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“Abel Ryker, of course!” Helios said. “He’s the only Daddy we recognize!”

“Helios, I want to speak to Daddy... no, Abell Emmeline said angrily.

Helios handed his phone to Abel. “Daddy, Mommy wants to speak to you.”

Abel took the phone.

“Emma...”

“What’s the meaning of this, Abel? You kidnapped my sons!”

Emmeline roared deafeningly.

Abel quickly moved his head away from the phone.

“Calm down. Timothy is here too. I brought them here because I

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cooked dinner.”

Emmeline frowned. “Is that all?”

“We’re not enemies, right?”

“Of course not.”

“So what are you worried about?”

Emmeline did not say anything. I’m not worried. In fact, I’m glad they’re with you.

Timothy took the phone from Abel’s hand. “Mommy, Daddy said he learned cooking. Do you want to come over too?”

“What did you say?” Emmeline thought she had misheard. “Your Daddy learned how to cook?”

“Yes, Mr. Luca said he’s like a pro too!”

“Well, color me impressed,” Emmeline mumbled.

Abel took the phone. “Emma, I’ll ask Luca to bring you here. Come and teach me how to cook.”

“I want to learn how to make oxtail soup and gnocchi. I know the kids love that. Come over and teach me.”

Emmeline took a deep breath. “Fine!”

“Alright, I’ll get Luca to fetch you,” Abel said happily.

Haha! This is great!

The Rolls-Royce Ghost drove under the rain to bring Emmeline to the Precipice.

As soon as Emmeline entered the front hall, the four boys spread their arms and ran toward her.

“Mommy!”

“Mommy!”

“Pretty Mommy!”

Emmeline tossed her handbag aside happily and crouched to hug the boys.

“It’s so nice seeing the four of you together!” she said as she kissed each of them on the forehead. Her eyes were brimming with motherly love.

Timothy said, “Pretty Mommy, Daddy is in the kitchen. You should go and take a look.”

“Okay! You’ll be good boys, and I’ll also cook something delicious for you!”

The four children went off to play. Emmeline followed Luca to the kitchen.

Indeed, Abel was busy at work inside.

He was dressed in a white shirt and an apron, and he wore a chef’s hat.

Emmeline could not help but chuckle when she saw him.

Abel blushed.

“Don’t laugh at me! Cooking is also a skill!”

“I’m not laughing at you. You’re amazing!” Emmeline said.

“Really?” Abel said, though he was overjoyed inside.

“Indeed. I don’t even know how to make that,” Emmeline pointed at the dishes on the table.

“I learned it from the head chef of Nimbus Hotel. If you want to learn how to cook that, I can teach you,” Abel said.

“Teach me then. I don’t mind learning a thing or two,” Emmeline said while rolling up her sleeves.

Abel began to teach her.

“First, marinate the beef with the seasonings, coat it with starch, then let it rest for ten minutes,” Abel said while demonstrating the process.

“Wow, I see!”

“The first time I did it, the meat turned out hard and tasteless like twigs. I didn’t know I had to prep it!”

Abel continued, “There’s also a technique to deep-frying. The oil needs to be hot enough so that the meat doesn’t cook for too long. In the end, turn the stove up to the maximum so that the meat will be crunchy.”

Emmeline gulped. She was feeling hungry.

Abel playfully poked the tip of her nose with a finger. "You greedy kitten."

He forgot he had starch on his fingers. Emmeline's nose was stained white like a clown's.

Abel smiled at her but said nothing.

Emmeline continued to learn from Abel.

"Right, stir it a little."

"Ah, turn the fire down a little."

"Careful, don't scald yourself..."

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The triplets and Timothy watched Emmeline and Abel at work in the kitchen.

The scene in the kitchen was undoubtedly harmonious. The man and the woman looked like a married couple!

All four children were thinking, If only we're a happy family. That would be amazing!

"Sigh," Timothy sighed.

Sun sighed too.

Mood said, "I know why you're sighing."

"That's right," Star said, "If only they didn't have to be apart from each other."

But what could they do to make them stay together?

"Come with me," Timothy said to the triplets

"Why?" Sun did not want to miss the interactions between the adults in the kitchen.

Moon and Star thought the same thing.

"If you want Daddy and Mommy to be together forever, you'll have to come with me!" Timothy said.

The triplets ran up the stairs happily.

Timothy led them into Abel's study upstairs and closed the door.

