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Quentin had no choice. He bent down, preparing to give Alana CPR.

Before he could do so, Alana drew in a deep gulp of air and wheezed, “I...I’m much better now.”

Quentin straightened up, feeling considerably relieved; however, he could not help being somewhat disappointed as well.

Alana took another few labored breaths, then gave Abel her most pitiful look.

Abel deliberately averted his gaze and refused to look at her. Instead, he told Quentin, “Take her back to the hospital, Dr. Anderson. Make sure nothing happens to her.”

“Abel...” Alana protested, pouting

all teary-eyed like a spoiled child.

“I’ll visit you later.” Abel gestured impatiently and turned away.

“Let’s go, Ms. Lane,” Dr. Anderson murmured, wheeling her downstairs.

“All of you, leave now,” Abel ordered. “Everything’s fine here.”

Luca hurriedly ushered everyone out of the room like a mother hen herding a disobedient brood.

Abel stopped him at the door before he left as well. “Luca, give the children breakfast, then send them to kindergarten.”

“Yes, Mr. Abel. I’ll do that.”

Abel shut the door firmly in his

face.

Emmeline emerged from under the blankets where she had buried herself the moment everyone invaded the room. “Oh shit, oh shit, how the hell am I going to show my face in public?” She wailed in agitation.

“We haven’t done anything we shouldn’t,” Abel said placatingly. “There’s no need to fear rumors if we haven’t done anything wrong, right?”

“Then you go explain the entire mess to them and tell them nothing happened between us. Who’s going to believe you?” Emmeline shot back derisively.

Upon consideration, Abel had to admit she had a point. If everyone

knew that he had spent the night with a beautiful woman in his arms without doing anything about it, they would suspect he was either lying or something was wrong with him.

Right at that moment, Emmeline’s phone rang.

Abel looked as if he had just bitten down on a lemon. It must be Benjamin, calling to check up on her.

However, when he glanced at her phone screen, the name on the display read, "Film Set."

"Film set?" Abel blinked. "What film set?"

Emmeline had already snatched up the phone to answer the call.

"Yes, Mr. Faughn?"

"Hey, Emma," Simon replied. "Everyone's here on set except for you. Is everything alright?"

Only then did Emmeline recall that she had taken on a stunt job with the film crew. Her face burned.

"Yes, yes, everything's okay. I haven't forgotten about the stunt job, Mr. Faughn! Something came up, that's all. I'll be there in half an hour! I'm so sorry!"

"Sure. Just get here as soon as you can; everyone's waiting on you."

Emmeline hung up at once. As she turned, Abel leaned over and stared at her full in the face,

startling her so much that she pulled the covers up over herself

and shrank back involuntarily. "What are you doing? Why are you giving me the evil eye?"

"Stunt job?" Abel eyed her narrowly. "Emmeline Louise, are you out of your mind, taking a stunt job? Has being poor stunted your brain somehow?"

Being poor has stunted my brain? Emmeline stared right back at Abel, bereft of speech for a good few seconds before she pulled herself together enough to retort, "That's right, being poor has definitely stunted my brain. The coffee shop isn't a booming business like yours, after all!"

Abel immediately turned and reached for his wallet, then pulled out a bank card. "Is ten million enough? If not, I can give you

more.

Another bank card with ten million, just like the last time. Emmeline's mind flashed back to that scene from five years ago, and the old grievance rose up within her again. Waspishly, she shot back, "Why don't you give it to Alana instead?"

Abel almost choked at that, and his brows raised so high they almost disappeared into his hairline. "Ms. Emma Emmaline Louise, Alana set her pretty little trap so well back then that the entire incident remains a blur to me still. You can't use that against me. It's just like you and Adrien; you can't tell me that's not a blur to you as well."

Emmeline swallowed. Abel was

Fight; she remembered nothing about that incident at all, not after that wretched man had drugged her. She hadn't even been able to call for help. "But why did Adrien have your bank card with him, though?"

"When I went overseas, I gave him both of mine since I figured wouldn't be able to use them anyway."

“Really?” Emmeline had to let that sink in for a moment. She nodded slowly after that. “Alright. I believe you. But I’m still not going to take your money, though. I’ll manage on my own.”

An inexplicable pang shot through Abel’s heart. He knew how

stubborn Emmeline was and he

did not dare to insist on her taking

the money. However, his mind went to Adrien, and he said

bitterly, “Well, it’ll have to be Adrien then, if not me. No matter what, he can’t stand by and watch you and the children suffer!”

Adrien?

Emmeline had to pause and think for a moment. True, Adrien should take some responsibility, but...she didn’t need his help. “I’ll be fine. You don’t have to worry about me.” She got out of bed and began getting ready as fast as she could. “I’m afraid I’ll have to trouble you to send the kids to kindergarten. I’ve got to get to the set right away.”

“Emma...” Abel caught hold of her wrist. “Then...”

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Abel wanted to bring up the friend request he had sent Emmeline on social media, but somehow, the words stuck in his throat and he couldn’t get them out.

Actually, the same thought had occurred to Emmeline as well, but since Abel hadn’t mentioned it, she didn’t bring it up either.

Who asked you to delete me off your friends list? All I did was block you; I can unblock you anytime, but you wanted to be melodramatic! Well, I’m not going to add you, so there! You can be anxious all you want; serve you right!

She shoved Abel aside and rushed out the door, running downstairs.

Abel stood at the window and watched as the proud, petite little

figure hurried out the gate, got into the car, and sped off to the film set.

He immediately picked up the phone and called Adrien. “Adrien, how can you live with yourself? If you can’t even financially support your own children, you shouldn’t be sowing wild oats everywhere. You tell me, what can I even say about that?”

On the other end of the receiver, Adrien blinked in confusion as Abel chastised him.

“Abel, what on earth is going on? What’s got you so hot under the collar? And who says I can’t financially support my kids?”

