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Abel's cold gaze fell on Douglas's face. He threatened, "Doug, should I expose the truth for you, or are you going to tell the truth yourself?"

Once more, Douglas yelled to Oscar, "I...Old Chairman, I'm innocent!"

Abel chided as he violently slammed the table and said, "How dare you deny your wrongdoing? I bet you wouldn't give up until I showed the proof!"

He turned to look at Luca and commanded, "Show him the evidence I've gathered!"

"Yes, Mr. Abel."

Luca took out a roll of printed invoices and presented them to Oscar.

Abel explained, "This is evidence that he accepted bribes. I'll let the two deputy general managers give their own explanations as to why they did so and who offered them the bribes."

Pryce and Douglas collapsed on the ground. They knew it was game over for them. Abel had obtained the proof after learning that they were taking bribes. This man was truly terrifying!

Oscar turned to face Douglas with a dark expression. He said, "Doug, tell me what's going on?"

"I..."

Douglas secretly cast a glance at Adam. Then, he lowered his head and said, "Abel has always been decisive and domineering. I wanted to take advantage of this opportunity to get rid of him because I didn't feel comfortable working with him."

Abel asked in a low voice, "Who is the mastermind? I'll give you one last chance!"

Adam, who was watching from the sidelines, trembled a little. He felt Abel had suspected him.

Douglas stammered, "There isn't any mastermind. I received bribes from rival businesses that hoped to hire me with high salaries."

Oscar slammed the table indignantly and declared, "I will warn all businesses in Struyria not to hire scum like you!"

How could his long-time subordinate turn out to be someone like him? He was furious about the truth!

Abel gave Adam a thoughtful look. He believed the one who bribed Douglas was not a competitor but the man before him. He lacked any proof, though.

It was an ordinary thing in the business world, given that the account from which Douglas received the bribe was in fact from a competing company. There was nothing Abel could do about their rivals other than severely suppress them.

"What about Pryce?" Oscar questioned him as he fixed the deputy general manager of human resources with a stern look.

Pryce dared not raise his head. He claimed, "I was bought off by Douglas. He requested that I discredit Mr. Abel. I was blinded by greed, but I realize my mistake now."

Oscar punched the table again. He roared, "Dammit! How could the company I run produce scumbags like you!"

Rosaline handed her son the bank card and winked at him, saying, "Abel, the money you transferred to me is all in here. We can revoke your military order now."

Abel turned to face his mom. He had no idea where she got the money, but he accepted it as requested. Abel gave his mother a big hug and said, "Thank you, Mom, for worrying about me."

Adam furiously left as soon as he saw the situation. He was aware that this was another defeat.

All of them submitted to Abel after he ended the military order crisis and fired two senior executives.

His dominance, decisiveness, and ruthlessness were beyond the capabilities of the average person.

Oscar left the building after taking a brief break in the president's office.

Abel got up from the chair, grabbed his suit, and went in search of Emmeline. Sam informed him when he arrived at the Nightfall Cafe that Emmeline had left for the studios.

Abel hurriedly rushed to the studios.

There were a lot of action scenes in the last few days, mainly because Emmeline was trapped in the Imperial Palace a few days ago and Director Faughn had postponed the action scenes to wait for her return.

Emmeline was still dangling from wires at the studios when Abel arrived there. She wore a white dress and gave the impression of a goddess.

Director Faughn said, "Cut! That's a wrap!"

Emmeline slowly descended from the sky.

Abel walked up to her and said, "Emma, I'm here to pick you up. Do you want to have dinner?"

He received a cold look from Emmeline, who then apologetically said, "Sorry, I don't have time."

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know you're busy now; I'll wait for you in the car until you're done," Abel said with a gentle smile.

Emmeline said with a cold expression, "I have something else to do after shooting. You don't have to wait around for me."

Abel was at a loss for words. He felt a tightness in his chest and furrowed his brows.

Emmeline has a very icy expression. It's totally different from the affectionate moments we shared a few days ago. Does she feel this way because she got envious when she saw Alana visit me at home? I did nothing with Alana. I'm innocent.

Abel inquired as he attempted to take Emmeline's hand. He asked, "Emma, what's wrong? Is it my fault? I'm sorry."

Emmeline said as she cast a chilly glance his way and explained, "It's not your fault. I have to see Adrien in the hospital, and I think you should leave."

Abel said, "What a coincidence! I'd like to go see Adrien too. Should we go together?"

