

Are Mine 261

[Chapter 261](#)

"That's not the point here." Ethan had a frown on his face. "Just call Mr. Benjamin on the intercom and tell him that I need his help to look for my sister."

"Are you trying to pull my leg, Mr. Ethan?" Ms. Plummer said haughtily, "Mr. Benjamin might fire you for causing him unnecessary distractions during an important meeting with a guest."

"Just call him already!" Ethan snapped at her.

"Very well." Ms. Plummer replied, "You're taking full responsibility if Mr. Benjamin gets angry about this."

"Yes, I will. I'll make sure that you won't have to bear any of the consequences for doing this!"

Ethan nodded firmly.

Janie stood at the side and watched as those two bickered. As Ms. Plummer's superior, Janie was about to stop the young lady and make her call Benjamin right away. However, Ethan had managed to get the lady to do it before she opened her mouth to say something.

Ms. Plummer used the intercom to call Benjamin. After waiting for quite some time, Benjamin finally answered the phone.

"Mr. Benjamin, Mr. Ethan is asking to see you. He says that he needs your help to look for his sister," Ms. Plummer explained in a brisk manner.

"I am pondering over what to do about the issue as well. You can let Mr. Ethan in," Benjamin replied.

Ms. Plummer was momentarily stunned.

Is Mr Ethan's sister someone extremely important? Even Mr. Benjamin is trying to look for her now?

"What did I tell you?" Ethan saw the look of bewilderment on Ms. Plummer's face and knew that he had gotten permission to enter.

He went ahead and opened the door to the CEO's office. Janie quickly followed behind him and entered Benjamin's office as well.

However, both of them halted in their tracks as soon as they spotted Benjamin's guest.

Janie pointed at Abel and asked curiously, "Aren't you Emma's gardener?"

Abel frowned slightly.

Janje scanned the man from top to bottom for a bit. Then, she said, "That doesn't make any sense though. A gardener wouldn't be wearing such an expensive suit. That Givenchy suit on you cost at least ten thousand dollars. Am I right?"

Upon hearing her words, Abel was finally reminded that he had met Janie before. Emma had introduced him to Janie as her gardener back when he helped her with the garden works.

“Mr. Abel... Are you here because of Emma’s disappearance as well?” Ethan asked. He had calmed down a little by then.

“Mhm.” Abel nodded. “We kept it from you guys because we didn’t want all of you to worry.”

Ethan said in an anxious tone, “More importantly, have you found out who’s the person behind my sister’s disappearance? Why hasn’t the person tried to contact any of us?”

“We’re not sure who it is yet, but the person behind this has told us to wait for more news from them,” Abel replied.

“Just wait for more news from them?” Ethan could feel his hands turn cold. “Would it be news to ask us to retrieve her body?”

“No. It won’t be.” Abel explained, “That person is trying to target me and Benjamin. They won’t hurt Emma.”

“Is that true, Mr. Benjamin?” Ethan turned his gaze on Benjamin, who was rubbing his aching temples.

Benjamin gave a nod without saying anything else.

Janie pointed toward Abel again. “You... You’re the Ryker Group’s CEO, Abel Ryker?!”

“That’s me,” Abel replied with an unsmiling, expressionless face.

Janie felt dizzy and swayed a little upon hearing his words. She was in a state of shock. Luckily, Ethan caught her arm and prevented her from dropping to the floor.

“What are you doing here instead of completing your work for the day?” Benjamin appeared slightly disgruntled. “Go back to your desk.”

“Emma has been missing for days, and I’m worried about her!” Janie replied, “Also, who is Emma actually? How is she acquainted with so many powerful and important people in our country?!”

Ethan couldn’t agree more with what Janie had just said.

Just then, the notification ringtone on Abel’s and Benjamin’s phones sounded almost simultaneously. Both of them received a message from that unknown number again.

Abel and Benjamin hurriedly clicked on the message. A photo of Emmeline’s beautiful face was displayed on the screens of their phones the next instant.

Emmeline’s beauty was so mesmerizing that both men stopped and stared at the photo for a few seconds.

“Mr. Benjamin. Mr. Abel.” Ethan asked in a shaky voice, “Is it a message from that person asking us to go somewhere to retrieve Emma’s body?”

