

Quadruplets Unite: Mother's Words Are Law! Chapter 61 - 90

Chapter 61 Lost to Whom

“That bridal boutique right there,” Alana said. “We’ll go there and teach her a lesson.”

“Wait!” Alondra said, “Just the two of us won’t be enough. Have you forgotten that she’s a pretty good fighter?”

“What do you mean, Auntie?” Alana seemed to be afraid of Emmeline’s skills.

“I’ll make a few calls,” Alondra said. “If I can get Mrs. Serge, Mrs. Plummer, Mrs. Kingsley and the others here, they can bombard her with insults. That should be enough to make her suffer!”

“That’s a good idea!” Alana said. “Get them here quickly before Emmeline leaves.”

Smirking, Alondra made a few calls to her friends.

In ten minutes, a group of five wealthy ladies met up with Alondra excitedly.

They were experts at gossip and bickering!

Alana briefly explained to them what happened, thinking that her aunt made the right choice.

“Don’t show any mercy to her. Make her wish she was never born! I won’t skimp on your payment,” she said.

“Leave it to us!” The ladies said confidently. “We’ll be looking forward to payment!”

“No problem!” Alana grinned smugly.

The wealthy ladies swaggered noisily into the bridal boutique, clutching their handbags.

Emmeline was in the middle of choosing a gown. Before she knew it, she was surrounded by a group of middle-aged women in flamboyant makeup.

The women looked like they were looking for trouble, and they wasted no time in insulting Emmeline.

“Isn’t she the b*tch driven out of the Louise family? Tsk, it must be our unlucky day!”

“That’s right. I want to ask if the manager welcomes b*tches in this boutique. If he does, I’ll have to take my business elsewhere!”

“You’re a walking disaster, Emmeline Louise. Nothing good happens wherever you go!”

“Watch your mouths! I don’t even know you!” Emmeline said.

“But we know who you are. The entire Struyria knows you’re a shameless flirt!”

“You broke up Mr. Ryker and Ms. Lane. To think that Ms. Lane is already pregnant, too! You can’t get any more shameless than that!”

“Stop with your nonsense!” Emmeline was pale with anger. “Is it my fault Alana isn’t loved?”

“Yes, it’s all your fault, and you’d better admit it!”

“So she’s Emmeline Louise, the current trending topic on the Internet?” The sales clerk said. “I was wondering why she looks so familiar!”

“That’s her in the flesh!” One of the women said. “Tell your boss not to sell her anything. Otherwise, we’ll be taking our business elsewhere!”

“No, please don’t!” The sales clerk exclaimed. “We value your business!”

The sales clerk snatched the gown in Emmeline’s hands and ran to the office in the back to get her superior.

When the manager received the news, he hastily ran to Emmeline.

“So you’re Emmeline Louise! Aren’t you ashamed of yourself? I don’t want your business. I can’t afford to offend these big spenders just to sell you one discounted gown!”

“How could you?” Emmeline said angrily. “It’s not like I’m not paying!”

“A discounted gown isn’t worth that much anyway!” The manager said. “I’ll lose more money if I sell you that gown, so I’d rather not sell it to you!”

“That’s right!” The women laughed smugly. “If you kick this b*tch out of your boutique, we’ll buy a gown each!”

“But... we don’t carry your sizes,” the manager said.

“You accept custom orders, right?” The women said excitedly, “We’ll order one each as soon as this b*tch is out on the street!”

“Deal!”

The manager turned to speak to Emmeline coldly, “You heard that? If you still have any dignity in you, you’d better get lost!”

“Hahaha!” The women doubled over with laughter.

Alana and Alondra were delighted as they witnessed the scene from outside.

“Fine!” Emmeline took a deep breath and picked up her handbag. “I’ll leave, but before I do, I want to know who did I lose to today?”

Chapter 62 Who Is She

“It’s me, of course!” One of the women thumped her chest proudly, “You lost to me!”

“May I ask your name, madam?” Emmeline smirked coldly. “Does your husband run a business?”

“You can call me Mrs. Serge!” The woman said. “My husband owns a big company. You must’ve heard of Advance Contractors, right?”

“I know,” Emmeline said. “Your husband must be Vance Serge then.”

“That’s him alright!” The woman smirked even more smugly.

“Thanks for making things easy for me.” Emmeline took her phone and dialed Benjamin’s number.

“Do you know Advance Contractors of Struyria?”

“Yes, Ms. Louise,” Benjamin said. “Did Mr. Serge offend you?”

“No, but his wife did,” Emmeline replied. “I want Vance Serge and his entire family to be out of Struyria by tomorrow!”

“Yes, Ms. Louise. I’ll get that done for you,” Benjamin said.

“Also,” Emmeline continued, “There’s a bridal boutique here that really bothers me. If I remember correctly, they’re renting from us. I want it gone before this evening.”

“Send the location to me, and I’ll settle the rest for you,” Benjamin said.

Emmeline ended the call and sent her current location to him.

“Hahaha!” The women and the manager burst out laughing as though they had just heard the funniest joke of the century.

“I didn’t expect her to be even more shameless!”

“Does she think she can fool us with that pathetic attempt of a joke? Hahaha! I’m dying!”

Suddenly, the shrill ringing of a phone interrupted everyone’s laughter.

It was Mrs. Serge’s phone.

While taking her phone from her handbag, she said smugly, “It’s my husband. He’s probably asking if I have enough pocket money!”

“Tch!” The other women scoffed enviously.

“Hubby!” Mrs. Serge answered with a coquettish voice.

“You b*tch!” The person on the other end of the call was furious. “What have you done this time? I should’ve divorced you when I had the chance!”

“Why are you yelling at me, hubby?” Mrs. Serge said, aggrieved. “I’m with all of my friends!”

“That’s because you deserve it! Who did you offend this time? My company has gone bankrupt, and we’re forced to leave Struyria by tonight! I don’t have a single cent to my name anymore, and all you can think of is shopping!”

“...” Mrs. Serge’s mouth was agape. She could not speak a word.

Who did I offend? Other than Emmeline, no one else! What can she possibly do? She looks like a poor loser...

A short while later, Benjamin's subordinates arrived at the boutique and started removing the signboard.

The boutique manager fell sitting on the floor in shock.

Wait, I thought she was lying! How did it turn out to be true?

The other women knew that staying behind would be bad for them, so they wanted to leave.

"Hold it," Emmeline said coldly. "If you don't want to end up like Vance Serge, slap the two women at the door on your way out."

"Ahh!" The women cried out in fear. They dared not talk back.

They did not know for sure if Emmeline was truly the bigshot she claimed, but there was no other explanation for what just happened.

They would rather err on the side of caution.

The women went up to Alana and Alondra, slapped them hard, and hastily ran away.

By the time the women were done with Alana and Alondra, they were sprawled on the floor.

When the two women got up again, Emmeline was nowhere to be seen, and the boutique in front of them was almost vacant.

"Auntie!" Alana sobbed while rubbing her swollen face. "Just who is Emmeline? This isn't what I expected?"

"She's only a poor loser, of course. This is all a coincidence!"

"It doesn't look like a coincidence to me!"

"Who knows, that b*tch might have friends in high places," Alondra said. "We let her off easy today!"

Alana gritted her teeth. “Hmph! I won’t let you off so easily, Emmeline! You’ll meet your end at the banquet tomorrow!”

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Chapter 64 I Want to Marry Her

In the afternoon, a car from Meriwether Mansion came to pick Emmeline up.

The driver was not Adrien.

Emmeline later found out that Adrien had drunk a little too much the night before, and he was recovering from a hangover.

Emmeline felt somewhat disappointed.

Oh god, why must that guy be my son's father? Wouldn't Abel be better?

By now, Meriwether Mansion was full of guests.

Landen and Lewis, Oscar's two sons, had returned from abroad.

The only person missing was Adam Ryker, Landen's oldest son.

He was the most promising candidate of the next generation to take the helm, but Oscar had disqualified him at the last moment.

Adam resented his grandfather for that, and he did not show up to family gatherings since then.

Landen was overjoyed to find out he had three extra four-year-old grandsons. Oscar was very happy about it too.

It did not matter who the three boys' father was. Most importantly, they were his great-grandsons.

In contrast, Lewis' family was lesser in numbers.

Rosaline was forcing a smile, and Alana was pushing her stomach outward to attract attention.

She was less than two months pregnant, and it was hard to see the bump.

Abel stood some distance away, acting as though what was going on had nothing to do with him.

The three boys were dressed in identical black suits, and their hair was combed backward neatly. They looked cute and handsome.

Everyone cheered when they made their appearance.

Julianna was on cloud nine and could not stop smiling. Wrinkles appeared on her botoxed face.

“Sun, Moon, and Star’s mother deserves to be rewarded for blessing the Ryker family with three grandsons!” Landen said. “Adrien will also hold a grand wedding reception!”

Julianna smiled even wider when she heard that. As Adrien’s mother, she was very proud.

Oscar said, “I’ll reward Adrien’s wife-to-be too! She has graced our family with three direct descendants!”

“I agree!” Adrien yelled while stumbling down the stairs. “I love Emmeline! I want to marry her!”

“That’s right, my son!” Julianna said happily. “Who knows if she’ll bear another set of triplets when she gets pregnant again? I’d love to have some granddaughters!”

“I will win her heart!” Adrien said confidently.

Juliana and Adrien exchanged a high-five. “Good luck!”

The mood in Lewis’ family became even more somber.

Rosaline was indignant. Meriwether Mansion plans to take Emmeline in, and they want Emmeline to bear more children for them! How annoying!

Emmeline also pulled a long face. Must I give birth to another set of triplets?

Alana was furious. Emmeline doesn't deserve this treatment! I've been trying to get Abel's attention for many years, but Levan Mansion still hasn't taken me in yet! Look at Abel standing there. He's deliberately ignoring me!

Alana had never felt so bad before.

"Alana is pregnant too!" Alondra spoke up for her niece. "In a few months, Alana will grace the Ryker family with another grandchild. She hasn't gone for her check-up, but who knows? She might give birth to twins or even triplets too!"

Alana played along. She lowered her head shyly and gently touched her flat abdomen.

Rosaline dragged Abel over. "Abel, you should find some time and register your marriage with Alana. It's time to add a new member to Levan Mansion!"

Abel did not say anything. His face was as frigid and harsh as an ice sculpture.

Alana turned her gaze toward him and instantly gasped.

Abel was dressed in the cheap black suit Emmeline had bought him the day before!

The head of Ryker Group and one of the most influential figures in Struyria was dressed in a mass-produced, hundred-dollar suit!

Chapter 65 Did You Steal Timothy?

Alana's knees went weak from the anger, and she nearly fell on the floor.

Emmeline! How did you bewitch Abel such that he'd willingly lower his status? He's head over heels for you!

While Alana was simmering in her thoughts, the butler declared, “Announcing the arrival of Ms. Emmeline Louise!”

The people turned their heads toward the entrance.

A slender and beautiful young woman stepped through the ornate threshold.

She was dressed in a blue evening gown, and her chestnut hair was styled in a big wave.

She barely had any makeup on, but her beauty was enchanting.

The women gasped when they looked closely at the gown she was wearing.

Is that the Serene Sea? The ultimate masterpiece by one of the best designers in the world, and only one was made?

“That’s... That’s impossible!” Alana was shocked.

She had been waiting eagerly for Emmeline’s appearance so that she could insult her. She was hoping to humiliate Emmeline using her lavish status, but Emmeline had stolen the entire show!

All of a sudden, Alana thought she was so unremarkable compared to Emmeline.

“Mommy!” “Mommy!” “Mommy!” “Pretty Mommy!”

Four boys ran toward Emmeline, with Timothy trailing behind.

Tears welled up in Emmeline’s eyes. She bent down, spread her arms, and embraced the four children.

“My babies! I haven’t seen you in a few days. How have you been?”

“We’ve been great!” Helios, Endymion, and Hesperus answered. Only Timothy sheepishly lowered his head.

“Timmy.” Emmeline gently held up Timothy’s face and kissed his cheek. “What happened? You need to cheer up. Otherwise, I’ll be sad.”

“Mm.” Timothy sniffled and forced a smile. “I’ll try my best to be happy, Pretty Mommy.”

Emmeline’s heart wrenched. She hugged the little boy so close that their hearts seemed to be touching.

“I say, Rosaline,” Julianna said to Rosaline, “Something doesn’t seem right. Timothy looks exactly like the three boys! Did Emmeline give birth to quadruplets, and someone from your family stole Timothy away?”

“That’s utter nonsense!” Alana’s face turned pale instantly. “I gave birth to Timothy myself! He used to be a part of me! He’s not stolen!”

“Why are you so worked up?” Julianna smirked. “I was only joking with Rosaline!”

