

Ambush OTQ 1301

Chapter 1301 Abel's Backup Plan

Emmeline, Lewis, and Rosaline exchanged glances and followed Abel into the study, where Abel opened his laptop and connected it to the projection device.

In an instant, a towering skyscraper was projected onto the opposite wall. The building bore several gilded letters, 'RYKER, which shone brilliantly in the sunlight.

"Ryker?" Lewis muttered bewilderedly. "Abel, where is this building? This isn't our family's company, is it?"

"But it is. This is our company. One that truly belongs to us-Ryker Inc., Abel explained. "I established this five years ago in Stanieu. It currently operates projects in over a dozen countries and industries worldwide. Its assets exceed three times those of Grandad's company here. So even if I return Grandad his company, I still have this larger multinational conglomerate in my hands!"

Emmeline, Lewis, and Rosaline were all dumbfounded. They hadn't realized that Abel had such a powerful backup plan. Even the munchkins who entered the room were stunned.

"Oh, wow, Daddy is actually so awesome!"

"You're one to hide your light under a bushel, huh, Daddy?"

"Wow, I admire Daddy even more now!"

"Daddy, when will you take us to see this company?"

Abel crouched down, pulled his boys into his arms, and said with a smile, "I'll look into it these next couple of days."

"Let us go to Ryker Inc. first before taking the boys and Mom and Dad to Osea and visit my master on Adelmarr Island," Emmeline suggested.

"That's a great idea!" Lewis was delighted. "I've been wanting to meet our in-law for the longest time. I've heard so much about him; I just need to meet him in person!"

"We'll do as Emma suggests then," Rosaline gushed. "Let's thank our in-law for saving Emma and our three grandchildren back then!"

"Yay!" Sun clapped his hands. "We can finally see Grandpa Adelmarr!"

"Yeah, I miss Grandpa Adelmarr very much!"

"I do too!" Star echoed before holding Timothy's hand. Timothy, you're also Grandpa Adelmarr's grandson! He says he misses you a lot, and his heart aches for you whenever he thinks of you!"

Timothy's eyes welled up with tears, and he nodded vigorously. "Let's go see Grandpa Adelmarr then!"

Once everyone had settled down, Emmeline called Waylon and Benjamin, and in just half an hour, the two rushed to The Precipice.

Lewis and Rosaline quickly welcomed their two in-laws,

Waylon sat on the couch, calm and composed, saying, "We anticipated that this would happen from the day Emma decided to return to Struyria to find Abel. It's no big deal, just a matter of sooner or later."

Benjamin added, "That's why, as a precaution, Master Ademar sent me to accompany Emma. It's always

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good to be prepared."

Waylon continued, "It seems that Mr. Ryker hasn't given Emma a hard time, and letting you all leave unscathed is already the best outcome."

"It's because Abel agreed to give up everything related to the Ryker family that Father allowed us to leave," Lewis explained.

Waylon chuckled in response. "Well, I believe Abel had a backup plan all along, didn't he? If my guess is right, the new alien force in Stanieu is his."

"I knew I couldn't fool you," Abel said with a chuckle. "This was a private venture of mine five years ago. I didn't expect it to come in handy now."

"We had our eye on this multinational corporation before, Benjamin said. "We also noticed its connection. to you, but we didn't want to inquire further until this special occasion."

"What are your plans now?" Waylon asked. "Are you going to Stanieu?"

Emmeline replied, "We have all decided to take a look at things in Stanieu before heading to Osea. We intend to stay in Osea for some time."

"That sounds good," Waylon said. "Dad will be overjoyed when he hears this news!"

"Let's not tell him just yet." Emmeline winked. "We'll surprise him with our visit!"

Waylon guffawed in response. "Alright, we'll go with your plan. Dad will certainly be thrilled when he sees you and your family at his doorstep."

"That settles it," Abel said. "Let's have dinner tonight at The Precipice. I'll cook!"

"Count me in!" Waylon added.

"I'll join too."

"Invite Doris and Janie too," Emmeline suggested. "The more the merrier."

"Just Janie will do," Waylon looked at Benjamin. "She's Benjamin's soon-to-be wife, but what role does Doris have to play?"

Chapter 1302 Emma Changed Me

“Well, she...” Emmeline hesitated for a moment, carefully considering her words. “Doris is my bestie, right? She should come!” She replied, unable to blatantly label Waylon’s relationship with Doris right at the

moment.

“Alright, Waylon will call Doris, and I’ll tell Janie to pick Doris up on her way,” Benjamin said with a smile.

With the conversation having reached this point, Waylon had no choice but to call Doris.

When Doris heard that Emmeline had invited her and Janie was coming too, she agreed.

“But what about Nightfall Cafe?” Doris asked over the phone. “Isn’t Sam Emma’s personal bodyguard now?”

“Let’s close Nightfall Cafe early tonight,” Emmeline suggested. “Everyone can leave work earlier.”

Doris did as she was told.

“Emma,” Abel asked Emmeline, “if we leave, who will you entrust with Nightfall Cafe?”

“Doris, of course,” Emmeline replied. “Sam has to follow me to Osea. Isn’t Luca following you?”

That was exactly the point Abel was asking. It would be terrible if Luca followed him to Oesa while Sam stayed in Struyria. We’d be separating a couple of lovebirds! Good thing Emmeline and I are on the same page.

