

Are Mine 251

[Chapter 252](#)

“That’s right. Did something happen to her?” Sam asked in an anxious voice.

Before Benjamin and Abel were able to offer an answer, the children started asking questions as well.

“What happened to Mommy? Where is she? We want Mommy back!”

“It’s alright.” Abel patted gently on Sun’s and Star’s backs to calm them down. “Mommy will be alright. I’ll find a way to save Mommy.”

“That’s right.” Benjamin said, “I promise that I’ll bring your mommy back to you guys. The three of you should calm down first.”

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“Does that mean Mommy is missing?!”

“Mommy!”

The three children broke down and

began to wail miserably.

“I want Mommy!”

“She might be in danger!”

“Where are you, Mommy...”

“What’s happened to Ms. Louise?” Sam was feeling increasingly worried.

“Yeah. The two of you should put the matter about the children

aside for now and focus on saving Ms. Louise!” Daisy said.

“Emma should be safe for the

time being.” Abel had a stony look in his eyes. “The culprit has taken her away with another purpose in mind.”

Benjamin explained, “Still, we should move the kids to

somewhere safe for the sake of their safety.”

Daisy asked, “Do you know where she is then?”

Sam said fervently, “We’ll go there and try to bring her out safely!”

“We don’t know where she is at the moment. All of you need to be a little patient. That person would probably contact me and Mr. Benjamin soon,” Abel replied.

“Emma is probably not their target.” Benjamin knitted his

brows. “That person’s targets were most likely me and Mr Abel.”

Sam and Daisy were flummoxed by the sudden turn of events.

“To be safe, we should move the Sun, Moon, and Star to somewhere with maximum security.” Abel said, “Let’s head to the Precipice now.”

“No. We should go to Glenbrook,” Benjamin retorted.

“The Precipice!”

“Glenbrook!”

“That’s enough.” Daisy stopped them from arguing over the matter again. “If this were done by someone who’s trying to bring the two of you down, could you perhaps make a guess about who they might be?”

Abel responded, “I don’t think any of our business competitors would try to go up against the Ryker Group and the Adelmor Group at the same time.”

“That means this is probably related to personal vengeance.” Benjamin surmised, “Could it be Adrien’s doing?”

“That guy?” Abel scoffed, “He probably wants to do something like this all along, yet he doesn’t have the nerve to do it.”

“Who else could it be?”

“That reminds me.” Abel replied, “Adrien might not have the nerve to do it, but Adam would.”

“Are you saying that Adam is doing this for Adrien?”

“This is just speculation on my part. However, if Emma has fallen into his hands...”

Benjamin’s face hardened at that instant. “That’s bad news for us since Adam is a dangerous and secretive man.”

“Mhm.” Abel said, “He’s smart, cunning, and cruel. It’s also very difficult to predict what he might do since he doesn’t stick to the conventional ways of doing things.”

On the other hand, those three children had a rough

understanding of what happened to Emmeline after hearing the conversation between the adults.

They had stopped crying at that point.

Sun started, "We'll be good and listen to the adults. Daddy and Uncle Benjamin, you need to hurry and save Mommy."

Moon said, "Then, we should hide somewhere safe so that Daddy and Uncle Benjamin wouldn't have to worry about our safety."

"Let's go to the Precipice then." Star concluded, "We know the place well. Also, Daddy is good at cooking!"

Sun and Moon nodded in agreement.

Benjamin remained silent upon hearing Star's final remarks.

+know how to cook too, but I only know how to cook noodles...

"We should head to the Precipice then." Abel looked at Benjamin. "If you still feel worried, you can station some of your bodyguards at my mansion."

[Chapter 253](#)

"Alright." Benjamin nodded. "We'll use your place, and I'll station my men there to guard and protect the kids."

Abel turned his eyes to Daisy next. "You should come with us too so that you could look after the kids."

"Of course! Then, I'll pack our stuff first," Daisy answered at once.

An hour later, those three kids and the adults arrived at Abel's mansion, the Precipice. Benjamin also had six of his best bodyguards come to the mansion and work with Abel's bodyguards to maximize the security in that place.

While Daisy was helping the kids unpack and settle down in their rooms, Abel and Benjamin were having a discussion about their next step.