Rosaline took a closer look at the four boys and thought what Julianna said made sense.

Now that she mentioned it, it sort of makes sense. But that’s impossible! They ran a DNA test, and Timothy is indeed Abel’s son.

“Come here!” Alana grabbed Timothy by his wrist and dragged him over. “Look me in the eye! I am your mother!”

“Waah!” Timothy cried because of the pain.

“That’s not how you treat a child!” Emmeline said angrily. “Is that how you should act as a mother?”

“I...” Alana snorted coldly. “It’s none of your business!”

Emmeline was furious. “If you don’t know how to behave as a mother, I’ll teach you how to be one!”

Rosaline chided Emmeline coldly, “You’re in no position to teach her anything!”

Julianna took a step forward and shielded Emmeline behind her. “Emma is a good mother! Look at my three grandchildren. Aren’t they fine?”

“That’s enough!” Oscar said sternly. “Why must you bicker and argue as soon as you step through the door? Where are your manners?”

Emmeline was shocked. Is he talking about me? Why is he prejudiced against me?

Oscar said to Rosaline, “This girl looks too bewitching. I won’t call Adrien a lucky man just yet!”

The atmosphere in the hall became tense suddenly. Rosaline froze and did not know how to react.

“Heheh!” Alana chuckled softly. She did not expect Oscar to say that.

Looks like I’m in luck! No one in the family can possibly defy the patriarch’s words! Not so smug now, Emmeline!

Chapter 66 She’s Extraordinary

Emmeline was also surprised by what Oscar said. What does he mean? I'm too bewitching? Am I supposed to be Helen of Troy in this story? Does he think I'll ruin his family?

"Looks like Adrien isn't that lucky after all." Abel walked toward her and draped his arm over her shoulder. "Emma, this banquet is getting boring. Let's go somewhere else."

Emmeline gently pushed him away. She knew Abel wanted to protect her, but she was worried that his intervention might worsen the situation.

The three boys were pouting. They would never forgive anyone who spoke ill of their mother, even if that person was their great-grandfather!

"Yes, Mommy. There's no point staying here. Let's go home."

"Situation report! The Ryker family is a no-go."

"We love you, Mommy. You're the best mommy to all of us, it doesn't matter what other people say!"

Emmeline hugged the three boys tightly. "Alright, let's go home."

"I'll give you a ride," Abel said.

Adrien stepped between him and Emmeline. "She's my wife, and they're my children!"

Abel sneered. "You don't deserve to be a father."

"The three boys can't leave!" Julianna grabbed Sun, Moon, and Star. "They're my grandchildren. They can't leave!"

“But Granny,” Sun said, “Great-Grandpa doesn’t like our mommy, so we can’t stay here. We’ll be going home with Mommy.”

“We are here to assess the situation,” Moon said, “And it looks like this place isn’t up to par. We should leave with Mommy.”

Oscar said sternly, “You three are descendants of the Ryker family. You cannot leave with an outsider!”

“No!” The three boys cried out together. “We only want Mommy! We don’t care about the Ryker family!”

Oscar was furious. “But your mother doesn’t meet my requirements! I can only ask her to leave!”

“Mr. Ryker, you’re getting ahead of yourself,” Emmeline said coolly. “I’ve never wanted to marry into the Ryker family, and I gave birth to the children. No one can decide their fate without my consent!”

“You are in no position to speak like that here! I’m the one in charge!”

“I’m not beneath you! I don’t have to listen to what you say!”

“Show some respect, young woman!”

“I’d give you some respect if you deserve any!”

“Security! Take her down!” Oscar roared angrily.

“Grandfather!” Abel spread his arms and stood in front of Emmeline. “You can’t treat Emmeline like that. What did she do wrong?”

“Hmph! I’d rather not separate the mother from the children because it’s better for them to stay together, but I can see that this young woman is extraordinary.”

“Oh?” Emmeline smirked, though alarm bells rang in her head. “How am I extraordinary?”

“The gown you are wearing,” Oscar said, “Is the pièce de resistance of a world-renowned designer. If you’re not extraordinary, you wouldn’t have come into ownership of a priceless item like that.”

Emmeline laughed. “Heheh, I made this gown with my own hands. It’s only an imitation. How could you have been mistaken?”

“What?”

“An imitation?”

“She made it herself?”

Everyone was shocked.

Emmeline continued, “That’s right. I saved up money to buy the materials and spent two years stitching this gown myself. As much as it resembles the original, it is missing the Ocean’s Heart diamond. I had to replace it with a worthless glass bead.”

Everyone turned their gaze toward the trinket on her collar. Just like what she said, it was a glass bead with no luster.

Emmeline smirked. “Any more questions, Mr. Ryker?”

“ ... ”

Oscar was feeling embarrassed, though he maintained his composure. He smiled kindly and said, “I must have been mistaken!”

“Can I leave with my children now?” Emmeline asked.

Chapter 67 Easy to Please

“You’ve come all the way here. Why not stay for the party?” Oscar said with a smile.

“You wouldn’t be so heartless to refuse an old man’s invitation, right?”

“Of course not. I’m glad to stay,” Emmeline replied. What a sly old fox. I’m willing to entertain him anyway.

With the incident resolved, the atmosphere became jovial once more. Julianna hurriedly hugged the three boys tightly.

“Oh, my dear grandchildren! I nearly lost you!”

“If Great-Grandpa says he doesn’t like Mommy, we’ll leave again.” The boys made their stand clear.

“He won’t.” Landen went down on one knee and spoke to the children. “I’ll protect your Mommy.”

“Thank you, Grandpa.” The three boys offered their thanks, which delighted Landen greatly.

Lewis watched all that from afar, feeling very bitter about it. Rosaline turned her head away angrily.

Emmeline turned her head and looked at Abel. “Mr. Ryker.”

Abel had risked offending Oscar and protected her. Even though she refused his offer, she was still very grateful.

“Thank you for earlier.”

Before Abel could say anything, Emmeline was dumbfounded.

He’s wearing the cheap suit I bought for him! That’s... ridiculous! How can he wear that on this occasion?

“You...” Emmeline tugged his sleeve. “You really wore this.”

“You bought it, so I have to wear it,” Abel said with a smile. “It fits me perfectly. I haven’t got the chance to thank you!”

Oh my! Emmeline covered her face. This man is so easy to please!

Oscar did not intimidate her, but she was shocked speechless by Abel.

Alana was furious when she saw Emmeline and Abel close to each other. She went over and said angrily, “Watch what you’re doing, Emmeline. You belong to Adrien!”

Rosaline also came over. “Yes, Ms. Louise. You are in Landen’s family, and you shouldn’t be so intimate with Abel. Abel is going to marry Alana, and they will have three or more children.”

“I’ll congratulate you in advance then,” Emmeline said with a smile.

However, Abel’s expression sank. What do you mean, Emmeline?

Oscar said, “Ms. Lane is Timothy’s mother and is already pregnant with Abel’s child. Now that it has come to this, I won’t force Abel to look for the Wonder Doctor anymore.

Abel, you should marry Ms. Lane as soon as possible. The family needs more great-grandchildren!”

“Thank you, Grandfather!” Alana bowed shyly at Oscar.

“Let’s choose a good date then!” Rosaline said. “I can’t wait to bring you into Levan Mansion!”

Alana narrowed her eyes and gazed coldly at Emmeline.

You’re in no position to snatch what belongs to me!

You’re not going to marry Adrien too. I’ll make sure that your reputation is ruined!

Alana turned around and discreetly sent a message on her phone to her conspirator. Then, she deleted the message.

Emmeline was not enjoying herself with her current company, so she went to look for her three children.

The banquet started, and people started eating and drinking merrily.

Julianna and Landen were on the dance floor, celebrating the acquisition of three grandchildren.

Alana walked up to Abel. “Let’s dance, Abel.”

“I’m good, thanks,” Abel said with a smirk. “You should be more careful too. Wouldn’t want to hurt your baby.”

Alana averted her gaze. She did not understand the implication in Abel’s tone.

“Care for a drink, miss?” Someone spoke up behind Emmeline.

She turned away from the three boys and saw a young man standing behind her.

He looked quite handsome, and he was extending a hand holding a glass of red wine toward her.

“Do I know you?” Emmeline asked.

Chapter 68 The Wine Is Drugged

“Now you do.” The man smiled and extended the glass of wine.

“Thank you.” Emmeline took the glass out of courtesy. He should be someone from the Ryker family, I guess?

“You are very pretty,” the man said with a smile. “You caught my attention as soon as you entered the door. A toast to your charms.”

The man lifted his wine glass and took a sip, and Emmeline had no choice but to follow suit.

“Your three children look so outstanding. I’m very envious,” the man said.

“Heheh, thanks!” She was happy whenever someone praised her children.

“A toast to your three outstanding children.”

Emmeline did not refuse the toast and took another mouthful of wine.

“The way you defended yourself and your children earlier was admirable. That deserves another toast,” the man said with a smile.

Emmeline frowned slightly. Is he here just to make me drink? But what he said makes sense too. Another glass of red wine won’t hurt, would it?

Emmeline downed another mouthful of wine.

“Fantastic! I admire women like you, Ms. Louise,” the man said.

Emmeline put her glass away. “I’ll have to look after my children. You should go and admire someone else.”

“Of course,” the man said with a smile. “We can chat later.”

Emmeline waved her hand at him. The man took the wine glass and left with a sinister smirk on his face.

“Mommy, you’re very beautiful today!” Sun gestured a thumbs-up at Emmeline.

“You’re the prettiest lady at the party!” Moon tilted his head and admired his mother’s beauty.

“I’m sure this is what is meant by a face that can launch a thousand ships.” Star’s eyes were sparkling with admiration.

“Aww, you flatter me.” Emmeline was happy.

There was nothing more blissful than spending time with one’s own children.

Suddenly, the temperature in the hall seemed to have risen. Emmeline could feel her face turning flush, and her breathing became faster.

“I’m going to the garden for some fresh air. I’ll be right back,” Emmeline said to the children. She lifted her gown and went to the garden.

The cool evening air made her feel better, but waves of heat continually assaulted her from within.

Oh no! I must've fallen into that man's trap.

The wine he gave me must be drugged!

But why is he setting me up?

Emmeline knew it was not the time to ask questions. Her first priority was to find an antidote. Otherwise, she would willingly give herself away to the first man she saw, and that would be very humiliating.

Naturally, she did not bring the antidote to the party with her. It was not something one would bring along.

Taking a risk, Emmeline picked up her gown and went toward the bushes.

If she was lucky, she might find a herb that could alleviate the drug's symptoms.

Several small flowering plants next to the fence attracted her attention.

The grass could alleviate the symptoms but not completely cure her.

She knew she did not have time to consider the options. The waves of desire almost overwhelmed her, and she really wanted to strip her gown away.

She grabbed a bunch of grass and leaves and shoved them into her mouth.

Urgh! It tastes so bad... but it's better than pouncing on men!

Alana whispered into Alondra's ear. "Emmeline went to the garden. The drug must be taking effect."

"Mr. X should be moving into action now!" Alondra cackled. "I'm sure Emmeline will enjoy the treatment, and we'll catch them in the act!"

“Yes, let’s go!”

Alana sent another message to the young man. “Move out!”

The young man smiled when he saw the message on his phone, and he turned around and went to the garden.

After eating a few handfuls of leaves and grass, Emmeline could feel the waves of desire wearing off.

She would have to counter the remaining effects with sheer willpower.

However, her face was still flushed, and her vision was blurry.

The man found Emmeline in the garden. He smiled when he saw her collar open wide.

“Ms. Louise, are you feeling warm? Why don’t you take off your clothes and let me take care of you? There’s no one else here...”

Chapter 69 Drama

Before the young man could finish his sentence, Emmeline delivered a punch to each of his eyes.

Once his vision went dark, he felt a kick between his legs, and he immediately doubled over in pain.

“How dare you drug me, you b*stard!”

“Have mercy on me, Ms. Louise!” The young man did not expect Emmeline not to be affected by the drug. He knew he was in trouble.

“It’s too late to beg for mercy!”

Emmeline lifted her gown and sent the man flying with a roundhouse kick.

The man fell into a bush. Emmeline stomped the man's head with a high heel, which caused him to grunt and pass out.

“What a softie,” Emmeline said derisively. “You can't even fight, and you think you can set me up?”

She was worked up after exerting herself physically, and she felt the waves of desire becoming stronger again.

She quickly sat down in the gazebo and took several deep breaths, trying to make herself as calm as possible.

Meanwhile, Abel turned around and did not see Emmeline. He wondered where she went.

He went up to the three boys and asked them, “Where did your mommy go?”

“Mommy said the hall is getting warm, so she went to the garden to get some fresh air,” Sun answered the question on behalf of his brothers.

