

Married by Mistake: Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife chapter 1831

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Camille's expression darkened upon hearing those sudden words.

Displeased, she raised her eyes and saw Ada's mother walking arrogantly toward Shirley.

"If you don't want this incident to blow up, Shirley, then get out of here right now. Don't think you can become a member of this family just because you're pregnant with that vile spawn in your womb."

Ada's mother narrowed her eyes, directing her piercing gaze at Shirley. "I'm telling you. If you dare to steal my daughter's husband, not only will you be crippled, but your entire body will be paralyzed as well!"

Shirley was unfazed by such blatant intimidation. What else could she fear at this point?

Camille, however, stepped in to defend her before Shirley could speak.

Camille, her expression grave, looked at Ada's mother and warned her.

"I suggest that you do not act irrationally. Carter's attitude was evident earlier. If anything happens to Shirley, Ada won't live comfortably as well."

Naturally, Ada's mother did not relent. "Camille, what are you talking about? My daughter has married into the Gray family officially as your daughter-in-law. Now, this stinky beggar just showed up pregnant with Carter's child and expects to become a part of this family. Why should my daughter be subjected to such unfair treatment?"

"Unfair treatment?"

An apparent smile appeared on Camille's face. "We both know very well that Carter and Ada married for mutual benefits. It was a marriage of convenience. Don't you understand the meaning of that?"

"You..." Camille's words left Ada's mother speechless.

As Ada's mother, still refusing to back down, contemplated what to say, Camille's voice came again.

"Did you think that your daughter would've been able to become a member of this family if I hadn't agreed to this marriage? You'd better understand the situation well. Carter has many other options. The Gray family doesn't need to work exclusively with the Logan family."

"And do bear in mind that a divorce could happen after marriage, especially when the marriage is merely an arrangement. So, I'd like to give you both a final piece of advice. Do not dig your own graves by acting smart."

Ada's mother remained speechless. Her face was flushed red from anger, irritation, and displeasure as she glared at Camille.

Camille's expression was extremely stern at this point, and her aura was intense.

Ada's mother could not compete with her.

When she had finished speaking, Camille cast a dispassionate glance at Ada's mother before giving instructions to a servant nearby.

"Bring Ms. Brown to the guest room on the third floor and take good care of her. Notify Dr. Lane as well and have him visit as soon as possible."

"Yes, Madam."

The servant readily agreed and stepped forward to push Shirley's wheelchair.

Shirley decided to remain silent at this moment, obediently allowing the servant to steer her upstairs.

Ada had actually been listening to the conversation on the second floor from the stairs. She had thought her mother to have the upper hand and was caught off guard by Camille's retort that made her mother back down, not daring to speak another word to refute.

Ada felt unsettled as she was in an insecure position.

She pondered for a second before a smile appeared on her face.

She may not be able to challenge Shirley directly, but she could use an alternative method.

Shirley was escorted to the guest room designated by Camille.

Shirley had barely been to the Gray family's villa in Glendale. Therefore, she could not be sure if it was a coincidence as the room was furnished in a style she liked as if it were specifically arranged for her.

Soon after Shirley entered the room, Dr. Lane arrived.

Married by Mistake: Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife chapter 1832

Dr. Lane was a family doctor of the Gray family who specialized in all fields.

Following Camille's instruction, he gave Shirley a thorough body checkup.

At first, Shirley had assumed Camille requested an examination because Camille did not believe Shirley to be pregnant. However, Shirley had not expected Camille to request the doctor to inspect her legs and her facial wound.

Dr. Lane was an excellent general practitioner, but after studying Shirley's leg injury and facial wound, hesitation showed on his face.

Despite this, Shirley did not feel unsettled; she was well aware of the circumstances.

Furthermore, even though she could not be certain of the condition of her legs, she was confident that Adam could handle the wound on her face.

Camille noticed Dr. Lane's reluctance. Keeping Shirley's emotions in mind, Camille deliberately requested to speak with the doctor at the entrance of the room instead.

At this moment, Carter came over and saw Camille and Dr. Lane in a discussion. He quickened his pace and hurried toward them.

With Carter present, Dr. Lane provided an honest explanation of Shirley's condition.

"The wound on Ms. Brown's face is extremely deep. She has a low chance of healing the scar. As for the leg injury, the chances of recovery are also slim. Ms. Brown might have a better chance if she sought out and consulted a specialized doctor."

In response to Dr. Lane's words, Carter furrowed his eyebrows.

"What about the baby in her womb?" Camille asked.

When Carter heard that question, he awoke from his daze to hear the answer.

"Based on the preliminary examination, the baby's condition in Ms. Brown's womb is normal, but we'll have to wait until a detailed pregnancy examination is performed for the specifics."

Carter's eyebrows unconsciously furrowed further after hearing the doctor's explanation.

Shirley's words from earlier still echoed in his ears.

She had claimed that the child in her womb would be the first to be harmed by the poison if the poison was not removed from her body as soon as possible.

Carter could not help but feel upset when he thought about this.

After greeting Camille, he walked into Shirley's room on his own, closing the door behind him.

Shirley was sitting on the balcony, seemingly leisurely gazing at the scenery outside of the window. When she heard the familiar footsteps behind her, she began speaking without even turning her head.

"The development of the anti-toxoid test reagent cannot be postponed. You could afford the delay, but this little thing in my womb could not."

Shirley's tone was light. She still referred to the child as a "little thing" even though she cared for him deeply right now.

Carter, already frustrated, was further triggered by Shirley's unchanged attitude, but he managed to suppress it.

"What did you say to Cathy?"

"That's a personal matter, Mr. Gray. You have no right to ask me about it. I no longer wish to report my every move to you like the way I did before."

Hearing this, Carter suddenly could not resist laughing.

"Shirley, you can keep on pretending."

He walked toward her gradually, his tone mocking, as his tall figure drew closer to her side.

"Do you think I can't tell that you're trying to play it cool?"

As Carter's breath drifted next to her ears, Shirley took a moment to calm her heartbeat, and she clenched her fists under her sleeves.

Indifferent, Shirley turned her head to face the handsome Carter, looking at him coldly.

"Carter, the only connection we have is this unexpected little thing in my womb. If you think I'm lying, you can hypnotize me now and ask me everything." His mouth curled up as he heard her words. "You certainly understand me very well. That's exactly what I intend to do."
Married by Mistake: Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife chapter 1833

Realizing that Carter had come prepared, Shirley felt slightly nervous.

She knew better than anyone the power of Carter's hypnosis.

Sometimes, he did not even require any props; he could manipulate a person's emotions with just a look, causing the person to unwittingly lose himself in his territory.

Carter vaguely caught a hint of hesitation in Shirley's eyes.

The corners of his mouth faintly turned up as he brought his deep, dark eyes closer to Shirley and stared at her.

"Shirley, if you really aren't lying, then look into my eyes earnestly now."

The tone of Carter's voice had suddenly become as gentle as a spring breeze.

It was a type of gentle feeling that could make people unwittingly let go of their emotions and gradually allow their imaginations to enter a state of relaxation and comfort.

Shirley, who seemed to sense that Carter was attempting to hypnotize her, intuitively turned her face to avoid Carter's eyes, but he held her chin tightly.

He forced her to look into his eyes. "Shirley, look at me."

Carter demanded as the warmth of his every breath caressed Shirley's face.

In what seemed to be a blink of an eye, Shirley's eyes began to feel tired, losing the focus they had, merely staring blankly into Carter's eyes.

Carter knew that Shirley had entered a shallow hypnotic trance which was already sufficient for his questioning.

When he was about to begin asking, Carter hesitated again.

What would he do if the answer was a yes?

In his mind, Shirley was indifferent to him because of her disfigurement and disability; he imagined that she did love him.

What if, however, the answer was not as he had expected?

No.

The answer would be exactly as he had envisioned.

She must have pretended not to love him because she was disfigured and disabled.

In his heart, Carter repeatedly told himself the same thing while his eyes were firmly locked on Shirley's soulless, hollow eyes.

After some time, he finally decided to give up.

Carter's brows furrowed as he lifted his slender fingers and traced them along the scar on Shirley's face, his heart aching unwittingly.

"Shirley, you're exhausted. Close your eyes and go to sleep."

He spoke to Shirley in a gentle tone.

Shirley closed her eyes obediently the next second.

Taking advantage of the opportunity, Carter embraced Shirley gently against his chest before carrying her to bed.

Before covering her with a blanket, Carter could not resist placing a hand on her abdomen and holding it there for a few seconds.

Although he could not feel the presence of the child

yet, he could feel the warmth in his heart and palm.

After leaving Shirley's room, Carter walked straight to Ada's door.

Of course, he could not be bothered to knock. He simply thrust the door open rudely.

Ada was pondering about how to deal with Shirley when Carter suddenly appeared in her room.

When Ada saw Carter coming like an approaching storm, her heart began to race.

"Carter, regarding Ms. Brown's incident, you've misunderstood me. I really haven't done anything! I'm not sure why Ms. Brown is accusing me, but you must believe me."

From the moment she spoke, Ada made it sound like she had been wronged.

Carter glanced coldly at Ada without bothering to ask any unnecessary questions.

"If I wanted to hear the truth from you, it would be too easy, but I don't want to waste my time with a person like you."

"...." As soon as Ada heard Carter's words, she realized he was referring to hypnosis.

Yes. If Carter hypnotized her, he would find out the entire truth immediately.

Ada looked at Carter with a flustered expression, fearing that he might truly do that.
Married by Mistake: Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife chapter 1834

However, Carter had not even bothered to look at her. "From now on, you'll be responsible for taking care of Shirley, including her diet and daily needs. If Shirley experiences any discomfort or if the baby in her womb is harmed in any way, it'll be on you."

