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"Edith..."

Meredith came to a halt in her steps, turned around, and looked at Josiah who looked defeated. She then asked, "Are you still having trouble sleeping at night?" She then reached into her bag and took out a bottle of perfume. Putting the bottle in front of him, she said, "This is my last gift for you. Take it as a parting gift, if you will. I hope you like

She then walked out the door in rushed steps.

It was only when Meredith had completely disappeared from his sight, that Josiah then turned to look at the bottle of perfume in his hand.

It was the perfume that Meredith's company had launched earlier today. He removed the packaging and sniffed the perfume. The look on his face changed gradually. It was the smell of Meredith – the smell that he had always been obsessed with.

Back then, he would always think that Meredith used this perfume to seduce him so that he would yearn for her. But he did not expect that the perfume was formulated by Meredith's mother and it was a perfume made exclusively for her.

A memory suddenly flashed across his mind.

Back then when he fell into the water and nearly drowned, there was a little girl who jumped into the water to save him and the girl had this smell on her.

So who was it that had saved him back?

Was it really Yena?

Back in her place, Yena was playing with her pet. When she heard car engine sounds coming from her porch, Yena looked out.

She was just wondering who would stop their car in front of her house when she saw Josiah getting down from his car.

Yena was excited to see him and was about to go welcome him when she came to an abrupt stop in her steps.

She did not want Josiah to think that she still yearned for him, and she did not want Josiah to keep resenting her.

Besides, she guessed that it might not be a good thing that Josiah was here to see her right when Meredith had returned to the country.

She composed herself before walking out to greet Josiah. "Sir, what are you doing here?" She asked with a smile on her face. "Sir, I went to a class..."

"You don't have to report to me," Josiah cut her off coldly and went on, "I already said that

you are free to live your own life and that I won't ask anything." Hearing the coldness lamented in his voice, Yena asked carefully, "Sir, I saw on the news that Meredith is back in the country. Shouldn't you be happy? Why…are you feeling moody?"

Indeed, Meredith had returned.

But Josiah would rather Meredith stay abroad than come back. When she was nowhere to be found, at least he was able to hold onto hope. But now that she was back, the first thing she did was to cut ties with him, that Nia had already forgotten about him, and that she was going to marry Charlie Larson.

Josiah had no plans of confiding in Yena because he had deemed her unworthy.

"Miss Yena, have you tried the perfume that Meredith had launched?"

"No, not yet," Yena smiled and went on, "I know that the Leightons have always been in the perfume market but I didn't expect Meredith to take over her mom's skills and she too is starting to sell perfume." 1 Josiah handed her a bottle of perfume and said, "Try it and tell me if this feels familiar to you."

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Staring at the bottle of perfume in his hand, feelings of nervousness crept on her.

What was Josiah trying to imply? Why would he give her a bottle of perfume as a gift in this situation?

She took glances at Josiah and then at the perfume before taking the bottle into her hands, and sniffing it.

The perfume had an elegant smell to it, and it was a unique smell yet at the same time smelled somewhat familiar.

"I don't know a lot about perfumes but this one smells good. It is no wonder this perfume is well-received by the public," She smiled and went on, "Meredith mentioned in an interview that the perfume was first launched overseas. I'm sure she's made a ton."

Josiah was not here to discuss perfume with Yena. Instead, he asked, "Have you used this perfume before?"

"No, not that I remember."

"But I remember clearly that the girl who saved me back then had this smell on her."

Yena froze,

Was this why he gave her this perfume?

And she had fallen into his trap foolishly, cutting off the last strings of relationship that she shared with him.

Yena did not expect that the secret that she had hidden for so long would be exposed this way.

Without the excuse that she saved him, she would mean nothing to Josiah.

And would the things that she was given be taken away as well?

"Sir, I did save you but Meredith came to help as well. You didn't remember this because you had passed out," Yena tried to explain herself.