Sam and Daisy were currently in the garden, playing with the munchkins. Luca was also nearby.

“Achoo!”

“Achoo!”

They both sneezed simultaneously.

Daisy teased, “What’s up with you two? Are you trying to catch a cold together?”

“Daisy!” Sam protested, blushing slightly. “It’s not like that!”

“Well, look at you,” Daisy playfully teased her. “Did I say anything? Why are you blushing like that?”

“I’m not!” Sam stomped her foot.

“Still denying it?” Daisy turned to Luca. “Luca, look at Sam. Is she blushing?”

Luca actually took it seriously and affirmed, “She’s blushing.”

Sam’s entire face turned beet red.

The next day, Abel handed over his responsibilities at Ryker Group to his reluctant cousin, Adrien.

“Abel, must I hand over my wonderful life to Ryker Group from now on?” Adrien clung to Abel and cried.

“Am I doomed to work myself to death?”

“It’s not that bad,” Abel patted his shoulder. “You just have to play the role of the major boss after you get familiar with the business. The management is clear, and everyone has their own responsibilities. You won’t have to exhaust yourself. That said, you must ensure the overall direction is on track.”

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“Sure, you make it sound easy,” Adrien grumbled. “But I bet it’s hella challenging! Look at me, managing a hotel for three years only to finally get the hang of it this year!”

“That’s because your head wasn’t in the hotel for the first two years,” Abel argued. “It’s only recently that Lizbeth managed to rein you in and redirect your efforts, and look how the hotel business has thrived. It’s the same with a group company. If you put your heart into it, you can excel!”

“Let me tell you, Abel,” Adrien said seriously, “it wasn’t Lizbeth who turned me around. Do you know who

it was?”

“Adrien, you’re not still thinking about Emma, are you?” Abel chuckled.

“What are you talking about?” Adrien blushed slightly. I stopped thinking about Emma a long time ago. But I can’t deny that it was she who changed me. She helped me find the right purpose and direction in life. Honestly, when you took her away from me at the wedding, it was one of the darkest times in life. I was heartbroken, but I realized I had to let her go. Loving someone means wanting them to be happy. even if they’re not with you.”

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Abel smiled. “Adrien, your enlightenment is quite impressive. But let me warn you, Emma is now your cousin-in-law, my wife. You can’t have a crush on her anymore!”

“I wouldn’t dare!” Adrien chuckled. “I’m not just afraid of you but also of Liz. Can’t you tell how Liz looks a bit like Emma? So, Liz is the woman I truly love now. As for Emma, I genuinely wish her all the best!”

“That’s good to hear!” After all the talk, Abel couldn’t help but break into a slight sweat.

It was natural for men to be interested in his lovely wife, given how wholly perfect she was. He just needed to keep an eye on her and protect her from any unwanted advances.

Chapter 1303 The Brothers Gather

After chatting for a while, Adrien poured a gla*s of water for Abel and humbly sought his advice on work methods and experience. After all, running a conglomerate was not something one could learn in a short

time.

Adrien quickly felt overwhelmed by the amount of information.

“Ah, forget it!” He waved his hand. “Let’s end here today and take a break, Abel.”

Seeing Adrien constantly rubbing his temples to the point where they became apparently red, Abel knew that entrusting the vast conglomerate to him would be a challenging task. However, with no way out given by their grandfather, his role was to do his best to assist Adrien.

The two brothers were taking a break, sipping water, when the phone on the main table rang.

Abel got up from the sofa and instinctively went for it. Then, he realized that he was no longer in charge and sat back down. He said to Adrien, "You answer it; you're the boss now."

Adrien sighed and reluctantly rose from the sofa, walking to the main table to pick up the handset.

"Hello, who's this?"

There was a brief pause on the other end, and then Adam's voice came through. "Adrien, you've already taken up the position?"

"I've been thrown in at the deep end, now haven't I?" Adrien said with a wry smile. "I'd be happy to let you

do it."

"No, thanks!" Adam grumbled. "I'd like to live a bit longer!"

"Why have

you called then?" Adrien felt a bit let down. He had hoped for some comforting words from his elder brother to mend his wounded pride.

"I want to invite Abel for dinner. Why don't you join us?" Adam said.

"Sounds good," Adrien said before turning to Abel. "Adam is inviting us for dinner. What do you say?"

Before Abel could respond, Adam added, "Bring Lizbeth and Emmeline along. I'll be bringing Ysabel on my end."

Abel became concerned at once. It didn't matter if Lizbeth would show up for lunch, but it was a whole other story for Ysabel to be there as well, for his dear wife wasn't a fan of the woman.

Then, Adam added, "You all have wives. I can't be the only single one, so I'm bringing Ysabel along."

Abel could only agree when Adam had put it that way. "I'll let Emma know."

"Emma will surely agree!" Adam said confidently. "I know she's open-minded and won't hold grudges!"

Well, he wasn't wrong.

Abel nodded. "You guys pick the place, and we'll join you later. We should get together."

"How about the Seashell Hotel?" Adam suggested. "It seems like both Emma and Lizbeth like it, and Ysabel enjoys it too."

“Seashell Hotel it is,” Abel replied into the handset. “You guys go ahead. Emma and I will join you in a bit.”

“Alright!” Adam agreed. “I’ll be waiting in the private room.”