Abel said, "I'll try meeting with Adam and see what he has to say about Emmeline's disappearance."

"I come with you," Benjamin replied.

"What if Adam decides to

overpower and capture both of us when we're there?" Abel narrowed his eyes and gave Benjamin a sidelong glance.

Benjamin thought about it for a bit.

He's right. If something bad were to happen to him during their meeting, I'd still be able to offer him help if I stayed behind. It'd be the end of us if we're both caught.

I'll wait for the news from you, then." Benjamin nodded eventually.

A few moments later, Abel and Luca left the Precipice in the Rolls- Royce. Abel turned on his phone and dialed Adam's number.

After a long while, Adam finally picked up. Abel could hear his deep voice over the line.

"Abel."

"Adam." Abel asked

straightforwardly, "Did you abduct Emmeline?"

There was a brief pause as Adam timed his reaction. Then, he acted as if he had gotten the shock of his life. "Have you lost your mind? Why would I abduct Emmeline? I

don't even know the lady that well."

"I'm not so sure about that." Abel replied in a monotonous voice, "Where are you now, Adam? Let's meet and talk face-to-face."

There was another pause as Adam lit up a cigar and drew on it.

"Come to the Avalan, then. We might as well use the opportunity to have a chat and catch up."

"Head to the Avalan." After ending the call, Abel instructed the driver.

The Avalan Mansion was one of Adam's properties that was built at the foot of a mountain.

The scenery along the way to Adam's mansion was lush and

green. However, Abel was in no mood to appreciate the view. He was worried about Emmeline.

If Adam really had something to do with Emmeline's disappearance, what could possibly be the reason for him to do this?

He couldn't possibly have done it just because he wanted to help Adrien...

Is he trying to cause some sort of damage to the Ryker Group and the Adelman Group, then?

On the other hand, Adam phoned Adrien after speaking with Abel.

"Adam!" Adrien greeted in a delighted voice, "I just finished

work and left the studio. Don't you think I'm really hardworking?"

"Mhm. I see some improvement." Adam's eyes narrowed. "However, shouldn't you let Emmeline know about this instead?"

"I've thought about that too!"

"You shouldn't just think about it." Adam went on, "It's almost dinnertime. You should head over to the cafe and treat her to dinner."

"Uh..." The thought of meeting with Emmeline made Adrien shudder a little since the lady would randomly throw a few punches at him if she were in a foul mood.

“Just go! I’ll be waiting for your good news!” Adam said sternly and hung up the next instant.

Adrien will listen to me and head over to the cafe. Once he gets

there, he’ll find out from the people there that Emmeline is missing.

He would most likely rush here to see me afterward in a completely devastated condition. Abel would already be here by that time, and it would appear to him that the two of us had no idea Emmeline had gone missing!

I also didn’t tell Adrien that I had been keeping Emmeline in confinement so that his reactions would seem genuine.

Twenty minutes later, a Rolls- Royce arrived at the Avalan. Since the guards were informed of Abel’s visit, their vehicle was allowed to enter the area fairly quickly.

After Abel had exited the car, he

brought Luca and two bodyguards with him and made his way to the mansion’s living room.

Adam was seated comfortably on a sofa while sipping on a glass of wine. Abel and his men walked toward Adam and stopped just a few steps away from him. A cold, threatening aura emanated from Abel as he fixed Adam with a stony gaze.

[Chapter 254](#)

“Tsk tsk!” Adam stroked his mustache. “What’s with the grouchy look on your face? You’re here to see your brother, right? It’s not like you’re here to pick a fight.”

“I don’t have the time for useless chatters, Adam.” Abel had a frigid expression on his face. “I just want to know if you’ve taken Emmeline away?”

“Abel.” Adam narrowed his eyes. “Why would you think that I’d do something like that? Would+ waste my time trying to bully a woman?”

“It might seem like that.” Abel gave a scoff. “However, you’re actually doing this to get back at me. I just don’t quite understand why Benjamin York from the Adelmarr Group is also being targeted in this.”

Hmph! It’s because he’s trying to woo Emmeline too!

Why did he have to fall in love with Emmeline too? There are so many beautiful women out there, yet he chooses to go after her as well. It’s entirely his fault for getting involved with her!

