

## **Chapter 21**

“Son,” Julianna said to Adrien in a hushed whisper. “I think... we should maintain a distance from Emmeline Louise.”

“She’s the mother of my children,” Adrien shrugged himself free of his mother’s grip. “How could I stand by and do nothing when she’s in trouble?”

“She’s too feral, son. She’ll never listen to you if you marry her,” Julianna explained to Adrien, who just stared dumbly at his mother.

Emmeline was still taking in the fact that Abel had offered to pay the Lanes for all the damage she had caused. “Mr. Ryker, I...” she began.

“Don’t worry about it,” Abel said without a hint of emotion in his voice. “Treat it as a personal loan. You can pay me back slowly.”

Before Emmeline could continue speaking, Ethan had already rushed to grab Abel’s hands, shaking them vigorously. “Mr. Ryker, thank you so much! I will work hard to help my sister pay off the loan, don’t you worry!” Ethan said gratefully.

“Mm,” Abel nodded expressionless as he retracted his hand back from Ethan’s warm grip.

“Mr. Ryker! How could you...” Alana whined petulantly, but Abel had already turned around to leave. She turned to Rosaline for support instead. “Auntie Rosaline, how could Abel side with an outsider like Emmeline! I’m the one who gave you a grandchild!”

“I know, child,” Rosaline had a tight expression. “You went overboard tonight, Alana. I’m only letting you off this time because of Timothy.”

“Rosaline,” Alondra wormed her way over. “My niece is a woman of good character and upbringing. She will surely bear you more grandchildren in the future!”

“That would be best,” Rosaline nodded. “I’m not losing to that old hag!”

“Mr. Ryker,” Alondra said as she approached Adrien next. “I’m Emmeline’s stepmother, Alondra. I know the girl inside out. She probably can’t give birth to another child after having triplets. You should really think this through!” Alondra urged.

“Is that the case?” Rosaline’s eyes widened. “That will not do. I would still like to have two granddaughters. If Emmeline cannot bear any more children, what do we need her for?”

“You can’t take in her three children either!” Rosaline continued. “They’re rude and ill-mannered and would only bring shame to the Ryker family.”

“That won’t do,” Adrien insisted. “They are my children no matter what. I can’t just abandon them.”

“That’s right,” Rosaline agreed with her son. “They’re young, it’s not too late to teach them manners.”

“Well, don’t say I didn’t warn you!” Alondra turned around and left. Emmeline, it’s about time you felt the pain of having your children taken away from you!

~

Emmeline gave Benjamin a call once she left the Lane family villa. “Benjamin, organize a networking session hosted by Adelmor Group. I need to find a way to help my brother and Grace out,” she instructed.

Benjamin got to work as soon as he received Emmeline’s call, doing the necessary preparation in the next two days. Three days later, various businessmen showed up at the networking session organized at one of Adelmor Group’s hotels, including representatives from the Rykers, the Lanes and the Louises.

Ethan had also received an invitation, but he did not have the courage to turn up. He knew that Adelmor Group had invited him assuming he was still the deputy CEO of Louise Corporation, but he had since been dismissed by his own father, no thanks to his stepmother, Alondra.

“You should still go anyway!” Emmeline persuaded her brother as she poured him a cup of coffee. “Perhaps an opportunity will come up!”

“Who would give me an opportunity knowing that I’m no longer affiliated with Louise Corporation?” Ethan muttered bitterly. “No matter how many smart ideas I have, there’s nowhere for me to go.”

“Didn’t a company approach you the last time?” Emmeline recalled. “It could happen again, but you need to buck up!”

“Yeah, they thought I was still in Louise Corporation, and I couldn’t lie to them,” Ethan sighed.

“You’re overthinking it, Ethan! Why don’t I go with you?” Emmeline offered.

“Hmm, alright then! I’ll feel a lot better with you around!” Ethan finally relented.

“Alright then, let me go upstairs and get ready,” Emmeline stood up to head upstairs, reminding the nanny on the way to prepare food for the children.

Things were already in full swing when Ethan and Emmeline arrived at the Adelmarr Hotel. Abel Ryker had already arrived, looking sharp and intimidatingly handsome in a cool gray suit, together with Alana Lane who stood beside him. Alana had tagged along with her father, who was the CEO of Lane Corporation.

Alondra was also present, together with her husband, Maxwell Louise. Maxwell wanted to greet his daughter as soon as he spotted her walking in, but Alondra stopped him.

## Chapter 22

Alondra tugged at her husband’s arm fiercely. “Don’t you dare…” she warned. Instead of going over to greet his daughter, Maxwell could only reluctantly stay put with his wife.

“How dare the poor pauper siblings show up at such a prestigious event?” Alana whispered to Alondra.