Emmeline replied, "No. I don't want Adrien and Alana to get the wrong idea about us."

Abel felt stunned when he heard this. He asked, "Emma, what do you mean?"

Emmeline explained calmly, "I know you care about Alana's health. Nowadays, I care a lot about Adrien's health too."

Abel was briefly startled. The look in his eyes grew darker, and he wondered, "Emma, are you serious?"

"Hmm," Emmeline nodded.

Then she clarified with a deep gaze, "I really appreciate you saving me from the Imperial Palace."

Abel was speechless.

Why did the girl standing in front of me suddenly become so distant and cold? Her coldness and distance gave me a chill in my heart.

"Emma..."

Abel made another effort to hold her hand. He thought it was an illusion just now, and he yearned for Emmeline's warmth.

Emmeline dodged him. She gave him a chilly look as she lowered her gaze. She explained, "I'm sorry, but I have to go back to work now. You should leave."

She then turned around and asked the production team to help her with the wire after finishing her sentence.

Abel stood there dumbfounded and watched Emmeline slowly "fly" into the blue sky.

He went to Ryker Hospital in silence after leaving the studios. He had not visited Adrien since he was injured. Abel was still capable of handling many situations despite having a wound on his own arm.

Adrien appeared delighted to see Abel and immediately began talking nonstop.

"You know, Abel, although I didn't save Emma this time and it was you who saved her, Emma is still very sensible. She is grateful to me and has bought me fruits and snacks. She bought some of my favorite desserts.

"Oh, I see there are still some desserts in the fridge. Abel, take some for yourself. I must admit, Emma was a real pro at shopping. She picked out the best desserts. Abel, get it now; you need to try whether I'm telling the truth."

Abel smiled lightly and said, "Adrien, I don't like desserts. I'm not going to try them."

Adrien felt a bit disappointed. "Oh, right. I remember now. Only I enjoy desserts out of the three of us; Adam and you don't. Grandma spoiled me and treated me like a girl when I was young, which helped me develop the habit of enjoying sweets."

"How exactly is that a bad habit?"

Abel quickly comforted Adrien, saying, "There's no gender distinction when it comes to loving sweets, it's just a personal preference. I liked sweets when I was a kid, but I grew out of it as I got older."

"Yeah, that's true."

Adrien asked, concernedly, "You're hurt too, is it serious?"

"My injury is underneath my suit and shirt, there is still gauze and bandages," Abel said with a smile as he slowly lifted his injured arm.

Adrien said, "You're really something; you're already up and about, even though you're hurt."

Abel had always been the most resilient of the three brothers. He never cried or ran to his mother when he fell; he overcame difficulties on his own. Abel was not chauffeured around while they were in school. Instead, he commuted between middle and high school on his bicycle.

Adrien and Adam were different. Their respective chauffeurs picked them up and dropped them off at school. They had been protected by bodyguards since elementary school.

Abel said, "It's the same bullet, but your wound is worse than mine. It's perfectly fine for you to stay in the hospital for a few more days."

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Adrien said shyly, "Yes, I hope Emma can visit me again."

Abel was speechless.

In Alana's hospital ward located next door, Quentin had his hands buried in the pockets of his white coat and said in a low voice, "I saw him. Mr. Abel had entered Mr. Adrien's room."

Alana's expression turned dark.

Abel would rather see Adrien than me. I'm certain he wouldn't spare me even a glance once he left Adrien's room. I couldn't let Abel leave the hospital just like that.

After giving it some thought, Alana said to Quentin, "I need you to go to Adrien's room."

I was lost on Quentin. He kept looking at Alana because he did not want to leave her just yet. Quentin was unable to engage in an intimate relationship with her, but he was still able to look at and touch her.

Alana said, "You should do as I say. The nurse will come to get you soon."

Quentin was still puzzled by Alana's intention.

Alana coaxed him and said, "Please go."

Quentin finally pinched her bottom and nodded, "Fine."

He turned around and headed to Adrien's room.

Abel and Adrien were chatting casually when Quentin entered the ward.

Quentin greeted Abel at once, "Mr. Abel."

"Hmm," Abel nodded with an icy expression.

Quentin asked, "Mr. Adrien, are you feeling better?"

Adrien replied, "Not bad. I think I'll soon be discharged because I feel much stronger than I did yesterday."

Quentin said, "Madame Julianna recommended that you stay for another day. Your parents are worried about you."

