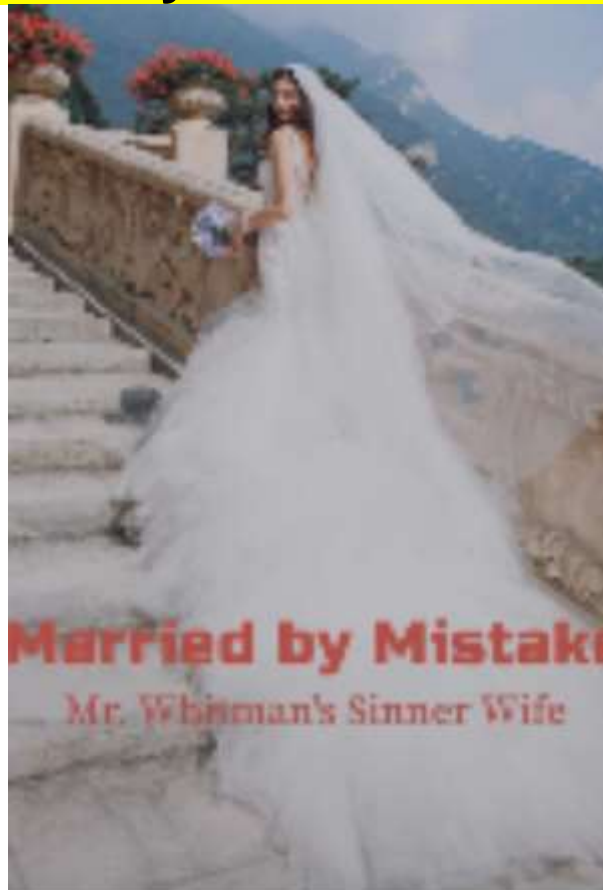


Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife by Sixteenth Child



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Chapter 1

Madeline Crawford exited the hospital, holding the test results in her shaky hands. There were tears in her eyes, but it was unknown if she was happy or sad. “Miss Crawford, you’re pregnant.” The doctor’s words rang in her ears

once more. Three months ago, she had married Jeremy Whitman; he was the number one young master of a prestigious family that was the envy of the entire Glendale. On the day of the wedding, every woman in the city was extremely envious of her. She had also thought that she was the happiest and luckiest woman on earth. Ever since she met Jeremy when she was ten years old, a seed had been planted in her heart. In order to get on Jeremy's level and steal another

glance at him in the crowd, she had worked hard to improve herself throughout the past twelve years. She had always felt that they were from two different worlds. She was like a wild child who grew up in the ruins. How could she have any sort of relationship with a man like him? However, it was unsure if she had been blessed by God, or if the God of destiny was fooling around with her. Three months ago, she attended her friend's birthday party. The next morning, when she woke up, she saw Jeremy lying next to her. The red stain on the pristine sheet looked extremely eye-catching. It described what had happened between her and Jeremy the night before. Before she could comprehend the situation, there was a knock on the door followed by a group of reporters that blocked the exit. They could not wait to publish the news of Jeremy having spent the night with a mysterious woman. The

Whitmans were the most distinguished family in Glendale. Evidently, they were an aristocratic family and had a literary reputation. Old Master Whitman was an old-fashioned man. After he found out about it, he announced Jeremy and Madeline's wedding immediately. It was like a dream to Madeline. However, it was not a good dream. Jeremy did not love her at all. Instead, he despised her. He hated her. He hated her for existing and having caused him to let down his beloved woman, Meredith Crawford. It has to be said that Meredith Crawford was also Madeline's beloved sister. Nevertheless, Madeline gathered up the courage to call Jeremy. Without a surprise, her call was declined. Thus, she could only timidly send a text over to tell him that she had something to say and was hoping he could come home that night. Their marriage was now three months old, yet he had never spent a night at home.

Madeline would always be alone in the bedroom, and she knew very well where he spent his nights at. He had not picked up his phone, and he was not replying to the text. Hence, Madeline's heart went cold; she knew Jeremy would not come home tonight as well. With that being said, she took a shower and was about to rest when the door was slammed open violently with a loud bang. She lifted her head and was alarmed when she saw his frigid yet handsome face. Her heart started beating out of control. "Jeremy, you're home," She cautiously called out his name. There was a small smile on her clean face. Nonetheless, when she approached him, the man grabbed her arm and roughly threw her on the bed. The joints of his fingers were distinct as he forcefully pinched Madeline's chin. His eyes were filled with drunkenness and rage. "Madeline, do you like me that much? To the point that you climbed

into my bed by using such despicable methods, huh?” The man’s voice was alluring. There was a hint of mockery and hatred in his voice. Her face turned pale as she looked at the man she had loved for a dozen years while her heart throbbed with pain. “Jeremy, you’ve **misunderstood me...**” “Misunderstood you?” The man looked at her in contempt and chuckled deeply. “Madeline, why are you still pretending?” After he said that...

Chapter 2

The next day, Madeline woke up from her sleep. Before she was fully conscious, a box of contraceptive pills was thrown at her. “Eat this.” Madeline lifted her head and saw that Jeremy was already fully clothed. He looked cold and elegant, completely different from the violent devil he had been the night before. Looking at the box of contraceptive pills, Madeline’s heart started to tremble. She was already pregnant and should not be

eating contraceptive pills. It would cause the baby to become deformed. “Why are you not eating? Do you want me to feed you?” When Jeremy saw that Madeline was not moving, he was slightly agitated. “Madeline, I’m telling you. Don’t even think about having my child. You’re just a shameless lowlife who would bite the hand that feeds you. You do not deserve to have my child!” The man’s words struck Madeline’s heart. It was already summer, but Madeline could feel a cold breeze invading her heart violently. She had thought that the child would be the breakthrough to their relationship, but it looked like she had been too naive. Now, she did not even have the courage to tell the man that she was pregnant with his child. Thus, under Jeremy’s cold and watchful gaze, she had no choice. She took out a pill and pretended to swallow it. In reality, she hid the pill under her tongue. Madeline felt

guilty. She was scared that Jeremy would see through her. However, at this time, his phone rang. Jeremy looked at the caller ID and answered the call without hesitating. Immediately, his eyebrows knitted together. “What? Meredith tried to kill herself? I’m coming now!” Madeline was shocked by the news. Mer had tried to kill herself? She ignored the discomfort in her body and cleaned herself up quickly. Then, she put on a random piece of clothing and ran downstairs. Jeremy had started the car and was about to drive away. However, the door of the passenger seat suddenly flew open. “Take your filthy hand away. Who permitted you to sit in my car?” The man’s cold and heartless words caused Madeline to quickly take her hand away. She was as lowly as dirt whenever she looked at Jeremy. “Jeremy, I’m worried about Mer. Let me go with you.” “You’re worried? Shouldn’t you be the happiest if

Meredith has died?” He looked at her coldly with despise in his eyes. Then, he stepped on the gas. Madeline’s face was white. After standing in a daze for a few seconds, she called a car and tailed Jeremy’s car. In City Center Hospital, Madeline followed Jeremy to a room. In there, she watched with a worried look on her face as Jeremy walked toward the bed. At this moment, Meredith could be seen sitting on the bed with a pale face. Her eyes were wet, and she looked upset. However, it was fortunate that she was not in danger. Madeline let out a sigh of relief. When Meredith saw Jeremy, her face

fell. She fell into his arms devastatingly. “**Jeremy...**” She called out Jeremy’s name sweetly and told him her grievances while being wrapped in his arms. In Madeline’s eyes, Jeremy and Meredith looked like a loving couple, while she was just an outsider. Madeline suppressed the sadness in her

heart and walked forward. “**Mer...**” “Madeline you thankless wench! How dare you come and see Meredith!” Just when Madeline was about to walk over, an angry voice scolded from behind her. The voice was familiar. It was Meredith’s mother, Rose Tanner. Madeline turned around and received a heavy slap across her face. Consequently, her vision turned blur from the impact of the slap. “You shameless harlot! We adopted you out of kindness. We fed you, we clothed you, and in the end, you became the ungrateful wench that snatched away Meredith’s fiance!” All of a sudden, Rose began talking about how she had slept with Jeremy three months ago. However, she had not planned for it to happen. Madeline wanted to explain herself, but she received another slap on the other side of her face. The corner of her lips started bleeding after the slap. Furthermore, she began seeing stars and

almost fell down as a result. Afterward, Jon Crawford, her father, shouted in her ear. “Madeline, from this day onward, you’re no longer a Crawford. We don’t have a daughter who’s so shameless as to do anything to get what she wants!” After he said that, Jon kicked Madeline.