"... Wh... What?" Ada's eyes widened in shock. "You want me to take care of Shirley's diet and daily needs? Wouldn't that make me her servant?"

Whenever Carter was present, Ada always attempted to appear dignified and gracious, but Carter's words instantly made her reveal her true nature.

Carter glanced at Ada indifferently.

"You could choose not to do it. You'll just have to be prepared that moving forward, you'll be enduring the same hardships as Shirley."

Ada's face paled when she heard this. The same hardships as Shirley?

Disfigured?

Disabled?

No way!

She would not be able to endure it either!

"Let's not waste my time, yeah?"

Impatient, Carter interrupted Ada's quibble.

When Ada saw the piercing glint in his eyes, she immediately kept her mouth shut, not daring to speak further.

Carter did not have the patience to wait for Ada's response, and he was confident that she would not dare to refuse his request, so he turned around and left.

Ada had not expected this move from Carter.

With that, he protected Shirley and cut off all Ada's attempts to harm her as well.

In the coming days, if Shirley were to lose even a strand of hair, Ada might lose a piece of her skin as well.

Ada felt aggrieved, but there was nothing she could do.

Carter's plan was so perfect that she was left with no other option.

F Country.

Jeremy had been in the hotel for seven days.

Throughout the week, Madeline had relied on a daily intake of nutrient solutions to maintain her physical condition. Jeremy had kept a constant eye on her, not leaving her side for even a second.

He had been waiting for Adam's progress update. The indefinite wait was pushing him toward the verge of a breakdown.

He seriously suspected that the anti-toxoid test reagent which Carter had thrown out of the window back then was not the anti-toxoid test reagent for

AXP69. Otherwise, his Linnie would not still be unconscious.

Fabian had also developed quite a good network in F Country, and he had learned, off the radar, about Jeremy and Madeline's condition.

He could not resist the urge to help them, but he hesitated when he thought of Yorick and Lana.

A little after midnight, he wandered into Lilian's bedroom and stared at the adorable little girl who had fallen asleep. Fabian's mind was troubled.

"Lily, do you think I should help your mother?"

Fabian's tone was soft as he asked Lilian, who was unable to hear him.

"Your parents indirectly killed my brother and that disappointing sister of mine. Should I just ignore them?"

Frustrated, Fabian raised his eyebrows. He stretched out a hand to gently stroke Lilian's small face, and the expression in his eyes gradually softened.

"I just want to leave everything behind and bring you to a beautiful, tranquil island where you can grow up healthily and peacefully."

Immediately after Fabian finished this beautiful prayer in his heart, the phone in his pocket vibrated.

He pulled it out and looked at the caller ID before turning around to leave Lilian's bedroom.

The moment he stepped out of the room, Fabian impatiently asked the caller, "Why are you calling me at this hour? I've told you before. I don't want to be in contact with you anymore."

Married by Mistake: Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife chapter 1835

After Fabian expressed his displeasure to the person on the phone, he was ready to disconnect the call.

At this moment, a man's deep voice came through the line.

"Don't forget, Fabian. If I hadn't told you the truth, you'd still be kept in the dark by Jeremy and Madeline."

At the mention of this, Fabian's fingers tightened around the phone.

"You had your own intentions when you told me all of this. Did you think I'd believe that you were being kind?" Fabian retorted with displeasure.

"Just get to the point and tell me what your intentions are. I don't want to hear from you again."

Fabian made his stand clear.

A few seconds later, the man's confident voice came through the line.

"I know Jeremy and Eveline are still in F Country.

What I'd like to know is, what's Eveline's condition right now?"

As the voice fell away, the air around Fabian went silent, and then, casually, Fabian said, "She's doing well. She's with her husband. They're still searching for their daughter."

"She's doing well?" The man evidently felt suspicious. "How can she possibly be doing well?"

"From what I observed, she is fine. If you don't believe me, you can always come by and have a look for yourself."

Fabian responded nonchalantly.

After a brief silence, the man continued to ask, "What about Jeremy? Do you think they'll be returning to Glendale any time soon?"

"What do you think?" Fabian threw the question back. "I'm sure you're aware of their reason for coming to F Country. Do you think they'll leave before finding their daughter?"

Upon hearing this, the man immediately felt immensely relieved.

"Fabian, you must remember not to let them find the girl Lilian. This is your best chance to avenge your brother Yorick."

The man finally mentioned Yorick.

Fabian clenched his fists tightly. When Fabian regained his composure, the caller had hung up.

He turned around again to look at the peacefully dreaming Lilian, and his long eyebrows furrowed unwittingly.

After a moment of silent contemplation, Fabian suddenly picked up his phone to block the number that just called and simultaneously made a decision.

Earlier, Fabian had invited Evan, who was just leaving the bar, to come by and examine Lilian who just woke up.

After confirming that Lilian's health indicators were generally stable, Fabian left the house feeling assured.

At the hotel, Jeremy had watched over Madeline for the entire night.

The first thing he did after waking up was wiping Madeline's face and body as well as gently exercising her hands and feet.

Just as he finished stretching Madeline's muscles, the doorbell rang.

Jeremy made sure to cover Madeline with a blanket before reaching for the door. When he opened the door, he was surprised to see Fabian.

"Your power in F Country seems comparable to your brother Yorick's. You're very informed on our movements."

Jeremy spoke with implication.

Fabian, unbothered by what Jeremy had said, went straight to the point of his visit. "Is Eveline still unconscious?"

Jeremy's expression darkened when he was asked about Madeline's condition.

"Fabian, don't worry about my wife. The most important thing you can do now is to return our daughter to us."

The tone in Jeremy's voice turned harsh. "Lilian has health problems, and her treatment cannot be delayed. If her condition worsens to the point where she can no longer be saved, all due to your personal vendetta, how do you intend to return my daughter to me?"

"If that's your concern, then I can assure you now that your daughter is safe."

Fabian spoke unhurriedly, giving Jeremy a sense of assurance.
Married by Mistake: Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife chapter 1836

"Also, she's in a much better condition than you imagine."

Jeremy looked at Fabian in disbelief as Fabian spoke that way.

"Fabian, so it really was you who took Lilian, yet you denied it to Linnie before."

Fabian, instead of arguing, readily admitted, "Yes, I took Lilian, and I'm still not returning her to you."

Jeremy was baffled when he heard this. "Fabian, what exactly do you want?"

Fabian shrugged his shoulders, appearing nonchalant.

"I want to provide medical treatment for your daughter."

After listening to Fabian's reply, Jeremy was unsure of how to react, then he heard Fabian speak, with emphasis, in a serious tone.

"Jeremy, even if I return Lilian to you, you wouldn't be able to provide her with the best treatment, but I can.

"So, you should bring Eveline back to Glendale first. Lilian will stay with me and get the best treatment. I know it isn't convenient for Eveline to move around now. I'll arrange a plane to Glendale for both of you."

Fabian's tone was firm.

Jeremy also saw the confidence in Fabian's eyes. However, he was still concerned.

"Fabian, can I still trust you now?"

Upon hearing this, Fabian laughed and replied ambiguously, "Perhaps."

He gave a one-word response.

"You have no other choice. Surely you don't want to be unable to see your daughter while being unable to wait for your wife to wake up, right? Jeremy, returning to Glendale is the best option for you now."

Fabian's eyes looked serious when saying those words.

Jeremy vaguely caught the strange expression in Fabian's eyes.

"Why are you so eager to drive me and my wife away?" Jeremy asked tactfully.

"Perhaps Glendale needs you more," Fabian said, his lips curling into a faint smile. "Lilian will be fine. I promise."

After listening to Fabian saying that, Jeremy's long-lost trust in Fabian returned.

Glendale.

The Gray Manor.

Shirley had slept through the entire night. When she woke up, she was surprised to find Ada standing by her bed, smiling at her.

At first, Shirley was convinced that she was still asleep. However, when she opened her eyes again and took a closer look, Ada was indeed smiling at her.

"Why are you in my room?" Shirley did not want to see Ada.

The corner of Ada's lips perked up as she responded in a strange tone, "Look at your choice of words, Ms. Brown. I'm the hostess of this villa. I can go wherever I want, isn't that right?"

Shirley was aware that Ada was deliberately trying to anger her, but Shirley had no intention of challenging her. Shirley was in a good mood at that moment.

Shirley smiled and slowly propped up her upper body.

"I see. Then, why are you here so early to see me, Mrs. Gray?"

Of course, Ada would not inform Shirley about Carter's decision for Ada to be responsible for Shirley's food and daily needs. There was nobody around now, so Ada did not have to be nice to Shirley.

"Oh, nothing much. I just wanted to see what kind of tricks this shameless, disfigured, and crippled vixen is using to seduce my husband." Ada had intended to humiliate Shirley, but as soon as she was done speaking arrogantly, Carter unexpectedly appeared behind her. Married by Mistake: Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife chapter 1837

At the sight of Carter, Ada's face paled, and she closed her mouth in panic.

Carter's deep, cold eyes swept over Ada's face before settling on Shirley's.

"You're awake."

Indifferent, Shirley chuckled. "Mr. Gray, you have a good sight. You're right. I'm awake."

"..." Carter, aware that Shirley was deliberately mocking him, was not interested in arguing with her.

"Since you're awake, get out of bed. We'll be going to the hospital for a full examination shortly."

After speaking, Carter threw a glance at Ada and left.

Ada knew that Carter was reminding her to attend to Shirley's needs as Shirley got out of bed.

Shirley had not noticed Carter's look at Ada, but she did feel that Ada's attitude had improved after Carter left.

Ada had even assigned a servant to bathe Shirley and change her clothes. In the end, Ada even smiled when asking Shirley for her breakfast preference.

While she found all this rather odd, Shirley accepted it nonchalantly.

After breakfast, Shirley sat in Carter's seven-seater car.

The chauffeur sat behind the wheel while Shirley sat in the compartment behind, and Carter beside her.