They ended the call, and Adrien seemed somewhat emotional. He muttered, “Abel, is Adam holding a farewell dinner or something?”

“Where are you getting that idea?” Abel chuckled. “Just because I’m not running Ryker Group anymore. doesn’t mean I’m not a Ryker by name. Wherever we go, we’re still brothers!”

“That’s all I needed to hear!” Adrien sniffled. “You go pick up Emma, and I’ll get Lizbeth. We’ll meet at the Seashell Hotel.”

“Alright!” Abel nodded. “See you later!”

Half an hour later, the three couples met in a private room at the Seashell Hotel.

As they entered, Ysabel greeted them with a smile, “Emma, Liz, you’ve come! Come, take a seat!”

She was both welcoming and attentive, helping Emmeline and Lizbeth pull out their chairs.

Seeing her like this starkly contrasted her previous arrogant and domineering demeanor. Emmeline and Lizbeth exchanged a knowing look, their eyes filled with amusement. Has this girl changed her ways?

Adam seemed to have noticed the thoughts of the two women and said with a smile, “No need to be surprised, Emma, Lizbeth. Ysabel said that if she wants to enter the Ryker family, she must learn from both of you and eliminate her bad habits!”

“Learn from Lizbeth,” said Emmeline with a chuckle. “Don’t bother learning from me.”

“Why not?” Adam teased. “Grandad might have chased you out in a fit of anger, but it proves that you’re the real deal! The little cafe owner turns out to be the boss of the Adelmarr Group and a proud disciple of the Adelmarr Clan. You have half of Osea backing you. Who’d dare underestimate you?!”

Chapter 1304 The Table Turns

Emmeline chuckled. “That’s all I have for a background, and you’ve practically figured it all out.”

“So, I have to say, I respect no one but you!” Adam said. “I also hand it to Abel for being able to snatch such an amazing woman. It’s like even the heavens favor you!”

“You’re pretty lucky yourself, Adam,” Abel responded with a smile. “The hero of Struyria, a name that earns admiration with just a mention!”

“Not only that,” Ysabel chimed in. “Adam’s name hung on the front gate can ward off evil. He can stand shoulder to shoulder with Ares, the God of War!” –

“Excuse you!” Adam guffawed.

“Things sure are different now,” Adrien grinned. “Adam used to be the one everyone hated. Now, he’s the one everyone respects. How the tables have turned!”

“Let’s not go there again,” said Adam. “I’m reformed now, giving up evil and promoting good, becoming a hero who stands up for justice. I’m planning to donate ten million to a ‘Heroic Deeds Fund’ to encourage citizens to help one another!”

“That’s a great idea!” Abel nodded. “I’ll add another ten million to the fund!”

“Count me in!” Adrien said. “Every little bit helps!”

“Wow!” Ysabel clapped her hands. “To think the three scions of the Ryker family have such high aspirations!”

“Of course!” Adam said with a hint of pride. “Otherwise, how could we have found such amazing wives?”

“I’m counted as one too?” Ysabel blushed, fluttering her eyelashes..

“You bet. But you have to learn from Emma and Liz,” Adam replied.

“Oh my! How wonderful!” Ysabel nearly jumped in excitement. “I’ll follow Emma and Lizbeth’s example and strive to be like them!”

“That’s the spirit!” Adam said, pleased. “Let’s raise our gla*s'es to that!”

“But I have a question for Emma,” Ysabel looked at Emmeline with anticipation. “Emma, may I?”

“Go ahead.” Emmeline nodded. “I don’t have any more secrets to hide.”

“You are from the Adelmars, right? Did Erin know?”

Erin?

Everyone turned grim at the mention of the name.

Erin Anderson was none other than Evelyn Murphy, a woman who had caused a lot of trouble. Who knew how many people she had harmed?! Bringing her up now was just leaving a bad taste in everyone’s

mouths.

“Please don’t get upset, Emma,” Ysabel hurriedly explained. “I just wanted to remind you.

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“Why are you asking about her?” Emmeline frowned. She believed Ysabel had a reason for asking and wouldn’t bring it up without cause.

“I remember when Sonia broke her leg and was in the hospital, Erin reached out to her privately,” Ysabel said. “If Erin knew your true identity, she probably told Sonia because she wanted to collaborate with her to go after you!”

Emmeline stood up abruptly. "Could it really be Sonia and her mother?"

"I think it's very possible," Abel said. "They had the opportunity to sneak the birthday video flash drive into the gift. Given this, they are prime suspects!"

"That makes sense to me!" Adam added. "When Grandfather called you to the study, Sonia and her mother disappeared for a while. Could they have gone to eavesdrop?"

"That's a possibility," Abel said. "The security at the Ryker Mansion is extensive. I'll have Luca investigate."

"Leave that to me!" Adrien volunteered. "You and Grandad are still in a sensitive position. It'll be easier if I go instead."

"Alright," Abel agreed. "Let's leave it to Adrien then."

"If it turns out to be Sonia and her mother, leave the rest to me!" Adam said. "As you all know, I had the most cutting-edge methods of punishment when I was in charge of the Imperial Palace. I guarantee they won't be found by anyone!"

"I know you

also have several underground chambers. Abel said. "Mr. Ywain from Sunny Avenue was imprisoned by you for so long, and no one could find him."

"That's settled then," Adam said. "You and your family take this chance to travel abroad. It's a perfect chance for a family vacation!"