Abel and Benjamin were rendered speechless by Ethan’s response.

“Emma!” Ethan dropped to the floor, looking completely devastated.

Janie fell onto the floor following him.

“The two of you... should head outside first,” Abel said in a low voice.

[Chapter 262](#)

“The two of you are overreacting!” Benjamin had a frown on his face as he explained to Ethan and Janie, “We’ve just got an update about Emma from the abductor. Mr. Abel and I have to discuss what to do next!”

Ethan turned his eyes to Abel and saw the man nod firmly. He felt as though he could finally breathe again at that moment.

Ethan heaved a sigh of relief.

“Hah... That’s good news, That means Emma is still alive. Thank God...”

“You two should wait outside for a while.” Abel said, “Mr. Benjamin and I will discuss the details of our next action, and we will let you know in a bit.”

Ethan wiped the tear off the corners of his eyes. “I’m counting on both of you to save Emma!”

Eventually, Janie and Ethan exited Benjamin’s office.

“Were you guys scolded by the boss and his guest?” Ms.

Plummer asked as soon as she saw them walking out of the room with gloomy expressions on their faces.

“Can’t you just keep your mouth shut?!” Janie snapped at her. “Have you forgotten that I am your superior? Or do you not want to keep your job here anymore?”

Ms. Plummer fell silent

immediately.

Janie and Ethan took a seat on

the sofa placed just outside the CEO’s office. They decided to wait there until Abel and Benjamin called for them again.

“Mr. Ethan.” Janie leaned toward the man and asked in a muted voice, “Is it possible that

Emmeline is actually a very very extremely important person who’s disguised herself as a normal person? See, the CEO of Ryker Group was her gardener. Apart from that, even our boss, Mr. Benjamin listens to her all the time!”

“You don’t say.” Ethan’s brows drew together in a slight frown. “Still, I’ve known Emma all my life, and she’s just a normal, playful lady. How could she be someone as extraordinary as those two in the office?”

“That’s strange...”

Despite Ethan’s words, Janie still had the feeling that her hunch was right.

Emmeline must be someone special and extraordinary! I should remember that and try to earn her favor more!

Putting those things aside, I just hope that Benjamin and Mr. Abel would be able to find Emmeline soon.

Inside the office, both Abel and Benjamin were looking at the photo again.

At closer inspection, the photo was actually an advertisement. At the top center part of the photo, the words "The Imperial Palace's

Canary No. 9" were printed in small fonts above Emmeline's face. Below that line, Canary No. 9's height, weight, and bust measurements were also included in the photo.

The Imperial Palace?! Canary No. 9?!

Both Abel and Benjamin did not expect things to turn out like this.

Emmeline has fallen into the hands of someone from the Imperial Palace?!

On the surface, the Imperial Palace is an establishment that provides entertainment and recreation activities. However, there is more than that to it.

Rumor has it that the Imperial

Palace's owner has expanded their influence beyond Struyria to

multiple foreign countries. What's more, no one knows who the owner of the Imperial Palace is even until this day/

As for the Canaries from the Imperial Palace, almost all of the richest and most powerful men in the world know about them. They are the exclusive "products" put out by the Imperial Palace during their annual underground auction. The Imperial Palace is the only place where you can find the Canaries.

"So, it was these guys who had abducted Emma..." Abel said with a pensive look in his eyes.

"That explains why we haven't been able to find any clues about Emma's whereabouts." A deep frown creased Benjamin's forehead.

Abel lifted his eyes and met Benjamin's gaze.

"What should we do next?"

"I'm thinking..."

"The Imperial Palace is a huge criminal organization." Abel had gotten up and started pacing slowly around his seat. "If we were to do this the violent way, we would have to be equipped with firearms."

"You're saying that we go up against those people and take them down with guns and bullets?" Benjamin asked.

"Alternatively, we could do it the

evilized way by joining the underground auction," Abel replied.

“That’s also why they’ve sent us Emma’s photo that’s used for advertisement. They are trying to lure us into making an appearance at the auction.”