“I have nothing to do with it, so I’m afraid I can’t offer you the answers to your questions.” Adam slowly took a sip of wine.

“Hah!” Abel snickered, “Still, I can’t think of anyone else other than you who’s capable of doing something like this.”

“You flatter me, Abel.” Adam let out a hearty laugh. “You have

control over the Ryker Group now whereas I am enjoying my early retirement life. Don't come and bother me with some weird nonsense.

"Is that right?" Abel focused his gaze on Adam.

As expected of the cunning, old fox! I've been watching him this whole time, and he seems genuinely unaware of Emmeline's disappearance.

Suddenly, a voice rang from behind Abel, "Adam, I need your help!"

Abel turned slightly and saw

Adrien running into the room

frantically.

Adam raised his brows slightly.

He came just in time!

However, he yelled at Adrien in a displeased voice the next instant, "What is it this time? Why are you shouting helplessly like a coward?"

"I went to the cafe to see Emma, but the staff there told me that she was abducted!" Adrien replied in an anxious, rushed tone.

"I just got the news myself." Adam said, "See. Abel is here to ask if I've taken her away."

Adrien finally noticed that Abel

was in the room too.

"Abel?" Adrien hurriedly went up to him. "What's happened to Emmeline?"

"I'm looking for her too." Abel said, "That's why I've come to see Adam."

"Adam!" Adrien threw himself at Adam. "You must help me look for Emmeline! You know a lot more people than I do!"

"I had planned to do that initially, but someone had suspected

"No, Adam! You can't!" Adrien cried out miserably, "You can't just decide to do that because of Abel. You need to help me find Emma! Otherwise, my children might lose their mom forever!"

"Hmm..." Adam knitted his brows and nodded in agreement.

"You're right. She's the mother to your children, after all. I can't just stay here and do nothing about it."

Abel had a small frown on his forehead upon hearing Adam's words.

Was he truly not aware of what had happened to Emmeline?

Still, the Adam I know is a cunning and calculative man. He's probably planned all this out to show me this act. It's very likely he's used Adrien to achieve his purpose.

An unfeeling smile played across Abel's lips.

"Abel." Adam began, "Do you want to work with me in locating Emmeline? Or do you prefer to work alone?"

prefer working alone."

"Alright then. I wish you the best of luck."

"Mhm." Abel continued in an emotionless voice, "Don't worry, Adam. Once I've confirmed who the culprit is, I'll make sure to use every means necessary to crush that person and make them pay for this."

Adam remained silent as he stared at Abel with an

indecipherable expression on his

face.

Abel returned to the Precipice

soon afterward. Benjamin went to see him as soon as he heard

about Abel's return.

"How did it go? Was it Adam who

had abducted Emma?" Benjamin asked.

"I can't tell for sure." Abel's face creased into a frown. "However, I couldn't think of anyone else who would do something like this other than him."

"I've tried to track the location of Emma's phone, and the system still indicates that it is located somewhere within the Swan Lake area." Benjamin asked, "I guess the only thing we can do now is wait?"

"We'll be on standby and wait for now." Abel replied, "The most important thing for us is to make sure that those people don't try to hurt Emma."

"D*mn it!" Benjamin clenched his

fists tightly. "I'm going to tear that b*stard to bits the minute I find out who he is!"

[Chapter 255](#)

Sun, Moon, and Star came down

the stairs in a hurry.

"Do you have news about Mommy?"

"We're very worried about her."

"I miss her. She's not in danger, right?"

The children looked at Abel with

Abel stretched out his arms and held all three of them in a gentle embrace.

He said in a soothing voice, "Don't worry. I'll definitely find Mommy.

I'm sure she'll come back to you guys safely soon.

Those three children clung to Abel and snuggled close to him.

At the sight of them hugging each other and the kids depending on Abel, Benjamin felt a deep connection between the four of

I really think that Abel seems a lot more like the real father of Emmeline's children.

As for Adrien... Perhaps Emmeline made a mistake about that?

Though Emmeline has told me that the Ryker family has gotten the paternity test done and proven Adrien to be the father previously.

Sigh... It makes me depressed just by thinking about it. Why does it have to be that frivolous playboy?

If Abel had turned out to be the father to Emmeline's children, I would be willing to keep my distance from Emmeline and give their relationship my blessings.