“You have the gall to say that to me?” Abel sounded furious. “Are

you aware that Emmeline's working as a stunt performer on a film set now? It's a grueling, dangerous job. Have you ever considered that? She wouldn't take any money from me, even though I offered it to her, but you'll likely have more success if you try. After all, she can't very well decline. Don't forget, you're the father of those boys!"

Adrien stood stock-still, dumbstruck. Emmeline was working as a stunt performer on that film set? When he met her the other day, he had assumed she was just there as a curious visitor; it had never occurred to him that she was actually there as part of the crew!

A cold hand clutched at his heart. "D*mn it!" He slapped himself. The

boys weren't in such dirt-poor straits that they would actually be reduced to eating dirt, would they?

He thought about calling Emmeline right away but paused. No, he couldn't have this conversation with her over the phone. Abel had said that she was doing stunts on the film set, so she would probably come over later.

Then again, perhaps it might be better

On second thoughts, that wouldn't do. He couldn't go there unprepared; a certain decorum had to be observed.

"Carry on first," Adrien instructed his employees with a wave. "I'll be back soon."

"Yes, Mr. Adrien." The employees waved back at him.

During this period, Adrien had been very conscientious, keeping an eagle eye on their work progress. They couldn't slack off even if they wanted to. Why was he so interested in the progress of the new film anyway? It was like he wanted to get into the Golden Camel Television and Film Festival or something.

Adrien drove over to Adelmars Studios and went to a jeweler's store nearby. Women loved diamonds and jewelry. Emmeline was a beautiful woman and likely no exception. Upon the jeweler's recommendation, Adrien finally purchased a diamond necklace

worth over two hundred thousand dollars. Gleefully bearing the wine-red velvet box with him, he headed back to Adelmars Studios.

By this time Emmeline had already arrived at the set. What she hadn't expected was that she would bump into Janie Eastwood, Ben's secretary, and a senior Adelmars Studios executive.

"Emmeline Louise, you must really be strapped for cash!" Janie sashayed over and looked

Emmeline up and down. "After working in that coffee shop, you're here to do stunts? You're nuts. We're not a charity, you know."

Emmeline was too busy changing into her costume to reply.

Janie quirked a brow. "If you ask

me nicely, maybe I'll ask the company to give you a raise!"

“Wow! You can do that?” Emmeline pretended to be shocked, swiveling around to face her.

“Of course I can!” Janie boasted. “Adelmar Studios is funding this project and I’m a senior executive in the company. What do you think?”

“Well, well...” Emmeline chuckled. “You’re extremely capable, Ms. Eastwood!”

“Don’t you forget it!” Janie replied haughtily. “My cousin’s one of the main cast; I was the one who got her the part. If you beg me really, really nicely, who knows, you might even land an important role or two!”

“So what are you asking me to do, Ms. Eastwood?” Emmeline

finished changing into her costume, then picked up one of the nylon prop longswords.

“Oh, nothing much. Just get down on your knees and say “Uncle” as prettily as you can and keep your distance from Mr. Benjamin. That will do.” Janie folded her arms and tilted her head, watching Emmeline smugly.

“I see. But then...” Emmeline suddenly thrust the longsword right underneath Janie’s chin. “I think the tables have turned now, Ms. Eastwood. Get out of my sight, or I’ll beat the crap out of you!”

“How dare you!” Janie’s face paled. She recognized that Emmeline had some acting ability, or she would not have been able to be a stunt double. However, in her mind, an insignificant actress wannabe like this would never dare to offend an Adelmar Studios senior executive.

“Say that again?”

“I said, how dare you!”

Whap! Emmeline smacked Janie across the face with the hilt of her sword.

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“How dare you hit me!” Janie shrieked in outrage, clapping a hand to her stinging cheek. “I’m going to have Mr. Faughn fire you right now!”

“You can try, missy...” Emmeline retorted, smiling grimly.

“Oh, I’m certainly going to try. Do you think I’m afraid of you?” Janie turned, about to flounce off in search of Simon. Abruptly, she froze in her tracks as a voice came from outside the costume tent.

“Who’s spewing all that arrogant crap?”

Emmeline turned as Adrien came in, smartly dressed in an impeccably tailored business suit and polished leather shoes.

Janie recognized Adrien immediately. There were very few people indeed who would not recognize the suave, flirtatious playboy; he was part of the wealthy Ryker family after all, and a very eligible catch.

“Mr. Adrien Ryker?” Janie had never expected to encounter Adrien here, of all places. Putting on her most charming smile, she hurried over to welcome him. “What a pleasure! Why are you here, though?”

“Why can’t I show up if I like?” Adrien shot back, eyeing Janie coldly. “I seem to recall someone was spouting some really outrageous nonsense just now too.”

“Exactly!” Janie whirled around

and pointed straight at Emmeline. “This insignificant stunt girl here had the nerve to challenge me! She doesn’t know her place!”

“I’m talking about you, woman!” Adrien strode over to Emmeline and slipped his arm protectively around her shoulders, glaring at Janie. “Who the hell do you think you are, taking that tone with our Emma?”

“Mr. Ryker...” Janie was startled. “What do you mean, our Emma?”

“Emma’s part of our family. But I distinctly seem to remember hearing someone having the gall to say that they’re going to get her fired!”

“But...but Mr. Ryker,” Janie stammered, her brow creasing in

confusion. “Why would a member of your family be reduced to working as a stunt double here to earn money?”

“Because she’s bored!” Adrien lifted his chin slightly and stared down at Janie with contempt. “She’s bored out of her skull and needs something to occupy her time!”

Bored? Janie did not quite believe this. Who in the world would be so bored that they’d come to work as a stunt double?

“Emma...” Adrien turned to Emmeline. “Ignore this ignorant floozy; she’s just jealous, that’s all. I have a present for you; see if you like it?”

Emmeline blinked, completely

taken aback. Adrien had a present for her? What scheme was he hatching now?