"We're planning to visit Stanieue," Abel said. "After that, we'll head to Osea."

"Stanieue?" Adrien asked. "What's there to see?"

Chapter 1305 I'm Ready To Spoil My Daughters

"I'll come clean, Adam, Adrien," Abel said. "I've already developed my own business over there, so you don't need to worry about me."

"I knew you wouldn't let us down!" Adam exclaimed. "Way to go!"

"But I still need your advice on things beyond my capabilities," Adrien said. "Abel, you'll have to guide me

for a while."

"Don't worry!" Abel patted Adrien's shoulder. "We're a family, and I won't abandon her completely either. Grandad may be ruthless, but I'm not!"

"Well, he isn't exactly ruthless," Adam argued. "He might just need some time to come around. Hopefully, things will smooth out soon."

"Let's hope so!" Abel raised his gla*s. "Enough talking; a toast to Adam and Adrien!"

"And Liz!" Adrien smiled. "We can't leave the ladies out!"

“What about me?” Ysabel looked at Adam shyly. “Can I be the big sister-in-law for now?”

“Well...” Adam scratched his head. “Considering your help to Emma, you can temporarily hold the position of a big sister-in-law!”

“Yay!” Ysabel exclaimed, jumping with joy.

Adam quickly pressed her back down, his face serious, “Being the eldest sister-in-law comes with certain responsibilities. You need to be calm, dignified, and elegant, just like Emma!”

Ysabel sat down properly, feeling embarrassed, and smoothed her hair. She said softly, “Don’t make fun of me, okay? I’m working on it.”

“You’re doing fine already,” Emmeline said with a smile as she raised her glasses. “So, here’s to and sisters-in-law!”

“Look at Emma, saying such words!” Adrien gave her a thumbs-up. “Open and sincere!”

All three couples burst into laughter, and everyone clinked their glasses together.

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“Come, let’s eat!” Adam served everyone dishes using the serving spoon. “I’ve ordered the best dishes from our hotel. Come on, guys, enjoy!”

Adrien also helped Lizbeth with her plate and said, “You need to follow Emma’s example, take good care of your health, and give me a set of quadruplets!”

“Do you think everybody can do that?!” Lizbeth blushed. “It won’t do even if I follow Emma. It ultimately comes down to you!”

“Are you saying I’m not as capable as Abel?” Adrien retorted. “I’m not inferior to Abel! You’ll know it once you get pregnant!”

Lizbeth’s face turned even redder, and she wished she could hide under the table. She discreetly stepped on Adrien’s foot under the table and whispered, “How can you say this in public?! Where is your common

sense?!”

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Adrien fell silent at that. Sure, he had spoken a little straightforwardly, but how could he take being told he was less potent than Abel regarding procreation?!

How can you claim my fertility isn’t sufficient if you don’t even give me a chance to prove it by not getting pregnant yourself. Lizbeth?!

Abel also felt somewhat awkward at the same time.

The time he and Emmeline had conceived their four lovely sons had been quite serendipitous. Now, he was secretly hoping for another stroke of luck, aiming for Emmeline to conceive twins this time, or even better, quadruplets. But this time, he wanted daughters!

Please let me have a couple of girls. Abel wished anxiously, I'm ready to spoil them to no end!

"Let's continue our efforts..." Abel whispered to Emmeline, "Let's aim for two and hope for four!"

Emmeline's eyes widened in shock, speechless. Excuse me?

On the other hand, Ysabel was rendered stupefied by Adrien's words, and she turned to Adam, asking. "How many children am I expected to conceive after we get married?"

"Four!" Adam said. "Didn't you hear the target? It's four! Sons or daughters, it doesn't matter, as long as it's

four!"

Thump! Ysabel collapsed beneath the table in shock, but she quickly got back up and retorted, "Wait a minute, Mr. Adam, shouldn't the task of sowing the seeds be yours?"

Adam was left speechless. As if I can do that! It isn't something one can simply wish for and make it happen!

The next day, Abel, along with his wife, children, and parents, arrived in Stanieu on their private plane.

They settled into a beachfront villa that had been prepared two years earlier and then went to a hotel owned by Ryker Inc. for dinner as a family.

Daisy, Sam, Luca, and others accompanied them, making it nearly twenty people in total.

Luca had already informed the hotel management in advance, but Abel kept it low-key, so the hotel staff went about their duties as usual.

The only difference was that the manager personally opened the private dining room reserved for the group and served them personally with the menu.

Lewis and Rosaline were both deeply gratified and excited about their son's success in business. Rosaline couldn't help but get teary-eyed, praising Abel's competence.

Emmeline also teased her husband, saying, "I never imagined you had such a big ace up your sleeve"

Abel lovingly pinched her nose and said, "Just because you have a powerful background doesn't mean your husband can't have one too. To tell you the truth. I have another one that's even bigger"

Emmeline was surprised "What? You do? What is it?"

"Yeah Abel Lewis and Rosaline were astonished too. What other identity do you have that you haven't told us!"

Chapter 1306 Adrien Investigates the Surveillance Covertly

"I won't tell just yet." Abel's eyes deepened. "This identity is a bit special, and I won't mention it unless it's absolutely necessary."

"Hubby, you're not the head of some arms smuggling syndicate, are you?" Emmeline, hugging Abel's arms, probed in a whisper.