Chapter 3

Madeline fell to the floor after being kicked out of nowhere. She protected her stomach subconsciously. Afterward, before she could explain, Jon slapped her on her head again. “You b*tch! Why would Meredith kill herself for someone like you! You’re the one who deserves to die!” Through gritted teeth, Jon spat out each and every word. He despised Madeline to the bone. “Dad, it’s fine. I’m not destined to be with Jeremy. I don’t blame Maddie.” The sound of Meredith sobbing slowly began to sound from the other end of the room. The corner of Madeline’s lips were

bleeding, and her head was buzzing from pain. She endured the pain and lifted her head. As a result, she saw Meredith leaning against Jeremy's chest. Consequently, tears could be seen in her eyes. Jeremy was holding the sobbing Meredith. His eyes were filled with gentleness as he protected the her. The scene looked comforting, but it stabbed Madeline right in the heart. If that thing had not happened, Jeremy's wife would be Meredith and not a feral child who was lodging under another person's roof. Despite not being the one who had planned what had happened, at this moment, she felt extremely guilty. "Mer, you're still helping that b*tch at this moment? If she had not set that trap, you'd be Mrs. Whitman now! You wouldn't be so sad as to want to kill yourself because you were separated from Jeremy. You're too kind for still helping her!" Jon felt indignant for his daughter. "Dad,

stop saying that.” Meredith sighed and looked at Madeline with hurtful eyes. “Maddie, if you liked Jeremy, you could’ve told me. I wouldn’t have fought over him with you. Why did you do that just to get him? I’m so disappointed in you.” “Mer, I didn’t...” “How dare you say that it wasn’t you!” Jon was livid. “Are you still trying to be stubborn, you b*tch? Alright, I’ll kill you!” Jon lifted a chair in the room after he said that. On the other hand, Madeline cowered in fear and her hands went to protect her stomach. “Why are you still here? Do you want to be killed?” Jeremy said coldly. Jon froze as he held the chair. Madeline trembled and hurriedly got up from the floor. For the sake of her unborn child, she had to get out of there fast. She lowered her head in front of the onlookers and people who criticized her. She covered her swollen face and ran away with a limp. When she got to the entrance,

she noticed her phone was not with her. Thus, she had to turn back. When she reached the entrance of the lift, the door coincidentally opened at the same time. Subsequently, Madeline saw Jeremy walk out of there by accident. He was standing upright and unafraid. His delicate features were the most outstanding ones in the crowd. However, what made Madeline curious was why he was leaving so quickly. Shouldn't he stay with Meredith longer? She did not dare to think too much. Hence, she lowered her head and walked into the lift. She was like a shameful thief. She walked up to Meredith's door and spotted her phone in the corner of the wall. Madeline wanted to leave after she got her phone. However, the moment she bent down, she heard Meredith's energetic laugh come from inside the room. "Hmph, I feel so happy when I think about how that country bumpkin was beaten until she could

not lift her head.” Country bumpkin? Madeline was in disbelief. Was that country bumpkin her? “Hmph, if I hadn’t walked into the wrong room that night, I would’ve been the one who had spent the night with Jeremy! How could I let that country bumpkin benefit from it? I feel so disgusted whenever I think about how Jeremy was tarnished by that country bumpkin!” After Meredith said that, Madeline’s face turned white. She froze and felt as if it was suddenly hard to breathe. The truth had started to surface but she did not have the courage to believe it.

Chapter 4

Madeline could not link the woman calling her names with Meredith. Ever since she entered the Crawford Family and met Meredith, she had felt that the latter was a young lady who was magnanimous, elegant, kind, and gentle. **However, right now...** “I’m so mad! I wasted

so much time and effort by forming the perfect plan and making Jeremy drink that drugged beverage. I had even called reporters to photograph and record evidence of me spending the night with Jeremy the first thing in the morning so that Old Man Whitman would agree to let me marry Jeremy. Who knew I had misread the room number and slept with a wretched-looking tramp. I accidentally let Madeline benefit from it!" So, this was the truth; this was the true face of the good sister who had been trying to beg for mercy on her behalf a few minutes ago. Madeline's heart was now beating extremely fast. She felt extreme feelings of lament hysteria. This was the precious darling that was so kind and gentle in Jeremy's eyes. She was a sweet-tempered and easy-mannered young lady in everyone's eyes. Not to mention, she was her big sister that she had held in high respect all this

while. “You’re an idiot as well. How could you have entered the wrong room?” Meredith’s mother, Rose, complained. “I wanted it to be more fun so I took the drugs as well. How would I have known that it would be so potent?” Meredith’s tone became agitated. “What should we do next? I don’t want her to stay in the position of Mrs. Whitman for another second! Jeremy is my man!” “It’s simple. Just look at how worried Jeremy was just now. As long as you say the word, he’ll definitely divorce that feral child!” Jon was confident. Rose began laughing delightfully. “Your father is right. Jeremy was forced by that old man to marry her. The person he loves is you. As long as you say something, the position of Mrs. Whitman will belong to you!” Meredith smirked. “Who does that b*tch think she is? How dare she fight with me over Jeremy. If her bone marrow didn’t match mine, she’d never have been allowed to

step foot into our home. Do you know how disgusted I feel every time I have to call her my sister?" Upon hearing Meredith's words, Madeline felt her vision begin to turn dark. She could also feel a chill creeping up from the bottom of her feet. The Crawfords had not adopted her out of good intentions but because Meredith needed her bone marrow. Throughout the past five years, Meredith had been calling Madeline her sister merely as a hypocritical show of affection. Whenever she was not around, Madeline was nothing to them. Heh. How ironic. Madeline felt nauseous all of a sudden. The ugly truth made her feel extremely uncomfortable. "How annoying! I purposely set up this fake suicide scene to make Jeremy divorce that b*tch. However, before I had the chance to talk him into it, he had to leave for some emergency meeting," Meredith complained, annoyed. Meredith's suicide attempt had

been set up as well; Meredith had been putting up a show for Jeremy so that it would trigger him to divorce Madeline as soon as possible. Madeline felt that the whole thing was suddenly ridiculous. How could a smart and wise man like Jeremy fall for a woman like Meredith? “Mer, don’t worry. I’ll call Jeremy later and tell him that b*tch came here to cause trouble again; she triggered you to attempt suicide after an emotional breakdown. I’m sure he’ll agree to divorce her when that happens.” Rose’s plan sounded from inside the room, and Meredith seemed satisfied with it. “Mom, you’re so smart. Let’s do that!” Madeline’s last hope for their affection crumbled in the blink of an eye. She chuckled lightly and walked in after pushing the door open without any hesitation. “I too believe that as long as I’m alive, the position of Mrs. Whitman will never go to you, Meredith!”

Chapter 5

They had not expected Madeline to appear and say those things. The three people in the room froze. After a few seconds, Meredith's expression changed. The usual gentle and easy-mannered expression on her face disappeared. On the contrary, she looked extremely vile. "Madeline, why are you still here?" Madeline's eyes were red. She chuckled sarcastically and said, "Aren't I just in time to take part in the plan that you guys just proposed?" Meredith realized what had happened and her face fell. "How dare you eavesdrop on us!" Madeline said, "Yeah, if I hadn't heard what you said, I would've never known that my good sister is such a shameless, two-faced b*tch!" "How dare you call Meredith that, you brat! You're digging your own grave!" Rose angrily reached out her hand; she was about to hit Madeline again. "Mom, why do you want to get angry at this

country bumpkin without parents?” Meredith scoffed and glanced at Madeline. She looked very calm. “My dear sister, for the sake of our relationship, you had better agree to divorce Jeremy. I’m afraid you won’t be able to bear the consequences if you don’t agree to it.” Madeline was no longer going to fake their relationship that she had used to so carefully preserve. After all, their relationship had merely been a hypocritical show of affection. Madeline looked at Meredith, and the former was even calmer than her. “If you beg me now, I might consider it.” “What?” Meredith’s expression changed, and she looked at Madeline as if the latter was mentally challenged. “You brat, are you insane?” Rose shrieked angrily. Madeline burst out laughing after seeing the mother and daughter’s faces. “Yeah, I’m insane. So, I’ll dominate Jeremy along with the position of Mrs. Whitman forever!” “Madeline, don’t

be so shameless!” Meredith was enraged. “I won’t let you get away with this!” “I’ve already gotten away with it. At least now everyone in Glendale knows that Mrs. Whitman is Madeline Crawford and not you.” After saying that, Madeline turned around, leaving Meredith who was now shrieking and yelling in anger. Nonetheless, Madeline ignored her completely. After Madeline left the hospital, she went to a hospital for women and children. She was worried that the baby had been affected by what Jeremy had done the night before and the fall earlier. There were a lot of people in line and most of them were pregnant ladies. Most of them had their husbands and families with them. Seeing their happy smiles, Madeline felt like a joke. She had the child of the man that she loved, but this man was in love with another woman. It had not been like this in the past. Back then, he had held her hand

and told her that he would marry her when they grew up. He was now married to her, but he had been forced to do so reluctantly. The child was fine, and Madeline let out a sigh of relief. Subsequently, Madeline went back home. When she stepped into the house, she heard the entrance door swing open with a heavy slam. She turned around and saw that Jeremy had returned as well. He was very good-looking, but there was a heavy aura of ruthlessness in his eyes. “Did you go looking for Meredith again?” Jeremy’s voice was extremely cold. Madeline figured that Meredith had told him about what happened.

Hence, she was open and candid. “I did go **there, but...**” “Madeline you’re so evil!”