Josiah replied flatly, "I've talked to one of the old butlers who worked with the Leightons and she said that Meredith caught a serious cold to save me. She even had pneumonia and ended up staying in the hospital for a month. And because of this, you were able to pretend that you were the one who saved me."

"I even heard that you didn't even let your shoes get wet when I fell into the water, let alone the fact that you actually jumped into the water to save me."

Yena was at a loss for words.

Because Josiah was telling the truth.

Seeing how Yena was staying silent because of feeling guilty, anger rushed through him." Miss Yena, you sure are something else, aren't you?!" Yena quickly explained herself, "Sir, please forgive me. I am really sorry. I wasn't thinking straight when I lied to you, I..."

"Seems like the only thing that you do best is saying that you're sorry. You were the same two years ago and till this day."

Josiah cut her off coldly, "Do you think that your sorry would change anything? Are you able to bring Meredith back to me?" Not at all.

Not only did he recognize the wrong person as his savior, he even hurt the wrong person. He had hurt and trampled over the person that he should be most grateful for and the person that he should have loved and taken care of. And in the end, he even forced her to walk out of his life.

And everything happened because of Yena's lies. Josiah did not return to his house instead, he went to the old residence. He knew that Charlie was taking Meredith back to meet the elders in his family. Hence, he had to be there. When his car entered the driveway, he saw a girl in a princess dress running around in the yard, chasing after butterflies.

It was his daughter, Nia.

Josiah had Walter pull over and he got down from the car. He still found it hard to believe that Nia, her daughter that was always looking for him when she was sick at the hospital and when she moved into his house, would actually forget about him.

Josiah reached out his hand and easily held the butterfly between his fingers.

Nia was stunned. Staring at the stranger in front of her, she smiled and said, "Uncle, can you please give me the butterfly? I would like to keep it as a pet." Nia was addressing him as...uncle.

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Hearing Nia's response was worse than when Meredith told her that Nia had forgotten about him.

After all, children were the most naive and straightforward. It was easy to see if a child was lying or acting and Josiah knew that Nia was not.

"Did you just call me uncle?" Josiah slipped out a sentence as he felt suffocated by the heaviness weighing down on his chest. "Did I say something wrong?" Tilting her head, Nia gave it a thought before saying, "Then what should I call you?" "You should be calling me Daddy."

"Daddy?" Nia sounded shocked as she shook her head and said, "But you're not my Daddy."

"Nia darling, do you not remember me anymore? You promised me that you'll never forget me," Josiah kneeled down in front of her as he carefully placed the butterfly into the glass container that Nia was holding. Looking at the butterfly that was flapping its wings, Nia then looked at Josiah. She did find Josiah friendly but why was he asking her to call her Daddy? "Uncle, are you really my dad?" "Yes." Josiah nodded as he started stroking her long hair. It was only then he realized that his hands were shaking. He was finally able to see his precious daughter after two years.

But he was long forgotten.

He felt a sense of relief that Meredith did not lie to him about the fact that Nia had recovered fully and she looked well.

"But if you're my Daddy, then why haven't we met before?"

"We did."

"Really?" Nia tried hard to recall but she shook her head. "I don't remember anymore. But why haven't you come to see me all this time?"

Josiah did not know how to answer her question.

How was he supposed to tell Nia that her mother left because he made her angry?

In the end, he came up with a lie. "Because Daddy is busy with work."

"Which father would not come to see their daughter just because they are busy working? You must be joking around with me right, uncle?" Nia chuckled and added, "But it's alright, I forgive you because you helped me catch the butterfly."

Josiah felt his heart bleeding when Nia called him uncle.

"Nia, I am really your father," Josiah paused before saying, "you can ask your mom if you don't believe me."

Seeing how he was being serious, Nia was left in a daze. "But Mommy is going to get married to Uncle Charlie soon."

"That is why I need Nia's help. To stop your mom from marrying Uncle Charlie." "But why? I like Uncle Charlie, he is a good person."