"Let's have a meeting and think of ideas on how to make them stay together."

"I want that, but what can we do?" Sun pouted and said.

"Maybe we can trap them together in some place," Timothy said.

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“Why do we have to trap them?”

Sun did not understand.

Moon added, “That’s right.

Mommy is very busy.”

“Daddy too,” Star said. “Ryker

Group needs him.”

“What’s more important than making Mommy and Daddy stay together so we can have a complete family?” Timothy said.

The triplets thought about it and

Bhook their heads. “Nothing!”

“That’s right! Nothing’s more important!” Timothy said.

Sun frowned. “How can we make them stay together?”

Moon said softly, “I think they had a big argument a few days ago.”

Star nodded. “Sam told me they didn’t want to see each other again.”

Timothy said, “We can make them fall in love with each other again.”

“Mm, that’s right. If they stay together, they’ll eventually fall in love again.”

“They might go past the point of no return too.”

“Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.”

“Now you’re thinking what I’m thinking,” Timothy said. “Let’s create an opportunity so they can fall in love with each other.”

“Let’s trap them together!” Sun said.

“Hee hee, I think I have an idea,” Moon said.

“I know you have ideas. You’re a master hacker!” Star said.

“Tell us! What is it?” Timothy said.

The boys huddled together. “It’s like this...” Moon told them his idea.

“Hahaha, I think that works!” Sun

elapped his hands happily.

“I think it works too,” Timothy said. “I’ll be Moon’s assistant.”

“I’ll keep watch!” Star said.

“That decides it!”

The four boys high-fived each other.

“This is our secret. We can’t tell anyone!”

“Anyone who tattles is a little puppy!”

“Right! Arf arf!”

“We won’t play with him anymore!”

“Mmhmm...”

Meanwhile, in the kitchen, Abel and Emmeline were still busy cooking.

Emmeline was humming a little tune.

“Don’t move,” Abel suddenly said.

“Why?” Emmeline was surprised. Her hand that was holding a ladle froze in mid-air.

“Your apron came loose. I’ll help you fix it.”

Emmeline lowered her head. Her apron had indeed come loose.

She lifted her elbows so Abel could fasten it.

Abel put away the tools in his hands and stood behind Emmeline.

After fastening the apron, he hugged Emmeline.

Emmeline jolted like she was struck by electricity.

“Don’t move,” Abel whispered intimately in her ear. “Be careful of the pot.”

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Emmeline was stunned. Abel lowered his head and gently pecked her cheek.

Emmeline did not say anything.

Immediately after that, Abel turned her around, hugged her closely, and sucked her lips.

“Mmh...” Emmeline waved the

ladle in her hand.

Abel took the ladle with one hand, turned off the gas stove behind her, and placed the ladle on the counter.

“Mmh,” Emmeline moaned and struggled. She wanted to say, “Let go of me.”

But Abel had already taken her breath away.

Luca accidentally saw that from the door. He quickly stopped the two bodyguards that were heading toward the kitchen.

“Go away! The kitchen doesn’t need your help!”

The bodyguards were confused.

“Danger in front!” Luca pointed behind him. “Beware!”

The bodyguards peeked into the kitchen. “Oh my!” They quickly ran away.

While Abel took a breath, Emmeline took the opportunity and said, “Let me go!”

The kitchen was a dangerous place to fight, so Emmeline did not want to get physical with Abel.

Moreover, Emmeline might not be Abel’s match when it came to fighting.

Abel was blushing, and his breathing was shallow and quick.

“Emma, I wanted to say... sorry.”

Emmeline was surprised.

Heh. He’s going to marry Alana soon. That’s why he feels sorry.

Emmeline paused for a moment before slowly shaking her head.

Abel’s heart sank.

She doesn’t accept my apology. Right, she already has Benjamin.

“Ahem.” Abel coughed and said nothing more. He turned on the stove and started cooking again.

The dishes were still the same, but the process was a lot less interesting.

A sumptuous spread was placed on the dining table, and the dining hall seemed very welcoming.

Abel and Emmeline exchanged glances. They felt accomplished with what they achieved.

Timothy was the first to applaud. “Wow, it’s all my favorite food! You’re amazing, Daddy and Mommy!”

"I feel like I'm in a five-star restaurant!" Sun said.

"I can't stop drooling!" Moon said.

"Ah, I can't wait any longer. I'm gonna dig in!" Star said.

Luca came over and said to Abel, "Mr. Ryker."