Jeremy’s angry words sliced through Madeline’s heart like a thousand glass shards; an invisible pain started to spread across her body. She dumbly looked at the man who was walking toward her. His deep

eyes were filled with iciness. “You told Meredith that you’d still pester me even if you died, and you’d never give her a chance to worm her way into the Whitman Family, is that right?” Madeline’s face was white. She had never said those things. She wanted to explain, but Jeremy angrily grabbed her wrist and threw her onto the sofa.

Chapter 6

“No! Jeremy...” Madeline’s face was white from fear. She was horrified by Jeremy’s actions. She had never seen such a cold and violent side of Jeremy before. She was scared that the child in her stomach would cease to exist because of him. However, Jeremy did not give her a chance to run away. He imprisoned her in his arms. She had never thought that Jeremy hated her this much. After a very long time, Madeline only felt excruciating pain all over her body. Consequently, she fell into a deep slumber,

and in her dream, was sent back to that wonderful summer day 12 years ago. The sun was shining brightly on the beach and there was a Camphor tree. Young Madeline was picking seashells by the shore. She looked at the quiet boy who was sitting on a rock from afar. He looked unhappy. That was the first time she met Jeremy. He was only 12 years old but was already good looking. He had a tall yet slender body. However, he looked very upset. Young Madeline carefully approached him while wearing nothing on her feet. She handed him a colorful shell that she had spent a lot of time looking for. “Hello, this is for you. I hope you can be happy forever.” At that moment, Jeremy looked at her through the corner of his eyes. His thin eyes were filled with caution. He was wearing a branded tracksuit. Even his shoes were limited edition. On the other hand, Madeline was wearing a dress that had

started to turn white from constant washing. The two of them looked like they were from different worlds. Eventually, he still reached out his hand to Madeline. They ran into each other again the next day at the same time. He handed her a cup of milk tea and said it was a gift in return for her present. Madeline accepted it while beaming. That was the first time she tasted milk tea. It was very delicious. Nonetheless, Jeremy looked at her and thought that her smile was even sweeter than the milk tea. During that summer, they ran into each other at the beach again and again. Whenever they ran into each other, they would play together. One day, Madeline's foot was sliced open by a few glass shards. Jeremy was the one who carried her to the clinic. At that time, she was leaning against his back, and her cheeks were red from having basked in the sunset. Furthermore, her heart was beating

extremely fast. She blushed and circled her arms around Jeremy. “Jeremy, I w-want to stay with you forever. I want to play with you every day.” Jeremy answered her without hesitating, “Alright. When I grow up, I’ll make you my bride. That way, we will be able to play with each other every day.” However, after that naive and innocent promise, they were separated for years. She had not expected to never see him again after saying goodbye that day. When she ran into him again, he was already someone who everyone looked up to. Not to mention, he already had a woman that he loved—Meredith. After waking up, Madeline opened her eyes tiredly. What she saw next was a foreign environment. Additionally, she felt her entire body ache. Every time she moved, debilitating pain overwhelmed her. “Oh, I thought you were dead. You finally decided to open your eyes, huh?” A woman’s voice

sounded next to her, and it sounded extremely sarcastic. Madeline lifted her head and saw Meredith's beautiful face. Her foxy eyes were filled with rage and jealousy. Jealousy? Madeline did not understand what she was jealous of. "Madeline, you're the most special woman I've ever seen. You even use this kind of way to get hospitalized." Hospitalized? Madeline looked around her and saw that she was indeed in the hospital. She recalled what had happened before she fell asleep, and suddenly, she understood why Meredith was jealous. She felt that it was very ironic, however, she smiled victoriously. "You b*tch!" Upon seeing her expression, Meredith's veins began to protrude. "Madeline, you shameless wh*re!"

Chapter 7

Meredith started yelling at her while jealousy made her face twist in a horrifying way. Madeline smiled nonchalantly. "As

Jeremy's wife, I'm happy to rid him of his troubles." "**Madeline, you... you're so cheap!**" "I can't compare to you, Mer. You drugged Jeremy so that you could marry him. Why? Had Jeremy refused to touch you when he was sober?" Meredith's face looked awkward as if Madeline had exposed something. However, she kept a calm and proud expression. "Of course, Jeremy loves touching me. He loves pestering me so much! He's always by my side every night unlike compared to you. You can only stay at home while your husband is away." Meredith's words were laced with thorns. Subsequently, she took out some documents and placed them in front of Madeline. "These are the divorce papers Jeremy asked me to tell you to sign. Hurry up and sign them. Jeremy doesn't want to see an unsophisticated and poor hussy like you ever again." Madeline had gone through many things to put on a mask

that made her look confident and at ease. However, she froze when she saw the divorce papers. Divorce. Jeremy wanted to divorce her. Madeline felt as if she had fallen into an icy cave. It was so cold that every cell in her body was in pain. She had known that this day would come. However, she had not expected it to come so fast. Jeremy loved Meredith. In this chase of love, Madeline was the loser. She was destined to suffer a crushing defeat. Looking at Madeline's face that was beginning to pale, Meredith started laughing savagely. "Madeline, just look at you. Jeremy will never fall in love with a woman like you. Jeremy had told me multiple times that you're the most disgusting and shameless woman he has ever seen. Marrying you was the biggest taint of his life!" Meredith walked over and glanced at Madeline in disdain. The latter's head was lowered as she looked at the divorce papers. On the other

hand, Meredith chuckled coldly and became more and more arrogant. “You shameless b*tch! Get out of Glendale after you’ve signed the papers. If not, I’ll beat you up every time I see you!” “Hmph.” Out of the blue, Meredith heard a chuckle from Madeline. In the next second, Madeline picked up the divorce papers, and with a few swift motions, ripped them into pieces. A smile appeared on her pale lips, and she threw the pieces of paper at Meredith’s face. “Just like what you told Jeremy, I’ll pester him even after I die. You want me to divorce Jeremy? In your dreams!” “What?” Meredith was infuriated after being stunned. “How dare a b*tch like you speak to me like that, Madeline! Are you tired of living?” Her cruel nature had been exposed. Meredith reached out her hand to swing it at Madeline’s face. In the heat of the moment, she had not expected Madeline to take

action first. Madeline used all of her might and forcefully slapped Meredith on the face. “Listen here, Meredith. I will never divorce Jeremy even if I die! I’ll expose your true face to Jeremy. A woman who’s so evil and heartless like you is no match to Jeremy!” After she said that, Madeline began trembling all over. After finding out that she was just a pawn in Meredith’s devious scheme, she completely gave up on their relationship. No, she should say that there was no longer any sisterly love nor family love between them. There were only hypocritical acts of affection and calculative schemes. “Madeline, how dare you slap me!” Meredith exclaimed. Her features were twisted. “I’ll make you regret this!” She pointed at Madeline and turned around angrily. Madeline was unbothered. She sat back on the bed, unsure if she had exerted too much force because her debilitating pain was back again.

After a while, Meredith returned. The moment she entered the room, she sat on the floor and held her face. She looked extremely aggrieved. “Maddie, don’t be like this. It’s all my fault. Please don’t be mad. You should just put all the blame on me. However, don’t be mad at the child in my stomach. This is Jeremy’s child.” What? Madeline was extremely confused. However, when she saw the man at the door, she understood everything.

Chapter 8

What a spectacular performance. Madeline could not find any mistakes in the performance that she had put on. It was just that Madeline had not expected Meredith to be pregnant as well. However, was Meredith’s child Jeremy’s? Madeline remembered that Meredith had slept with a tramp after accidentally entering the wrong room in her plan to harm her three months ago. If she

really was pregnant, the father of the child was still up for discussion. Nevertheless, Madeline could not deny that Jeremy had always spent the night with this woman. When she thought about this, the pain in her heart started to spread. However, that pain could not compare to the pain she felt when she saw Jeremy holding Meredith gently with so much affection and care. Meredith covered her face and cried pitifully. “Jeremy, don’t blame Maddie. It’s all my fault. I shouldn’t have fallen in love with you. On the other hand, I hope you can talk to Maddie so that she won’t **hurt our baby...**”

When Meredith mentioned the child, Madeline could clearly see the changes in Jeremy’s expression. Jeremy swiftly lifted his head to look at her intensely. His cold gaze shot at her as if it were a knife made from ice. “Madeline!” Jeremy was livid. He had never called her name in a gentle manner.

Whenever he called her, his tone would be laced with intense hatred or rage. “She forced me.” Madeline was trying hard not to break down. “Jeremy, don’t be fooled by her.