“Exactly!” Alondra rolled her eyes. “They should be grateful that they can still afford the basic things in life ever since they got banished from the family. They shouldn’t even think to show up here,” she sneered.

“Perhaps they showed up for attention,” Alana snickered. “We both know Emmeline loves the limelight!”

“Mr. Ryker,” Emmeline smiled politely as she made her way toward Abel. “You’re here!” She was dressed in a smart white blouse and blue jeans, looking fresh and bright.

“I didn’t think I’d see you here,” Abel greeted in return, with a hint of surprise in his voice.

“Well, I must try to get hold of some business opportunities out there so I can make some money to pay back your generous loan,” Emmeline joked lightheartedly with a twinkle in her eye, stirring something in Abel. He knew the woman was flirting with him, but truthfully... he enjoyed it. The feisty woman certainly knew how to get his attention.

At this moment, someone made an announcement at the doorway. “The acting CEO of Adelmarr Group has arrived!!”

“That’s right, it’s Benjamin York!”

“But who is he exactly? Why hasn’t he shown his face?”

Behind the swiveling glass door, a few security guards were spotted escorting Benjamin York into the room. The Rykers were the richest family conglomerate in all of Struyria, followed closely by Adelmarr Group with Benjamin York at the Helm. Adelmarr Group’s business had risen and grown meteorically in recent years with Benjamin York at the helm, so the Rykers could not afford to offend him either.

Benjamin York was a tall, slender man who exuded an androgynous vibe. He had a playful, cunning quality to him, like the sort of person who would speak in riddles just for fun. He smirked lightly as soon as he spotted Abel Ryker and walked toward him.

Abel extended an arm, ready to shake hands with this strange man who had the same name as Ms. Wonder Doctor’s assistant. Instead, Benjamin gently raised a palm toward Emmeline, motioning for her to place her hand in his. She looked a little shy, knowing that everyone’s eyes were on them, but she obliged the man eventually. He took her hand in his and bowed politely, planting a soft kiss on the back of her hand.

There were audible gasps in the hall as the crowd watched on in shock. How did Emmeline Louise win the respect of the CEO of Adelmar Group?

“There are only two things worthy of high praise in life – good liquor and beautiful women,” Benjamin smiled cheekily. “Please forgive my forwardness, Ms. Louise.”

“Do all men say the same thing in front of any beautiful woman? Yourself included, Mr. York.” Emmeline jested.

“I’m a little more honest than most of my kind,” Benjamin replied to Emmeline before finally turning toward Abel, extending his arm. “My apologies, Mr. Ryker. I could not help myself in the presence of a beautiful lady.”

“I understand,” Abel smiled plainly before clapping Benjamin on the shoulder, pulling him in. “But you should learn to wait for your turn, brother,” Abel whispered in his ear.

“I see,” Benjamin nodded, looking at Emmeline meaningfully.

“Mr. York!” The Lane family ambled over toward Benjamin, but Benjamin swiftly turned away to greet the Hackett family.

Alondra decided to drag Maxwell along with her a second time. Maxwell extended his hands from afar to catch Benjamin’s attention. To Alondra’s pleasure, Benjamin seemed to return his warm gesture as he walked toward Alondra and Maxwell with open arms. Louise Corporation means something to the Adelmar Group, at least! Alondra thought.

However, Maxwell’s hands were left unshaken as Benjamin sidestepped Alondra and Maxwell to approach the person standing behind them... Ethan Louise!

“Mr. Louise, how are you doing today?” Benjamin greeted Ethan warmly, extending his hand.

Ethan felt as if his brain had just short-circuited there and then. He turned around just to see if there was anyone else standing behind him, but there was nobody. Benjamin York was indeed talking to him!

Still in shock, Ethan quickly gathered himself and returned Benjamin's handshake.

"Mr. York! It's such a pleasure to meet you!" Ethan responded in earnest.

Benjamin pulled Ethan in closer. "I have a business proposal that I would like to discuss with you, Mr. Louise..." Benjamin began.

At this moment, Alondra wormed her way in between Benjamin and Ethan, splitting them apart. "Mr. York, I'm not sure if you're aware, but Mr. Louise has been dismissed from Louise Corporation..." Alondra informed Benjamin.

"Dismissed?" Benjamin's face was colored with surprise.

## Chapter 23

"Yes, Mr. Benjamin." Ethan was embarrassed.

Alana smiled at Benjamin. "Mr. Benjamin, please remember that the Lane family is also a successful corporation if you have any opportunity for collaboration," she said.

"Don't forget about the Louise family too. Just look for me because Ethan is not working now," said Maxwell.

"You should have told me earlier!" Benjamin complained.

"Well, it's not too late to know that." Alondra snickered.