“Mm.” Abel patted the three children's heads. “Be good boys. I'll go and look for your mommy.”

“Thank you, Mr. Ryker,” the three boys said.

“Mr. Ryker?”

Abel stopped walking away. “Shouldn't you call me Daddy?”

“But you're not our daddy,” Sun said. “That's a pity.”

“You're most qualified to be our father, but we have no say in this,” Moon said.

“Yup, our hands are tied. We can only call you ‘Mr. Ryker’ from now on,” Star said.

“We’d love to call you Daddy, but fate is cruel!” the three boys said together.

Abel was not pleased with what they said, but that was indeed the truth, and he could do nothing about it.

“I guess you can call me ‘Mr. Ryker’ for now then,” Abel said. Who can tell what will happen in the future? What if Emmeline and I...

He turned around and quickly walked into the garden.

He did not see Emmeline anywhere, and he was getting worried.

He continued walking down the path while calling out, “Emmeline? Emma? Where are you?”

Suddenly, he nearly tripped over something. Abel looked down and saw a man next to his feet.

Surprised, he crouched and held a finger to the man’s nose.

He’s still breathing. At least he’s not dead... But what about Emmeline? What just happened here?

Abel became more and more worried. “Emma? Where are you?” he yelled.

Suddenly, he felt something soft and warm fall into his arms and hug his neck tightly.

“Emma...”

Before he could finish a word, a pair of cherry lips sealed his mouth, and a tongue began to seek out pleasure in his oral cavity.

“Mmh...”

Abel was instantly aroused. He hugged Emmeline tightly with his arms and kissed her passionately.

“Ugh... I don't feel too good... Claim me, Abel, claim me!” Emmeline cried out dreamily.

Abel instantly understood that Emmeline was drugged.

Who could have possibly set her up?

“Emma!” Abel shook her violently. “Wake up, Emma!”

“Claim me! I want you!”

Emmeline writhed like a snake in his arms. She was going to tear her clothes off.

“Emma!” Abel gripped her tightly by her arms. “Wake up! You're not making sense!”

It was too late. The drug had completely taken over her sanity.

“I want you so bad, Abel. I feel so uncomfortable...”

“Sorry about this!” Abel lifted his hand and knocked her out with a precise strike on the back of her neck.

It was better to knock her out than to let her embarrass herself. He did not know who might be watching.

It would be bad for Emmeline if someone with ulterior motives caught her in the act.

Back in the banquet hall, Alana whispered to Alondra, “It's almost time, Auntie. Should we go and watch the drama unfold?”

“Let’s go!”

Chapter 70 Caught in the Act

Suddenly, Alondra called out, “Where’s Emmeline? Did anyone see my flirtatious stepdaughter?”

Her gesture caught the attention of many guests. They turned their heads and looked at her.

Alana said, “Ah! I saw Emmeline go to the back garden with one of the male guests. I wonder if it’s something urgent?”

“What could it be?” Alondra said. “I know my stepdaughter very well. She can’t stand feeling lonely!”

Julianna went over to them. “What do you mean? What happened to Emmeline?”

“I saw her going to the back garden with one of the male guests,” Alana said. “I’m sorry, I didn’t take care of my cousin.”

Alondra pretended to wipe a tear from her eye. “It’s not your fault, Alana. That girl has been a flirt since she was young. She always makes me worry!”

Adrien came over too. “What did you say? Emmeline’s a flirt?”

“Yes, Mr. Adrien,” Alana said, “Emmeline went to the back garden with a young man.”

“This is ridiculous!” Adrien’s eyes widened in anger. “She’s making a cuckold out of me even before I marry her!”

Julianna seemed displeased. “Let’s go to the back garden and see for ourselves then. If that’s who she is, we’ll have to kick her out of the household!”

“This is preposterous!” Landen was frowning hard.

Alana smirked. This is the end of you, Emmeline Louise!

“Let’s go and see then!” Alondra said. “I hope my stepdaughter doesn’t make a fool of herself!”

“Yes, let’s go. They won’t get away with this!”

“We have to catch them in the act. Block the exits!”

The guests were becoming rowdy.

With Adrien taking the lead, they went to the back garden.

Alana tried very hard not to burst out laughing. She could already imagine what would happen next.

However, she said, “Don’t be rash, Mr. Adrien. Emmeline is a spoiled woman. I’ll teach her a lesson on your behalf. You shouldn’t be too harsh on her!”

“You’re a saint, Alana!” Alondra said. “Emmeline is so shameless, yet you’re still trying to protect her dignity!”

Alana said, “We’re family after all. I won’t feel good if Emmeline is in trouble!”

The guests nodded in admiration, thinking that Rosaline’s daughter-in-law was empathetic and sensible.

Discreetly, Alana smirked.

The crowd rushed down the path toward the back garden, but they saw Abel coming their way.

There was a woman in his arms. It was the unconscious Emmeline.

“Abel!” Adrien roared. “So you’re making me a cuckold!”

Alana and Alondra were confused.

Where’s Mr. X that we bribed? Why is Abel with Emmeline?

Alana’s heart skipped a beat. Oh no! Emmeline was drugged, so she might have made out with Abel...

Her head started spinning, and she stumbled a few steps backward.

She whispered into Alondra’s ear. “Auntie... Did I unknowingly set myself up?”

Alondra was flustered when she saw that Emmeline was together with Abel.

Oh no! This is the worst possible outcome!

She was so flustered she wanted to stomp her feet.

“Abel? What’s the meaning of this?” Rosaline asked uneasily. She did not want her son’s reputation to be tarnished.

“Abel!” Adrien was charging toward Abel while rolling up his sleeves. “I’ll kill you!”

Abel nimbly stepped aside and tripped Adrien, who stumbled and nearly fell over.

“Adrien, I happened to show up just in time and save Emmeline!” he said coldly.

“You’re lying!” Adrien’s eyes were bloodshot.

“You can get the doctor to check on Emmeline,” Abel said. “Emmeline was drugged. Someone tried to set her up!”

“Who could it be?” Adrien believed him.

“That person is lying unconscious on the ground over there,” Abel said. “Get the surveillance footage of the banquet hall. You should be able to find the evidence that he drugged Emmeline.”

“Security! Tie that man up, and get me the surveillance footage of the banquet hall!” Adrien roared sternly.

Suddenly, Alana’s knees gave out, and she fell to the ground.

Rosaline was shocked. “What happened to Alana?” she asked Alondra.

Chapter 71 Get Her Children

Alondra helped Alana to her feet. “She’s pregnant, and she’s easily frightened by intense scenes.”

“Quick, bring her back to the living room so she can rest,” Rosaline said. “She’s carrying my grandchild!”

The bodyguards dragged the man out of the bushes, tied him up, and splashed cold water on him.

At the same time, the family doctor confirmed that Emmeline was indeed drugged, and the surveillance footage was retrieved.

Everyone could see the young man approach Emmeline, hand her a glass of red wine, and coax her several times to drink.

Even though Emmeline drove that young man away after a short while, they could see her face was beginning to redden.

“Who brought this guest here?” Adrien roared angrily. He wanted to chop that man into a million pieces.

“You b*stard! Alana suddenly pounced on that man and slapped him with full force.

“How dare you drug my cousin? I’ll kill you!”

“That’s right!” Alondra slapped the man’s other cheek. “You deserve to die for harming my stepdaughter!”

The young man instantly understood they wanted him to take the fall. He could not expose their involvement even if Adrien killed him.

If he did, he was not going to escape from the two women’s clutches!

“Have mercy on me, Mr. Ryker! I gatecrashed the party to score some free food and alcohol, and I was aroused by the sight of that beautiful woman. But I didn’t manage to lay a finger on her! She nearly killed me before I could do anything!”

“You deserve to die!” Adrien followed up with two more punches.

Abel came over and kicked the young man twice, which caused him to pass out once more.

“Stop it, both of you!” Landen said with a frown. “We’re not going to mar the happy occasion with that guy’s death. Just throw him out!”

“He got away easy this time!” Adrien said angrily. “How dare he try to violate my wife. He’d better pray I don’t meet him again!”

Emmeline was brought to the guest room to rest, and Adrien guarded the entrance with the three boys.

Abel stood next to them, feeling that he did not fit in.

Adrien glared at him. “Abel, can’t you see we’re a family here? Outsiders like you aren’t welcome!”

“I’ll go downstairs then,” Abel said reluctantly. “Call me if you need anything.”

Adrien smirked. “What do you mean? I can take care of my wife if she needs anything.”

“Adrien, Emmeline is my good friend. Is it wrong for me to show her concern? Also, she’s not your wife yet!” Abel said coldly.

“She’s not my wife now, but she’ll eventually be my wife,” Adrien said. “After all, we already have three children together!”

“Suit yourself then!” Abel huffed and turned around indignantly, slamming the door on his way out.

In the banquet hall, Alana was uneasy after seeing Abel go upstairs to check on Emmeline, and he had not returned after ten minutes.

She whispered into Alondra’s ear, “Abel hasn’t returned downstairs yet. I’m afraid he might have feelings for Emmeline!”

“D*mn that Emmeline!” Alondra said through gritted teeth. “Why is she so lucky? Nothing that we throw at her seems to stick!”

“No, I’m not going to call it quits yet. I want that woman to suffer!” Alana said. She hugged Alondra’s arm and begged, “Please help me think of something, Auntie. I won’t let that b*tch off so easily!”

Alondra thought for a moment and cackled. “I’ve got it!”

“What are you thinking of, Auntie?”

“If we can’t set her up, we’ll just have to set her children up!”

“Her children!” Alana seemed to understand what her aunt was talking about.

Right after Abel left, Adrien shooed the children away.

“Your mommy needs some peace and quiet. Go downstairs and play. I’ll be here to look after her.”

“But we want to be with Mommy,” Sun said unhappily.

“Yes. Mommy will be worried when she wakes up and doesn’t see us,” Moon protested.

“We’re not going to leave Mommy’s side.” Star pouted defiantly.

Adrien patted the boys’ heads. “Don’t worry. Once your Mommy wakes up, I’ll go and get someone to inform you!”

“Really?” The boys sounded hesitant.

Chapter 72 One of the Boys Fell Into the Water

“Liar, liar, pants on fire!” Adrien said.

“Alright then,” Sun said, “We’ll go downstairs. Remember to tell us when Mommy wakes up!”

“Mmhm. Go and play!” Adrien shooed the children out of the room.

“Timothy,” Alana crouched in front of the boy and said to him, “The three boys are downstairs. Weren’t you complaining you were bored earlier? Why not bring them to the garden?”

“Yes, Timothy,” Alondra added, “You’re the only kid here, and all the adults are drinking wine and dancing. If you want to have some fun, you should bring them to the garden.”

“Alright then.” Timothy thought the banquet was getting quite boring. He took the three boys to the garden.

Alondra exchanged glances with Alana. “Now’s our chance!”

“Be careful, Auntie!” Alana was feeling uneasy.

Alondra lifted her gown and followed the four children into the garden.

“Mr. Ryker.” Alana elegantly walked up to Abel’s side. “Shall we dance?”

Even though Abel was downstairs, his heart was still upstairs. He could not shake off the image where Adrien was so concerned about Emmeline.

He wanted to take care of Emmeline too, but he did not have a good reason as Adrien did.

Alana came to ask him for a dance at a bad time, and he was feeling annoyed about it.

He was about to decline when Rosaline walked over.

“Abel, you’re bound to marry Alana some time in the future. What would others think if you don’t dance at least once with her?”

“Yes, Mr. Ryker,” Alana said while lowering her head to look pitiful. “I’d feel absolutely humiliated.”

“Mm.” Abel stood up reluctantly, took Alana’s hand, and entered the dance floor with a sullen face.

Alana could sense the anger emanating from Abel’s body, but she was nonetheless happy that Abel was physically close to her in front of so many influential individuals and families of Struyria.

Suddenly, someone shouted at the back door. “Oh no! One of the boys fell into the pond! Will somebody save him?”

His voice was drowned by the music in the hall.

Alana clung to Abel tightly and led him to a far corner of the dance floor.

The people near the back door stopped dancing and ran outside.

“What’s going on over there?” Abel frowned slightly.

“It’s none of our concern. Let’s continue dancing.” Alana turned Abel around.

“No, something seems to be happening,” Abel said.

“What could possibly happen on this joyous occasion?”

At that moment, the music suddenly stopped.

Abel heard someone yelling, “One of the boys fell into the pond!”

One of the boys? Is it one of the three or Timothy?

Abel immediately shoved Alana aside and walked quickly toward the back door.

Emmeline and Adrien also heard the commotion and went downstairs.

“What happened, Mother?” Adrien asked Julianna, who seemed very flustered.