That woman is not who you think she is, **she...**”
“Shut up!” He interrupted coldly. His

deep voice was laced with a dangerous aura. “Did you hit Meredith just now?” Madeline bit her dry lips. “Yes.” She admitted it openly and saw Meredith break into a smirk; the latter felt very pleased with herself behind Jeremy. At this moment, Jeremy’s eyes were filled with the fire of rage. They looked like they could not wait to burn Madeline alive. “Slap!” He slapped Madeline across the face. She was utterly stunned. Consequently, she tasted blood in the corner of her mouth. It was bitter and tart. Subsequently, she felt tears sting her eyes as they rolled down her cheeks after her eyes failed to hold their weight. He had slapped her. All this while, he

had never been concerned about her. He even despised her. However, he had never once hit her. “Get over here and apologize to Meredith!” Jeremy ordered. His handsome face was covered with a layer of frost. However, there was an ominous glint in his eyes that Madelin could not understand. After Meredith was done feeling pleased with herself, she walked forward aggrievedly. “Jeremy, it’s fine. Maddie and I are sisters after all. I don’t need her to apologize to me. It’s my fault. After all, you guys are married. I shouldn’t have any contact with you, but I can’t help myself **from wanting to see you...**” “Meredith, stop pretending. This is all part of your plan!” Madeline swallowed back her tears and exposed Meredith without hesitation. Meredith was crying with a pained expression on her face. “Maddie, how can you accuse me like that? Why have you become like this?”

“I’ve become like this because a two-faced b*tch like you made me see the truth!”

“Madeline!” The man next to them was furious. He grabbed Madeline who was sitting on the bed and pulled her toward Meredith. “Apologize!” He forced her.

Chapter 9

Madeline felt so unwell it was as if her heart had been sliced a thousand times by a knife. “Jeremy, I’m telling the truth!” “To me, nothing is more important than Meredith’s feelings. What rubbish are you spewing?” His comeback was unfathomable. It was so straightforward it stabbed Madeline’s heart like a sharp sword. So, to him, the truth was not important. The important thing was that he loved Meredith and that fact trumped everything. She felt her heart sink like a rock. It was as if she had lost all hope and could only yearn for this man. Madeline smiled lamentably and said, “Alright, I’ll

apologize.” She endured the debilitating pain in her body and bowed her head to apologize to Meredith. She saw Meredith smirking in secret. That victorious smile was extremely dazzling to her. She had never thought that Jeremy would ignore the truth for Meredith. The only reason was that he loved her. He loved her so much. In the days that followed, Madelin never saw Jeremy again. She wanted to find a job to lift her spirits; she did not want to torture herself merely because Jeremy did not love her anymore. Madeline had studied jewelry design and graduated with flying colors. She sent out her resume online, and after a while, two companies invited her for interviews. After comparing the two companies, Madeline chose the company that was closer to home. She thought she could use th work to distract herself, but she still could not help but think about Jeremy. Despite how much he

resented and despised her. The early autumn nights were a little chilly, so the employees in the company had already clocked off work. On the other hand, Madeline had stayed back in the office alone to finish up her work. If she went home, she would still be all alone. Hence, she would rather stay there and numb herself with work. It was almost ten and Madeline was feeling a little hungry. She touched her stomach and remembered that she was housing a child in her womb. All of a sudden, she felt warm and satisfied. When she was about to leave, her phone's custom ringtone rang. Madeline's heart skipped a beat, and she grabbed her phone frantically. The name on the caller ID looked surreal. Jeremy was calling her voluntarily. After Madeline hesitated for a while, she answered the call happily. **"Jeremy..." "Ah... Yeah, Jeremy, you're so amazing. I love you..."** The moans of a woman were heard from the other

side of the phone. It penetrated Madeline's ears and was followed by the low groan of a man. Madeline held the phone in her hand while she felt as if her heart had plummeted from heaven to hell. An uncontrollable pang of pain attacked her heart instantly. She quickly hung up the phone, wanting to wipe those voices from her memory. However, tears had already started escaping her eyes uncontrollably. She dragged her tired body back home and took out a bottle of red wine from Jeremy's liquor cabinet. After a few gulps, Madeline finally did away with this method of torture. She could not let the baby in her stomach suffer with her. However, Madeline still got drunk in the end. In her drowsy state, she saw the man she had loved for 12 years walk toward her. He was tall and super good-looking. His temperament and looks were incredibly outstanding. This was the man that she

yearned day and night for. This was the man that she loved but could not get. Madeline threw away her glass and stumbled toward Jeremy. She circled her arms around his neck and lifted her red, drunk face to look at him. “Jeremy, I won’t allow you to be entangled with other women. If you need anything, you can come to me. I’m your wife!” She was about to go all out. She was saying something lowly that she had never said before. Madeline loved him. She loved him to the bone. She could throw away all dignity and arrogance for him. Jeremy was frustrated and pushed her away in disgust. Nonetheless, Madeline was like toffee. She threw herself at him again and even began trying to remove his clothes. Next, she tiptoed and tried to kiss him. She smelled the pungent smell of perfume on him. It was the perfume that Meredith used. Nevertheless, she forced herself to ignore

the smell and continued to behave in a wanton manner. Perhaps this was the last chance for her to get some affection from him. She was willing to become the cheapest and most shameless woman he had ever seen. She only wanted to save some beautiful memories before she left...

Chapter 10

If the alarm clock had not rung the next morning, Madeline would not have been able to wake up. Her face burned up when she recalled what she had said and done to Jeremy in her drunken state. Back in the office, Madeline could be seen working on her designs absentmindedly. She could not get rid of Jeremy's shadow in her head. It had been 12 years. It would be impossible for her to let go of this profound love in just one day. She touched her flat stomach absentmindedly. If possible, she wanted to give the child the perfect family. "Ding!"

Suddenly, a notification from her phone snagged her back to reality. She glanced at it and saw that it was a text message. It was from Jeremy! Madeline's heart started beating unrhythmically. Her hands even started to tremble as she opened the message. The first thing Madeline saw was a photo. It was a photo of Madeline and Meredith. They had taken this picture when she was adopted by the Crawfords. In the photo, Meredith was wearing an expensive dress. The light was shining down on her beaming face, and she was like an untouched princess. She looked so elegant and exceptional. On the other hand, Madeline was wearing a greyish white dress. She looked as lowly as an ugly duckling in a dark corner. Below the photo was Jeremy's message. When she saw the contents of it, the temperature of her fingertips plummeted. 'Madeline, look at Meredith and then look at

yourself. How will a filthy and lowly woman like you ever meet the qualifications of being my wife?' The words stabbed her eyes like a knife made from ice. They were so heart-wrenching and unpleasant to the eye. She recalled the summer 12 years ago. She could not handle the cruelty and resentment Jeremy had for her now. 'Jeremy, you once said that I was the kindest and cutest girl you've ever seen. You said that you'd take me as your bride so that you could be with me forever. But what's going on now?' Madeline's heart was beating very fast. She knew she could not let this go. She immediately added on, 'Jeremy, I know you have your prejudices against me, but I'm pregnant now. Please give me a chance to love you and a chance for the child to have a complete family, okay?' After Madeline sent the message, she felt anxious and nervous. Nevertheless, she was looking forward to his reply. She wondered if

Jeremy would be happy if he knew she had his child. Would he also look forward to the birth of the child? Nevertheless, in the blink of an eye, her fantasies were crushed. Jeremy replied to her message with only two words, 'Abort it.' Madeline's felt as if her heart was being sliced open by a sharp tool. Before her pain could ease, Jeremy sent another message, 'Madeline, I'm warning you. Only Meredith has the right to give birth to my children. A shameless b*tch like you should just sign the divorce papers immediately and get the hell away from me! If you don't sign the papers, I'll kill that bastard child with my own hands.' The blood in Madeline's body froze instantly. Those sharp words were filled with humiliation, and it was like he was trampling on her. At the same time, this bone-deep pain made Madeline come to the realization that this man was not worth it. He was not worthy for

her to love so blindly. ... Over on the other

end, Meredith deleted all of the messages she had sent moments ago. Her hands were still sweating even after doing so. She was afraid that she would leave traces and that Jeremy would find out the truth. Two years prior, she had found Madeline's diary along with a bookmark when she was rummaging through the latter's room. Jeremy's signature was on the bookmark. The date stated it was ten years ago. Thus, it was obvious that Madeline and Jeremy had met each other ten years ago. Not to mention, they had a romantic agreement between them. However, back then, Madeline's name was not Madeline, and Jeremy did not recognize her as the little girl who made an agreement with him. With that, she managed to exploit the situation. The automatic glass door opened with a click, and Jeremy's tall build appeared at the door. Meredith was

sitting on his desk, and her face changed immediately. She hurriedly got up and placed Jeremy's phone back in its place as if nothing had happened.