"It's time to eat. Any work can wait." Abel waved his hand.

"It's not that," Luca said. "The bodyguards and I were thinking of taking a break. We'll eat out and relax a little."

Abel was taken aback, though he immediately understood what Luca meant.

Not bad, you all know when to make way for my family!

Abel nodded. "Alright. Go and enjoy yourselves. It's all on me."

"Thank you, Mr. Ryker," Lucá said. "By the way, you don't have to worry about security. I'm sure you and Ms. Louise can fight off any intruders."

"Enough talk. You may leave now!" Abel waved his hand again.

Luca was about to leave when Abel called him, "Wait!"

"Yes, Mr. Ryker?"

"Take some food and bring it to the janitors."

"Yes, Mr. Ryker."

Luca brought two full plates and went to the workers' quarters.

The two janitors would usually eat at the same dining table with Abel,

but they knew that they should stay in their rooms when Abel's "family" came over.

Abel, Emmeline, and the four boys sat around the dining table. They were like a family.

"Let's start eating."

Emmeline placed meatloaf on the boys' plates. "You should try... Daddy's cooking."

"Yes, yes." Abel put stuffed mushrooms on the boys' plates. "Mommy made this. It looks delicious, doesn't it?"

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"I'm so happy today!" Timothy clasped his hands together. "This is the happiest day of my life!"

Abel's face went taut.

Since Timothy was born, Abel had been overseas and had never paid too much attention to his son.

Of course, his “mother” Alana did not pay him much attention either.

Rosaline had raised Timothy by herself, so Timothy was closer to his grandmother.

When Timothy was with

Emmeline, it was obvious he was

closer to Emmeline than to Rosaline.

It was as though Emmeline was Timothy’s mother.

Emmeline’s heart ached.

Even though the triplets did not grow up with a father figure, she had given them all her love.

Robert and Waylon treated the children well. They gave them the fatherly love they lacked.

The triplets were much happier in comparison with Timothy.

“You should eat more, Timothy,” Emmeline said as she filled up Timothy’s plate. “I’ll cook whatever you want to eat.”

“Really?” Timothy’s eyes widened. “Will I get to eat your food more often?”

“Of course.” Emmeline smiled and patted Timothy’s head.

“But Mommy and Daddy will be separating. Timothy won’t get to eat Mommy’s food, and we won’t get to eat Daddy’s food,” Sun said.

Emmeline and Abel lowered their heads

They found it impossibly difficult to fulfill the children’s request.

“Let’s not talk about that today. We should enjoy our dinner while we still have the chance,” Abel said.

He filled up the children’s plates again.

Timothy and the triplets exchanged glances, and the triplets nodded.

Heheheh! We’ll trap you and Mommy together later. You won’t get away!

After dinner, Emmeline and Abel cleaned up, and the four boys went upstairs to play.

Emmeline squeezed liquid soap

into the sink. “You should rest in the living room. I can handle this.”

“It’s a lot of dishes. I should help you,” Abel said.

“You don’t even have a dishwasher here. Looks like you don’t stay here often,” Emmeline said.

"I'll get Luca to buy one tomorrow. What else do you need? I'll get everything," Abel said.

"Get a sterilizer and a microwave oven then. It's not much, but they'll come in handy," Emmeline said.

"Alright. That makes the place more homely."

The two people were taken aback by those words. They exchanged a glance and turned their heads away.

Both of them were thinking of different things.

Too bad this'll be Alana's home,

Emmeline thought.

How can I tell her this will be her

home? Abel thought.

"Ouch!" Emmeline cried out softly and pulled her hand away.

"What happened?"

"I cut myself on the scouring pad."

"Let me see." Abel took her hand and saw a small line on her index finger. A drop of blood was forming.

"You're so clumsy." Abel placed

the finger into his mouth.

"Ah! What are you doing?"

Emmeline cried.

"I'm sucking away the bacteria. That's usually how we do it when I was a boy," Abel said.

Emmeline could not help but chuckle.

"I didn't know you believed in folk remedies, Mr. Ryker."

"If it works, it works. Don't look down on alternative methods."

Suddenly, Sun called out, "Daddy! Mommy! Come here quickly!"

Abel and Emmeline were shocked. Did something happen to the kids?

Emmeline ran out of the kitchen. "What happened, Sun?"

Abel followed behind. "What happened? Tell me!"