“I know I’ve neglected you and the kids,” Adrien continued with

utmost

sincerity. “I swear to God I’ll turn over a new leaf from today on and work really hard. I won’t go back to my playboy ways, I promise.”

Emmeline was so startled that she stared at Adrien fixedly, weighing him up from head to toe.

Her scrutiny made Adrien extremely uncomfortable. He hemmed and hawed for a little, then pleaded, “What’s wrong, Emma? You’ve got to believe me.”

Janie stood there in utter shock, listening to the entire exchange.

What? Adrien and Emmeline already had children? Did this mean that they were...a couple?

In that case, she had absolutely nothing to worry about! Since Emmeline was Adrien’s wife, of course she wouldn’t get together with Benjamin! Not only that, it looked like Emmeline and

Benjamin got along quite well. Perhaps...

Perhaps she might even consent to help Janie get closer to Benjamin if Janie could play her cards right!

At the thought of this, Janie plastered on her biggest smile and took hold of Emmeline's arm. "My goodness, look at how attentive Mr. Ryker is, Emma! You're such a lucky girl! You even have a family together, my goodness!"

Emmeline stared at her, speechless. Who the hell asked you to butt in, bitch?

However, she did not wish to cause a scene with Adrien in front of Janie, so she merely nodded. "Alright, Adrien. I know you'll do your best!"

Adrien brought out the velvet jewelry case and carefully opened it, revealing the dazzling diamond necklace. "Let me put it on for you, Emma."

Emmeline swallowed her

instinctive revulsion and nodded instead.

Adrien grinned in delight and clasped the glittering diamonds

around Emmeline's elegant, slender neck, then stepped back to admire the effect. "Just look at our Emma! Doesn't she look gorgeous?"

"Oh, yes, absolutely!" Janie chimed in sycophantically. "She looks gorgeous!"

"Alright, alright, that's enough." Emmeline felt uncomfortable and slightly impatient with all the attention. "Adrien, it's almost time for me to get to work. I've got a busy day ahead."

"Okay, Emma." Adrien took her hand and clasped it for a moment. "Go off to your work then. I'll come and pick you up for dinner when you're done."

Before Emmeline could even reply,

Janie piped up, clapping her hands in delight, "Oh, you absolutely must go, Émma!"

"Sure, whatever," Emmeline agreed. She just wanted to get Adrien out of there as soon as possible.

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Adrien still left.

Janie's disposition toward

Emmeline underwent a complete transformation.

"Emma, I misunderstood you. I'm sorry."

"Emma, would you like to be my best friend? We can spend time together and do fun things."

"Hey, Emma, next time you schedule something with Mr. Benjamin, shall we grab some food together?"

"Ms. Eastwood," Emmeline said impatiently, "I still have work to do. Can we talk another time?"

“Oh, okay,” Janie said, waving her hand. “I won’t take up much more of your time. Emma, I’ll see you soon.”

“Okay,” Emmeline said, her ears finally at peace.

“Emma!” Director Faughn shouted from outside, “It’s your turn!”

“Okay, I’m coming!”

Emmeline changed her clothes and left the set after filming.

Adrien’s sports car was elegantly parked outside the renowned Pizzeria Draghi, a local establishment known for its delectable pizza.

He acted cool and propped himself against the hood of his car, a faint smile playing upon his lips as he awaited the arrival of a pretty lady.

As Emmeline approached him, she leaned over and deftly opened the passenger door next to the driver’s side.

“Here, I’m returning this to you.”

Emmeline removed her necklace and gave it to Adrien

“I didn’t want to embarrass you in front of Janie.”

Adrien was stunned for a moment.

“I didn’t come here to eat. I’m going back to the café.”

“Emma,” Adrien exclaimed as he

hastily took hold of her hand, “I understand you’re busy earning a living, but you don’t have to exert yourself so much. You still have me. I’ll look after you and the kids. I’m not the same Adrien I used to be. You have to trust me!”

“We’ll see about that,” Emmeline said as she reached for the car door.

“Emma.” Adrian held her back again. “I’ll give you a bank card right now. It’s for the children’s living expenses. You really don’t have to rush back to sell coffee.”

Emmeline was quiet for a while.

Emmeline’s expression turned sullen as she replied, “My employee is managing the café alone, so I need to hurry back.”

“But what about the children’s living expenses...”

“I can handle the kids on my own.”

With the bank card in hand, Adrien watched as

The massive motorcycle she rode was still stationed at the studio's entrance.

She got caught in the rain

yesterday, so Benjamin drove her home to rest. He then returned her in the morning.

"Emma!" Adrien exclaimed as he started the car and pursued her. "Don't turn me down!"

Emmeline had already mounted her motorcycle and sped off.

Alana returned to the hospital and panted heavily on the bed.

The sight that unfolded before her at "The Precipice" was beyond her wildest imaginings.

Abel had his arms around the naked Emmeline while he was sleeping on the bed.

Moreover, they had spent the entire night together.

It was throughout the entire night!

What was it that they couldn't do?

"Emmeline!"

Alana harbored such intense disdain that the relentless clenching of her teeth caused pain, nearly shattering them.

"I can't just let you go. I want you to disappear completely!"

After standing up, she closed the ward's door, retrieved her mobile phone, and proceeded to call Adam.

"Mr. Adam, I have something to ask of you."

"Alana, aren't you supposed to be resting?" Adam snorted coldly.

"Mr. Adam," Alana said, "I want you to help me get rid of Emmeline. I am willing to do whatever it takes."

"Hehe," Adam sneered, "What

exactly are you capable of doing? What can you do for me?"

"I want Emmeline dead, I want to marry Abel, and I am willing to serve as your informant for the rest of my life. If anything happens at Ryker Group, I will let you know anything and everything right away!"

"Just don't underestimate Abel."

"And I definitely won't underestimate you, Mr. Adam."

"I will think about it," Adam said, "When the time is right, I will help you deal with her!"

