecstatic. She never expected she would get the chance to sleep with Jeremy.

She immediately picked a hotel and booked a room before leading him over.

Entering the room, Lana immediately went to take a bath.

After taking a quick bath, she shook her head.

She felt a little dizzy from the drinks she had in the bar, but it was a nice buzz.

Wrapping herself in a towel, Lana then opened the bathroom door and was hit with a special scent. Jeremy must have lit an incense.

In a daze, she saw the man she dreamed about sitting by the bed. Impatient, she pounced at him...

The night ended and morning came.

Turning around, Lana stared at Jeremy as he put on his clothes by the bed.

The morning sun shone on the man's handsome brows as Lana stared at him, not able to get enough of his attractive features.

"It no wonders that Eveline loves you so much, Jeremy. You're the most charismatic man I've met." She stared besottedly at him.

Jeremy put on his clothes and went to light a cigarette on the side.

Admiring Jeremy as he smoked, Lana thought back to what happened last night.

Perhaps it was because she drank too much that she blacked out midway. Last night felt like a dream, but the dream felt real—real enough that she still felt sated.

She wanted Jeremy to stay, but he said that he had matters to tend to her.

Lana washed up and left the room, only to see an unattractive and ragged thug staring at her flirtatiously.

Lana rolled her eyes disgustedly. The fact that such people found interest in her made her want to vomit.

However, she was in a good mood today and decided to ignore it.

...

It was still early, and Madeline was making breakfast for Jackson and Lillian.

The siblings were obedient kids. Having had their breakfast, they then took their school bags and held hands as they hopped on the nanny van to school.

Madeline had offered to move out of Whitman Manor a month ago, but Karen managed to persuade her to stay.

She would not be able to take care of all three children if she moved out.

Turning to walk back inside, she suddenly received a call from Ava.

“Did you see it, Maddie? I thought Jeremy already got his memories back? What’s he doing this time?”
Ava’s voice was filled with anger. “How could he hurt you again and again?”

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman’s Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1012

Madeline did not understand but quickly found the news about Jeremy entering a hotel with a short-haired woman in the middle of the night before leaving separately.

It had been a month since Madeline received any news of Jeremy. She never expected to receive it in such a way.

Others may not recognize her, but Madeline knew that it was Lana with just one look.

Madeline felt her vision darken for a while, but she was soon pulled back to reality when Ava called her name through the phone.

“Is Jeremy crazy, Maddie? Why would he get together with Lana?” Ava pitied Madeline.

Madeline gripped her phone and forced herself to calm down. “We’ve already gotten a divorce, Ava. Who he decides to spend his time with has nothing to do with me.”

Madeline hung up nonchalantly despite the shaking in her heart.

‘Why, Jeremy? Have you truly gone mad?’

Dazed for the entire morning, Madeline only came back to reality when Ryan came to bring her out for lunch.

They arrived at that restaurant.

Madeline's gaze instinctively fell on the seat she once sat with Jeremy, only to find it occupied by another woman.

Madeline turned to sit but was knocked into by someone from behind.

"Sorry." She quickly apologized but was hit with the cooling scent that tugged at her heartstrings.

She looked up in disbelief, her eyes reflecting the man's attractive features.

'Jeremy?'

Madeline exclaimed internally in shock.

Jeremy quickly let go of his grip on Madeline now that she was back on her feet. His gaze was indifferent.
"Are you alright, Miss Montgomery?"

Miss Montgomery.

What a familiar yet distanced title.

Madeline stepped out of his arms coldly without replying to him.

Jeremy did not comment on it, opting to turn to Ryan with a smile instead. "My ex-wife is a rare and great woman, Mr. Jones. If you truly like her, don't let go."

Jeremy's words made Madeline feel uncomfortable.

She was about to speak when she heard Ryan reply gently, "Thank you for the reminder, Mr. Whitman. I won't."

Satisfied with the reply, he turned to look at Madeline who was glaring coldly at him before leaving.

Madeline then realized that the woman sitting with her back against her was Lana.

He was eating with Lana at the table they once sat at.

Ha.

Madeline had no idea what Jeremy was thinking at all.

She sat down despite the fact that her appetite had completely vanished. "In regards to what he said, Ryan, you can ignore it."

Rya understood, but his gaze was sincere. "I've developed feelings for you after having spent time with you over the past month."

Ryan's reply took Madeline by surprise, but he continued to explain, "Naomi and I got engaged because it was my parents' wish. There wasn't anyone I had feelings for at the time, so I decided to accept it

when my parents introduced me to a girl of similar status to tie a union.”

It turned out that this was the reason behind Ryan and Naomi’s relationship.

It explained why Ryan did not seem to show any form of sadness at all when he broke it off with Naomi. There were no feelings involved at all.

However, in the face of Ryan’s sudden confession and Jeremy’s ‘matchmaking’, Madeline felt uneasy and made an excuse to use the bathroom. She wanted some peace and quiet, only to have Lana’s proud smile appear in the mirror.

“You must be surprised, Eveline Montgomery. Since last night, Jeremy has become mine for real.”

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman’s Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1013

Madeline loosened her balled-up fist and washed her hands nonchalantly.

However, Lana walked up to her to provoke her. “Jeremy sure is charming. I’ve never been so happy. Now I understand why you used such lowly methods to get him to marry you.

“But we’re not the same, Eveline. I didn’t do anything at all. Jeremy was the one who came to me instead.”

Proud of herself, Lana turned it up a notch with the taunts when she saw Madeline’s lack of response. “Do you think I’m joking, Eveline? You can go and take a look if you want. Jeremy still has the mark I bit on his shoulder last night! Haha... Ugh?”

Lana laughed freely, never having expected Madeline to reach out and grab her neck with a domineering look in her eyes.

“There’s a limit to my tolerance, Lana Johnson. For my kids, perhaps I can still maintain a shred of rationality, but there’s no limit to the things that I can do if you completely piss me off. You’ll stop

bragging in front of me if you know what's good for you."

Madeline's aura was overwhelming.

"Jeremy and I are already divorced. Who he wants to spend time with has nothing to do with me. If you like him so much, then treasure him and keep him for yourself. I don't want him anymore!"

Madeline loosened her grip just as her warning came to an end.

Flushed, Lana coughed and tried to attack Madeline from behind. However, Madeline evaded it agilely and instead raised her hand to counterattack.

At that moment, Madeline felt a familiar hand suspending her hand in mid-air.

The palm's warmth was something she would never forget.

Madeline turned to the man who was gripping her wrist—Jeremy.

Watching the scene, Lana was elated but wore a hurt expression as she approached Jeremy. "Jeremy, she tried to hurt me again."

Jeremy stared at Madeline and asked, "Why are you hitting my girlfriend, Miss Montgomery?"

'Girlfriend.'

The word drifted into Madeline and Lana's ears.

Lana was stunned and ecstatic.

Madeline was shocked too, and she felt her heart grow cold.

Her dignified gaze fell on Jeremy as she spoke disdainfully, "So what if I hit her? Are you going to hit me back for your girlfriend, Mr. Whitman?"

"..." Lana's expression fell as she turned to stir more trouble up, saying coquettishly, "Look at her, Jeremy. This is too much..."

Jeremy glanced at Lana, then back at Madeline. "As ex-husband and wife, I'm sorry on behalf of how my girlfriend has offended you."

Madeline was beyond disappointed by the man's reply.

She tugged her arm back. "How can an apology possibly be enough for the murder of two lives? Are you overestimating yourself, Jeremy, or are you underestimating me?"

Madeline turned and left.

Lana quirked her red lips in satisfaction.

She never expected Jeremy to suddenly call her his girlfriend.

It seemed like she had made the right choice with the slow-acting poison. Jeremy was easily controlled now.

Ryan, who was ordering dishes at the table, watched Madeline rush out with a dark expression.

Subconsciously turning to look at the bathroom, he saw Jeremy and Lana leave one after the other.

