

Ambush OTQ 521

Chapter 521 The Familiar Stranger

“Right,” Abel said. “She’s a single mother, and I don’t want them to suffer.”

“Same here,” Emmeline’s voice caught. “If it were me, I would do the same.”

“I once had a woman,” Abel said ruefully. “She suffered with my child, but I wasn’t there for them. So, taking care of Kendra is, in a way, me making up for my own guilt.”

As soon as he spoke, Emmeline froze. Abel, did he still have feelings for her?

“Mr. Ryker,” Emmeline shook his arm excitedly. “What about that woman of yours? Why isn’t she with you?”

Abel gave a wistful smile. “Let’s not talk about her. It’s all in the past.”

It’s all in the past?

Emmeline’s feet faltered.

The hope that had just risen was extinguished by his words.

Has she become a thing of the past for Abel?

She thought he had brought up the subject because of his feelings for her, but it turned out he was only remembering the past.

A tear fell from Emmeline’s eye with a soft “click.”

Abel happened to catch sight of her tears and asked with concern, “Emmett, why are you crying when everything is fine?”

“I...” Emmeline sniffled. “When you mentioned your woman and child suffering, I felt sorry for them.”

“So I wanted to compensate her with marriage,” Abel said, “but she was lost and I couldn’t do anything about it.”

Sniffle, Emmeline couldn’t hold back her tears anymore.

Abel, I’m right in front of you, but I’ve become the most familiar stranger to you.

Waylon, give me back my man! Damn you, Worryfree!

Ugh...I feel so sad!

“Emmett, what’s wrong with you?” Abel was startled and quickly pulled her into his arms.

“Why are you crying? Who upset you?” he asked with concern.

“Mr. Ryker, I feel so sad. Let me cry for a while...sob...” Emmeline snuggled into his arms, sobbing softly.

“What are you so sad about? It’s okay, Emmett, everything’s fine now,” Abel said, trying to comfort her with gentle words.

Emmeline's sadness had stirred up Abel's emotions, and he could only hold her tightly and soothe her. People passing by in the corridor looked on with surprise at the sight of two grown men embracing each other.

"Stop staring, haven't you seen big brother comforting little brother before?" Luca whispered sharply.

Back at the Precipice, Emmeline settled into a guest room.

She opened the closet and found it filled with clothes that Abel had bought for her, but which he had removed from their bedroom.

Emmeline couldn't help but feel a pang of sadness.

Fortunately, Kendra and Quincy were brought back by their bodyguards.

The sound of the little baby's crying and laughter filled the villa, making the atmosphere much cozier.

The next morning, Emmeline followed Abel to the Ryker Group.

The secretary couldn't believe her eyes when she saw Mr. Ryker bringing in such a handsome young boy. If a boy could look so beautiful, then what about herself, who had undergone aesthetic procedures? She felt inferior when comparing herself to him.

Her eyes kept wandering towards the CEO's office, and the last time she looked, Abel slammed the door shut with a loud "bang!"

A group of executives gathered at the secretary's desk, all admiringly commenting, "Mr. Ryker is so capable, where did he find such a handsome young man?"

"He's even more beautiful than all the women in our company."

"But he's a man, haven't you seen the little mustache he's got?"

"Exactly, if this were a woman, where would that leave the rest of us?"

"With him around, I feel like there's no point in even trying," they sighed, before heading back to their offices to surreptitiously check their reflections.

"You'll be learning about management in various departments from me," Abel sat down behind the large desk and told "Emmett," "How much do you want to be paid?"

"I don't really care about the salary," Emmeline twirled her little mustache and smiled, "Mr. Ryker didn't even ask me for tuition, and besides, I don't really need the money."

"That's not the point," Abel replied, "You're interning with me, and according to regulations, you have to be paid. You wouldn't want me to make a mistake, would you?"

Chapter 522 Is It Really You?

"Of course I don't mind," Emmeline said. "Whatever salary Mr. Ryker thinks is fair is fine with me."

"I can't shortchange you, though," Abel chuckled. "Otherwise, when your parents ask, they'll say I'm bullying a child."

“My parents couldn’t care less about me,” Emmeline shrugged.

“Alright then, how about one hundred thousand a month?” Abel suggested. “If that’s not enough, I can always add more.”

“One hundred thousand?” Emmeline fluttered her dark lashes. “That’s way too much, Mr. Ryker. Even a few thousand a month would be amazing for an intern like me.”

“That’s settled then,” Abel said firmly.

He couldn’t afford to skimp, not with the risk of Benjamin finding out and mocking him for it.

The secretary walked in with a stack of papers waiting for Abel’s signature. He picked up the pen and began to review them one by one.

If it wasn’t suitable, he denied it. If it was, he signed it without hesitation. For those that were somewhere in between, he called the other party to discuss and come up with a better solution.

After an hour or two of this, Emmeline was feeling overwhelmed just watching him. She couldn’t help but silently thank her lucky stars that Adelmarr had Benjamin to manage things. Otherwise, she might have died trying to keep up with everything.