Adrien said impatiently, "My mother always makes a big deal out of minor issues. You have no idea how annoying it is to lie in a hospital all day!"

Quentin was about to reply when the door suddenly pushed open. A nurse cried out to him, "Dr. Anderson, quick. Ms. Lane is having trouble breathing again."

Quentin was stunned. Is this what Alana meant?

"I'm coming!" Quentin cast a quick glance at Abel and rushed out of the room.

Adrien said to the sullen Abel, "Abel, you should go check on her. After all, she's the mother of your child."

While Abel secretly felt flustered at the mention of this, he could not pretend not to hear it.

Abel stood up sulkily and said, "Fine, I'll go see her."

Adrien nodded.

Quentin was administering oxygen to Alana when he got there. Alana looked much better now.

Alana thought inwardly. There was nothing wrong with me in the first place.

Quentin pretended to be concerned, saying, "It's alright now. You're lucky that I'm close by."

"Hmm," Alana looked pitifully at Abel through the oxygen mask.

Abel walked over and said hesitantly, "You'll be fine; Dr. Anderson is here."

"Uh-huh," Alana nodded.

Quentin told Abel, "It's not a big deal; just a few breaths of oxygen will do."

"Hmm," Abel nodded.

Alana signaled for Quentin to take off her oxygen mask out of fear that Abel would leave.

Quentin pretended to check the time and said, "Alright, I can take it off now."

He removed the oxygen mask from Alana's face.

"I'm much better now. I think I'm fine. Thank you, Dr. Anderson," Alana said weakly.

Quentin played along and said, "I have to take care of you. You shouldn't be overly polite to me, Ms. Lane; just concentrate on getting better."

Alana said, "Hmm, I'm fine now. You guys can leave now, I need to speak with Abel."

Quentin and the nurse left the ward. He closed the door on the passing.

"Have a seat, Abel," Alana said softly as she patted the edge of the bed.

Abel replied with a cold expression, "I'll stand for a while. I don't have much time."

Alana fell silent. Although she initially appeared dejected, she soon smiled gently. She asked, "What brings you to the hospital? Are you here to see me?"

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After a brief pause, Abel replied, "I came here to see Adrien."

Alana inquired, "Oh, is Adrien feeling better?"

Abel nodded, "Hmm, he's much better now."

Alana said, "I heard Emmeline visited him, and she bought Adrien desserts. Adrien asked Emmeline to feed him. She seemed to have fed Adrien the dessert. They were laughing, and they appeared to be having a great time."

After a moment of silence, Abel smiled faintly and said, "Really?"

Alana said, "Yeah, I was just taking a walk in the hallway and heard them clearly. Adrien even joked that no matter how sweet the dessert, it's not as sweet as Emma's lips. He said, "A kiss from her tastes sweeter than honey"."

Abel's demeanor changed, he appeared dispirited.

Are Emma and Adrien really this close? There's no surprise there, given that they have children together.

When Alana noticed Abel's dejected expression, she sneered and continued, "Emmeline has been very worried about Adrien lately. Maybe she will drop by soon."

Alana kept adding oil to the flames. She wanted Abel's jealousy and anger to burn fiercely so that seeing Emmeline would make him angry.

As expected, Abel grew more upset. He said, "Well, I should probably head out at this point. I've work to do at the office."

He strode out of the room and flung open the door before Alana's response. He happened to see Emmeline arrive, and she was about to open Adrien's door.

As one of them entered Adrien's room, the other was leaving Alana's room. They both froze at the door.

Abel then moved swiftly past Emmeline's shoulder. As he stepped into the elevator, he exuded an icy coldness. His expression was indifferent and cold, as if he had not noticed her.

After Abel entered the elevator, Emmeline finally turned around and peered at the elevator.

Has Abel just left Alana's room? He treated me like a stranger and had an icy aura about him. He just leaves without saying a word to me. Am I invisible to him?

Emmeline fixed her gaze on the elevator doors. She felt hurt, sad, and angry. She wanted to destroy the elevator so she could drag Abel outside and beat him mercilessly.

Whether I'm interested in you or not, you can't treat me this way! What the hell?

Emmeline shot a vicious glare at the closed elevator doors before she pushed the door open.

When Adrien saw Emmeline again, he leaped out of bed with joy. This time, he did not receive an IV. Emmeline did not hold him down, instead, she let him jump.

"Emma, you have come to see me again! Oh my god, I'm so happy!"