"We were playing hide-and-seek in Daddy's bedroom, but we accidentally toppled the clothes basket. Can you help clean it up?"

Emmeline patted her chest. "You gave me such a fright. I'm glad you're all safe."

“Yeah. I was so worried something happened to you,” Abel said.

The two adults were about to

head back into the kitchen when Moon came down the stairs and said, “The whole room is a mess, and we can’t play there. Can you help us tidy up?”

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“I’ll go up then.” Abel wiped his hands on his apron.

“Mm. I’ll go up after I’m done with the dishes.” Emmeline was about to return to the kitchen.

Timothy called out from the staircase, “Mommy, Daddy’s suits are in a mess. He’s not going to put everything back in place. You should help him.”

“Fine! I wonder what’s gotten into all of you?” Emmeline could only follow Abel up the stairs.

Star ran out of the bedroom. “Daddy, Mommy, it’s a mess inside. It’s like barbarians ransacked the place.”

Abel and Emmeline exchange glances, thinking it was very precocious for Star to know what barbarians were.

They went into Abel’s bedroom one after the other and were immediately dumbfounded.

What the heck? This is more like the scene of an earthquake!

“What were they doing?”

Emmeline gawked at the interior of the room. “How did this happen?”

“I guess they got a little carried away,” Abel said while rolling up his sleeves. “There’s no use wondering. Let’s get to work.”

Emmeline crouched on the floor and began to fold the clothes.

“Wait,” Abel suddenly said.

“Hm?” Emmeline turned her head to look at him.

Her gaze lingered on his figure. At that moment, he looked like a household man.

“Your finger. I have a band-aid over

Emmeline thought it would be something more serious. She waved her hand. “Your spit probably healed it already.”

“That won’t do. What if it gets infected?”

Abel took a band-aid from the drawer and gently wrapped it around Emmeline’s finger.

“Alright, it won’t get infected,” Abel said and gently blew on it.

Emmeline blushed, feeling warmth in her wildly thumping heart.

The man always looked so serious. She did not expect to see a gentle side of him.

Alana is such a lucky woman.

She did not feel like speaking, so she crouched and continued to clean up.

The pile in front of her was Abel's expensive clothes.

Emmeline picked them up one by one and hung them in the closet.

She picked up a black suit. "Huh, isn't this the suit I bought for you?"

Abel quickly took it from her hands, feeling slightly embarrassed.

It was a cheap suit, but Abel had always treasured it.

That was because it was the only gift from Emmeline!

"I didn't expect you to keep it. I would've thought you'd tossed it into the trash," Emmeline said.

"Why would I throw it away? I was only wearing it yesterday," Abel said, feeling even more embarrassed.

"..." It was Emmeline's turn to be embarrassed.

If I had known he would treasure the suit, I should've bought something more decent for him.

I shouldn't have lied to him back then!

"Well, don't wear it anymore. You have so many bespoke suits. It'll be embarrassing if other people saw you wear that, they might wonder if Ryker Group is facing difficulties," Emmeline said.

"A suit alone cannot represent the Ryker Group," Abel said.

"Well... don't wear it anyway!" Emmeline felt guilty whenever she saw the suit.

"Those are my clothes. I can do whatever I want!" Abel sounded unhappy. He tossed the suit into the closet.

Emmeline was surprised. Suddenly, everything went dark.

The power had gone out.

"Ah, how unlucky!" Abel exclaimed.

Just as he finished saying that, the power came on again. The two people breathed a sigh of relief.

Immediately after that, the bedroom door began to beep. It was the security alarm.

The windows behind them also

started beeping.

“Oh no! Why is the security system activated?” Abel said.

Emmeline was also surprised.

Her mansion also had the same security system.

Once it was activated, the doors and windows would lock automatically.

Moreover, the doors and windows were bulletproof. As long as the security system was not disarmed, no one could go in or

Abel dashed to the door. As expected, the door was locked.

He went to the window and pushed it. The window did not budge.

“What’s going on?” Abel frowned.

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“Is there an intruder?” Emmeline said nervously. “The children. might be outside.”

“No,” Abel said. “I didn’t hear any other alarm sounds.”

“Do you mean only the security system of your room is activated?”

“That seems to be the case.”

Emmeline was angry. “Abel! You’re doing this on purpose!”

Abel looked at her in disbelief. “Do I look like I have nothing better to do?”

“So why is only the security system in your room activated? You must have some ulterior motive!”