Bored out of her mind, Emmeline decided to take a walk outside.

“Mr. Ryker, my eyes are getting blurry. I need some fresh air,” she said.

“Hmm,” Abel’s gaze was still fixed on the documents in his hands. “Just walk around the floor, don’t go anywhere else.”

“Got it.”

Feeling relieved, Emmeline twirled her little mustache and headed for the door.

“Hey, handsome, handsome!” The secretary at the door waved at her. “Come over here.”

Emmeline walked over and leaned on the reception desk. “What’s up, sis?”

“Do you have a girlfriend?” the secretary batted her eyelashes seductively.

Emmeline sized up the young woman. “Are you into younger guys?”

“I’m not old,” the secretary pouted her fiery red lips. “I’m only 24.”

“Only... 24?” Emmeline raised an eyebrow. “How much younger do you want to be?”

The secretary was taken aback. Was 24 considered old?

Emmeline stood up and left.

The secretary quickly grabbed a small mirror from her drawer and examined herself from every angle.

“Am I old? Old at 24? Do you think 24 is old?” The secretary exclaimed.

Meanwhile, Emmeline was strolling down the hallway, exploring the Ryker Group building for the first time. It was more complex than she had expected, with twisting corridors leading to various departments.

Suddenly, a large hand reached out from behind her and dragged her into the adjacent restroom.

Emmeline was about to retaliate on reflex, but when she turned to face her attacker, she was surprised to find it was Adrien.

Her hand dropped back to her side.

Adrien pinned her against the sink.

“Kid, are you really Emma in disguise?”

Is this guy suspecting me?

“Confess now, or I won’t guarantee that I won’t spill it!”

Emmeline stayed silent, blinking her eyes as she thought of a plan.

Adrien raised his hand and reached for her mustache.

This time, Emmeline couldn’t help it and slapped him across the face.

“Your moves are still as fierce as ever,” Adrien said. “You’re definitely Emma!”

“Mr. Adrien, are you mistaking me for someone else?” Emmeline replied in a hoarse voice. “I’m Emmett.”

“If I hadn’t seen you like this before, I might have believed you,” Adrien said. “Don’t forget that time you went to Imperial Palace and beat me up, it was the same look, just different clothes!”

Emmeline sighed. She had been caught red-handed.

“Unlike that fool Luca, who only suspects but never confirms,” Adrien snorted. “Now, are you going to confess or do I have to call for backup?”

“I...”

“If you confess, I might be willing to help you,” Adrien said. “Otherwise, I’ll have to report you.”

Emmeline remained silent for a moment.

“I’m gonna count to three, one...”

“Two...”

“Adrien,” Emmeline blurted out, “stop yelling, it’s really me!”

Adrien pulled her into a tight embrace, his voice choked with tears. “Emma, it’s really you! You’re not dead! I thought you were dead!”

Emmeline scrambled to cover his mouth. “Stop crying, stop crying! If Abel comes, it’ll be trouble!”

Chapter 523 Stupid or Pretending

"Abel?" Adrien's sobs came to a halt. "You're back alive, that's good news! So why do you look like that when you're with Abel? Don't you want him to see you happy?"

Emmeline's expression darkened and she shook her head. "It's not that simple," she replied.

"What do you mean?" Adrien asked, confusion etched on his face. "Am I missing something?"

"Abel might not be pleased to see me," Emmeline said. "He was given a drug that made him lose his feelings for me."

"That's ridiculous!" Adrien exclaimed. "There's no such drug, it's like something out of a cheesy romance novel!"

"It's not impossible," Emmeline countered. "Such drugs do exist in the real world."

Adrien began to believe her. "Who would do such a cruel thing to him?" he demanded. "Taking away his love for you, that's unforgivable."

"They did it to save him," Emmeline explained. "I was on the brink of death, but Abel refused treatment. They were afraid he would die with me, so..."

"Well, that's understandable," Adrien nodded. "But what if Abel doesn't accept you now that you're back safe and sound?"

"I'll have to make him fall in love with me again," Emmeline said. "But I don't have a foolproof plan right now, so I'll just have to stay by his side."

"I refuse to believe that Abel could be so heartless," Adrien reassured her, patting her shoulder. "Don't worry, little sister, I'll help you figure this out."

Emmeline, her eyes glistening with tears, couldn't believe that Adrien, the notorious playboy, was actually being kind for once.

"I'll think of something," Adrien promised. "I'll let you know as soon as I do."

Emmeline nodded and said, "Alright, I'll go to the CEO's office first. If I'm late, Abel will come looking for me."

"Okay," Adrien nodded. "You should go now."

Emmeline wiped her eyes and tidied up her appearance before leaving the restroom.

As she left, Luca arrived from the assistant room to use the restroom.

Adrien, who had just come out of the stall, reached out to grab Luca.

Without hesitation, Luca turned around and threw a punch.

"Bang!" It landed squarely on Adrien's eye socket.

"Gulp!" Adrien was knocked down to the ground.