“You should go to the back garden quickly! Someone said one of the boys fell into the pond. It’s either Timothy or one of my three grandchildren!”

Adrien was surprised. What? How did that happen?

When Emmeline heard that, she flipped over the banister and ran to the garden.

“Help, someone!” The nanny was kneeling next to the pond. “Someone please save Hesperus!”

“Don’t die, Star!”

“Mommy will come and save you! Hang in there!”

Sun and Moon were also crying next to the pond.

Timothy was wiping tears from his face. “I’m sorry, Star. I didn’t mean to shove you. I thought someone shoved me from behind, and I accidentally shoved you too. I didn’t mean to do that, Star. Boo hoo...”

Alondra was cackling while hiding in the bushes. “Heh! You happened to be standing in the perfect position. No one would suspect that I shoved you! They will only think you’re the one who shoved Hesperus into the pond! Hahaha!”

Chapter 73 It’s An Accident

Emmeline ran to the pond and was about to dive in when she heard a loud splash.

Someone managed to jump into the pond before she did.

She did not hesitate and jumped in as well.

It did not matter whether the boy who fell in was one of the triplets or Timothy. She loved everyone equally, and she did not want anything to happen to them.

More importantly, she did not see Hesperus, the weakest child, next to the pond!

The pond was not very deep, but it was slightly deeper than an adult’s height.

Emmeline was about to submerge when she saw Abel surface with Hesperus in his arms.

“I have the boy!” Abel said after spitting out a mouthful of dirty water.

Emmeline swam toward him and helped him support Hesperus.

The little boy was unconscious. His body was limp.

“Star!” Emmeline broke out in tears. “Please be safe!”

“Someone call the ambulance!” Abel shouted at the people at the edge of the pond.

Adrien came to his senses and quickly dialed emergency services on his phone.

Abel placed Hesperus at the edge of the pond and began to administer CPR.

Emmeline took her son’s hand and pinched a certain point.

“Urgh!” Hesperus spat out some dirty water and began to breathe weakly.

Emmeline was slightly more at ease.

“Star!” She hugged the boy tightly. “You gave me such a fright! I’m so glad that you’re fine. What would I do if I lost you?”

Abel patted her shoulder. “Star is safe now. Don’t cry.”

Emmeline cried even harder. She turned around and hugged Abel. “Thank you for saving Star! I can’t imagine what might happen if you didn’t!”

“Everything’s fine now. Don’t cry.” Abel hugged her with one arm and comforted her.

“Ahem!” Adrien coughed behind Abel. “Can you keep some distance between you two?”

“What did you say?” Emmeline glared at Adrien. “Abel saved your son, and that’s all you have to say? As Star’s father, what did you do to help him?”

“I…” Adrien did not know what he was thinking. In any case, he never had the intention to dive into the pond.

“Thanks, Abel,” he muttered.

“Don’t mention it. I was only acting on instinct,” Abel said.

Adrien scratched the back of his head and wondered why he did not have that instinct.

After settling down and putting Hesperus on a bed at the hospital, Julianna came to look at the boy.

“Oh, my dear grandson, you gave me such a fright! I was so afraid that I might lose one of you. I’m so glad that you’re okay,” she said while wiping tears.

“How did Star fall into the pond?” Landen asked. “There aren’t any security cameras in the garden, and we can’t investigate what happened.”

“The boys were jostling each other. It’s only an accident,” Emmeline said.

She heard Timothy say he did not mean to do it, and she guessed that Timothy must have shoved Hesperus into the pond.

She did not blame Timothy for it. Even though the boy was Alana's child, she loved her as much as the triplets.

Julianna seemed displeased. "But I heard Timothy say he shoved my dear Star into the pond."

Abel's face turned pale for a split second.

"You can't blame Timothy, madam. Also, Abel was the one who saved Star," Emmeline said.

"Hmph! I'm sure someone is envious that I have three grandsons!"

Chapter 74 Are You Celibate?

Abel's expression sank. "Aunt Julianna, my mother wasn't in the garden when the incident happened."

"What about Alana?" Julianna asked. "I think there's something fishy about her!"

"She was at the dance floor with me," Abel explained somewhat reluctantly.

"Fine, whatever," Julianna said. "Let's keep a close eye on our own children and minimize our interactions between families!"

Quite obviously, she was referring to Emmeline and Abel.

The two people seemed awkward.

“Yes, Abel.” Adrien went up to stand beside Emmeline. “I’m very grateful that you saved my son, but what happens after is strictly within our family. You should leave.”

“ ... ”

Abel glanced at Hesperus, sleeping on the hospital bed. The boy was in a better condition than before.

He nodded at Emmeline before stepping out of the ward.

Emmeline could hear his footsteps echo rhythmically down the corridor and into the elevator.

Somehow, she felt vacant inside, as though she and Hesperus had lost a shoulder to lean on.

That’s strange. I thought the father and grandparents of my children are here with me!

Abel stepped out of the hospital. The night wind was blowing fiercely, but he did not feel cold at all.

He took a cigarette and placed it between his lips. He was about to search for a lighter when Luca presented a lighter next to him.

Abel furrowed his brows a little as he took a drag.

The atmosphere in the hospital ward made him uncomfortable.

It made him feel even worse that he had to leave Emmeline and Hesperus there.

However, Adrien was right. Whatever happened next had nothing to do with him.

He was only an outsider.

“Are we going home, Mr. Ryker?” Luca asked.

“Let’s get a drink.” Abel stubbed out the cigarette after taking a few drags. He tossed the cigarette into the trash can and walked toward his car.

Luca turned around and looked at the window where Hesperus’ room was.

He could imagine what was going on inside.

Sigh, it’s all because of that mistake five years ago. Emmeline should have been with Abel and not Adrien!

Abel was driving, so Luca sat in the side passenger seat. They went to a bar named Golden Memories.

Abel had not been back in the country for very long, so the people in the bar did not know who he was.

Even so, the bustling atmosphere in the bar died down a little after Abel stepped into the place with an icy demeanor.

The male guests stepped aside and made way for Abel, while the female guests gasped and wondered who the mysterious guest was.

“Wow, he has the demeanor of a devil but the looks of an angel!”

“How charming!”

Someone recognized him. “That’s Abel Ryker! He’s the head honcho of the Ryker Group!”

“Wow, it’s really Abel Ryker!”

“He’s so handsome! This is the first time I met him in person!”

Some people in the crowd were cheering excitedly.

That made Luca very nervous. Even though he and Abel were good fighters, he could not help but be guarded against what might happen.

Abel stood on the bar counter and raised his beer glass. “If that’s the case, everything is on me today!”

“Wow! How lucky! Mr. Ryker is footing the bill!”

“Drink, drink, drink! Let’s drink to our fill!”

Several young women came over to Abel. “Mr. Ryker, can I toast you?”

“Why don’t you come over and sit with us?”

Luca stepped in front of the women and said sternly, “Mr. Ryker doesn’t allow anyone of the opposite sex within ten feet of him. You have been warned!”

“Oh? Ten feet? Is he celibate?”

“I’ve heard rumors that Mr. Ryker doesn’t interact with women. Looks like they’re true!”

“Don’t tell me he’s into men!”

As soon as the woman said that, the beer glass in her hand shattered into pieces, and beer splashed all over her body.

She did not know how the glass exploded, though she was extremely shocked.

Chapter 75 Back to the Café

The bartender behind the counter was also shocked.

He noticed Abel hold a bottle cap in his hand and flicked it toward the woman's beer glass. A split second later, the beer glass exploded.

Not only was the head honcho of Ryker Group incredibly handsome, but he was also incredibly skilled!

The bartender shuddered and topped up Abel's glass.

After the episode, the guests of the bar learned to behave.

None of the female guests stepped within ten feet of Abel. Of course, none of the male guests did so either.

They did not want to risk offending that man who seemed to be in a bad mood.

Even so, they drank to their fill that night, and almost everyone was drunk.

Abel was also drunk. Luca helped him back to his car.

"Mr. Ryker, are you going back to the mansion?" Luca asked after starting the ignition.

"You idiot!" Abel blurted. "I'm going back to the café, of course! I pay my rent on time! It's a waste of money if I don't sleep there."

A waste of money? Is that it?

Luca did not believe what he said.

However, Emmeline was still in the hospital with her son. There was no one in the café to accompany Abel even if he went there.

In any case, he had to follow Abel's orders.

Luca stepped on the gas pedal and brought the almost unconscious Abel back to the café.

It was already very late when they arrived. Daisy opened the door for them.

“Oh my, why is he so drunk?” Daisy covered her nose. The stench of alcohol from Abel's mouth was very strong.

“Mr. Ryker wasn't in a good mood, so he had a bit more to drink,” Luca said and smiled awkwardly.

Daisy frowned. “He shouldn't torture himself like that. Take him to his room. I'll make some hot tea for him.”

“Thank you so much, ma'am,” Luca said.

Daisy helped Luca bring Abel up to the third floor, after which she went to the second-floor kitchen to make some tea.

Luca helped Abel change his clothes. He also wiped Abel's face with a clean towel.

Daisy came to the room with a mug of hot tea, and they worked together to force the sugary liquid down Abel's throat. Soon, Abel opened his eyes.

After that, Daisy went downstairs. Only Luca remained to accompany Abel.

“Get out,” Abel said while pinching his forehead.

“Huh?” Luca did not understand.

“I’m telling you to get out,” Abel said. “I’m feeling a lot better now. I want to take a shower, so you can leave now!”

“But you’re still drunk. I should stay here and take care of you,” Luca said.

“Get lost! I’m not into men at all! People will think otherwise if you stay!” Abel said.

Ah! Luca shuddered. He was actively looking for a girlfriend, so he did not want people to misunderstand.

Seeing that Abel was fine as he claimed, Luca took the car keys and hastily left the room.

“I’ll be in the parking lot. Call me if you need anything!”

“Mm.” Abel waved his hand dismissively while removing his necktie.

Luca, that idiot. He loosened my tie but didn’t remove it! He doesn’t know how to take care of people!

Abel took off his clothes and took a cold water shower.

He was already sober by then, but he still felt a little dizzy.

He changed into pajamas and sat next to the window.

He wanted some fresh air, and he also wanted to smoke a cigarette.

He had taken a cigarette from the box when he saw a car stop in front of the café.

It was Adrien’s sports car.

Abel was shocked. The cigarette was already in his mouth, but his hand with the lighter froze in mid-air.

A while later, he saw Adrien step out of the car, go to the other side, and open the side passenger door.

Emmeline stepped out. She seemed forlorn under the cold street light.

Abel's jaw clenched, and he bit on the cigarette hard.

Emmeline is back. It should mean that Hesperus is safe now.

The hospital doesn't allow any visitors after working hours. The professional staff there can take care of the boy...

Abel continued to gaze at the scene while his mind wandered.

Chapter 76 I'm Not Drunk

Emmeline and Adrien shared a brief exchange of words. A short while later, Adrien left in his sports car.

Emmeline turned around and walked toward the café entrance.

Abel hurriedly moved away from the window and sat on the sofa in front of the bed.

He did not understand why he was feeling uneasy.

From the exchange, it seemed Adrien and Emmeline had been arguing, but Abel felt frustrated about it.

He did not want to see the two of them together!

He lit up his cigarette and dragged it deeply.

Suddenly, the door to his room opened.

Abel was surprised. Is Emmeline coming in?

He heard Emmeline's voice from outside the room. "I heard from the nanny that you drank a little too much tonight. Are you feeling better now?"

"Mm," Abel answered.

Emmeline pushed the door open and noticed that the room was unlit. She saw a vague silhouette on the sofa and the glowing tip of the lit cigarette.

She pressed the light switch and immediately saw Abel's alluring figure.

Abel was dressed in a set of pure white pajamas. His hair was slightly damp. Under his sculpted browline was a sensuous pair of eyes.

Emmeline was momentarily taken aback.

"I thought you returned to the mansion."

"Why can't I come here?" Abel smirked. "I pay rent. I have the right to stay here."

"I didn't mean that," Emmeline said.

"How is Star?" Abel asked.

"He's okay now."

"Is that why Adrien sent you back?"

Emmeline was surprised. What does Abel mean? Was he spying on me earlier?

Abel sneered. “Don’t be so nervous. I happened to see it from the window.”

“There’s nothing between me and Adrien!” Emmeline was feeling frustrated.

“I can’t do anything about it. After all, you and Adrien are a family,” Abel said.

“What do you mean?” Emmeline suddenly raised her voice. “Can you not be so sarcastic when speaking to me?”

“Was I wrong?” Abel abruptly stood up. His tall figure towered over Emmeline.

Emmeline instinctively took a step backward, and her back slammed on the door.