"Because..." Josiah went on, "I don't want to lose Nia and I want to go back to how things used to be – us staying together."

"Then what about Uncle Charlie?"

"He can get married to other girls." Nia paused before shaking her head. "No. Uncle Charlie and Mommy look happy together. I don't want Mommy to be sad." "Besides, how can I be sure that you're not lying to me? How would I know that you are really my Daddy?" Nia then added, "Unless you come with me and we can go ask Mommy together."

"Alright. Let's go together." Josiah held Nia's hand in his and walked into the house.

The atmosphere back in the house was slightly weird. Josiah's grandmother was delighted to see Nia and Meredith.

But when she heard that Meredith was going to marry Charlie, Josiah's grandmother felt awkward.

Charlie's mother felt even more awkward.

It was hard for them to disapprove of their marriage but it would not be nice if people knew about how Charlie was going to marry his cousin's ex-wife.

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Chapter 774 Seeing how the elderly were not saying anything, Charlie started to get anxious. "Mom, Grandma, Edith, and I have already been together for two years and we both want to get married to each other. What is there to be hesitant about?"

Meredith wanted to get married to Charlie too..? That was the first thing that Josiah heard when he walked into the house. He tightened his grip on Nia's hands as his face darkened.

Josiah's grandmother cleared her throat and said, "If you guys are doing this willingly, of course, I won't have any objections."

Charlie then turned to look at his mother.

"Um...it's not that I don't approve of this marriage but Meredith is after all your cousin's ex wife, shouldn't you at least consider how Josiah would think about this?" At the same time, she tried to give an eye to Charlie that Josiah was just standing behind him.

Charlie, on the other hand, responded, "He was the one who hurt Meredith over and over again and he was also the one who didn't want Meredith. So why should I be considerate about his feelings? Besides, marriage is supposed to be something that both parties do willingly. And Meredith is not willing to marry him anymore."

"Meredith, is that true? After all Nia..." "Ma'am, I am willing to marry Charlie," Seeing how Charlie's mother broke off, she then said, "Nia doesn't need her Daddy that much anymore and I don't have to force myself to get married again to the man that I utterly hate."

It was as if another blade was pierced through Josiah's heart. Josiah said, "But Nia is my daughter."

At the sound of the familiar voice, Meredith turned around.

At the sight of Josiah and Nia standing by the door, Meredith was slightly stunned. She then waved at Nia. "Nia, come here to Mommy."

Holding the glass container with the butterfly in her hand, Nia looked at her mom and then at Josiah. "Mommy, this uncle said that he is my Daddy, is that true?"

Josiah's grandmother nearly spat out the tea that was in her mouth.

She guickly cleaned her lips. Shaking her head, she sighed, "Goodness gracious."

Nia was calling her father's uncle instead. Josiah's grandmother guessed that this would definitely leave a scar on Josiah.

But still, as usual, she mocked his grandson, "You brought this upon yourself!"

Meredith had no intentions of keeping it a secret from Nia and she knew that Josiah would not allow her to do so. Rather than lying to Nia, Meredith planned to let Nia know the truth as soon as possible.

Hence, she did not try to deny anything and simply walked toward Nia and kneeled down in front of her

"Yes, he is You never asked about your dad so I didn't tell you anything. I thought that you would find out eventually when you get back to Jehovah City," She smiled and went on, "Look, you found out now, didn't you?"

Huh?" Nia looked at Josiah in shock and asked, "Uncle, you're really my Daddy? But why don't you smell like my Daddy?"

Josiah was rendered speechless. It seemed like Nia really had completely forgotten about him.

Josiah looked at Meredith with a resentful look on his face and explained, "Perhaps it's been a really long time since we met and that is why you feel that I'm unfamiliar."

**Then why is it that other Daddy and Mommy stay together but mine are living separately?" Nia asked again

Because."