“I’m sure we’ll be receiving the invitation to join their auction soon. Moreover, they would most likely invite some of the richest people in our country and even from abroad to take part in the event,” Abel concluded.

“We can’t let Emmeline fall into the hands of those people!” Benjamin said in a steely voice.

Abel’s expression hardened. “Both of us might have to use all the financial resources we have.”

Benjamin nodded. “I’m ready to use all our available assets in the Adelman Group to save Emma.”

“The same goes for me!” Abel’s eyes burned with fierce determination. “I’ll use every means necessary to get Emma out of that place.”

A faint smile played across Benjamin’s face at that instant. “Mr. Abel, I bet you can also tell what the abductor’s true intentions are by now.”

[Chapter 263](#)

“Of course.” Abel gave a scoff. “The Ryker Group and the Adelman Group would be facing one of our biggest crises for our businesses. We’ll probably have to spend all of our money and assets just to buy a woman.”

“We’ll probably become a laughing stock to others. However, we couldn’t bother ourselves with what they might think about this. They might not even understand if we were to explain about it,” Benjamin said.

He narrowed his eyes and asked, “However... Wouldn’t Old Mr. Ryker punish you severely if you were to proceed with our plan?”

“Isn’t it the same for you as well?” Abel chuckled quietly. “You just hold the position of the CEO in the Adelman Group, after all.”

Benjamin fell silent upon hearing Abel’s response.

The actual owner of the Adelman Group is Emmeline. However, I’ll use whatever means available if it means that we can save her.

“Don’t worry. I’m willing to go as far as to sacrifice myself and my company just to save Emma. We will get her out of that place safely!” Abel said.

“Alright!” Benjamin held his hand out toward Abel. “We’ll prepare as much funds as we can get. Then, we’ll work together to save Emma on the day of the auction!”

Abel took Benjamin’s hand and gave it a firm shake. “We’ll prepare the funds and the firearms simultaneously!”

“Of course!”

Soon afterward, they called for Ethan and Janie. Then, Benjamin briefly explained their current situation to them.

For a moment, both Ethan and Janie were at a loss for words upon learning that the Imperial Palace was using Emmeline to threaten both the Ryker Group and the Adelmarr Group.

“You can’t tell anyone about this.” Benjamin looked at Janie. “Especially you, Janie!”

Janie nodded vigorously. “I know! I know! Emma’s life and death are on the line, after all.”

“Mr. Benjamin, how do we rescue Emma from that place, though? I can’t just wait and do nothing while my sister gets sold off as a product to someone else?!” Ethan asked dejectedly.

“The Ryker Group and the Adelmarr Group will work together in rescuing Emmeline. You have nothing to worry about,” Benjamin replied.

“We will find a way to save her, but we can’t tell you more about the details of our plans,” Abel added.

Ethan’s eyes were bright with tears. “I can’t thank the two of you enough for this! I’m sure Emma would be thankful if she knew what you guys were doing for her.”

After that, Abel returned to his

office at the Ryker Group’s building. His secretary brought him a parcel as soon as he got there.

Abel dismissed his secretary and sat down in his chair. A frown marred his handsome features as he opened the parcel. He had an inkling what the contents of the parcel would be even though he had yet opened it.

Inside the parcel, Abel found the invitation card sent by the Imperial Palace. It was an exquisitely decorated card that stated the time and date of the underground auction.

They are holding the auction in three days.

I guess our enemy isn’t allowing us too much time.

Just then, Abel received a call from Benjamin, “Did you receive your invitation, Mr. Abel?”

“Mhm. I’m looking at it right now.”

“We only have three days to prepare for it.”

“That’s more than enough time for me.” Abel said, “I’ll have 300 million dollars ready.”

“Me too.”

“Also... The firearms.” Abel’s voice hardened.

“We should go for it!”

guess all of the military training I've gone through for almost five years will come in handy finally." Abel frowned slightly. "By the way, I've noticed that you have pretty decent fighting skills as well. Where did you learn how to fight like that, Mr. Benjamin?"

"That's a topic for another day." Benjamin replied, "We should start with our preparations."

"Alright."

After ending the call, Benjamin instructed Janie, "Tell Mr. Fletcher to come and see me now."

