

## Are Mine 181

### [Chapter 181](#)

“Ms. Louise, have you gottén back together with Mr. Ryker?” Daisy drew close.

Emmeline gave her the evil eye. “What gives you the impression?”

“My eyes...? Ms. Louise, you’re on the right track. You and Mr. Abel are made for each other,” Daisy gave her two cents.

“Easy for you to say. Abel and I will be a match in heaven if you can switch the father of my three children to Abel,” Emmeline rolled her eyes.

“That’s true. Why do you have

Adrien sticking out like a sore

thumb between you two? He doesn’t fit in the equation.” Daisy looked disappointed.

Ain’t that the truth?

Emmeline would have long jumped on Abel if Adrien and Alana were out of the picture.

No way was she going to leave such a brilliant man out in the cold.

“Daisy, make extra tonight. I want to keep Mr. Ryker for dinner,” Emmeline said.

“Sure,” Daisy responded..

She was happy that Ms. Louise intended to ask Abel to stay for dinner.

Daisy believed Abel was the real father of the three kids.

More than an hour later, Abel

elimbed down from the platform.

With his sleeves rolled up, his white shirt was covered in mud and grass clippings.

Even his face was stained with dift.

Judging by the way he turned out, Emmeline believed he got down and dirty at exterminating the bugs.

She could finally rest.

Otherwise, she would be startled awake from her nightmares.

“Thank you. Have a shower. We can have dinner when the kids are back from school.” Emmeline smiled.

Abel uttered, “I don’t have a change of clothes here. I should head back.”

It then occurred to Emmeline that he had moved his things out.

Abel was in for some free food too, but he could barely stand the dirt on him.

“Alright then.” While disappointed, Emmeline gave a nod.

Abel grabbed his jacket and folded it over his arm before brushing past Emmeline.

Emmeline held him back.

Getting on her tiptoes, she planted a fleeting kiss on his cheek.

Abel was taken aback.

This was the second time Emmeline had kissed him today.

With a wave of flush coursing through his body, Abel turned around and pinned her against the door with a thump. He lowered his head and stole her lips.

“Ah!”

Daisy walked out of the kitchen, only to be met with the steamy scene. She was scared back into the kitchen.

With rosy cheeks, Emmeline pushed the man away and went into the kitchen.

Abel stood at the door for a while before leaving with a spring in his footsteps.

Emmeline was not found at the film studio the next morning.

Since there were no fighting

scenes shot today, she could take a break,

As a stunt double, she had lost her passion.

However, Simon had not come across other suitable candidates for the job, so the responsibility fell back on Emmeline’s shoulders.

Her phone rang when she was grinding coffee beans behind the counter.

Emmeline took her phone for a look. It was Janie.

She nearly forgot about the lady.

Emmeline wondered whether Janie had made any progress with Benjamin in the last two days.

“Janie, how are you?” Emmeline pressed her phone against her ear.

“I’m not doing well. Emma, help me!” Janie was sobbing on the other end of the line.

“What’s the matter?” Emmeline put her phone against her other ear.

“It’s Mr. Benjamin! He’s making me clean the pool on the rooftop as a punishment,” Janice said sulkily.

Emmeline was rendered speechless. Her jaw dropped.

Benjamin was punishing Janie by making her clean the pool?

“Emma, you can attend my funeral if you delay the rescue. The pool will be the death of me.”

“Why did Benjamin make you clean the pool? Did you slip up at work?” Emmeline asked.

“No. I’m an irreplaceable expert and professional in my field!” Janie exclaimed.

“Benjamin had no reason to do that to you then.”

Janie uttered in tears, “He... He wasn’t happy that I gave him food and flowers. He called me annoying. I feel so upset. Sob, sob...”

Emmeline finally got the story straight.

Despite Emmeline setting them up, Benjamin did not seem attracted to Janie.

If that was not enough, Benjamin could not stand her either.

Emmeline was ridden with guilt.

“Don’t cry, Janie. Wait there. I’ll get on over to save you now.”

Janie responded between sniffles, “I knew you would come to my rescue. Hurry over before the work gets too much for me.”

“Sure. I’ll be there in twenty minutes.”

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Emmeline arrived at the plaza of the Adelmar building in less than a quarter.

She hopped off her bike and went into the lobby on the first floor.

Emmeline pulled out her phone to give Benjamin a call.

It did not take more than five minutes for Benjamin to walk out of his exclusive elevator.

“What brings you here, Emma?”

Paying him no mind, Emmeline made a beeline to the CEO’s elevator and pressed the button for the top floor.

Benjamin wanted to squeeze into the elevator, but the shaft had started moving up.

He had to take the elevator for employees.

Emmeline entered the leisure center on the rooftop.

As expected, Janie was scrubbing away in the pool, wearing a cleaner's uniform.