Chapter 11

Madeline returned to the empty villa and thought about the divorce papers as well as the reply Jeremy had given her. Her heart was hurting as if it had been sliced by a knife. She had not thought that Jeremy hated her so much. He was so heartless that he could tell her to abort the baby so easily. Madeline was afraid. If Jeremy really wanted to do it, what should she do? At this moment, noises came from the front door. Jeremy was back. He was standing upright and looked elegant. Madeline was surprised, but she felt even more nervous. She was scared that Jeremy would force her to abort the child. However, to her surprise, Jeremy neither mentioned the divorce nor the

abortion. On the other hand, he reminded her to go back to Whitman Manor with him the coming day as his wife because it was his mother's 50th birthday. This surprised Madeline. Did this mean that he was trying to accept her? However, her extravagant hopes were crushed by him immediately. The man's eyes were cold and so were his words. "Madeline, don't even think about me changing my mind about you. I'll never fall in love with a woman as shameless as you." His cruel words penetrated Madelin's heart like a sharp knife. Madeline felt that this was very amusing. She looked at Jeremy and there was a mischievous smile on her pristine face. "I am cheap, that's why I'm tarnishing myself by chasing a man that will never love me. However, how can I compare to your darling with my level of cheapness?" The man froze while he was removing his suit jacket. He turned around, and his handsome face was

covered in a layer of icy wrath. “Madeline, do you want to get beaten up?” “I’m telling you the truth. Jeremy, do you know why you slept with me three months ago?” Madeline walked up to him, and her eyes were filled with confidence as she said, “It was Meredith. She planned all of it “She had planned to sleep with you, but due to a freak combination of factors, she slept with another stranger instead. Now that she’s pregnant, the child in her stomach might not be yours!” After she said that, Jeremy’s face turned terrifyingly dark. He reached out his hand and forcefully pulled Madeline toward him. Subsequently, his cold hand grabbed her slender neck, and every knuckle on his hand began exerting force. Madeline struggled to breathe as he choked her. “Do you think I’d believe you? Do you think a shameless woman like you can be compared to Meredith?” After Jeremy said that, he pushed Madeline

away. When she could finally breathe, she did not have time to find her footing, so she stumbled backward and fell. Consequently, her stomach landed right on the corner of the bed. An excruciating pain washed all over her, and she was in so much pain that she started to sweat cold sweat. She clutched her stomach and begged for help from

Jeremy who had his back toward her. “Jeremy, **I’m in pain...**” Jeremy stopped and

glanced at Madeline on the ground coldly. “Your acting is getting better and better. I wouldn’t care about you even if something were to happen to you, let alone when you’re fine.” Nothing could hurt Madeline more than his words. She passed out quickly, and when she regained consciousness, it was the next day. She recalled what had happened before she passed out, and her pupils constricted. She touched her stomach frantically. The doctor on duty walked in at the same time.

When she saw Madeline's face, she looked at her in disdain. "Your child is safe for now." Madeline quivered. Her eyes were filled with fear. "Doctor, what do you mean for now?" "It means that you have a tumor in your uterus, and it's malignant. So, you have to abort the child or your life will be in danger as well."

Chapter 12

Madeline was stunned. Her mind was completely blank. "Maddie, Maddie." After some time, Madeline heard someone calling her name. She came back to her senses and saw a familiar face. It was her only best friend, Ava Long. Ava looked at Madeline who was extremely pale; she felt extremely angry and worried. "Madeline, you're such a bad friend. Why didn't you tell me such big news?" Madeline was confused. "Ava, why are you here?" "You're one to say. You called me last night, but before you could finish

talking, you passed out,” Ava reached out her hand to touch Madeline’s forehead as she spoke. “Madeline, did you lose your memory?” Of course, Madeline had not lost her memory. She remembered Jeremy choking her before leaving her the night prior. Consequently, she hit her stomach on the corner of the bed and was in so much pain that could not get up. Nevertheless, he just walked away without a care in the world. He even said those heartless things before he left. Her heart was sliced open, and the pain penetrated her bones. Ava turned around and sat on the bed. Her expression was serious. “Where’s Jeremy? He’s your husband. You’re hospitalized and he’s nowhere to be seen.” Madeline averted her gaze in guilt. “Jeremy is busy.” “He’s busy staying with his mistress, Meredith, huh?” Ava hit the nail on the head. “Madeline, you’re so crazy about that man that you’ve become confused and disoriented.

You're in this state, and you're still helping him." Madeline laughed at herself. "It's all because I like him." "I think you won't be able to like him for long." Ava's words were still straightforward. "Did you hear what the doctor said just now?" Madeline was stunned once again. Ava looked at her, and she felt a lump form in her heart. "You can have another child in the future. Your life is more important." Madeline laughed at herself. "There won't be any." Ava looked at her in confusion. When she was about to say something, Madeline suddenly held her hand. "Ava, don't tell anyone about this. Especially, Jeremy." "Madeline, are you insane? Do you want to kill yourself for the child?" Ava stood up emotionally. However, just as she was about to yell at Madeline, her phone's custom ringtone rang. Madeline was stunned. She looked at the caller ID and answered after a few seconds. Jeremy's was heard

from the other end of the phone. “Madeline, are you doing this on purpose?” The man’s accusations confused Madeline. “If I don’t see you in the house in half an hour, you can forget about showing up ever again.” Madeline finally remembered what Jeremy had told her the night before. Today was his mother’s 50th birthday. She had to go over as his wife. When she was about to agree, Ava snatched her phone away. “Jeremy

Whitman, is this how a husband should behave? Don’t **you know that your wife is...**”

Madeline was scared that Ava would tell him about the tumor, so she snatched back the phone. “I’ll go over right now!” After she said that, she hung up the phone. She did not dare waste another second. Ava was resentful toward Madeline for failing to meet her expectations. However, she had no choice. Before she sent Madeline into the cab, Ava reminded Madeline very sternly to

take care of herself. Madeline nodded in agreement. When Madeline arrived at Whitman Manor, the party had already started. A lot of nicely-dressed socialites and wealthy women could be seen chatting in the garden. Since Madeline had come straight from the hospital, she was wearing a casual, grey outfit. She looked like she was from another world. Thus, she lowered her head. Just as she was about to look for Jeremy, a woman turned around and bumped into her. The wine splashed out from the woman's glass as she was passing by. "My dress!" The woman exclaimed. She glared at Madeline angrily. "Can't you watch where you're going? Are you blind? How can the Whitmans have such an insensible maid like you?"

Chapter 13

The woman's shrill accusations attracted a lot of people's stares. Nevertheless,

Madeline tried to remain polite. “Madam, you’re the one who bumped into me just now. Plus, I’m not the Whitmans’ maid.” The woman was stunned. Then, she looked at Madeline’s outfit. A smile of disdain appeared on her elegant face. “You don’t look like a maid at all. You look more like a beggar from the streets.” Subsequently, sniggers were heard from one side. Nevertheless, Madeline did not want to argue with her anymore. However, just as she was about to leave, she saw Meredith walking over. She was dressed to the nines and had nice makeup on her face. When she saw Madeline, she displayed a shocked expression. “Oh, it’s you, Maddie.” When the woman heard what Meredith had said, she looked at Madeline in contempt. “Mrs. Whitman, you know this stupid beggar?” Madeline was stunned. This woman thought Meredith was Jeremy’s wife. However, it was obvious that Meredith was

not going to correct her. On the contrary, she gave the woman a smile. “Mrs. Langford, please just let this go for my sake.” “Since Mrs. Whitman has said the word, I’ll just let it go.” The woman looked at Madeline in agitation. “Watch where you’re going next time!” Madeline was about to tell her who she was, but Meredith stopped her and grabbed her arm with a concerned expression on her face. “Maddie, are you okay? Are you hurt?” Madeline looked at her pretentious face and felt disgusted. Nonetheless, as she was about to walk away, someone grabbed her arm. “Don’t go yet!” It was that woman from just now, and she was furious. “No wonder you ran into me on purpose. You wanted to steal my bracelet!” How weird. Madeline felt that it was preposterous. On the other hand, Meredith quickly ran over to explain on her behalf, “Mrs. Langford, this has to be a mistake. Maddie once had the habit of

pocketing things that did not belong to her, but she has changed now.” It did not sound like an explanation at all. Instead, it sounded like proof that Madeline was indeed a thief. The accusations became louder and louder around them. Madeline was worried that it would ruin the Whitmans’ reputation, so she explained, “I’ve never stolen anything!” “If it wasn’t you, then who was it?” The woman was sure that it was Madeline. “My bracelet must be on you right now! Do you dare let me search you?” Madeline knew that she was innocent, so it was fine if she wanted to search her. However, at this moment, Meredith quickly walked over and touched Madeline’s pocket. “Mrs. Langford, I think

this is just a misunderstanding. Maddie has changed. She wouldn’t **steal again...**” Before she finished saying that, her expression changed. Then, she looked at Madeline in disappointment before taking out an

expensive bracelet from Madeline's front pocket. "Maddie, I didn't think you'd do this." Madeline was shocked. She had not taken anything from anyone, but they had found that bracelet in her pocket. "You're indeed the one who stole my bracelet, you beggar!" The woman took out her phone to call the cops. Madeline started to feel anxious. Today was Jeremy's mother's 50th birthday party. If her daughter-in-law was sent to the police based on accusations that she was a thief, it would affect the reputation of the Whitmans greatly. It was fine that she be falsely accused, but the Whitmans' reputation was more important. More and more guests gathered around them. At this moment, Meredith looked extremely disappointed. "Maddie, I know that ever since you were a kid, you never saw anything good. That's why you have the habit of pocketing things. However, how could you do it at a time like

this?” “I didn’t!” Madeline explained again, but no one believed her. She suddenly remembered that Meredith had deliberately tried to get close to her just now and immediately came to a realization. Meredith was the one that had planted the bracelet on her! At the same time, the woman had already called the cops. After a while, the cops arrived. They were going to take Madeline to make a statement at the station.