Just as Luca came out of the assistant room and saw the person on the ground, he realized with horror that it was Adrien.

“Mr. Adrien, how did I hit you? I’m so sorry!” Luca quickly squatted down to check on him.

“You really have no control over your strength, Luca. You hit me so hard,” Adrien said, his eye already turning black and blue, resembling a panda.

“Well, since you didn’t do it on purpose, I’ll let it slide this time,” Adrien said, trying to keep his composure with one eye open.

“Thanks, Mr. Adrien,” Luca helped Adrien up while muttering under his breath, “Mr. Adrien, why did you have to pick a fight with the bodyguard? Do you think Mr. Abel’s bodyguards are pushovers? Look at your black eye now, how am I supposed to explain if Mr. Abel asks?”

“Don’t tell him it was you who did it!” Adrien said, “I need to talk to you about something, and if Abel finds out, we’re both in trouble.”

“What do you need to talk to me about, Mr. Adrien?”

“Well,” Adrien turned on the faucet and splashed water on his face, glancing outside the restroom, “let’s go to your assistant room before Abel catches us.”

“Sure thing, Mr. Adrien.”

The two of them quickly made their way to Luca’s assistant room.

Luca poured a glass of water for Adrien.

“I’ll pass on the water,” Adrien said. “Let’s get down to business.”

“I’m all ears, Mr. Adrien.” Luca leaned against the corner of the desk.

“I mean, Luca,” Adrien began, “are you really that clueless, or are you just pretending?”

“What do you mean, Mr. Adrien?” Luca was confused. “How could I be clueless? I don’t understand.”

“You didn’t realize that Emmett was actually Emma in disguise?” Adrien asked.

Luca paused. He was definitely clueless.

“That’s impossible,” Luca said. “I had no idea.”

“Think about it,” Adrien urged him. “Remember when Emma took you to the Imperial Palace to beat me up? It was all part of the same scheme.”

Luca murmured, “I did have my suspicions, but I didn’t think it was possible. I saw Ms. Louise lying there, and they said she was gone for good...”

“What nonsense!” Adrien snapped. “She’s alive and well, and right here in this very building!”

Chapter 524 Mr. Adrien’s Panda Eyes

“But Mr. Adrien,” Luca frowned, “I know you miss Ms. Louise, but don’t go jumping to conclusions about Emmett. He’s Emmett, not Emmeline.”

“You blockhead!” Adrien jumped up and gave him a smack on the head. “Emmett, Emmett, doesn’t it sound a lot like Emmeline?”

“Mr. Adrien, you can’t just assume that Emmett is Emmeline just because their names are similar,” Luca rubbed his head. “There are plenty of people with similar names!”

“Emma has admitted it to me!” Adrien said. “Why are you still arguing with me?”

Luca was stunned for a moment, then his face lit up. “Mr. Adrien, has Emmett admitted to being Ms. Louise? So she’s not dead?”

“That’s right!” Adrien said. “But she says that Abel was drugged with some kind of forgetfulness potion and doesn’t feel anything for her anymore. She’s afraid to reveal her true identity, in case Abel rejects her.”

“It’s not a forgetfulness potion,” Luca said. “It’s Worryfree, and I personally fed it to Mr. Abel.”

“You idiot!” Adrien jumped up again and slapped him. “You dare to use such a low trick?”

“I didn’t know it was that kind of drug at the time,” Luca rubbed his head, feeling wronged. “I just wanted to save Mr. Abel.”

“I’ve heard Emma’s explanation,” Adrien sighed. “It’s not your fault.”

“So what should we do now?” Adrien asked, eager for an answer. “You know everything.”

“What should we do?” Adrien waited eagerly for a response. “Of course, we should help them. We should help them get together. Do you want to keep your Ms. Louise all to yourself?”

“Absolutely not!” Luca replied firmly. “Regardless of whether Mr. Abel regains his feelings or not, Ms. Louise is our young mistress. No one can covet her.”

“That’s settled then!” Adrien said. “We need to figure out a way to bring them together and let true love prevail.”

“But how do we bring them together?” Luca frowned again. “Whenever we mention Emmeline to Mr. Abel, he shows no interest and doesn’t even want to talk about it. He won’t even want to see her.”

“That’s not necessarily true,” Adrien said. “We can try a different approach.”

“A different approach?” Luca asked. “What approach and how?”

“Come here, and I’ll tell you,” Adrien waved Luca over.

Luca leaned in to listen.

Adrien whispered in his ear for a while.

“Is that even possible?” Luca looked confused.

“How come it won’t work?” Adrien said. “This way, we can test how much Abel really cares about Emma, and also keep Emma’s identity hidden. It’s a win-win situation.”

“Maybe we can give it a try,” Luca said.

“Good,” Adrien said. “The first thing we need to do is to get Emma’s old clothes. The sexy ones that she used to wear all the time to tease Abel.”

“Well...” This idea caught Luca off guard.