Abel reached out to ruffle her hair, smiling indulgently. "You're actually pretty close!"

"Abel," Lewis immediately scowled, "We can't engage in illegal activities!"

"Your father's right," Rosaline added with concern. "You mustn't get involved with criminal organizations!"

"I haven't. Abel defended himself. "And the boys are still here. Don't let your imaginations run wild."

"So, Daddy." Timothy blinked his obsidian-like eyes. "What's your other identity, then?"

"We're so curious!" Helios Ryker pouted. "Daddy, please tell us."

"Yeah," Endymion Ryker echoed. "Don't keep it from us. We want to know!"

Hesperus chimed in, "I know what Daddy has in mind."

"What is it?" Timothy, Helios, and Endymion asked in unison.

"Daddy wants us to guess!" Hesperus said seriously, pursing his little lips. "Isn't that right, Daddy?"

Amused by his sons, Abel affectionately ruffled their heads one by one. "Star is absolutely right. I want you all to guess. So, from now on, try and guess what my other identity could be."

"Grandpa, Grandma, Mommy, let's all guess together!" Timothy urged, and Lewis and Rosaline nodded in agreement. "Let's guess together."

However, Emmeline thought otherwise. "You can guess, but not right now. Now, I want you boys to eat and take a nap. You can figure it out after you wake up, okay?"

The four munchkins nodded in unison. "Okay. Let's guess after our nap. Now, we'll eat and go to bed."

"You boys are so well-behaved!" Rosaline praised as she and Lewis helped the boys to their seats.

Before long, all the dishes from the two private rooms were served, and the whole family began to enjoy

their meal.

Meanwhile, back at Struyria, Adrien brought Lizbeth over to the Ryker Mansion for lunch.

Officially, he had just taken over as the CEO of the Ryker Group and was coming to report to Oscar Ryker.

Secretly, he was here to discreetly check the surveillance and see if there were any suspicious traces of the Steiner mother and daughter on Oscar's birthday.

Lizabeth was also a well-behaved and sensible girl.

On the way, she and Adrien had discussed their roles. So, when they arrived at the mansion, Adrien talked to Old Mr. Ryker for a while, and then Lizabeth said, "Grandpa. I've recently learned a set of ma*sage techniques, and Adrien has praised me for being good at it. How about I give you a ma*sage?"

"Well, that sounds good," Oscar said happily. "My shoulders have been aching lately. No matter how much money you have, you can't avoid getting old and having these aches and pains. Please help me with the ma*sage!"

Lizabeth signaled to Adrien, and he said, "Well, Liz, you give Grandpa a good ma*sage. I'll go outside for a smoke."

"Need you go

outside?" Oscar questioned. "Is the living room not big enough for you to smoke inside?"

"Well, Liz and I are planning to have a child, aren't we?" Adrien argued. "It's not good for her to take in tobacco smoke, so I'll stay away in the garden, where the air is better."

"It's for my great-grandchild, eh?" Oscar nodded approvingly. "Alright, go ahead to the garden. It'll be a while before lunch is ready as well."

"Alright." At that, Adrien winked at Lizabeth. "Give Grandpa a good ma*sage, alright? I'll get you a gift later!"

"Don't bother buying," Oscar said. "Lizabeth, you can just grab a few from my birthday pile."

"That won't do, Grandad," Lizabeth quickly shook her head. "Your gifts are often worth tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands, or even millions. I dare not just take them casually!"

"Just take it when I tell you to," Oscar said. "I don't need so many, and can you imagine me taking them with me to the grave?"

"Grandad," Lizabeth disagreed, "don't say that. You'll live to be a hundred, even older!"

"Well, you'll make this old man happy by picking out some gifts for yourself," Oscar said. "Take whatever you like!"

"In that case, I'll gladly oblige. Lizabeth was also delighted. Having gifts to choose from was certainly worth celebrating.

Chapter 1307 F*ck With Me but Not Emma

On the other hand, Adrien, holding a cigarette and a lighter, pretended to head to the garden.

The surveillance monitors were in the security room behind, and Adrien headed straight there.

The security personnel on duty were startled when they saw it was Adrien and hastily brought a chair for him to sit on.

All the employees of the Ryker family knew that Adrien had recently assumed the position of CEO of the Ryker Group.

Now, apart from Oscar, he was the highest authority in the Ryker Group.

‘One man above, ten thousand beneath, as they said.

“Now I not only manage the Ryker Group but also need to oversee the security of the entire Ryker family,” Adrien said. “Please retrieve the surveillance footage from Grandad’s birthday celebration. I want to check if any suspicious individuals infiltrated.”

“You work hard, Mr. Adrien.” The security officer, feeling that Adrien was truly responsible and diligent in his work, setting a great example for everyone, earnestly retrieved the surveillance footage from the past few days and watched it with Adrien.

Adrien lit a cigarette and said, “I’ll watch quietly. You can go about your duties.”

Instantly, the security officer understood that Adrien didn’t like someone hovering around him constantly. “Alright, I’ll go outside and check if the German Shepherds have been fed.”

“Sure.” Adrien nodded. “Dogs are humanistic. Take good care of them and make sure they are well-fed.”

The security officer nodded repeatedly, appreciating Adrien’s kindness and concern.

Adrien dismissed the security officer and carefully examined the surveillance footage from Oscar’s birthday.