With that, Adam coldly ended the call.

Alana felt a little confused.

Judging by his tone, Adam didn't seem too bothered about helping her.

What should she do now?

She couldn't just walk out of the hospital, having been "seriously injured," and wreck Emmeline.

However, Alana didn't want to continue enduring the situation.

Alana thought about it for a bit, then decided to give Alondra a call.

"Auntie Alondra, I need your help to teach that b*tch, Emmeline, a lesson!"

"What's the matter this time?"

The timbre of Alondra's voice carried a subtle hint of impatience.

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"Whatever it is, I basically hate Emmeline to death, so go find her and scold her!"

For a brief moment, Alondra found herself rendered speechless.

Then Alondra thought to herself, "I'm going to see Emmeline now, but not to scold her."

Considering her close relationship with Adelmara's Benjamin and the fact that the Louise family's business relies on her, do you believe it would be suitable for me to give her a reprimand?

"Sure," Alondra replied nonchalantly, "I can help you vent your anger, depending on the circumstances."

"Thank you for going through all this trouble for me, Auntie Alondra."

"Why are you being so formal with me? We're not strangers."

"When I become the young mistress of the Ryker family, I will certainly treat you well, Auntie Alondra."

"That's for sure," Alondra said with a smile, "I've done a lot to help you."

"Rest assured, Auntie Alondra, I will remember this."

"Okay, then I think I'll hang up now."

"Goodbye, Auntie Alondra."

Alana finally felt better after she hung up the phone.

This isn't over yet, Emmeline. Just wait and see!

Meanwhile, Sam said at the café, "Ms. Louise, you didn't return all night, and we were worried sick."

Daisy chimed in, "That's right. How would we explain it to Master Adelmarr if something happened to you or the triplets?"

Sam added, "Don't forget there's

Mr. Benjamin too. You had us worried sick, Daisy and I!"

"Okay, okay," said Emmeline, "It's all my fault, should have told you."

"This cannot happen again," Sam stated, "I'm afraid Master Adelmarr will punish me."

Daisy also added, "Please keep this in mind, Ms. Louise. Otherwise, things will become very difficult for us."

Emmeline reassured them,

"Please don't worry. I promise I

won't do it again!"

The door to the café swung open

as the three talked, and a middle-aged woman walked in.

Emmeline lifted her gaze and saw that it was Alondra.

"Empía, your father recovered quite quickly this time, and the doctor discharged him today," Alondra said.

"That's good to hear."

With joy in her voice, Emmeline exclaimed, "Dad got discharged today? Why didn't you tell me earlier? I could have picked him up!"

"Didn't your brother tell you?" Alondra said, "It's all over."

"It's fine," Emmeline said, "I'll just go see Dad another day."

"Rather than postponing it, why not see him today?"

Alondra chuckled and added, "Actually, your father sent me to ask you to come back home and have dinner. Oh, yes. Also, invite Adelmarr's Mr. Benjamin. You must bring him over; your father has specifically requested it."

Emmeline agreed, "Sure. Auntie Alondra, you can go first. I'll buy a few things and then get Benjamin to come with me."

"Oh, you don't need to buy

anything," Alondra said, waving her

hands. "We are a family, so you don't have to worry about those things."

"Okay, Auntie Alondra. You can go back first. Safe travels."

Emmeline gave Benjamin a call after Alondra left.

She then put on a plain dress and waited for him at the café.

Benjamin arrived shortly in his silver Bentley.

Benjamin usually had more than a dozen bodyguards following him in different shifts, but they weren't there this time.

Benjamin was protected by over a dozen bodyguards who worked in shifts to ensure his safety. However, they were not present with him on this particular occasion.

As the car was parked on the road right in front of the entrance, Benjamin couldn't leave his car. Therefore, Emmeline hastily took her phone and dashed out.

She opened the passenger seat door beside the driver and entered the vehicle.

Benjamin leaned in and helped Emmeline fasten her seat belt.

"First, let's go get some gifts. Then

we'll pick up the triplets and head to my father's house."

As Emmeline spoke, she cocked her head to look at Benjamin.

In fact, she had turned her head to look at Benjamin because she had been dazzled by the driver's seat.

She got startled by what she saw.

Wow, look at Benjamin, all dressed up. He looks incredible.

Emmeline pulled at Benjamin's collar and asked, "What's going on? Are you headed out on a date?"

With a slight smile, Benjamin

asked, "Am I overdressed?"

Emmeline let out a growl and retorted, "Mr. Benjamin, regardless of how you dress up, you're not meeting your parents-in-law. You're only joining me for a meal at my house. Clear?"

Benjamin embarrassedly said, "I think I might have overdressed by mistake. Would you mind if I went back to change?"

Emmeline raised her hand to look at her watch. It was already five o'clock, and they still needed to pick the kids up from school.

"Forget it. It's too late now. We'll just have to go as we are."

"Yes, indeed. I'll make sure to be more careful next time."

“Next time?” Emmeline glared at him and chided, “With this mentality of yours, considering yourself as the new son-in-law? Do you really think there will be a next time?”

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Benjamin started the car, and they drove straight to the shopping mall.

Benjamin hurried to the store and bought a good deal of nutritional supplements. He then walked with both hands full to the car.

As the vehicle rounded the bend, it proceeded toward the kindergarten.

Child seats had been installed in the back seat.

Benjamin lifted the triplets one at a time and secured them in their respective seats.

“Let’s make sure we’re safe, kids!”

Benjamin rubbed Sun’s head as he leaned against the car door before returning to the driver’s seat.

By the time they reached the Louise family’s villa, it was already half past six.

This was Emmeline’s childhood home, and it felt both familiar and unfamiliar at the same time.

This place evoked memories of her mother and the image of her brother dutifully tending to her during her formative years.

With effortless ease, the sight before her also stirred up the sorrowful incident where Maxwell had driven her out.