After thinking for a moment, it wasn’t a big deal. Didn’t Kendra bring Emma’s clothes back last night? He could ask her for help.

“Okay then,” Luca nodded.

“Let’s get moving then!” Adrien said. “As soon as you get the clothes, contact me right away. I’ll deal with Abel for now.”

“No problem, Mr. Adrien,” Luca said, thinking that Adrien was actually a pretty decent guy.

Luca quickly grabbed the car keys and headed towards the Precipice mansion.

Adrien walked into Abel’s office and caught Abel’s attention with his panda eyes.

“Adrien?” Abel stood up from his desk chair. “What happened to your eyes? Who did this to you?”

“That damn Lizbeth,” Adrien said.

“Lizbeth?” Abel exclaimed, “That’s impossible. Lizbeth is just a little girl. How could she have punched you with such force?”

Emmeline, who had been gazing out the window, turned around at the mention of Adrien’s name. She was taken aback to see him with a black eye. He had seemed perfectly fine just a moment ago.

Chapter 525 Love Is Over

“Lizbeth may be small, but she’s mighty,” Adrien chuckled. “Just like your former heartthrob Emmeline, who was also a skilled fighter, wasn’t she?”

As he spoke, Adrien glanced at Emmeline out of the corner of his eye.

Emmeline’s gaze landed on Abel’s face, trying to gauge his reaction.

But Abel remained impassive and simply said, “Please, Adrien, have a seat.”

Adrien sat down on the sofa in front of the main desk.

He couldn’t help but feel a little uneasy.

I said Emmeline was his heartthrob, but this guy doesn’t seem fazed at all.

Could it be that what Emmeline said was true?

Adrien’s gaze flickered back towards Emmeline.

She shrugged helplessly in response.

“Emmett, come here,” Abel called out.

Abel was getting annoyed at Adrien’s repeated glances toward “Emmett.”

“Come over here to me,” he said, his voice dripping with jealousy.

Emmeline obediently got up and walked over to him.

Abel’s large hand reached out and pulled her into his arms, holding her tightly.

“Tell me, are you still happy here?” he whispered in her ear, his tone possessive.

“Yes, of course, I am,” Emmeline replied.

“Why are you happy?” Abel asked himself, then answered, “Is it because I’m here with you?”

Emmeline knew he was feeling jealous. He was jealous of Adrien.

But Adrien already knew the truth, and he promised to help her.

“Yes, of course,” Emmeline replied with a smile, “I love being by Mr. Ryker’s side the most.”

“Hmm, that’s good,” Abel said, pleased, as he looked at her beautiful face and stroked her short hair.

Adrien pursed his lips and turned his head away.

If he didn’t know that the small figure in Abel’s arms was Emmeline, he wouldn’t be able to stand Abel’s behavior.

Although Adrien was a playboy, his sexual orientation was not an issue.

In other words, Adrien only liked beautiful women.

But now that he knew Emmett was actually Emmeline, Adrien could understand Abel’s behavior.

On the surface, it seemed like Abel had lost his feelings for Emmeline, but in reality, his soul still held a deep connection to her. Abel’s strange behavior towards “Emmett” was the best explanation for it.

So, what would happen when Adrien finally faced Emmeline?

That was something Adrien was preparing for in his next move.

“Adrien,” Abel, still holding onto Emmeline, turned to him and asked, “Is there a reason for your sudden visit?”

Adrien’s original reason for coming to the Ryker Group was to catch “Emmett” and ask some questions.

Adrien hadn’t expected to get this answer.

Now that Abel had asked him, he couldn’t tell the truth.

“I had a little disagreement with Liz and thought I could use a drink to clear my head,” Adrien said, trying to deflect.

“Is that all?” Abel chuckled. “Don’t take love so seriously. A man’s priority should be his career.”

“Abel,” Adrien laughed, “don’t forget that you were willing to give up the entire Ryker Group for that little Emma girl. Now you’re talking about prioritizing business?”

Abel furrowed his brow, remaining silent.

After a few seconds of hesitation, he spoke with confusion, “I really can’t understand how I could have done something like that. Did I really love her that much?”

Adrien kept his gaze fixed on Abel as he asked, “Do you think you love her?”

“I might have loved her at some point,” Abel replied. “But eventually, I got tired and just moved on. I don’t love her anymore.”

“What?” Emmeline jumped out of Abel’s embrace.

“Emmett, what’s wrong?” Abel was startled.

“When you say it like that, it’s so cruel!” Emmeline exclaimed. “If you don’t love her anymore, why can’t you just forget about her and move on? That would be so much easier to accept!”

“I haven’t forgotten about her,” Abel said. “I remember every little thing we shared. But I just don’t feel anything anymore. Isn’t it clear that I don’t love her anymore? You can’t force yourself to love someone, can you?”

Waylon! Waylon! Waylon!

Emmeline gritted her teeth, thinking, You’re really something, you know that? You’re really something!

Chapter 526 Luca Looks for Emmeline’s Dress

Waylon sneezed twice in quick succession.