After fast-forwarding for a while, he indeed discovered something fishy.

In the video, the Steiner mother and daughter appeared a little after Abel and his family headed toward Oscar’s study in the main building. However, they couldn’t enter the study, so the mother and daughter went into the nearby restroom.

Adrien recalled that there were windows at the back of the restroom and the study. He speculated that the mother and daughter eavesdropped from the restroom. Though they couldn’t capture everything from the study, they could probably make out the gist of the conversation.

Seeing the furtive behavior of the mother and daughter, as if they were acting like thieves, Adrien was convinced they were the culprits.

He clipped this portion of the video and sent it to his phone before leaving the security room.

Back in the mansion’s main hall, Lizbeth was still ma*saging Oscar’s shoulders.

Oscar was enjoying it so much that he closed his eyes and almost dozed off as Lizbeth’s hands moved gently.

When Lizbeth saw Adrien coming in, she mouthed, “Did you get it?”

In response, Adrien made an OK gesture with his hand.

Lizbeth gently tapped Oscar’s shoulder and whispered, “Grandad, please don’t fall asleep. Lunch is about

to be served.”

Oscar woke up, still a bit groggy, and nodded. "Hmm, yes, lunch, lunch!"

After lunch, Oscar went for his afternoon nap, and Adrien and Lizbeth also took a rest in their guest room.

Adrien called his brother. "Adam, Ysabel was right. It really was the Steiner mother and daughter!"

"Those motherf*ckers!" Adam cursed on the other end. They can f*ck with me all they want, but how dare they f*ck with my Emma?!"

"Adam," Adrien reminded him, "watch your words!"

Ahem, Adam cleared his throat. "I, uh, I misspoke. You know what I mean. Emma's our little sister-in-law."

"That's right!" Adrien said. "Where are you? Let's meet up. I'll show you the video, and we can talk about how to deal with those two."

"I'm in Avalan," Adam replied. "Come over whenever you can."

"Alright," Adrien said. "I'll send Lizbeth home and then head your way."

"Sounds good." Adam nodded. "I happen to have some good wine with me. Come and give it a try."

"Alright," Adrien replied. "I'll be there shortly."

After hanging up, Adrien mentioned his plan to Lizbeth, who happened to want to go home. She had been feeling lethargic, and her back ached lately. She thought a good nap at home would do her well.

With that, Adrien drove Lizbeth back to the Meriwether Mansion and then headed to Avalan, where Adam was at home alone.

Upon seeing his brother, Adam poured some red wine at the bar and handed it to Adrien..

"An '82 Lafite, see if it's up to your taste."

"I take just one gla*s of this '80, Adrien replied as he accepted the wine. "Lizbeth is trying to conceive, so I need to be cautious with smoking and drinking. It's best to consume as little as possible, or better yet, avoid them altogether."

"That gives me a headache," Adam said. "If someday my wife decides to conceive and forbids me from drinking and smoking, I'd rather be dead!"

"Sure, you say that now. Adrien disagreed. "I guarantee you'll find people who urge you to smoke and drink annoying when you and your wife plan to conceive. Nothing is more important than the health of your own kids!"

"Touche!" Adam raised his gla*s. "I'll keep that in mind, Let's get down to business."

Chapter 1308 Inviting Waylon

Adrien took out his phone and sent the surveillance footage to Adam, who frowned immediately after opening the video.

“F*ck, it really was those two b*tches!”

“Ain’t that the truth!”

“Hmph, Adam huffed. Time to make them pay for what they did to Emma!”

“What’s the plan?” Adrien asked. “Give them the third degree?”

“Leave this to me,” Adam said. “This has been my job for ages.

“That’s true,” Adrien sniggered maliciously. “You haven’t been the former owner of the Imperial Palace for nothing.”

“Speaking of that,” Adam said, “we should bring this up with Waylon.”

Adrien thought for a moment and agreed, “You’re right. We need to stand up for Emma and also make a good impression in front of Waylon. I bet he suspects it’s us, thinking we were up to no good, revealing Emma’s identity to force Abel out.”

“Let’s tell Waylon then,” Adam said. “Let him join the discussion on how to handle this matter.”

“Do you have Waylon’s contact information?” Adrien asked.

“I don’t.” Adam replied.

Waylon’s rank was not something he could easily reach, and he had lost to Waylon in the past. The man couldn’t even be bothered with him.

“I don’t have Waylon’s number either,” Adrien said. “What should we do? Should I ask Lizbeth to inquire with Emma?”

“No.” Adam waved his hand. “We can’t alarm Emma.”

“Wait.” A thought hit Adrien. “Lizbeth can ask Doris, no?”

“That works!” Adam knew about Waylon’s protective stance toward Doris. It was said that he even frustrated the Zaneveld family, but they couldn’t do anything about Waylon.

“Let’s go with that,” Adrien took out his phone and called Lizbeth, instructing her to ask Doris for Waylon’s number.

Lizbeth naturally knew it was about Emmeline, so she called Doris.

Upon hearing the request, Doris hesitated a bit and said, “Are they looking for Mr. Ademar for some other

reason?”

Lizbeth explained the situation about standing up for Emma.

Doris nodded and said, “Alright, I’ll tell Mr. Ademar right away. I’ll ask him to meet with Mr. Adam.”

After a moment of back and forth, Waylon actually arrived at Avalan an hour later, accompanied by Benjamin.

