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Alandra smiled wickedly. “You can’t tell Abel you’re pregnant directly.”

“I don’t know what you mean, Auntie Alondra.” Alana frowned.

“You must let the media know about this, so it’ll have a greater effect!”

“How can I do that? Abel hates these kinds of things the most. I can’t involve the media!” Alana quickly shook her head.

“You fool, we can start by targeting Emmeline. If the media is provoked because of Emmeline, Abel can’t blame us.”

Alana was even more confused

when she heard Alandro’s words, but Alandro said, “You can just listen to me!”

Meanwhile, at Emmeline’s side, the

children had gone to school early in the morning while Abel had gone to the company.

Sam took care of the cafe

downstairs while Emmeline stayed in the study room to research her medical topics.

She had to try out the Five-Elements Needle that Robert left for her.

As she was focusing, the study room door was knocked.

“Who is it?” Emmeline was puzzled. She did not allow anyone to enter her study room.

“Ms. Louise, it’s me.” Benjamin’s voice sounded from outside.

Benjamin? Emmeline quickly opened the door.

She only allowed Benjamin to enter her study room, but he rarely came over. There must have been an urgent matter for him to come over at this time.

“How can you still sit around? This is an emergency!” Benjamin closed the door behind him.

“What’s the matter? Don’t make such a big fuss!” Emmeline said nonchalantly.

“Look at the person here. Have you not looked at your phone the whole morning?” Benjamin put his phone in front of her.

Emmeline moved closer and saw that it was her riding her electric bicycle to buy groceries on Benjamin’s screen.

“What?!” She was dumbfounded.

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Who had the time to do this?

Benjamin swiped the screen and it was a scene with Emmeline in an apron, working at the cafe's counter.

The next photo...

Emmeline did not want to continue looking. Either way, it meant that she was secretly photographed. She knew about all these scenes, so she did not want to waste her time.

"Who did this?" Emmeline was annoyed and thought that something must have happened.

"That's what I'm here to ask you. This has become Struyria's headlines, but do you not know about this?!" Benjamin asked.

Emmeline took out her phone and saw that the internet was filled with news about her.

They talked about how she got pregnant before marriage, ruining her reputation as a young lady from the Louise family. Then, she disappeared for five years before suddenly appearing in Struyria again. There was also news about her targeting rich Young Masters, so these wealthy young ladies should keep an eye on their husbands in case their husbands were seduced by her.

"People should have long forgotten about this matter. Why was it suddenly brought up again? Ms. Emmeline, who did you offend?" Benjamin frowned as he spoke.

"How would I know? I've been focusing on my research every day, so I haven't been paying attention to other matters," Emmeline replied.

"I'll investigate it and ask the media to take down the trending searches. How can we let this be?" Benjamin said.

"Don't. Investigate whatever's necessary, but don't involve the media and ignore the trending searches," Emmeline responded.

"Why? Don't you feel uncomfortable seeing this?" Benjamin asked.

"I'm only a lady selling coffee. Won't people think it's weird if you get rid of the trending searches when they had only appeared? How could such a lady have such power?" Emmeline explained.

Her words reminded him, and he nodded in agreement. "That's true."

"Ignore it. Let it be, and it'll be gone soon."

Alright then. Call me if anything happens, Ms. Louise." Benjamin bid goodbye.

Soon, Emmeline's phone rang, and it was Abel calling. This man rarely called her, so she thought it might be because he saw the news about her.

In that case, she would listen to what he had to say. Once she tapped on the "answer" button, Abel's low, steady voice sounded. "Ignore those heated discussions. Don't be afraid, I'll deal with them for you."

“But... Adrien should be the one dealing with it. The trouble five years ago was caused by him, not you,” Emmeline replied.

Abel snickered on the other end for a moment before saying indifferently, “It’s the same.”

Emmeline’ did not hear anything else after that as he hung up the call.

Same? How can it be the same? She pouted.

Although she was not happy about it, the children belonged to Adrien, not Abel! How could it possibly be the same?