The gesture made Emmeline seem weak and fragile, but at the same time, there was a hint of temptation in that fragility.

Abel went up to her without hesitation and pinned her against the door.

“What do you want?”

“You tempted me!”

“I didn’t! Mmh...”

Abel had already forced himself upon Emmeline with his lips.

His actions were fueled by jealousy and resentment!

“Mmh!” Emmeline started to slap him with her hands, but he grabbed her hands and pinned them against the door.

His lips continued to force themselves on Emmeline.

Emmeline was running out of breath. She fell limply onto his chest.

Grunting softly, Abel lifted Emmeline with his hands, walked over to the bed, and pinned her down on the soft mattress.

He tore the clothes off her body and prepared to pounce on her.

“Abel Ryker!” Emmeline yelled, angry at Abel’s treatment of her.

Before she could strike back, Abel abruptly stood up and said hoarsely, “Sorry.”

Tears welled up in Emmeline’s eyes.

Five years ago, she had been violated by Adrien. She did not want to repeat the same mistake with Abel!

“I thought you were a better person!” She sounded like she was sobbing.

Abel stumbled toward the door and said, “I’m really sorry, Emma. I couldn’t control myself. I drank a little too much tonight, and the alcohol is still affecting my judgment.”

“That’s no excuse!”

“I know,” Abel said softly. “I didn’t mean any harm. I…”

“What about you?” Emmeline noticed that Abel was suddenly stammering.

That was not how he usually acted.

“I…” Abel wanted to say “I love you,” but as soon as the words reached the tip of his tongue, it became “I want to take a shower.”

Chapter 77 I Don’t Need a Fork

“I thought you just had one,” Emmeline said curiously.

By then, Abel was already in the bathroom.

Soon after, she heard the sounds of running water.

Was he going to say something else? Emmeline thought but could not find an answer.

Thinking back on his actions, Emmeline could see that Abel did not act out of malice.

Instead, he wanted to claim her out of... love.

“Pfft!” Emmeline suddenly chuckled.

I didn’t expect that serious-looking man to have such an interesting side.

By the time Abel came out of the bathroom, Emmeline was already gone.

The rest of the night passed uneventfully.

Abel left the café early the next morning.

After what happened last night, he had to admit he did not know how to face Emmeline.

He did not expect that he had such a barbaric side to his personality.

Five years of training. Was it all in vain?

From the parking lot, Luca noticed Abel coming out of the café. He quickly drove the Rolls-Royce to the entrance, and the bodyguards behind him also started their cars.

Abel stepped into the car. He seemed displeased about something.

Luca glanced at him through the rearview mirror. “Good morning, Mr. Ryker. Are you going to your office?”

“I want to have breakfast at Nimbus Hotel,” Abel said sullenly.

Nimbus Hotel was one of the most high-class hotels in Struyria. It belonged to the Ryker Group.

Luca could tell that Emmeline did not prepare breakfast for Abel.

In any case, Emmeline was already at the hospital to visit Hesperus, but Abel did not know that.

In fifteen minutes, Abel walked into the first-floor restaurant of Nimbus Hotel.

The restaurant was famous for its good food. It was packed with customers every morning.

The bodyguards escorted Abel to a private lounge at the side.

The lounge was exclusively prepared for people from the Ryker family. There were no distractions inside. It was a lot more peaceful.

At the door, Abel frowned when he heard some frivolous voices coming from inside.

What is this degeneracy? Who dares intrude upon my private lounge?

The waiter shifted uneasily when he noticed Abel's icy expression, but the bodyguards had already brought Abel into the lounge.

Abel was greeted by an unsightly scene.

Adrien was seated at a table near the wall. He was having breakfast while draping his arms over two women's shoulders.

The breakfast was secondary. He was flirting with the two women while eating.

"Won't you feed me a sausage?" Adrien opened his mouth at the woman to his left.

The bewitching woman giggled and picked up a sausage with a fork.

Adrien shook his head. “Not like that. I don’t want you to use the fork.”

“What should I do then?” The woman pretended to look confused.

The other woman giggled. “That’s easy! You should use your mouth!”

“My mouth? Eww!” The woman pretended to be angry before placing half of the sausage into her mouth.

“Ahh…” Adrien leaned closer to her.

The woman noticed a man standing imperiously at the door with a group of eight bodyguards behind him.

Their presence in the room caused the temperature to drop by a few degrees.

The sausage fell from the woman’s mouth and onto the floor.

Wow! Who’s that guy? He’s so handsome! If only I had my way with him, I’d pounce on him and rub myself all over him!

However, the woman knew not to go close to an angry man.

Adrien also noticed Abel and his bodyguards. He could tell from Abel’s expression that there would be trouble.

In the next second, Abel kicked the table in front of him, which caused it to slam into Adrien’s table.

“Ouch!” Adrien quickly jumped out of his seat.

The two tables collided and slammed into the wall.

If Adrien had not moved away, he would be literally puking his guts out by now.

“Abel! What’s the meaning of this?” Adrien’s face was pale with fright.

Chapter 78 Useless Adrien

“You’re one to talk!” Abel said. He turned around and ordered his bodyguards, “Throw those two women out!”

“Yes, Mr. Ryker!”

Two bodyguards charged toward the two women, grabbed them, and tossed them out of the lounge.

Adrien shuddered. “A... Abel... What do you want?”

“You should ask that yourself,” Abel said coldly. “Why are you here flirting with other women?”

Adrien tensed up and said, “It’s none of your business!”

“It’s none of my business, but I’m making it my business!” Abel roared. He approached Adrien and kicked his face.

Adrien quickly ducked and hid under a table.

“Hmph! Coward!” Abel snorted derisively.

Adrien was already drenched in a cold sweat.

He could tell Abel was only trying to intimidate him. If Abel wanted to get physical, Adrien would not have been able to dodge that kick.

According to his grandfather, Abel had become a devil after his five years of secret training!

In a second, Abel could turn into a killing machine!

Otherwise, Oscar would not have handed him the reins of Ryker Group.

With a trembling voice, Adrien said, “Abel, why are you throwing a tantrum at me so early in the morning? I’m your older brother! You humiliated me in front of those two women!”

Abel scoffed. “You should know why! How can you possibly face Emmeline and her children after this?”

Adrien was taken aback. He realized Abel was here to seek justice for Emmeline.

Adrien sat down angrily on a chair. “Now that you mention her, I have to say she’s a really stubborn one!”

“What do you mean?” Abel was confused. He saw Adrien send Emmeline back to the café the night before, and they had a brief conversation before Adrien left.

“Last night, Emmeline said she won’t marry me no matter what, and she told me to give up,” Adrien said angrily.

It was Abel’s turn to be taken aback. Should I think that it’s good news?

Adrien pouted when he saw the glint of anticipation in Abel’s eyes. “If you want to make your advances on Emmeline, you should clean up your mess first.”

Abel’s expression sank. He knew that Adrien was referring to the child in Alana’s womb.

“What a hypocrite!” Adrien rolled his eyes at him.

Abel could not find a retort to Adrien's accusation.

After all, no one would believe him if he said the baby was not his.

"You'd better watch your back!" Abel said angrily and left the lounge.

Luca and the bodyguards quickly followed behind him. "Mr. Ryker, what about breakfast..."

"Get some for everyone," Abel said sullenly. "Send two portions to the café too!"

"Yes, Mr. Ryker," Luca replied.

Looks like he's not angry enough to forget to eat! He's considerate of Ms. Louise too.

Luca took a headcount of the bodyguards and bought twelve portions.

Everyone was out early that morning, and they were very hungry.

The bodyguards left Nimbus Hotel with Abel. One of the cars went to the café to deliver breakfast, while the others followed Abel to the hospital.

Abel wanted to visit Hesperus before he started work that day.

He somehow felt uneasy if he did not.

This is strange. Why do I care so much about Adrien's son?

However, he could not convince himself not to visit Hesperus.

Abel parked the Rolls-Royce in the parking lot. He noticed the bodyguard who was supposed to deliver breakfast to the café had already returned.

The bodyguard walked toward him with the breakfast still in his hands.

Abel stepped out of the car and walked toward the bodyguard.

“Aren’t you supposed to deliver that?”

Chapter 79 What Happened Back Then

“The nanny said Ms. Louise had left for the hospital early in the morning,” the bodyguard explained.

“Oh,” Abel replied. No wonder I didn’t hear anything in her room earlier. I thought she was still angry at me.

He thought for a moment before reaching toward the breakfast box in the bodyguard’s hands. “Let me deliver it.”

The bodyguard handed the boxes to Abel.

In the ICU ward, Hesperus had already woken up, but his face remained pale.

He had inhaled the dirty water in the pond, and his lungs were infected.

Emmeline discreetly administered several injections, which made him feel a lot better.

“Mommy.” With tears in his eyes, Hesperus took Emmeline’s hands. “I’m sorry to make you worry.”

“Don’t say that, my baby.” Emmeline placed a finger over his lips. She sounded like she was about to sob. “I’m happy that you’re okay. I nearly lost you.”

“I’m already feeling a lot better.” Hesperus wiped the tears away from Emmeline’s eyes.

“I’ll stay close to you so you don’t have to worry about me anymore.”

“Mm. You’re a good boy, Star.” Emmeline nodded and struggled to hold her tears back.

To her, Sun, Moon, and Star were her everything. She would only be happy if the three boys were happy.

The door to the ward opened. Hesperus lifted his gaze over his mother’s shoulder and saw Abel.

“Daddy…”

“Why are you here?” Emmeline said coldly without turning around. “Didn’t I tell you not to come into the ward whenever I’m around?”

Abel could tell that Emmeline must have mistaken him for Adrien.

“Ahem, it’s me.”

Emmeline was surprised to hear that voice. She turned her head around.

“It’s you!” Emmeline stood up. “I’m sorry, Mr. Ryker.”

“Breakfast.” Abel showed the two boxes in his hand. “I bought one for you and one for Star.”

Emmeline blushed slightly. The events last night were still fresh in her mind.

Abel also felt awkward. He put the boxes on the table and went to Hesperus’ bed.

“Are you feeling better?” he asked in a gentle voice.

He felt a lot more at ease when he saw the little boy gazing at him animatedly.

“Thank you, Daddy. I’m feeling a lot better now,” Hesperus said.

“That’s good to hear.” Abel patted Hesperus’ head. “When you’re feeling better, I’ll bring you all to the amusement park.”

“Yay!” Hesperus clapped his hands excitedly. “But don’t blame Timothy though. He didn’t shove me into the pond on purpose.”

“Tell me, what happened last night?” Abel asked nervously.

“I’ve already asked Timothy.” Abel heard a voice from behind him.

It was Alana and Rosaline.

Alana was holding a flask in her hands.

“It was an accident. Timothy didn’t do it on purpose,” Alana said. “He tripped and accidentally shoved Star away.”

“Accidents can sometimes happen when children jostle each other while playing,” Rosaline said. “I think we should give this matter a rest.”

“I wonder if the culprit is a child,” Abel said sullenly.

“Timothy is blaming himself,” Alana said while wiping away tears in her eyes. “He’ll be scared if you ask him too many questions.”

“That’s right,” Alana said. “I’m here to apologize to Hesperus on behalf of Timothy, and we’ll lay the matter to rest.”

“I’ve never blamed Timothy,” Hesperus said. “He didn’t do it on purpose.”

“You’re a good boy, Star.” Rosaline leaned over and gently touched Hesperus’ cheek.

“Come over and play once you’re feeling better.”

“Thank you, Granny,” Hesperus said. “Sun, Moon and I love you very much. We thought you’re our real granny.”

Rosaline felt tears well up in her eyes when she heard that.

“You can still treat me as your real granny. I’ll always love you like you’re my real grandsons,” Rosaline said while wiping her eyes. “What do you think?”

Chapter 80 I’ll Pick You Up Tonight

“Of course!” Hesperus smiled, and dimples appeared on his face. “I’ll treat you as my real granny. I’m sure Sun and Moon will do the same!”

“Mm.” Rosaline hugged Hesperus tightly. “You’ll always be my dear grandson!”

Alana’s expression gradually sank as she witnessed the scene. Waves of jealousy and resentment assaulted her.

Hah! Looks like blood is thicker than water. Look at the grandmother and the father. What can possibly break those invisible ties apart?

Alana glared at Emmeline resentfully.

Why can’t I ever get rid of that woman?

While Alana was grumbling, the doctor came into the room to conduct a routine check-up, and everyone else had to leave.

“Isn’t it getting late, Abel? Shouldn’t you be at work?” Rosaline asked.

“I’ll go there later,” Abel replied. “I’m still worried about Star.”

“You don’t have to worry about my son, Mr. Ryker. I shouldn’t stop you from your work,” Emmeline said.