Upon hearing from the gatekeeper that Waylon had arrived, Adam and Adrien hurried to welcome him.

Waylon and Benjamin had already stepped out of the Maybach.

Waylon was dressed in an elegant white suit, radiating grace and sophistication, while Benjamin wore a sleek black suit, exuding a cool and handsome demeanor. When the two of them stood there, their imposing presence was undeniable. Adam and Adrien actually felt that they were inferior.

Only Abel could appear equally impressive when standing beside the two.

“Mr. Waylon!” Adam reached out with open arms, warmly and unreservedly shaking Waylon’s hand.

Bygones were bygones at this point, and Waylon didn’t want to argue with him anymore. Otherwise, he could’ve thrown Adam yards away immediately.

Adrien also shook hands and exchanged pleasantries with Benjamin. “I’ll be in need of your help in business in the future, Mr. Benjamin,” he said humbly.

“You’re being modest,” Benjamin replied. “You managed the hotel very well, and there’s hardly any deficiency in other aspects.”

“You’re too kind,” Adrien said. “As you’ve heard, my position as the Ryker Group CEO is purely a stopgap measure. I’m just waiting for the old man to ease his temper one day, and I’ll personally invite Abel back. Ryker Group is still his. I truly can’t handle it!”

“For now, let’s talk about the Steiner mother and daughter,” Benjamin said. “Waylon had only come for it.”

Waylon wouldn’t have met with these two brothers if it didn’t have to do with Emma.

At that, Adam invited the two men inside deferentially. “Gentlemen, please, come inside.”

Waylon nodded and hummed in acknowledgment, and together with Benjamin, they followed the two brothers into the living room.

After taking their seats on the sofa and the servants serving tea, the four men began their discussion.

Adam started by showing Waylon and Benjamin the surveillance footage.

Waylon furrowed his brow and remarked, “These two women are acting quite suspiciously. It’s clear they’re up to no good!”

“Highly likely. The video where they claim that Emma is a disciple of the Adelmars was probably their doing.” Adam said.

Benjamin nodded in agreement. “Sonia has been holding a grudge since her car race with Emma, and she also orchestrated the recent shutdown and inspection of Nightfall Cafe by the health department. Additionally, there was the kidnapping of Emma in Dracovia not long ago, and Abel suspects their involvement in that too. Given all these events, it’s reasonable to suspect them in this case.”

“Guilty till proven innocent!” Waylon’s gaze turned cold. “We’ll have our answers after we bring them in for interrogation!”

Chapter 1309 A Daughter Like Her Is Worse Than a Dog

"You've read my mind, Mr. Waylon," Adam remarked. "I'll send people to apprehend these two women, and we'll interrogate them together later."

"Agreed!" Waylon nodded. "You're doing the right thing this time."

"I'm only following your example, Mr. Waylon." Adam quickly responded, feeling pleased to receive praise from Waylon.

"Let's take action then," Benjamin said. "This will be easy to handle if we can confirm these two were behind it!"

"And Glenn Steiner, Waylon added with a stern expression. "He clearly has thoughts of giving up his position to allow his wife and daughter to wreak havoc like this. So be it, then. Have someone else take the

office!"

"Yes!" Adam echoed. "We've been too lenient on him!"

The bodyguards were dispatched, and within an hour and a half, they had captured Sonia and Michaela, detaining them in Avalan. When the bodyguards pulled Sonia out of the car, she shouted, "Let go of me! Do you know who I am?! How dare you kidnap me?! You'll regret this!"

One of the bodyguards sneered and replied, "Who are you then?"

"I'm the mayor's daughter!" Sonia exclaimed. "You'd better release me, or I'll make you pay!"

"The mayor's daughter?" The bodyguard reiterated. "In that case, let's make another trip to bring your dad here. It'll be a family reunion!"

"What do you mean?" Sonia cried out. "What have you done to my mom?"

"What else can we do?" The bodyguard said, "Mr. Adam said, first assault, then kill. Since she's a bit older, we can go straight to the killing part!"

"Ah!" Sonia was terrified. "You bastards are insane! Why are you treating my mom like this?"

"Ask her yourself," The bodyguard sneered and pushed her. "You and your mother know very well what you've done!"

Sonia fell silent. She naturally knew what she and her mother had done.

In other words, these people have come to avenge Emmeline?!

The bodyguards dragged Sonia into the hall and tossed her onto the floor.

Michaela was already sitting on the floor, her face smeared with an herbal face mask she hadn't washed off.

Seeing her daughter being brought in, she felt both fearful and heartbroken. "Sonia, are you okay?" she cried out.

“It’s all your fault!” Sonia shouted at her mother. “Look at what happens when you go after Emmeline!”

At that, she turned to the bodyguards. “It wasn’t me! It was all my mother’s doing! I had nothing to do with

it!”

“Sonia! Michaela cried out on the floor. “What are you saying?!”

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“I’m saying it was all your doing! You went after Emmeline again and again, claiming it was for good! And now, I’ve been caught because of you! Are you still saying it’s for my own good? I don’t want a mother like you!”

“Hahaha!” Adam burst into laughter on the sofa. “You’d be better off raising a dog than raising a daughter like her!”

Sonia, upon hearing this, finally shifted her bewildered gaze toward the opulent leather sofa.

Seated within were four distinguished men.