Tears welled up in Emmeline’s eyes, causing her vision to blur.

Benjamin could tell what was on her mind despite her silence.

“Everything that happened is in the past now. Today is the start of a new beginning. Don’t cry.”

With a compassionate gesture, he draped his arm around Emmeline’s shoulder to offer solace.

“Alright,” Emmeline said, nodding. “I don’t want to upset the triplets on their first visit to their grandfather’s house.”

“Good, now you get it. Let’s go.”

The pair got out of the car and grabbed the kids from the back seat.

“Emma, Mr. Benjamin!” Grace shouted from the foyer. “I’ve been waiting for you!”

After hearing that, Alondra hurriedly ran out of the living room.

“Mr. Benjamin, you’re here, and who might these be?”

Benjamin and Emmeline were walking over with the triplets and gifts in hand.

Ethan popped out wearing an apron and grabbed the stuff

Benjamin was holding.

“Mr. Benjamin, you shouldn’t have troubled yourself.”

“It’s no problem,” Benjamin said, “We’ve come this far, so just think of us as family.”

“That is true. That is true indeed.”

Alondra exclaimed with great pleasure, “Mr. Benjamin really knows how to make us feel like family. Just look at these high-end supplements he bought for us!”

Then she smiled flatteringly at Emmeline, “Isn’t that right, Emma? It must have been very expensive.”

“Yes, he did not consider himself an outsider,” Emmeline said, nodding.

Ethan complimented Benjamin, saying, “Mr. Benjamin, you are so handsome today, and this suit you’re wearing also looks good.”

Benjamin’s gaze shifted towards Emmeline, and a faint blush spread across his handsome features.

“Should we address you as Nana?”

Helios tilted his head and looked

at Alondra.

“I remember you pissed our mommy off before.”

Endymion also tilted his head.

“I remember now. You and Alana Lane are in cahoots,” concluded Hesperus.

Suddenly, Alondra’s complexion paled. She wore an embarrassed expression as she inquired, “What is this regarding?”

Emmeline said, “Sun, Moon, and Star. Children should not speak up about adults’ affairs. This is your grandmother. Come on, say hello to Nana.”

The triplets pouted, but they eventually complied and called out, “Nana.”

“Oh, what lovely children.”

It wasn’t until that moment that Alondra relaxed her expression.

“Go in with Auntie Grace to see your grandfather.”

Grace walked over and took the triplets’ hands, saying, “You

haven’t met Grandpa yet, have you?”

“Yes,” said Helios, “Today is the first time.”

“I heard that Mommy got kicked out by Grandpa,” said Endymion angrily.

“That’s right. It was really tough to samo da noia for Mommy to care for all three of us!” Hesperus added.

Maxwell, who was in the living room, overheard everything and coughed loudly.

“Triplets,” Emmeline warned sharply, “Don’t open Pandora’s box!”

“Mommy,” said Helios, “We’re not carrying a Pandora’s box!”

“Yes, exactly,” chimed Endymion and Hesperus, “What box are you talking about?”

“Never mind, forget about it,” Benjamin quickly intervened, “The children are just talking nonsense. They have no clue what they’re saying. Don’t take it personally.”

He stooped down and lifted Hesperus, then clasped Helios and Endymion’s hands with his other hand. Helios and Endymion walked beside Benjamin.

As they traversed the living room threshold, Maxwell stood before the sofa, tottering.

Seeing the mother and her triplets, he said hoarsely, “I am at fault for driving Emma out indiscriminately back then. In fact, I’ve always felt guilty for that.”

With her face turning red, Alondra lowered her head.

Back then, she had been the main culprit, and it was at her behest that Maxwell had acted.

Ethan and Emmeline were unbearable to her.

Even now, she still couldn’t stand being around them.

However, the siblings were no longer the same as they had been.

Furthermore, Emmeline now had the opportunity to become the young mistress of the Adelmar Group.

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With more people dining that day, including children, Ethan opted to assist the cook in the kitchen.

Emmeline, familiar with the children’s favorite dishes, also donned an apron and joined in to lend a hand.

Meanwhile, Alondra graciously offered Benjamin some beverages while Maxwell had a charming smile on his face.

“Mr. Benjamin, please don’t take the previous incident to heart. For Emma’s sake, Adelmar must assist Louise Corporation, or the situation will become extremely challenging for them.”

Grace stewed in anger on the sidelines, complaining inwardly, "Why didn't you say that when you evicted Ethan from the Louise Corporation? Aren't you just flip-flopping now?"

"Adelmar will share any fitting business opportunity with Louise Corporation," Benjamin said, "After all, you are Emma's family."

Emma's family?

On hearing that, Alondra felt a sense of hope and quickly poured more tea into Benjamin's cup.

"Thank you very much, Mr. Benjamin." Maxwell was overjoyed.

"In the end, aren't you still relying on Ethan and Emma?" Grace, unable to control her anger, muttered and rolled her eyes.

Alondra smiled at Grace and said, "Well, what can we do? We're all family." She then asked, "Is your child in junior high school now? Why didn't he come with you?"

"He lives on campus!" replied Grace angrily.

"Bring him to his grandpa's house during the holidays," Alondra suggested, "Your father misses his grandson."

Grace commented, "Dad has probably forgotten what his grandson looks like."

Grace was still seething with anger.

Alondra's face tightened and inwardly criticized, "If I had my own son and daughter, I could rely on them in my old age. Do I even need to put up with all of you?"

The situation was truly maddening!

After some time had passed, the kitchen finished preparing the dishes, and the entire family gathered to dine.

Grace and Emmeline worked together to care for the children;

noo

before long, the triplets had finished eating.

After that, the triplets departed from the table, leaving the remaining adults who were still dining and conversing. Eventually, the atmosphere became tranquil.

"Emma," Maxwell said, "Can you stop blaming me for what happened in the past? I am also getting old. You know, I almost died from a cerebral infarction a few days ago."