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Ms. Louise, lots of people suddenly came over, so I can’t handle all of them!” Sam’s voice sounded from downstairs.

Was it the news that attracted all these people and entertainment reporters?

Emmeline adjusted her hair and went downstairs calmly.

The cafe was quite packed.

When the people saw her walking downstairs, countless phones and cameras were raised.

“Ms. Louise, it seems like you’ve returned to Struyria. Do you still remember the incident five years ago?”

“I heard you’ve given birth to children. Do you know who the children’s father is?”

“Ms. Louise, which man are you targeting now that you’ve returned to Struyria? Can you provide us some hints?”

“I’ll answer these questions!” A voice came from the door.

Emmeline looked over and saw that it was Adrien.

Adrien was a famous playboy in Struyria, so being in the headlines was nothing unusual to him.

With his sudden appearance, everyone immediately thought that there was something new. He was a wealthy Young Master, so everyone loved seeing news about him.

The crowd soon surrounded him.

“Mr. Adrien, can you answer these questions for Ms. Louise?”

“Mr. Adrien, what do you want to say? Could it be that Ms. Louise’s affair five years ago is related to you?”

“Ms. Louise isn’t what the rumors say. Five years ago, I was drunk and caused trouble, so she’s the victim!” Adrien explained.

“What?!” The cafe was in chaos.

“Does this mean that the man who made Ms. Louise pregnant before marriage was you, Mr. Adrien?”

“Wow, there’s big news today. We didn’t come over for nothing!”

“Yes, I feel sorry for Ms. Louise, so I hope your negative impressions about her will disappear from now on!”

“Is Ms. Louise back to Struyria for you, Mr. Adrien?”

“Yes. Ms. Louise gave birth to triplets for me, so not only do I want to recognize the children, but I also want to marry her. From now on, I won’t let anyone slander her!” Adrien said as he raised his head triumphantly.

“Wow!” The crowd and vloggers all raised their phones and cameras toward Emmeline. “Ms. Louise is becoming a wealthy young lady like an ugly duckling turning into a swan!”

Who said that I want to marry you?! As Emmeline was about to refute Adrien, a voice came from outside. “Emmeline, you shouldn’t do this. How can you be so greedy?”

The crowd looked over and saw a young woman walk in. It turned out to be Alana. She was also considered a wealthy young lady, so lots of entertainment reporters naturally recognized her.

“What do you mean, Ms. Lane? Is there any insider news?” The crowd surrounded Alana.

“Of course, there’s insider news.” Alana pointed at Emmeline, who was standing on the stairs, and said,

“Since she had given birth to Mr. Adrien’s children, she shouldn’t

reduce Mr. Abel. Isn’t this considered cheating on Mr. Adrien and stirring up trouble between them?”

“Are you saying that Ms. Louise is trying to seduce Mr. Abel?”

“Is she trying to seduce the Ryker Group’s CEO?”

Her goals are so obvious!”

The crowd discussed as they aimed their cameras at Emmeline.

“Alana! Was everything today arranged by you?!” Emmeline went down the stairs and stepped in front of Alana.

“How could someone like me have the power to do this? I only rushed over after seeing the trending searches. I want to take Timothy back so he won’t be negatively affected!”

“This incident is too strange, so who else would arrange this except you?!” Emmeline shouted in anger.

“Emmeline, don’t slander me. I haven’t even settled the scores with you for seducing my fiance!” Alana replied!

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“Shut up! Who are you accusing of seducing your fiance?” Emmeline said in anger.

“Abel and my son are staying at your place, so how are you going to explain that?”

Emmeline was rendered speechless.

Would people believe it if she said that the almighty, wealthy Mr. Abel was her tenant?

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“What? Have you got nothing to say for yourself?” Alana smirked. “Emmeline, you’re the same easy woman as I remember.”

“She did not hit on me.” Following a curt voice coming from the back, an imposing figure presented himself at the door.

With tension running high in the café, the onlookers held their tongues and breaths.

Rumor had it that Abel was a ruthless and hardhearted man. He was not one to be scr*w around with.