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1014

Guessing what had happened, he quickly placed the menu down and ran after Madeline.

Standing in an empty corner in the underground car park, Madeline trembled and shook as her heart ached with no sign of relief.

Watching Madeline try and suppress her feelings alone in the corner, Ryan quickly made his way over.

Seeing her agony, Ryan reached out for her. "If it's too much, you can always choose to lean on my shoulders. I may not be the person you want to rely on the most, but I think I qualify enough as an escape."

Madeline slowly looked up to stare at the gentle features in front of her as her tears began to fall.

Ryan took a step forward and opened his arms to pull Madeline into his chest.

Jeremy watched the scene from afar and felt his heart clench as pain consumed it.

Yet another uncomfortable feeling within his body reminded him that giving her away was the best and only choice he could make.

Madeline cried for a long time before her emotions began to calm.

Getting into the car, she decided to text Jeremy to meet her by the seaside of April Hill.

Seven o'clock that night, the man arrived on time.

The cold sea breeze blew. It was no longer salty and sweet like it used to be.

“Did you want to ask why I got together with Lana?” Jeremy asked straightforwardly, his tone cold and distant.

Madeline merely stared at the man’s calm expression silently.

From her eyes, Jeremy read her question. He approached her with a smile and cupped her cheeks with both his hands. “Eveline Montgomery, you will always be the woman I, Jeremy Whitman, love the most. But there’s also no way we can ever get back together.”

‘There’s no way, Linnie. Not even if you forgave me.’

His reply crushed Madeline’s heart and enraged her. “So you’ve decided to be with Lana? The person who used you to kill my parents?”

“Yeah. I got together with her. The gossip online is true. We’ve... slept together.”

His words shot through her heart like a thousand arrows.

Trembling, she pushed the man away while suppressing the heartbreak and tears. “Jeremy Whitman, you b*stard! I’m so disappointed in you! Tell me just what kind of man did I fall in love with all these years?”

Jeremy remained indifferent to Madeline’s disappointed reprimanding.

He pulled a box of cigarettes from his pocket. Lighting one between his fingers, he took a drag.

Madeline could not suppress the tears at the sight and snatched the cigarette and its box before throwing them on the floor. Then, she gave him a harsh slap across his face.

“Do you somehow think that I exist for the sole purpose to be hurt by and for you? Why must you treat me like this, Jeremy? Am I not worthy of happy days at all?”

“You’re right, you should never have fallen for me at all.” Jeremy curled his lips faintly as he stared at her teary face. He secretly balled his fists to hide his trembling fingers. “It’s your biggest misfortune to have met me, Eveline. I cannot give you the happiness you deserve. All I give is pain, so stop loving me. I don’t want to be loved by you anymore.”

Slap!

Madeline placed all her strength to leave a clear handprint on Jeremy’s cheek. Her hands were shaking uncontrollably as breathing itself started to feel like a difficult feat. “I don’t want to see you anymore. I don’t... After tonight, Jeremy Whitman, I won’t shed another tear for you. Not even in your death will I let my heart hurt for you again.”

She bit her lip to ignore the searing ache in her chest.

“I hate you! I hate you so much, Jeremy Whitman! I hate the fact that you’re not atoning for my parents’ death right now!”

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman’s Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1015

Madeline drove away.

Rooted in place, Jeremy waited until Madeline could no longer see him from her rear-view mirror before he let go of his facade. His slender fingers picked up the cigarettes on the ground.

These were custom-made cigarettes, a replica of the ones Lana gave him. However, they were not from her.

Someone had customized these for him. They were made with ingredients that would balance the slow-acting poison inside his body. Although, he had to say that they were not very effective.

He thought of Madeline's words. "Not even in your death will I let my heart hurt for you again." He leaned against his car lifelessly, his peach blossom eyes staring dimly at the ground.

'That day might just come sooner than you think, Linnie...

'But I sincerely hope that you would have completely given up on me by then so that at least you won't be hurt by it.'

Leaving April Hill, Madeline had no idea what mindset she was in as she drove away.

Passing an intersection, Madeline had not noticed the red light and drove through. She almost crashed into another car.

The other person rolled their window down to curse at Madeline before driving off.

Parking the car by the road, tears streamed down Madeline's face as she threw herself over the steering wheel.

Taking a trip down memory lane, it seemed like she had never been truly happy at all.

The happiest moment she could recall might just be the moment she first met Jeremy on April Hill.

'I must have used all my luck in meeting you there and then, Jeremy. Everything afterward was merely misfortune.'

Madeline stared at the night sky from the inside of her car and raised her hand to wipe the tears from the corner of her eyes.

'This is the last time Linnie will cry for you, Jeremy. One last time... No more after this...'

Madeline returned home and fell into a deep sleep.

Her mood was regulated by the time she woke. She then went to send the two children to school before making her way to Montgomery Enterprises.

The company did a lot of charity work when Sean and Eloise were still here, and with its subsidiary company's annual charity gala in a few days, Madeline decided to place her attention solely on work so that she would not think of the man who had fully disappointed her.

As the new holder of Montgomery Enterprises, there were many employees who were dissatisfied with Madeline's sudden appearance.

However, as Sean and Eloise's only daughter, most of them were in agreement for her to take over the company.

Still, there was one person who hated Madeline from the depths of her heart.

Eve Garcia from the jewelry department.

When Madeline was looking for a job fresh out of prison, she had managed to find herself in Montgomery Enterprise's jewelry department. As her superior, Eve used to gossip about Madeline behind her back which she had accidentally gotten wind of once.

Madeline could still remember Eve's slander. "It's a black mark on our department to have a woman who was an ex-inmate, a mistress, and had plagiarized someone else's work!"

Back then, Madeline had thrown her work badge at Eve and resigned.

Madeline could still remember that mortified look on Eve's face.

Yet Eve would never have expected Madeline to be the Montgomerys' only daughter who now held the highest authority as the person with the most stocks in Montgomery Enterprises!

She was not in the position to offend her and neither did she want to resign, so Eve had no choice but to return to her station.

Madeline was walking past the jewelry department with documents in her hand when she suddenly heard one of Eve's colleagues asking Eve with interest, "What if our new president takes revenge and fires you, Eve?"

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1016

Eve's heart lurched, but she made sure to keep her expression disdainful. "Why would I be afraid of her? She can fire me if she wants, but I can still ask her to pay me five times my salary as compensation!"

She got up and rolled her eyes, crossing her arms as well. "Not to mention that I'm our department's representative with the press for every year's annual charity gala. I'm in charge of an important segment. I'm also the only one who can do the segment. So no, I don't think you-know-who would have the guts to fire me."

'You-know-who' obviously referred to Madeline.

Eve's expression turned arrogant at the mention of the annual charity gala. "Not even Mrs. Montgomery made me leave back then, so who is Eveline to do so? Does she really think that she's the president just

because she has taken over the company? You guys might not know this, but she used to be an inmate...”

Eve lowered her tone slightly as the female colleagues in front of her widened their eyes. In the midst of listening to Eve talk, they stared at the figure behind her.

Eve had not realized Madeline’s presence just yet, so she got more enthusiastic as she spoke. “You guys joined late, so there are some things that you might not know. I’ll let you in on some of them now. Take it as a bonus.”

“ ... ”

“Eveline Montgomery used to be Madeline Crawford, but she was so stupid that her biological parents ended up mistaking another woman, Meredith Crawford, as their daughter. Honestly speaking, I think Meredith’s a lot smarter than her!”

“ ... ”

“That’s not all. Do you guys know why Eveline went to prison before?” Eve smiled as she urged their curiosity.

The group of colleagues gulped and shook their heads as they stepped backward.

It only fueled Eve’s pride. She was about to tell when a voice drifted from behind. “Then do you know why you’re about to go to prison? Will it be defamation or slander of reputation?”

Eve had met Madeline a few times and heard her speak during meetings before, so to hear that same voice at this moment, she felt the soles of her feet chill.