“Hey, don’t accuse me.” Abel was angry. “I’m not so petty as to stop you from going out with Benjamin on a date!”

“You... You’re not making any sense at all!” Emmeline huffed.

“You said I have an ulterior motive!”

“Argh! I’m not talking to you anymore!” Emmeline sat down on the sofa.

“The door might unlock automatically in a short while. Why are you so worried?” Abel stared at her.

“Why aren’t you calling Luca? The children won’t be able to help us!” Emmeline said.

Abel thought that the suggestion made sense. He picked up his phone on the table and called Luca.

Luca was having fun somewhere with the bodyguards. He became nervous when he saw Abel calling him.

“Yes, Mr. Ryker.”

“Inform the security department of Ryker Group that the security system of the Precipice has been activated, and I’m locked in!”

Luca was dumbfounded for three seconds.

The security system was activated? That won’t happen unless there’s an intruder!

Luca shuddered, and sweat began to pour from his head. “Mr. Ryker, is it one of your enemies?”

“Don’t panic. It’s only my room. Everywhere else is fine,” Abel said.

Luca was confused. He did not understand why only Abel’s bedroom was locked down.

Don’t tell me there’s a bug in the system. I thought the system was more sophisticated than that.

“Yes, Mr. Ryker,” Luca said. “I’ll inform the security department right away.”

The four children were in the living room.

“Success! I’ve hacked into Daddy’s bedroom and locked it,” Moon said.

“They can spend a night together,” Su said.

“I’m afraid Daddy and Mommy won’t like the snacks we prepared for them,” Star said.

“Don’t worry. They’ll eat anything if they’re hungry enough!” Timothy said.

“Hahahaha!” The four boys laughed.

The two janitors came into the living room. “Why are you all laughing?”

“It’s nothing. We were playing hide- and-seek earlier,” Timothy said.

“The power went out earlier, so we’re here to check.”

“The fuses are intact, but why did I hear some beeping sounds on the second floor earlier?”

“You must’ve been mistaken,” Sun said. “Everything is still just fine, right?”

“I guess.” The two janitors returned to their quarters.

Soon, Luca and the bodyguards returned.

Behind them was a technician from the security department of Ryker Group.

Luca knocked on the door. "Mr. Ryker, can you hear me?"

The door was well insulated, so

Abel could only hear a faint buzzing sound.

He took his phone and called Luca.

"Mr. Ryker, the technician is here," Luca said.

"Get him to fix this immediately," Abel said. "Ms. Louise and I are trapped inside.

Luca grimaced. Oh? Ms. Louise is trapped inside too?

This... This is good news!

"Yes, Mr. Ryker!" Luca answered happily.

"Take care of the children for me," Abel said. "Tell them to stay in my study and not go anywhere."

"The bodyguards are keeping an eye on the children. They're playing in your study."

"That's good to know." Abel put the phone on the edge of the bed.

Emmeline sat down on the sofa.

Arranged neatly on the coffee table in front of her was a spread of children's snacks, soft drinks, fruit juice, and milk.

Emmeline stared at those items and thought something amiss, but she could not figure out what it was.

"Does your finger still hurt?" Abel asked her.

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Emmeline rolled her eyes at him. "Why should you care?"

"Sorry, I shouldn't have been annoyed at you earlier," Abel said softly.

Emmeline did not reply. She crouched and continued to tidy up the children's toys on the floor.

"Let me do it. You should rest for a while," Abel said.

Emmeline continued to ignore him, though a thought popped up in her head.

The room is a mess, but why are the snacks on the table arranged so properly?

It's as though the children deliberately put it there in case of emergencies.

Also, the security system of the mansion is very advanced. Why would it suddenly break down?

Could the triplets be behind this?

Half an hour later, the door remained locked.

Abel called Luca again. "Is it fixed?"

Luca sounded frustrated. "No. The technician thought the problem would fix itself after a reboot, but it doesn't seem to be the case!"

"What the heck is going on?" Abel was beginning to sound annoyed. "Can't he fix it?"

"Ask him how long it will take!"

Luca covered the phone and asked the technician, who was busy at work.

The technician was extremely flustered. "I'll have to reinstall the entire system and reboot it. It'll take at least another twelve

hours."

Twelve hours!

Luca was shocked. He braced himself before telling that to Abel.

"Twelve hours?" Abel could feel his head spin.

Am I going to stay in this room for the next twelve hours? I still need to work!