"Here are some new desserts I just bought. They're different from last time. Give them a try."

Emmeline set the desserts on the bedside table while she suppressed her frustration.

Adrien was overjoyed. He hugged Emmeline tightly.

Emmeline was startled, and she shouted at him, "Hey, Adrien, what are you doing!"

Adrien lifted Emmeline into the air and stated, "I'm going to lift you up and lift you high."

Emmeline blushed and

threatened, "Put me down. I'll get angry if you don't behave!"

"Please don't be mad at me. Don't be angry."

Emmeline was quickly set down by Adrien. His expression was one of indulgence and joy.

"I'm so happy. It's worthwhile to take that bullet!"

Emmeline sternly reprimanded, "Don't say that. I don't want you to get shot, no matter how bad you are."

Even Alana, who lived next door, shouldn't get shot, no matter how bad she was.

Adrien chuckled and said, "Emma, I'm not a bad guy; I'm just simple-minded. When I was younger, Adam or Abel would tease me, but I never got back at them because I couldn't outsmart them, haha."

Emmeline could not help but burst into laughter too.

I'm beginning to think Adrien is really cute. This man is naive, that much is true. He could be the kind of simpleton that resembles a husky.

Emmeline thought about this. She began to visualize a husky with Adrien's head.

“Hahaha,” Emmeline couldn’t help but burst into laughter

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For the first time, Adrien saw that Emmeline was happy when she was with him. His eyes were filled with tears of excitement.

“Emma,” Adrien said, grabbing Emmeline’s hand, but she quickly pulled it away.

That did not stop Adrien from saying, “Actually, if you spend more time with me, you’ll find that I have many good qualities.”

Emmeline cocked her head and fixed her gaze on him.

This man is quite simple and innocent. He’s just a rich, spoiled kid.

Adrien walked in a circle around Emmeline and said, “Emma, why don’t you give us a chance? After all, it would be advantageous to our kids.”

Emmeline remained quiet. For the first time, she did not rebuke Adrien.

“Don’t worry, Emma. I promise to put up with hardship, be devoted to my responsibility, and be a good husband and father. I will never go west if you ask me to go east. If you ask me to beat a dog, I will never beat a chicken!”

“Slap!”

When Adrien waved his hand, he struck something unintentionally.

“Ouch!” Alana cried out.

Only then did Adrien and Emmeline realize that Adrien had slapped Alana’s head in his excitement.

Adrien said, “When did you get here? Why are you sneaking around? Are you trying to scare us to death?”

Alana explained while putting a hand on her head, “I came to take a look because I heard some noise coming from your room. The slap you gave me nearly sent my head crashing into my stomach!”

Adrien mocked, “It’s your fault for coming here. Don’t put the blame on me!”

He dislikes Alana’s deviousness.

“I came to let you know that you’ll be invited to the wedding dinner when Abel and I get engaged. Abel just came to see me and talked about this.”

Adrien said, “Of course, I’m Abel’s brother, after all.”

Alána questioned Emmeline as she cast a quick glance her way, “When do you two intend to wed? You two seem happy together. Why don’t you hurry up to get things done?”

Emmeline remained silent and kept her composure.

Adrien, however, enthusiastically asked Emmeline, “Emma, will you give me a chance?”

Emmeline suddenly softened her expression and said to Adrien, “It depends on your performance.

You could propose to me when you believe you can be the kind of person you just described.”

Adrien was stunned.

Oh my god! Happiness unexpectedly knocked on my door! Is this a dream?

Adrien pinched Alana, who stood beside him.

“Ouch, that hurts!” Alana cried as she jumped up in agony.

“It hurts. It’s not a dream!” Adrien yelled loudly, “Emma, you’re my lucky star, my lucky baby. I swear I’ll love you always. I’ll leave the hospital right away and pop the question to you at the coffee shop!”

Emmeline pursed her lips and nodded solemnly.

There was no sadness or happiness on her face, just an indifferent and calm look. She reasoned that she ought to give Adrien a chance as long as he was a decent person and was capable of changing his bad habits. After all, he was the biological father of the children.

Alana was dumbfounded.

She had always hoped to remove Emmeline as an obstacle. She was upset to witness Adrien treating her like a treasure and adoring her. She was burning with jealousy, hatred, and resentment!

She felt like she had swallowed a handful of poison. The pain was unbearable.