I would watch over their family from the side and wish for nothing but their happiness.

It would be enough for me to know that she would live a happy, loving life with her family.

At dinnertime, both Abel and Benjamin could not find any appetite to eat. Those two that Daisy had prepared. Even though they looked calm on

the outside, both of them were immensely worried about Emmeline.

Inside room no. 9 of the living quarters reserved for the Canaries.

"Miss." The maid said respectfully, "It's time for the milk bath. Please take off your clothes."

Emmeline simply blinked without saying anything.

She was currently known as Canary No. 9, and the owner of the Imperial Palace was prepping her as one of their products to sell her off.

If I can't make it out of this place before the auction happens, I'll end up becoming a random rich guy's

I've thought about it, and it's really not an easy task to escape this place in my current condition. I have basically zero strength in my body under the influence of the Vampire Dust. How do I even try to move out of this bed?!

"Miss, the masseuse is already waiting for you in the bathroom." The maid tried to remind

Emmeline again.

"I know. I know." Emmeline tried to flip to her side. "I'm going now."

"We should hurry, then." The maid said, "Our master might get angry and scold us for being slow when he comes back."

The man with the mask will be
back soon?

The thought sent chills down Emmeline's spine.

I don't even want to spend another minute talking to that creepy guy.

"Lock the doors." Emmeline hurriedly said, "If he's here, tell him that I refuse to see him."

"Do you think that you can defy our master's orders?" The maid flashed her a mocking smile.

"I might not have any way of fighting him physically now, but I could choose to end my life and ruin whatever plans he had by capturing me!"

The maid tried to reason with Emmeline. "Miss, why would you

choose to do that when our master had chosen you out of the nineteen Canaries we have at the moment?"

"Besides, it's way better to stay by our master's side than be sold to a random stranger. See. None of the previous Canaries were able to become the wives of those rich

...they were really used as men's playthings. Or they were bought and offered to someone else as gifts."

Emmeline's heart sank as she listened to the maid's words.

I can imagine the sad and tragic fates of the Canaries that were sold from the Imperial Palace, of

However, I will not bend and give in to that man's wishes for as long as I am still breathing!

I will find a way to escape here, and I won't give up, no matter what!

"You won't be able to understand the situation I'm in anyway. Let's hurry with the bath. I want to get it over with and rest," Emmeline grumbled.

In the bathroom, the masseuse had prepared the milk bath. The maid helped Emmeline take off her clothes and supported her as she stepped into the bathtub.

Then, Emmeline immersed her body in the milky white bathwater that was adjusted to the right temperature, leaving only her head above the water.

[Chapter 256](#)

Fifteen minutes later, the maid helped Emmeline out of the bathtub. Then, Emmeline was asked to lie down on a massage table.

The thin, petite masseuse began massaging Emmeline's body, starting from her neck all the way down to her feet. After the massage session was done, Emmeline took a quick wash. Then, the masseuse applied some lotion and essential oils to her skin and rubbed it all over her body.

The entire process took more than two hours to be completed.

Emmeline had almost dozed off by the end of the session. When she opened her eyes and saw the condition of her skin, she was

shocked by how smooth and supple it had become.

My skin feels absolutely amazing right now! Wouldn't the ladies go crazy if they knew that there were such methods to achieve such soft, velvety skin?!

"We're using a secret method that was practiced by the Natryan royalties." The masseuse noticed the look of bewilderment in Emmeline's eyes.

"What's your name?" Emmeline's eyes shone with excitement and curiosity as she looked at the masseuse. "Do you work here?"

"You can call me Summer." Summer Rowen introduced herself, "I applied for a job here since they were offering their

employees very high pay."

"Don't you feel scared working at a place like this? It's as if the palace lord is the demon himself! You'd never know what might happen next working for a man like him!" Emmeline said.

"I'd be lying if I said that I wasn't scared. Just look at what happened to Mr. Linden.

Unfortunately, once a person gets accepted for a position here, the person won't get to leave this place of their own free will. They'd have to work here until they were deemed useless," Summer explained.

"Do you know the palace lord's name?" Emmeline asked, "Why does he wear a mask all the time?"

don't know his name. I don't even dare to look him in the eye. I'm just trying to do my job and make as much money as possible so that I can send money to my family back home."