“You look tired. Why don’t you go home and rest, and I’ll stay here to take care of Star?” Abel looked at Emmeline with concern.

Emmeline shook her head. “Don’t worry. I’ll be okay.”

Alana rubbed her stomach and said, “That’s right, Abel. Why don’t you spend your time with me instead?”

“This isn’t the time to compare children.” Abel snorted coldly. “You should go home. There’s nothing for you here.”

“But…” Alana did not want to leave.

“I don’t need so many people worrying over Star,” Emmeline said tactfully. “You should go home, Madam.”

“Mm.” Rosaline turned around and prepared to leave.

Alana turned around and walked toward the elevator with Rosaline.

“You should go too,” Emmeline said to Abel. “Company matters are more important.”

“I’m still worried about you two.” Abel frowned.

“I said we’re okay.”

“If that’s the case, I’ll pick you up later tonight. You can call me if you need anything,” Abel said.

“Mm.” Emmeline nodded. Even though she was still cold and distant, her demeanor softened a little.

Abel turned around and went into the elevator. Luca, who had been waiting around the corner, also went inside.

Emmeline accompanied Hesperus for the rest of the day.

In the afternoon, Julianna, Helios, and Endymion came to visit.

The two boys cheered Hesperus up. Julianna praised Hesperus for being a brave boy.

After they left, a bodyguard came under Abel’s orders to deliver dinner from Nimbus Hotel. Emmeline and Hesperus ate a lot that evening.

“Looks like Abel Ryker is very dependable,” Hesperus said. “According to my observations, Adrien Ryker is nowhere near qualified.”

Emmeline sighed. “Don’t mention his name.”

“But why isn’t Abel Ryker our Daddy?” Hesperus said precociously.

I wish he’s your father too, but things didn’t turn out this way.

“Mommy, could you adults be mistaken?” Hesperus said.

“That’s impossible. I’ve seen the results myself. Your father is indeed Adrien Ryker.”

“What a pity.” Hesperus pouted.

Emmeline could not help but chuckle at his worried face.

“Don’t worry. It doesn’t matter who your real daddy is, I’ll always be here with all of you. Neither of them can claim you for themselves!”

“I’m glad to hear that.” Hesperus nodded. “I’m sure Helios and Endymion will be glad too.”

Hesperus’ condition stabilized later that night, but his body temperature remained high.

Emmeline was worried the bacteria might get into his blood, but fortunately, Adrien was available for a transfusion.

Even though Adrien might be a playboy, he was nonetheless dependable when his son needed him the most.

At the end of visiting hours, Emmeline kissed Hesperus and said goodbye to him.

“I’ll be going home. Will you be okay being alone in the hospital?”

Chapter 81 Come and Get It

“Don’t worry, Mommy,” Hesperus said. “The nurse will take good care of me. I’ll be okay.”

“Mm. You should rest soon, so your body will recover quickly.”

“Mm.” Hesperus nodded. “You should rest too, so you have the energy to take care of us.”

“I’ll be going home then. Goodbye and good night, darling.”

“Bye, Mommy. Good night, Mommy.” Hesperus waved at Emmeline and delivered her a flying kiss.

Emmeline did not want to leave her son alone in the hospital, but if she did not leave, tears would start to fall.

Emmeline sniffled and left the room.

Earlier in the morning, Emmeline had taken her electric bicycle to the hospital.

She went to look for her electric bicycle in the bicycle parking lot.

It was already very late, and the night wind was chilly.

Tears started falling when she wore her helmet.

She wondered if it was because of the wind, or it was because she missed her dear little Star.

The electric bicycle went out of the hospital and traveled along the road.

It would be a half-hour ride back to the café.

In the morning, the electric bicycle would zip around the rush hour traffic. However, it was much lonelier at night, especially along this deserted patch.

In front of her was an intersection. She was just about to make a turn when a minivan went into the bicycle lane and blocked her way.

Emmeline was about to turn the bicycle when the door opened, and seven people stepped out.

She understood that she was about to be robbed.

She lifted the plastic visor of her helmet and said coldly, “I don’t carry cash with me in this day and age, and it’ll be easy to track you down if I wire the money to you. I only have a phone with me. You can have it, and leave me alone!”

The leader of the thugs said, “We’re not interested in your money, but we want your body! Come with us and give us some entertainment!”

“That’s a bit too much to ask for.” Emmeline removed her helmet and rested it on her bicycle. She took a step aside and stretched her wrists.

“Oh, so you don’t want to?” The men surrounded her.

“The heck I will!” Emmeline suddenly turned around and delivered a spinning kick.

Thud! Thud! The two men nearest to her got kicked in the face. They screamed in pain and fell to the ground.

“Not bad, chick!” the other men screamed rowdily.

“If you want some, come and get it!” Emmeline struck a pose and beckoned at the thugs.

Before she could attack, a black cloth sack covered her head from behind.

She felt a kick on the back of her knees, and she fell down kneeling.

Not far away, there was a sports car in a dark corner. The driver seat window slowly rolled up.

In the car, Alana cackled. “I know you’re a good fighter, Emmeline, but you’re not going to escape your fate tonight. Those guys will bring you to a motel and pleasure you like you’ve never been pleased before. When the video is uploaded, you’ll be famous in Struyria for sleeping with seven men at once!”

Without her sight, Emmeline could not fight. She was about to be dragged into the minivan.

“Let me go, you b*stards!” Emmeline did her best to struggle. She kicked twice at full force.

The first kick sent a thug flying, but the other struck the curb.

“Ahh!” She felt her heel was nearly broken, and she fell sitting on the ground.

The thugs surrounded her once more.

“Let’s beat her up before she injures us again!”

“She’s such a fighter even when she can’t see!”

“That makes her more interested in bed. Get her, guys!”

Emmeline knew she could not escape now.

Suddenly, she heard several thuds. The thugs in front of her yelled in pain and fell to the ground.

Following that, a pair of arms hugged her tightly.

Chapter 82 Who Could Have Set Me Up

The man’s deep voice rang next to Emmeline’s ear. “It’s me, Abel!”

“Mm.” Emmeline felt a twinge in her nose and tears welling up in her eyes. She leaned gently onto his chest.

“I told you I’d pick you up. Why did you leave on your own?” Abel grumbled.

“I...” Emmeline stammered. “Help me remove the bag from my head.”

Abel grabbed the bag and pulled it but did not manage to remove it. The other end of the bag was fastened with string.

The thugs split into two groups. Four of them fought against Luca while the other three surrounded Abel.

With no other choice, Abel hugged Emmeline close to him with one arm and used the other to fight with the thugs.

In an unfortunate coincidence, he did not order the bodyguards to follow him tonight because he did not want to create a spectacle.

“Put me down,” Emmeline said. “You’re fighting at a disadvantage.”

“No,” Abel said. “You’ll become a hostage if they get their hands on you.”

Emmeline thought it made sense. She hugged Abel’s neck tightly with both her arms.

One of the thugs seized the opportunity and used a dagger to stab Emmeline’s back.

“Emma!”

Abel turned around abruptly. The dagger missed Emmeline’s back but drew a line across Abel’s arm.

“Ugh!” Abel grunted softly.

Emmeline could smell blood. “Mr. Ryker! Are you hurt?”

“It’s only skin-deep. Hug me tightly!”

As he spoke, the three thugs rushed up to him.

Emmeline discerned their locations from their voices. Supporting her body weight on Abel's body, she lifted herself up and kicked backward twice.

She hit the thugs accurately this time. The thugs yelped in pain and retreated.

At the same time, Abel knocked the other thug to the ground and stepped on his face with his shoe. "Answer honestly! Who hired you?"

"No one hired us!" The thug spoke with his mouth facing the ground. "We followed her for some time because we thought she looked pretty."

"I'll give you one more chance to tell me the truth!"

The thug weighed his options. If he kept his mouth shut, someone might bail him out. If he told Abel the truth, he would be dead for sure.

"No one hired us! We really acted on impulse!"

"You have a death wish!" Abel stomped the thug twice and drew blood.

The other two thugs wanted to run away, but Abel caught up to them and kicked each of them between their legs.

While he did that, he did not let go of Emmeline.

Meanwhile, Luca dealt with the four thugs. All seven of them lay sprawling on the ground.

Luca dusted his hands. "What should we do about them, Mr. Ryker?"

Abel's eyes were brimming with killing intent. "Break one of their arms and hand them to the police!"

"Yes, Mr. Ryker!"

Crack! Crack! In one swift motion, Luca broke the right arms of the two thugs closest to him.

The others fell to their knees and begged for mercy.

Abel kicked one of them away. "If you have anything to say, tell the police! The only other option is death!"

"Please call the police then! We'd rather go to jail!" the thugs begged.

They understood the police would treat them more mercifully than Abel would.

Abel looked like a gentleman, but he was a devil!

In the blink of an eye, all seven thugs had their right arms broken. They wailed in agony.

Luca took his phone and dialed the police emergency number.

Abel brought Emmeline into the car. Under the light, he undid the bag that covered her head.

Emmeline's face was already drenched in sweat.

"Why didn't you listen to me?" Abel said with a frown. "I told you I'd pick you up."

"I forgot," Emmeline replied. "I didn't expect to meet those criminals on my way home."

"The streets of Struyria shouldn't be so dangerous," Abel said. "Someone must be behind this."

Emmeline's eyes widened. "Really? Who could have set me up?"

"The police will investigate it. That was too close. If I had come any later, they would've stuffed you into their car."

"Thank you, really," Emmeline said.

She suddenly realized she was sitting on Abel's lap. She blushed immediately and wanted to move away, but Abel hugged her tightly.

Chapter 83 The Punishment Is a Kiss

"Hey, let me go!" Emmeline whispered in embarrassment. "Luca is over there!"

Abel ignored her and continued lowering her head, intending to force his lips onto hers.

Before he could touch Emmeline's lips, he felt a cold finger stop him.

"Thank you for saving me, but..." Emmeline said with a smile, "Let's skip this."

Abel lifted his head and said hoarsely, "Ahem. I was thinking of punishing you for your disobedience!"

Luca, standing outside the car, could not help but chuckle.

To Mr. Ryker, the idea of a "punishment" is a kiss! Too bad, he didn't get what he wanted!"

"Go away!" Abel finally found an outlet to release his anger.

Luca shuddered and ran some distance away.

The police cars arrived and took the thugs away.

After that, Abel's Rolls-Royce left the scene.

In a corner, Alana's face was pale with anger as she sat in her car watching the incident develop.

As she rubbed her stomach, she felt like killing someone.

Not only had Abel not admitted to violating her, but he was also acting so intimately with Emmeline.

Most importantly, he had rescued that b*tch!

That was utter humiliation!

“Emmeline Louise and Abel Ryker! You two have gone too far this time!” Alana said through gritted teeth. She was about to start her car and leave when someone knocked on her window.

She turned around in shock and saw a familiar face standing outside the car.

“Adam?”

“Open the door.” Adam's low yet authoritative voice was heard.

Alana hastily pressed a button on the control panel. Adam opened the door and sat on the side passenger seat.

“I'll deal with the surveillance cameras. Don't worry,” Adam said coldly.

Alana's heart skipped a beat. She said gingerly, “Adam, did... did you see everything?”

“You want to get rid of that woman, right?”

Alana gasped in shock.

Oh no, Adam saw what I wanted to do! I heard he's the cruelest character of the Ryker family!

"Don't worry," Adam said, "I won't sell you out."

Alana trembled slightly. "What are your conditions? I know you must want something in exchange."

Adam snorted coldly. "You're a smart one. I'll let you know when I think of something!"

"But I need your help now, Adam." Alana leaned toward Adam.

Adam grabbed her slender waist without hesitation.

"Heheh, is this your revenge toward Abel? Hugging another man while bearing his child?"

"If you can help me get rid of Emmeline Louise, I'll do anything for you!" Alana showed Adam her bewitching side.

"Agreed!" Adam gripped the back of Alana's neck and shoved her away. "But I'm not interested in your body!"

...

Back at the café, Emmeline took the first aid kit and treated Abel's wound.

As Abel gazed at Emmeline's pink cheeks and long eyelashes at a close distance, a thought suddenly appeared in his mind.

He had a feeling that the woman he violated in the hotel five years ago was Emmeline and not Alana.

He remembered when he lifted the towel that covered the woman's face, her features were as charming as the woman in front of him.

Back then, he had only met Alana once, and he did not have a lasting impression of her.

Ten months later, Alana appeared at Meriwether Mansion with a baby. He had just returned from abroad, and he thought the woman in the hotel was Alana.

After all, Alana was also at the banquet that night.

Moreover, the DNA test results showed that Timothy was his biological son.

Looking closely at Emmeline again, he concluded that his eyes were playing tricks on him.