Without letting Josiah finish his sentence, Meredith said, "Dads and Moms don't have to stay together necessarily. Even when we're staying apart for such a long time, we are still happy, aren't we? Nia too, is happy, aren't you?" Nia thought about Meredith's words and nodded,

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Nia was indeed happy most of the days because she was showered with love from both Charlie and Meredith.

"What's the most important thing in life? To live every healthily and happily, right?"

"Yes." Nia nodded her head.

"So, will you be able to not be bothered by why Daddy and Mommy are not staying together?" "Okay," Nia then said to Josiah, "Daddy, I forgive you and I don't blame you for not coming to visit me for such a long time."

With a gloomy expression, Josiah looked at Nia with a gloomy expression on his face. So was he eliminated just like that? "But I'm not happy. I want to live together with you and Mommy." "Daddy is just joking with you, Nia," Meredith went on, "your dad is able to spend every day with his loved one, so he is happy every day."

She then shot a glare at Josiah, warning him to watch his words.

Even though Josiah kept his mouth shut in front of Nia, he leaned toward Meredith and whispered into her ear, "Don't accuse me of things that I didn't do in front of my daughter." "I was just speaking the truth," Meredith did not think that it was wrong to let Nia hear them, hence she went on, "it's not something embarrassing to be able to stay together with the person you love. Charlie and I have been staying together every day."

She then patted Nia's head and said, "Nia darling, do you want to go out and catch more butterflies?"

"Come on, Nia, let's go together." One of the servants came over and took Nia with her.

Without the child around, the adults were finally able to talk freely.

Charlie's mother got onto her feet, walked toward Josiah and she apologized, "I'm sorry Joe. I've tried to talk sense into Charlie and even scolded him, but he just wouldn't listen to me... sigh, this is awkward."

"This is not your fault, aunt," Josiah was understanding.

"Yes. It's all Charlie's fault," Charlie's mother then said to Charlie, "what are you waiting for? Hurry up and apologize to Josiah."

"Why should I?" Charlie retorted, "Is it a crime to love someone?"

"Meredith is not just someone. How could you take her with you overseas and hide her from Josiah for two years? Now that you've brought her back, you're now telling us that you want to marry Meredith? What does this make of your cousin? And Nia...sigh..."

Charlie's mother broke off and simply shook her head.

Meredith responded, "Ma'am, you're mistaken. It was not Charlie who forced me to leave with him, it was me who begged him to take me away from Jehovah City. And this time, he did not

force me to marry him, I am the one who wants to marry him."

"This..." Charlie's mother was even more speechless.

She could only look at Josiah and chuckled dryly.

Holding Meredith's hand in his, Charlie announced formally to Josiah, "Josiah, when Meredith agreed to get married to you again, I was willing to give my blessings and take a step back. This time, I hope that you'd be able to give us your blessing and let Meredith go.

"But of course, even if you don't, and as long as Meredith is willing to marry me, I will marry her anyway."

Seeing how Charlie and Meredith were both determined, Josiah felt a wave of complicated emotions.

How was he supposed to be happy for them?

Meredith was the woman that he loved the most, and Nia was his daughter, how was he supposed to give them away?

If it was not because he respected Meredith, he would have forcefully taken Meredith back to his house.

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Chapter 776 "Meredith, there's something that I need to say to you," Josiah stared at her and said. Meredith though rejected her coldly, "I've said I needed to say last night, and as for the rest." "I haven't finished saying what I needed to say last night." Josiah grabbed her by her wrist and dragged her with him as he walked out the door.

with her back pushed back against the wall, Meredith stared at her coldly and seethed, "Josiah Shelby, stop being such a domineering asshole. You're just being lame."

Josiah shook his head and said, "Don't worry, I have no plans of forcing myself onto you. I just want to talk to you about me and Yena."

"I've already made it clear that I don't want to hear about your old love story!" At the mention of Yena, Meredith felt anger rush through her.

"Fine, let me rephrase that. I want to talk to you about our past." "Our past is filled only with pain and suffering, what is there to talk about?" Meredith turned her head sideways, avoiding his gaze.