Emmeline fell silent as Summer mentioned her family. She could feel tears coming to her eyes.

Sun, Moon, and Star must have been scared and worried when they found out that I was missing. They probably cried a lot.

Did Daisy and Sam inform Benjamin about my

disappearance? I hope Benjamin

won't tell Master Robert about this. Master would definitely ask Waylon to come and look for me.

That would be one of the worst-

ease scenarios ever! I wouldn't get to enjoy my freedom as much as I did before... I hope Benjamin will keep quiet about this.

What about Abel? Would he try to look for me if he were to learn about my disappearance?

Hah... I even find myself missing you a little, Abel.

Sigh... I should stop thinking about all that. I'm counting on Daisy and the others to look after my children. I should focus on finding a way to get out of here!

I can make the antidote to counteract the effects of the

Vampire Dust. However, all of my herbs and ingredients are stored in the lab back at the cafe.

This lady, Summer, might be my only chance to get access to the ingredients I need.

"Summer." Emmeline began, "Since you need to prepare for the milk bath and the massage session, do you happen to have access to ingredients like herbs and spices?"

"Why are you asking about that, Miss?" Summer was giving Emmeline a manicure.

Emmeline explained, "Well, I'm about to have my period. Usually, I would make a home remedy that could help relieve menstrual cramps by using several herbal ingredients."

"I see." Summer shook her head. "I don't think I have what you need since the ingredients I use are mostly inedible."

"You can tell the person in charge of purchasing that you've changed some of the ingredients for the milk bath. I'll write down what I need, and you can tell them to get those instead."

Summer paused briefly. Then, she said, "I think that might work. I'll try and get the ingredients for you then."

"Thank you!" Emmeline grinned widely at Summer.

After they were finally done with everything, Summer helped

Emmeline put on a new

nightgown. Then, they came out of the bathroom.

Emmeline asked for a piece of paper and a pen. Then, she wrote down several ingredients and handed the paper to Summer.

"I just need these. Thank you so much again!"

As Summer was putting the folded paper away, someone knocked on the door.

The voice of the man with a mask came from behind the door.

"Emmeline, open the door!"

[Chapter 257](#)

Emmeline flinched slightly and clutched at the hem of her nightgown upon hearing that voice.

“Miss, I think the palace lord is back, Summer said in a low, shaky voice.

“What should I do?” Emmeline

seemed a little frightened as well.

“Well, you should open the door,” Summer replied.

“I can’t do that!” Emmeline shouted in the direction of the door next, “I don’t want to see you! I’m tired! I’m going to sleep now!”

“You don’t have a say in that! You’re just one of the many products that belong to the Imperial Palace!” Adam retorted

scornfully.

Emmeline shouted back at him, “Don’t try to push me! Otherwise,

LA

I’ll find ways to end my life right now!”

“Don’t you dare do that!” Adam threatened, “If you try to kill yourself, I’ll abduct all three of your sons next!”

Emmeline froze upon hearing the man’s words.

He already knows that I have three kids!

How did he find out about this in such a short amount of time?!

“Who are you?” Emmeline raged, “What have I ever done to you to deserve all this?!”

Adam laughed cynically. “Let’s just say that luck hasn’t been on your side since you’ve run into me.”

Emmeline stomped toward the door and yanked it open. Her eyes were burning with rage as she fixed a murderous glare at the

man.

“That’s more like it!” Adam

reached out to caress Emmeline’s cheek, but the lady took a step back and avoided his touch.

“Hahaha!” Adam laughed. Then, he clapped his hands twice.

Another maid came running down the corridor to his side. “What can I do for you, Sir?”

“Bring some food and drinks to this room. I was so busy talking to those two brats that I forgot to have dinner earlier.” Adam gave the maid an instruction.

“Understood.” The maid hurried away to pass on the message.

For a brief moment, Adam stood there as he slowly observed Emmeline's face. She was glowing with so much beauty and radiance. The thought of Abel having someone like Emmeline by his side filled Adam with great indignation.

Abel has control over the Ryker Group. Isn't it unfair if he also gets to keep such a ravishing beauty by his side?

He has almost everything he wants whereas I have to watch him bask in his glory?!

No! No! No!