Emmeline sensed that Abel was gazing intently at her. She lifted her head abruptly.

"You seem distracted," she said with a smile. "What are you thinking?"

Abel lowered his gaze. "Oh, I was reminiscing about something."

Emmeline fastened the bandage around his arm. "Would you tell me? I'd like to hear more about your past."

Abel shook his head. "Never mind. There's nothing interesting about my past."

"Fine then, keep your secrets." Emmeline helped him put on his coat. "I'll make some spaghetti for you and Luca."

Abel looked at Luca standing at the door. Why does he get to eat too?

Chapter 84 A Suitable Donor

Luca was pleasantly surprised. After watching Emmeline enter the kitchen, he snuck up to Abel's side.

"She's perfect, Mr. Ryker! Why don't you forget about you-know-who?"

"Shut up!"

Luca playfully slapped himself. "Right, you-know-who has your baby!"

"Must you mention her? I told you she has nothing to do with me!" Abel seemed angry.

Luca knew better than to taunt him again. If she has nothing to do with you, why does she keep pestering you?

Emmeline whipped up some mushroom and egg carbonara and sprinkled fresh parsley on top. Abel and Luca wolfed down the food in no time.

It was hard work fighting the seven thugs. They were indeed starving.

The meal was very satisfying.

A little after their plates were cleared, Abel's phone started to ring.

Considering the time of the night, the call was unexpected.

Abel glanced at his phone screen. The call was from the landline of Levan Mansion.

Once he answered the call, he heard Rosaline's voice.

"Where are you, my son? Your father has been waiting for your return. Why haven't you come home?"

"Um... I just left the hospital. I was worried about Hesperus," Abel said.

“But Hesperus isn’t your son, and Emmeline isn’t your wife! They’re Adrien’s son and wife, so you should distance yourself from them and pay more attention to Alana and Timothy. Alana is bearing your child now, so you should put your attention on her instead of some outsider.”

Abel frowned hard.

Ever since the first time he met them, he had never considered Emmeline and Hesperus to be outsiders.

Alana, on the other hand...

“You should go home.” Emmeline overheard the conversation while cleaning the table. “If anything, you should spend more time with Timothy.”

Abel stood up. “You’re right. I should visit Timothy. He’s probably still traumatized.”

“Take good care of him and tell him Star is okay now,” Emmeline said.

“Mm.” Abel nodded.

At the door, he abruptly turned around. “Emma, I’m only worried about Timothy.”

Emmeline nodded. “Mm. Me too.”

After that, Abel left through the door.

Emmeline stood next to the window with the plates and cutlery in her hands and watched Abel walk to the parking lot across the road.

The Rolls-Royce roared to life, and the headlights lit up.

Inexplicably, Emmeline felt hollow inside.

She was about to bring the plates to the kitchen when her phone began to ring.

She put the plates down and saw that the call was from the pediatric department of the hospital.

Feeling something ominous, she answered the call.

“Ms. Louise? I’m the doctor on duty tonight. Your son suddenly has a high fever, and he’s receiving emergency treatment now.”

Emmeline was shocked. The first thing she could think of was that Hesperus’ blood disorder had been triggered.

“I’ll be there in no time!”

“I’ll go with you!” Daisy was already standing at the door.

“Okay!” Emmeline took the keys to her sports car, and they sped toward the hospital.

When they arrived at the hospital, Hesperus was already in the emergency room.

“Should I inform Master Adelmarr?” Daisy whispered to Emmeline.

“Not yet. I don’t want him to worry,” Emmeline said.

“What should we do about Star?”

“We’ll control his symptoms with our medication and arrange for a blood transfusion!”

“That’s all we can do for now,” Daisy said, “After all, we’ve found the kid’s father.”

The doctor came up to Emmeline and said, “Ms. Louise, the best solution is to perform a bone marrow transplant on the boy. Otherwise, his condition will continue to worsen, and it will eventually become a serious threat to his life.”

“I know,” Emmeline said. “I’ve been searching for a suitable donor.”

“How about his father?” the doctor suggested. “That is the fastest and safest way.”

Yes, we’ve just found him, Emmeline thought.

You’re finally useful for once, Adrien.

Chapter 85 Does She Need Me?

The doctor continued, “I need to arrange an appointment with the child’s father as soon as possible. The operation shouldn’t wait.”

Emmeline nodded. “Alright. I’ll inform him right away.”

She looked at the time. It was half past three in the morning.

Emmeline could not care less. She dialed Adrien’s number on her phone.

However, she received a notification that Adrien’s phone was switched off.

Adrien switches off his phone when he goes to bed? He’s so carefree!

Emmeline knew that Abel’s phone was switched on 24 hours a day.

It went without saying that the big boss of Ryker Group carried a different set of responsibilities.

Emmeline thought of contacting Abel so that he could reach Adrien.

Would it be appropriate for me to call Abel at this hour though? A few hours ago, Abel’s parents had summoned him back to the house. Rosaline even told his son not to meddle in other people’s affairs.

Heh, “Other people’s affairs.”

Emmeline sighed. She somehow felt disappointed.

Luckily, Hesperus fell asleep after taking the medicine she brought for him.

Emmeline waited at the hospital until seven o’clock. She called Adrien’s number again and found that his phone remained switched off.

She was just about to call Abel when she received a phone call from him.

Emmeline quickly answered it. “Mr. Ryker.”

Abel was surprised. “You sound like you have something urgent going on, Emma. Are you at the hospital?”

“Yes, I am.” Emmeline’s heart warmed when she heard his voice. “Star’s condition worsened. I tried calling Adrien, but I couldn’t reach him.”

“Why are you looking for Adrien? What can he possibly do? He’s probably sleeping in some motel.”

“He’s Star’s father, and Star needs him now!”

Abel was speechless for a moment. “... I can help him too, Emma.”

“Star needs a bone marrow transplant! You... You can’t help him!” Emmeline was close to sobbing.

“A bone marrow transplant?” Abel was surprised.

“Yes. That’s why I’ve been looking for the boys’ father. I don’t need that man for anything else!” Emmeline said.

“I see,” Abel answered. “I’ll help you look for Adrien.”

“Thank you, Mr. Ryker.”

“Emma...” Abel hesitated for a while. “My name is Abel.”

“A...bel.”

“Mm.” Abel’s expression turned serious after ending the call.

So the cute little kid has a blood disorder, and that’s why Emmeline insisted on searching for his biological father!

It’s not like what the others say. She’s not looking to marry into the Ryker family for riches!

Just like what she said, she didn’t need that man!

Abel felt sorry for Emmeline.

But... does she need me?

What can I do for her?

I’m not the children’s father, and I’m not related to her in any way.

Moreover, the relationship between Abel and Emmeline was awkward because of Adrien.

Rosaline came over and asked Abel, “What happened, Abel? I heard something about a bone marrow transplant?”

“It’s Hesperus,” Abel said while frowning hard. “It turns out he has a blood disorder.”

“A blood disorder!” Rosaline was surprised. “That poor boy. Is he getting any treatment?”

“That’s why Emmeline has been searching for the boy’s father,” Abel said. “She’s not after the Ryker family’s fortune. All she wants is to save her son.”

“You should look for Adrien then! He has to bear the responsibility!” Rosaline said.

“Emmeline said he switched off his phone. That useless bum. I’ll get someone to fetch him from the hotel!”

Just when Abel was about to leave the house, Alana came in, dressed in a pink gown and wearing elaborate makeup, as though she was preparing for a special occasion.

Chapter 86 Imperial Palace

“Abel.”

Alana had received information from the nanny that Abel had returned to Levan Mansion the night before.

Rosaline had allowed her to stay over at the mansion ever since she was pregnant. However, she was with Adam the night before, and she missed the chance to be alone with Abel.

That was why she went to Levan Mansion first thing in the morning.

“Mm,” Abel replied coldly and walked past her without even glancing at her.

“Mrs. Ryker, where is Abel going? He looks like he’s in a hurry.” Alana felt dejected as she watched Abel leave.

Rosaline sighed and told her about Hesperus and his blood disorder.

“It looks like only Adrien can save Hesperus now. Abel is going to search for Adrien!”

“Hesperus needs a bone marrow donor?”

Alana was shocked to hear that. If Adrien’s bone marrow were incompatible, they would find out that Adrien was not the father of the triplets!

If that were to be the case, Abel would do a DNA test. That would not do!

“Ouch!” Alana suddenly clutched her stomach.

“What’s wrong?” Rosaline was shocked. The baby in Alana’s womb was her grandchild.

“I got a little nervous, and my stomach began to hurt. I think I should go for a checkup,” Alana said while rubbing her stomach.

“I’ll go with you,” Rosaline said. “I’ll get the driver.”

“You should stay at home. Timothy will look for his granny when he wakes up,” Alana said.

“That’s true,” Rosaline said. “He’s always been clingy with me.”

“I don’t know if Abel would be free to bring me to the hospital. I’m afraid Abel won’t even have time for my baby after I give birth,” Alana said shyly.

“Don’t worry. Abel’s grandfather has already issued the order for him to marry you. Timothy would be able to live with his mother too,” Rosaline said.

“Mm.” Alana pretended to nod shyly. “Thank you for your concern, Mrs. Ryker. I’ll go to the hospital myself then.”

“You should be careful. I want to have another grandchild!”

“Don’t worry, I won’t disappoint you. We’ll eventually have more children than Meriwether Mansion!”

“That’s right.” Rosaline nodded in satisfaction.

Julianna had been very smug about her three new grandsons, and it made Rosaline angry whenever she saw her.

After leaving Levan Mansion, Alana sat in her car, drove half a mile away, and parked by the roadside before giving Adam a call.

“Didn’t I tell you not to contact me?” Adam said impatiently.

“It’s really urgent, Adam. I need to meet you.”

“You have a death wish, you b*tch!”

“Please, Adam! This is about your younger brother Adrien. If you don’t help me, it’ll soon be too late!”

“Come over here then,” Adam said. “I’m on the highest floor of the Imperial Palace.”

“Imperial Palace?” Alana was shocked. “Isn’t that where the owner lives?”

“Enough talk, b*tch, my time is precious. I’ll spare you half an hour!”

Half an hour? Alana glanced at her wristwatch and gasped.

By the time she reached there, she would only have less than ten minutes left, and that was if she did not encounter any traffic jams.

Fortunately, it was before the morning rush hour.

“Okay. Wait for me, Adam. I’ll go there now,” Alana said.

23 minutes later, Alana arrived at the highest floor of the Imperial Palace, panting heavily.

A dozen bodyguards flanked the corridor like guardian spirits.

If they had not been informed in advance, they would have torn Alana into pieces.

They only had the concept of predator and prey.

The Imperial Palace was the biggest entertainment establishment in Struyria, and it hosted customers from both the government and the criminal underworld.

Aside from running a business, the Imperial Palace was also involved with drug and firearms trafficking. It was risky, but it brought them huge profits.

The Struyria Police Department had always wanted to eliminate the Imperial Palace, but they never managed to find any leads into its internal structure.

No one even knew who the owner was.

“I’m here to look for Mr. Ryker,” Alana said timidly to the bodyguards. “I have an appointment with him.”

Chapter 87 Tamper

The bodyguard did not say anything but opened the ornately carved wooden door behind him.

Alana stepped inside.

The room was spacious, and the furnishings were extravagant.

However, the atmosphere was tense, and Alana did not see anyone inside.

Alana was wondering what was going on when a hand grabbed her neck from behind.

“Ah!” Alana yelped in surprise, but the hand prevented her from making any more noises.

“Do you know why I let you come in here?” Adam’s hoarse voice was heard from behind.

Alana shuddered. She shook her head while grasping Adam’s hand.

Her face was turning purple, and her eyes were filled with panic.

“Because I want you to know the consequences of disturbing me!”

Alana blinked hard and forced a sound from her throat.

Adam tossed her on the floor and stepped on her face. “Why did you look for me?”

“Cough cough! Cough cough!” Alana coughed hard a few times and clung onto Adam’s shoe. “I need you to help me to stop Adrien from going to the hospital.”

Adam narrowed his gaze. “What do you mean?”

Alana briefly explained the situation to him.

Adam smirked. “Heh. So the three whelps belong to Abel.”

“That’s right,” Alana said, “But I don’t want him to find out. What will I do if he ends up marrying Emmeline?”

“How do you want me to help you?” Adam thought it was very interesting.

Maybe he could use Alana to trigger Abel’s downfall.

Abel snatched the position of the CEO of Ryker Group from him and humiliated him in front of the whole family!

“Find some way to stop Adrien from going to the hospital.” Alana got up from the floor and leaned coyly on Adam’s chest. “I cannot let the truth be exposed.”