“Abel!” Dumbstruck at first, Alana quickly cried wolf and clung to him.

“You got to stick up for me. Everybody saw what happened. She has Adrien’s children, but she lives with you. Is this not trying to get into your pants?”

“Abel?” Adrien furrowed his brows. “I can’t believe you really live here. What are you up to?”

“What am I up to?” Abel scoffed. “I’m single, and so is Ms. Louise. I doubt it’s against the law to live together.”

“Abel!”

The reply took Emmeline by surprise. As if things were not complicated enough, Abel’s comment was not helping with the situation at all.

“I’m only renting a room to you. That’s nothing going on between us.”

“Well, it doesn’t stop me from pursuing you.”

Abel put his arm around Emmeline’s

shoulder. “I hereby declare that from this moment on, you’re my girlfriend. No one has the right to question my decision to be with you.”

Emmeline was thrown for a loop. What was the guy saying?

This was not the way to pull her out of the fire.

Things were heated as they were.

Despite her efforts to push Abel away, it was like she was trying to move a ton of bricks. Abel locked her tighter in his arms.

Adrien was not having it. “What’s the meaning of this, Abel? Are you trying to steal my woman?”

“Emmeline is not your woman!” Abel scoffed before asking Emmeline, “Are you?”

“I’m not!” Emmeline blurted

“But she carried my children!” Adrien freaked out.

“That was a mishap. You hurt her. Count your lucky stars she didn’t sue you for the violation and take you to court.”

Adrien had nothing to say.

It was true that he had done a lot of terrible things when under the influence of alcohol, and innocent girls had been involved.

Emmeline must be one of them.

“But what about me?”

Teary-eyed, Alana looked at Abel with sorrow. “Where do I fit in your plans, Abel?”

At has never been my intention to marry you,” Abel replied, “In regard to Timothy, I will find another way to make it up to you”

“But what about now?”

Alana put her hand over her belly. “Why did you impregnate me when you didn’t intend to take me as your wife?”

Was she pregnant?

With the bombshell dropped, Abel was thrown into a tizzy.

Abel dug into his memory, and the night when Alana stayed the night at the Ryker Mansion came to him.

He distinctly remembered taking control of his animalistic instinct at the last second. Abel took a cold shower and promptly left the

bedroom.

He did not touch Alaná that night.

Nevertheless, how did she get pregnant?

Ha Abel laughed and asked, “Is that So?”

Alana was in delight. Abel must be over the moon at the news of her pregnancy.

She would emerge victorious!

On the other hand, Emmeline was taken aback.

No sooner had Abel confessed his feelings to her than Alana announced her pregnancy.

Abel even made it clear that he would not take Alana’s hand in marriage.’

He said one thing and did another.

Feeling sick to her stomach, Emmeline shoved Abel away..

“Abel.” Alana cozied up to Abel. “You were awesome the other night. It only took once to put a bun in the oven.”

“Are you sure... you were with me?” Shaking her off in disgust, Abel jeered.

You’re playing with fire, Alana. Do you think you can pull one on me?

I can forget about the last time for Timothy’s sake, but don’t you trap me with someone else’s child.

You’ve pushed your luck one too far.

“What do you mean, Abel?” Alana was in shock. “Did you forget the night Timothy was kidnapped...”

“Last chance.” Abel cut her off. “How do you plan on dealing with this child?”

“Of course, I’m going to keep it.” Alana was flustered. “I wouldn’t abort your child, Abel.”

“But...” Abel let out a cold scoff. “I never touched you the other night, so what are you talking about? How did you end up with my child?”

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Color washed off Alana’s face.

Abel did sleep with her. Why was he not admitting to that fact?

“A-Abel, I don’t get what you’re saying.”

“I said I never touched you.” Abel narrowed his eyes and smirked.

“No... Abel.”

Alana broke out in cold sweat. Surely, Abel did not want to own up to it in Emmeline’s presenee.