"Emma!" Janie got up from all fours at the sight of Emmeline.

She latched to Emmeline and wailed, "Not only did Benjamin yell at me, but he left me to do the dirty and tiring work. Tell me. What should I do?"

"I'll teach him a lesson! Is it worth the trouble over something so small?" Emmeline asked.

Janie wiped away her tears and

took Emmeline in the eye. Her eyes were sparkling.

"Emma, who on earth are you? You can teach Mr. Benjamin a lesson?"

"Hold you I sell coffee for a living and perform stunts on the side."

"That must be fake. I bet you're somebody! Take me as your number one fan, Emma!" Janie blurted.

"What are you saying? I'm just a distant cousin to Benjamin. There's nothing special about me. You should keep your career as one of Benjamin's managers," Emmeline replied.

"But I've been demoted to a cleaner. I didn't think it would be hard to get Mr. Benjamin." Janie looked sad.

"Are you going to continue your pursuit then?" Emmeline teased her.

"Vam! I will still go after him even if he makes me clean the toilets," Janie proclaimed.

"Great. You can start with the toilets." An indifferent voice came from behind.

The pair looked back and saw Benjamin standing against the light with folded arms and a chilling smile.

"Mr. Benjamin! Don't make me clean the toilets. I'd rather clean the swimming pool." Janie nearly dropped to her knees.

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should oblige since that's what you asked for." Benjamin scoffed.

"Save me, Emma!" Janie turned to Emmeline.

Emmeline drew near and grabbed Benjamin by the arm. "Come with me."

"Where to?"

"The CEO's office."

Janie watched as Emmeline took Benjamin away.

Once inside the office, Emmeline exercised her influence by taking a seat on the expensive leather swiveling chair.

"Thud." Her long legs sat on top of the huge desk.

Slouched against the sofa, Benjamin looked at her with a smile.

“Why are you smiling? How can you smile, Benjamin?” Emmeline put on a straight face.

“My dear lady, are you that desperate for me to get a girlfriend?” Rising to his feet, Benjamin approached Emmeline and put his hands against the desk before leaning forward to look at the woman.

“Yeah. Am I wrong to push you in the direction of marriage?” Emmeline responded.

“That’s right, but you aren’t married either. Why are you putting the pressure on me instead?” Benjamin snapped back.

“You... You’re older than me!” Emmeline answered.

“That’s not an excuse.”

“This is work. It’s a task. Anyway, you should hurry up and get yourself a girlfriend to get married to,” Emmeline uttered.

“Emma, I will complete the mission, but not now.” Benjamin’s voice was hoarse.

“When are you planning to do that?” Emmeline could read the deep agony in Benjamin’s eyes.

“I will complete the task of getting a girlfriend, getting married, and having children when I see you walk down the aisle.”

Emmeline was at a loss for words.

She got up, shying away from Benjamin’s gaze before

responding in a gruff voice, “We’ll talk about this some other time. First, you should relieve Janie of her punishment.”

“will.” Benjamin straightened his back from the desk.

Emmeline walked past him to get out of the office.

“Emma.”

Benjamin reached out to hold her, but Emmeline pushed him away.

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After seeing Emmeline off, Benjamin went to the swimming pool on the rooftop.

Janie was still scrubbing away.

Her snow-white face was covered in sweat.

With Benjamin approaching, Janie exclaimed in pleasant surprise, "Am I relieved of my duty, Mr. Benjamin?"

"We need to set ground rules. You will be free from your task if you can stick to the rules."

Benjamin got down and looked at Janie in the pool from above.

"What are the rules?"

Feeling restless, Janie looked up at the man on top of the pool.

"Number one, you aren't allowed to call me except for work-related matters."

Janje pursed her lips without saying a word.

"Number two, you can't deliver any more food to me. The last thing I want to hear is gossip."

Janie pressed her lips together, but the hurt was shown in her eyes.

"Number three, don't give me flowers. Don't you find it embarrassing for me as a man to receive flowers every day?"

"Mr. Benjamin, I can accept the rules apart from the first two,"

Raising her hand, Janie answered.

Benjamin was taken aback. So she was only agreeing to the last rule?

"That won't do." Benjamin denied her request for leniency.

"But I can't do the first two."

Janie teared up in grievance.

Was she wrong to love him?

"You can carry on with cleaning the swimming pool." Benjamin got up to leave.

"Mr. Benjamin, doesn't what Emma says count too?" Janie cried.

"I have canceled your toilet

cleaning duty. Isn't that enough?" Benjamin turned around and said.

Janie fell silent,

She watched as Benjamin's callous back disappeared out of her sight.

It seemed Emmeline did not have a say in the game of love either.

It was Saturday, so the kids had no school in the afternoon.

Julianna made a sudden trip to the café.

Armed with shopping bags, Julianne came bearing children's food and toys.