"Argh! This is ridiculous!" Abel tossed his phone on the bed.

"Twelve hours?" Emmeline's face turned pale when she heard that.

She did not want to stay in the same room with Abel for so long!

She could guess that Moon was behind the malfunction, but she did not tell that to Abel.

Moon was a master hacker, and Star must be behind the neatly arranged snacks.

Star was a clean freak like that.

She thought for a while before sending a message to Moon.

"Is this your handiwork?"

Moon was shocked when he saw his mother's message

"Sun, Star, Timothy! Mommy thinks that I did it!"

"Whatever you say, don't admit to it!" Sun and Timothy said.

"But good boys shouldn't tell lies."

"Not when they're told in good faith," Star said. "If lying means that Daddy and Mommy get to stay together, then you should lie all you want. We're all behind you."

“Yes, we’re all behind you!”

“Okay then.” Moon pouted. In his reply to Emmeline, he denied hacking the system.

Emmeline saw the reply. Was I

wrong in accusing him? The triplets never lie.

She placed her phone on the coffee table, and it immediately began to ring.

Emmeline saw Benjamin’s name on the screen.

She did not want to pick it up, but she saw Abel tilting his head to see who was calling.

“Benjamin York?” Abel mumbled sullenly.

Emmeline rolled her eyes and answered the call.

“Emma, it’s getting late, and it’s still raining. Sam and Daisy are wondering where you and the triplets are. They’re very worried!”

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Benjamin said.

“The triplets and I are stuck here. I don’t think we can leave tonight,” Emmeline said awkwardly.

Benjamin was silent for a few seconds. You have an umbrella and a car. The rain shouldn’t hold you back, right?

“I’ll go and save you, Emma!” Benjamin exclaimed.

“There’s no need for that,” Emmeline said calmly. “The children are fine, but... I’m stuck in the room. There’s something wrong with the security system, and I can’t get out.”

“Should I go over and help you?” Benjamin asked.

Emmeline shot a glance at Abel. “Nah.”

“I get it,” Benjamin said. “Mr. Ryker should be there. Alright, call me if you need anything.”

“Mm.” Emmeline nodded and hung

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“Not bad at all! You two seem to be progressing just fine. He’s already calling you ‘Emma,’” Abel said.

Emmeline glared at Abel. “What do you mean?”

“Tch, nothing. I was just saying.”

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“You sound like you’re jealous. Well, if you’re jealous, why don’t. you give Alana a call and whisper sweet nothings to her? Don’t worry, I won’t be jealous!”

Abel leaned close to her and tossed her on the bed.

“Are you challenging me?”

“I’m not!” Emmeline yelled. “Keep your hands to yourself!”

“I think you’re inviting me to do otherwise!” Abel had already pinned her down, and he was leaning down on her.

Emmeline continued to struggle. “Watch it! Don’t make me beat you up!”

“Do you think you can beat me up?”

You can try!” Abel cackled.

Abel’s breath tickled Emmeline’s ears. “You shameless, despicable wretch!”

Before she could do anything, Abel clamped her wrists and kissed her lips.

“Mmh.” Emmeline could not breathe.

That was as far as Abel wanted to go. He got up and released her.

He was only teasing her and was not going to violate her.

Emmeline was blushing intensely. She thought he would...

“Why, are you disappointed?” Abel looked at her and grinned. “Shall we proceed with the real thing?”

“Get lost!” Emmeline jumped off the bed and struck a fighting stance. “I’ll really fight you if it comes to that!”

“Heheh, I’m afraid you’re not my match on or off the bed.”

“Hmph!” Emmeline snorted. She sat down on the sofa and ignored him.

She dared not speak to him.

Abel sat down on the sofa next to her, opened a pack of animal cookies, and ate two pieces.

“Huh, this is actually not bad.”

He tossed another pack to Emmeline. “You should try some.”

Emmeline opened the pack of

cookies and ate one. Oh, it’s pretty good! Do children’s snacks taste so delicious?

They continued to eat the snacks while occasionally taking a jab at each other.

By ten o’clock, they were very full.

Emmeline yawned. "I'm so sleepy."

"Go wash up and sleep then," Abel said while clearing up the trash on the coffee table. "Who's going first?"

Emmeline was reserved. "Well... you first."

Abel stood up, tossed the trash away, and went into the bathroom.

Fifteen minutes later, he came out of the bathroom.

His lower body was covered by a white towel. His sculpted chest and lean waist were bare.