Soon enough, Dennis Fletcher, the deputy general manager of the finance department, showed up in Benjamin's office. He greeted, "Mr. Benjamin, what can I do for you?"

"Get 300 million dollars ready and wire them into my personal account in three days' time," Benjamin said.

"300... 300 million dollars?!" Dennis gasped involuntarily. "Mr. Benjamin, if we make such a huge transfer out within three days' time, it'll cause serious disruption for our business."

"We don't need to worry about those issues for now." Benjamin replied, "Just do as I say. I want to see the money in my bank account in three days."

"Understood." Dennis dabbed a handkerchief lightly against his sweaty forehead.

At the same time, inside the building of the Adelmarr Group.

"What?! 300 million dollars?!"

[Chapter 264](#)

Douglas Gough could feel his palms getting sweaty upon hearing the amount of money from Abel.

"Don't try to come up with weird excuses saying that we don't have that much money in the Ryker Group." Abel said in a steely voice, "As far as I know, I can even get up to 1000 million dollars for emergency use from the company."

"Um..." Douglas, the deputy general manager of the finance

department in the Ryker Group, nodded slightly. "Alright, Mr. Abel. I'll prepare the funds for you right away."

Despite having said that, the first thing Douglas did after he had come out of Abel's office was to give Oscar a phone call.

The man had gotten to his current position in the company with Oscar's help and guidance previously. Not only did he feel tremendous loyalty toward the company, but he also felt the same sentiment toward Oscar.

"What? 300 million dollars?!" Oscar rose to his feet the instant he heard the news from Douglas.

"Don't give the money to him! I'll head to the company and ask him what this is all about!"

Thirty minutes later, Oscar arrived at the building of the Ryker Group. He took the elevator and pressed the button for the highest floor in that place.

Abel's secretary spotted a fuming Oscar coming toward the CEO's office. She hurried to the door and was about to warn Abel, "Mr. Abel..."

She didn't manage to finish her sentence as one of Oscar's bodyguards pushed her aside to make way for the elderly gentleman.

Oscar stormed into the room and slammed the door shut behind him at once.

On the other hand, the two bodyguards who were with Oscar stood outside Abel's office next to the door.

Abel noticed the look of exasperation on Oscar's face, and he knew almost immediately why his grandfather had barged into his office unannounced.

Abel greeted, "Grandad."

He got up from his seat and helped Oscar to take a seat on the sofa. Then, he poured a glass of water and placed it before his grandfather.

Finally, he went back to his desk and sat down in his chair.

Oscar's face darkened noticeably.

I thought he would remain on his feet and stay near me as a sign of respect. Yet, he went back to his seat so quickly.

"I've heard from Douglas that you need 300 million dollars urgently?" Oscar began in a deep, stern voice.

"Yes."

"What's the money for?" Oscar asked, "Are you planning on making an investment in some other businesses?"

"I just need the money for an emergency situation."

"An emergency situation?!" Oscar fumed, "As the CEO of the Ryker Group, how could you act so rashly? Various issues may arise when you take that much money from the company without proper countermeasures."

"I know, Grandad. However, please be rest assured that I will return that 300 million dollars as soon as possible. I'll make sure that the

company doesn't suffer any crippling loss due to this incident," Abel replied expressionlessly.

“Just tell me why you need as much as \$300 million dollars! This is no laughing matter!”

“Perhaps I should explain the situation to you, Grandad.” A familiar voice rang out near the door.

Oscar turned his eyes to the door and saw Adam walking into the room. On the other hand, Abel remained silent as he watched

Adam move toward Oscar.

“What do you have to say about this, Adam?” Oscar asked.

“Take a look at this first, Grandad.”

Adam turned on his phone and clicked on a photo. Then, he showed Oscar the photo displayed on the screen of his phone.

“Do you recognize the person in the photo, Grandad?”

A dark light glinted in ‘Abel’s eyes. He knew even without looking that Adam was showing Oscar the advertisement about Canary No.

“That’s Emmeline Louise?”

Oscar was unaware of the auctions held by the Imperial Palace to sell the Canaries.

“What’s the meaning of this?” Oscar had a confused look in his eyes as he fixed Adam with an intense gaze. “It seems like she’s

being advertised as a product to be sold off?”