Ethan felt so embarrassed he could bury his head in the ground.

“The one I trusted is Ethan, not Louise Corporation, nor the Lane family,” said Benjamin as he put his arm around Ethan’s shoulders.

“Err...” Maxwell was dumbfounded, and so were Alondra and Alana.

Ethan thought he was in a dream because it was the first time he had met Benjamin.

Is Benjamin hallucinating?

However, what Benjamin said next surprised Ethan more.

“Since Ethan resigned, Adelmar Group will cancel every project with the Louise family and the Lane family. Also, there’s a vacancy at Adelmar Group waiting for Ethan. It comes with an annual salary of two hundred thousand dollars and a bonus,” said Benjamin.

Ethan almost fainted when he heard it. Emmeline quickly held him.

“Ethan, you should thank Benjamin!” said Emmeline.

“I finally can pay off the money you owe Mr. Ryker, Emma.” Ethan stammered.

“Don’t worry about me. I just hope this will lessen your burden,” said Emmeline.

“Speaking of which, I have an oversea project for you, Ms. Louise,” said Benjamin.

“Stop kidding, Benjamin. I’m not capable of running a project.” Emmeline smiled.

“You could work together with Mr. Ryker. I’m sure he’s interested,” said Benjamin as he looked at Abel.



Alana almost had a stroke when she heard that.

Who qualifies Emmeline to get a big project from Adelmar Group and collaborate with Abel?

“This is ridiculous!” Alondra told Alana under her breath.

“She must have seduced all the men to get this.” Alana gritted her teeth.

“Great! I’ll cancel the two hundred thousand compensation request if Miss Louise is going to work together on the project,” announced Abel.

Alana fainted after hearing Abel’s words.

“Find out more about Emmeline Louise. She seems suspicious.” Abel told Luca after the meeting.

“We did that before. Miss Louise was chased away by the Louise family. She suddenly appeared this year after not contacting them for five years. She does not seem to have any suspicious connection,” answered Luca.

“Probably something happened during the five years. Get a more thorough check on her!” Abel frowned.

“Yes, Mr. Ryker!” said Luca.

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After a few days, Adrien appeared in front of the counter at the cafe where Emmeline was working.

“Why are you here?” Emmeline was annoyed. She did not want to see Adrien at all, even though he was the birth father of her children based on the DNA result.

“I’m here to bring the kids home. After all, they are my offspring too.” Adrien smiled.

“Dream on and get lost!” Emmeline knocked on Adrien’s forehead with a wooden spoon.

“We are not going to leave Mommy!” said the young voices from upstairs.

“Then, let Mommy marry me! I know Granny is a little reluctant, but look at her! She’s the most beautiful lady in Struyria,” said Adrien.

“Get out! Kids, help Mommy to chase this old pervert away!” Emmeline asked for her children’s help while chasing Adrien with a wooden spoon.

“Old pervert? I’m not even thirty!” Adrien ran away with his hands over his head.

Bam!

Adrien bumped into someone. He moved his eyesight from the shiny leather shoes along the long legs and landed on Abel’s cold face.

“Abel? Why are you here?” said Adrien in embarrassment.

## **Chapter 24**

“I was about to ask you the same question. Are you here to kidnap the kids?” asked Abel in a cold tone.

“They are my kids! I just want to bring them home,” said Adrien.

“We are not going with you! We are not going to leave Mommy!” said Helios.

“That’s right!” said Endymion.

“We are not leaving!” said Hesperus.

“Alright, alright! We’ll discuss that later.” Adrien tried to calm the situation.

“Get lost, now!” Emmeline raised the wooden spoon again.

Adrien quickly hid behind Abel.

“Can you let him go? For my sake, please?” asked Abel.

“Why would I let him go for your sake? Who do you think you are?” Emmeline was furious.

“I’m someone you will work together on the Adelmars Group project. I’m here to discuss work,” said Abel.

“Shouldn’t you discuss work at the office? Why do you come to the cafe?” asked Adrien.

“I’m hiding from Mom and Granddad,” said Abel. He frowned and looked pale.

“Haha! I knew it! You must be troubled because Auntie Rosaline wants you to marry Alana, and Granddad wants you to marry the Wonder Doctor. Am I right?” Adrien laughed.

Abel responded with a low groan.

“Seems like my decision to stay single is correct...” Adrien was gloating when he saw Emmeline’s reaction. He quickly covered his mouth and left with his car. His bodyguards followed behind.

Emmeline took a look outside of the cafe. She did not see Abel’s bodyguard’s car.

Did he come here alone?

“Are you not going to invite me in for a coffee?” asked Abel gently.

“Come on in,” said Emmeline.