I don't even plan on giving Emmeline to Adrien anymore. If I could ensure the success of the Canary Project this time, I'd be able to give Abel a critical hit. After that, I'm planning to make Emmeline mine.

As for those three kids, I'll just have to make them vanish from the face of the earth. They are not my children, after all.

Adrien, that useless coward, should just stay out of this and watch how we play this game from the sidelines.

A short while later, the maid returned with several dishes and a bottle of wine on a serving cart. Emmeline narrowed her eyes as

she spotted some toothpicks stored in a container.

Though toothpicks are not as sturdy as steel needles, I can still use them to protect myself when the situation calls for them.

Emmeline went up to the cart and pretended to help the maid set up the table. Then, she stealthily took a few toothpicks and held them firmly in her hand.

Soon, Adam invited Emmeline to take a seat at the dining table. Then, he offered her some wine.

"I enjoy drinking wine a lot. You should have some too."

Emmeline picked up the wineglass

and took a sip.

+have no interest in keeping this scary man company as he enjoys his wine. I just want to make him leave as soon as possible.

"We have a variety of exotic, rare liquor stored in our cellar." Adam suggested, "If you're interested to see them, I can bring you there and show you around."

"I'm not interested," Emmeline replied expressionlessly.

Adam had a faint smile on his face. "I guess we're different in that sense. I'm interested in the various types of delicious liquor. Also, I'm intrigued by beautiful, feisty women.'

Adam lifted his hand and reached for Emmeline's face again.

Emmeline quickly pushed his hand away. However, there was very little strength in her hand as the effects of the Vampire Dust had yet to wear off. She hardly moved Adam's hand despite her efforts.

"Hahaha!" Adam gave a laugh and grabbed Emmeline's wrist. Then, he planted a kiss on the back of her hand.

Emmeline took a piece of tissue and began rubbing it on the spot to wipe it clean.

[Chapter 258](#)

Adam let out a contemptuous laugh. Then, he said, "Like it even when you do that!"

Soon afterward, Adam finished his dinner. He seemed a little tipsy after having a few drinks. Then, he signaled to the maid to leave the room.

Emmeline grew increasingly uneasy as the two of them were left in the room. She subconsciously tightened her grip over those toothpicks.

Adam noticed how Emmeline's face had turned pale. He grinned. "I don't like forcing myself on the ladies. I'd prefer it if you looked less wary of me."

"Perhaps you should leave then, Palace Lord." Emmeline replied,

"I'm sure there are even more beautiful and attractive ladies out there that are willing to serve you. Why bother wasting your time on a nobody like me?"

"You're definitely not that. You're way better than all the ladies out there," Adam said.

... How do I get this man to leave? I don't want to waste my time trying to argue with him anymore.

Adam rose to his feet and walked toward Emmeline, swaying a little due to the effects of the alcohol.

"Why do you only have eyes for Abel Ryker?"

Emmeline turned her gaze toward the man at the mention of Abel's name. "Do you know him?"

"Of course! The current owner of the Ryker Group who's known by almost everyone in Struyria! Would there be a person in our country who doesn't know who he is?"

"Then, could you do this as a favor to Abel Ryker and release me?"

"Hahaha!" Adam burst out laughing. "You must have misunderstood something. I do know Abel, but I'm not friends with him."

"Then, the two of you are..."

"We are sworn enemies. I'm going to take away everything from Abel, and that includes you..." Adam flashed her a sinister smile.

After a brief pause, Emmeline

Emmeline managed to cut the

skin of the area she was aiming at with the broken, sharp part of the toothpick.

Adam grimaced in pain. He quickly grabbed Emmeline's hand and checked what she was holding. When he saw the snapped toothpick, he realized instantly what Emmeline was trying to do. He threw his arm back and slapped Emmeline hard across the face.

The impact was so strong that Emmeline lost her balance and fell to the floor. Blood oozed from the corner of her mouth the next instant.

"D*mn it! How dare you try to hurt me?!"

Adam leaned forward and clutched at Emmeline's arm. He pulled her up and was about to give her another slap. However, the sight of her beautiful, delicate face made Adam pause.

"Hmph!" He let go of Emmeline eventually. Then, he called for his servants right away.

Those two maids opened the door and stepped into the room timidly.

"What can I do for you, Sir?"