Shirley had initially expected to feel nervous and uneasy. After going through all the confrontations in the past two days, however, she felt unexpectedly calm.

While Shirley was at peace, Carter could not feel the same way.

He stared at Shirley's side profile, looking at the flawless, perfect side of her face.

Carter felt a sudden sense of unfamiliarity. In the past, Shirley had always worn makeup. Although the makeup had been light, every time they met, her face had been charmingly beautiful and captivating.

Now, however, she appeared to have reverted to simplicity; there was no trace of makeup on her face.

The warm spring sun poured in from the car window, showering the side of Shirley's face in a light layer of gold-colored mesh.

She looked like a quiet and peaceful girl, pure and untainted.

At that moment, Carter suddenly saw a version of Shirley that he had never seen before.

Upon arriving at the hospital, Shirley maintained a calm demeanor. She was also very docile, following Carter around for a complete physical examination.

Shirley had initially thought that Carter mainly wanted to conduct a checkup on the baby in her womb, but that was not the case.

He had scheduled appointments with either dermatologists or orthopedics; they were evidently here for her face and legs.

However, after visiting several hospitals, none of the doctors were able to help.

The knife wound on Shirley's face was too deep, and her legs were even more difficult to treat.

Basically, she had no chance of standing up again.

As they emerged from the final specialist hospital, Carter's face appeared immensely depressed.

He looked at Shirley who seemed unconcerned, as if nothing bothered her.

Carter, unable to resist, finally decided to ask, " Shirley, aren't you worried at all? Are you planning to live this way forever?"

Shirley, who had been maneuvering herself forward in her wheelchair, gradually stopped.

Turning around, she deliberately showed Carter the scarred side of her face.

"All along, you were always confident and smart, but why are you being foolish this time?"

Carter frowned in confusion, "Shirley, what are you trying to say?"

She smiled lightly, "The best doctor in Glendale is my brother Adam. If he couldn't help me, do you think the other doctors could?"

When she had spoken, she chuckled and continued forward.
Married by Mistake: Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife chapter 1838

Shirley had intentionally spoken those words in hope that Carter would stop bringing her for medical examinations, but Carter took her word seriously.

Across town, Adam, who had noticed that Shirley was missing, spent two consecutive days searching for her.

Watching him, Cathy felt conflicted.

It turned out that Shirley had made prior arrangements before she left for the Gray Manor.

She left Adam a note saying that she left on her own because she was no longer interested in staying with Adam and she did not want to see him again.

In reality, however, she had asked Cathy for assistance before leaving the house.

As Cathy watched the distressed Adam searching everywhere for Shirley, her heart was unsettled.

Following two days of mental struggle, Cathy finally decided to confess.

"Adam, I'm really sorry. I was the one who brought Shirley out."

Adam was about to leave the house in search of Shirley again when he heard Cathy's words.

He immediately turned around and rushed up to Cathy.

"Cathy, are you telling the truth? You were the one who brought Shirley out? Where have you taken her? Where is she now?"

Adam asked several questions in a row.

When she saw the flustered and worried Adam, Cathy smiled. "You seem to care a lot for your sister. Rest assured that she's in a place with people who're taking care of her. She'll be fine."

Adam frowned. He did not bother hiding the fact that he truly cared about Shirley. Hastily, he asked, "Tell me, Cathy. Where is she?"

"This..." Cathy felt embarrassed. "I've promised her that I won't tell you."

"Why not? Cathy, you don't know her. In her current state, she's likely to do something extreme. Tell me. Where exactly is Shirley now?"

Faced with Adam's questions, Cathy was again caught in an internal struggle. "Adam, I really can't tell you."

"Adam, if she can't tell you, I can."

Just as Cathy finished speaking, a man's voice came from the entrance.

Adam and Cathy concurrently looked up to see Carter, his presence cold and stern, walking toward them.

When Adam saw Carter, it dawned on him immediately. "Is Shirley at your place?"

Carter's lips seemed to curl up into a smile. "Yes, she's with me. If you wish to see her one last time, then you should come with me now."

"One last time?" Hearing this, Adam, usually gentle and amicable, charged toward Carter aggressively.

Cathy too was worried. "Carter, what have you done to Shirley? She's pregnant with your child now. You cannot harm her!"

The sight of the panicked Adam and Cathy contrasted with Carter's unusually calm appearance.

"Since you're so worried about her, just follow me." Carter turned around after speaking.

Without hesitation, Adam and Cathy followed Carter closely and got into the car.

In the car, Adam, glaring at Carter who was sitting in the passenger seat beside the chauffeur, spoke in a harsh tone.

"Carter, if you've done anything to harm Shirley, I'll make sure you regret it."

Carter raised his eyes, looking at Adam in the rear-view mirror, and calmly said, "Tell me, what kind of regret could you possibly cause me?"

The expression in Adam's eyes darkened, his handsome face revealing a knowing look, as he looked at Carter and spoke slowly.

"Carter, I know why you are in Glendale."

Married by Mistake: Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife chapter 1839

A surprised look flashed on Carter's face when he heard Adam's words, but it disappeared as quickly.

Carter smiled and, in a voice tinged with mockery, responded, "It appears that Dr. Brown doesn't merely sit in the clinic and conduct experiments; he also studies other people's private matters."

"I'm completely uninterested in your private matters. I just happened to come across some unethical matters by chance and paid some attention to them."

Carter smiled faintly, but this time, his smile did not reach his eyes.

Ten minutes later, the car pulled into the Gray Manor.

Adam got out of the car and rushed toward the hallway with Cathy following him closely.

While Adam felt anxious at that moment, Cathy was feeling uneasy and guilty as well.

Perhaps she should not have allowed Shirley to stay back the other day. If anything happened to Shirley,

she could hardly avoid the blame.

However, when Cathy and Adam hastily barged into the hallway, they were surprised to find Shirley leisurely seated on the sofa, enjoying desserts.

There were even two servants looking after her.

This scene was completely different from what they had imagined based on Carter's words.

Shirley was equally surprised to see Cathy and Adam.

As Shirley opened her mouth to ask what was happening, she saw Carter casually strolling in behind Adam.

"Are you happy to see your brother?" Carter asked idly as he stepped further into the hallway. "You hardly see each other. Let's sit down and talk."

Adam calmly eyed Carter, whose expression was cold and proud, and walked up directly to Shirley.

"Come home with me."

As he spoke, he reached out for the wheelchair beside him, intending to bring Shirley out of this place.

"Adam, I brought you here so the both of you can catch up, and yet, you think you can take her away?"

Carter spoke with implication, his eyebrows slightly raised.

Cathy looked at the bodyguards stationed at the entrance and immediately understood what Carter meant.

If Adam were to take Shirley away by force, these bodyguards would not hesitate to use violence against them.

Adam also knew what Carter was implying, but he did not care.

Adam pushed the wheelchair over, intending to carry Shirley from the sofa, but she pushed him away and deliberately spoke coldly.

"Adam, what are you doing here? I was very clear on the written note that I left you. I don't want to see you again. I left to avoid you. Why have you come looking for me?"

Adam furrowed his eyebrows, looking impatient. "Don't waste everybody's time. Just come home when I say so."

"..." Shirley had not expected Adam to be so unyielding this time. While she was distracted, Adam carried her up and directly placed her into the wheelchair.

"Cathy, let's go."

Adam pushed the wheelchair decisively.

Shirley could sense Adam's determination, but she knew that she could not leave now.

Carter, who was watching the scene unfold, appeared to be sitting calmly in the same spot. With a look of his eyes, though, he signaled for the bodyguards to take action.

Shirley saw Carter's gaze and immediately pressed the button on her wheelchair, forcing it to a stop.

"Cathy, take him away right now!" Shirley could only ask Cathy for help.

Cathy was of the same thought, but before she could say anything, she heard Adam's adamant words.

"No matter what, I'm bringing you home today. "

"There's really no doubt that these two are siblings. They share the same stubborn personality," Carter said jokingly. He stood up, then gave another signal to the bodyguards. Married by Mistake: Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife chapter 1840

The bodyguards understood. They immediately stepped forward and yanked Adam away with brute force.

Adam had no one at his disposal, so he raised his fist and punched one of the bodyguards.

The bodyguard missed it and got hit by Adam. Disgruntled, the bodyguard raised his hand, intending to return the punch.

At this sudden burst of fury, Shirley shouted for them to stop.

"Don't you dare hit him!"

The bodyguard halted reactively the second Shirley spoke.

Adam was taken aback by Shirley's behavior, but he had no time to reflect on it. He promptly avoided another bodyguard and continued to push Shirley's wheelchair.

Upon seeing this, the two bodyguards immediately chased after them, trying to stop Adam.

"Don't touch him!" Shirley shouted again for them to stop. She started to feel slightly agitated. Glaring at Carter, she said hurriedly, "Carter, tell your

people to stay away from them. I won't leave, but you'll have to tell them to go."

Carter calmly met Shirley's anxious gaze. "Nobody's leaving."

" Shirley froze. "What do you want?"

"Don't you have a deep sibling bond? Why are you driving your brother away now? I brought him here so that the both of you could be with each other daily. Shouldn't you be grateful?"

Perplexed, Shirley stared at Carter when he spoke as such.

As for Carter, his lips gradually curled into a mysterious smile, an expression rarely seen on his face, then he instructed the servant standing beside him.

"Send Ms. Brown back to her room."

"Yes, Mr. Carter." The servant acted accordingly without delay.

Naturally, Adam stepped up to stop the servant, but he heard Carter reminding him coldly, "You probably don't want to do something you'll regret, right?"

Carter shifted his gaze toward Cathy as he spoke.

Cathy could sense that Carter was planning to use her to threaten Adam, but under the current circumstances, she also could not act rashly.