"Edith, I've tried the perfume that you gave me yesterday," He smiled bitterly and went on," you named it well, Sweet Reminiscence. It really does help in reminding people of the good times."

Meredith was finally slightly interested in what he had to say. She slowly stopped resisting him.

"I've always been scared of the water ever since I fell into the pool when I was younger and I've never taken any swimming lessons. There was this one time when I passed by a river, I fell into it as it was raining hard and the road was slippery. I remember the water covering my head and it was Yena who jumped into the river to save me and pulled me out from the river. If it wasn't for Yena, I would have been dead."

Meredith remained silent.

It was her who had saved his life.

For the sake of saving him, Meredith nearly lost her life and she was hospitalized for a month.

But she did not say anything and simply nodded. "Are you done?"

Josiah could see from the flicker of mixed feelings across her face that Meredith had remembered the incident. But Meredith did not correct him that it was actually her who had saved him

And Josiah was slightly disappointed by her reaction,

Seeing how she did not care to correct him, it seemed like she really did want to cut ties with him.

"And that was why I have always been good to Yena, simply because she saved my life, and I was indebted to her.

"Even though after I found out that Yena was the one who poisoned herself and put the blame

on you, I did not punish her like how I punished Quinley and Maeve. But instead, I gave her a bungalow and some money and I've cut ties with her.

"If I hadn't received the perfume from you last night, I would never have realized that I've remembered the wrong person all this while."

Meredith had initially made up her mind to not be swayed by whatever he said, but hearing

this, she could not hold herself back and asked, "What do you mean?"

"I remember clearly that the girl who saved me back then had this perfume smell on her."

Meredith thought that Josiah had a good memory.

She was, indeed, wearing this perfume back then and he actually remembered.

"Edith, it was you who saved my life but all this while I thought that it was Yena, and that was why I've been nice to her," Josiah suddenly grabbed Meredith by her arms and went on urgently, "if I had known that it was you, I would never have treated you coldly after we got married, I wouldn't have doubted you, and I would never have hurt you..."

Josiah paused as he tried to hold himself back from exploding in frustration.

"Edith, can you please give me one more chance? Can you please trust me one more time?"

Looking at the conflicted look in his eyes, Meredith saw that Josiah was sincere and he was regretting

But it was already all too late.

"Mister Josiah, it is a moving story, I must say. But there is one thing that I don't think you understand, and that is feelings are not a thing that you can pick up and let go of easily."

She pushed away his hand and said, "It is true that I've loved you once, but it is also true that I don't love you anymore. So, please let me go."

Meredith paused before going on, "And you don't have to worry about Nia. I won't stop her

from seeing you and she will still be your daughter."

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Chapter 777 She removed herself from his grasp and returned to the house.

Behind her stood Josiah, left in a daze as his hands slowly tightened into a fist.

With a loud thud, Josiah punched his hand against the wall.

It was a fair weather day. The warm sunlight shone through the windows and landed on the marriage certificate in the hands of one of the staff from the city hall.

"I hope you have a blessed marriage," The staff handed the marriage certificate to the newlyweds.

Meredith and Charlie exchanged a look with each other, pulled into a smile, and received the marriage certificate. "Thank you."

Printed on the marriage certificate printed were both of their pictures.

Even when they walked out of the city hall, Charlie still found it hard to believe that he was married to Meredith.

"Edith, I am not seeing things, am I? That is you and me in the picture, right?" Charlie put the picture close to his eyes.

Meredith nodded and smiled. "It is us, you silly. Don't tell me that you're already regretting this."

"Impossible!" Charlie replied as he pulled Meredith into his arms and said, "Don't worry, Edith. I will never regret this day and even if you are the one to regret this first, I will never regret getting married to you!"

"You and your sweet-talking right on the first day of our marriage," Meredith patted Charlie on his shoulders and said, "I will not regret this too, never for the rest of my life."