Adrien was already kneeling on one knee in front of Emmeline when he proposed to her, “Emma, don’t worry. I’ll personally propose to you while bringing you a diamond the size of a pigeon’s egg and 999 red roses.”

Emmeline was at a loss for words.

Is there anyone who wouldn’t personally make the proposal?

Alana listened in disbelief.

Although Abel had promised to get engaged to her in eight months, she knew that he would never propose to her, let alone give her a diamond as big as a pigeon’s egg. It was already his limit to accept an engagement.

Alana suddenly felt extremely miserable.

Emmeline asked, “Alana, has Abel ever proposed to you?”

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“Absolutely not! He wouldn’t do that!” Adrien replied on behalf of Alana with a smirk.

“Only when he is with his parents, the woman he loves, or the gods does Abel ever kneel. Abel is not in love with Alana.”

Alana's face became so pale that it appeared almost transparent.

Abel would never bow down for me, and I am aware that I am not the one. Abel's beloved is Emmeline, right? Unfortunately, Emmeline missed out on the opportunity to receive Abel's proposal.

Firstly, Abel will get engaged to me. Secondly, Emmeline had agreed to Adrien's proposal. Hmph, who cares if I'm not the one Abel adores? He's with me, isn't he? Emmeline, all you can do is be envious of me.

Abel went back to his workplace. His secretary knocked on the door before entering his office.

Without looking up, Abel rubbed his forehead tiredly and asked, "What's the matter?"

"Mr. Ryker, a visitor from Altney City, has been waiting for you in the VIP room," the secretary informed him.

Abel frowned and turned to face his secretary. He wondered, "Altney City? I didn't have an appointment today. Who is it?"

The secretary explained, "She said her name is Ms. Murphy, and you've saved her."

Suddenly, Canary No. 9 came to Abel's mind. He questioned, "Oh, you mean Mur...?"

He could not remember the name of the girl, but he did recall that she resembled Emmeline.

The secretary said, "Lizbeth, she came with her brother. They're here to express their gratitude to you."

Abel said as he reclined in his chair, "Okay, show them in. They have traveled a great distance."

"Okay, I'll invite them in."

The secretary turned around and went to the VIP room.

The guests soon showed up at the office. The siblings entered the office after the secretary extended her hand to let them in.

Abel politely stood up. Before him stood a man in his late twenties with a majestic aura. The young woman, Lizbeth, whom he had previously rescued from the Imperial Palace, was standing behind the man.

"Mr. Ryker!" Lizbeth stepped forward at once and said amicably, "Let me introduce you. This is my brother, Flynn Murphy."

Abel reached out to shake Flynn's hand and said, "Hello, Mr. Murphy."

Flynn held Abel's broad hand and said politely, "Mr. Ryker, I've heard of your reputation for a long time! I'm grateful that you kept my sister safe."

"Mr. Murphy, it was merely coincidental. Don't mention it."

Abel gestured for them to sit down. The secretary served them some tea.

Flynn said, "My sister might not have survived if it weren't for you."

Abel explained calmly, "Ms. Lizbeth had luck on her side.

Lizbeth asked, "By the way, how is Ms. Emmeline doing? I remember she was given something that left her feeling weak all over."

Abel said, "She's fine now. I appreciate your concern."

"Ms. Emmeline is not only stunning to look at, but she is also exceptionally smart. She is well- liked by everyone," Lizbeth said.

Abel chuckled. Emmeline was clearly charming, that much was clear.

Lizbeth said to Flynn, "Flynn, when you meet Emmeline, you'll be in awe of her beauty. She's a beauty in her own class!"

Flynn grinned and said, "I'm really excited to meet her."

"Mr. Ryker, can we meet

Emmeline? The two of us had gone through thick and thin," Lizbeth blinked her big eyes and wondered.

Abel said, "Well, I can't promise that. I need Emma's opinion on this."

Lizbeth said excitedly, "Can you ask her if it's possible? Finn will treat all of us to dinner."

Flynn said, "If you don't mind, I have a gift to present as a repayment for the money spent on saving my sister."

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Hah." Abel smiled. "There's no need for all that. I didn't particularly care for that money. Saving your sister had simply aligned with my interests"

"That's still five hundred and sixty- five million," Flynn said. "Are you actually just going to let it go down the drain?"

"Yes, Mr. Ryker," Lizbeth cut in. "My brother's gift might not be worth more than fifty million in its current state but it'll be able to grow and be equal in value in a few years."