Turning around to see Madeline standing elegantly in front of her, Eve grew frantic. “Ms.

Mon-Montgomery. Good morning. You sure go the extra mile, supervising departments so early in the morning.”

Madeline took in Eve’s alluring smile and replied calmly, “Relax, I’m not the kind of person to let my private life affect my work. While I may not fire you because of what happened between us, it does not change the fact that you’ve slandered my reputation. I will have my lawyer follow-up on this. You can wait for my lawyer’s letter.”

“...”

Eve’s smile froze.

Madeline simply placed the documents down and turned to leave.

Eve spent the entire day in discomfort, and at the last minute before she clocked out, she indeed received a letter from Madeline’s lawyer.

With the letter in hand, Eve left the company while muttering angrily under her breath. She was about to call a cab when a car stopped in front of her. “Would you be interested in a partnership?”

A woman’s voice drifted from the car window.

“Who are you? Why would I want to partner with you?” Eve rolled her eyes in annoyance.

“You don’t need to know who I am. All you need to do is follow my orders and this 100,000-dollar cash is yours. I can also help you get back at Eveline Montgomery.”

Eve had her eyes on a few branded purses lately but found herself too broke to buy them. To have such a great term of condition presented to her, she agreed without a second thought.

The sky darkened and night began to fall.

Almost everyone had clocked out, leaving Madeline alone to work in the office.

The day of the annual charity gala was closing on her, and as the person in charge, she would do her best to make it perfect.

She did not want to be a disgrace to Sean and Eloise.

Madeline was just about to save a document when the entire building's lights were shut off.

Confused, Madeline took her phone to call the building's manager when she heard footsteps approaching her office...

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1017

Not knowing who it was, Madeline turned on her phone's flashlight and shone in the direction of the footsteps. "Who is it?"

Madeline asked, only to have the floor-to-ceiling windows behind her explode. The glass shattered everywhere.

She shouted reflexively and heard the sound of glass exploding again.

"Watch out!" A man's worried tone sounded by her ear.

Madeline did not have the chance to take a look at the person when she found herself being pulled into a warm and strong embrace. The musky scent of ebony infiltrated her nostrils.

While it was not a familiar scent, Madeline did not find the scent especially new.

The sounds of explosion only stopped after a while.

However, the building's lights remained switched off.

"Are you alright, Eveline?"

Only then did Eveline realize it was Ryan.

She shook her head and stared at the broken floor-to-ceiling windows. They were on the 28th floor, so to have the windows broken and the evening wind blowing violently inside, it was dangerous.

Why would the windows suddenly shatter for no reason? Not to mention that these were hardly normal glass.

"Your hands are bleeding, it must've been the glass." Ryan's voice brought Madeline out of her wandering thoughts.

With the light from her phone, Madeline realized that there was a bleeding wound on the back of her right hand.

"Wait here." Ryan then made his way toward the first-aid kit and returned quickly after. "Let's stop the bleeding first. I'll clean and dress your wound first."

His voice was gentle while his palm was warm as he held Madeline's hand and began to treat the wound with familiarity.

Madeline frowned at the pain. She made no sound, but Ryan seemed to have realized it anyway and his touch grew gentler. "I'll be done soon."

"Okay." Madeline smiled and asked curiously, "The way you work reminds me of a doctor. Did you learn first-aid?"

Ryan halted for a moment before replying, "I took a few medical lessons when I went to university."

The wound was dressed just as he finished speaking.

"Try not to wet your wound for the next few days. Let's get you downstairs. It doesn't seem very safe here."

"Yeah. Thank you." Madeline turned around to take her bag from the chair.

Ryan pulled her back. "I'll do it."

He made his way over and stared at the glass shards all over the floor as he took her purse.

"Let's go, Ryan. It doesn't feel very safe here."

"Alright." Returning to Madeline with her purse in hand, he took his phone to shine their way.

Madeline made her way to follow, only to accidentally step on one of the glass shards. In her heels, she felt herself slip at the smooth surface.

Ryan immediately reached out to hold Madeline's shoulder, steadying her swaying frame.

“Thank you.” Madeline exhaled in relief.

Ryan then presented his palm to her. “Would you care to walk with me?” he suddenly asked.

In the dark, Madeline caught sight of the sincerity between his brows and nodded, placing her hand in Ryan’s palm.

Ryan gave a warm smile and tightened his grip on her hand, the warmth of his palm seeping to the back of her hands.

It was warm.

Very warm.

Due to the sudden power shortage, they could not take the elevator.

As such, Ryan held Madeline’s hand as they walked down the stairs carefully.

It took a while before they finally exited the building, but the power had not returned.

Madeline decided to call the manager who told her that an unknown issue had occurred with the building’s fuse box. They were currently doing their best to fix it.

Madeline did not press further and hung up the phone. She turned to thank Ryan, but he seemed to understand her and spoke first.

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman’s Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1018

“You don’t need to thank me. It’s a pleasure to be the person you want to rely on.”

His gaze reminded her of the night, gentle and deep.

“I want to be the first person you think of when you find yourself in danger and in need of help.”

“...”

Madeline had no idea how to reply, but the look in his eyes was sincere.

It was evident that his feelings for her were no longer as simple as him ‘fancying’ her.

Still, Madeline did not find Ryan suitable for herself. She had three kids, was married twice, and got divorced twice.

As if sensing the awkwardness Madeline felt, Ryan smiled and changed the subject.

“Let’s go eat dinner. I’ve booked a place.”

Madeline nodded, internally thanking Ryan for realizing and changing the subject.

On the other end, Lana threw her phone with the newly acquired picture at Naomi.

A magnified image of Ryan holding a frightened Madeline just moments ago appeared before Naomi’s eyes.

She remembered how much she wanted to kill this idiot when Jeremy had almost burned her alive, but that did not mean she would not milk this idiot of its full purpose now.

Lighting a cigarette, Lana took a drag and puffed out a breath of smoke before she began to taunt.

“Do you see this? Ryan has been with Eveline since a long time ago. He has never liked you to begin with. I had someone look into it and I found out that Ryan has always loved Eveline from the start. It was love at first sight before he even got into university.”

“What? Really?” Naomi was infuriated.

Lana rolled her eyes as if to say ‘of course’. “Or did you think that Ryan wasn’t a man? You’re a pretty woman, I’ll give you that, but did he even kiss you once over the two years you two dated?”

“...”

“It’s not that he couldn’t. He just wasn’t interested in you.”

“...”

“The woman he’s interested in has been Eveline all along. He picks her up every day after work. They’ve been secretly together for a while now.”

“That btch!” Naomi hit the desk with her fist furiously. “I knew Eveline was trying to seduce Rye! I would’ve been Mrs. Jones long ago had it not been for that btch! I’ll never let her get away with this!”

Watching Naomi react, Lana quirked her red lips in silent satisfaction.

...

After Madeline's hardworking preparations, it was finally the day of the annual charity gala.

Celebrities from Glendale and everywhere else were in attendance, along with a few top businessmen and wealthy, famous philanthropists.

Some of them were Eloise and Sean's friends. They came to ask Madeline how she was coping as well to give her encouragement and support.

After thanking each of them, Madeline then went backstage to get rid of some of her stress in the lounge.

There was a heavy weight on her shoulders.

This was a charity event Sean and Eloise created with their own bare hands. She was afraid that she would mess up and throw everything they had worked for down the drain.

She pulled out a picture of her parents and stared at it.

"Mom, Dad, I'll definitely make you proud."

"Are you alright, Eveline?" Ryan came over to check up on her.

Wiping the tears off the corner of her eyes, Madeline turned to the suited man and smiled, replying frankly, "I just miss my parents. I'm scared that I won't be able to do it as well as them. I don't want to throw their hard work away."

Ryan gave a small smile. "You're doing great. The atmosphere outside is pretty good. I'm sure you'll do just fine."