Emmeline's heart skipped a beat, and she began to blush again.

"It's your turn," Abel said. He picked up a cigarette on the coffee table and lit it.

Abel's demeanor emanated masculinity, which caused Emmeline to be flustered. She quickly ran into the bathroom, closed the door, took off her clothes, and breathed a sigh of relief.

Her heart was still thumping hard.

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He's so attractive. I wish I could pounce on him and lick him clean...

But I won't actually do it. Sigh, Alana is so lucky!

While lost in thought, she accidentally slipped and fell.

"Ah!" Emmeline hissed in pain.

When Abel heard that, he strode to the bathroom and yelled, "Emma! Are you okay?"

Before Emmeline could say "Don't come in," Abel had already opened the door.

He was stunned by the scene before him.

Emmeline was lying naked on the floor. Her fair skin was faintly visible beneath the mist.

Abel gasped. "Emma, are... are you okay?"

"It hurts," Emmeline twisted her waist on the floor.

"It's all my fault. I didn't dry the floor after my shower," Abel said.

He grabbed a towel, wrapped Emmeline up, brought her out of the bathroom, and placed her on the bed.

"Where does it hurt? Let me see."

Abel seemed very concerned.

"My elbow, my back, and my butt. Ah, it hurts so bad..."

Abel removed the towel and

Aipped her over.

A bruise had already formed on her butt.

“D*mn it! Abel wanted to slap himself. “I should’ve let you shower first.”

“It’s not your fault. I wasn’t paying attention,” Emmeline said while gritting her teeth.

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“You weren’t paying attention when you were showering? What was on your mind?”

Emmeline stared at his bare chest. I wouldn’t have slipped and fallen if I weren’t thinking of licking your bare chest clean!

“I’ll get some ointment for you.”

Abel went to the chest of drawers and found some ointment. He got her to lie on her stomach and gently applied the ointment to the bruise

He applied ointment on her elbows, back, and waist as well.

Emmeline buried her head in the blanket. She was too embarrassed to look at him.

However, it was too painful, and she could only lie there while Abel helped her.

Abel breathed a sigh of relief when it was done.

He caught a glance of Emmeline’s snow-white skin and enchanting figure.

His eyes widened suddenly. This scene looks familiar! I’ve seen this figure five years ago at the hotel!

It’s that young woman!

Abel suddenly stood up, and the hallucination was gone.

No. That young woman is Alana. Our son is already four years old.

“How am I going to sleep tonight?” Emmeline was sobbing in the blanket. “I can’t lie down. It hurts so bad.”

“Don’t worry. I’ll accompany you. We don’t have to sleep if we don’t want to,” Abel said.

“It’s not even midnight yet, and I’m already very sleepy.”

“I’ll hug you to sleep then,” Abel said. “You won’t have to put pressure on your back.”

“I won’t agree to that!” Emmeline exclaimed. “You’re trying to take advantage of me!”

“Fine, whatever suits you.”

Emmeline tried hard not to move, though her back was killing her.

She soon fell asleep, though there was a stray tear in the corner of her eye.

She began to moan in her sleep from the pain.

Abel carefully picked her up and wrapped her with a blanket.

Emmeline stopped moaning. She curled up in his chest.

The tear on her eyelashes fell onto

Abel's chest.

The next morning, before Emmeline woke up, Abel applied ointment on her bruises once more.

The bruises were fading after a night's rest.

Emmeline did not wake up. That probably meant it did not hurt as much anymore.

Abel picked a white shirt from his closet and helped her put it on.

She would be embarrassed if she woke up and found herself still naked.

After that, Abel thought it was still early. He lay on the bed and thought of sleeping a little longer.

Usually, at this hour, he would be jogging or working out, but he was not sure when he would be freed.

Emmeline flipped around and rested her head on his chest.

Abel gazed at her indulgently. He hugged her gently and closed his eyes.

Some time later.

Beep! The lockdown was lifted, and the security system was operational once more.

Alana entered through the door in her wheelchair, assisted by Quentin.

Abel was not present at the hospital since yesterday, and he did not answer her calls...

Alana did not know what he was doing, and she was getting worried.

She was afraid that Abel might change his mind and neglect her.

According to Adam, Abel was at

the Precipice, so she got Quentin to bring her there.

On the second floor, Alana noticed a crowd gathered in front of the master bedroom.

It was the first time she had been to the Precipice, though she could guess that the room was where Abel was.