"Carter, you too better not do anything that you'd regret."

Shirley, who was being pushed away, turned around and gave a warning.

"If anything happens to Adam and Cathy, I swear, you won't see this little thing in my womb come into existence."

Carter's smile gradually faded at Shirley's words.

It would be a lie to say that he did not care. Of course, he cared.

Adam was intent on stopping them as he watched Shirley being pushed away, but the two bodyguards stood before him with an overbearing presence.

He did not mind fighting the two men, but he considered Cathy.

"Carter, what are you playing at?" Adam went straight to the point.

He certainly did not believe Carter would be so kind to bring him over for a sibling reunion. It was so nonsensical that even he could not believe it.

Carter glanced at Shirley who had gone upstairs, turned around leisurely, and sat down on the sofa.

"Carter, I believe you're aware that I've already conducted a thorough investigation into your case."

Adam walked up to Carter. "Using your personal resources to spy on other people's private affairs. Carter, you're truly despicable."

"I've never claimed that I'm a man of honor." Carter chuckled. "Adam, I won't beat around the bush with you. I brought you here for one particular reason, and I believe that you'll certainly want to do it."

Married by Mistake: Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife chapter 1841

When Adam heard those words, he could not help but feel ridiculed.

"Why would I share the same goal with someone like you?"

"Are you certain?" Carter threw the question back with a faint smile. "Wouldn't you want to fix the scar on your sister's face? Wouldn't you want to see her stand up again one day?"

At the mention of this, Adam briefly fell into an inattentive state.

Frankly, he had not expected Carter to bring him here for this reason.

Cathy was taken by surprise as well, but it also seemed reasonable to her.

Back then, she had sensed that Carter felt something for Shirley, but the emotions were buried deep within him.

Shirley, however, was unaware of the reasons behind Carter's decision in bringing Adam and Cathy to the Gray Manor. Shirley was now settled in her room, contemplating returning downstairs to take a look when Ada entered.

When Ada saw Shirley's worried expression, Ada smiled to herself, then sent the two servants out.

Shirley truly did not want to see Ada, but due to her current condition, she was not capable of getting rid of her.

"You'd like to know what happened downstairs, don't you?" Ada started the conversation.

Shirley ignored Ada. She knew that even if she stayed silent, Ada would not stop talking.

Sure enough, Ada chuckled as she observed Shirley's unruffled demeanor.

"Your brother is not very likable. Is he really not afraid that Carter would teach him a lesson when he keeps offending him like this? Is he under the impression that his crippled sister here holds some weight in Carter's heart, and has forgotten that he is merely an ordinary doctor?"

Ada rolled her eyes scornfully. Seeing that Shirley was still unperturbed, Ada grew a little anxious.

"Shirley, how about we make a deal?"

"You want to make a deal with me?" Shirley studied the ill-intentioned face in front of her suspiciously.

While keeping an eye on the doorway, Ada carefully walked towards the room's entrance to inspect the corridor. After confirming that Carter was still downstairs, she returned to Shirley's side.

"Shirley, do you know why Carter brought your brother here? I heard it earlier."

Shirley was indeed worried about Adam, but she kept it in her heart and did not express it.

She knew that her explicit concern could put Adam in more danger, and he could be held against her.

Shirley thus gave Ada an indifferent look of disdain. "My brother and I have severed all ties between us. I don't care what Carter does to him. I'm actually hoping that he would use some cruel means."

"... What?" Ada could not believe her ears, but then she heard Shirley laughing dismissively.

"What? Haven't you heard about us, Mrs. Gray? I've always been jealous of my brother. Since we were kids, he has always been the more distinguished one and the more favored one. That's why I'd wandered off into the streets."

Ada truly did not know that Shirley had been through such an experience.

"Are you still planning to negotiate a deal with me using that? Ada, your deal is probably nothing more than a ploy to keep me from Carter. You're scared that I'd be a threat to your status, but I believe you're overanalyzing."

"What?" Ada's eyes widened, staring at Shirley suspiciously.

"Shirley, are you kidding me? You turned up here pregnant with that vile spawn in your womb, and you aren't doing this for the position of Mrs. Gray? Do you think I'm unaware that you like Carter?"

Hmph!"

Ada let out a cold, contemptuous chuckle.

"Your tricks are amazing, Shirley. You actually managed to seduce Carter into sleeping with you!"

Married by Mistake: Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife chapter 1842

"Enough of this useless talk," Shirley interrupted her, "just stay as far away from me as possible."

You'd better not have any ideas about the child in my womb. Otherwise, I'll let you have a taste of what it's like to lose a limb or be disfigured."

"How dare you threaten me?" Ada was enraged; her expression turned dark and unsightly. "Do you think you can do whatever you want since you're pregnant with Carter's child? I'm tell you, Shirley. If I wanted to kill that vile spawn in your womb, I won't even need to lift a finger. Just you wait!"

Ada warned Shirley furiously. Ada was about to turn around to leave, but Camille was standing at the door of the bedroom.

Ada's face paled in a flash. She was at a loss as she watched Camille walk into the room slowly. " Mom."

Camille shot a look of disgust at Ada. "What now? Since you don't have to lift a finger yourself, whose hands do you plan to use to murder my grandson? Your mother's?"

Ada bit her lip upon hearing this. Although she felt anxious, she was also angry at how Camille had addressed the child in Shirley's womb.

Grandson.

What type of grandson is this?

The only child that could be considered the Gray family's rightful grandson was the one Ada delivers!

"Why aren't you speaking anymore, huh?"

"Mom, I... I was simply too jealous just now and ended up talking gibberish. In truth, how would I dare?" Ada quibbled hurriedly.

"You wouldn't dare?" Furious, Camille glared at Ada. "Didn't you use a knife to disfigure Shirley's face with your own hands? If you dared to do such a thing, what else wouldn't you do?"

"I didn't! " Ada strived to defend herself. "There's no evidence to prove that I did it!"

"Would you like me to prove it to you?" Carter's cold voice from the bedroom entrance.

Ada fell silent instantly.

Carter eyed her impatiently. " I've told you to take good care of her. If anything happens to her or the child in her womb, you'll bear double the

consequences."

After listening to Carter's warning, Ada turned her face away and gritted her teeth discreetly.

Shirley then realized that Ada kept appearing in her room from time to time because Carter had asked Ada to take care of Shirley.

Although Ada had been taking care of Shirley, it felt more like Ada was waiting on Shirley instead.

Shirley glanced at Ada with a smile, then shifted her gaze onto Carter again. "I'd like to speak with you privately."

Carter nodded. "Sure."

Camille took the hint and turned around without a word.

Ada followed closely behind her, fearing another run-in with Carter.

The two of them were soon the only ones left in the room.

Shirley went straight to the point. "Where are they? What else are you planning to do?"

Carter placed his hands in his pockets and lazily replied, "As you've said, your brother Adam is the best doctor in Glendale. I've asked him to treat you.

If I don't see visible results in a month, I'll have my own way of motivating him."

Shirley became anxious upon hearing his words. " Don't harm him, Carter! "

"I didn't intend to do anything to him initially, but he personally told me that he's found out my purpose of coming to Glendale. What do you think I should do?"

Shirley's face froze instantly; she was momentarily at a loss for words.

Carter bent down closer to her, a dangerous aura slowly enveloping Shirley.

"If I can't convince him to join me, all I can do is make him submit and make him useful. After all, it's rare to find a talent like him. Don't you agree, mother of my child?"

Married by Mistake: Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife chapter 1843

Mother of his child.

These four words made Shirley's heart quiver.

Bemused, she looked at Carter as she said, "Don't get any ideas about him."

Shirley gave him a grave warning; her expression was abnormally stern.

"He's different from us. Don't harass him."

When Carter heard her words, his lips twitched, revealing what appeared to be a satisfied smile.

"We? So, you still think of us as an item."

Shirley was speechless. She never imagined Carter would nitpick on such a detail.

She then heard him continue to speak.

"In the past, you used to seem jealous and resentful toward Adam when you were with me. But now, you appear anxious and worried for your brother. It's truly hard to understand you."

Upon hearing his sarcastic remarks, Shirley met Carter's gaze with feigned indifference.

"I've told you before. I'd merely been using you to benefit myself. My actions were intentional..."

"Oh, your acting is excellent. It's comparable to that of professionals."

Before Shirley could finish her sentence, Carter had cut her off. He narrowed his eyes, and the carefree tone in his voice suddenly turned solemn.

"So, you're also acting now, aren't you?"

His tone was cold, and his expression darkened considerably in an instant.

"You love me, but you pretend otherwise."

Carter asked the question that hid in the depths of his heart as his gaze was fixed on Shirley's astonished expression.

It was during these few seconds in which Shirley's expression, which appeared distracted, provided Carter with the answer he wanted.

He did not stay any longer. Turning around, he left.

As he approached the door, Shirley's voice came behind him.

"Don't harm him, and don't manipulate him."

Carter knew who Shirley meant by "him". He turned sideways and met Shirley's gaze.

"As long as you know what to do, I'll know what to do as well."

With that sentence, heavy with implication, he left decisively.

Shirley slowly clenched her fists; her heart was a tangled mess.

She had no clue what Carter truly wanted.

The next day.

Shirley woke up in the morning to find Ada by Shirley's bed again.

Compared to her domineering and arrogant attitude yesterday, Ada's behavior was much more restrained today.

Despite Ada's reluctance, Ada had no choice but to obediently take care of Shirley. With the servant's help, Ada groomed and dressed Shirley, then served her breakfast.

Shirley's diet was tailored by a nutritionist whom Carter had personally hired. That made Ada jealous.

Although Shirley had no idea Carter was involved in this, she could somewhat sense it from Ada's expression.

After finishing breakfast, the first thing Shirley wanted to find out was Adam and Cathy's situation.