“I know you don’t like to be put in the spot. I don’t blame you since we’re heading toward a shotgun wedding. Your mother said so.”

“You’re stubborn, aren’t you?” Abel’s eyes were chilly. “How many times does it take for you to understand

the consequences?”

Alana uttered in angst, “I know your heart belongs to Emmeline, but I’m the mother of your children. Let me keep this child. We’re a family together!”

Abel.” Unable to stand it anymore, Emmeline sternly said, “You’ve gone too far. I can’t believe you’d deny the things you do. You’re a filthy man!”

“Emmeline, don’t you trust me?” Abel’s grimacing gaze fell on Emmeline.

They had spent time together for more than a month. Was the spark and chemistry between them a lie?

“Why should I?” Emmeline pointed at Alana. “She’s carrying your child. Why are you still keeping up with the act? Don’t you think it makes you a filthy animal?”

“Yeah, Abel.” Adrien jumped in. “A man has to pull his weight, especially the boy of the Rykers. I’ll tell Grandad if you’re going to shy away from your responsibility. You can forget about taking over the Ryker household. Adam can be the next in line.”

“I said this has nothing to do with me!” Abel blew up.

“Can’t you be a man?” Adrien sneered.

“Abel, we were together the other night. Why won’t you admit to it? Is it because of Emmeline?” Alana cried.

It gave the onlookers something to talk about. They whispered among themselves, unable to believe the heir of Ryker Group was an

irresponsible sc*mbag!

Tension ran along Abel’s facial line. Locking his jaw, he gnashed his teeth in rage.

Oh, if only he could have his hands around Alana’s neck. Alas, this was not the time or place.

There was no way he could convince everybody otherwise at this point. People would only take his further defense as a denial.

Besides, the matter would put the Ryker Group in a negative light.

He had to let it go for now.

Abel could only prove his innocence when Alana gave birth to the child.

“Abel, did I do something wrong? Shouldn’t I have come here?” Alana

held onto Abel’s arm.

“Ha.” Abel’s eyes were icy. “Good timing. The child came at the right time too. You can keep the child if that’s what you want, but don’t be sorry.”

Thank you, Abel.” Although feeling unsettled, Alana reflected the joy across her face.

Abel owned up to engaging in an act of intimacy with her at last.

He banged her, and she got

pregnant. Everything was falling into place.

As for Mr. X, Alana had him sent abroad.

While nestling against Abel’s arm, Alana peered at Emmeline smugly and caressed her belly.

With a discolored complexion, Emmeline turned on her heel and went upstairs.

It did not take long for her to return with two gift boxes.

“You can have your Italian brands back, Abel!”

“Thud! Thud!”

Everybody in the café was stunned as the two gift boxes crashed into Abel.

The woman was tempting fate.

She just dumped the stuff on Abel, the heir of Ryker Group and the mover and shaker in the capital.

Adrien freaked out.

Scowling menacingly, Abel marched

toward Emmeline.

“Abel, can you... for my sake...”

Abel pushed him aside.

Just when everybody waited for Abel to slap Emmeline in the face, Alana Tet out a gleeful chuckle.

Nevertheless, Abel merely stared long and hard into Emmeline’s eyes before finding the words. “Emma, give me nine months. I’ll prove to you I’ve done nothing.”

“Prove, my *ss.”

Emmeline held him at arm’s length. “Who am I to you? Why should I give you nine months? Why should I trust you?”

“The only thing you need to know is that this has nothing to do with me.”

Emmeline’frowned. The man’s windows to his soul left her nothing to go on.

He impregnated the woman. Yet, Abel had the nerve to say that he was uninvolved.

Why would Alana pin it on him if Abel was as innocent as he claimed?

Out of all the choices, Alana could latch onto Adrien.

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“We’re done here.” Abel waved the press off. “I’ll make an enemy out of anyone who continues to harass Ms. Louise. You better beat it now before I pull the plug on your publication house.”

Lucá swooped into the place alongside eight bodyguards.

The presence of armed men was enough of a message for the journalists to make a run for it.