Her words piqued Abel's curiosity. "What are you trying to say, Ms. Murphy?"

"This is what I mean."

Lizbeth got up to retrieve a document from her briefcase before placing it down on the desk in front of Abel.

It was a deed of gift.

He immediately came to understand the meaning behind her words the moment he scanned through the document.

What the pair of siblings were presenting to him was a large company.

Abel knew it was a branch company belonging to the Murphy family of Altney in Struyria.

He frowned. "You're both part of the Murphy family?"

"Yes." Flynn nodded. "Paul Murphy is our father."

Abel was aware that he was talking about Paul, the richest man in Altney.

"But..."

"If that's the case, you should know that the Ryker family and the Murphy family have had dealings with one another," Abel said.

"Yes." Flynn smiled. "If memory serves me right, the Murphy and Ryker families talked about a marriage union."

"That happened," Abel said with no hesitation. "It was a union between Ms. Evelyn and a man of the Ryker family but the Rykers vetoed it as they didn't need the marriage to bring them to new heights."

"I'm aware." Flynn nodded. "I admire you, Mr. Ryker!"

"As far as I'm aware, Ms. Evelyn was the only daughter of the Murphy couple. Ms. Lizbeth is...?"

"To be frank with you, Mr. Ryker, the Murphy family does indeed have only one daughter. We found out about how the babies had been switched at birth three years ago. Lizbeth is the true daughter that carries the Murphy blood."

"Well..." Abel couldn't help but want to know more. "What about Ms. Evelyn now?"

"She's still a part of the Murphy family of course." Flynn grinned. "Our parents raised her after all. She's dear to them."

"I see." Abel nodded, Lizbeth had lived a rough life.

She had just been reunited with her family when she was trafficked to the Imperial Palace by her enemies.

If he hadn't bought her by accident, she would've ended up becoming the plaything of some bigwig.

"My father has nothing to repay you with for the money you've spent to save my sister. I would like to gift you this company under my name as compensation."

"Mr. Ryker." Lizbeth mischievously tilted her head. "If you don't want the company, I'll just have to give you my body instead. Are you alright with making Ms. Emmeline jealous?"

"Don't mess around, Liz!" Flynn cut her off.

"Alright then." Abel nodded. "Five hundred and sixty-five million is not a small amount. Money doesn't grow on trees either. I'll take the company. As for you, Ms. Lizbeth, there will be no need for all that."

"I knew you would come around, Mr. Ryker!" Flynn said. "We should contact Ms. Emmeline and we can go grab a bite together."

"Yeah!" Lizbeth clapped. "Flynn has been waiting to see Ms. Emmeline who's famed for her beauty."

"I'll ask her," Abel said to the pair.

He dialed her number while the siblings waited patiently.

Emmeline had just entered the elevator. He failed to reach her with the bad signal.

He called twice in a row to no avail which had him frowning.

He had noticed Emmeline entering Adrien's ward before he left the Ryker Hospital.

Is she...busy with something?

He shut off his phone and turned back to the pair of siblings. "Em is a little busy right now. We'll just let her be."

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"That's a pity." Lizbeth poyted.

"Maybe next time then." Flynn was optimistic.

"Let me host today," Abel said. "You both traveled far after all. You're the guests here."

"We'll take your kind offer then." Flynn was more than open to the suggestion.

Abel then made reservations for a private room at the Nimbus Hotel and went there with the sibling duo.

Adrien was doing somersaults on his bed in excitement once Emmeline left the Ryker Hospital.

He could barely calm himself until his wound began to throb in pain.

Emmeline was allowing him to propose to her. It was a happy occasion for him!

He had to thank Adam for creating the opportunity for this to happen.

It was Adam's repeated use of heroic schemes which allowed him to successfully impress the woman.

It was a tried and true method throughout the ages after all!

Adrien gave his brother a call.

Adam sounded impatient the moment the call connected. "What is it this time, Adrien? Can you stop going around giving me heart attacks?"

"Adam," Adrien started, tone happy. "I'm not calling to worry you this time. I wanted to invite you out for drinks!"

"Drinks? What for?" Adam launched into a tirade. "You're injured. You can't drink!"

"I know," Adrien said. "You can drink even if I can't."

"Alright, what's got you this happy? You're eager to spill the beans."

"It's Em."

Emmeline was allowing him to propose to her. The news was more than enough for him to be over the moon!