However, Carter was not around at that moment. Shirley asked the servants nearby, but all of them said that they had no idea and had no knowledge of Adam and Cathy's whereabouts.

Shirley felt anxious, worried that something might happen to Adam and Cathy.

Ada, who was by Shirley's side, spoke at that moment.

"I know where they are."

Married by Mistake: Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife chapter 1844

Shirley lifted her gaze toward Ada. "Carter would share his matters with you?"

Ada chuckled. "Wouldn't I be able to find out even if he didn't want me to know? Well, if you don't believe me, don't follow me."

After she had spoken, Ada turned and walked the garden. Glancing behind, she saw Shirley catching up with her. Ada smiled to herself, satisfied that her tactical retreat had worked.

Ada's smirk was not lost on Shirley, but Shirley chose not to be bothered by it.

This was the Gray Villa. Even if Ada had the courage of the gods, she would not dare to harm her.

However, Shirley was surprised by how large the villa was. Despite walking for two or three minutes, they were still in the garden.

She knew that Carter had put in a lot of effort to win over Glendale.

Carter had already been making preparations when she was sent to approach Jeremy.

He had always been someone who only accepted success—failure was not permitted; this time would be no different.

Shirley was thus truly concerned that Adam would become another one of Carter's pawn.

All of this was weighing heavily on Shirley's mind when Ada suddenly stopped in her tracks.

"Here. Your brother, and the one called Cathy, are here."

Shirley pressed the forward button on her wheelchair as she lifted her gaze to look ahead.

A small square house with a modern appearance laid before her. It was not a spacious place; it seemed more like a place where Carter would usually unwind and enjoy tea.

Shirley did not give it much thought. She was about to enter the house when she heard a familiar set of footsteps approaching behind her.

Before she could see the person, she noticed an abrupt change in Ada's expression.

Without asking, Shirley already knew who it was.

"You brought her here?" Carter, in a cold tone and with a poker face, asked Ada reprovingly.

"Carter, you can't blame me for this," Ada explained with a sense of injustice, "she insisted on meeting her brother and Cathy, and you told me that I should accommodate whatever she wanted. I was merely following your orders."

Carter's eyebrows twitched at Ada's retort, then he said coldly, "You are not needed here. Go."

Ada pursed her lips, dissatisfied. Although she was reluctant, she could only leave.

Turning around, she glared at Shirley's back as she laughed.

"Just you wait. I'll not allow myself to be mistreated like this!"

Ada swore discreetly to herself; she could only persuade herself to endure it at that point.

Immediately after Ada left, Carter stepped forward without hesitation to push Shirley's wheelchair. He made a 180-degree turn and steered her back in the direction she had come from.

Shirley knew it was pointless to argue. Who could she fight against in her current condition?

Furthermore, the person in question was Carter.

"I just wanted to confirm that they're safe," Shirley said; her voice was not as strong as before.

"If that's the case, I can confidently confirm that within this month, they will be safe."

"Since you're such close siblings, I believe that Adam also wants to help you in regaining your former appearance as soon as possible."

"Carter, could you stop being so naive? My face and legs were severely injured. Even if Adam is really capable in this, do you think a month is long enough for him?"

"If a month is not enough, I can add another month if necessary. In short, nobody can think about leaving until you have recovered."

Carter's words were firm, and his attitude was adamant.

Not long after, he pushed Shirley directly into his basement laboratory.

"All the ingredients you'll need for AXP6g's anti-toxoid test reagent have been prepared for you.

Keep in mind to develop it as quickly as possible, preferably before the fourth stage of the poison triggers," Carter emphasized solemnly.

As Shirley stared at the laboratory table in front of her, the corners of her lips unwittingly curled into a self-deprecating sneer.

She reached out a hand to pick up the anti-toxoid test reagent. Its touch felt icy cold, just like the temperature in her heart at that moment. So cold.

"Shirley, did you hear what I just said?"

Married by Mistake: Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife chapter 1845

When Shirley heard Carter asking reprovngly, a tinge of temper in his tone, she slowly laid down the anti-toxoid test reagent and steered her wheelchair toward the washbasin.

Minding her own business, she washed her hands, then donned a mask and a pair of gloves, and finally returned to the laboratory table before responding to Carter nonchalantly.

"Mr. Gray, I'd like to start working now. Please leave."

Shirley's indifference upset Carter greatly. However, at the thought of the development of the anti-toxoid test reagent could not be delayed, he complied with Shirley's request.

Naturally, he would not leave Shirley completely unattended in the laboratory.

The moment he stepped outside, he activated the monitoring software on his phone so that he could monitor every movement in the laboratory.

Shirley, however, did not do anything suspicious.

She carried out the tasks she had in mind seriously.

Carter frowned unwittingly. His gaze lingered on his phone screen for a while before he finally looked away.

Looking up, he saw Camille walking toward him.

"Carter, there's something I'd like to discuss with you," Camille said with a stern expression.

Carter could roughly guess what Camille wanted to discuss with him. He portrayed an indifferent mannerism as he followed Camille into the living room and sat on the sofa.

"Do you wish to discuss Shirley?" Carter asked directly.

As for Ada, who had been following Carter's every move, her ears perked up when she heard this. She was carefully crouching behind the wall and listening intently when Camille spoke.

"Carter, what do you have in mind? What are your plans for Shirley? I know it's still quite a while before she gives birth, but it's really not that far off. The child should not be labeled illegitimate at birth.

"My child will certainly not be illegitimate. I'll find a suitable opportunity to give him legal status."

'What!'

Ada's nails crunched into the diatom mud wall upon hearing this.

'Does he really intend to give Shirley a legal status?'

'There can only be one person who could hold the position of Mrs. Gray and Viscountess.'

'If Carter offers Shirley the official title, my would be in jeopardy! '

At the thought of this, Ada was not only unsettled but also enraged.

"How will you deal with Ada then? The Logan family may not be quite as influential as the Gray family in St. Piaf, but if they were to blow this issue out of proportion, it could affect your reputation to some extent," Camille considered this point.

Carter pondered for a moment, then replied, "I never took that woman seriously. If it wasn't to ensure that the matter proceeded smoothly, I wouldn't have agreed to marry a woman like her."

He spoke indifferently, contempt and arrogance permeating from his dark eyes.

"If the Logan family believes they can affect me by stirring trouble with us, let them. I never do anything I'm uncertain of."

"That's great," Camille breathed a sigh of relief but frowned once again. "Shirley's face is disfigured now, and I worry she might feel depressed about it. It won't be good for a pregnant woman.

"Further, she's only a few weeks into her pregnancy. In the coming months, her physical state will worsen.

"A pregnant woman being confined to a permanent sedentary lifestyle might experience adverse effects on both her well-being and the health of the baby in her womb."

Camille shared her thoughts worriedly.

Ada felt a little more at ease after hearing this. She would be glad if Shirley could not keep well.

In the next second, however, she heard Carter's unhurried response. "Don't worry, her legs and face will heal soon."

Camille's face lit up with joy. "Is that true? Can her face and legs really recover?"

Carter confirmed with a nod. "It may not be possible if it was anyone else, but it can be done if it's Shirley's brother."

Married by Mistake: Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife chapter 1846

"Is it that young man named Adam?"

"Yes, that's him. He won't let Shirley look like this for long. He'll heal her in the shortest possible time to make her look like the woman she once was."

Carter was certain of this.

Camille felt relieved by his words. "Then I can anticipate my grandchild's birth in peace."

She smiled and unwittingly let out a soft sigh.

"In fact, if she hadn't left without a word years ago, the two of you would have been married, and maybe you'd have had two or three children by now. I

don't know what she was thinking back then."

Carter listened to Camille's mutterings; he shared similar questions in his mind and a trace of dissatisfaction in his heart.

However, he did not say anything else.

If he could hold onto her now, he could make up for the loss.

Ada, who had been listening to the entire conversation, soon after returned to her room angrily and gave a call to her mother.

Having heard the scenario, Ada's mother pondered for a moment, then immediately came up with an idea.

After listening to her mother's idea, Ada knew that it was a completely feasible idea, but she was hesitant to do it. She feared that Carter would learn about it in the future, and she would regret it then.

Upon reflection, though, her mother was right. The fewer the people who knew about it, the better.

That was why she would have to do it herself!

In the following days, Shirley devoted her time to studying the anti-toxoid test reagent daily.

However, every time she discovered Adam and Cathy's circumstances, Carter would casually dismiss the topic.

Shirley was very worried about them, but she also knew that the development of the anti-toxoid test reagent could not be put off any further.

Back then, when she stayed at home, Adam had already admonished her sternly.

He had told her that Madeline had not regained her consciousness following the fourth stage of the poison.

If Madeline remained unconscious for much longer, her body would likely suffer further harm.

Shirley had already decided what to do when she gave Adam the formula for the anti-toxoid test reagent.

She had to turn back.

She must not make the same mistakes again. This morning, Shirley woke up as usual.

Ada, as usual, stood at a side with a forced smile on her face as she instructed the servants to help Shirley get out of bed.

After breakfast, Ada had even thoughtfully pushed Shirley toward the laboratory.

On the way, Ada, seemingly unable to resist it, asked Shirley, "Shirley, can I ask you a question?"

Shirley was not in the mood to beat around the bush with Ada, so Shirley bluntly said, "Tell me whatever you want to say. There's no point in chatting."

The corners of Ada's lips twitched with dissatisfaction, then she chuckled and asked, "You actually love Carter a lot, don't you?"

Shirley was taken aback by Ada's question. After a moment of bewilderment, Shirley replied, "This is a personal matter. I do not need to share it with you."

Although Shirley's response was indifferent, Ada was not bothered by it; Ada smiled to herself instead.

At the laboratory entrance, Shirley went in alone; Ada was forbidden to enter.