Pulling Alana aside, Abel smirked and said, “Come on. You better protect the child,”

The situation in the café finally quieted down.

Adrien told Emmeline, "You saw it, babe. I'd have never thought that this is the kind of guy Abel is, so don't put your hopes on him. You and I..."

"We're a family..."

Tears streamed down Emmeline's cheeks.

She had only developed feelings for Abel a moment ago.

Yet, Abel turned her world upside down and gave her quite a surprise.

Talk about the story of her life. It was filled with drama.

"Babe..." Adrien wanted to wipe

Emmeline's tears away.

Emmeline brushed his hand away

and yelled, "Get out!"

"But I was only speaking the truth..."

"I told you to leave!"

"But, babe..."

"Trust me when I say I'll beat you up!" Emmeline rolled up her sleeves.

Adrien knew better than to pick a fight with Emmeline since she had the skills to take a man down.

"Don't be mad, babe. I'll visit you another time. Take it easy. Take it easy."

Adrien slinked out of the café.

Peace had returned to the land

again, but Emmeline felt like the world had done her wrong.

Racing to her bedroom upstairs, she jumped onto her bed and cried out loud.

"Why the tears?" Daisy, the nanny, drew close to offer comfort. "It's a good thing nothing happened between you and Mr. Abel.

Otherwise, you'd have something to cry about."

It hit Emmeline. That was right. Why was she crying?

She should be relieved that she did not take her relationship further with Abel.

Although they had chemistry together, it was not too late to put a stop to it.

Why cry over a two-timer?

Tch!

Emmeline wiped away her tears and ran back downstairs to help Sam tidy up the café.

There was an influx of traffic likely because the place went viral. There was quite a drastic increase in customers.

Although Emmeline did not expect to turn a profit with the café, it was great news that business was booming

She ran off her feet, trying to fill orders for more than an hour when an unexpected guest dropped in for a visit.

Dressed in a form-fitting dress, Julianna walked in with her Hermes bag.

It was clear to Emmeline that Julianna was no bearer of good news.

As expected, Julianna circled around the café before taking a seat.

Julianna waved Sam down to order a cup of coffee. She then said to Emmeline, "Have a seat, Em."

Emmeline sat with her back straight on a chair across from Julianna. "Hello, Mrs. Ryker."

"Call me Julianna. I'm the grandmother of the triplets." Julianna smiled.

"That's your relationship with the kids. You and I aren't close," Emmeline callously replied.

"Well, we're about to become a family. Adrien just told me," Julianna uttered.

"He's referring to Abel and Alana. It's unrelated to us," Emmeline retorted.

"But I'm talking about you."

Julianna added, "At first, I thought Adrien wouldn't be able to handle you since you're a feisty lady. Now that I think about it. It's not a bad idea that you become my daughter-in-law. At least, you can check my son in check so that he can focus on the family business instead of hanging around the house doing nothing."

"That's your wishful thinking. I'm not interested in Adrien." Emmeline was blunt.

"But you have children together."

“Besides, you got the wrong idea about Adrien. Compared to Abel, Adrien is a decent person. At least, he won’t do you dirty.”

Emmeline was lost at sea.

Was Abel that kind of guy?

Was she wrong about him?

Why did she get the feeling that the behavior was unlike him?

Abel had been respectful and courteous during his month-stay with her.

Plus, Abel carried himself with aloofness and discipline. He was never once frivolous in his actions. How did he sneak around and get together with Alana?

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Julianna blabbed on, “Abel is not a man for refusing to marry her even though Alana gave him a son. Now that Alana is pregnant again, he is making up excuses, saying that he never touched Alana. Tch, silly

Alana She wouldn’t name the father unless Abel knocked her up.”

Emmeline’s heart sank. That was right. How would Alana carry a child without shagging up with Abel?

The man was a sleazeball.

It was a good thing the father of the triplets was not him!

“It shows Adrien to be more of a man than Abel.”

Julianna put her hand over Emmeline’s. “Emma, just say yes and tie the knot with Adrien. It will give the children a complete family. You

will have someone to look after you. At the very least, you don’t have to work so hard at the café...”