Emmeline put her guard following her presence.

"Emma, it's the weekend. I came to see the kids. Where are Sun, Moon, and Star?" Julianna put the things on the table and smiled brightly.

"They are upstairs. They have homework even in kindergarten, Emmeline courteously answered.

"I bought the kids some snacks and toys. I want to see if they will like them."

"I'll take the things up to them. later. Thank you, Julianna."

"Don't be a stranger. We're a family." Julianna grinned from ear to ear.

Emmeline scowled without a word.

Sam poured a cup of hot coffee and added milk before serving Julianna

"Emma, I wanted to say sorry on behalf of Adrien. He didn't think he would run into the ladies from the Imperial Palace the other night," Julianna said.

"That has nothing to do with me, but it has probably left a bad impression on the kids. Adrien is..." Emmeline faintly replied.

"Adrien and I think the same. What would the kids think of him?"

Furrowing her brows, Julianna

voiced her concern.

"It's better if he has less contact

with the kids. I worry about other potential issues," Emmeline uttered.

Julianna was quick to jump into Adrien's defense, "No, no, that won't happen. Those women are in his past. Adrien doesn't keep in touch with them anymore. Don't you know that Adrien... still couldn't perform despite being on medication for a while now."

Emmeline scoffed. "What if he becomes able? Wouldn't he go back to his old ways?"

"Um..."

Julianna dared not make

promises in her son's stead.

Her son was used to the life of a playboy.

"Emma, why don't you bring the kids down, so I can spend some time with them?" Julianna changed the topic.

She was not wrong to suggest that

Emmeline went quiet for a while before turning to Sam. "Tell the Sun, Moon, and Star to come down."

"Alright, Ms. Louise." Sam waddled up the stairs.

It did not take long before the three children went downstairs together.

However, they had grim looks on their faces.

It was apparent that they did not

welcome Julianna.

Julianna's expression lit up at the presence of the kids. She got up and said, "Oh, my. I finally see my precious grandchildren. I miss you so much!"

Not giving Julianna any attention, the three kids pulled a sour face.

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bought you something to eat and play with. Come and check the things out, and see if you fancy anything."

Julianna opened the shopping bags

Alas, neither of the kids gave her attention.

"Mommy, we have homework to do."

"Mommy, we're heading back upstairs."

"Mommy, I don't want to talk to this granny."

The three children took turns voicing their grievances.

Juliana's face fell.

"Emmeline, how do you raise the kids? How can they speak to me this way?"

Emmeline was lost for words. She did a pretty darn good job at raising the children if she could say so herself.

"Don't talk about our mommy like that!" Sun raised his eyebrow.

"You should ask yourself about Adrien's home education." Moon's round eyes could pop out of their socket.

"We feel embarrassed for you because of your son's disgraceful behavior." Star hit the nail on the head.

With the rage sucking the air out of her, Julianna became unsteady on her feet.

The three kids sure had a lot to



say.

Where did Star pick up the phrase “disgraceful behavior” from?

“I’m your grandmother, kids. How can you talk to me like that?”

“Kids, Juliana is a senior. How can you be rude to a senior? Apologize now.” Emmeline put on a stern look.

The three children pouted their lips, and their faces spoke of reluctance.

After dwelling on it for seconds, Sun broke the silence. “I’m sorry, Granny.”

Sorry, Granny.”

Once Sun took the lead, Moon ensued with an apology too.

Star could not keep up the act on his own.

“Granny, I’m sorry.”

The three kids apologized to Julianna dejectedly.

Juliana’s heart could melt.

She wanted nothing more than to fit the three adorable kids in her pocket.

Just then, the glass door of the café was pushed open, and in walked a middle-aged woman/

Everybody cocked their heads to

the new arrival.

Holy cow! It was Alondra.

Alondra carried shopping bags that were filled with food and toys.

The three children’s jaws dropped.

Here came Nana before they were done dealing with Granny.

It was one of those days when the boys felt the world was a

complicated place.

Alondra entered the café and spoke in a high-pitch voice, “Sun! Moon! Star! I’m here to see you.”

The three kids made long faces. Instead of saying a word, they backed down.

The despicable grandmother was worse than Julianna.

“What brings you here, Auntie Alondra?” Emmeline courteously said hello.

“Gee, Emma. I’m the kids’ nana. It’s the weekend, so I thought I should pop down for a visit.” Alondra was all smiles.

“That’s a first. I guess you must be here for something else.”

Emmeline scoffed.

Alondra answered with a smile, “Bingo. Mr. Benjamin said he would give the Louise family business a helping hand. I thought I should come by and give you a push, so he can make good on his promise.”

“A push? You should be asking that of Benjamin. I don’t work for Adelmarr.” Emmeline snorted.

“But you’re one of his people. It’s not like Mr. Benjamin is someone I can meet. I can only ask through you,” Alondra responded.