Who’s talking about me?

He wondered, using his intuition to deduce that it was probably his beloved Emmeline.

After he and his father had patched up the little troublemaker and sent her back to find Abel, Waylon knew that he was in for a scolding.

But he was ready for it. Let her yell, he thought to himself. Even if Abel had drunk the Worryfree, Waylon was powerless against fate.

Besides, Emmeline couldn’t really do much harm to him.

“Adrien,” Abel said, “if you’re really feeling down, I’ll go grab a drink with you. We’re brothers, and it’s been ages since we’ve had a drink together.”

“That works,” Adrien replied. “Let’s go to the Majestic Bar. It’s quieter over there.”

“Sounds good,” Abel nodded in agreement.

"I'll meet you there at noon," Adrien stood up and gave a wink to Emmeline. "Remember to bring Emmett along so you don't have to worry about leaving him behind."

"Of course," Abel agreed, knowing that he wouldn't want to be away from the little guy for even a moment.

He couldn't help but feel a little disturbed by his own attachment to the child, but he couldn't afford to ignore his feelings either.

"See you later," Adrien waved to the two of them before striding off, looking effortlessly cool despite the dark circles under his eyes.

"Are you coming with me to the bar at noon?" Abel asked Emmeline.

Emmeline was curious about what Adrien was up to, so she nodded and replied, "Wherever Mr. Ryker goes, I'll go."

"Okay," Abel agreed.

Meanwhile, Luca drove back to the Precipice at breakneck speed, his car speeding along like a bullet.

"Kendra, Kendra!" he called out as he climbed the stairs.

He needed Kendra's help to find Emmeline's clothes. Specifically, the sexy outfit she used to wear around Abel, the one that always caught his eye.

He had no idea what was considered sexy, and he certainly didn't have the guts to look through her things himself.

He ran up to the second floor, but when he got to the nursery, the door was open and Kendra and her daughter were nowhere to be found.

"Kendra, Kendra, where are you?" Luca searched the entire second floor.

The cleaner heard Luca's cries and approached him. "Kendra went out to buy groceries. She knows what Mr. Abel likes to eat."

"How long ago did she leave?" Luca was getting anxious.

"Not long ago."

"So she won't be back for a while?"

"Definitely not. Can I help you with something?"

"You can't help me," Luca answered with a dejected tone.

The cleaners that Abel hired were all men, so how would they know which outfit Emmeline found sexy and liked to wear around Abel?

No way around it, Luca gritted his teeth and decided to find it himself.

Abel had mentioned that all of Emmeline's clothes had been given to Kendra, but Kendra had refused to accept them and had moved them all to the guest room.

Luca went straight to the guest room, opened the closet, and began rummaging through the clothes.

The sexy outfit.

Luca realized that it must be a dress.

He thought women looked beautiful and sexy in dresses.

But which one was Emmeline's favorite?

Luca took them out one by one and tried them on himself.

This one?

No, too long!

He hung it back up.

This one?

No, too loose.

He hung it back up.

Maybe this one?

Also no, too professional.

Oh dear, Luca was at a loss.

Which one would work?

Just then, fate smiled upon him and Kendra returned from her grocery run.

As soon as she climbed up the stairs, Kendra saw that the door to the guest room was open. Holding Quincy in her arms, she walked in and found Luca trying on Emmeline's clothes, one by one.

Kendra was dumbfounded for a moment.

After three seconds of staring, she finally asked, "Luca, what's wrong with you? Why are you trying on Ms. Emmeline's clothes? Do you want to wear them?"

Luca turned around suddenly and saw Kendra as if he had found his savior.

"Kendra, you're back! Please help me, I'm really in a bind here."

"But you have to tell me," Kendra said urgently, "what exactly do you want to do? You can't fit into Ms. Emmeline's clothes."

"Ew, no way! I'm not trying to wear them."

"Then why are you trying them on?"

Chapter 527 Stunning and Sexy Clothes

"I'm not up to anything bad, just trust me," Luca said. "I want an outfit like the ones Ms. Louise used to wear – stunning and sexy, always swaying around Mr. Abel."

"Stunning and sexy, always swaying around Mr. Abel?" Kendra repeated, mulling it over.

Emmeline had plenty of clothes like that, all bought for her by Abel. But there was one particular wine-red, diamond-encrusted fishtail dress that made her look absolutely enchanting.

Even Kendra herself couldn't help but be amazed every time she saw Emmeline in that dress. With her beauty and that outfit, Abel's gaze was always full of doting affection as he chased after her.

He never let her out of his sight, not even for a second.

"I know which one," Kendra said.

Luca's face lit up.

Just then, his phone rang – the CEO's office line.

"Damn it," Luca groaned. "Kendra, please hurry up. Mr. Abel can't find me."

"Got it, got it," Kendra said, holding Quincy in one hand and rummaging through a hundred outfits with the other to find the wine-red fishtail dress.

Luca quickly answered the call.

"Luca, are you not in the company?" Abel's voice was icy.