Chapter 14

Madeline was about to be taken away. At this moment, a poised woman walked over to Mrs. Langford and mumbled something in her ear. Immediately, Mrs. Langford’s expression changed. She looked at Madeline in disbelief and then said that it was all a misunderstanding. Madeline did not know what was going on. When she looked at the woman’s face, she noticed that she was glaring at her in disgust. Her eyes made

Madeline extremely uncomfortable. At this moment, Meredith walked over. “Maddie, that’s Jeremy’s mother. It’s fine now. You don’t have to go to the station anymore, but you have to promise me not to do something as embarrassing as this again.” Meredith said in a concerned tone. Madeline tried to explain, but Jeremy’s mother walked away after looking at her in dissatisfaction. Meredith smirked. She followed after her and stayed by Jeremy’s mother’s side. It was as if they were a loving mother and daughter-in-law duo. Some sniggers sounded in her ears, and there were also some light chuckles. Mrs. Whitman was someone that unsophisticated to even be involved with theft! It was a colossal joke. Madeline felt aggrieved and helpless when faced with the suspicious gazes around her. Thus, she turned around and went into the house. Finally, she spotted Jeremy. However, when

Jeremy saw Madeline covered in dust, sloppily dressed, he wore a look of agitation on his face. “Today is my mother’s birthday. Not only are you late, but you’re also wearing this. Plus, you even dared to steal from someone. Are you bored with life?” He accused in a frigid tone. Madeline smiled bitterly. She had gone to the hospital because of his rough treatment the night before. Not to mention, she had almost lost their child. Before she could register the fact about the tumor when she was in the hospital, she had to rush here. To top it off, the moment she stepped foot past the door, she was met with an incident. She did not even have time to dress up. Madeline looked at the man’s solemn face. “Jeremy, I didn’t steal anything. It’s **Meredith**...” “You’re light-fingered, and you still want to blame Meredith for finding the bracelet in your pocket. Madeline, aren’t you ashamed of

yourself?” ‘Madeline, aren’t you ashamed of yourself?’ Madeline felt a suffocating pain in her heart. She watched Jeremy leave and headed upstairs aggrievedly. It was Jeremy’s room in the old manor, and it was her first time entering it. There were a few expensive dresses in the closet that were all from international big brands. When Madeline was about to change, Meredith walked in. She looked at Madeline’s wretched look and laughed. “Madeline, you wh*re. You don’t even look like a queen with a crown on.” Madeline chuckled lightly. “However, to be honest, I am indeed the queen while you’re just a shameless mistress.” “**You...**” Meredith was furious. “Don’t feel so pleased with yourself, Madeline. Jeremy will divorce you sooner than you think! Also, Jeremy will make you and the child in your stomach vanish!” “You should know best about who’s the one with his child.” Madeline looked at Meredith with

hatred. “You’re the one who planted the bracelet on me, right?” “Hmph, so what if it was me? Who’s going to believe you?” Meredith did not bother to put up an act anymore. She laughed as she felt pleased with herself. “Sooner or later, I’ll be Mrs. Whitman.” After Meredith left, Madeline quickly took a shower and put on a Chanel two-piece suit. Additionally, she put on some light makeup. Her eyes were bright when she looked into the mirror. She looked elegant and refined. Nevertheless, no matter how good looking she was, Jeremy would not even spare her a glance. When she thought about her condition, she touched her flat stomach and smiled. Maybe it was just like Ava had said, her fondness of Jeremy would not last because her life would end soon. The door of the room swung open at this moment, and Jeremy urged her impatiently. Madeline hid her worries and turned around to smile at

Jeremy warmly. There was a glint of shock in the man's eyes. He walked next to Madeline and reached out his hand to grab her waist intimately.

Chapter 15

His sudden intimate gesture caused Madeline's heart to beat faster. Her face also began to heat up gradually. She lifted her head to look at Jeremy. His side profile was good looking, but his face was neutral. "Grandpa is here." He said those three words coldly and Madeline understood immediately. He merely wanted to put on the act of a loving couple in front of Old Master Whitman. Madeline's heart became cold, and she felt that this was very ironic. There were no outsiders at the dining table. If there was one, it was Meredith. Old Master Whitman's eyes were kind. However, for some reason, Madeline felt that he looked familiar. It was as if she had seen him from

years ago. What surprised Madeline was how Jeremy ignored Meredith's feelings and took care of her just to make the old master happy. Not only did he take food for her, but he even peeled prawns for her. This was the first time Madeline saw Jeremy's gentle smile on a very rare occasion. Madeline lifted her head to look at Meredith. She forced herself to smile, but it was obvious she was not happy. It felt just like a dream. However, she knew that the dream would be over soon. After dinner, Jeremy held Madeline's hand to walk to the garage. His warmth reached the bottom of her heart, and her face

heated up. She wanted very badly to stay in **this moment forever... Nevertheless, reality**

was cruel. When they got to the side of the car, Jeremy swung away Madeline's hand in disgust. "Get lost." His sudden horrible attitude caused Madeline to be in a state of shock. She watched as Jeremy opened the

door considerably for Meredith who came after them. Subsequently, he watched as she got into the car before revving the vehicle and disappearing in front of Madeline. Consequently, Madeline was abandoned on the empty street. The autumn wind blew on her face, and coldness took over her heart.

Moreover, the wind blew away the fake act **of warmth and affection. ... That night,**

Jeremy did not come home as usual. While thinking about how the man she loved was holding another woman, doing something intimate, Madeline searched for all kinds of information online about her illness. Her heart was in excruciating pain. The position of her tumor was bad. There would be huge risks in the surgery. Even if they aborted the child to save her, something bad might happen to her as well. If that was the case, she was willing to risk it and give birth to the only child that she and Jeremy had. The next

day, Madeline woke up early and went for another body check in the hospital. After she got the results, she submitted to her fate. Looking at the results, Madeline started to tear up. ‘Oh Jeremy, I thought I’d at least be able to pester you for a lifetime despite you hating me and resenting me.

However, I never expected my life to be so **short...**’ She was walking on the street in a dazed state when she received a text from a stranger. When she opened it, she saw a video. It was the video of her being accused of stealing the bracelet. Coincidentally, it had captured the exact moment when Meredith secretly put the bracelet in her pocket. Madeline did not know who was the one who sent the video, but she thanked them immediately. She did not overthink things and called a car to go to Jeremy’s office. Even if she did not have much time to live, she did not want to allow that vile and

cruel woman to continue fooling Jeremy. She arrived at the building of Whitman Corporation. When she told the receptionist who she was, the person looked at her with wonder in their eyes. When Madeline walked to the lift, she could hear a lot of discussions going on about her behind her back. She opened Twitter and saw that the incident the night prior was trending. The comments were all scolding her and calling her light-fingered. In addition to that, they also said that an ugly duckling like her would always be an ugly duckling. Even after marrying an excellent man like Jeremy, she would still be cheap. Madeline grabbed her phone and ran to Jeremy's office. He had just finished a meeting when he spotted Madeline running over. His eyes were cold. "Why are you here? Don't you know how popular you are now?" He was talking about what had happened the night before. Madeline opened the video that

had anonymously been sent to her and handed it over to him. “Look closely. Look at who’s the real thief.”

Chapter 16

Jeremy finished watching the video, and there was a blank expression on his face. “Where did you get this?” he asked with a cold voice. Madeline felt that it was preposterous. “Is where I got it from important? Isn’t the truth that you’re looking at more important?” “The truth?” Jeremy lifted his head and deleted the video with a swipe of his finger. He even deleted the backup copy of it that was in Madeline’s album. Madeline was beyond shocked by his actions. She ran over hysterically to take back her phone. However, it was too late. He had emptied the deleted album folder. “Jeremy, why? Why did you do that? Are you unaware of how many people are criticizing me online now? That was the only video that

could have proven my innocence!” Madeline broke down. However, Jeremy scoffed indifferently. “What does your innocence have to do with me? Anything will suffice as long as Meredith is happy.” Jeremy’s question made Madeline speechless. Her innocence and life had nothing to do with him! He only cared about Meredith. Thus, even though that woman had done something despicable, to him, it was still tolerable. It was all because he loved her. He was blinded by love; he loved her so much that he had no principles. All of a sudden, Madeline calmed down. She looked at the man in front of her, and she could feel tears stinging the corners of her eyes. “Jeremy, would it be fine even if I were to be cyberbullied to death by netizens one day?” Jeremy did not lift his head. “Would you die?” His answer was cold. It was like a sharp knife that pierced her heart. Inch by inch, the gut-wrenching pain

spreaded from her heart to her entire body. Madeline clenched her fists. The man's handsome face was blurry due to her tears. "Jeremy, I hope you can be as indifferent as you are now when that day comes." Upon saying that, Madeline left and did not turn around. Tears could be seen rolling down her cheeks uncontrollably. She could just forget the wrongful devotion she had had for him throughout the past 12 years. She was in disbelief that she had fallen for such a man. Madeline ran out of the building, and it started raining. She was in a daze and thus did not notice a car charging toward her. "Screech!" An ear-piercing screech was heard as the brakes tightened, and Madeline lifted her head. Her vision was blurry because of the rain and her tears. Hence, she could only vaguely see a man getting out of the vehicle before running toward her. Before she could see his face, she passed