"Go and get the ointment right now! Make sure you apply the ointment on her face later!"

"Understood!"

"If I were to find any scars or marks on her face the next time I

see her, you two should have your hands chopped off since you wouldn't be needing them anymore."

"Please show us mercy, Sir!" Both maids got down on their knees. "We'll get the ointment and apply it for the lady right away. The marks should be gone in another two days!"

Then, they scrambled to their feet and hurried out of the room to get the ointment.

"Emmeline." Adam put his hands against his back and said unfeelingly, "I won't be so generous with you again the next time something like this happens again."

Adam had a murderous aura

about him as he turned around and headed for the door

"Excuse me, Sir" Summer showed up by the door at that moment. Her words stopped Adam in his tracks

"What is it?" Adam asked in a

stern voice.

Emmeline started feeling anxious when she saw Summer. She had given the note to the masseuse earlier.

I've written down only a few of the ingredients I need to make the antidote just to be safe. However, there's no telling if they may be able to see through my intentions by looking at the note.

Summer stole a glance at

Emmeline. Then, she reported to Adam, “The lady gave me a note and asked me to get her some herbs and ingredients. I dare not act rashly and fulfill her request without your permission, Sir. So, I was planning to show you the note first.”

“Oh?” Upon hearing that, Adam furrowed his brows.

[Chapter 259](#)

Emmeline has asked this lady to get her some herbs and ingredients. That sounds very suspicious...

“Where’s the note?” Adam stretched out his palm. “Give it to mé now.”

Summer hurriedly took out the piece of paper and handed it to Adam.

“Fetch the physician. Get him here right now!” Adam bellowed his orders.

“Understood.” Summer turned around and hurried away upon receiving the order.

Sweat beaded Emmeline’s forehead as she stood at the side.

Her face was as white as a sheet.

was too reckless. How could I choose to trust someone that I’ve met for the first time in a place like this?!

That lady is willing to stay and work at a horrible place like this. It’s no surprise that she’s reported my request to her master to earn his favor.

I just hope that the physician won’t be able to tell what the herbs and ingredients listed on the note are for.

A short while later, Summer returned to the room with the physician, Erwin Rourke.

“Were you asking for me, Sir?”

Adam passed the piece of paper to him. “Take a look at this and see if you can tell what those items are used for?”

Erwin pushed his glasses up the bridge of his nose and scanned the list of ingredients.

“There are only six herbal ingredients listed here, and none of them really stood out to me, Sir. I don’t see anything special about this.”

Emmeline breathed a small sigh of relief upon hearing that.

Suddenly, Adam asked, “Look at the list again. Are there any ingredients that can be used to make the antidote for the Vampire Dust in there?”

Erwin studied the note again for a while. Then, he said, “We need twelve ingredients to make the antidote for the Vampire Dust. Surprisingly, the six ingredients listed here happen to coincide with half of the list of ingredients we need to make the Vampire Dust antidote.”

Emmeline’s heart sank when she heard Erwin’s final remark.

“Also, only the members of the Adelmarr Clan know how to make the Vampire Dust antidote. How does this young lady know how to make it, then?” Erwin asked curiously.

Adam let out a snicker. “We’ll find out about that very soon. Erwin, you can leave now.”

The elderly physician turned around and walked away.

“You.” Adam’s gaze fell on Summer. “How much do you want for your reward money?”

Summer smiled slightly. “Though I am in need of money to support my family, I’ll leave the decision about the reward money up to you, Sir.”

“Did you betray the lady just because you needed the money for your family?” Adam scoffed, “Are you going to betray me someday for the same reasons as well, then?”

“No!” Summer fell to her knees.

“I would never do such a thing, Sir! I would never do something like this to you no matter what circumstances I was in!”

Adam smirked. “I’m a very reasonable person. I’ll reward and punish you accordingly judging by your actions in this incident.”

Summer was trembling all over as she knelt on the floor and waited for the verdict.

“Guards! Take Summer to the accounting department and have them give her a reward money of 100 thousand dollars!” Adam called out to his bodyguards.

Soon enough, two bodyguards appeared outside the door.

“After she’s received the money, have someone chop off her left hand. Then, feed her hand to the dogs!”