The children quickly welcomed Abel into the cafe. They prefer Abel over Adrien even though Adrien was their birth father.

Abel gently caressed the children’s heads. “Thank you, dearies. Go play. Daddy has something to talk to Mommy.” Abel did not realize he had misspoken until it was too late.

“I’m sorry.” He apologized.

“It’s okay.” Emmeline blushed and poured Abel a cup of coffee.

“Do the kids always play upstairs?” asked Abel.

“Yes. The first floor is the cafe, and we live on the second floor. The third floor is vacant, so the kids usually play there.” Emmeline was still avoiding looking at Abel.

“The third floor is vacant?” asked Abel.

“Yes. We don’t need that much space,” said Emmeline.

“Can you rent the space to me?” asked Abel.

“Why do you want to rent the space?” Emmeline was surprised.

“I want to move out and stay here. Mom and Grandad are driving me crazy!” Abel explained.

“Really? Alright, I’ll give you a five percent discount on the rent and utilities,” said Emmeline.

“I’ll prepay one year of rent to you. Tell me the amount.” Abel took out his phone and transferred the money.

“I’ll be back with my stuff. See you later,” said Abel.

“I’ll clean the room for you.” Emmeline went upstairs.

Abel finished his coffee excitedly before leaving in his car.

“Mr. Ryker, how’s everything?” Luca called Abel from his car that was parked around the corner.

## Chapter 25

“It went well,” said Abel on the phone while driving, “She believes everything I said and agrees to rent out a room to me.”

“Are you sure you want to go undercover to investigate this?” asked Luca, “I am worried it would be too hard on you, Mr. Abel.”

“I have to do this on my own,” Abel was determined, “I need to find out if she is the Wonder Doctor. I cannot fail Granddad.”

As the call ended, Luca wondered briefly if finding out Emmeline’s true identity was Abel’s sole objective of going undercover. It had to be something more.

At the same time, Emmeline made a call to her assistant. “Benjamin, could you please get me a second-hand electric bicycle?”

Benjamin was dumbfounded. “Ms. Louise, may I ask why? I am sure you can always use any of the 20 luxury cars under Adelman Group.”

“No, I can’t!” Emmeline exclaimed, “I need an electric bicycle and it has to be a used bicycle. Get me one as soon as possible!”

Following Emmeline’s instructions, Benjamin brought a second-hand electric bicycle before Abel moved in. The electric bicycle looked like it had been through a lot.

“Thank you!” Emmeline was satisfied with the used electric bicycle. She turned to Benjamin, “You should leave now before Abel is here.”

“Abel? Why would he be here?” Benjamin raised an eyebrow. Emmeline explained the situation, and Benjamin frowned. “You should be careful, Ms. Louise. I do not think he is to be trusted.”

“I asked you for this electric bicycle precisely because I don’t trust him,” Emmeline smirked, “He will not find out anything he thinks he will. I will make sure of his failure and disappointment.”

Benjamin nodded, “You are as brilliant as ever, Ms. Louise. Nonetheless, please take care of yourself and don’t get hurt.”

“Don’t worry about it,” said Emmeline confidently. Benjamin smiled and left through a shortcut.

Shortly after, Abel returned to Emmeline’s place with Luca. Luca passed two large suitcases to Emmeline and politely said, “Please take care of Mr. Abel, Ms. Louise.”

Abel glared at Luca, “I am perfectly fine on my own.” Emmeline simply smiled and said, “Of course! I will make sure he will never go hungry with me.”

“I am sure Mr. Abel can get his own food,” Luca replied. “I certainly can. I think you should leave now,” Abel got impatient. Luca quickly left to stop embarrassing Abel further.

Emmeline carried Abel’s suitcases to the third floor. His room was tidy and ready for him. Abel took out a bedsheet from his suitcase and said, “I am used to my own bedsheet.”

She realized he was a clean freak and would never share anything he used personally with others. She took his bedsheet and re-made the bed.

Abel couldn’t help but stare at her backside as she was making the bed. Her voluptuous body stretched out on the bed, and his pulse raced at the sight, which reminded him of what happened five years ago.

He shook his head and forced himself to look away. He should not be thinking about Emmeline. It was Alana who set him up five years ago.

Once she had made the bed, Emmeline helped Abel to unpack and took him on a tour to check out other rooms in the house.

“It’s not a fancy place, but I’m sure you can find all you need here,” said Emmeline, “I hope you won’t mind staying in a simple place like here.”

“I don’t mind at all,” Abel assured her, “This place is much better than where I used to stay during my training overseas.”

“Good to know,” said Emmeline, heading downstairs, “Follow me. I am going to cook for the kids. You are welcome to dine with us.”

Abel suggested, “How about we dine out? It’s my treat to thank you for renting out to me.”