"Mr. Abel," Luca hesitated. "Uh, yeah."

"'Yeah'? What does that mean?" Abel furrowed his brows. "You're not in the company, where did you go?"

"I..." Luca thought for a moment and then had a sudden inspiration. "I just really missed Sam, so I came to see her."

Abel was taken aback. "Is that so?"

He didn't think Luca had time for romance, considering how he followed him around all day.

Although he himself didn't have a woman he liked, he couldn't deny Luca's right to pursue one.

But leaving without taking time off and causing a disturbance among the bodyguards was not a good influence.

"Well, then," Abel said. "Just come back soon."

"Got it, got it," Luca replied. "I'm almost done, I'll be back soon."

"Okay." Abel hung up the phone.

Emmeline heard Luca's voice clearly on the other end of the phone.

This guy, did he go after Sam?

He's got some nerve, doesn't he?

Emmeline quickly sent a discreet message to Sam.

"Did Luca come to see you?"

Sam replied with a surprised emoji: "Nope."

Emmeline replied: "Oh, never mind."

She deleted the message, thinking to herself that first Adrien had dark circles under his eyes, and now Luca had disappeared.

And on top of that, he was lying.

It must be that Luca went to buy some medicine to help Adrien's blood circulation and dispel stasis.

Now it was clear to her that Adrien's panda eyes were caused by Luca's punch.

But why did Luca hit him in the first place?

This guy really had some guts!

Finally, Kendra found the wine-red fishtail dress from the layers of clothes.

"Luca, it's this one. Ms. Emmeline used to wear it around Mr. Abel a lot," Kendra said.

Luca grabbed it without hesitation.

"I'll wrap it for you. It'll be a shame if it gets dirty," Kendra offered.

"No need, no need. I'm in a hurry," Luca stuffed the fishtail dress into his arms and grabbed the car keys before running out.

As he started the car and drove out of the villa gate, Luca dialed Adrien's number.

"Mr. Adrien, we found the dress. The rest is up to you," he said over the phone.

"Alright then," Adrien said. "I've already made plans to meet Abel at the Majestic Bar."

"Okay," Luca replied. "Thanks for letting me know, but who should I give the dress to?"

"I'll intercept you on the way," Adrien said. "Just hand it over to me."

"Got it," Luca said. "I'll be driving my black Land Rover, keep an eye out."

"I will," Adrien assured him. "I'll still be the Rolls Royce Wraith, so be careful not to miss me."

"I know," Luca said. "As soon as I see you, I'll veer towards the curb and you can follow me."

"Alright then, it's settled!"

The two of them hung up the phone.

The two luxury cars raced towards each other on the road.

Less than ten minutes later, the two men spotted their target up ahead.

Luca turned the wheel and drove along the road until he found a place to park, pulling over to the side of the road and turning on his hazard lights.

Adrien's car also turned at the intersection up ahead and followed the road to Luca's location.

Behind the black Land Rover was a Rolls Royce Wraith, and Adrien stepped out of the driver's seat to approach Luca.

Luca rolled down his car window.

"Where's the clothing?"

Chapter 528 More Important Than Emmeline?

Luca pulled out the wine-red fishtail dress from his embrace.

"You really are something else. Can't even bother to wrap it up, do you?"

Adrien reached out to take the dress and awkwardly stuffed it into his own embrace. There was just nowhere else to put it.

With the wine-red dress tucked away, Adrien made his way back to his luxury car.

Luca's Land Rover had disappeared from sight, but Adrien's Rolls Royce Wraith quickly caught up as his driver hit the gas pedal, speeding off into the distance.

At noon, Abel took Emmeline to the Majestic Bar.

Adrien had already reserved a private room and was waiting inside. The table was adorned with a variety of drinks, desserts, and fruits.

Two hostesses sat on either side of Adrien, one feeding him grapes and the other pouring him drinks. They fawned over him, making him feel like a king.

When Abel and Emmeline walked in, Adrien pushed the two hostesses away and stood up to greet them. The women looked surprised and greedily eyed the two men standing at the door.

"Oh my, two handsome guys just walked in!" exclaimed one of the hostesses. "And one is even more handsome than the other!"

As the hostesses approached, one of them reached for Emmeline's hand and said in a flirtatious tone, "Hey there, how about I keep you company and we have a drink together?"

The other hostess butted in, "No, no, pick me instead. I'll do anything for you tonight, even if I have to pay for it."

"Get lost, both of you!" Abel barked, sending the hostesses running.

The women pouted their fiery red lips in disappointment, feeling rejected by the imposing and intimidating man.

“What’s the point of being here if you’re not having any fun, handsome?” one of the hostesses persisted. “If you’re here, it’s because you want to have a good time. What’s the fun in turning down people left and right?”

“That’s enough!” Abel cut in, his face stern and unyielding.

The two women looked at each other, exchanging perplexed glances. Was there really a man who didn’t like women?

“I said get out!” Abel repeated, his tone growing sharper. “Don’t you understand?”