"That's true," Alondra said, pretending to sob, "What will happen to me when your dad is gone? We've been together for most of our lives."

"Don't worry," Emmeline assured Alondra, "Even if Dad is fine and lives up to a hundred years old, my brother and I will not abandon you!"

"You two are still the most filial."

Grace angrily stuffed food into her mouth, saying, "From what I see, there's always a way out to every problem!"

Alondra could barely maintain her façade any longer.

"Enough, Gracie," Ethan said as he peeled a shrimp for his wife, "Let's not talk about the past anymore. We're all good now."

"That's right, Grace," Maxwell said, "All that has happened is my fault, so don't hold a grudge anymore."

"I was in the wrong, too," Alondra said as she pretended to wipe away tears. "It won't happen again. After all, we are all family."

"Then let's not talk about it. Instead, let's all enjoy the meal," Emmeline suggested, trying to ease the tension in the room.

"We must look like a bunch of fools to Mr. Benjamin," Alondra remarked with a smile directed at Benjamin.

"It's okay. Let's just enjoy the meal," Benjamin said as he peeled

a shrimp for Emmeline.

Benjamin sent Emmeline and the triplets back after the family gathering.

When they got to the café, it was already ten o'clock.

Since the triplets were already fast asleep, Benjamin carefully carried each of them upstairs and tucked them into bed, one by one.

"Thank you for today," Emmeline said to Benjamin.

"Oh? Why are you being so courteous with me?" Benjamin smiled and added, "I hope my performance earlier met your

expectations."

"It was pretty good," Emmeline said, "Alondra did all kinds of antics because of your presence."

"She's a real snob!" said Benjamin, "Don't take her lightly, Emma."

"I know that," Emmeline said, nodding.

"I'll head back home now."

"Okay, drive safe."

Benjamin left after that.

Emmeline ensured that the

blankets were tucked in properly around the children before closing the door to their bedroom.

With a green cardboard box in hand, Daisy made her way over.

"Ms. Louise, this is for you."

"What?"

"Mr. Abel came this afternoon after you and Mr. Benjamin left," said Daisy.

Emmeline was left without words. What a coincidence. Abel swung by?

Daisy continued, "He said he wanted to apply ointment for you, but when he found out that you had left with Mr. Benjamin for Louise's family's residence, he just left the ointment here and went on his way."

Emmeline was left speechless once again, feeling a little embarrassed. She furrowed her brows and asked, "Why didn't he call me?"

"Call you?" Daisy said, "Ms. Louise, didn't you blacklist him?"

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"I'm so silly," Emmeline exclaimed as she smacked her own head. "I completely forgot about that."

"I think that's enough, Ms. Louise," Daisy advised her, "I can see that Mr. Abel looks haggard."

"That's because he was keeping Alana company at the hospital," Emmeline explained. However, she quickly grew angry and added, "Anyway, it's none of your business. Go do your own thing."

Daisy let out a soft sigh and went downstairs.

Emmeline brought the ointment back to her room, lay on the sofa, and stared at it.

Abel had actually planned to come and apply ointment on her.

He was unaware that she had already fully recovered after using her own secret formula.

Despite everything, she still felt a bit thankful because he was still thinking about her.

With that, Emmeline stowed the ointment away in the drawer.

Emmeline sent the triplets to kindergarten the next morning before heading to the filming studios to work as a stunt double.

Janie came by unexpectedly again, but the visit was different from yesterday.

With a big smile on her face, Janie stood in front of Emmeline, holding a large bouquet of flowers/

Emmeline was aware that the reason she approached her was because of Benjamin. As such, she gave her a once-over.

Although this girl wielded a commanding presence, she maintained a pristine appearance and seemed like a good girl.

The powerful aura she exuded was likely a learned behavior honed through her professional endeavors. For to attain such a lofty rank at such a tender age was no small feat.

Emmeline thought that Janie and Benjamin would make a good couple.

Janie presented the flowers to Emmeline with a charming smile, remarking, "These are for you, Emma. Aren't they lovely?"

Emmeline, dressed in a warrior costume and holding a spear, shook her head and said, "This general only likes manly things, not girly stuff!"

"Oh, all right." Janie reluctantly returned the flowers to her grasp before tenderly entwining her

.

ether arm with Emmeline's.

"Hey, Emma, since we're best friends, can I ask you for a favor?"

Emmeline mused, "Well, as the saying goes, 'don't bite the hand that feeds you.'"

Emmeline responded, "What's the matter? Go ahead and tell me."

"Well, it's like this," Janie said as she leaned in towards Emmeline, "I was wondering if you could help me invite Mr. Benjamin out for a meal."

It was as she had expected.

Emmeline intentionally made

things difficult for Janie and replied, "Why don't you just ask him yourself?"

Janie looked embarrassed as she said, "The point is, Mr. Benjamin won't give me a chance. He always treats me coldly. Please help me, Emma."

Emmeline inclined her head in contemplation.

If she were to invite Benjamin to have a meal together, it would fulfill his desire. However, if she were to include Janie in the invitation, what would be

Benjamin's reaction?

"Emma, tell me, can you do it?"

Janie implored, shaking Emmeline's arm.

The shaking was so intense that the red tassel on her helmet started to quiver.

"Emma, it's your turn!" Simon shouted to her from outside.

"I'm on my way!"

Emmeline didn't have an answer in

mind yet, so she agreed to

Simon's request for the time being.

When she saw that Emmeline was about to leave, she hugged her arm again and acted cute, saying, "Emma, pretty please."

"Okay, fine," Emmeline conceded, pulling her arm away. "I'll figure it out and see how I can assist in arranging a date.

"Really?" Janie exclaimed in excitement, jumping up with joy.

"Yes, really!" Emmeline exclaimed as she grabbed her spear and hastened off to "go into battle."

Once all the martial arts scenes for the day had been filmed, Emmeline phoned Benjamin.