Madeline nodded and exited the lounge with him. "Thank you for staying by my side through all of this. You even helped me deal with things I had no idea how to. I don't even know how I'm supposed to thank you at all."

"Do you really want to thank me?" Ryan asked meaningfully.

Startled, Madeline nodded. "Yeah, I do."

Ryan then stared sincerely at her with his starry gray eyes while reaching an arm out to her. "Very well then. Now, if you will?"

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1019

Staring at Ryan's outstretched hand, Madeline could not help but think of Jeremy.

Just what did she need to do to completely cut this man out of her mind and life?

Was she supposed to throw herself into a new feeling?

"Life is hardly ever smooth-sailing, Eveline. Give yourself a chance to start over, and give the people who care about you a chance as well."

Ryan reached out to Madeline.

However, before his hand could touch her, a mocking voice sounded in the air.

"Tsk. There are so many guests waiting for you outside, Miss Montgomery, and you still have the time to waste it flirting with a man over here? I should've known that charity is always done for the sake of image."

Madeline and Ryan looked up to see Lana approaching them in a seductive evening gown.

Standing beside her was Jeremy Whitman.

Madeline had not seen the man again after she decisively broke it off with Jeremy by the seaside in April Hill.

Yet here he was, attending the charity gala with Lana on his arm.

Madeline averted her gaze coldly and turned to Lana. "The host didn't send you an invitation. Who let you in?"

"You're right, but the host sent one to Whitman Corporation, didn't they?" Jeremy parted his lips, his peach blossom eyes staring at Madeline's icy and otherworldly appearance.

Lana quirked her lips proudly. "Did you hear that, Miss Montgomery? My boyfriend received an invitation from the host. As his girlfriend, can't I even come along to take a look?"

"Please, help yourself." Madeline fired back without restraint. "However, this is a charity gala, after all. The guests present are all charitable and loving people, but what about you? You're just a vile and heinous woman."

"..." Lana's smile instantly fell as she turned to Jeremy. "I think your ex-wife still has feelings for you, Jeremy. Why else would she pick on me like this?"

"Is that so?" Jeremy curled his lips into an intrigued smile as he took in Madeline's frosty features. "Am I that attractive, Eveline? I've hurt you time and time again, yet you're still interested in me?"

Madeline never expected to hear such ironic words coming from Jeremy's mouth. After staring nonchalantly at the man with a twinkle in his eyes, she then turned to give Ryan a gentle smile. "Let's get

back to the hall.”

Ryan replied with a gentle smile and followed Madeline away.

Glaring harshly at Madeline and Ryan’s retreating figures, Lana loosened her grip from Jeremy’s hand. “I need to make a call, Jeremy.”

Jeremy nodded coolly and turned his head to watch Madeline leave.

She was wearing a midnight blue gown with her long hair loosely tied up. The azure jewels were subtle yet still elegant as they embellished her dress and makeup.

She reminded him of the night sky, twinkling yet still laid-back.

Jeremy felt his heart twinge as he started besottedly at her retreating figure.

He could no longer tell if it was the slow-acting poison or his heart aching.

Madeline returned to the banquet hall where everyone was happily chatting with one another under the shining lights.

They had raised an accumulated fund of 80 million dollars for children in poverty-stricken areas.

Friends of the late Montgomery couple praised Madeline for her skills while they gave their condolences for the loss of Sean and Eloise.

Madeline was taking pictures with a few well-known gentlemen and madams when the worker responsible for the gala’s funding suddenly rushed up to Madeline.

“Something has happened, Ms. Montgomery.”

Madeline and Ryan shared a look before walking to the side. “What happened?”

“We’ve raised over a hundred million dollars but there’s only 80 million. We don’t know where the 30 million dollars went!” Beads of cold sweat were on the person in charge’s forehead.

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman’s Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1020

Madeline remained cool. “Something must’ve happened in the middle. Don’t fret, I’ll go take a look.”

Ryan followed after. “I’ll come with you, Eveline.”

“Alright.” Madeline turned around.

She had just taken a few steps when Eve from the jewelry department rushed over frantically with a shout. “Ms. Montgomery! Something bad has happened!”

Madeline could guess that Eve was referring to the funds, but with Eve shouting, everyone in the banquet hall turned to look.

“What happened?” someone asked curiously.

Madeline was about to placate the guests when Eve frantically replied, “Someone stole from the charity funds, Ms. Montgomery. 30 million dollars have vanished into mid-air.”

“What? Someone stole from the charity funds?”

“How could such a thing happen?”

“We have to find out who did it. How could someone be so heartless as to steal from funds raised for charity?”

The guests were shocked and furious.

Jeremy and Lana had just returned to the banquet hall when they watched the scene before them unfurl.

He could tell that it was a set-up for Madeline.

At that moment, the banquet hall erupted into chaos.

Most of them were angry, and it was only normal for some of them to fault Madeline for her inability to manage the funds. Some even said that if Eloise and Sean were still here, none of this would have happened. They claimed that as Madeline was still new to all this, she only had the right to take over but not the right to take up such an important role.

In face of doubt, Madeline remained calm as she promised. “Rest assured, ladies and gentlemen, that I will do everything I can to find out where the money went as soon as possible. I will not let your charitable intentions fall into the hands of someone else.”

She promised and took her phone to call the police.

Eve quickly stopped her. “You can’t call the police, Ms. Montgomery.”

“Why not?” Madeline was confused.

“This isn’t something we should broadcast to the world. If the police start investigating, it’ll only tarnish the name of Montgomery Enterprises.”

“You might not know this, but Mr. and Mrs. Montgomery’s charity galas have always ended perfectly fine. If you can’t deal with this properly, I’m sure a lot of people will protest about the position you’re holding now.”

Feeling surprised, the corner of Madeline’s lips tugged into a vague smile. “I never knew you cared so much about me.”

“We may have our issues, Ms. Montgomery, but I’ve never thought too much about them,” Eve replied generously, “Relax. I’ll deal with this with you.”

Madeline stared at Eve’s sincere expression. “It seems like I’ve misunderstood you all along. Thank you for standing by me.”

Eve’s eyes brightened as she gave a kind smile. “Please, it’s my job.”

Madeline’s clear gaze swept past Eve as she made her way to dig deeper into the problem when another person in charge ran up to Madeline with a solemn expression. They said in a cold tone, “We found where the 30 million went, Ms. Montgomery.”

“You did?” Madeline was shocked by their efficiency. “What happened? Where did the 30 million go?”

She glared disdainfully at Madeline. “Mr. and Mrs. Montgomery did so much good when they were alive, Ms. Montgomery. But as their daughter, not only did you throw all their hard work away, but you’ve sabotaged it too.”

Madeline frowned. “What are you talking about?”

“Are you still going to act innocent when I’ve already found out about it? The 30 million was just transferred from the company’s bank account to your personal one! You stole the money, then

pretended to look for the money! How shameless can you be, Eveline Montgomery?" Married by Mistake
Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1021

Everyone in the banquet hall turned to look at Madeline.

Suspicious and doubtful gazes roamed over her.

"She was the one who stole the money?"

"No wonder her worker came to stop her from calling the police. They were all in on it."

"I can't say that I'm surprised, but I never expected this from Mr. Montgomery's daughter, of all people. What a disgrace. How is he and Mrs. Montgomery supposed to rest in peace?"

Hearing such disdainful comments, Madeline felt fury rise within her. Yet, she forced herself to keep her cool.

However, she could no longer stand hearing people involve Sean and Eloise's names.

"30 million is nothing to me. Do tell why I would risk my reputation for such a small amount?" Madeline asked back, turning to that person in charge. "Nothing happened to my personal account, so there's no way 30 million could've been transferred from the company's account."

"Are you still going to deny it, Ms. Montgomery?" she sneered at Madeline, "It's not my first time here. I have eyes, and my eyes told me that the transfer details of the 30 million was to your personal account! Doesn't your conscience hurt when you spend that kind of money?"

