

Married by Mistake – Chapter 1876

As he approached her, the man removed his sunglasses and revealed his striking, gallant features.

Felipe stared at Cathy's photo with red eyes, not speaking another word for some time.

Madeline was not surprised at all to find that Felipe was still alive. She was merely shocked to see Felipe appear at that exact moment. However, when she noticed Jeremy coming through the door, Madeline slowly began to understand.

Jeremy had left the house an hour ago, saying he had an important task to handle. It turned out he had gone to bail Felipe.

Felipe reflected on what had happened a few months ago. He had lost all hope and accepted the execution by shooting, giving up any chance to appeal.

Later, however, he had been finally persuaded by Madeline and Jeremy, and Felipe finally came around. He had decided to appeal. He chose to live rather than die.

After that, the matter had been handled discreetly. Apart from Madeline and Jeremy, nobody else knew that Felipe was sentenced to 20 years in prison.

While they were at the prison's visiting room, Felipe had repeatedly asked that they keep this a secret. Felipe had hoped that he, a heinous scoundrel, was truly dead in Cathy's impression. He had not wanted to cause Cathy any further trouble or worry and had sincerely hoped that Adam and Cathy could have a happy ending.

He would disappear forever from Cathy's life. Even after serving twenty years in prison, he would not see her again.

Jeremy had not intended to tell Felipe about this, but Felipe had seen the news on television during lunchtime and begged the prison warden to contact Jeremy.

Felipe only had an hour of bail time; the police were waiting for him outside.

"Come on, Linnie."

Jeremy stood at the door, extending his hand to Madeline.

Madeline understood and strode toward Jeremy.

"Linnie, let's wait outside." Jeremy held Madeline's hand and walked toward the door.

Madeline turned her head and caught a glimpse of Felipe. At that moment, his tall, big build appeared fragile.

To stare at your loved one, knowing that the separation was eternal, was the most painful thing in the world. Madeline, too, felt a stabbing pain in her heart.

She lifted her eyes and looked at the man standing beside her as the dense spring rain silently poured before them, and Madeline suddenly felt that she was indeed lucky.

Despite all the darkness and pain she had suffered, being able to remain with her loved one was already a blessing to her.

Inside the house, Felipe stared at Cathy's photo, utterly lost in thought. He recalled their first encounter on the beach. The memory remained fresh in his mind, but that little girl was no longer here now.

Felipe closed his eyes as they began to fill with tears. He lit a candle, then wondered if the candle smoke was getting into his eyes as tears began to run down his face against his volition.

He then chuckled. "Maybe God had determined our fates from the very beginning. One of us had to die."

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Felipe's voice trembled. Even his hand, which held the candle, began to shake. He tried to hold back his tears, but he could not stop the grief from flooding his heart.

He recalled bits and pieces of his memories. If he had been nice to Cathy in even the slightest, perhaps he would not be so pained to the point of having difficulty breathing. He had, however, mostly brought her tears and heartache over those years.

"Cath, I'll personally raise our children."

"I'll remember what you had told me. I'll teach our children to be righteous and be useful members of society."

Felipe promised from the bottom of his heart. His tear filled gaze remained fixed on the photo of Cathy, who was smiling brightly like a blooming flower.

"Cath, let's arrange to meet again in our next lives. When that time comes, let me be the one to court you. Let me be the one to love you."

Felipe reached out and gently brushed his cold fingertips across the photo.

'Cath, I actually knew. The day we parted on the beach, I remained in your tears.'

'You never resented me despite all the pain I caused you. All this time I had not dared to tell you. These three words have been buried deep inside my heart for a very long time.'

At this thought, Felipe struggled to lift the corners of his lips, smiling faintly at Cathy's photo.

"Cath, I love you..."

Facing Cathy's photo, Felipe finally confessed his feelings for her, which had been buried deep in his heart for a long time.

Sometimes, he would resent the heavens and everybody else. He would blame God for making him confused between Madeline and Cathy.

It had been due to his confusion he and Cathy had missed the opportunity to be together forever. Whether or not Cathy had been alive, they had no possibility of starting over.

Of course, if he could, he sincerely wished that she was safe and well. Even if she had another man, he would still give her his heartfelt blessings. However, the ending he had imagined would never come true.