How many could be bestowed such an honor?

Go try to get her to say yes? She'd sooner shove you aside.

"She said yes, Adam. I can ask for her hand in marriage once I recover!"

...Damn it! Adrien, that lucky bastard!

Why didn't Em extend that same courtesy to me?

She could've propositioned Abel instead as well.

She, at least, loves Abel. So, why this idiot?

Is she saying Abel can't compare to Adrien?!

Hahaha, fortune sure likes to favor the fools!

Adam suddenly envied Adrien. He envied him so much it hurt.

"This is something worth celebrating," Adam said. "Where are you planning on getting those drinks from?"

"Nimbus, of course," Adrien answered. "Nimbus is my haunt. I want everyone there to know the good news!"

"Sounds good. Nimbus it is then. I'll be right there once I get changed."

"Cool. I'll get changed too."

"I'll see you in a bit."

"See you, Adam."

Adam ended the call.

He was just thinking about what color he should wear when his phone began to ring.

It was Alana.

Restless impatience washed over him.

What is this b*tch cooking up this time?!

He didn't want to pick up her call but he had to know what she was up to.

What if it had something to do with him?

They were far too closely involved with one another.

He answered the call "Mr. Adam," Alana started. "I have news. I'm not sure if it's good or bad."

"Cut the cr*p." He frowned. "Get to the point."

“Emmeline is allowing Adrien to pursue her hand in marriage,” she said.

“That’s a good thing. A woman as good as her shouldn’t be with Abel!”

“What about me?” His phrasing displeased her. “What if I married Abel?”

“I already told you. You’re the bearer of ill luck that ruins him!”

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“Alana rolled her eyes in exasperation.

She didn’t have much time to argue with Adam.

“You’ll need to clear a path for me if you don’t want Emmeline to take advantage of Abel, Mr. Adam.”

“What does that mean?” “What’s the situation with Kendra?” She asked. “As long as she’s out of the picture,

Emmeline’s marriage with Adrien would be a stable one. Kendra’s existence threatens that!”

“That’s a trivial matter.” Adam smiled coldly. “She may have gotten away the last time but I’ll make sure she’s disposed of once my men find her.”

“Make it sooner rather than later!” Alana continued. “Once that woman is gone, Emmeline will marry Adrien. The dust can finally settle!”

“You...” He scoffed.

“What about me?”

Adam took a long drag of his cigar. “You’re a vicious woman. It’d be a waste if you aren’t there to mess with Abel!”

“Hmph. Well, we’ll be in contact again, Mr. Adam.”

Adam had no time to spare entertaining Alana.

The moment the call was done, he got dressed in his suit and drove to Nimbus.

His brother cleaned up much less than he did. Despite the longer distance, they both pulled up at the parking lot at the same time.

“Adam.” Adrien got out from the back row and waved enthusiastically at his brother.

Adam wanted to throw a punch right at his brother so badly but held back as he recalled the injuries Adrien sustained.

“Not bad, idiot. You got the princess herself without having to lift a finger!”

“That’s all thanks to you, man.”

Adrien’s cheeks flushed. “I’ve always looked up to you, Adam!”

“Of course you do!” Adam was smug. “My tactics are foolproof! I’m the best out there after all”

“You are!” Adrien continued to flatter him with compliments.

His elder brother was indeed resourceful but there were others out there who were better. That was something he couldn’t admit to his brother.

Who knew if Adam was going to keep helping him if his motivation took a hit?

“I’m still not quite satisfied yet though.” Adam’s expression turned grim.

He was very dissatisfied.

“What is it?” His younger brother asked, concerned.

“I didn’t manage to take Abel down!”

“Oh, that? I already forgot about it,” Adrien said, “Emmeline is important to you but taking him down is what is most important to me.”

“Abel has been doing well with managing the Ryker Group. Maybe picking fights with him isn’t the way to go.”

That had Adam frowning. “Who do you think you’re talking to?”

“Smack!” Adrien finally realized he had jabbed his brother where it hurt the most when Adam raised his hand at him.

Both he and Adam were different people.

Adrien cared little for who was in power.

It was all the same to him no matter who was in charge as long as he got his share of the dividend at the end of the year.

Adam was not the same.

Adam believed he would be the head of the Ryker family from the tender age of fifteen.

Everyone including his parents and Adrien believed the same.

That was until Oscar made a sudden announcement five years ago that Abel would be the one to spearhead the Ryker family. The new successor was then sent abroad for intensive training.