“Exactly! How could you do such a thing? You’d kill Mr. and Mrs. Montgomery with your insolence if they were still alive!”

Madeline balled her fists, not wanting to hear them use her parents’ names to taunt her.

She tried her best to control her emotions and calm herself down. Looking up, her eyes fell on Jeremy who was standing not too far away as he watched indifferently at everyone throwing their accusations at her.

Standing beside him was a mirthful Lana Johnson. Jeremy merely watched the scene play out.

Madeline felt her heart chill when she suddenly heard Ryan standing up for her. “Miss Montgomery would never do such a thing. I hope all of you can give her some time to investigate the matter at hand.”

“Who are you to guarantee that, Mr. Jones? From what perspective do you stand, and who are you to her?” someone asked in dissatisfaction.

“To be honest, I don’t think Eveline Montgomery ever had the right to sit on that spot at all. She has no experience and no qualifications at all. She’s only there because she’s her parents’ daughter.”

The leaders who were dissatisfied with Madeline’s position in the company began to rub salt in her wounds.

Madeline merely smiled and fired back without restraint. “You’re right. I don’t have the experience nor do I have the qualifications. However, the reason that I stand here today is more than just because I’m my parents’ daughter. If you think you’re so great, then I wish that you’ll reincarnate into a better family in your next life. You’re not getting paid for being judgemental here.”

“What... Eveline Montgomery, how could you say such a thing?”

“I think it’s best you distance yourself from the matter, Mr. Jones, lest you find yourself with a handful of crap!”

Madeline knew that they were picking on her, and she did not want to drag Ryan into this.

However, Ryan stepped up and took Madeline’s hand in his before giving the guests a sincere and humble smile. “I’m here today as Eveline’s boyfriend, and I can promise you that my girlfriend would never do such a thing.”

He replied and turned to look gently at Madeline who was at loss.

“I know that someone is framing you, Eveline. You’d never do something so immoral.”

“Ahaha! Has this woman ever done anything that wasn’t immoral?” Mocking laughter sounded from the banquet hall’s entrance.

Naomi rushed into the room and huffed. “This two-faced woman is the reason why you deserted me, isn’t she, Ryan?”

Her use of the word ‘deserted’ garnered the pity of many.

“You’ve already been caught hugging and being close with Ryan by the media, Eveline! Are you still going to deny it? Are you still going to argue and say that you didn’t?”

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman’s Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1022

“You stole my fiancé, you wh*re!”

Naomi slandered Madeline with horrid vulgarities.

Her hatred for Madeline was evident from the look in her eyes.

Ryan frowned and pulled Madeline behind him. “It’s no one else’s fault that we broke up, Naomi Lionel! You were the one who revealed how heinous a woman you were. I refuse to date a person like you, let alone get married to you.”

Naomi continued to rage as her eyes fell on Madeline’s hand in Ryan’s and how he was defending her. “What’s wrong with a woman like me? How am I worse than this b*tch? She just got divorced and she’s already your girlfriend? That just means that you’ve been together before she got divorced!

“Hmph! She acts like this dignified and kind lady when in truth, she’s the kind who’d even steal from charity funds! Eveline Montgomery, you’re nothing but a fake b*tch!”

Ryan, who was rarely angered, was now enraged.

However, Madeline held him back and replied calmly, “Ryan and I are an upright couple, Naomi. Don’t just go around spitting lies and slander. As for the charity funds, do you have any proof that I was the one who stole it?”

From afar, Jeremy’s focus faltered the moment he heard the first half of Madeline’s defense.

His heart hurt, but he made sure not to show it.

“Isn’t the transfer details enough proof? What more are you trying to deny?” Naomi pointed at the receipt in the woman’s hands.

The woman was furious as well. “Stop lying already, Eveline! How could you do such a thing as the new heir to Montgomery Enterprise and the person in charge of tonight’s charity gala? You’re a disgrace to Mr. and Mrs. Montgomery.”

“If that’s the case, then let’s call the police.” Jeremy’s voice cut through the crowd.

Watching him approach, a few people started to whisper among themselves. “I didn’t think Jeremy Whitman would come.”

“Isn’t it awkward, coming to the charity gala his ex-wife is hosting?”

Ignoring them, Jeremy walked toward Madeline with a light smile. “I don’t think my ex-wife’s the kind of person who’d do such a thing either. Let’s call the police. If you didn’t do it, then why fear investigation?”

While Madeline did not want to see Jeremy, his words spoke of her thoughts. She had intended to call the police since the beginning.

Eve began to protest nervously. “No, we can’t. We can’t call the police, Ms. Montgomery.” She was even winking at Madeline as she spoke.

Madeline did not understand and instead heard Naomi press after Eve. “Why can’t we call the police?”

What's this? You can't possibly be in on the crime with Eveline, right? Don't you know that this amount is enough for you to spend the rest of your life in prison?"

Naomi threatened, but she did not expect Eve to suddenly fall backward onto the floor. "It's not my fault! I already told her we shouldn't, but... But Ms. Montgomery said she wanted to! She forced me! I don't want to go to prison!"

Eve pointed at Madeline. "It's her, it's Ms. Montgomery who told me to do it! She said she'd pay me 100,000 in return! I didn't lie! You can check my bank account. I just got the money from Ms. Montgomery two days ago!"

Hearing her, the person in charge quickly called to check.

She found that Eve had indeed received 100,000 dollars two days ago.

It was wonderful. Now nobody present except Ryan and Jeremy believed Madeline.

Lana smirked sinisterly by the side as the scene unfurled just as she had imagined.

Both witnesses and evidence pointed at Madeline. Whatever she was going to say next would only be an excuse.

She would make Madeline into a two-faced wh*re who liked to steal charity funds. Every bit of her dignity that she lost that day, she would make Madeline pay for it!

Yet just as Lana thought that Madeline was about to lose her status and image, she watched Madeline turn to look at her with a deep smile. "What a flawless set-up you have here. What a shame that there will always be miscalculations."

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1023

Lana's expression shifted, and her heart grew uneasy.

No way.

Her plan was sound, and she had even used cash when she bribed Eve. How could she have miscalculated?

Lana thought that Madeline was bluffing.

She could not help but fan the flames. “Your accomplice has already admitted it, Eveline. There’s no use in arguing.”

Madeline knew then that Lana was the person behind this entire play.

However, she was Eveline Montgomery, not Madeline Crawford. There was no way she would just forgive and forget when someone was trying to frame her.

“You’re right, there’s no use in arguing at all. Which is why I’m calling the police.” Madeline pulled out her phone and made a report in front of everyone.

Still sitting on the floor, Eve’s eyes flashed to Lana before she quickly got up to keep acting. “You can’t call the police! How could you set me up, Eveline? You were the one who said you’d keep me safe even if they found out. How could you—”

Instead of getting angry, Madeline smiled and consoled her. “Oh, silly. Since you’re so adamant that we both worked together to steal that 30 million, then aren’t we technically on the same boat? Of course, I’ll keep you safe.”

“...” Eve was shocked, wondering if she had heard her wrong.

Did Eveline just admit it? That they were working together to steal from the charity funds?

What was she playing at?

Lana did not understand. Instead, she found it strange.

The police arrived at the scene in no time and began to investigate. They brought Madeline into the lounge and began a one-on-one interrogation.

Eve was frantic. She thought she only needed to listen to Lana's instructions and slander Madeline for the 100,000 dollars to be hers.

She never thought that the police would be involved!

She was sitting limply on the floor, pretending to be afraid despite having slandered Madeline earlier.

However, she was truly terrified now!

She did not want to have a criminal record, nor did she want to go to prison!

She had finally met a great boyfriend, so how could she go to jail now?

Eve was anxious as she stared at Lana who was standing by the side. She wanted to align their alibis, but there were too many people in the banquet hall waiting for Madeline to come out.

After a while, Madeline exited the lounge.