“You want the child to die?” Adam smirked. “You’re a heartless one!”

“If he dies, tough luck,” Alana said, “But don’t forget that they’ll check the boy’s uncles for a match too. I’ll think of something when it’s Abel’s turn.”

“You’re saying that they might ask me for my bone marrow,” Adam said with a smirk.

“You are the boy’s uncle. Your parents will definitely ask you to go to the hospital.”

“If they don’t find a match with me, there’s also Abel. Does it make sense if the boy’s uncle is compatible?”

“It’s not entirely impossible. It’s at least more plausible than Adrien being incompatible.”

“That’s easy,” Adam said. “The Imperial Palace is Adrien’s regular haunt. I’ll get someone to do something to him.”

In the meantime, Abel and his bodyguards arrived at the Fragrant Court of the Imperial Palace.

“According to investigations, Adrien is inside here,” Luca said.

Bang! The door was kicked open.

“Ahh! Who is it?” A woman inside shrieked in fear.

“I know you’re inside, Adrien! Come out here right now!” Abel roared angrily.

Adrien was making out with two women in the bedroom. He was shocked when he heard Abel’s voice.

He said lazily, “Abel, I’m not interested in being the CEO of Ryker Group. Can’t you just let me be?”

“I can let you be, but have you ever spared a thought for Emmeline and Hesperus?”

“Emmeline ignores me. Isn’t Hesperus recovering? Why do I care about him?” Adrien said.

“His blood disorder was triggered, and he needs your bone marrow to survive. Do you understand now?” Abel roared.

“...”

Silence permeated the room for a few seconds before Adrien jumped out of the bed buck-naked.

“What did you just say, Abel? Say that again?”

Abel grabbed his arm and roared, “I’ll give you one minute to dress up. After that, you’ll go to the hospital with me!”

“Yes, yes,” Adrien shuddered and said. “I’ll get dressed up now.”

The two women hugged Adrien and said coyly, “Adrien, didn’t you promise you’ll make out with us for two days and two nights? It’s not even a day yet!”

Chapter 88 Are You In Love?

“Get lost!” Adrien tossed the two women aside. They got up from the floor and left the room sheepishly.

A waiter at the door said, “Mr. Adrien, someone wants to give you a gift.”

“What?” Adrien turned around impatiently.

A syringe filled with dark red liquid appeared in the waiter’s hand, and he stabbed it toward Adrien.

“Ahh!”

Adrien stumbled backward and fell onto the table.

Abel and the bodyguards tried to stop the waiter, but it was too late. The tip of the syringe plunged into Adrien’s body.

Adrien felt his limbs turn cold all of a sudden. His life had just turned into a living hell.

“F*ck! Is that... AIDS?”

Abel was shocked too. Adrien’s blood might have been fatally contaminated!

“Abel! I need a PEP injection!” Adrien roared in panic. He had not put on his clothes yet.

“Take him away!” Abel roared at the bodyguards.

The bodyguards tossed the waiter aside, grabbed Adrien, and ran out of the room.

Adam was on the top floor smoking a cigar. He smirked when he saw Abel leave the establishment hastily with Adrien.

“Don’t worry, Adrien. It’s only chicken blood, but you’ll be out of commission for a month. Hahaha! Only the owner of the Imperial Palace will think of something like this!”

Adrien was brought to Ryker’s Hospital. He received a PEP injection and was quarantined for observation.

Emmeline sank into despair.

She had found Hesperus’ father to save his life, but why was Adrien so unreliable?

She would not have been so mad if Adrien turned out to be incompatible, but Adrien could not be tested at all!

If that were the case, she had no use for the children’s father.

But what should she do about Star?

She had been developing a complete treatment with Robert, her master, but it was not close to done yet.

Tears streamed down Emmeline’s face.

Oh god, must you take my child away from me? Are you jealous that I have three adorable sons?

Abel hugged Emmeline, who was about to teeter and fall. “Don’t worry, Emma. There’s another way.”

Emmeline lifted her head weakly. “What other way? I can’t even rely on the child’s father.”

“We can find the Wonder Doctor. Maybe she knows what to do.”

Emmeline was speechless. If she knew what to do, she would not have placed her hope on Adrien.

It was already a miracle she could keep Star alive through acupuncture for four years.

However, Star did not give her any more time. If only he gave her another year, she would have developed the miracle medicine!

“I’ll contact the Wonder Doctor now,” Abel said. “I won’t give up as long as there’s hope!”

Emmeline gazed at Abel gratefully.

She could not stop Abel from looking for the Wonder Doctor. She did not want to disappoint him.

“Mm.” She wiped her tears and discreetly switched her phone to silent mode.

After Abel talked to Benjamin, Benjamin sent her a message.

“Ms. Louise, do you know of Mr. Ryker’s request?”

Emmeline replied, “Yes. I’m right next to him now.”

“Should I accept or refuse his request?”

“You can accept it, I guess. It’ll be too cruel to refuse.”

“But we’re helpless against Star’s condition.”

“I know that, but Abel has been helping me. I can’t disappoint him.”

“Ms. Louise, do you... have feelings for Mr. Ryker?”

“This isn’t the time for idle chat.”

“I’ll reply to Mr. Ryker then,” Benjamin replied.

Chapter 89 You Should Be the Father

As soon as Emmeline put away her phone, Abel received a call from Benjamin.

“The Wonder Doctor has accepted your invitation, but she can’t guarantee she’ll be able to do anything about the blood disorder.”

“As long as she’s willing to try,” Abel said. “I won’t give up any hope. You can name your price!”

“Don’t worry about the consultation fee.”

“No. I’ll give up my entire fortune if it means the boy can be saved!”

Benjamin was moved. “Alright, Mr. Ryker. I’ll make arrangements.”

When Emmeline saw Abel put his phone away, she discreetly pinched a certain spot on her body.

She covered her forehead and said weakly, “Abel, I’m feeling dizzy.”

“What happened, Emma?” Abel was worried.

“I…” Emmeline’s eyes glazed over and passed out in Abel’s arms.

Daisy said hastily, “She must be exhausted. Take her to the doctor.”

“We’re in the pediatric department,” Luca reminded him.

Abel carried Emmeline in his arms and rushed to the outpatient department.

About fifteen minutes later, Emmeline woke up in the outpatient department's observation room.

"I'm fine now. You should go and check on Star," she said to Abel.

"Uncle Landen and Aunt Julianna are there. I'm more worried about you," Abel said while fondling Emmeline's fingers.

"I'm worried about Star!" Tears started to stream down Emmeline's face. "Why must Star suffer? It's not enough that he has a blood disorder, he also has an unreliable father!"

"Don't worry. I'm here for you," Abel comforted her while wiping her tears. "The Wonder Doctor will be here soon. Maybe she has a way to save Star."

"You should wait for her at the pediatric department then." Emmeline gently shoved him away. "I'll go over there once I feel better."

"I'll be here to take care of Ms. Louise," Daisy said. "You should go to the child."

"Okay then." Abel's fingers stroked Emmeline's cheek. "Rest well, and leave Star to me!"

"Mm." Emmeline pressed her lips together and nodded. Tears flooded her eyes once more.

After Abel left, Emmeline removed the intravenous drip, went out of the back window, and met with Benjamin at the parking lot.

"I say, Ms. Louise, don't you find this tiring? You might as well reveal your face," Benjamin said with a frown.

“You must be joking! If everyone knows who I am, it’ll be even more tiring! I wouldn’t have time to research my medicine!”

“That’s right. Without revealing your identity, at least you can focus when you need to.”

“Also, the Wonder Doctor is only a title,” Emmeline added. “Who knows if Master Robert might have to take the helm one day? If I reveal my face, Master Robert won’t be able to show himself in public.”

“Is that why Master Robert made it so?”

“Mm.” Emmeline nodded. “The Wonder Doctor will not perish.”

“Enough talk. Quickly put on your protective suit,” Benjamin said while handing her the protective suit. “It’s almost the appointed time with Mr. Ryker.”

After the two people made their preparations, they went to the pediatric ward.

Landen and Julianna were standing at the door. Abel was standing next to the bed comforting Hesperus. Helios and Endymion were there too.

“The doctor will be here soon. You’ll be okay, Star. I’ll wait for you to get better,” Abel said as he touched Hesperus’ forehead. “You’re a brave boy, and nothing is too challenging for you.”

“Yes, Star,” Helios said. “Moon and I are waiting for you to get better.”

“We’re all Mommy’s favorite children,” Endymion said. “You’ll have to get better. Nothing can drive us apart!”

“But Daddy, is Mommy feeling better?” Hesperus pouted and took Abel’s hand.

“Mommy must’ve overworked herself taking care of me.”

“Mommy is resting now,” Abel said and kissed his hand. “Once she’s feeling better, she’ll be back by your side.”

Tears flooded Hesperus’ eyes. “Thank you for always cheering me up, Daddy. You should have been my real Daddy.”

“...”

Abel felt a lump in his throat, and words failed him at that moment. He stretched his arms and brought the three boys close to him.

Chapter 90 I’m Here for You

When Emmeline, dressed in a protective suit, came into the ward, she was stunned by what she saw.

Abel... looks just like the boys’ father!

But...

Julianna, behind her, said nonchalantly, “Abel, you might only be the boys’ uncle, but we’re grateful for your help. I wish Adrien hadn’t gotten himself into such trouble. He should’ve been more responsible.”

Abel stood up and gazed intently at Julianna. “Aunt Julianna, I’m doing this for Star and not for Adrien. He shouldn’t have gone to the Imperial Palace!”

“What’s done is done. We’re also very worried for him! Fortunately, he received the PEP injection in time. Who knows what might happen if he hadn’t?”

“If he insists on going there, it’s only a matter of time before he gets attacked. He might be lucky this time, but it better not happen again!”

“I’ll take care of my own son! You don’t have to worry about him!” Julianna snorted coldly and stood up. “All of this wouldn’t have happened to Adrien if Adam was the CEO of Ryker Group! He would’ve been a capable worker.”

Abel noticed that the “Wonder Doctor” had arrived. He escorted her into the ward.

“Mm,” Emmeline answered and stole a glance at him from the corner of her eye.

She went up to Hesperus’ bed and turned her head away so that her son did not see her eyes.

Even though a visor shielded her face, she believed Hesperus could recognize her if he saw her eyes.

She took the boy’s pulse and inserted several Five-Elements needles at certain points.

“How is the boy, Ms. Wonder Doctor?” Abel asked in a low voice.

“I can only stabilize his condition. He’ll be fine in the short term,” Emmeline spoke in a hoarse voice. “But there isn’t anything that can completely cure his symptoms for now.”

“What should we do?” Abel asked worriedly. “Please find a way to save him!”

“Your best option for now is a bone marrow transplant,” Emmeline said. “Every time the boy’s blood disorder is triggered, it’ll be a life-and-death experience for him. He might not be so lucky the next time, and I might not be able to give you the medicine before the inevitable happens.”

“I…” Abel was feeling hopeless.

“It’s not the end yet. Now that the boy’s condition is stabilized, you should take the opportunity to find a suitable donor.”

“I know,” Abel said. “I’ll find a way. Thank you!”

“Don’t mention it.” Emmeline felt a lump in her throat.

Benjamin quickly took her arm, and they left the ward hurriedly.

After seeing the “Wonder Doctor” off, Abel felt something was amiss. He quickly rushed over to the outpatient department.

He opened the door to the observation room. Emmeline was lying on the bed facing away from him. The saline bottle was almost empty.

Abel was slightly surprised.

Emmeline turned around and smiled at him. “I’m feeling a lot better, Abel. At least I’m not dizzy now.”

Daisy quickly added, “Yes, Mr. Ryker. She’s fine now.”

Phew! Ms. Louise made it back just in time! She thought.

“I’ll get the nurse to remove the needle.” Abel went over and pressed the call button next to the bed.

“How is Star?” Emmeline asked.

Abel was silent for a moment. “The Wonder Doctor did her best.”

“Does Star need a bone marrow transplant?”

Abel nodded. “Mm.”

“But Adrien... His blood is contaminated,” Emmeline said helplessly.

“I might be able to help,” Abel said as he took Emmeline’s icy hands. “I’m Star’s relative. I might be compatible.”

Emmeline lowered her head. “Star is so lucky to have you, but...”

“No buts. I’ll save him however I can. Ever since I first met him, I’ve never considered him to be someone else’s child,” Abel said.

Tears rolled down Emmeline’s cheeks.

If Abel could say that, she had nothing more to ask for.

“Thank you, Abel.”

Abel hugged her tightly. “Don’t cry, Emma. I’m here for you!”

“Mm!” Emmeline nodded. Abel always made her feel secure.

Benjamin, peeking in from the window, sighed when he saw that.