Julianna jolted to her feet.

“You can ask Ethan. He’s a senior executive of Adelmarr. His words weigh more than mine,” Emmeline replied.

“But Ethan... I can’t bring myself to ask him.” Alondra appeared to be in a fix.

“You should have thought about it before. Isn’t this the same situation when you drive me out of the house, Auntie Alondra?”

Emmeline asked.

“Emma, didn’t we agree to leave the past in the past? Let’s not talk about that,” Alondra licked her lips and took Emmeline’s hands before commenting.

Emmeline withdrew her arms and let out a faint smile. “I can’t help you.”

Alondra frowned. “Emma, what are you saying? You’re close to Benjamin. All you need to do is relay a simple request.”

## [Chapter 185](#)

Julianna jumped in before

Emmeline could say anything.

“What? You’re having an affair with Benjamin?”

Emmeline was shocked. What the bell?

Why must Julianna put an ugly label on her relationship?

It was only then Alondra took notice of Julianna behind one of the tables. She took a moment in a daze before saying hello. “Gee, Madam Julianna. You’re here too.”

“Am I not allowed here? I am the grandmother of the three kids, unlike some people who aren’t actually related by blood.” Pulling a long face, Julianna let out a scoff.

Alondra stiffened her facial

muscles before agreeing with Julianna, “... Of course, you’re their grandmother.”

Lifting her chin, Julianna asked, “Hmph! What did you say? What’s going on between Emmeline and Adelman’s Benjamin?”

“What do you mean what’s going on? Mr. Benjamin came with Emma to our home to have dinner.

Julianna was thrown for a loop.

It was quite a bombshell.

Julianna gave Emmeline a confused look.

“It explains why you don’t find Adrien good enough for you. So you hooked up Adelman’s Mr. Benjamin.”

“Watch your mouth, Julianna.” Emmeline was tempted to kick the old lady out

“Hook up? All Mr. Benjamin did was have dinner at the Louise household. What? Was it against the law?” Alondra was not having

“But Emmeline gave Adrien children. She should be with Adrien,” Julianna said.

“Who said so? Adrien can’t compare to Benjamin.”

“How is my son lesser than Benjamin!” Julianna was on the verge of jolting from her seat.

“One is the CEO of Adelman, and the other is a playboy. What do you think?”

Julianna was at a loss for words. She had no reason to be proud of her son/

Alondra replied, “Don’t put the blame on Emma then. People should always strive for greater heights, don’t you think?”

“Save it, Alondra,” Emmeline snapped.

“Am I wrong? Your dad and I are counting on Adelman,” Alondra answered.

Emmeline was dying to go full potty mouth for being pushed to the edge.

“Emma, your best man for you is Benjamin, not Adrien.”

“Alondra!” Julianna screamed while coming at Alondra.

“Enough! Get out before I start beating everyone!” With her finger pointing at the door, Emmeline shouted.

“Emma, you can’t turn your back on Adrien,” Julianna uttered.

“Get out!”

“Emma, pick Benjamin,” Alondra insisted.

“Get out!”

“Emma...”

“Mommy told you to get out!” Sun picked up a toy and threw it at them.

“I’ll call the cops if you don’t leave.” Moon shoved Julianna out.

“Leave, you evil Nana!” Star yanked Alondra.

Unable to take it anymore. Sam grabbed the broom and poked these ladies’ feet.

“Leave! Leave now before I hit you!”

Daisy came down from upstairs and pulled open the glass door before yelling, “Get the hell out of here!”

Intimidated, the two high-born women slipped away with their tails between their legs.

“Take your things!”

Emmeline took the shopping bags and tossed them all on the street.

“Wham!” Peace returned to the café once the door was closed.

The people inside the café were heaving with rage.

Even the three kids were panting heavily

Emmeline sat on the chair, unable to hide the flush across her face.

Daisy quickly gave her a shoulder massage while Sam made her a cup of coffee.

“Take it easy, Ms. Louise. Those people are not worth your time and emotions.”

With Julianna returning angrily to Meriwether Mansion, Adrien was more than eager to have a chat.

“How did it go, Mom? Are Emmeline and my sons still angry at me?”

Julianna gave her son a slap. “They are more than angry. It’s all your fault. Why did you fool around with so many women from the Imperial Palace?”

“You know I’m a free spirit way back then. I told you I’m a changed man now.”

“But Emmeline won’t believe you. Not only is she furious with you, but she’s now together with Adelmars Benjamin too.” Julianna

took a sip of tea.

“B-Benjamin? No way. Emmeline is not the type of girl.” Adrien was dumbstruck.

“That’s a joke. How did she have your babies if she’s not that type of girl?” Julianna scoffed.

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...Mom, the incident five years ago is a blur. Don’t blame Emmeline for it,” Adrien said.