Ada stood at the entrance, watching the laboratory doors closed slowly, then her lips curled into a triumphant grin. "Shirley, I know you're very much in love with Carter. As I've said, I won't allow myself to be mistreated like this. Just you wait. Something will happen soon, and you will break."

Married by Mistake: Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife chapter 1847

The anomaly in Ada went unnoticed by Shirley, whose thoughts were focused on developing the anti

-toxoid test reagent within the shortest amount of time possible. At this moment, Shirley was dedicated to her experiments, ensuring that the outcome was safe and effective.

Adam and Cathy had stayed at the Gray Villa for several days now. Their movements were restricted to the small house where they lived.

Despite having all of their daily needs provided appropriately, they did not feel comfortable.

Adam's only thought was to get Shirley out of this place. He was worried about Shirley's condition.

Furthermore, he also confirmed his discovery that Carter posed a certain degree of danger.

At this moment, a servant delivered their breakfast, and Adam learned from the servant that Carter was scheduled to go out later.

It seemed to be a good opportunity to Adam, but Cathy was somewhat hesitant.

"Actually, Adam, your sister had intended to stay back then to work on the anti-toxoid test reagent. Even if you decided to take her now, I'm not sure she'll be willing to go."

Adam's expression was solemn. "If she stays here, something's bound to happen sooner or later."

"What do you mean by that?" Cathy did not quite understand. "It seems to me that Carter cares a lot about your sister. Are you worried about that woman named Ada instead?"

"Yes, her."

Adam answered honestly, beset by worry.

"Shirley turned out like this now because of that woman, and Carter has done nothing about it.

Doesn't that suggest his tacit approval for Ada harming Shirley? I don't trust Carter, and I cannot allow Shirley to have a ticking time bomb by her side."

As soon as Adam's voice fell away, the transparent glass door in front of them swung open.

The person who walked in was none other than Ada. Adam clenched his fists at the sight of Ada.

Cathy, worried that Adam would act out of anger, tried to dismiss Ada quickly.

"What are you doing here? You're not welcome here. We don't want to see such a venomously evil woman like you either."

Ada chuckled disapprovingly at Cathy's words.

Prancing her way to the sofa, Ada sat down ostentatiously as the hostess. She then threw a glance at Cathy and spoke in a sarcastic tone.

"The things you've said are truly ridiculous. I'm married to Carter, which makes me the family's official hostess. The entire villa is mine, and I can go anywhere I like. Who are the two of you, as outsiders, to interfere?"

"Oh, I see." Cathy went along with Ada's words. "Well, the noble Mrs. Gray, since you put it that way, please let us two outsiders out of your house immediately so as not to taint your lofty facade."

Ada, momentarily stunned by those words, was about to speak again when Adam scoffed.

Ada's face darkened as she glared at Adam with extreme displeasure. "What are you laughing at?"

"Hah." Adam's scornful gaze fell on Ada's face. "I'm laughing at Cathy's innocence. She doesn't realize that you're nothing more than a title

without the actual authority attached to the position of Mrs. Gray."

Ada's expression fell. "Adam, you..."

"Could it be that I'm mistaken? You understand better than anyone else that Carter has never taken you seriously. Just like air, you are transparent in his eyes."

"If Carter had even the slightest affection for you, my sister wouldn't be here today."

"Stop speaking nonsense!" Ada stood up furiously. "Carter doesn't care about that shameless sister of yours. It was Shirley, that vile woman, who seduced Carter!"

"You're the one spewing nonsense, you cruel, vile woman! Ask yourself, why you did those things to Shirley? It's because you felt threatened by her, and the reason you feel that way lies in the depth of your heart!"

"You..." Ada's face flushed with anger at Adam's words.

Adam was right. What he said was all true!
Married by Mistake: Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife chapter 1848

She had done all that because she felt that Carter cared for Shirley. She realized that Shirley was a threat to her, so she paid someone to kidnap Shirley, who was locked up at Jeremy's old villa at the time.

Using Madeline's name, Ada had ruined Shirley's face and injured her leg. Consequently, Shirley had been hit by a car in her attempt to escape, which led to her disabled legs.

The whole thing began because of her jealousy!

"Just you wait, Adam. You're as annoying as your sister Shirley!" Ada warned furiously, the humiliation she felt fuelling her rage.

"Soon, I'll also have you know the price you'd paid in defying me!"

"Don't try to validate your presence here. We have no time to defy you. You're the one who keeps

finding fault with us," Adam retorted coldly, leaving Ada no room to argue.

Ada had originally come by to vent her anger at Shirley's brother Adam since Ada could not blatantly direct it at Shirley. However, she had not expected to be angered further.

At the sight of Adam and Cathy ignoring her, Ada gritted her teeth and glared at them irately.

"Just you wait!"

Ada uttered, then turned around and stomped out irritably.

Feeling worried, Cathy glanced outside. "Adam, something feels off. Is that woman planning to do something to us?"

Adam looked coldly in the direction where Ada had gone before turning sideways to face Cathy.

"You're right, she gave me an odd feeling as well. But don't worry. Whatever happens, I'll protect you.

Adam smiled slightly as he made her a sincere promise.

Cathy smiled knowingly. She knew that Adam would certainly protect her even without a promise.

Nevertheless, her mind was awirl with thoughts. The fact that Carter truly cared for Shirley certainly meant he would not harm them; he certainly would not condone any outrageous behavior from Ada in his villa either.

However, although Cathy and Adam were accurate in their speculations, they had underestimated how vicious Ada and her mother could be.

After her confrontation with Cathy and Adam, the enraged Ada returned to her room.

She had been keeping a close eye on the clock all this time. Finally, it was time for Carter and Camille to leave the house.

She knew that the villa was equipped with plenty of surveillance cameras. Over the past two days, she had paid close attention to them so that she could essentially avoid them, allowing her to commit her perfect crime.

The ideal time, however, was after dark. It would be the most appropriate time to begin her plan. Ada had also decided to make Shirley her best time witness.

Shirley had stayed in the laboratory for the entire day. As night fell, she finally obtained a satisfactory result.

As she eyed the icy blue liquid in the transparent vial, a smile of relief gradually appeared on her face.

She sealed the anti-toxoid test reagent properly,

placed it into her pocket, and left the laboratory.

As soon as she exited the laboratory entrance, Shirley saw Ada waiting by the door.

Ada seemed impatient. Evidently, she had given in to Shirley only because of Carter.

Shirley, not giving it much thought now, allowed Ada to push her into the living room.

"Where's Carter now?" Shirley did not want to delay a single second. She was eager to get the anti-toxoid test reagent out.

Indifferent, Ada rolled her eyes. "Carter went out." 'Carter had gone out?'

Shirley thought that this could be her chance.

"Then hurry up and take me to my brother's place."

Married by Mistake: Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife chapter 1849

Ada was merely looking for an excuse to bring Shirley over to Adam and Cathy's place.

Unexpectedly, Shirley had initiated the visit instead.

Ada was secretly delighted but pretended to be in a tough spot.

Shirley, you saw how it went last time. I brought you to look for your brother, and Carter found out about it. I don't intend to break Carter's order again.

"But Carter had also asked you to respect all of my needs while taking care of me. I'd like to see my brother right now. Are you able to refuse me?"

In response to those words, Ada feigned a look of dissatisfaction, pretending to compromise with a conflicted expression.

"Then you better have a conscience, Shirley. If Carter comes home and discovers that I brought you to see your brother, you must explain to him that you compelled me to take you."

Shirley, unaware that this was part of Ada's strategy to avoid being implicated, simply replied, " Sure. I'll accept full responsibility."

"Remember your words," Ada reminded. She snickered to herself as she pushed Shirley's wheelchair.

Although the small house and the garden were not far apart, it would take a minute or two to walk there.

On the way, Shirley noticed a pungent burning odor that seemed to be getting nearer.

Just as she was wondering what was burning, Ada let out a startled cry behind her.

"Why are there flames ahead?"

Shirley followed Ada's gaze when she heard her.

Under the illumination of the street lights, they could see that it was no mere fire—thick billows of smoke drifted up into the sky.

A sudden realization struck Shirley. "That's where Adam and Cathy are staying now!"

She moved her wheelchair along quickly as she spoke. When she arrived, however, the modern-looking structure was already engulfed in flames.

Shirley widened her eyes in disbelief. "Adam! Cathy!"

She yelled out in the direction of the house but there was no response.

Shirley, unbothered by the danger, sped forward, wanting to go inside when her wheelchair hit something hard, and she suddenly lost her balance.

Shirley fell heavily onto the ground with a loud thud.

She struggled to stand up, but there was no strength or sensation in her legs.

Shirley watched the flames continue to burn and grow, her eyes turning red as if they were on fire themselves.

"Addy! Addy!"

Clutching her trembling hands, she shouted for Adam repeatedly.

"Cathy..."

Shirley was at a loss as to what to do. She could only watch as the fire slowly burned the house, disintegrating all the hopes she had in her eyes.

"Someone! Put out the fire! Quickly" Ada pretended to shout for the servants' help.

When the servants heard her, they rushed over in

shock, then immediately retrieved fire extinguishers and called the fire department.

Carter and Camille had been returning home together. Their car had barely approached the villa's gate when they saw a fire truck parked at the main entrance.

Carter told his chauffeur to speed up. As soon as he stepped out of the car, he ran toward the commotion.

From a distance, he saw a dispirited Shirley seated in her wheelchair as if her soul had been drained.

When Carter intended to head over to understand the situation, he saw the medical staff passing by, carrying two stretchers.

The two stretchers clearly had two people lying on them, but they were both covered with a white cloth.

In the crowd, Ada, noticing Carter's return, immediately put on a frightened expression and ran over to him with tears in her eyes.

"Carter, it was terrifying just now. I have no idea what started this fire to start all of the sudden. I called for help as soon as I discovered it, but it was already too late..."