“No!” Summer clung to Adam’s

ankle. She begged in a desperate voice, “Please spare me, Sir! I won’t do something like this ever again! I will remain loyal to you as your servant for the rest of my life!”

“It’s too late for you to say all this now. I can’t put my trust in you anymore.” Adam went on, “Take her away!”

The bodyguards came in and dragged Summer, who was shouting and screaming, out of the room.

After witnessing all that, Emmeline could feel her stomach turn.

At first, it was his employee’s eyes. Now, he’s ordering someone to cut off another person’s hand. I did not expect him to be such a cruel, cold-blooded man...

[Chapter 260](#)

Adam turned his eyes to Emmeline. “You should be more careful with who you put your faith in next time. There have been many instances when a person promises one thing and does the opposite.”

Emmeline just stared at the man silently.

Suddenly, Adam caught her by the chin. "By the way, how do you know how to make the antidote for Vampire Dust? Do you happen to know Waylon Adelman?"

Why is he bringing up Waylon too?

Emmeline was instantly reminded of Adam.

Could he really be Adam Ryker?

It's a shame I have no way of confirming it. I've only had a meal with him once. I don't even remember his face that well.

The only thing I do remember is that Adam sports a mustache. Unfortunately, the mask that the man is wearing completely covers the part above the man's lips, so I can't tell if this man has a mustache or not.

"Who's Waylon Adelman? I haven't heard of that name before," Emmeline replied monotonously.

"Don't try to play dumb with me now!" Adam continued, "Only the Adelman Clan knows how to make the Vampire Dust antidote. That meant you would know him somehow!"

I've already said that I don't. What am I supposed to do when you refuse to believe me?" Emmeline let out a small sigh.

Adam pushed her away. Instead of trying to make Emmeline submit to his wishes, Adam was growing a little worried.

If Emmeline really is somehow related to the Adelman Clan, that would mean trouble for me.

I could still recall what I had to go through back when I tried to steal the formula for the Vampire Dust from Waylon.

If Emmeline turned out to be a member of the Adelman Clan, wouldn't that mean that Waylon might learn about my Canary Project sooner or later?

That man might come looking for Emmeline once he found out that I had taken her. Not only that, he might burn my whole place down after rescuing Emmeline...

Adam's brows knitted.

I should probably change the scale of the event for the Canary Project this time. I was planning to invite some of our foreign guests to join the auction at first. However, I should just hold the auction for local guests only this time.

That way, I would be able to minimize the risk of us catching Waylon's attention. Also, I'd still be able to move ahead with my plan to crush Abel and Benjamin.

Five days had passed, and no one had managed to find any new clues about Emmeline's whereabouts.

In the afternoon, Abel went to see Benjamin at his office to discuss what they should do then.

At the same time, Janie had arrived at the Adelmarr Group's building. She had just dropped by Nightfall Cafe and learned that Emmeline had been missing for a few days.

What on earth?! Why haven't I heard about this from Benjamin?

Now that I think about it, he's been showing up at work with a grim expression. Everyone was being extra careful around him for the past few days. He must have acted that way because he was worried sick about Emmeline!

If someone as capable as

Benjamin has no way of finding her, does that mean that Emmeline has fallen into the hands of someone extremely powerful and formidable?!

That won't do! We must hurry and find Emmeline!

As she stepped into the elevator, Janie happened to notice Ethan, who was rushing to take the elevator as well.

Janie was still unaware that Emmeline was Ethan's younger sister.

"Mr. Ethan, why are you in such a rush? You're sweating a lot!"

"My sister is missing." Ethan used a handkerchief to wipe his forehead. "I need to see Mr. Benjamin and ask for his help."

"Your sister?" Janie had a sudden realization. "You have Louise as your last name as well. Is Emmeline Louise your sister?"

"Mhm. She's my younger sister." Ethan nodded.

"So, she's affiliated with the Louise Corporation! No wonder I sense a special aura about her," Janie replied.

Soon enough, both of them reached the highest floor and headed for the CEO's office. However, Ms. Plummer stopped them from entering the room.

"I'm sorry. Mr. Benjamin is meeting an important guest."

An important guest?" Ethan replied anxiously, "The matter about my sister is far more important!"

"Your sister?" Ms. Plummer scoffed, "Might I ask who she is?"