

“Since it fell apart”

On November 13, 2005, when things with the Morrison Family started crashing down south, when divorce started sweeping in between the cracks of one’s marriage, it became a hell- especially when the only thing holding it together is a child, who disappeared.

At Kowloon Park, Hong Kong, an unforgettable place for the Morrison couple, a place where Maurine Morrison, an 8-month old baby girl, was snatched by someone unknowingly familiar with the Morrison family. Manette and Paul Morrison, Maurine’s parents, were on the verge of saying things they might regret. As Manette Morrison decided to push through with divorce and Paul was racing against time to find their daughter and save their marriage, and in hopes to keep their family from falling apart.

“Why couldn’t you just be a good father for once?!” Manette enunciated with rage as she had expected Paul to be able to find their daughter right away. Enraged by what his wife had just said, he decided to stay quiet. He also knew that she only said those words because of what was happening, but he could not blame her for saying them either. Manette then sighed and proceeded to talk. “I cannot believe I married someone like you! You’re nothing but an incompetent man.” Instant regret crept onto her shoulders and silence then took over. She thought of how the words would have hurt her husband, but they had already been said and heard.

As tears started to creep over Paul’s eyes, he immediately turned to wipe them away. “I did not know that’s how you felt. I’m sorry,” he then turned his back and left without saying a word. As he left the house, the person who had been watching through the window of the Morrison’s house smiled as they folded a set of the newspaper aside and decided to leave after Paul.

As days passed by with much anxiety and other unsettling feelings, the couple received a call from the police informing them about a CCTV footage caught from the entrance of the park. Both Manette and Paul rushed to the police station with a deafening silence throughout the car ride.

After reaching the station, they were shown a footage of a woman rushing to the exit carrying a baby in her arms. They repeatedly played and watched the footage as they carefully analysed it. Manette then noticed something really familiar to her that no one else in the room would. She immediately turned to her husband and demanded that the keys be handed over to her. She spared no time and scurried her way to their car with Paul after her. “Everything will be over soon, I promise,” she said and drove off to a place she would never forget. Her mother’s house.

Before entering the house, Manette phoned the police and her husband, who then traced her address. “Mum-” Manette said and saw the light on in one of the closed rooms. She inspected the

surroundings, then carefully walked towards the room with the light on. She opened the door and saw her mother sitting on the floor playing with her daughter. Her mum stood up upon seeing her then drew a gun towards her own daughter, Manette.

With little time to waste, Paul and the police rushed to the address that was directed to them. As they arrived at the scene, the sound of a gunshot echoed out of the house. They rushed into the house and checked every part of it only to arrive upon Manette's body bathed in her own blood. The police called for an ambulance although it was too late as Manette already lost a lot of blood and rushed to handcuff Manette's mother, Andrea. Andrea Hamilshan, a 58-year widow, decided to take her own daughter's life.

"That ungrateful witch was supposed to die anyways. I just rushed the process. She is the reason why my husband died early. She was supposed to die." Andrea's words caught Paul's attention away from his wife and child and caused his eyes to widen in surprise. Andrea was a wonderful mum and in-law before. However, her rage towards her daughter and the things she said was something really unexpected for Paul. He was confused by what she had said. Andrea looked at him with a certain gaze and tried to hold his hand, "We could now be together. I will raise Maurine like my own."

She pointed at her dead daughter, "She has VSD. She wasn't going to last long anyways so why wait for her to age and die? She can't even get a surgery any time in the future if she was to live because the hole in her heart is too big and it would have been a big risk and would have cost half of what you'll ever earn in a few years. She was a hinderance between us so I just had to act and help her finish her life sooner-" before she could even have the time to finish her sentence, Paul's hand landed upon her cheeks. "You are her mother and I treat you like my own mother too. How could you even do this to your own daughter? And for what? Your delusional thoughts? You're sick and you disgust me!"

He could not stand being in front of her and seeing her face any longer. He asked the police to take her away from him. He walked to where his daughter was and carried her out of the house and asked someone from the paramedics to take care of her. He walked back inside and kneeled by the side of his wife and cradled his wife in his arms for the last time and promised that he would take care of their daughter and raise her right.

An investigation carried out and had ran medical exams on Andrea as she showed psychotic tendencies. It was later found that she was suffering from mental illness and police had found items resorting to the conclusion of how she had been stalking her daughter's family, most specifically, Paul.

A few months after the incident, Paul received his wife's last will and testament with a box containing tapes of Manette explaining why she had filed for divorce, acted the way she did, and how her sickness got worse due to the fact it went undetected.

As for Andrea, she was admitted to a mental asylum where she would be treated and if found recovered, she would be put against another trial for murder and would serve her jail time.

Paul is set to raise Maurine with the best he can and would continue to make Manette's memories alive for their daughter to remember. He is still mourning, but is staying strong for their daughter, Maurine. They will continue to live with Manette's memories in their hearts and live on.

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