“I want to let it go for the sake of my three grandsons, but she wants to take my grandsons to be with Benjamin, leaving me with nothing. It’s hard to not hold a grudge against her.”

Adrien was speechless as he knew that Benjamin was his formidable competitor.

To make matters worse, his playboy lifestyle made him seem like a lightweight compared to an accomplished CEO like Benjamin.

Adam walked to the sofa and sat down with his legs crossed.

“Adrien, is Emmeline the only one  
for you?”

“Duh! Emmeline is beautiful and charming. She gave me three children. Of course, I only want her,” Adrien said.

Julianna uttered, “Yeah. Look at you. You’re not getting any younger, but you haven’t gotten married or started a family to give your parents peace of mind. Emmeline has already given Adrien three children. It’s a shame not to bring her into the family.”

“That’s right. I shouldn’t give my woman and children to Benjamin or Abel!” Adrien exclaimed.

“Got it. In any case, no one else can have Emmeline,” Adam commented.

“Are you going to help me, Adam?” Adrien uttered with glee.

“I’ll try.” Adam rose to his feet and went upstairs.

The following day, Emmeline got a package from the courier company out of the blue.

The package was small and light. There did not seem to be anything inside when she pinched it between her fingers.

Still, Emmeline grabbed a pair of scissors to cut the package open.

After getting through the multiple protective layers, she finally saw a needle wrapped inside a napkin.

Emmeline narrowed her almond  
eyes.

It was her needle, the type she used as her secret weapon.

If she remembered correctly, she had used the needle once during her return to Struyria.

It was at the party Oscar organized for Star's recovery.

Emmeline had attacked the armed offender with the needle, giving Abel a chance to retaliate.

The question now was the identity of the person who kept the needle and delivered it to her.

While Emmeline was lost in her thoughts, her phone rang.

Emmeline picked up her phone for a look. It was an unfamiliar number.

The last three numbers were a triple nine though.

Emmeline had a feeling that the phone number had something to do with the needle.

She accepted the call.

"Hello?"

"Emmeline." A deep and raspy voice with a hint of a chilling undertone came on the call.

"Who is this?"

"Adam."

Adam?

Emmeline was caught in a moment as her head spun. Why did the man call her?

She had no business with the man, and neither did he with her.

"Adam, to what do I owe this call?" Emmeline probingly asked.

"Do you recognize the needle?"

Adam unhurriedly inquired in a cheery tone.

Emmeline fell silent.

"Here's the thing. A man named Waylon once stabbed me with the needle."

"Hiss," Emmeline gasped.

"I found the same thing a few days ago at the party in the Rykers' residence."

"And?" With her heart sinking,

Emmeline smirked at the phone.

"Do you want to know the answer? Have dinner with me, and I'll tell you the story, Emmeline." Adam smiled at the other end of the line.

“But Adam, what makes you think I’ll say yes?”

“I know you love stories. I know that I’ve intrigued you too,” Adam answered with a smile.

“Haha. Fine,” Emmeline matched his energy level with a grin.

“Should I pick you up?” Adam inquired.

“Okay. I’ll wait for you at the café,” Emmeline said.

“Get yourself dolled up,” Adam

added.

“But you look old standing next to me. We will look like a funny pair,” Emmeline taunted

“Hahahaha! You’re an interesting woman, Emmeline.” Adam burst out laughing.

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An hour later, Adam’s Hennessey Venom pulled up outside the café.

Through the glass door, Adam’s grimacing side profile could be seen in the semi-lowered seat.

He did not bring a chauffeur, assistant, or security detail with him.

“Ms. Louise, can you not go?”

Sam and Daisy were worried.

“Adrien is nothing. Adam is the mean one!”

Emmeline uttered, “I must go. He talked to Waylon, and he’s

suspicious about who I am. I don’t feel comfortable if I don’t put feelers out.

“Do you want to let Mr. Benjamin know? He can watch your back,” Sam said.

“Keep it from Benjamin for now. He makes a big deal out of things,” Emmeline replied.

“Mr. Benjamin is concerned about you.”

“In that case, tell Benjamin to buy a few online shops now to sell different kinds of needles on eBay, but don’t tell him why,” Emmeline told Sam.

“Alright, Ms. Louise.” Sam heeded the order.

“What about me? Don’t expect me to sit around, Ms. Louise,” Daisy commented.

“You’re a skilled fighter. You should follow me in the dark just to be on the safe side.”

“Roger that, Ms. Louise.” Daisy nodded her head.

Daisy had been feeling as if she was stuck in a rut with the daily housekeeping. A mission was all she needed to recharge.

“I got to go. Onto your positions.”

“Sure!”

Emmeline picked up her bag and opened the glass door to head outside.

“Please get in, Ms. Louise.”

Adam pressed the central control panel to raise the door to the back

”

seat.