“Awesome!” The triplets were standing by the doorway, looking excited. “Can we also visit the theme park?”

Before Emmeline could respond, Abel answered swiftly, “Sure. Let’s go!” The triplets were overjoyed. “Let’s go, Daddy!”

“Hold on,” Emmeline frowned, “This man is not your Daddy, okay?”

## Chapter 26

Ignoring Emmeline, Abel took the triplets in his arms and on his back, and they went downstairs. Emmeline quickly grabbed the kids’ jackets and ran behind them.

Half an hour later, Abel, Emmeline and the triplets reached the car park leading to Fifteen Avery Park, one of the most instagrammable restaurants in town, in Abel’s Rolls-Royce. They entered the elevator.

Following them were Luca and three bodyguards. They parked their car nearby and entered the next elevator. Their duty was to protect Abel, and they could not risk anything happening to him.

Abel entered the restaurant with Emmeline and the triplets. Even though people in Struyria did not know about Abel yet, their presence had drawn the restaurant crowd’s attention.



Not only was Abel irresistibly handsome, but Emmeline was also extremely beautiful. In addition, the attractive couple were together with their adorable triplets. Almost everyone in the restaurant was charmed and in awe of the beautiful family.

However, Alana was not one of them. She was dining with her best friend when she saw Abel at the entrance of the restaurant. She stood up instantly and was about to approach him when she saw he was with Emmeline and the triplets.

She found out earlier from Rosaline that Abel had moved out, but she had never thought he would move out to be with Emmeline. They seemed close like a true family. Were they already staying together?

Alana was furious. She spoke through gritted teeth, "I will not let you get away with this easily, Emmeline!" She grabbed her handbag and left through another exit.

As the waiter brought Abel, Emmeline and the triplets to their table, the triplets immediately started to order what they liked from the menu. Emmeline frowned, "Only order what you can finish, alright?"

"What would you like?" Abel asked her gently, "Would you like me to recommend?" Emmeline shook her head and said, "It's okay. I will order myself."

She made her orders, and Abel ordered his favorites. Minutes later, their food was served, and they began to dig in happily.

On the other hand, Alana left Fifteen Avery Park and rushed toward the Louise family villa. There she met with Auntie Alondra to complain about what she saw in the restaurant.

Alondra frowned as she listened to her niece, sobbing. She thought of something and whispered into Alana's ears.

“Would this work?” Alana asked with teary eyes, “I am afraid Abel would not be easy to fool. He will not forgive me if he finds out.”

“Listen to me and don’t worry,” Alondra said confidently, “This is the only way for you to be together with Abel. You have to set him up again.”

“What if I don’t get pregnant?” Alana was worried. “Would Abel forgive me?”

“You simply need to get him to sleep with you,” said Alondra, “You may get pregnant this time.”

“What about Emmeline? She gave birth to quadruplets after sleeping with Abel,” Alana was not convinced. Alondra pulled her closer and whispered again.

“I have everything planned out. If you don’t get pregnant sleeping with Abel, this is what you should do,” Alondra whispered her plans to Alana.

Alana’s face turned red. “It sounds like a good plan,” she lowered her voice.

“I have got this,” said Alondra, “I will get you the person you need. All you have to do is pay the money. I will make sure nothing goes wrong.”

“Thank you so much, Auntie Alondra,” Alan smiled. Alondra replied, “Don’t mention it! I am counting on you to climb the social ladder.”

Abel, Emmeline and the triplets were having their desserts at the Fifteen Avery Park. The triplets were so full they could not take another bite.

Taking a sip from his milkshake, Abel said, “Let’s go to the theme park after this.” The triplets were excited. “Yes! Daddy is the best!”

“It is getting late,” Emmeline objected, “I think we should go home.” Abel insisted, “It’s fine. The kids could have some fun before we head home.”

Abel led them out of the restaurant before Emmeline could say another word. As they entered the elevator, Abel thought of something, and his heart sank. “Shit.”

“What’s wrong?” asked Emmeline. He turned toward her, “I think I am having an allergic reaction. There was kiwi in the milkshake just now.”

Emmeline was stunned. “Are you allergic to kiwi?”

## Chapter 27

“Yes,” Abel scowled as he continued, “I have the same disease as Hesperus.”

“H-How can it be?” Emmeline gasped and said, “Her father is Adrien!”

“I’ve thought about this before, Adrien is not allergic to kiwi.” Abel replied.

Emmeline was stunned and she asked, “Is the paternity test real?”

“Of course it’s real, Ryker family’s hospital ran the test. And...” Abel said.

“Yes?” Emmeline frowned, her heart pounding hard.

“And I had sex with Alana, not with you.” Abel said hoarsely.