"What's going on?" Alana asked Luca gently.

Luca turned his head and noticed Alana beside him. "Who let you in?" he blurted.

“Why can’t I come here?” Alana said sullenly.

One of the janitors said, “Mr. Elsher, she said she’s Mr. Ryker’s fiancée, so I opened the gate for her.”

Luca waved his hand. “Now that you’re here, can’t possibly ask you to leave.”

“What’s happening? Why are you all crowded in front of Abel’s room?” Alana asked.

“The security system broke down yesterday. Mr. Ryker is locked inside,” Luca answered.

“How long has he been inside?” Alana asked, feeling slightly comforted.

“Since yesterday evening,” Luca answered.

“Where has he been the whole day then?” Alana was worried again.

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Luca regarded Alana suspiciously, thinking that the question was too general. “He went to the market, cooked dinner, and took care of the children,” he answered.

Alana was surprised. What? Since when is he a house-husband?

The room door beeped, and a red light on the door went off.

The technician cheered excitedly. “The system has been restored to factory settings, and the lockdown is lifted!”

“Thank goodness,” Luca said. “Open the door! Mr. Ryker can’t wait to get out!”

The technician entered the default passcode, and the door opened.

A group of eight people entered the room. Quentin also pushed Alana’s wheelchair into the room.

However, those people soon regretted barging into the room without surveying the scene first.

They saw what they were not supposed to see.

The technician was in the front. He wondered if he should leave the room.

Two people were on the bed. One was Abel, whose upper body was bare, and the other was Emmeline in his embrace.

They were sleeping... soundly.

Emmeline’s leg was out of the blanket and rested on top of

Abel’s leg.

One could easily fantasize about what was happening under the sheets.

Luca and the bodyguards lifted their heads and turned away.

“Ahh!” Alana shrieked as though someone had stepped on her tail.

Everyone was shocked, especially the two on the bed.

“What’s with the ruckus?”

Emmeline mumbled. “Can’t they
tell I’m still sleeping?”

She buried her head into Abel’s chest.

Abel hugged her tightly as though she was the most precious thing
in the world.

“Emmeline Louise! Get up at this instant!” Alana yelled.

The two people on the bed were shocked awake.

Abel was lying on the edge of the bed. He fell to the floor.

When he saw the scene in front of him, he was dumbfounded.

Why are there so many people in the room, and why are they staring at us?

Abel suddenly realized the door must have been unlocked, and Luca and the bodyguards barged
1.

Alana too.

But Emmeline was still sleeping on the bed, and she was not dressed properly!

Abel immediately got onto his feet and covered Emmeline with a blanket.

“Ah!” Emmeline was caught by surprise. She yelped under the blanket.

Alana’s face was pale. “Abel, did... did you...”

“They’ve gone past the point of no return, of course.” Timothy
squeezed through the crowd.

“Timothy!” Alana grabbed him.

“You’re here too?”

“This is my home. Why can’t I be
here?”

“Tell me then, what have your Daddy and Emmeline been doing?”

Timothy pouted. “Funny you’d ask me that You should ask Daddy, no?”

“It’s obvious, right?” Sun also squeezed through the crowd. “I’m sure you know what’s going on!”

“That’s right! You don’t have to pretend to be a prude!” Moon said.

“Who knows? They might already have a baby between them.” Star giggled.

Thud! Alana fell from the wheelchair.

“Dr. Anderson, take Alana back to the hospital,” Abel said coldly.

“Yes, Mr. Ryker.”

Quentin hastily straightened Alana’s wheelchair and said, “Mr. Ryker, I’m worried Alana’s lung might collapse if she becomes emotionally agitated!”

Alana had her eyes closed. When she heard that, she opened her mouth and pretended to gasp as though she were suffering an asthma attack.

She clutched her throat and said, “I... I can’t breathe... I’m going to die... Save me, Abel!”

Emmeline removed the blanket covering her and said, “Quick, someone give her CPR while it’s not too late!”

Everyone was shocked. CPR? Who should do it?

The doctor, of course!

Abel ordered, “Dr. Anderson, save her. Give her CPR.”

Quentin was at a loss. He knew that Alana was faking it, and he was worried her act might be exposed.

“Stop standing there like an idiot!” Emmeline exclaimed. “She’ll die if you don’t give her CPR! Do you want her to die, Dr. Anderson?”

“What are you waiting for, Quentin?” Abel yelled angrily.