Felipe sat there in silence for an hour, holding Cathy's photo.

An hour later, the police came into the house with handcuffs.

Felipe's wrists were cuffed once again. He felt a strong urge to break free, but Cathy's words lingered in his mind. He would never do anything illegal again.

When Felipe walked past Jeremy and Madeline, he said, "I'll contest to having my sentence reduced for an early release. Meanwhile, I may have to bother you both to look after mine and Cathy's children."

"Don't worry. Cathy and your children are part of the Whitman family. Linnie and I will treat them as if they were our own. We'll take good care of them."

Felipe breathed a silent sigh of relief when he heard this. However, the expression in his eyes changed abruptly. "When will the police arrest the woman who started the fire?"

"That woman will definitely be severely punished. Let me handle the rest," Jeremy promised.

Felipe and Jeremy met each other's gaze in implicit agreement.

However, when Felipe was forced to turn around and leave, he felt reluctant. He turned his head for another look at the photo of Cathy.

In his tear-filled eyes, he saw the lovely smiling girl, but she could only remain as a memory. Today, he would probably be seeing her for the last time.

'Cath, I'll see you again in our next lives.'

Felipe compelled himself to turn around and not look at Cathy's photo again. However, he had etched the image of her face deep into his mind. Forever...

When Adam and Cathy's funerals had ended, Madeline and Jeremy did not even take a moment to rest. They immediately brought Cathy's children to Whitman Manor.

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When Old Master Whitman learned about this, he traveled back from his retirement home that very night. As he regarded the pigeon pair in front of him, who was barely 2 years old, his timeworn eyes began to glisten.

"So many people in this world dream of coming into the upper-class society, but not many of them realize that people within that society actually yearn for a quiet and peaceful life instead."

Old Master Whitman expressed in a heartfelt lament, his worn face was filled with melancholy and anxiety.

"Money and power can be really harmful at times. If I had not come from this large family, Felipe's thoughts wouldn't have gone awry when his parents died in the car accident, and perhaps his youth and future would've been spared."

"Grandpa, don't imagine such things," Madeline comforted Old Master Whitman as she held his hand gently. "Money and power are not harmful things in themselves. It's the hearts of people that are terrible. The kind of people whose hearts bear malice and ambition, yet they choose to take shortcuts instead."

"Linnie's right, Grandpa. Please don't blame yourself," Jeremy reassured Old Master Whitman too as he understood the turmoil in Old Master Whitman's heart.

"Look at how cute and clever Felipe's children are."

Madeline smiled as she gently tugged at the two children's hands.

"Juan and Jan, this is your grand-uncle. Hurry up and greet him."

Both of Cathy's children were young, but they were very intelligent. The siblings called out in unison, "Grand-uncle."

"Oh, you're both so sweet." Old Master Whitman's relaxed into a smile. He pulled out two red envelopes containing money from his pocket and gave them to the children.

"Be obedient, and behave yourself. Wait for your father to come home, okay?"

Juan blinked his large eyes and twitched his cute little mouth. "What about waiting for Mommy to come home? I haven't seen Mommy in a long time. I miss Mommy."

All who were present felt warm around their eyes when they heard the child's simple desire for his mother. Madeline lowered her body and gently stroked the child's head.

"Of course, Mommy will be home too. As long as you and Jan are good, Mommy and Daddy will come home."

"Really?" the child asked, blinking his large innocent eyes.

Madeline smiled gently. "I've never lied to people."

Yes, she had not lied to people. She had only lied to these innocent little angels.

When the two children had settled in, the household became livelier. There was more laughter than before, but something seemed to be missing.

Madeline was standing on the balcony that night, gazing up at the crescent moon in the dark blue sky as her heart gently beat.

When she was about to head back into the house, she felt a sudden warmth behind her.

Jeremy brought a coat and draped it over her shoulders.

"It's cold outside, Linnie."

Madeline smiled and naturally leaned against Jeremy's chest.

"Jeremy, shouldn't the good be rewarded for their virtuous deeds, while the evil reaps what they sow? Why did Cathy and Adam have to leave this way?"

"Jeremy, do you really think that we can stay together peacefully forever? Will there still be mishaps?"