“O-Oh... let’s get to the hospital, your ears are red!” Emmeline suggested.

After Abel got an injection in the hospital emergency room, it was already ten in the night.

The triplets were being fetched home by the nanny. Emmeline was left to accompany Abel.

Abel’s phone rang when they were about to depart from the hospital.

Rosaline was calling him.

Abel immediately answered the call.

“A-Abel, something bad happened... Please come back now!” Rosaline’s voice was shaking.

“Mom, what’s wrong? Please calm down.” Abel asked composedly.

“T-Timothy... Timothy was kidnapped!” Rosaline shouted.

“How did it happen?” Abel’s heart skipped a beat upon hearing it.

“The surveillance showed that Timmy walked out of the mansion alone. He was being taken away by a black car.

“Do you know who did it?” Abel asked with a frown.

“I’ve called the police. We are clueless at the moment.”

“I’ll be back now.” Abel hung up the phone.

“Did something happen to Timothy?” Emmeline panicked. She liked Timothy; he looked so much like her sons.

“Yes. I’ll drop you off before I go.” Abel said.

“I’ll take a taxi. Please return for Timothy.”

“Alright, take care of yourself.”

Emmeline nodded before going down from the car. Abel drove his Rolls-Royce swiftly.

“Please look into what’s happening to the Ryker family now, and also send someone to get me.” Emmeline called Benjamin.

“Yes, Ms. Louise. Please send me your location; the driver will be there shortly.” Benjamin answered.

Emmeline sent Benjamin her current location. The driver arrived in ten minutes to drop her off at the coffee shop.

Benjamin phoned her after a while and he said, “Ms. Louise, Abel’s son, was being kidnapped. The rescue mission is at eight o’clock tonight.”

“Send help to them!”

“Yes, Ms. Louise.”

“Abel, our child is in trouble, please save him!”

Abel empathized with Alana as a parent, he held her to comfort her.

Alana was surprised.

Auntie Alondra was right, Abel hugs me out of empathy!

This is the first time he’s been so close to me!

“A-Abel... Who would do such a thing to our son? I’m so afraid!” Alana cried out.

Abel frowned while padding her back, and he said, “Nothing bad will happen to him; I promised to rescue him safely.”

“Timmy is our precious son; I can’t live if anything happens to him!” Alana was tearing up as she spoke.

“No, I will never let anyone harm him. Please rest assured.”

“O-Okay...” Alana smiled smugly when Abel did not notice.

Auntie Alondra, you’re the best! Abel seriously falls for it.

My next plan is to have sex with him!

The landline on the table suddenly rang; the caller was unknown.

Rosaline rushed over and instantly answered the call, and she screamed, “What do you want with my grandson? I’ll give you anything, including money; just don’t hurt him!”

“Madame Ryker, we won’t harm him. We only want money.”

“Tell me! How much do you want? Return my grandson to me!” Rosaline was losing her composure.

“Give me three more days; we will tell you how much we want from you after discussing it.” The kidnapers answered.

Abel took over the phone call; he yelled, “Who are you guys? Who gave you the audacity to kidnap my son?”

## Chapter 28

“Mr. Ryker, you’re helpless, so you better obey us. We’ll contact you soon.”

“If my son is ever harmed in the process, I will find you and I will torture you!”

“We already mentioned that we’re solely here for the money.”

“But why do we have to wait for three days? What kind of trick are you playing?”

“Stop asking so many questions; just wait for us!” The kidnapper hung up on him.

“What do these assholes want?” Abel frowned.

They’re creating an opportunity for me to get close to you. Once you have sex with me, your son will be back by the following day!

But I need to take it one step at a time; there will be opportunities for me.

“Damn it! I’ll never let them go!” Abel’s anger rushed through him,

Alana got scared by Abel’s reaction; he was boiling with anger.

The kidnapers had better not be caught.

She threw herself onto Abel, and she held his waist. She said worriedly, “Abel, I’m willing to exchange myself for Timmy; please let me go!”

“Timmy will be fine; there’s no need to rush.” Abel held her back with one arm.

“Timmy... Where are you? I’m so worried...” Alana sobbed.

She held onto Abel tightly, faking her tears as if she were really devastated.

If Abel looked at her carefully, he would notice that Alana was not crying. She was just pretending to be sad.

Alana even managed to fool Rosaline with her acting.

“Abel, you should get married to Alana once Timmy returns. I would feel so much more secure if the two of you gave birth to more grandchildren.”

Abel was not keen, so he just kept his mouth shut.

Alana was crying more aggressively; she screamed, “Timmy, I’ll die with you if you’re dead!”

“Abel, can you hear me?” Rosaline raised her voice.