Married by Mistake: Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife chapter 1850

Ada let out a sigh of resignation.

"Carter, I know I tend to be willful and wayward, but I'm not that heartless and cold-blooded. You should go and comfort Ms. Brown. She must be feeling especially..."

Without waiting for Ada to finish her sentence, Carter left her and walked straight to Shirley.

Carter glanced sideways at the charred house which had been burnt down to its frame. His eyebrows drew tight as the burning smell hit his nostrils.

He walked up to Shirley, lowered his body slightly, and was about to speak when Shirley raised a hand unexpectedly and slapped him.

Carter was dumbfounded. His face remained sideways, seemingly did not react, and he stood motionless.

Ada and the servants nearby had witnessed the entire scene, and all of them were shocked.

Carter held the position as the honorable Viscount of St. Piaf; he carried with him the blood of royalty.

Ever since he was a child, who would have dared to move a single strand of his hair?

Presently, this woman who was seated in a wheelchair had actually dared to hit Carter, and she had hit Carter's face.

Carter's face was so delicate that even touching it was considered blasphemy, let alone hitting it.

However, these were no longer within Shirley's consideration. Ever since she got over him, she had no intention of becoming his pawn ever again, always cautious around him—an obedient pawn who carried out his every order without dignity or self-esteem.

Shirley's eyes were red as she glared at Carter, who wore a dark expression on his face.

"You killed my brother and Cathy. I'll make certain that you'll pay for this, Carter Gray!"

Shirley bitterly spat out every word through gritted teeth, expressing her determination.

Carter turned his face over, frowning as he met Shirley's gaze which burned with hostility and rage.

"What do their deaths have anything to do with me? Shirley, has the excessive sadness affected your brain?"

"Do you really have nothing to do with it? Carter, how can you act like it's none of your business?"

Would this have happened if you hadn't brought Adam and Cathy here? Would they have died in the fire if you hadn't confined them to this house?! "

Shirley's questioning and reproach left Carter momentarily speechless, unable to refute.

Everyone thought Carter would fly into a terrible rage. Ada was also looking forward to it. However, they only witnessed Carter's kind tone as he explained.

"There's something very wrong about this fire. It's definitely arson. I'll investigate it thoroughly."

"It was certainly the result of a human act, and you are the murderer," Shirley said furiously, glaring at him. She turned her wheelchair around suddenly and headed for the main door.

Carter was left in a daze after being scolded and accused by Shirley.

When he noticed that the servants were looking at him, his gaze darkened, and before he spoke, the servants avoided his gaze in a hurry.

Ada took this opportunity to leave with everyone else in case Carter noticed anything was amiss.

Carter walked over to the burnt ruins after everyone had left. He could not believe this was an accident.

A thought also came to his mind at that moment. Now that Adam was dead, there would be no one who could heal Shirley's face and legs.

With a grave expression and a foul mood, he went back into the house.

He immediately went to look for Shirley but discovered that she was not in her room.

He asked all the servants, but they neither saw nor knew where she had gone after she left the scene earlier.

Carter had been suppressing his anger all this while, but he was unable to hold it in for much longer.

As he was about to go out in search of Shirley, Ada ran over frantically.

"Carter, this is bad."

Married by Mistake: Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife chapter 1851

"Carter, this is bad!" Ada rushed up to Carter in a panic.

Carter could sense that Ada was referring to Shirley.

"Do you know where Shirley went?" Carter asked directly.

Ada nodded repeatedly. "I wasn't paying much attention at first, but it struck me when you couldn't find Shirley."

"Get to the point."

"When I was returning from the scene of the fire earlier, I vaguely saw Shirley heading down the street to grab a taxi."

Upon hearing this, Carter strode out hurriedly.

It was a rare sight to see Carter worried and anxious, and it made Ada's heart feel a lot lighter.

She was grateful for her own decisiveness. Otherwise, she would have been even more pained at the present.

In reality, she had seen Shirley hailing a taxi by the street earlier, but Ada deliberately waited for a period of time before telling Carter. She wanted Shirley to have a head start so that Carter would have a difficult time finding her.

Carter drove his car along the route Shirley might have taken, but he was unable to find her.

Night fell, and under the dark blue moonlight, it began to drizzle, bringing a chill to this spring night.

The gate of Whitman Manor.

Shirley had been sitting in her wheelchair for half an hour; she did not leave despite the rain.

Karen and Eloise were in the living room teasing Percy in their arms, glancing out the French windows from time to time.

"Karen, is that woman really what you described?" Eloise asked uncertainly.

As the rain grew heavier, Eloise could not help but feel sympathetic.

"She's already been outside in the rain for half an hour."

"Even if she sits in the rain for an entire day, she doesn't deserve our sympathy," Karen's attitude was firm and cold.

"Eloise, you're probably unclear about many things since you were unwell previously, but Jeremy and Eveline had told me all about Shirley."

Karen's heart burned with rage at the mention of the incident.

"This woman was the reason Jeremy's hair and eye colors have turned to what they are today."

"So, this is the woman who made Jeremy like this," Eloise was shocked.

"Not only did she harm Jeremy, but she also harmed Eveline." Karen glared out the window with displeasure. "She developed such a harmful thing. I really have no idea what she was thinking. And now she has come to deliver the anti-toxoid test reagent. How could anyone believe that?"

Karen was full of doubt about Shirley's appearance.

Eloise, however, seemed to waver. "Do you think she has developed a conscience? She appears to be really sincere."

"Eloise, don't believe her."

Karen had misgivings about Shirley's appearance.

"Even if she had the anti-toxoid test reagent, Jeremy and Eveline aren't here, and we can't get in touch with them either. For now, let's leave that woman alone. Perhaps she's even pretending to be disabled. Our family has been harmed so many times by people with ill intentions. We must not let our guard down."

Eloise agreed with Karen's words.

It was indeed prudent that they kept their guard up, so they stopped paying attention to Shirley and focused on taking care of her grandchild instead.

As the rain grew heavier, each raindrop grew in size, crashing down one by one.

Shirley remained motionless, waiting on the same spot as she looked ahead, allowing the rain to soak through her hair and clothes.

There were only tears running down from her eyes down her face, a silent accompaniment to the raindrops.

It was raining before her eyes, but she seemed to see a bizarre flame burning furiously, devouring everything in the end, including the only relative she had in the world and the girl who had been caring for her—someone whom she had been eager to befriend.

This was retribution.

Married by Mistake: Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife chapter 1852

Shirley's heartbeat trembled as she grasped the anti-toxoid test reagent in her hand.

She was not aware that Madeline and Jeremy were not in Glendale. All she wanted to do now was deliver the anti-toxoid test reagent that could clear the poison in Madeline's body.

She knew, however, that Madeline and Jeremy would have difficulty trusting her.

They trusted Adam and Cathy, but now... 'Addy, I was wrong.

'I already knew earlier that I was wrong.

'But I lacked the courage to admit my mistake.

'And you did not even give me a chance to apologize. 'Addy.

'Cathy.

'I know that your greatest hope was for me to hand over the anti-toxoid test reagent to Eveline.

'Don't worry. I won't let you down again.'

Shirley held the anti-toxoid test reagent tightly and hid it in her sleeve. The rain continued to pour as she remained motionless.

Jeremy had just gotten off the plane with Madeline. They were getting into the car, ready to head home, when Jeremy pulled out his mobile phone to find several missed calls, all from Karen.

Karen would rarely make that many calls to him on a normal day. The number of missed calls now made Jeremy feel that something was wrong.

He immediately called Karen back, who picked up the phone quickly.

Knowing that Jeremy had just gotten off the plane, Karen immediately asked, "Have you found Lily? Have you brought her back with you?"

Recalling what Fabian had said, Jeremy pondered for a while before he replied, "Lily didn't return with us. But don't worry, her physical condition is stable. I've temporarily entrusted Lily to a friend because there are better doctors over there with better medical facilities."

When Karen heard his reply, she was relieved.

Jeremy glanced over at Madeline, who was leaning against him, still unconscious all this time, and his heart clenched tightly.

He did not know how to explain Madeline's situation to his family, so they could only go back to their new house for the time being.

He did not want the family's elderly to see Madeline in her current state since it would only worry them further.

As he considered this, he received a photo from Karen, who then explained, "Jeremy, this woman— she claims to be Shirley—has been at our door for over an hour. Take a look at the photo. Is she really that nasty woman Shirley?"

Jeremy enlarged the photo for a closer look. It was a rainy night, but there were street lights by the gate.

Although Shirley was soaking wet under the rain, looking extremely flustered, her facial features were clearly distinct.

Furthermore, the scar on her face, as well as the fact that she was in a wheelchair, proved that it was indeed Shirley.

Jeremy was guessing the reason for Shirley's appearance at the gate of Whitman Manor when he heard Karen providing more information.

"I don't know if this woman is telling the truth, but she said she wants to give you a vial of anti-toxoid test reagent."

"Anti-toxoid test reagent?"

"Yes, that's what she said. An anti-toxoid test reagent for something about AXP6g."

"AXP6g?"

"Yes, it's AXP6g. That's what she said," Karen confirmed.

"I understand. I'll be there right away."

Jeremy disconnected the call as soon as he had finished speaking. At the same time, he ordered his chauffeur to turn around and head toward the Whitman Manor.

The rain was still pouring when his car arrived at the manor. Jeremy glanced through his car window and spotted Shirley, who was waiting at the gate.

He told his chauffeur to drive the car into the garage while he made his way to Shirley with an umbrella.

Married by Mistake: Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife chapter 1853

Shirley saw a car drive through the entrance. She was about to speak when she heard footsteps approaching from behind her.

Looking sideways, Jeremy's tall and slender silhouette came into sight.

Shirley's despairing eyes lit up with a glimmer of hope.