Her complexion was bad, and her eyebrows were knitted. The main point though, was that there were handcuffs around Madeline's wrists!

Both Jeremy and Ryan's expressions changed at the sight.

Jeremy felt his heart ache as well.

He remembered how Madeline had spent three years in jail for a crime she did not commit.

He did not want to see her framed again.

Both Lana and Naomi were shocked because they had not expected Madeline to actually be brought away!

Surprised as they were, the two were also elated.

Watching the scene, the person in charge sneered at Madeline, "You had this coming!"

Leaders of Montgomery Enterprise who disliked Madeline began to talk among themselves as well. "See? That's our new president. What a disgrace! Had it not been for Mr. and Mrs. Montgomery, how else would she have gotten the right to sit at the top?"

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1024

The crowd began to berate her, saying, "How vile must you be to steal from the charity funds? She has to spend at least a few years in jail for this!"

A few years? In jail?

Eve's heart raced at the words and she asked in disbelief as Madeline walked past, "Did you admit it, Eveline Montgomery?"

Madeline halted to shrug hopelessly at Eve. "You already identified me, didn't you? What more can I deny?"

"..." Eve was stunned by Madeline's expression of acceptance.

Staring at Eve's conflicted expression, Madeline continued, "Although the police did say that they haven't found any evidence that I was the one who instructed you, so I might not be charged in the end. I'll be out in a few days, but I can't say the same for you..."

Madeline paused intentionally as she stared at Eve's frantic expression meaningfully.

"The police found camera footage of you transferring the funds, so you most definitely would be charged. The transfer is quite the amount, so you might spend at least a decade in jail. Weren't you the one who claimed that I stole the money with you? Is this the result you wanted?"

"What?" Eve's complexion paled. If she went to prison, then it was goodbye to whatever future she had!

After Madeline was done speaking, she left with the police nonchalantly.

Eve was terrified. "Stay where you are, Eveline!"

She yelled at Madeline's retreating figure. Madeline's steps came to a halt as the corner of her pretty lips lifted slightly.

Lana had a bad feeling.

She did not expect Eve to run up to Madeline the next second. "Are you trying to end my life, Eveline Montgomery? You just want to see me in prison, don't you? Why are you admitting to something you didn't do?"

Sh*t!

Lana cursed internally at Eve's claim.

Everyone in the banquet hall was confused. What was this woman talking about?

Madeline turned her head innocently to look at a frantic Eve. "What are you talking about? Weren't you the one who claimed that we stole 30 million dollars from the charity funds together? Now that I've admitted it, so should you. It's 30 million. That's at least ten years of prison!"

"..." Eve did not know how Madeline could be this calm when she was petrified. "You... You really are trying to screw me up, Eveline Montgomery! It's the things I said back then, isn't it? That's why you're using this opportunity to take revenge! I won't let you get away with this!"

Eve rushed to the police. "Don't believe a thing Eveline Montgomery said, officer. The both of us never teamed up to steal any charity funds at all. It was a lie!"

"What?"

"A lie?"

Everyone was confused when they heard Eve's frenzied explanation.

"Someone bribed me, officer. They made me say those things tonight, that Eveline and I teamed up to steal from the charity funds. I was used, officer! It has nothing to do with me!"

“What? She was framed?” The crowd was split into fury and suspicion.

Lana then realized that this was Madeline’s f*cking counterattack!

Eve had already taken the bait, the fear of spending ten years in jail urging her to tell everything.

The police stared at Eve with suspicion. “You were the one who claimed that Eveline Montgomery bribed you with 100,000 to transfer the funds. Yet now you’re telling me that was a lie? What’s real and what’s not?”

“Someone did indeed bribe me with 100,000 dollars, officer, but that person isn’t Eveline!” Eve rambled as she raised her hand to point at Lana who was making her escape.

“It’s her! She’s the woman who gave me 100,000 dollars, officer! She was the one who told me to say those things too. I was just a tool. I didn’t know anything else. She used me! Arrest her instead. She’s the one who should be imprisoned!”

Lana’s footsteps came to a sudden halt.

Eve quickly ran toward her and raged with a finger pointed at Lana’s nose. “It’s her, officer! She was the one who gave me money and told me to frame Eveline for stealing the charity funds!”

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman’s Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1025

Feeling the suspicious gazes of those around her falling on her, Lana knew that she could not run. Instead, she put on a wronged and lost expression.

“I don’t even know you, miss. Please don’t accuse me of something I didn’t do!”

“What do you mean you don’t know me? You were the one who waited by my office last Friday and

called after me! You were the one who told me to work together!” Eve accused, getting progressively frustrated. “You were just using me to deal with Eveline Montgomery, weren’t you? How could you be so sinister?”

Hearing this, Madeline turned to whisper to her secretary, Coco, who was standing by her side.

Coco nodded and quickly walked off.

Madeline looked up to stare at Lana but found her eyes landing on Jeremy who was standing behind the woman instead.

Their eyes met and Madeline coldly averted her gaze.

Lana’s composure had completely fallen apart by now as she glared at Eve to tell her to shut up. It only enraged Eve further.

“What are you glaring at me for? Are you denying that you weren’t the one who instructed me in the first place? You also told me that there’d be another woman who’d come and work with me to destroy Eveline! It’s her, isn’t it?”

Eve pointed at Naomi.

“You sinister plastic surgery btch! Don’t fcking use me just because you want to make Eveline pay!”

Slap! Lana sent a harsh slap across Eve’s face in mortification. “How dare you claim that my face is fake? Do you want to die?”

Eve cupped her face and returned to the police officer’s side. “You saw it too, right, officers? She hit me and won’t even let me tell the truth!”

Lana walked over to deny. "Don't listen to this crazy woman, officers. I'm someone with status and power. How could I possibly do such atrocious things? She's framing me. I don't even know her at all. She's lying!"

"You're the one who's lying, Lana," Madeline interrupted in displeasure.

Startled, Lana turned to find Madeline easily releasing her wrists from the handcuffs that had never been locked in the first place!

It was Madeline's plan all along!

Lana was enraged.

She was the one who wanted to set Madeline up, yet now Madeline was the one setting her up instead.

"You claim that you don't recognize Eve, Lana, but I just had my secretary copy the surveillance footage from the company's entrance when you two met last Friday."

"..."

"I must say that you have quite the eye-catching short hair that you can even be recognized from inside the car."

"..."

Lana ground her teeth harshly as she watched Madeline take the phone and reveal the scene of her sitting in the car as she talked to Eve.

The footage was not of high quality, but her silhouette was clearly identifiable.

Eve got excited as she saw the image. "You see, officers? I didn't lie about this. She's the one lying here! It's her, she's the one who created this entire set-up tonight. I was just being used, I'm innocent!"

"The most innocent one here is Eveline." Anger fell on Ryan's otherwise gentle features. "Please bring this woman in for investigation immediately, Officer Flo."

Lana glared at Ryan. "How dare you ask someone to arrest me, Ryan?!"

"What? Am I supposed to be afraid of you?" Ryan was calm. "Let me remind you, Lana Johnson. This isn't F Country."

"You..." Lana was about to protest when metal handcuffs were wrapped around her wrists.

"Lana Johnson, you're under arrest for a serious case of abetting crime. As the amount involved is of a substantial amount, please follow us back to the police station for questioning."

"..."

Lana had never had handcuffs placed around her hands before, let alone experienced life in prison. She turned to look at Jeremy for help.

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1026

Jeremy glanced at her calmly. "There's nothing to be afraid of if you're innocent."

"Of course I am!" Lana exclaimed, then turned to glare at Eve.

She merely rolled her eyes when another pair of handcuffs were brought to her wrists.

She was dazed. “Why are you arresting me, officers? I already told you everything I know. Why are you still arresting me?”

“Who else would they arrest, then? Me?” Madeline smiled and fired back. “You say you’re innocent, Eve, and that you’ve been used. But none of this would’ve happened tonight if you didn’t have the heart to harm me in the first place.”