"Yay! Edith is finally Mrs. Larson!" Charlie lifted Meredith off the ground and spun her around in circles.

Surprised, Meredith scolded playfully, "Stop it now, Charlie, everyone's staring,"

"Let them stare then! Let them be jealous of us!"

The sweet and happy scene was all witnessed by Josiah who was on the opposite street.

Josiah remembered that he too had said the same reply to Meredith. Never could he imagine that Charlie would be the person saying this to Meredith.

In the end, Meredith and Charlie had gotten married and they were officially a pair.

He could not understand why he insisted on showing up at this place. He was more desperate this time compared to the time Meredith and he were supposed to register their marriage.

Could it be that he simply wanted to see how happy Meredith and Charlie were?

"It's time to go, Sir," Yoseph said to Josiah as he could not bring himself to see how Josiah was looking all defeated and devastated.

Josiah said nothing as he could not bring himself to say anything.

Yoseph waited for a while and finally started the car engine when he saw the lovebirds opposite the street get into their car.

At noon, Josiah dropped by the old residence as his grandmother asked to see him.

Josiah had prepared himself to get a good scolding from his grandmother, after all, his grandmother had not asked to see him for the last two years.

However, he did not expect to see Nia in the living room instead. And Nia was playing with his grandmother.

Josiah's grandmother noticed him and said to Nia, "Nia darling, look who's here."

Nia turned around and saw Josiah. She pulled into a smile and greeted, "It's the nice uncle who helped me to catch the butterfly." 1 Josiah could not say anything as he stood there.

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Chapter 778 In a loving voice, Josiah's grandmother corrected Nia, "Don't you remember him, Nia? He is your Daddy. Why did you call him uncle?"

"Oh, you're right," Nia paused before responding, "but if I call this nice uncle Daddy, then I would end up having two Daddies, right?" Feeling frustrated about the entire situation in her family, Josiah's grandmother slapped her forehead.

With a smile, Josiah walked over to them and explained, "Uncle Charlie is just an uncle, he is not your Daddy. It will be a mess if you call Uncle Charlie your Daddy."

"Is it true, great-grandma?" Nia asked Josiah's grandmother.

Josiah's grandmother nodded. "Mm, your Daddy's right." It was only then Nia greeted Josiah 'Daddy'. Josiah finally felt a sense of relief upon hearing Nia calling him Daddy. He stroked Nia's hair gently and asked, "Where's Mommy? Didn't she come with you to visit great-grandma?".

"She's not here. Mommy and Uncle Charlie went out for a meal together," Nia replied.

Josiah's grandmother added, "To celebrate."

Josiah understood right away. Meredith and Charlie were celebrating their marriage.

It was their first day of marriage. It made perfect sense that they would be out celebrating.

Seeing how Josiah looked heartbroken, Josiah's grandmother said, "All I could do is to create opportunities for you to win back your daughter's heart. As for Meredith, I'll advise you to give up on her. After all, Charlie and her are already married now."

Josiah knew that his grandmother who had always been harsh on him had tried her best to comfort him.

"Thank you, Grandma," Josiah replied.

Holding Nia's hand in his, Josiah walked toward the dining hall. "Come on, Nia, let's eat with Daddy, shall we?"

On the dining table was a spread of Nia's favorite dishes.

Josiah placed a chicken drumstick on Nia's plate. "This is your favorite, isn't it? Here, have more of this."

"Thank you, Daddy."

Hearing how Nia was being formal and distant with him, Josiah felt slightly disappointed." It's been a long time since I ate with you, right, Nia? Are you angry at me like how your Mommy is?"

"No, it's not that. I'm just not used to this."

It was a tragedy for Josiah to think that Nia found it awkward to be eating with him.

But he did not blame Nia. He simply replied, "That's alright. You will soon get used to it and we will be able to go back to how things were before."