“You’re right about that, Grandad Also, Abe! is asking for that 300 million dollars so that he can use the money to buy this lady.”

There was a loud noise the next instant as Oscar struck the coffee table in a fit of anger.

[Chapter 265](#)

“Abel, you’re insane! How dare you use the assets of the Ryker family that are worth thirty billion dollars just for a woman? Do you think that I easily achieved what I have today? I’m so angry!”

Abel was silent, and Adam was smiling coldly.

“What happened today is not a trivial matter.” Oscar raised his eyebrow and said, “We’ll have a family meeting now to talk about how to resolve the issue!”

“Let’s get back to the Ryker Residence,” Abel suggested. “It’s not suitable to do it here.” He stood up and left.

“He’s getting on my nerves!” Oscar hit his cane on the ground and walked out too. Adam smirked and followed both of them.

Half an hour later, everyone gathered at the Ryker Residence. Landen and Lewis and their wives arrived; Adrien was still missing in action. Everyone heard that Oscar gathered everyone here for thirty billion dollars. Abel wanted to use it personally; no one would have agreed with him. It would affect their company badly if he moved the funds. And if anything happened to the company during this period of time, it would be in danger. No way, no way, will we agree to him!

All of them held shares in the company, so they had the right to oppose

Abel's Rolls-Royce was driven into the courtyard of the Ryker

Residence; his driver parked the car, and he went into the living room alone.

Luca and a few bodyguards were worriedly waiting outside. They could see that Abel had officially enraged Oscar.

Seeing Abel walk firmly into the hall, Rosaline quickly walked up to him. She held his arms and asked in a lowered voice, "Abel, what are you trying to do with thirty billion dollars?"

He remained silent because Oscar or Adam would be saying it later, so it was better for him to be quiet. "Mom, don't you worry."

He helped his mother to the sofa and sat down together. He tried to change the topic by saying, "Does Timmy behave today? Does he enrage you?"

"He's a good boy, Rosaline answered. "He ate a lot today, and he was doing the school work in the studies when I arrived just now. It's such a pity for him to do school work at such a young age."

"Abel, let's not talk about this." "Tell me what is wrong."

"Let's listen to Granddad." He

comforted his mother and said,

"It's not a big deal."

She then saw Oscar sitting straight and firm, ready to speak. Everyone shut their mouths.

"Do you all know the reason for my gathering everyone here? Someone wants to use thirty billion dollars for our company."

Julianna glanced at Abel and said, "No way, if anything goes wrong, our future will be ruined."

"I don't think it's suitable either," Landen said. "All of us are on the boards of directors; I don't agree with it."

"Abel," Lewis looked at his son and asked, "What's wrong?" "Why do you need to use so much money at once?"

"Abel," Rosaline also said, "we can spare the money if you need a lesser amount. What is wrong?"

"It's for Emmeline." He finally spoke, and he looked determined.

Everyone was dumbfounded, and

Adam smirked mockingly,

“Abel,” Rosaline asked, “I can’t understand you. How can you use so much money just for a woman? What’s wrong with you?”

“That’s right,” Lewis said with a frown. “Are you being lied to by her? Is she asking for this amount of money from you?”

“You’ve misunderstood it,” Abel answered coldly. “She did not ask me for it.”

“Then, why do you need it?”

“She’s fallen into the wrong hand,” he growled. “I want to save her!”

[Chapter 266](#)

Lewis exchanged looks with Rosaline, and their faces crumpled. Landan and Julianna also looked at each other.

“Abel,” Rosaline said, “I won’t oppose you to save a life. But she belongs to Adrien, so Landen’s family should be the ones saving her!”

“What is this logic?” Abel asked, “How does she belong to Adrien?”

“She gave birth to three of his children,” Lewis said coldly. “It’s not your place to save her!”

“I don’t care,” Abel stood up abruptly and said, “I will save her at all costs!”

“Julianna,” Rosaline said

helplessly, “c’mon, say something.

“It turns out that Abel wants to use this money to save the mother of your three grandchildren.”

Julianna was lost for words.

Landen coughed and said, “It’s not as easy as you think!”