“...”

Speechless, Eve stared at Madeline’s tranquil expression. Not only was she feeling like an idiot for being used, but she had also completely lost to Madeline.

With Lana and Eve brought away, Naomi was left to stomp her feet in infuriation.

She watched with eyes reddened by envy as Ryan defended Madeline.

Everyone who spoke ill of and suspected Madeline went up to give their sincere apologies.

The person in charge who had given Madeline the biggest earful flushed in embarrassment. “I’m really sorry, Ms. Montgomery. I should’ve investigated everything clearly before I accused you of anything. I’m really sorry.”

Madeline merely curled her lips into a shadow of a smile. “It’s alright, I’m used to being framed anyway.”

She smiled and looked down for a while. When she raised her gaze, it was much brighter than before.

“My parents may have left me and I may not have people who’ll defend me with everything they have in this world anymore, but that doesn’t mean I’m free game for those who want to hurt and bully me.”

Jeremy’s heart bled as he heard Madeline speak in the crowd, but he took the feeling in a stride.

He watched Ryan walk up to Madeline and hold her hand gently in his. “You’ll have me from now on, Eveline. Let me wholly protect and love you in place of your parents.”

Jeremy felt his heart aching. Forcing his reluctant gaze away from Madeline, he left without a trace.

Faced with Ryan’s blatant confession in front of everyone, Madeline did not know how to reject him.

She did not want Ryan to lose his dignity in front of so many people.

Thinking back to her past, she could not imagine being worthy of such a perfect man.

Seeing Madeline’s conflicted gaze, Ryan smiled and changed the subject. He turned everyone’s focus back on the charity gala.

Madeline took the opportunity to walk outside to take a breather.

The early autumn wind had grown cold without her realizing, and Madeline could not help the sneeze that came up as she stared dazedly at the starry sky.

Jeremy exited the doors and took his jacket off, approaching her reflexively when he saw Madeline sneezing by the flowerbeds. Just as he turned to walk, Ryan appeared beside Madeline and placed his jacket over her shoulders.

Jeremy's hand slowly fell as his gaze dimmed.

'The warmth that I can no longer give, Linnie, I'm glad someone can give it to you instead.

'I won't be here for much longer and you won't need to see me either, nor will you see me and think of your parents' tragic deaths.

'For the years to come, I hope you find true happiness.'

Madeline was about to remove and return the jacket to Ryan when she turned to find Jeremy staring at both of them not too far away.

Jeremy gave a nonchalant smile and walked over.

Seeing him approach, Madeline turned to face Ryan. "You're right, Rye. I really should give myself a chance to start over. You're my boyfriend now, okay? I'll be in your care."

She reached out to hold Ryan's hand.

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1027

Jeremy's footsteps came to a heavy stop and he could not take another step.

He watched as Madeline smiled at Ryan, her lips spreading as dimples bloomed on her face. Oh, how he wished that the smile was for him.

Yet Jeremy knew that he was no longer worthy of such a smile.

Taking Ryan's hand, Madeline turned and stopped by Jeremy's side as they brushed shoulders. "Why are you still here? Go and bail your girlfriend from the police station already. With a boyfriend as skilled as

you, I'm sure she'll be out in no time."

Jeremy knew that Madeline was mocking him.

Smiling nonchalantly, he looked at Madeline's dignified and distant eyes. "Thank you for the reminder, Miss Montgomery. I shall fetch my girlfriend home, then."

Fetch her home.

Home.

Madeline's hand in Ryan's tightened slightly as the chill blew through the riddled holes in her heart.

Ignoring Jeremy, she turned to smile at Ryan.

"You know, Rye, my last marriage was an absolute failure. Well, essentially, I got married to a f*ckboy." Madeline's glistening eyes sneered at Jeremy. "I know you're a great man, Rye, but that marriage has left me with some ugly scars.

"I've placed all my passion and feelings throughout my entire life for that man, but he has never even given me a single day of happiness. Nor did he even care if I was happy at all. I don't think I'd survive another marriage like that, Rye."

Madeline's soft and pretty voice caressed Jeremy's ears, every word piercing into his heart like icicles while Jeremy felt numb from the pain.

After all, he had indeed hurt her.

Ryan knew what Madeline was saying, and he knew that she was saying it for Jeremy to hear.

He took Madeline's hand and promised with a smile, "Don't worry, I won't let such a marriage happen to you again. I'll be a husband worthy of you, and I'll give you the happiness you deserve."

"Hmm, I believe you." Madeline looked at Ryan and curled her lips into a small smile before she turned to look at Jeremy's indifferent expression. "You'll give us your blessing, won't you, ex-husband of mine? I've finally found myself a great man who loves me."

Jeremy smiled, but hiding in his peach blossom eyes was indescribable pain.

"Of course." His expression was calm as he stared at them. "I wish you and Mr. Jones a life of blissful happiness."

"Thank you."

Madeline thanked and linked her arm with Ryan's.

"Let's go, Rye. Come entertain the guests a little longer with me."

"Sure." Ryan nodded and followed Madeline.

Madeline did not look back as she brushed past Jeremy, their scents mingling in the air for a moment before it dissipated into the night forever.

Ryan looked at Jeremy from the corner of his eyes and an interesting look flashed through his starry gaze.

The man frowned slightly as regret sparked before vanishing just as quickly.

Jeremy was rooted in place. He only took the small transparent bag out of his pocket when he felt that Madeline had walked far enough.

In the bag was pain medication.

He took a pill and swallowed it dry.

However, the ache in his chest did not dissipate. Instead, needle-like pain spread to every corner of his body. He felt the pain suffocate and numb him.

He could no longer tell if the pain was because of the poison or if it was from the regret of losing her.

As he returned, Jeremy heard a song playing on the radio. "How could I know, one day I'd wake up feeling more, but I had already reached the shore. Guess we were ships in the night..."

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'Why did I have to reach the shore?

'It's not your fault, Linnie. I never deserved you to begin with.

'I hope you'll never think of me again, the man who made you cry countless times.'

Jeremy made sure not to bail Lana out. Instead, he made sure she stayed the full 48 hours under police custody first before he went to bail her out.

When Lana returned to the villa, she began to scold Madeline to the heavens.

“Your ex-wife sure has quite the tricks up her sleeve, Jeremy.” She mocked, saying, “Is she not afraid that I’ll kill her one day?”

Jeremy’s brows knitted as a flurry of frost flashed through his eyes. “Eveline and I are already divorced. Why must you give yourself unnecessary trouble by going to bother her?”

Lana ground her teeth indignantly as she walked toward Jeremy with suspicion in her eyes. “You still love Eveline, don’t you, Jeremy?”

“I fancied her before, yes. After all, she’s a beautiful woman.” Jeremy’s tone was unfeeling as if he was talking about a random person. He also kept his descriptions of Madeline strictly on her appearance.

Lana curled her red lips and walked up to him. “So you only liked her for her face? But am I not prettier than her?”

Her tone went up as she praised herself. She was staring besottedly at Jeremy as she waited for his praise.

Jeremy raised his sharp and enchanting peach blossom eyes to look at Lana, yet all his mind could think of was Madeline. “Of course. It’s the prettiest face I’ve seen.”

Thinking Jeremy was praising her, Lana immediately smiled. “I was almost bored to death waiting inside, Jeremy. Had it not been for Eveline, I would never have suffered like that. You’ve got to make it up to me.”

She went to hug Jeremy, but the man frowned instead. “Go take a bath first.”

Lana tilted her head and took a sniff. Indeed, she smelled bad after two days without taking a bath.

She quickly entered the bathroom but made sure to turn her head and give Jeremy a wink. “Give me a

bit, Jeremy. I'll be out before you know."

Jeremy gave her a vague smile and poured himself a glass of red wine by the open bar before he lit the incense.

Then, he went to make a call at the balcony before turning to leave.

The night deepened.