"Hold up," Josiah's grandmother cut him off right away and asked, "what are you planning to do, Josiah Shelby? When are you going to stop?" Josiah looked at his grandmother and replied, "I thought you've always adored Meredith and wanted her to be your granddaughter-in-law?"

"You're right, I do adore Meredith," Josiah's grandmother nodded and went on, "but she doesn't have to be your wife to be my granddaughter-in-law, am I right? She is still my granddaughter-in-law as Charlie's wife."

Josiah was wordless with anger.

He made a mental note that he could not rely on his grandmother to be on his side. Hence, he could only come up with other ways.

Meredith did not bring Nia along to the celebration party as it was held at a wine bar and was late into the night.

And she was glad that she made the right decision, not bringing Nia, as the folks at the party were all too drunk and high.

By midnight, When the party was over at midnight, most of the guests were already drunk and one by one left the party. After sending off the last of their guests, Meredith returned to the bar to find Charlie who had passed out from drinking too much.

She went up to him, tapped his face gently, and said, "Charlie, wake up. Let us go home and rest."

"Us…" Charlie opened up his eyes slowly to see the face of the lady that he had loved for a long time, and suddenly pulled into a smile. "Edith, by us…do you mean me and you?"

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"Of course, if not who else?" Meredith thought that it was silly of him. "It's already been more than 24 hours and you're still not used to it?"

Charlie shook his head. "No...it's like I'm in a dream."

Meredith lowered her head and gave a light peck on his lips. "What about now? Do you still think it's a dream?"

Charlie was stunned by her sudden kiss. He was now staring at her dazedly.

Meredith could not help but slip out a chuckle at the sight of Charlie's adorable reaction. She tapped his cheeks lightly and said, "Earth to Charlie, wake up now. Let's go home and get some rest."

Charlie then sat up straight. After a pause, he asked, "Edtih, this will be our first night together right?"

"Mm-hmm. So do you want our first night to be spent here?"

"No, absolutely not," Charlie shook his head frantically and said, "I've promised...that I will make you the happiest girl in this world. How would I possibly allow you to spend a night at such a place?" "Let's go home then, hmm?"

"Okay."

Holding him, Meredith walked him out of the bar. While walking, Charlie started mumbling, "I will make you the happiest girl alive, I promise…" "Do you trust me, Edith?" "I do, very much," Meredith replied patiently as she helped him walk out of the bar.

"Edith, you look absolutely gorgeous today."

While they were waiting for their ride, Charlie suddenly started smiling sheepishly at Meredith.

Meredith put her hands on her face and teased him purposely, "Oh yeah? So I only look pretty today?"

"No… you are pretty every day but you look especially prettier today. Because…you are mine from today onwards, you are Charlie Larson's… wife!"

He then planted a kiss on Meredith's cheeks.

Charlie lost his balance and he almost made Meredith fall over.

"Be careful." Meredith hurriedly held him up. Suddenly, Meredith heard someone shouting, "Look out!" Meredith reflexively turned around to see a black car driving right toward her direction.

She froze, unable to move her legs.

Charlie, on the other hand, became sober at the sight of the blinding headlights of the car. Right when the car was about to crash into Meredith, Charlie pushed her away with all his might.

And he was flung away as the car crashed into him.

"Charlie!" Meredith was stunned and it took a while for her to come back to her senses. Screaming at the top of her lungs, she scrambled toward Charlie who was sprawled on the road. "Charlie, oh my god...don't...don't move around!" Even though Charlie was quivering in pain, he did not forget to comfort and reassure Meredith. "I'm fine, Edith. Please don't cry, I'm really fine..." "How are you fine when you're looking like that?" Looking at the blood that was gushing out of his legs, Meredith panicked. "Charlie, stop talking, I'll send you to the hospital right now."

"You're a doctor, aren't you? That's a relief." One of the bystanders had called the ambulance and Meredith forced herself to calm down as she quickly helped to stop the bleeding. Charlie, who insisted that he did not feel any pain, passed out in the end before the ambulance had even arrived.