“That’s right,” Julianna responded. “Emmeline did give birth to the three children, but she’s not married to our son yet. So, she’s not officially considered part of our family. What’s more, she was having indescribable relationships with Abel and Benjamin; we pity our son a lot. We can’t do much for her, even if she’s in deep trouble. And we won’t risk our company for a woman like her.”

“Alright, I’ve made up my mind. Our family won’t save her, and we

won’t be responsible if something happens to her. The three kids stay with us, and it would be easier for Adrien too.”

Abel looked down, and he almost laughed at Julianna’s words. Humans are selfish, and it’s so scary! Now that she wants to keep the three children to herself, Luckily, Benjamin and I protected the children.

“Abel,” Rosaline said indifferently, “even though they all can be so heartless, then we shouldn’t interfere! Emmeline is not related to us at all. It’s all up to her fate now.”

“Yes, Abel,” Lewis also said, “we should not and could not interfere in this matter!”

“Abel,” Rosaline held his hand and said, “apologize to your granddad now; tell him that you won’t care about her anymore. And that you don’t need the money; let’s all treat it as a joke.”

“Impossible,” he said, “I will get thirty billion dollars to save Emmeline!”

“How dare you?” Oscar snorted and glared at him. “I’m still here!”

“We already said that we disagreed!” Adam said coldly, “Abel, the money belongs to the company, not you alone!”

“Then, can I withdraw my own funds?” Abel said coldly, “My own funds should be more than enough!”

“Then you will mean nothing to our company,” Oscar said. “You won’t even be on the board of directors, let alone be in charge of our company.”

Abel expected this turn of events.

Adam smirked secretly.

Abel, I’ve been waiting for this moment for so long!

Adrien’s parents were overjoyed to hear it, and Abel’s parents were upset about it.

“Abel, you can’t do this!” Rosaline grabbed his hand; his hand was cold.

He pushed her hand away and said, “It’s a deal.” He said with determination, “I can sign the military order with granddad, and if I can’t return all the money before the deadline, I’ll give up my stocks and asset’s in our company!”

“Abel, don’t do this!”

“Abel, don’t be a fool!”

His parents stood up abruptly.

“But,” Abel continued to say, “if I managed to return all the money on time and I didn’t harm our company in the process, everything shall go back to normal. Granddad, what do you think about it?” He looked at Oscar sharply.

[Chapter 267](#)

Oscar was deep in thought. On one hand, he was quite fond of Abel’s character. Abel had a moral compass, unlike Landen and his wife. On the other hand, letting him use the company fund was out of the picture. The company’s interest came before Emmeline’s

Adam stood up. “Grandpa, if Abel insists on putting the entire Ryker Group at risk, you should revoke his title as the CEO. He isn’t acting like one anyway.”

“Adam!” Abel interjected. “This is not a reckless act. My overseas projects are lucrative enough to earn 500 million dollars in six months. Not to mention my other projects too.”

“Do you have proof?”

“Go check the records in the office, Adam. Why would I fake that?”

Julianna decided to speak up. “Either way, you can only reassure everyone here if you’re willing to relinquish your position.”

“Julianna! You’re just trying to force Abel to step down here,” said Rosaline.

“Blame your son’s incompetence. How can he be the company’s CEO when he’s willing to risk it all for a woman.”

“And someone ungrateful who is willing to let the mother of his son die is better as a CEO?”

“I can’t believe Emmeline had such disgusting in-laws,” uttered

Rosaline sarcastically.

“Enough!” Oscar tapped with his walking staff. “I will give Abel a chance. Write me a military order now.”

Adam, Julianna, and Landen could only grit their teeth.

“If Abel can repay 300 million dollars in time, he will continue working as the CEO. After all, I’m impressed by his performance so far. Failure to do so, however, will result in his expulsion. He will have to surrender his title and his shares.”

“Thanks, Grandpa.” Abel nodded. “I’ll write you the military order now.”

“Bring us a pen and a piece of paper,” Oscar commanded his assistant.

Lewis and Rosaline were relieved to hear that. Meanwhile, Landen could only hope that Abel would fail to procure those 300 million dollars.