out. ... When Madeline woke up, the sky was
dark. She looked around her and realized she was in a refined apartment. Nonetheless, it was foreign. The moment she sat up, a handsome and tall man walked in through the door. After looking at him for a few seconds, Madeline asked in disbelief, “Dan?” Daniel Graham smiled gently. “Long time no see, Maddie.” It had indeed been a long time. Ever since Daniel graduated from high school, Madeline did not see him anymore. “I asked my private doctor to take a look at you just now. He said you’re fine,” Daniel handed Madeline a glass of warm water as he spoke. Madeline smiled apologetically. “I’m sorry, Dan. I caused so much trouble for you.” “It isn’t trouble at all. Everything’s fine as long as you’re okay.” Dan’s answer warmed Madeline’s heart. However, when she recalled what Jeremy had said, she felt her heart break once more. Perhaps this was the

consequence of delusional and one-sided love. It was late, and Madeline wanted to go home. However, Daniel had ordered takeout from a five-star hotel. The entire table was filled. Madeline did not want Daniel's good intentions to go to waste, so she stayed and had dinner with him. After dinner, Daniel insisted on sending Madeline home. When the car arrived in front of the villa, Dan said out of the blue, "My doctor told me you're pregnant. Does Jeremy know?" Madeline was halted in her tracks. She turned her head around and saw that the moon light was shining on Daniel's handsome face. His eyes looked kind. "He does. Of course, my husband knows that I'm pregnant." Madeline forced a smile and got out of the car. "Thank you, Dan. I'll buy you dinner next time." Daniel nodded and smiled. "I'll wait for you to call me, Maddie." "Okay." Madeline smiled and waved. She turned around after she watched

Daniel's car leave. The moment she entered the house, a cold hand viciously grabbed and pulled her arm away. Madeline had not seen it coming, and her nose crashed into the man's firm chest. The next instant, Jeremy's frigid voice was heard from the top of her head. "Madeline, you're even more of a b*tch than I imagined."

Chapter 17

The man's cold accusations rained down on Madeline, and she felt extremely ironic. "Weren't you already aware about it, Mr. Whitman?" Madeline's answer enraged Jeremy even more. He lifted her chin angrily

as he glared at her with his bottomless, black eyes that were filled with anger. "So, you went to look for your old flame, hmm?" "Old flame? He must be referring to Daniel.' Daniel had once been Jeremy's classmate. They were two years older than her and had been her seniors. When Daniel confessed to

Madeline during their graduation ceremony, everyone in school thought that they began dating afterward. Madeline did not know that Jeremy had believed those rumors as well. “Madeline, I’m telling you, even if I were to kick you out one day, don’t think that you can run away to other men. I want to see who dares pick up trash I’ve used before!” Trash. He was describing her with such words. Madeline’s heart was hurting. She pushed away the man with force that she did not know she had. “Jeremy, just because you’re not loyal to this marriage, it doesn’t mean that I’d have an affair like you! I’ve only had one man this entire time and it’s you! So, not only have you humiliated me with your words, but you’ve also humiliated yourself!” After she said that, Madeline quickly ran back to her room. On the other hand, Jeremy stood on the spot; the emptiness in his arms somehow made him fall into a daze. He lifted

his head to look at Madeline's back and frowned gently. The moonlight shone down on **his face, and his expression was unclear. ...**

Madeline went to work as usual. However, the moment she stepped into the office, she was called over by the human resources department. Her manager gave her a resignation letter immediately, and Madeline was confused. Nevertheless, he only said coldly, "Our company does not welcome light-fingered people." Madeline understood that it was the result of the video of her having 'stolen' being put online. She had had the evidence to prove her innocence. However, Jeremy had destroyed it overtly. Now, she was merely a shameless thief in everyone's eyes. Madeline felt wronged and furious. However, there was nothing she could do. In Glendale, anything would go Jeremy's way if he opened his mouth. Nevertheless, he would never help her. He even wished for her to

disappear forever. Madeline brought her resume to a few other company interviews, but they each rejected her without hesitation. Furthermore, perhaps it was a figment of her imagination, but she felt unwell. From time to time, she felt pain coming from her abdomen. Madeline was worried about her child, so she went to the hospital for a check up immediately. There were many people in the hospital. While waiting for her results, Madeline looked at the pregnant ladies that had husbands by their sides and felt envious. She did not even dare fantasize about Jeremy coming with her for a maternity checkup one day. It was virtually impossible. “Oh? Well, if it isn’t Maddie,” Meredith’s voice was suddenly heard. Madeline lifted her head and saw Meredith in a loose shirt. She was smiling at her gently. “You’re here for your maternity check up as well? Is Jeremy not here with

you?” Meredith was all smiles. She looked naive and harmless. Madeline felt a pang in her heart, but she did not want to show her weakness. “Jeremy’s not with you too. He’ll know about that bastard child in your stomach sooner or later.” Meredith’s expression changed abruptly as she became unhappy. However, in the blink of an eye, she smiled and felt pleased with herself as she said, “Oh, you mean Jeremy? He’s helping me take my results now.”

Chapter 18

Madeline had thought her comeback was brilliant, however, upon hearing Meredith’s words, she felt utterly defeated. Jeremy was there with Meredith for the latter’s maternal check-up. It was supposed to be something that a husband and wife did; Jeremy had given another woman his priority. Meredith walked in front of Madeline proudly. “Maddie, what’s wrong? Are you

upset? Heartbroken?” Madeline clenched her fists, but she refused to allow herself to lose her composure. “No, I just feel that you’re shameless.” After she said that, she let her undisturbed gaze fall on Meredith’s twisted face. “Meredith, I don’t think I’d be able to find another woman who’s as shameless and proud as you; someone who thinks so highly of herself despite only being a mistress.” **“You...”** “One day, Jeremy will know that the child in your stomach is not his.” Meredith’s hypocritical mask was being ripped off her face. However, she suddenly broke into a smile as she said, “Jeremy loves me so much that even if the baby isn’t his, he’ll still love him or her without fail. Unlike you, so what if you have his child? Not only does he not want it, but he’d never allow you to give birth to that bastard child!” Meredith gritted her teeth and grabbed Madeline who was about to turn around to leave. The next

instant, Meredith's face fell, and she started sobbing. Her voice was pretty loud as she spoke. "Maddie, please. I love Jeremy. Please give him back to me." What? "Maddie, just scream and hit me all you want. Don't hurt my baby! Ah!" Meredith screamed out of the blue, and at the same time, let go of Madeline's hand before rolling down the stairs. All kinds of looks that were filled with accusation and surprise locked onto Madeline. Someone even pointed at her and shouted, "That woman pushed a pregnant lady down the stairs!" "It wasn't me! I didn't do it!" Madeline tried her best to explain, but no one believed her. She wanted to go down to look at Meredith's condition when a force pushed her away. Madeline stumbled backward and painfully crashed into the railing. She sat on the steps and clutched her stomach which was now in excruciating pain. While the crowd criticized her, she watched

as Jeremy ran down the stairs and frantically carried Meredith who had fallen unconscious. He was her husband, but he was worried about another woman instead. He had never been concerned about her even when she was accused or berated. Madeline looked at Jeremy's back, and the temperature of her heart plummeted. 'Jeremy, why are you doing this to me? 'If having fallen for you was a mistake, I'm the biggest sinner ever.' Madeline thought that aside from not believing that she had not pushed Meredith, the most Jeremy would do was scold her viciously. She had not expected him to call the cops. Madeline no longer had any time to get her maternity results and the biopsy of the tumor. On the contrary, her wrists were put in a pair of cold handcuffs. The policeman was stern. "Madeline Crawford, according to evidence at hand and eyewitnesses, you're believed to be involved in a case of assault.

Please return with us to the station for further investigation.” Before Madeline could explain, she was brought to the interrogation room. Madeline kept on repeating that she had not pushed Meredith. However, the police then placed the so-called evidence in front of her. The security footage of the hospital showed that she had been talking to Meredith at the staircase. At that moment, Meredith’s expression was kind and friendly, while Madeline’s was icy. They then started pushing and pulling at each other. After that, Meredith was ‘pushed’ down the stairs by Madeline. Two kind pregnant ladies had even come to the station to give their testimonies. They said that Meredith had begged Madeline to not hurt her child. Then, when they turned around, they saw Meredith being pushed down the stairs by Madeline. Madeline was shocked when she saw the evidence and heard the eyewitnesses’

testimonies. She had been framed by Meredith. The latter's act had managed to fool everyone. Consequently, Madeline was brought to the lock-up. Madeline felt anxious when she saw the iron bars and dim surroundings. If she were convicted of the assault, she would definitely go to prison. However, she was pregnant at the moment. She could not let her child suffer such pain with her. At the thought of it, Madeline ran toward the iron bars frantically. "I was framed! I didn't push anyone! I want to see my husband! Please, let me see my husband!"