She adjusted the angle of her wheelchair and slowly turned to face Jeremy.

With an umbrella in hand, Jeremy's handsome appearance was accompanied by a sense of coldness as he walked directly up to Shirley.

Without beating around the bush, he asked, "Are you really here to deliver the anti-toxoid test reagent for AXP6g?"

Shirley looked at Jeremy and nodded. However, she was uncertain if she had spent too much time in the rain. Coupled with Adam and Cathy's deaths, her whole body was feeling unwell.

Despite that, she lifted her arm with all her effort and held out the anti-toxoid test reagent to Jeremy.

"A complete anti-toxoid test reagent wasn't available previously because Carter was the only one who had access to one of the ingredients."

As Shirley explained, her hand that held the anti-toxoid test reagent began to tremble involuntarily.

Gradually, she began to recognize the cause of her problem.

Her body had also been injected with the AXP6g poison, and these feelings she was experiencing were evidently the symptoms of the fourth stage flaring up.

Jeremy peered at the anti-toxoid test reagent in Shirley's trembling hand. There were still traces of doubt in his heart.

"Why should I believe you?" He coldly stared at Shirley, who was becoming paler with each passing moment.

Shirley did not mind Jeremy's suspicion. She understood. She knew that this was the consequence of all her wicked deeds.

She clenched her fists and took a deep breath of cold air, forcing herself to endure the increasing intensity of pain.

"You certainly don't have to trust me. You just have to trust Adam."

Shirley began panting heavily.

"Eveline is still unconscious now, right? Take this and inject her with it quickly. At most, she'll need eight hours, then she'll wake. Take it, quickly."

Shirley tried her best to hand the anti-toxoid test reagent over to Jeremy, but he still seemed skeptical.

"Jeremy, don't hesitate any longer. Take it! Delaying it could cause variations. You don't want Eveline to remain a sleeping beauty forever, right?"

As Shirley's words resonated, Jeremy's eyebrows twitched, and melancholy swept across his face.

In fact, he wished Madeline would wake up as soon as possible. He was anxious about it, more than anyone else.

Shirley's kind gesture of delivering the anti-toxoid test reagent all of the sudden, however, had certainly left him with doubt.

Jeremy pondered for a few seconds before pulling out his mobile phone, preparing to call Adam.

When Shirley saw Jeremy's actions, she quickly guessed his intention.

Her eyes turned red again, but she forced herself to suppress this painful emotion before speaking.

"Your calls won't get through to his phone. Jeremy, you don't have to trust me, but you must trust Adam. Stop dithering. Otherwise, unpredictable things might happen."

When Jeremy heard the engaged tone which signified that no one answered on the other end of the line, he disconnected the call.

Karen ran out hastily at that moment, holding an umbrella. She asked worriedly.

"Jeremy, what's the matter? Is Eveline asleep or sick? Why can't we wake her up at all?"

Hearing those words, Shirley clenched her trembling hands and gritted her teeth. "Jeremy, take it quickly!"

She raised her voice, knowing that she might not be able to hold on for much longer.

"Eveline needs this vial of anti-toxoid test reagent now. There's an ingredient in the anti-toxoid test reagent that is extremely rare. If you don't take this vial now, Eveline would have no hope of ever waking up!"

"What?! What did you say?! " Karen was shaken by Shirley's words.
Married by Mistake: Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife chapter 1854

When she wanted to continue asking, she saw Jeremy snatching the vial out of Shirley's hand and quickly running toward the house.

Karen, worried about Madeline's safety, was not in the mood to ask any questions, so she merely

glared at Shirley and swiftly followed Jeremy.

After Shirley saw Jeremy turning around to leave, she finally let go of the pretense of calmness that she had been striving to maintain.

Her pain was already so debilitating that she could not endure it anymore. She also knew that further physical and mental pain which awaited her would soon follow.

However, that was no longer important.

Presently, she only saw the blaze that devoured everything before her.

Jeremy, holding the anti-toxoid test reagent in his hands, ran straight into the house.

At the sight of Jeremy, Jackson ran gleefully toward him. "Daddy, you're back! "

When Jeremy saw his son running toward him cheerfully, he merely responded by lifting his lips into a smile briefly, then with a serious expression, Jeremy walked toward Madeline who was lying on the sofa.

Jackson, being a sensible child, was not saddened by this; he followed behind Jeremy obediently instead.

Jeremy opened anti-toxoid the test reagent, eyed the icy blue liquid, then fell into a moment of daze.

"Jeremy, what's wrong with Eveline? Is she sick?" Concerned, Eloise was squatting by the sofa.

She held Madeline's cold hands. The hands were so cold that they felt unlike the body temperature of the average person.

Jeremy lowered his eyes and looked at Madeline who had been asleep for days. Her soft eyebrows and her expression in her serene slumber were certainly beautiful.

However, he could not allow her to turn into a true sleeping beauty.

"Mom, don't worry. Linnie will wake up tomorrow."

Jeremy promised, then quickly drew the icy blue liquid into the syringe.

When Karen saw this, she grabbed Jeremy's arm. " Jeremy, do you really believe that woman? What on earth is this thing? The color looks abnormal."

Jeremy froze when Karen grabbed him, but his eyes looked firm. " I don't believe her, but I believe my friend."

"Friend?" Karen did not know that Jeremy was referring to Adam.

However, when she registered what was going on and was about to ask more in detail, Jeremy was already squatting beside Madeline, injecting the icy blue liquid into Madeline's veins in a practiced motion.

Just as he completed the injection, Jeremy noticed that Madeline's eyebrows seemingly frowned slightly.

He went over and carried Madeline in a bridal carry before walking straight to the bedroom, then placed her down on the bed gently.

"Linnie, I believe you'll wake up soon." Holding Madeline's hand, Jeremy promised her, then he leaned down and kissed her forehead.

It was still raining outside, so Jeremy walked to the French window to close it, but he saw Shirley still standing at the gate.

Her body was curled up, and she looked like she was in a great deal of discomfort.

After pondering for a while, he took out his phone to call Adam. However, there was still no one picking up the phone.

He called Cathy again, but he got a voice recording saying that her phone was turned off.

Jeremy faintly felt that something was amiss; an uneasy feeling surged in his heart.

He remembered what Shirley had said when he tried to call Adam at the gates earlier.

"Your calls won't get through to his phone."

Jeremy frowned and quickly turned to run downstairs.

He held an umbrella and quickly went back to the gates. He spotted Shirley sitting in the wheelchair under the rain. Her face was as white as a sheet, and she looked like she was in excruciating pain.

Jeremy might not feel any pity for this woman, but he cared about Adam and Cathy.

"Shirley, why can't I call Adam and Cathy? Did something happen to them?"

Married by Mistake: Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife chapter 1855

Jeremy questioned her immediately, but then he saw Shirley's pale face and arched body, which seemed as if she was about to curl her body up.

Everything Shirley had done back then made it difficult for Jeremy to empathize with her or pity her, but the thought of Shirley knowing what had happened to Adam and Cathy, Jeremy went up to her and asked.

"Shirley, do you feel unwell?" Jeremy asked coldly.

Shirley lifted her drenched face against the falling rainwater and shook her head weakly.

"I'm not unwell."

"What about Adam and Cathy? Where are they? " Jeremy asked again.

Shirley grabbed her hands hidden in her sleeves; her eyes were blurred by both tears and rainwater.

"Addy, Cathy..."

Addy?

Jeremy was astonished to hear Shirley addressing Adam as Addy.

From what he could remember, there were profound grievances between Shirley and Adam, and Shirley had been brimming with hatred for Adam.

Now that she was addressing Adam this way, their relationship seemed to have taken a turn for the better.

When Jeremy spotted the tears welling up in Shirley's eyes, he felt that something was not right.

"Did something happen to Adam and Cathy? Shirley, tell me."

Jeremy was starting to feel annoyed as well. Deep down, he was very concerned about Adam and Cathy too.

They were not only his friends; they were close friends, and they had saved his family before.

In the face of Jeremy's questioning, Shirley's vision was getting blurrier and blurrier; she started to fall in and out of consciousness.

She wanted to answer Jeremy. She wanted to speak. However, she felt as if something was stuck in her throat.

Jeremy, noticing that something was off with Shirley, lifted his hand to grab Shirley's shoulders when suddenly, a glaring high beam shone brightly from a side, and the light was accompanied by honking.

Jeremy intuitively turned his face away to avoid the lights.

Barely a moment later, he heard the car stop, followed by the sound of hurried footsteps gradually approaching him.

"Jeremy? When did you come back? What are you trying to do? " Carter started pelting Jeremy with questions.

Jeremy turned his face calmly and looked at the solemn-looking Carter who also looked worried.

"You're really well-informed about my whereabouts. You even knew that I haven't been in Glendale all this while."

Carter momentarily paused when he heard that. He met Jeremy's eyes, then strode up to Shirley and opened an umbrella to shield Shirley from the rain and wind.

Carter's face fell immediately when he saw Shirley's off-colored face.

He immediately stood up to face Jeremy and angrily questioned, "What did you do to her?"

Jeremy was amused when he heard that. "You're asking the wrong person. You should ask yourselves what they did to me and my wife?"

"You..."

"Why, Carter, are you also capable of caring for others? Would you also feel heartbroken when someone you care about is in pain?"

When Shirley heard Jeremy's words, tears welled up in her eyes once again.

'Care?

'Did he care?'

Shirley's eyes reddened, yet she could not help but burst out laughing.

Carter was still lost in thought after he heard what Jeremy said, but now, he suddenly heard Shirley laughing for no apparent reason.

Shocked, Carter looked at Shirley, who seemed to be laughing and crying simultaneously, and his entire heart inexplicably turned abnormally frigid.

Jeremy also felt that Shirley was behaving oddly, but he did not care.

However, Carter was worried.