"Jeremy..."

Madeline seemed to be mumbling to herself. Even she had no idea why she was feeling rueful suddenly.

Jeremy hugged her tightly. He bowed his head and kissed her on the forehead.

“Linnie, do you see the stars in the sky?”

Madeline nodded, “Yes, I see them.”

“The stars are just like our lives. There are times when the stars shine brightly, and times when they are dim. Like the stars, we cannot remain shining every moment. The only thing we can do is look forward and walk onward.”

Madeline had never known that Jeremy could comfort people like this, but now she was feeling much better. She lifted her clear, beautiful eyes to meet the man’s gentle gaze.

“Jeremy, come with me somewhere tomorrow.”

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Without further questions, Jeremy smiled in apparent agreement and replied, “I’ll follow you wherever you go.”

Madeline’s eyes twinkled as a smile tugged at the corners of her mouth. She affectionately leaned back into Jeremy’s embrace once again.

The stars tonight were not bright, but at this moment, Madeline felt warm in her heart.

The following morning, Madeline went to the police station with Jeremy. After leaving the police station, Jeremy drove his car to the main entrance of Gray Villa.

Madeline and Jeremy were barred from entry by a bodyguard at the entrance, but Jeremy was not someone that would allow himself to be stopped.

Carter and Camille had originally chartered a flight to bring Shirley back to St. Piaf today, but Ada’s mother had suddenly shown up in a fit of rage. Presently, she was in the living room demanding an explanation from Carter and Camille.

Madeline and Jeremy had just arrived at the door when they heard Ada’s mother yelling angrily.

“Carter, is this how a husband should behave? How could you have your people throw your wife, a formidable Viscountess, into a dog kennel? Do I have a hearing problem, or

are you actually insane? My beloved daughter is a human being! You'd better release her right now!"

Carter smiled faintly after listening to Ada's mother. "A human being? Since when has your beloved daughter ever treated a human's life seriously, huh?"

"..."

Ada's mother subtly averted her gaze upon hearing those words.

"It was your beloved daughter who started a fire, killing two of my friends whom I had invited to my house. It's my greatest kindness not to send a cruel woman like her to prison."

Carter's cold eyes narrowed as his dark gaze landed on the face of Ada's mother.

"This woman has challenged me and crossed the line repeatedly. Even if she dies, she deserves it."

"..."

Ada's mother saw the murderous intent that flashed across Carter's eyes. That murderous intent terrified her.

No one here knew that she was the one who advised Ada to start the fire. Initially, Ada had asked her mother to handle it on Ada's behalf. To avoid suspicion, though, she had insisted that Ada perform the task by herself.

However, she had not expected Carter to see through it in less than two days.

Ada's mother was panicking, but she told herself not to show it. She feared truly Carter's keen observation skills would see right through her.

After her internal struggle, Ada's mother decided to shift the blame onto others to hide her own misdeeds. "The fire was just an accident. How could you blame Ada for that? Why would she start the fire? She didn't even know who these two people were."

Ada's mother put on an appearance of being hurt by this injustice. "How could you accuse Ada solely based on your hunch? What evidence do you have?"

"Evidence?" Carter was about to speak when he saw someone walking through the door. He lifted his gaze, and the corner of his lips turned up. "The evidence is here."

Ada's mother raised her head immediately when she heard that. Following Carter's gaze, she saw Madeline and Jeremy coming through the door.

When Carter saw Madeline and Jeremy, he gave them an unexpected smile. “You’ve come at the right time, Mrs. Whitman. It just so happened that I need you here to answer a difficult question.”

With that, Carter threw a cold glance at Ada’s mother and spoke in a casual tone.

“If you have any questions, feel free to ask Mrs. Whitman, because she was the one who identified your beloved daughter as the arsonist.”

Ada’s mother had no idea it was Madeline who had testified against Ada. She had only managed to find out about Ada’s current condition by bribing a servant.

Her rage immediately burst forth. She could not lash out at Carter and Camille, but she could direct her anger at Madeline. Ada’s mother thought to herself as she advanced toward Madeline menacingly.

Before she managed to walk up to Madeline, however, Jeremy had taken a step forward and stood in front of Madeline.

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