Finally realizing Abel was serious, the two women turned their pitiful gazes toward Adrien.

“Mr. Adrien, are you serious?”

Adrien waved his hand, “Just let them go, you’re not their type.”

The two hostesses pouted and huffed before swaying their hips out of the room.

Adrien gestured towards the sofa, “Abel, Emmett, please have a seat.”

Abel took Emmeline’s hand and they settled onto the couch.

“Emmett,” Adrien lifted a single panda eye towards her, “you’re still just a kid, so no alcohol for you. Help yourself to the fruit juices and drinks, and if there’s not enough, I’ll get more.”

Emmeline nodded obediently, “Okay, thank you, Mr. Adrien.”

“Good boy!” Adrien took the opportunity to rub her small head.

Emmeline suffered a loss, unable to resist, just glaring fiercely at Adrien.

Adrien hid his face behind the wine glass and winked at her proudly.

Abel pulled Emmeline over.

“Adrien, just drink if you want to, don’t be so unpleasant!”

“Stingy!” Adrien pouted, “I just think Emmett is cute.”

Abel gave him a sharp look and then pulled Emmeline closer to him, “Emmett, stay away from this guy.”

“Look at what Abel said,” Adrien chuckled. “I just like Emmett, I’m not trying to steal him away or anything.”

“Better not,” Abel said with a cold expression. “Otherwise, there won’t be any brotherly love left between us.”

“Emmett, did you hear that?” Adrien smiled at Emmeline. “Abel would turn against his own brother for someone else.”

“That’s just Mr. Ryker joking around,” Emmeline said. “How could anyone compare to a brother by blood?”

“This guy is ruthless,” Adrien looked at Abel’s handsome face. “Am I right, Abel?”

Abel gave him a cold glance and took a sip of his drink, ignoring him.

“But I don’t understand,” Adrien continued. “I can see why you protect Emmeline, she’s your wife after all, but Emmett is like a brother to all of us. You can’t be so possessive, Abel.”

“Who said Emmett is like a brother to all of us?” Abel raised an eyebrow and scoffed. “Adrien, are you dreaming?”

“Could it be that you have a thing for this little guy?” Adrien asked. “Is he more important to you than Emmeline?”

Chapter 529 Lizbeth Posing as Emmeline

“Emmett is Emmett, how can he be the same?” Abel said impatiently, “Drink, alcohol can’t even make you shut up!”

“I’m just asking, how do you feel about Emmeline now?” Adrien said, “She’s such a great woman, can you really just stop loving her like that?”

“Adrien, are you done yet?” Abel said, growing impatient. “You brought me here today, if we’re just going to talk about this, Emmett and I will leave!”

“Come on, man!” Adrien stood up and grabbed him. “Can’t we change the subject?”

“Fine!” Abel muttered, picking up his glass and taking a sip.

Just the mention of Emmeline made him feel uneasy and annoyed, he couldn’t quite explain the feeling.

Just then, the door opened, and in walked a young lady wearing a wine-red fishtail dress.

The lady squeezed past Luca with a seductive sway and walked into the room.

Now Luca understood. So, the fishtail dress he had gone to such great lengths to find was being worn by this lady.

And this lady...

“Emmeline?” Abel slowly stood up from the couch.

Emmeline also rose to her feet, about to speak, when Adrien grabbed her suit jacket collar.

Emmeline looked at him and suddenly understood Adrien’s intentions.

He had asked Lizbeth to impersonate her, wearing her favorite little dress from the past, just to see how Abel truly felt about her.

Everyone’s gaze was fixed nervously on Abel’s face.

“What are you doing here?” Abel frowned as he looked at the “Emmeline” walking towards him. “Are you okay?”

“Abel,” Lizbeth looked at him with affectionate eyes and spoke softly. “I’m not dead. I’m back. I’ve missed you so much, Abel.”

She then threw herself into his arms.

Abel pushed her away with one hand. "Emmeline, don't do this."

Lizbeth was stunned, and so were Adrien, Emmeline, and Luca.

Abel was really rejecting Emmeline!

It wasn't like this before!

"Abel," Lizbeth's eyes filled with tears, "what's wrong? Are you unhappy to see me?"

"I'm happy," Abel said, "that you're back alive. Of course, I'm happy."

"Then why did you push me away?"

Abel couldn't explain.

"Abel," Lizbeth opened her arms and lunged at him again. "I've missed you so much."

"Emmeline," Abel pushed her away again, his tone cold and distant. "Sit down and let's talk. Don't act like this."

"But Abel," Lizbeth, even though it was just a role she was playing, couldn't help but cry for Emmeline's pain. "I miss you so much, can't you just hold me?"

"It's not appropriate," Abel replied, his face stiff and his voice emotionless.

"Why is it not appropriate?" Lizbeth asked, "We are the parents of four children, lovers who are in love. What's wrong with holding each other? Didn't you used to hold me all the time before?"

"Don't bring that up," Abel lowered his gaze, "Emotions are complicated. What happened in the past is in the past, and the present is the present."