Upon hearing Emmeline's invitation to grab a bite to eat, Benjamin murmured softly into the phone, "Ms. Louise, please tell me straightforwardly, are you planning something sketchy against me?"

Emmeline emitted a "pfft" sound before erupting into laughter, admitting, "I knew I couldn't hide it from you."

"So, I was correct in my assumption?" Benjamin said sadly, "Miss Louise, what exactly are you trying to do to me?"

"Don't worry, it's something good," Emmeline reassured him. "It's definitely a positive thing!"

"If it were something positive, you wouldn't have invited me out to eat," Benjamin retorted with a cold snort. "Who are you trying to fool?"

Do you really think I don't know you?"

Emmeline was momentarily speechless Annoyed, she

retorted, So, Benjamin, is that a yes or a no? It's just a meal. What could I possibly do to you?"

"I wish you would do something to me," Benjamin thought to himself, "But would you be willing?"

“Ms. Louise’s wish is my command,” Benjamin said helplessly. “I’ll go, but where?”

“Hmm, let me think.” Emmeline pondered for a moment before suggesting, “How about the Struyria Banquet?”

“That’s not a bad idea,” Benjamin agreed. “They serve the best traditional Struyria food there.”

“It’s settled then,” Emmeline said, adding, “See you at five.”

“Do you want me to pick you up?” Benjamin hastily added.

“Beep, beep, beep.” Emmeline had already hung up the phone.

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Janie,” Emmeline quickly informed Janie, “the Struyria Banquet, five o’clock.”

Janie’s excitement was palpable as she exclaimed, “Wow, Emma! You actually manage to ask Mr. Benjamin out? How did you do it? And what’s your relationship with him? You must be someone special, right?”

“You’re asking a lot of questions!” Emmeline replied, “I’m just a coffee seller who works part-time as a stunt double.”

Janie pouted at the other end of the line and said, “Emma, I’m sorry for what I said to you the other day. Please don’t take it to heart. I

was too ignorant.”

Emmeline replied, “What are you talking about, Janie? I’m not some mysterious person. Anyway, let’s not waste time, put on your makeup and change your clothes before it’s too late!”

Janie checked her watch. It was now three o’clock. If she hurriedly changed her clothes, she’d still have time to go to the beauty club and get her makeup done.

Janie grabbed her bag and hastened toward the office, but she ended up colliding with Benjamin in an abrupt encounter.

“Janie?” Benjamin inquired, “It’s still working hours. Where are you rushing off to?”

Janie’s face had become bright red as she said, “I...”

I have a date with you?

However, voicing those words was not an option for her. If she confessed that she was the one who had initiated the date, Mr.

Benjamin would most likely refuse to go out with her.

“I have an emergency, Mr. Benjamin. I took the rest of the day off.”

Benjamin nodded and replied, “Oh, I see. I also have something to attend to. Feel free to take my elevator if you’re in a rush.”

“Thank you, Mr. Benjamin. Thank you very much!” Janie bowed quickly.

Benjamin’s remarkable

appearance was reflected in the mirror as the two stepped into the CEO’s private elevator.

Janie’s heart fluttered at the

thought of having dinner with him later.

Emmeline, you’re definitely my lucky star!

Benjamin drove to the café to pick Emmeline up in his car.

However, upon his arrival, Sam informed him, “Ms. Louise had left quite some time ago.”

Upon hearing this, Benjamin’s initial thought was that Emmeline intentionally avoided him.

What is her reason for avoiding him?

In all actuality, she was afraid he’d coax the truth out of her on the way there and then change his mind about attending the dinner.

Benjamin smiled to himself, thinking that even Emmeline, despite being a grown woman, still retained her childlike

innocence.

In the end, Benjamin drove to the Struyria Banquet all by himself.

To ease the tense atmosphere, Emmeline had opted not to book a private room and reserved a dining hall table behind a marble pillar carved with dragon designs.

Upon catching sight of Emmeline’s WhatsApp message, which contained only the phrase “Table 52,” Benjamin’s eyes alighted upon the scene before him, where a diminutive yet

vivacious figure waited.

“Emma,” Benjamin called out tenderly.

Emmeline waved and smiled,

beckoning him over as she said, “I’m over here!”

Benjamin walked over and sat beside her, then tilted his head to gaze at her.

Emmeline wore a stylish black dress, highlighting her youth and beauty. Her attire possessed a beguiling allure without being overtly titillating, and her tresses tumbled down her back in languid undulations.

Benjamin couldn’t stop staring at her.

“Do you not know who I am? Stop staring at me!” Emmeline playfully scolded him while rolling her eyes.

Benjamin chuckled in response.

Since Robert sent him to Emmeline, Benjamin felt he never got enough of her.

“Mr. Benjamin, Emma, you’re both here already?” said a gentle voice.

Upon hearing that, Benjamin raised his head suddenly and saw Janie, his Company Secretary, approaching gracefully.

“Huh?”

Benjamin immediately rose to his feet.

Emmeline tugged at the hem of Benjamin’s shirt and whispered,

“You’re not allowed to leave. That’s an order!”

Benjamin couldn’t think of anything to say. He had no choice but to sit back down.

“Mr. Benjamin, Emma, I’m sorry I’m late,” Jenny spoke softly with a clear voice.

Emmeline couldn’t help but raise her eyes to look at her.

This woman has good looks. She looked even more lovely after she had dressed up. The more I look at her, the more I believe she would be a good match for Benjamin. I hope Benjamin likes her.

“You’re not that late,” Emmeline said with a smile, “Sit down.”

As she sat on the chair next to Benjamin, Janie smoothed the hem of her skirt in one fluid motion, displaying her ladylike and elegant mannerisms.

However, a chill settled in

Benjamin’s heart.

He had run into Janie earlier, and she had claimed that she had “an emergency.” Was this the very same “emergency” she had alluded to?