After the military order was written, the whole debacle subsided. Right then, Adrien staggered into the room. No one really cared if he would come anyway.

“W... What’s the occasion?” Adrien slurred, seemingly from alcohol.

Oscar didn’t like what he was seeing and retired into his room. The decision had been made. The others could iron out the details on their own. Landen and Julianna were dismayed to see Adrien in this state. While Lewis’s and Rosaline’s face was full of derision.

“Abel.” Adrien approached his brother. “I heard there’s a meeting. Is it over already?”

“It’s nothing of import. We are just borrowing 300 million dollars from the group.”

“300 million dollars?” Adrien almost jumped on his feet. “Abel, do you think you own the company now? You can’t borrow a large sum like this!”

[Chapter 268](#)

“Dad, Mom, let’s go.” Abel didn’t want to argue with Adrien.

“All right.” Rosaline and Lewis got “Abel!” Adrien pressed on. “You haven’t told me why you need 300 million dollars. Is my year-end bonus going to be affected now?”

“Educate yourself on the canary auction of Imperial Palace,” answered Abel sternly. He then left with his parents.

“The canary auction?” Adrien mumbled to himself. “I just came there and there was no auction.”

“Because you are not the target audience,” Adam sneered. “The auctioneer will only invite people of Abel’s caliber.”

“Are you invited then, Adam?” asked Adrien.

“Of course.”

“Then show me the auction,” Adrien yelled impatiently. “Which beauty costs 300 million dollars?”

Adam showed Adrien his phone and the latter was stunned. “Emmeline? Canary No. 9?”

“Abel!” Adrien made a beeline to the door. “Please rescue her!” But Abel’s Rolls-Royce already left the estate.

“Adrien, you imbecile!” Julianna protested.

“What do you mean, Mom? I need to save the mother of my sons.”

“You can have your sons. But we can get rid of Emmeline.”

“But why? It doesn’t work this way,” Adrien protested.

“Why not?” Julianna continued. “You can have any girl you want in Struyria as your wife.”

“But none is as beautiful as Emmeline! Have you seen how she looks?”

“Beauty fades, darling.” Julianna wasn’t willing to change her mind. “Trust me. Now is the best time to get rid of her. I can find you another wife.”

“This is wrong, Mother.” Adrien frowned. “What would you feel if Dad did the same thing to you back then?”

“You...” Julianna raised her arm to slap Adrien.

“Enough.” Adam interrupted the scene. “Dad, Mom, go back first. I’ll handle Adrien here.”

Julianna could only glare at Adrien. That spoiled brat was beyond redemption.

Lewis stormed out in silence. Julianna immediately dogged behind her husband. Before leaving, she put in a few words. “Tell Adrien to give up on rescuing Emmeline. It’s 300 million dollars we’re talking about.”

“Be patient, Adrien.” Adam patted Adrien’s shoulder.

“Patient?” Adrien snapped back. “Emma is going to be someone’s plaything now!”

“I didn’t say I won’t rescue her. I will. Just not like the way you imagine.”

“How then?” inquired Adrien.

“Come to my place. I’ll tell you everything over a meal.”

Just like that, Adam and Adrien went to Avalan in their private cars. When the food was served, they sat beside the table, “Adam, please.” Adrien was getting increasingly nervous. “Don’t give me riddles now. Tell me. How are you going to save Emmeline?”

[Chapter 269](#)

“Desperation doesn’t look good on you,” said Adam as he twirled the wine glass.

“Easy for you to say since she isn’t the woman of your dreams,” retorted Adrien.

“Who said she isn’t?”

“What?”

“Oh. Pardon the slip of my tongue. I mean to say that she is my sister-in-law.”

“Then tell me how to save her already.”

“I’ll need you.” Adam helped himself to another dish.

“Me?” Adrien snorted. “I don’t have 300 million dollars and I can’t fight. How am I supposed to save Emmeline?”

“I can do something and Emmeline will be all yours,” said Adam.

“I don’t follow.”

“Sigh... I want you to play the hero,” Adam explained.

“Play the hero?” Adrien jumped. “Adam, it is the Imperial Palace we’re talking about. The guards there can get away with murders. And its owner is like a devil incarnate. How am I supposed to play the hero there?”