Meredith was not sure if there were any internal injuries and she was frightened when Charlie passed out.

After thirty minutes, Charlie was finally sent to the ER.

Standing right outside the ER was Meredith who had yet to calm down and she felt as if her heart was hanging by a thread.

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After some time, Charlie's mother, with the help of her servants, staggered and stumbled into the hallway of the ER. At the sight of Meredith, she grabbed Meredith by her arms and cried," Why is my son suddenly in an accident? How is he? Is his life in danger?"

Meredith could answer neither of her questions because she, too, did not know for herself. "I'm really sorry, ma'am...I mean, Mom. I don't know what is going on too. I am also waiting for the doctor."

Meredith thought that there was something fishy about the crash earlier. It was as if the car was driving directly at them, on purpose.

But all she could think about was Charlie and she did not have the energy to think about the car crash earlier.

The doctor finally walked out of the surgery room and scanned both of them. "Are you both the patient's family?" "Yes, I am his mother," Charlie's mother replied urgently.

"I am his wife," Meredith replied. The doctor nodded and with a serious expression on his face, he said, "The patient's condition is stable now but his legs were injured seriously. It might cause a problem for his mobility in the future."

"What do you mean?" Even though the doctor had tried to phrase his words in a more acceptable manner, Charlie's mother was still aghast. "Are you saying that my son might be crippled?"

"I'm afraid so, Ma'am," The doctor nodded without any hesitation and went on, "it's best for the both of you to be mentally prepared."

Charlie's mother felt her legs go weak and she nearly collapsed onto the floor.

Meredith hurriedly went up to her to catch her. "Mom, are you okay?"

Charlie's mother slapped Meredith across her face. "Don't call me that! It is all your fault! You're a train wreck! My Charlie had been doing well all this while before he met you. And now he is going to be crippled because he got married to you!"

Meredith felt a burning pain spreading on her cheeks but she could understand Charlie's mother's feelings, hence she bore the pain.

The doctor, on the other hand, witnessed how Meredith was slapped and felt that he needed to say something. "Ma'am, how could you possibly still believe in all these from the old days? It is unfortunate what happened to your son, but you shouldn't take it out on your daughter-in law."

Shaking his head, the doctor then walked away.

Charlie's mother was even more aggravated by the doctor's words. Glaring furiously at Meredith, she seethed, "Who said that I wanted you to be my daughter-in-law? Charlie must have sinned a lot in his past life to actually fall in love with such a train wreck!"

Charlie's mother wanted to slap her again but her servants stopped her from doing so. Hence, pointing her finger at Meredith, she taunted, "Meredith Leighton, if it wasn't for Charlie's grandmother, I would have killed you right now!"

With one hand covering her cheek that was burning in pain, Meredith frowned and said," Ma'am, why didn't you say something when you didn't want Charlie and I to get married? If you had told me that you oppose this marriage, I wouldn't have married Charlie in the first

place."

"Pft!" Charlie's mother scoffed coldly and said, "You already have Charlie wrapped around your fingers, and do you think it would change anything if I had opposed it? I also hated the idea that the both of you were dating, and what did you do then? You took him with you overseas for two years!"

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"Charlie is my only son and what else was I supposed to do? I can only give him what he wants, "Charlie's mother wept and went on, "but who knew that he would end up this way if I had known..."

Charlie's mother could not bring herself to finish her sentence and started sobbing.

Meredith's heart softened at the sight of Charlie's mother crying.

And she started apologizing, "I'm really sorry, it is all my fault. I should have taken better care of Charlie. I promise that I will take care of him."

Even if Charlie was crippled and no matter how Charlie ended up.

After the surgery, Charlie was transferred to the ICU.

While waiting for Charlie to regain his consciousness, Meredith finally had the time to look into the truth about the car accident.

She found out from the cops that the driver did drive toward them on purpose but the driver was a mentally unstable patient. In other words, the driver did not have to be responsible for the accident.