Sonia recognized them all but had never spoken to any of them. Especially the gentleman in the white suit, Mr. Adelmarr, who appeared as majestic as a dragon and was someone she had only ever admired....

from afar.

Then there was Benjamin, the CEO of Adelmarr Group, another man Sonia had once coveted. Unfortunately, this man was elusive, and she had never been close to him,

In this regard, she was even less fortunate than Ysabel, who had at least been saved by Benjamin once.

“You....” Sonia stuttered. “Why would all of you be here?”

“Are you referring to Mr. Adelmarr and Mr. Benjamin?” Adrien asked icily.

“Yes,” Sonia said, “Is there a need for Mr. Adelmarr and Mr. Benjamin to stand up for Emmeline as well? Isn’t she just Abel’s wife? Could she also be having an affair with the both of you at the same time?”

Splash!

Waylon grabbed a teacup and splashed the lukewarm tea onto Sonia’s face. “I suggest you rinse your filthy mouth before speaking up again.”

“Ah!” Sonia screamed as she covered her face.

Benjamin followed suit and splashed a cup of tea, saying. “If one is not enough, make it two!”

“I’ll offer another!” Adam added, splashing the tea from his cup onto Sonia’s face as well.

Sonia was already disoriented from the splashing, and she never expected Adrien to pick up a teacup as well.

Splash!

Chapter 1310 The Island Nation's Princess.

Sonia ended up lying on the ground, soaked from head to toe, unable to open her eyes, looking utterly disheveled.

Unable to bear seeing her daughter in this state, Michaela rushed forward, embraced Sonia, and cried out, "Don't harm my daughter! Come after me instead!"

"You're still protecting that ungrateful girl after what she did to you?" Adam sneered.

"She's my daughter, Michaela argued. "She's young and naive. As her mother, I won't blame her!"

"Is this merely a matter of her age?" Adrien retorted. "It's a matter of respect and care for one's parents!"

However, Michaela only continued to implore the four men while shielding her daughter, "Please don't hurt her. I'm the one responsible for what happened to Emmeline. Let my daughter go!"

"Did you hear that?" Sonia pushed her mother aside and pointed at her, yelling. "It was this old h*g's idea to harm Emmeline. She acted on her own and implicated me. You should hold her accountable and release me. Let me go!"

Slap! Michaela couldn't endure any longer and struck Sonia across the face. "Have I been desperately defending you just for you to bite my back like this?! Haven't I acted against Emmeline all for your sake?!"

In retaliation, Sonia slapped her mother back. "It was all your doing. It has nothing to do with me. I don't want to be subjected to their abuse and then killed. You caused this mess; you should face the consequences. Let them release me!"

"How noisy." Waylon furrowed his brow. "You'd really have been better off with a dog than a daughter like

this one."

"Mr. Adelmarr!" Sonia crawled over, bawling and shouting. "It was all my mother's doing. Please spare me. But I don't understand why you're also defending Emmeline. Why are all of you taking her side? It's not fair to me. How am I inferior to her? Am I not as beautiful as her? Is my family not as good as hers? She's just the daughter of a small-time merchant with a notorious past!"

Waylon kicked her away disdainfully, saying, "Who do you think you are? How dare you compare yourself to my Emma?"

"Your Emma?" Sonia sat on the ground, completely baffled. "How is Emmeline yours?"

"Didn't you and your mother expose the secret?" Waylon sneered with narrowed eyes. "Emma is a disciple and even more so the lady of the Adelmarr Clan! Do you think you, a mere mayor's daughter, can compete with Emma?! Not even a hundred of you could match her!"

“What exactly is the Adelmars Clan?” Sonia asked. “My mother and I only knew that this status would anger Old Mr. Ryker, but we didn’t know the secrets behind it!

The ruler of Osea!” Waylon sneered. “Get it? Emma is the princess of the island nation. Do you insignificant family background means anything compared to it?”

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“And there’s the Adelmars Group,” Benjamin added, also sneering. “It’s Emma’s business in Struyria. You thought she was just the daughter of a small-time merchant, a coffee shop owner?

“That’s right!” Adam added, “Emmeline is the real big shot here. Sonia, you really underestimated her!”

“And you think you have what it takes over Emmeline Adrien, being the closest to Sonia, gave her a kick. “You have no idea how far inferior you are!”

Sonia slumped onto the ground, her face pale. If she had known this from the beginning, she wouldn’t have repeatedly tried to compete with Emmeline. It turned out she couldn’t win against her in any aspect!

“I couldn’t care less about losers like them!” Waylon got up from the sofa. “I’ll see who in Struyria is suitable and replace Glenn.”

“What?! No, please don’t!” Michaela crawled over to try and clutch Waylon’s leg, but Benjamin kicked her

away.

“Get lost! Waylon will only find you disgusting!”

“But, Mr. Adelmars,” Michaela pleaded, “these were all things I did privately. Glenn didn’t know about any of it. Please spare him, don’t replace him!”

“If an official can’t govern for the people, they might as well go home and sell potatoes!” Waylon remarked. I’m already being generous by not giving him some jail time when he condones his wife and daughter to

misconduct!”

Michaela slumped to the ground..

It’s all over now! Glenn’s future is ruined! Our family’s wealth and prosperity are gone! Why is there no way to turn back time?!

Overwhelmed by her anger, Michaela fainted on the spot.