"So, was your love for me in the past all fake then?"

Abel remained silent.

This statement left Abel in a daze.

He had only lost his emotional attachment to Emmeline, not his memories.

All the intimate moments they shared were still vivid in his mind.

But those memories felt like static images, devoid of any emotional resonance.

He was puzzled – how could his past love for her be fake?

It didn't make sense.

Yet now, the woman he once loved so passionately seemed to elicit no emotional response from him.

Lizbeth's tears were flowing as she asked, "Answer me, Abel."

She was too invested in the act, and her tears blurred her makeup.

A careless wipe made her look less like Emmeline.

Adrien was about to give her a signal when Abel suddenly blurted out, "Lizbeth?"

Luca, standing at the door, covered his eyes in horror, realizing the situation.

Emmeline was also distressed.

"Lizbeth, are you playing this kind of game too?" Abel was clearly angry, and he turned to Adrien, "Adrien, is this your doing?"

Chapter 530 End of Love

"Abel," Adrien explained urgently, "you've got it all wrong. I don't mean anything else, I just think it's a huge mistake for you to stop loving Emmeline. I want you to face her again."

"That's my business!" Abel retorted angrily. "When love is gone, it's gone. There's nothing to face again!"

Emmeline felt her heart sink as if she had been punched in the gut. Tears welled up in her eyes.

Abel took her hand and said, "Emmett, let's go!"

Before Emmeline could react, Abel had half-carried, half-dragged her out of the private room.

Adrien watched helplessly as the two of them walked away, pounding his fist in frustration.

Luca gave Adrien a sympathetic and grateful glance before hurrying after Abel.

"Mr. Adrien," Lizbeth wiped away her tears, "did I do a bad job acting? I was really into it, even moved."

"No, it's not you," Adrien said. "It's Abel. He's too damn heartless! When he saw you, he had the nerve to say that when love is gone, it's gone. That guy is a devil from hell!"

"Did Mr. Abel fall in love with that Emmett person?" Lizbeth asked.

"Yes and no," Adrien replied.

"What do you mean 'yes and no'?" Lizbeth pouted. "Don't beat around the bush with me."

"You know Emmett is actually Emma," Adrien said. "But her identity as Emmett adds a complicated layer of emotions for Abel. Once she becomes Emmeline, it's like the person you just portrayed."

"So, that means," Lizbeth sniffled, "Mr. Abel might really not love Emmeline anymore."

"But his subconscious still accepts her," Adrien said. "Otherwise, he wouldn't have reacted to Emmett that way."

"What should we do then?" Lizbeth stomped her foot in frustration. "Is Emmeline going to pretend to be Emmett forever?"

"I don't know what to do," Adrien said. "We'll just have to see how things play out."

As they exited the Majestic Bar, a driver pulled up in a car.

Abel was about to help Emmeline into the car when he saw her tears.

“Emmett? What’s wrong?” he asked.

“I don’t know,” Emmeline sniffled. “I just suddenly feel really upset.”

“Why would you be upset?” Abel gently wiped away her tears.

Emmeline flinched away, afraid that he would smudge her makeup. “I don’t know, maybe I just didn’t expect Mr. Ryker to be so heartless.”

“Who said I’m heartless?” Abel’s face darkened. “Don’t I treat you well?”

“Maybe you’re good to me today, but who knows about tomorrow?” Emmeline said, her voice trembling. “Just like how you treat Emmeline.”

Abel furrowed his brow. “You too? Can we please not talk about this? It’s getting annoying.”

“I won’t bother you then,” Emmeline wiped away her tears with her hand, “I’ll go somewhere else to clear my mind. Mr. Ryker can head back to the company on your own.”

“What about our internship agreement?” Abel’s voice held a hint of annoyance, “You’re giving up after just half a day?”

“It’s not that,” Emmeline said, “I’m just not in the right headspace. I’ll come back and continue the internship with you.”

“How about I join you to clear your mind and then we can have lunch together?” Abel suggested.

“No need,” Emmeline refused, “I want to be alone.”

Abel fell into a cold silence for a moment, before rubbing Emmeline’s head gently. “So where do you want to go? I can take you there.”

Emmeline suggested, “How about you have the driver take me to Nightfall Cafe? It’s Mr. Ryker’s place, and I can have a coffee there. That way, Mr. Ryker won’t have to worry.”

“Alright then,” Abel nodded. “I’ll have Luca take you to Nightfall Cafe, you can have some coffee there. For lunch, Sam will cook for you, and I’ll come to pick you up after work.”

“Okay,” Emmeline nodded meekly. “Thank you, Mr. Ryker.”

“Good boy,” Abel ruffled her hair, then turned to Luca and instructed him to take Emmeline to Nightfall Cafe.

“Yes, Mr. Abel,” Luca called for the driver to step out of the car.

As they settled into the Rolls-Royce, Luca spoke up in a hushed tone, “Ms. Louise, don’t be too upset.”

Emmeline was startled. “Luca, what do you mean?”