Once Emmeline bent over to get inside, Hennessey Venom zipped away.

“What do you fancy having, Ms. Louise?”

With huge aviators, Adam was a swagger behind the wheel.

Emmeline looked ahead.

All she saw was one-third of his profile and his sleek mustache above his lips.

“I could do some comfort food. Let’s go to the Foodie’s Paradise. I don’t feel like having anything else,” Emmeline answered.

“Ha. You’d probably find your

appetite again after listening to the story.”

“We’ll see about that. I don’t know what story you plan to tell,” Emmeline remarked.

“No rush. You’ll hear about it in a

minute,” Adam said.

Adam went to the Foodie’s Paradise as Emmeline requested.

The Foodie’s Paradise was a street of local restaurants.

Both sides of the street were filled with restaurants, featuring

cuisines and gastronomy from all over the country.

The local culinary scene boasted regional specialties, making it a great place for tastebuds to explore.

Emmeline picked a restaurant known for their spices and walked right in.

Adam was dumbstruck as it did not occur to him that the delicate and tiny-framed woman would choose a colorful joint.

He thought the most exotic food to her was probably skewers.



The pair sat next to a window. Between them was a rectangular table.

The server came over to serve them.

“What are you having?”

“I want to see your menu.”

Adam was unsure what to have as it was his first time in the diner.

“Stuffed mushroom, please,” Emmeline put in her order.

Adam took the menu from the server and paused in motion following Emmeline’s order.

“I’ll also have the jerk bacon.”

Adam heard of the dish, but he had eaten or seen it before.

“I should inform you in advance that both dishes come in buckets,” The server said.

“Huh? Buckets?” Adam was stunned.

“I’m fine with that. I’ll also have two bottles of your locally brewed alcohol.”

“Coming right up.” The server scurried off.

Adam stared blankly at Emmeline.

The expression matched with the mustache looked hilarious on Adam.

“Can’t get used to eating by the bucket and drinking by the bottle, Adam?” Emmeline asked bluntly.

“No. That’s the best to eat and drink,” Adam replied.

“We’ll have a bucket and a bottle each. The first person down loses.”

“How big of a bottle are we talking about?” Adam had to be certain.

Imperial Palace served an exquisite list of the finest spirits and wines in the world. There was no locally brewed alcohol on his list.

“Two and a half liters of 60% pure alcohol.”

Adam had no words.

## [Chapter 188](#)

Adam believed he got himself into a losing battle.

It should not take more than a piece of cake to deal with this coy woman

To Adam, Emmeline was a foolish girl he could push over.

She would throw herself at him at the sound of his command.

Alas, this did not seem to be the  
case.

The server brought the spirits out first.

A label indicating that it was 64% pure alcohol was plastered across the two alcoholic beverages.

Adam could bet his money that

less than a handful of Imperial Palace's customers had ever seen alcohol of this kind.

Emmeline picked up a bottle and popped the cork.

A thick, refreshing aroma  
enveloped them.

"This is the stuff!" Emmeline  
gasped in glee.

Taking after Emmeline, Adam  
popped the cork.

The scent of 60% alcohol filled his nostrils.

"Achoo!" Adam sneezed.

He took a closer look at the bottle, tempting to call on Emmeline's bluff.

It was 2.5 liters of strong liquor. How could she beat him?

He was a man!

Adam was all man while the alcohol was only 60%.

It had been a while since he had strong liquor though.

You're going down, Emmeline!

The servers brought the food to the table.

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It was one bucket of hot piping stuffed mushrooms and another bucket of greasy jerk bacon.

Adam lost his appetite just by  
looking at the food.

"Adam, we should have a drink in

a show of respect." Emmeline grabbed the bottle.

Adam took his bottle too.

Without another word, Emmeline threw her head back and downed big gulps.

"Bam!" With the bottom of the bottle slamming on the table, Emmeline wiped her mouth across her sleeve.

Adam was taken by surprise

How was he supposed to drink it?

Adam gave it a thought before downing two large mouthfuls.

It was some strong liquor. That  
was for sure.

Adam grimaced at the bitterness.

"Let's eat." Emmeline showed Adam a spoonful of greasy bacon.

Adam took a gulp and waved his arms. "I don't like that."

"Didn't you order it? Why did you order it then?" Emmeline responded.

"I'll have the salad instead." Adam picked the vegetable trimmings instead.

"I'll eat it if you won't." Emmeline opened wide to gobble down the bacon.

Truth be told, Adam was intimidated by Emmeline's magnanimity.

The young woman looked delicate, but the way she carried herself was a stark difference from the impression she gave off. She acted like a boss.

Adam believed defeat was a very possible outlook for him today.

"Um... the food and drinks can wait. I'll start with a story," Adam uttered.

"Oh, right. I'm here to listen to a story. Where are my manners?"