“Yes.” Abel nodded unwillingly.

“Abel, I’ll give birth to many more children with you! I know the Ryker family would love to have a daughter; I’ll make your family whole!”

“Okay, I promised to get married.” Abel’s voice was hoarse.

The kidnappers did not get back to them, even though it was late in the night.

Alana pretended to faint while crying.

Abel was forced to hold her and bring her up to the guest room.

Alana put her arms around his neck when he was about to leave her on the bed. She said, “Abel, please do not leave me alone; I’m so scared.”

Abel pushed her away, and he muttered, “It’s late; have a good rest. I’ll be waiting for the call.”

“They’ll only get back to us after three days. Let’s not exhaust ourselves. You should get some rest too.”

“I’m not sleepy.” Abel did not want to stay.

Alana held him from behind and wept. She begged, “You’re so cold-hearted. Can’t you be here for me? I’m so lonely without Timmy.”

“I’m asking Yvonne to accompany you for the night.” Abel rejected her and walked out of the room.

Yes, the kidnappers promised to get back after three days, and they won’t dare harm my son either.

I can slightly relax my mind since they only want money.

Abel went into his room. He took a cold shower, trying to calm himself down.

He lit a cigarette and smoked quietly in the dark.

He did not know when he fell asleep.

Suddenly, he felt that someone was hugging him.

He immediately opened his eyes. He saw Alana trying to seduce him.



He pushed her away forcefully and questioned her in a disapproving voice, “Who let you in?”

## Chapter 29

“Abel, I was having nightmares. I saw Timmy being killed in my dreams. I’m beyond terrified; can you hold me to sleep, please?”

“I do not have such a sleeping habit.” Abel pushed her away and went to the study.

Hmph, I won’t let you off easily, Abel. Alana was smirking mischievously in the dark.

Abel locked his study’s door, and he called Luca.

“How was it? Is there any lead?”

“We’re still investigating it. However, Mr. Ryker, it seemed that someone else was also inspecting.”

“Someone is also inspecting? What do you mean?” Abel asked with a frown.

“There’s someone else looking for Timothy other than Mr. Campbell and us.”

“Are they on our side?” Abel wondered.

“Yes, they should be helping us.” Luca answered.

“Well, at all costs, find Timothy as soon as possible! Do not startle the kidnappers.”

“Yes, Mr. Ryker.”

The next day, Emmeline arrived at the Ryker Mansion.

Alana's eyes reddened when she saw Emmeline. "Emmeline, you must be here to laugh at me!"

"Impossible; I'm worried about Timothy too." She frowned while listening to what Alana said.

"I don't believe you; you're a wicked woman! You must be the one who kidnapped Timmy in order to get married to Mr. Ryker! Am I right?"

"What kind of nonsense is this? Alana, you better watch what you say!"

"You must be the culprit! I can't think of anyone else abducting my son!"

"Alana Lane!" Emmeline hissed.

"You've got it all wrong. Ms. Louise wouldn't have done it!" Abel defended Emmeline.

"But I don't want to see her! Please ask her to leave right now!" Alana threw herself toward Abel.

Abel glanced at Emmeline with mixed feelings.

"Mr. Ryker, I'm sorry for intruding on the two of you. I should get going." Emmeline's heart hardened as she said

Abel swallowed down his frustration and nodded toward her; she ran away quickly.

Hmph! Alana smirked triumphantly as Emmeline walked away.

Emmeline ran out of the Ryker mansion. Her phone rang.

Benjamin was calling her, "Ms. Louise, we've gotten a lead."

“What is it?”

“There’s a small wooden house on an abandoned pier. Someone heard a child’s cries over there.”

“Provide this lead for Mr. Campbell, and ask them to search around.”

“Okay!” Benjamin replied.

Emmeline was relieved to hear this news. Benjamin shouldn’t be wrong about the location.

I hope that Timothy is fine; if not, I will blame myself for this.

If it weren’t for me, Abel would have been at the mansion with Timothy instead of me yesterday.

The day was getting darker.

Everyone in the Ryker family was anxiously waiting by the phone, hoping the kidnappers would contact them.

But the landline did not ring one bit throughout the whole day.

“Everyone, let’s stay calm at a moment like this. Since the kidnappers requested that we wait for three days, let’s just patiently wait for them.” Alana said.

“Alana, you finally got a hold of yourself. I still could not keep my cool.” Rosaline said.

“It wouldn’t do us any good if we were panicky. Abel, am I correct?”

Abel had barely spoken throughout the day. He was wordless with rage.

No one dared to approach him when he was in this state.

“Alana, you’re not wrong. Despite being patient, we’ve no choice.” Abel glowered.

“Well, it seems this way. Just like the movie, we might enrage the kidnappers if we take the wrong step.” Rosaline said hopelessly.