“You believe those rumors?” Adam couldn’t believe that was how the outsiders viewed him.

“Either way,” Adrien added. “Only a fool plays the hero in the you can inherit part of my assets when I give my life away?”

“Jesus!” Adam smacked Adrien’s head. “You’re an idiot, you know?”

Adrien remained silent.

“Everything will be scripted. Like what we did last time in the cafe,” said Adam.

“Wait... Adam, you know the owner of the Imperial Palace?”

“I do. And he can do me this favor.”

“Oh! Oh! Adam, what do you need me to do?”

“Come,” Adam beckoned Adrien to lean closer. He then whispered into Adrien’s ears.

“Great! That’s killing two birds with one stone!” Adrien was so excited that he slapped the table.

“Three birds. Including you.”

Adrien blanched. But Adam quickly burst into laughter.

Meanwhile, after Abel left Oscar’s Mansion, he went to The

Precipice. For safety reasons, the triplets were allowed to skip their preschool for a few days. When they saw Abel return home, they quickly descended to the first floor.

“Daddy, where’s Mommy?”

“Daddy, I’m worried about, Mommy.”

“Daddy, I miss Mommy.”

Abel picked up the triples in his arms and kissed them. Looking from the kitchen, Daisy could tell that Abel was more like a father to those kids than Adrien. Yet all reports claimed that their father was Adrien, and the mother of Timothy was Alana. It didn’t make any sense.

“Mommy is safe for now.” Abel comforted the triplets.

“So when are you going to rescue her, Daddy?”

“Yeah, when? Mommy cannot stay with the bad guys.”

I can’t sleep without Mommy!”

[Chapter 270](#)

There, there.” Abel ruffled the triplets’ hair. “I have a plan now. I will go and rescue mommy after three days.”

“Thanks,Daddy.”

Thanks, Daddy.”

“Muah.” Star kissed Abel.

“You won’t kiss your Daddy now?”

“All right. Both Sun and Moon planted a kiss on Abel’s cheek. It was a bittersweet moment that almost teared Abel up.

“Mr. Abel.” Luca appeared. “Mr. Benjamin is here. Should I let him in?”

“Yes, please.”

Abel turned around and said affectionately to his kids, “Go upstairs now. I have to talk with Uncle Benjamin.

The triplets loosened their grip on Abel and went upstairs obediently. After Luca asked the guards to open the gate, Benjamin parked his car in a dedicated spot. Sam came out from the passenger seat and together, they approached Abel.

“Mr. Ryker, I brought Sam here to look after the kids.”

Abel nodded. "The cafe is closed permanently now?"

"Just temporarily," answered Sam. "We still need our moneymaker back online one day."

"But there weren't a lot of customers, from what I've seen. Are you sure it will be lucrative?"

"We did get a lot of take-outs, though."

"Oh..." Abel raised his eyebrows. "Please come in."

Daisy was in the main hall. Time about to cook. Have our guests had dinner yet?

"At this hour, I don't think so," replied Abel on Benjamin's and Sam's behalf.

"All right. I shall prepare a meal for three."

"No need. I have ordered food from Nimbus. It will be here soon," said Benjamin.

"I'll just cook for the triplets then."

Sam was surprised to hear that. "You are cooking for them in person?"

Daisy chuckled. "The triplets love Mr. Abel's cooking. They don't even like mine."

"Wow." Sam's eyes widened. It seemed like Benjamin would face a strong love rival like Abel in his journey to woo Emmeline. That said, saving her was the priority now. And no matter who Emmeline chose in the future, Benjamin would give her his blessing.

"So, do we have the money now?" Benjamin asked Abel. The latter nodded. The deal was in black and white anyway.

"What about you?" Abel inquired. Benjamin was just the CEO of Adelmor Group. He still had to answer to someone else so he couldn't get 300 million dollars that swiftly.

"I penned an IOU to my superior and she is generous enough to lend me the money."

"So who exactly is the owner of Adelmor Group?" Abel squinted.

"She isn't in Struyria. She is just a retired businesswoman."

"Sounds like an old woman. She definitely deserves a break after a life of hard work."