Chapter 19

After a while, Jeremy arrived. However, it was not because Madeline wanted to see him. Instead, he had come to criticize her violently. The light in the meeting room was dim. Nonetheless, it was enough for Madeline to see the malice and sinisteress on the man's face. Madeline was firm. "I didn't push

Meredith. She fell by herself on purpose. Jeremy, please believe me!” Upon hearing her words, Jeremy stretched out his hand. His cold hand grabbed the back of her neck tightly, and he pushed her toward him. His bottomless, black eyes were like cold daggers as he shot out a glare and said, “Not only is there evidence, but there are eyewitnesses. Yet, you still have the cheek to say it wasn’t your doing?” “I did not! Meredith framed me! I didn’t push her! I didn’t!” Madeline was having an emotional breakdown. She kept on emphasizing the truth in hopes that the man would believe her. However, Jeremy’s eyes only became more and more terrifying. His hand on the back of her neck tightened in grip. “Mer risked her life and the child in her stomach to frame you? Madeline, don’t you think your theory is pathetic?” Madeline endured the pain and looked into Jeremy’s eyes. He looked as if he was disgusted by

her. **“The child in her stomach is not...”** “Shut up!” Before Madeline could finish, she was rudely interrupted by Jeremy. Jeremy was flushed with anger as he pushed Madeline away. Madeline was in handcuffs and could not support herself. So, she fell to the ground and a debilitating pain shot up her stomach. Her face was now white, but she gritted her teeth and struggled to lift her head. “Jeremy, I did not! I really didn’t push her!” The man towered over her; his cold, dark eyes fixed on her. “Explain your bullsh*t in prison. Madeline, listen here. If anything happens to Mer and her child, I’ll bury you along with them!” His cold words hammered down on her before he left mercilessly. Cold sweat drenched Madeline’s forehead as she crawled toward the direction Jeremy was walking away in. She called out for help in despair. **“Jeremy, my stomach hurts...”** However, the man did not stop. He simply

walked away. The officer closed the iron door of the meeting room and brought Madeline back to the lock-up. That night, Madeline suffered immense pain in her stomach. She told the officer about her pregnancy, but she did not get any help. On the other hand, she was assaulted by her cellmates for no reason. Madeline protected her stomach and let the punches land on her body. The leader of the gang yanked Madeline's hair and smirked as she forcefully slapped her. "Mr. Whitman told us to take good care of you, you little b*tch. Who asked you to bully his beloved woman?" The blood in Madeline's body turned cold. This was the 'care' Jeremy had given her. She could not even begin to imagine Jeremy's cruelty. She was pregnant, yet he kept on treating her with violence. Nonetheless, he had asked her to abort the child. How could he care? In his heart, it would be best if she died. The

next day, Madeline told the officer about how she had been beaten up the night prior. However, the other party merely looked at her dumbfoundedly, “What nonsense are you spewing? How could we not know about such things?” Madeline knew it would be useless to complain. No one could afford to cross Jeremy in Glendale. Her heart was cold, and she was in despair as she looked at the dark cage. Through her vision that had been blurred by tears, she saw the scenes in her memory. ‘Jeremy, you said you’d protect me forever.’ Madeline thought that she would not have a chance to get out. However, two days later, the cops said the plaintiff had dropped the lawsuit against her, and she was released. Nevertheless, the plaintiff still reserved the right to look into this. After exiting the lock-up, she saw that the sky was grey; it was drizzling. Dragging her tired and battered body, Madeline was about to leave

when she saw Daniel in front of her. She was curious. “Dan, why are you here?” Daniel smiled at her gently and opened the car door. “I’m here for you.” Madeline was hesitant as she had not showered for two days. She was dirty and even smelled; she did not want to dirty Daniel’s car. “Get in, Maddie. I’ll send you home.” Daniel could see Madeline’s concern, but he did not mind. The rain started to pour even more. When they arrived at the villa, Madeline thanked him. Just as she was about to get out, Madeline heard Daniel’s voice, “Is Jeremy horrible to you?” Madeline turned her face away. “No. He’s great to me. Thank you, Dan. I’ll be going now.” She got out of the car in a panic and went straight into the heavy rain. Almost instantly, Madeline was drenched. When she was about to enter the house, the door opened. Next, Jeremy’s elegant and poised figure appeared in front of her.

Chapter 20

When Madeline remembered her battered self, she did not know what to do. Every woman would want to present their best selves to the man they loved. However, whenever she was with him, she would be in her worst and most torn-up state. At this moment, she was even covered in the scars he had given her. “Who allowed you to come in?” Jeremy stopped outside the door. Madeline looked at him. “This is my home.” “Your home?” The man chuckled lowly. “Do you think you have the right to call this your home?” The light in Madeline’s eyes faded. Jeremy’s words stabbed her heart like glass shards. “If Mer weren’t so kind, you would still be rotting in prison.” Jeremy’s words were laced with love for Meredith. Madeline scoffed. “Yeah, if it weren’t not for , I wouldn’t have ended up in such a place.” It was obvious that Jeremy was enraged by

what she had said. “You’re still trying to talk back at a time like this?” “Jeremy, I did not! I’m telling the truth!” Madeline clenched her fists and emphasized her words with her head high. Nonetheless, the man’s handsome face was covered by a layer of frost. He lifted his icy glare and peered at Madeline. “No, huh? Alright, get over there and kneel. I’ll believe you if you kneel until the rain stops.” Madeline was stunned, and she subconsciously touched her stomach. “Don’t you want me to believe you? Why are you still standing here?” Jeremy said in a cold voice. Madeline stood in the rain as she lifted her tearful eyes at the man who used to care about her so much in her memories.

“Jeremy,

I have...” “Jeremy, I’m hungry.” Before Madeline could finish talking, Meredith’s girly voice was heard from inside the house. So, Meredith was here. An indescribable pain started to spread all over her body.

Madeline's heart sank. It was as if it was sinking in a bottomless abyss. Jeremy peered at Madeline impatiently. "Meredith will spend the night here. If you want to enter this house, you'll have to kneel until I'm happy." After he said that, he slammed the door and turned around mercilessly. The cold rain fell onto Madeline's body. Consequently, the temperature of her heart plummeted along with the temperature of her body. The sky became dark, and Madeline saw that the lights were turned on in the master bedroom. Two shadows were casted on the curtain, and they were such a sore sight. 'Jeremy, will you really believe me?' 'At the end of the day, I still won't be able to compare to Meredith's **breath when next to you in bed...**' After that night, still in a drowsy state, Madeline was met with Meredith's smirk. "Madeline, I didn't think you'd kneel for the entire night just to get Jeremy's attention." Meredith

was speaking with a lot of energy. It seemed like the child in her stomach was fortunate to still be fine despite her having rolled down the stairs. “If you like to kneel, continue kneeling!” She cackled heinously before turning around. Madeline’s mouth was dry. She was unwell, so she did not have the energy to argue with Meredith. After having stayed in the same position for an entire night, Madeline’s limbs were extremely numb. She got up and struggled to enter the house. However, before she could walk any further, Jeremy appeared in front of her. Madeline was so tired that her knees were bent. She reached out her hand and grabbed Jeremy’s collar. Her pale lips pleaded, “Jeremy, please believe me. I really didn’t **push Meredith...**” Jeremy scoffed. “Why should I believe such a vile and heartless woman like you?” After he said that, he pushed Madeline away. Madeline’s head was in immense pain as she

sprawled on the floor; she was in so much pain that she could not get up. She clutched her stomach, and cold sweat started to form on her forehead. When she thought about the child in her stomach, Madeline used all her might to grab Jeremy's pants. "Jeremy, my stomach hurts. Please take me to the hospital." However, Jeremy only peered at her in disgust. "Madeline, you're so good at acting." **"No, Jeremy... I'm not... Jeremy, I'm in a lot of pain..."** Madeline moved her lips lightly. She could feel herself drifting in and out of consciousness. She held onto his pants. "Even if you hate me or resent me, the **child in my stomach is yours...**" "Hmph."

Jeremy scoffed. There was ridicule in his eyes. "Child? Madeline, you really can make anything up! Get lost!" Jeremy kicked away her hand that was holding his pants. Upon being kicked away, Madeline laughed lamentably. She lifted her head to look at

the frigid man in front of her. Tears fell down from her eyes as she felt an excruciating pain in her heart. “12 years ago, a boy said to me, ‘Linnie, I’ll protect and cherish you forever. I won’t let you get **hurt...**’ **So I guess those were all lies...**

Throughout the past 12 years, it was all a **pathetic obsession...** **You’re** not my Jez anymore.” What? Jeremy’s heart skipped a beat. The perfect and untouched intimate memory that he had always kept in his heart reappeared without warning. He had met a girl named Linnie at the beach that year. That girl was naive and innocent. She was cute and mischievous. He had almost fallen in love with her at first sight. In those beautiful memories, that girl would always follow him and call him Jez sweetly. He had promised her that he would stay with her forever and take her as his wife. After he found out that the girl’s name was Meredith,

Jeremy made up his mind to be good to the girl named Meredith forever. He would punish those who hurt her severely! However, why was Madeline suddenly telling him about the promise he had made when he was young? Jeremy felt as if something was going to leap out of his chest. He bent down and grabbed Madeline's shoulders with his hands. "What did you say?"

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