A sense of powerlessness engulfed Abel, and he did not dare make any risky move considering Timothy’s safety.

It’s worth trying to use money to save Timmy.

I’ll make the kidnappers regret it afterward.

“In this case, you should get yourself some rest, even just by closing your eyes.” Alana suggested.

“Abel, please try to get some sleep. I’ll rest for a while too.” Rosaline agreed with Alana.

Abel knew that he would make his mom worry even more if he refused to rest, so he went to his room warily.

Ha! I’ll definitely seize this chance! Can you get away from me? Alana thought to herself.

## **Chapter 30**

Alana followed Abel into the room, and she said to him gently, “Abel, I’ll fill up the bathtub for you. You should relax yourself a little; maybe Timmy will be back tomorrow.”

“Okay, I’m ready with a huge amount of cash. I’m merely waiting for them to return Timmy!” Abel said, his voice hoarse.

“Timmy will be safe and sound.” While Alana was talking, she tried to take off Abel’s tie.

To her amazement, Abel did not push her away this time.

Alana was elated. She hastily went to the bathroom and filled up the bathtub with warm water.

She mixed some special medical powder into the water.

It was totally fragrance-free, but when it diffused through one’s body, it made one lose control.

Abel stepped into the bathtub, and the warm water covered his whole body.

His entire body was at ease.

But he could not stop thinking about Timothy.

Suddenly, he was starting to hallucinate. Timothy became Helios, Endymion, and then Hesperus.

The triplets looked exactly like his son.

Abel was totally loosening up; he felt a sort of weird sensation running through his body.

I’m lusting after some comfort...

He pinched the bridge of his nose, and then he stepped out of the bathtub. He covered himself with a towel and walked out of the bathroom.

Alana was stunned, looking at him.

He was tall and handsome. Water droplets streamed down from his face. He was looking extremely sexy. Alana's heart skipped a beat simply by looking at him.

She was already in seductive sleepwear; she moaned and threw herself at Abel.

Abel pushed her away from his body, but Alana refused to let go; she held him tight.

“Abel, please don't reject me anymore. Am I not as pretty as Emmeline?”

Emmeline?

A steamy dream flashed across his mind.

He was hurting a fascinating woman inside his dream...

“A-Ah!” Alana was thrown to the bed, and Abel drew her closer to him.

He was full of desire; he could not hold himself back any longer.

He tore Alana's clothes off, and he was restraining her wrists.

Y-Yes! My plan is working! Alana entangled her legs around Abel's waist.

Abel was about to kiss her, and she was overly excited until she felt breathless. She fainted from excitement.

“Damn it!” Abel felt something was off. He tilted his head to look at the woman in front of him.

He saw Alana naked in front of him.

He had bruised her as he held her too tight.

“God damn it!”

He felt disgusted and let go of her hands. He rushed into the bathroom and poured himself ice-cold water.

In an instant, he fully regained his consciousness. But he was being tormented by his endless desire.

He knew at that moment that Alana had tried to drug him with the water in the bathtub!

He contacted the Ryker family’s hospital, and he hissed, “Send me tranquilizer as soon as possible!”

Cristopher from the Department of Biology answered the phone, and he hurriedly responded, “Yes, Mr. Ryker!”

Abel put on his clothes and went to his study.

Cristopher arrived within ten minutes.

He was by Abel’s bedroom door; he knocked twice, but there was no response.

“Mr. Ryker, I’m here with the medicine!” He pushed the door open.

He was breathless, looking at what was in front of him.

Alana was bare-skinned, laying beautifully on the bed.

Cristopher could not contain his desire; he took off his clothes and went near her.

“Sweetheart, I didn’t expect to see you here. I’m so blessed!”

“Abel, we’re finally together.” Alana was beyond happy.

“Yes, you’re the sweetest woman I’ve ever seen before.” Cristopher tried to imitate Abel’s voice.

He covered her face with the bed sheet.

“Abel, I never thought that you liked it this way...” Alana was muttering.

Cristopher held her hands over her head, not letting her hands go.

Alanna would know that he was someone else if she ever held him.

He was fat, and his body was completely different from Abel’s.

He was having fun with Alana.

He quickly put on his clothes and went to Abel afterward.

The following day, Alanna was awake.

Her body was exhausted, and her limbs were sore.

However, her heart was filled with joy.

She finally had sex with Abel.

She was extremely content with him!

Her body was full of bruises—the proof of them making love to each other!

In the end, I’m successful!

She looked around carefully to make sure Abel was not around.

She made a call to Alondra.



“Auntie Alondra, I’ve succeeded!”

“You did it? Abel slept with you last night?” Alondra was surprised.