"The needle you received... Do you want to know who you got it from?" Adam narrowed his eyes.

"Didn't you tell me, Adam? You said it was Waylon's," Emmeline answered.

"That's right. It belongs to Waylon."

Tilting her head, Emmeline furrowed her brows. "But out of so many characters in Games of Thrones, why Hallyne?"

Adam was thrown off by

Emmeline going off-topic.

“Does Hallyne mean something to you?”

“Emmeline, I’m talking about

Waylon, Robert’s son, and not Hallyne!”

“But Hallyne’s dad isn’t Robert. Did you get it wrong?”

Adam had no words.

“I don’t remember who Hallyne’s

dad is. I’ll read the series again and let you know.”

Adam was at a loss for words. There was no way he could outtalk the woman.

“But I noticed you were using the same needle at the party. Tell me. Where did you get your needle? What’s your relationship with Waylon?” Adam proceeded with the questioning.

“First of all, I’m not Catelyn Stark. Secondly, you can get the needle on eBay. I don’t know what’s so special about needles. No need to be dramatic. The needles cost 9.99 dollars, and you get 10 free for every bundle of 100 needles. I can get the needles for you if you like.” Emmeline scooped a stuffed mushroom to munch on.

#### [Chapter 189](#)

Adam was lost for words. Did Emmeline say eBay?

“Did you say eBay?”

“Yeah, that’s right.”

Adam mumbled to himself. Was the exact same needle sold on eBay?

For someone his age, Adam had never downloaded the app either.

“I’ll show you the app. If you like the needle, I can place an order for you.”

Emmeline grabbed a napkin to wipe her hands before clicking on a link Sam sent her.

The link brought her to an online shop, displaying needles of different sizes and materials.

Among them was the steel needle Adam had couriered to her.

“Adam, do you see anything you like? I add the product to the shopping cart and get the stuff all at once later.” Emmeline showed the products to Adam.

“Never mind!” Adam grew frustrated.

Nothing went according to plan.

In fact, the situation now blew his mind.

It was completely different from what he had expected. The difference was like night and day.

“Adam, are you finished with your story?”

With sparkling eyes, Emmeline said, “I would suggest you do your homework on Game of Thrones before you retell the story to me.”

Adam vexedly replied, “No more stories from me. Drink!”

He intended to scare Emmeline before forcing her to get together with Adrien. Now, he was no longer in the mood to carry on with the plan.

Adam started the story, bearing no substance anyway.

How was he supposed to ask something of her if his words carried no weight?

Who cared?

“Let’s drink!” Emmeline grabbed the bottle and chugged it.

Adam stared at his bottle and held it to take another two sips.

“Adam, don’t worry about drunk drinking. You can call a designated driver to take us back,” Emmeline uttered.

“I have a chauffeur.”

“That’s it. Just drink all you want!”

Adam said, “It’s hard to tell that you can be so barbaric when it comes to eating and drinking.”

“I was left homeless after I was kicked out of the house. I’m grateful to have something to eat and drink. Beggars can’t be choosers,” Emmeline responded with a smile.

The Louise family drove her out of the house five years ago, and Emmeline had been roaming the street until she met Master Robert.

Adam furrowed his brows.

The delicate and fragile woman had a sad past too.

“Come on, Adam.” Emmeline

raised her bottle.

Adam took her bottle by force. "Forget it. I admit defeat. You can't drink like this. It's bad for your health."

Emmeline squinted and chuckled.

On the other table, Daisy,  
disguised as a customer, broke into a smile.

Adam had lost the round today.

A woman walked by outside the window.

It was Alondra.

She just had dinner with two wives of foremen when she caught a glimpse of Emmeline in the window of a restaurant.

At first, Alondra thought she was seeing things, but at a closer look, she realized it was indeed Emmeline.

Only, who was the man sitting  
across from Emmeline?

Judging by his sleek mustache, he  
must be someone in high places.

There was an aloofness hidden  
within his air of nobility. Alondra could bet her money that he was a Mr. Tough Guy.

Alondra gasped and pulled out her phone to snap a photo of them having dinner together.

Emmeline and Adam finished half  
their bottles of liquor.

The pair were drunk.

Adam called his chauffeur to drive Emmeline back to the café.

Benjamin was on his phone in the living room on the second floor.

Emmeline entered her home with a flushed face, reeking of alcohol.

Benjamin jolted to his feet and pulled her to the sofa./

"Why did you drink a lot, young lady?"

"I didn't drink much. I had just a little over a liter... burp... 64%." Emmeline grinned.

Benjamin angrily replied, "Over a liter of 64% alcohol. What were you thinking? I would've dragged you home if Daisy wasn't with you."

"Hehehe... Adam won't admit defeat if I didn't go all out,"

Emmeline answered with a smile.

"Is today related to Adelmars needle?"