That was a sore spot that Adam never got over.

His parents also despised Lewis Ryker, his wife, and most of all, Abel.

It was only Adrien who didn’t dwell on it because he had always known he’d never be in line to lead the family.

That was why he didn’t care.

Adrien was quick to explain himself, “You know I’m always on your side, Adam. You’re my brother!”

“That’s better.” His anger somewhat abated.

“But I’m just telling you the truth,” Adrien continued. “Abel has been doing a good job with the family.”

Adam had nothing to say to that. He shared the sentiment.

He also believed he could do better if he were the one in charge!

Abel casually skirting by the threat left him angry.

The two brothers chatted as they walked up to the hotel

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The porter noticed the approaching Ryker siblings and immediately humbled himself. “Mr. Adam. Mr. Adrien.”

“Hm.” Adam nodded coldly.

The duo had made their way inside when Adrien suddenly returned to speak with the two doormen.

“You both get a bonus today. One thousand each!”

Their jaws dropped.

“Wow! What’s the occasion?”

The doormen would’ve fainted from excitement if they weren’t still needed at their posts.

“Are you crazy?” Adam turned around to question his brother. ‘Why are you going out of your way to offer rewards for nothing?’

“It’s a good day after all,” Adrien answered. “Bonuses should be given when they should be given.”

Their chatters eventually brought them to the front desk of the lobby.

The manager and bellboys were to greet them with polite bows in an instant.

“Good day, Mr. Adam and Mr. Adrien!”

“Yes, yes.” Adam waved them off. “Thank you everyone for your hard work!”

“Everyone will get a bonus today!”

Adrien announced from behind his elder sibling. “And I mean everyone including the cleaners!”

Everyone was taken aback.

They had been excited at first when Adam acknowledged their hard work.

The icing on the cake was Adrien announcing that he would be giving them a bonus.

His words had them abuzz with life!

“A b-bonus, Mr. Adrien?” The lobby manager asked.

“That’s right. A bonus for

everyone. Everyone will receive a thousand dollars each!”

The staff erupted into cheers.

“Mr. Adrien is giving out bonuses! Even the cleaners will be getting them!”

“Hurrah!”

Adam’s expression darkened.

His brother had taken the limelight from him.

What a waste of effort to get changed!

“But, sir,” the lobby manager asked. “Why the sudden bonus? It’s not your birthday today, is it, Mr. Adrien?”

Adrien grinned and patted the manager on his shoulder.

“So, you remember when my birthday is!”

“Of course! You also offered a bonus last year during your birthday. It was two hundred back then”

The manager remembered it clearly.

“Well, the bonus today isn’t to celebrate my birthday.”

Adrien flushed red. “I’m going to ask for Ms. Louise’s hand in marriage. This is a happy occasion. That’s why everyone is getting a bonus!”

“Woah! You’re going to ask Ms. Louise to marry you?”

“Congratulations, Mr. Adrien!”

Adrien and Adam, amidst a chorus of congratulations, entered the elevator.

That was when Abel and the Murphy siblings arrived through the revolving doors.

Following close behind were two secretaries.

The lobby was still filled with cheers congratulating Adrien when the lobby manager noticed that Abel had also arrived!

It was truly a fortunate day to see all three sons of the Ryker family here!

The one standing before them held an even more noble position as head of the Ryker family!

The manager bowed. “Good day, Mr. Abel!”

“I hear everyone congratulating Adrien for something. Was he here?”

“Yes, sir,” the manager answered. “Mr. Adam and Mr. Adrien are already upstairs. Are you all here for the celebration?”

Abel was confused. “What celebration?”

“You’re not with them, Mr. Abel?”

The manager asked.

“No.” He gestured to the pair of siblings behind him. “I have guests.”

The manager greeted Flynn and Lizbeth. “I thought you were here to celebrate Mr. Adrien announcing his marriage.”

“Marriage?” Abel was taken aback. “Who is he marrying? I haven’t heard anything about it.”

It’s Ms. Louise, the one who birthed Mr. Adrien his three sons,” the manager said joyfully. “He was so happy, he gave everyone one thousand dollars each!”

He was shocked by the news.

Emmeline was going to marry Adrien?!

Even Lizbeth was in disbelief.

“Mr. Ryker...? Isn’t Emmeline your lover?”

Flynn was confused as to why Abel’s lover had birthed three sons for another man