Had I known about this earlier, I wouldn’t have given her a ride in my elevator.

Seeing that Benjamin didn’t get up and leave, Janie felt much more at

ease.

Janie was further convinced that Emmeline was not an ordinary person. She thought, “It seems Mr. Benjamin values her opinion a lot!”

“Let’s order some food,” Emmeline interrupted, “Stop daydreaming.”

With a casual wave of his hand, Benjamin summoned a waiter who promptly presented him with a tablet for ordering the food.

“It’s my treat today,” Emmeline declared, “You can order anything you like.”

Janie looked at Benjamin

nervously and placed her order for

two dishes.

“Mr. Benjamin, it’s your turn.”

“Come on, Emma,” said Benjamin, “You know I’m not fussy about food. I’ll eat what you order.”

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Emmeline’s eyes widened after she heard what he said.

What is your intention behind saying that, Benjamin? What message are you trying to convey to Janie?

“Then, you order the food yourself. How am I supposed to know what you like to eat?” Emmeline threw the menu at Benjamin, visibly annoyed.

Benjamin had no other option but to pick up the menu, and then he lowered his head to carefully study the available dishes.

Janie was a little stunned by the sight of the two individuals before

her. She couldn’t help but feel curious about the dynamics between Emmeline and Benjamin.

They appeared to be friends, but there was a certain intimacy between them that suggested they might be more than that. Yet, there was also a sense of distance between them that contradicted that notion.

It seemed like...their relationship was that of a superior and subordinate, with Emmeline in charge and Benjamin taking orders!

Oh my God!

Janie became a little panicked

upon making this discovery. She quickly stood up and announced, “I need to use the restroom. Please feel free to order without me.”

Benjamin became upset when he noticed Janie had gone to the restroom.

“I must say, Ms. Louise, that you seem to have an excess of free time. Perhaps you should consider taking on more stunt double jobs if you have so much time on your hands. Why are you playing a joke on me?”

Emmeline pouted and said, “I made a promise to Janie. In any case, it’s high time you found

MARYA

yourself a girlfriend.”

“That is not related to you in any

way!”

Emmeline glanced at him and retorted, “How is it not related to me? If you had a girlfriend, you wouldn’t have to keep staring at me.”

“Even if you want to push me away, you don’t need to use Janie as your shield, right?”

“I didn’t use her as a shield. I simply accepted her bribe, so I can’t refuse her request.”

“Accepting bribes?” Benjamin asked in astonishment, “How many millions are we talking about here, Ms. Louise?”

“It’s not a significant amount,” Emmeline responded, “Just a bouquet of flowers.”

“Flowers?”

“If you want flowers, just tell me how many you want! I’ll buy them for you,” Benjamin retorted.

If you want flowers, just tell me how many you want! I’ll buy them for you! Abel’s ears were privy to every word spoken, without missing a beat, as he stood behind the marble pillar with dragon motifs.

He looked at the mirror wall in front of him, and in the reflection, he could see Emmeline and Benjamin sitting together. Unfortunately, the pillar was blocking his view of Janie, so he was unaware she had gone to the restroom.

So, Emmeline, you’re on a date with Benjamin here? And talking about flowers with him? Well, I can get you flowers too, just tell me how many you want. And by the way, let’s not forget that I was the one who gifted you the entire garden on your rooftop!

“Lower your voice,” cautioned Emmeline in a hushed tone, “We don’t want Janie to hear us.”

“Why should we be afraid?” questioned Benjamin, his voice rising instead of lowering, “I’m more than willing to purchase flowers for you. And why can’t people hear about it?!”

“You’re impossible,” replied Emmeline in a hushed tone, “I don’t want your flowers. If you insist on buying them, give them to Janie instead.”

“Why?” Benjamin lowered his voice when he spoke this time.

“Because she loves you!”

Emmeline whispered, “Can’t you see? Janie is a confident girl, yet the moment she saw you, she became nervous and didn’t even

dare to order food!”

“I don’t need that, Ms. Louise! Whoever she loves has nothing to do with me!”

With anger mounting, Benjamin was about to stand up and leave.

Emmeline held onto the hem of his shirt and scolded, “Don’t you dare get up! Sit back down!”

Emmeline’s grip was surprisingly strong, and with just one pull, Benjamin was back sitting on his chair.

All the while, Abel had been observing them through the mirrored wall.

Emmeline, I can see that you and Benjamin are very close with all these antics! No wonder you didn't want me to give up Ryker Group and take you away. You've had feelings for Benjamin all along! It seems your relationship didn't just happen overnight. When did you two get together? I had no idea about this at all. Benjamin York of Adelman Group, I declare war on you!

"Sorry," Janie apologized as she returned from the restroom and resumed her seat.

With a subtle retouch of her makeup, her visage now bore a rosy hue, and the earlier tumultuous anxiety had dissipated.

"All the dishes you ordered are here," the waiter announced. "Please enjoy your meal, everyone."

Abel couldn't see Janie from his vantage point, but the sight of Benjamin dutifully taking food for Emmeline didn't escape his

notice. His expression darkened at that point.

"What are you looking at, Mr. Ryker?" the deputy CEO beside him asked, perplexed.

"I'm observing the customer flow in this place," Abel replied, "trying to see how it differs from our Nimbus Hotel."

The deputy CEO was impressed and thought, "Mr. Ryker is truly exceptional. He never fails to think about

improved, regardless of where he

ow the Ryker Group can be

"You guys eat first," Emmeline said, getting up, "I'm going to the restroom."

Benjamin raised his gaze and looked her in the eyes, surprised.

Emmeline, are you doing this on purpose?

Emmeline mouthed a warning to Benjamin, "I want to see

something come out of this!" and then quickly turned around and left.

Abel also got up from his seat and announced, "Excuse me, I need to use the restroom."

Without waiting for any response from the other guests at the table, he swiftly pushed his chair back and made his way toward the restroom.