### [Chapter 190](#)

Nodding her head, Emmeline uttered, "Yeah, Adam recognized my needle.

"What does he want?" Benjamin was worried.

The Adelmars hoped to steer clear of another conflict with the Rykers. It would only spell trouble if Emmeline's cover was blown.

"He has his suspicions, but I managed to confuse Adam. I doubt he can separate the truth from the lies now."

"Adam is a cunning man. You can fool him for now, but you know you can deceive him forever."

Slouching against the sofa, Emmeline squinted her eyes to focus through the blur of the drunken haze. "Relax. He may be cunning, but I have intellect and strength on my side."

Benjamin shook his head and went downstairs to talk to Daisy.

"Give Ms. Louise something to sober up with. She's rambling on like a drunkard."

Daisy chuckled. "Mr. Benjamin, you should've seen the way Ms. Louise had Adam fooled. It was awesome!"

With a frown, Benjamin uttered, "Don't underestimate him. Adam is a ruthless man. You can fool him once, but you must update me with anything related to Ms. Louise. Don't let her take risks. Just because she's mischievous doesn't mean you should keep up

with her antics too."

"Got it, Mr. Benjamin." The fear started to creep into Daisy.

Adam was not one to be messed with What if something were to happen to Emmeline? They would regret not taking better precautions.

Daisy went into the kitchen to make something for Emmeline to sober up.

Benjamin returned upstairs. Emmeline curled up into a ball on the sofa and fell asleep.

Her face was painted red as she reeked of alcohol.

Benjamin carried Emmeline into the bedroom and pulled the covers over her.

Just as he was about to get up, Emmeline wrapped her arms around his neck.

Benjamin's heart skipped a beat.

Emmeline murmured under her breath, "Don't go, Abel..."

With dejection plastered across his face, Benjamin gently put down her arms and tucked her into bed.

"Emma, when will you have such feelings for me too?"

Benjamin went downstairs and

instructed Sam to check on

Emmeline.

He then opened the glass door to

leave.

Once out the door, Benjamin saw the slender back of a girl sitting on the steps. Her hair was let down and moving along the wind.

Why was the woman sitting there at this hour?

While feeling baffled, Benjamin suddenly recognized the girl to be Janie.

Picking up on the noise behind her, Janie turned around and saw Benjamin. She jumped to her feet.

"What are you doing here, Janie?" Benjamin sounded displeased.

Janie looked flustered. "Mr. Benjamin, I... I came to see Emmeline and noticed your car in the parking lot. I was debating whether to go inside."

"Then don't. Emmeline had a bit to drink, so she went to bed," With a sour look, Benjamin answered.

"Is that so?" Janie was disappointed.

She was frustrated with the rules Benjamin had set, so she came by to go some ideas from Emmeline.

Unluckily for her, Emmeline was wasted, and Janie somehow arrived when Benjamin was present too.

"Mr. Benjamin, what's your relationship with Emma? I can't figure out what's the situation between you two," Janie shyly tugged on Benjamin's shirt before

asking in a low voice.

Benjamin shook her arm off and annoyedly replied, "Don't pry your nose into things that have nothing to do with you. It's basic etiquette to keep your mouth shut."

Janie stuck her tongue out. "I got it. I'm relieved that you're not lovers. That's all."



Not wanting to give her the time of the day, Benjamin crossed the road to get to the parking lot.

“Ouch!” Janie suddenly cried in pain in the back.

Benjamin stopped in his tracks and looked back. Janie held her ankle as she kneels under the steps.

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“What happened?” Benjamin made his way back.

“Mr. Benjamin, I wanted to chase after you, but I missed a step and sprained my ankle.” Janie looked at him with tearful eyes.

“Are you for real?” Benjamin believed Janie was bluffing him.

“It’s true. Cross my heart and hope to die.” Looking hurtful, Janie was on the verge of tears.

“Let me see. You’re such a troublesome kid.” Benjamin got down on one knee and rolled up the leg of Janie’s jeans.

Her ankle was swollen like a balloon.

Benjamin frowned, not expecting

“Can you help me to the end, Mr. Benjamin? You might as well.”

“Are you expecting me to drive you home or the hospital?”

Janie looked shrewd as ideas kept popping into her head. “Home.”

“I won’t fall for your trick. I’m taking you to the hospital. You can get a ride home from there.”

Benjamin scoffed.

Janie pouted her lips.

Still, she was quickly back to her perky self. She uttered with a sweet smile, “Thank you for tonight, Mr. Benjamin. In any case, I feel lucky tonight.”

Benjamin let out a scoff. “You wouldn’t sprain your ankle if you her to be badly injured.

He lifted her up.

Janie put her arms around the nape of his neck as she happily nestled in his arms.

“You look excited. So it doesn’t hurt, huh? Why don’t I dump your here?” Benjamin appeared stern