Ryan was sending Madeline home when he realized that she had fallen asleep mid-way.

After turning the air conditioning on and adjusting it to the correct temperature, Ryan's gaze grew warm as he stared at her exhausted and sleeping expression.

He reached out to move a long lock of Madeline's hair by her ear. "The people who trouble you will be punished very soon and you'll get to live a calm and peaceful life.

"However, can you truly let him go?"

He asked into the night. Just then, his phone vibrated.

After taking another glance at Madeline who had fallen asleep and was leaning against the car seat, he alighted the car to answer the phone by the roadside.

"What is it?" he asked. The person on the other end said something and mirth graced Ryan's expression, only for him to frown solemnly the next minute.

"Is there really no way to improve his physical state?"

With a reply, Ryan could not help but glance at Madeline who was sleeping away in the car.

He hung up the phone and was about to get back into the car when a shadow suddenly sped past him and took his driver's seat instead.

Madeline was dreaming away when she was jostled awake by the bang of the car door.

Her eyes snapped open, and by the time she heard the car doors lock, the car suddenly sped away.

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"Eveline!"

Ryan was too late to stop it and quickly hailed a cab from the side of the road, wanting to chase after the car.

He immediately dialed Madeline's number, but as soon as it connected, he was cut off.

Worried about what crazy thing the people in the car would do, Ryan did not hesitate to return the call that was made to him just now. "Deploy Team A immediately. Get online and track my vehicle. Make sure that the people in the car are not in any danger!"

The person on the other end received Ryan's instructions and immediately followed suit.

Currently in Ryan's car.

A shiny dagger was pressed against Madeline's neck, and in front of her, she saw Naomi clutching the steering wheel with one hand and squirming away frantically.

She drove the car awkwardly and had run a few red lights.

Madeline had just settled the matter of the charity night two days ago and only spared some time today to have a meal with Ryan. She did not expect Naomi to come to troubling them again at this moment.

Madeline felt exhausted at first and was even more exhausted now. She remained calm and composed, however.

“Naomi, even if you wish to kill me, there’s no need to pay for it with your own life.”

“Eveline, shut up!” Naomi shouted at Madeline to shut her up ferociously. She turned her head and glared at her. “Eveline, you made me a joke in front of all those netizens, so I’ll make you the laughingstock of the society today!

“If it weren’t for you, I would’ve been Ryan’s wife and the young lady of the Joneses! I’ll have my revenge today!”

Listening to Naomi’s hysterical words, Madeline thought that Naomi was a little crazy.

She saw a car following closely in the rear-view mirror and guessed that it was probably Ryan. She could not guess where Naomi was taking her, though.

Naomi drove the car to a remote place and stopped. She forced Madeline out of the car, turned on her phone, and pointed the camera at Madeline.

“Eveline, take off your clothes!” she threatened with a dagger, “Quickly take them off!”

Madeline understood Naomi’s methods to make her a laughingstock, but of course, she would not listen to Naomi.

“Naomi, if you really dare, then just stab me. It’s not as if I haven’t experienced any pain in this life. Do you think you can threaten me with this?”

Seeing Madeline being so calm and composed, Naomi became furious.

“Eveline, are you really not afraid? Alright then, I’ll ruin your face first and see how you’ll seduce Ryan in the future!”

Naomi waved her knife and was about to cut Madeline’s face when Ryan just arrived.

“Stop!”

He shouted at Naomi to stop, his handsome and gentle face filled with sorrow and worry.

Naomi reacted quickly, pulling Madeline’s dagger against Madeline’s neck.

She was jealous of Ryan being worried about Madeline and yelled at Ryan unwillingly, “Ryan, you were never this worried about me before!

“Did you ever truly like me in the two years you were with me?!

“I love you so much, but you! You like this divorced b*tch who has already given birth to children! What’s so good about her?”

Naomi became more agitated as she spoke and accidentally cut the skin on Madeline’s neck with the dagger.

Madeline felt a little bit of pain. She wanted to counter Naomi, but Naomi was out of control and could easily be triggered to act out of desperation.

Ryan, however, did not want to stay still for a second longer when he saw Madeline's bleeding wound.

Although he was very anxious, he was still very calm and composed.

"Naomi, don't do anything that you'll regret even more in the future. Tell me, what will it take for you to release Eveline?"

"I want you to marry me and take me as your wife!" Naomi said her request.

Ryan's eyes darkened slightly. "It's impossible for me and you anymore."

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When Naomi heard this, she was obviously irritated.

"It's impossible for you to be with me, is that right? You want to be with Eveline, is that right? Alright, I'll die with her now!" It was as if Naomi had been possessed by the devil. She held the knife and was about to swing the blade down to stab Madeline in the heart.

When Madeline was about to dodge, she suddenly saw Ryan reaching into his suit and pulling out a revolver from behind him. He aimed it at Naomi's knife and shot.

The bullet landed precisely on the handle of the knife. The impact caused Naomi to immediately let go from the pain, and the knife fell to the ground.

While Madeline was still shocked by Ryan's action, Ryan had already run up to her, took out a handkerchief, and pressed it on her bleeding neck. "Eveline, are you okay?"

Seeing that Ryan was so worried about Madeline, Naomi picked up the dagger, got up, and wanted to hurt Madeline again.

Naomi's hand that was raised suddenly rubbed against the hot bullet.

She screamed in pain. The knife fell aside, and there was a fiery pain in her palm.

Ryan turned his head and realized that he had been negligent just now, almost allowing Naomi to hurt him and Eveline. Fortunately, however, someone was protecting him in secret.

Just then, his mobile phone rang. Ryan answered it when he saw the incoming call. He then said to Madeline with his back facing her, "Let's return to the team."

Although his voice was very soft, Madeline still heard it.

Without too much delay, Ryan grabbed Madeline's shoulders and took her back to the car.

Naomi cried out wildly with jealousy, "Ryan, I'm also injured! Why do you only have her in your eyes!"

"You are to blame." Ryan did not even look at Naomi and left a warning. "You should behave yourself."

"Ryan!"

Naomi gritted her teeth before grabbing the dagger and stabbing it fiercely into the mud.

Ryan took Madeline to the hospital to treat her wound. On the way back, the atmosphere in the car was too quiet.

"Eveline, do you have anything to ask me?" Ryan took the initiative to break the silence.

Madeline nodded, then shook her head again. "I'll ask when you wish to tell me."

Ryan looked at Madeline unexpectedly and felt extremely happy all of a sudden. "Eveline, thank you for your understanding. It's indeed not the time now, and the less you know, the safer you will be."

Hearing this, Madeline felt that Ryan's background was not as simple as it seemed. It probably had something to do with the profession he talked about last time.

Madeline did not ask any more questions. After returning to Whitman Manor, Karen informed her that the child had fallen asleep in her room.

Madeline returned to her room and saw the little babies sleeping peacefully on the bed. At this scene before her, she felt content.

Being too tired these few days due to what was going on, Madeline picked up her pajamas tiredly and went into the bathroom to take a bath.

Not long after she entered the bathroom, the door was gently pushed open.

Jeremy walked to the cradle, looking like a thief. He was stealing this moment to spend it with the little baby.

The sleeping baby seemed to be hungry and opened his sleepy eyes in a daze.

When he was about to cry, Jeremy then saw the baby bottle that had been placed at the side and quickly picked the little baby up to feed him.

Looking at the little baby drinking comfortably in his arms, Jeremy's vision was clouded with mist.

“Pudding, I don’t know how many more times Dad can visit you, or maybe this is the last time. You have to listen to your mom. When you grow up, you have to help me protect your mother with your brother and also your sister, okay?”

He had just finished speaking when he heard Madeline coming out after taking a bath. He quickly put the little baby back into the cradle, but the little baby had not drunk enough. His fleshy little hands wanted to grab the bottle.

Jeremy swallowed his heart. He picked up the bottle and put it back to where it was, then turned and left.

The little baby behind him cried with a wail.

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