Emmeline kept her head down. Did Julianna think she and her children’s livelihood depended on the café?

She was the boss behind Ademar, a heavyweight in Struyria too.

Her identity as the Wonder Doctor could earn her millions on a single medical case.

Did she have it hard in life?

Come to think of it, she did. The two men, who lingered around her, were an annoyance.

“...I got a message from Adrien. He

said he’ll become a one-woman man so long as you marry him. He will stop all the frolicking, stay by you and the kids, and focus on his career...”

By the time Julianna was gone, Emmeline was still reeling in the dilemma,

Since it was nearly time to pick up the kids from kindergarten, Emmeline hurried to the parking lot and drove her sports car out for the school run.

There was no need for her to fetch Timothy from another school, so it saved her the trip.

The Rykers had already picked Timothy up.

Still, Emmeline felt empty inside.

The little guy was awfully sweet to her. Would he keep this pretty mommy in mind?

Seeing that Abel and Timothy were not around, the triplets soon realized what was going on.

“Don’t be sad, Mommy. You have us.”

“Yeah, Mommy. Haven’t we always been with you all these years?”

“We didn’t have Abel and Timothy before. It doesn’t change the fact that we’re one big family.”

“Of course! I have you in my life, and that’s enough for me. I don’t need anybody else.”

“But Daisy has a point. It’s hard on Mommy to take care of us all on your own.”

“Mommy also needs a shoulder to lean on. You might want to consider Adrien.”

*The man is our biological father. We don’t have a problem if you’re happy to be with him.”

The triplets took turns in giving their two cents, amusing Emmeline to no end

The kids may be young, but they seemed to know a lot.

Emmeline said, “I don’t need Adrien. I have everything with you kids in my life.”

“But you’re young and beautiful. You need a man. Doves go in pairs.”

“We will support you to be caught in a whirlwind romance, Mommy.”

“That’s right. You have our full support, Mommy.”

“Alright now. I’ll take your advice and

let a mah sweep me off my feet.” Emmeline shuffled the boys’ hair.

“We can be the judge of his character for you if you see Adrien as a potential man for you,” Helios said.

thought about that. We can move into his house,” Endymion chimed in.

“Oh, we can check out if Adrien’s mom makes a good grandmother and mother-in-law.”

“Gee. You’re getting way ahead of yourselves.” Her kids gave Emmeline a good laugh.

“Well, we always have to plan ahead.”

“We can’t fight uncertain battles!”

“We have to make sure we find the

Fight person for Mommy.”

“Alright. Enough with the chatter. Wash your hands and come have your dinner.”

The triplets shut their traps and formed a line to the toilet.

The following day, Emmeline was on her way to drop the kids off at kindergarten.

She, alongside the child, walked out of the café, only to be shocked by the sight before her eyes.

There was a floral display of red roses at the entrance of the café, forming the word, love.

With a bouquet of roses in hand, Adrien shouted through a

loudspeaker, “Marry me, Emmeline. I will make you happy!”

Emmeline had a facepalm moment. Had Adrien lost his mind?

Did she not just kick him out yesterday?

As Emmeline emerged from the café, Adrien was quick to catch her attention. “Emma, marry me. Please accept my love for you. I will make you the happiest woman alive.”

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sn’t it thrilling, Mommy?” Hélios sighed.

“I got to say that it’s romantic too. I feel moved.” Endymion’s dimples were showing.

“We can’t be the only ones to feel moved. He’s got to touch Mom’s heart too,” Hesperus said.

“It’s a pity I don’t feel the sparks for him. He’s not my type,” Emmeline chimed in.

“But he’s our daddy,” The triplets spoke in unison.

“I think God might have made a mistake. How can such brilliant kids like you have a playboy for a father?”

“Mommy, what’s a playboy?” Representing his brothers, Helios raised a question.

It’s...” No matter what, Emmeline could not ruin how the kids saw their

father.

“It means someone who is used to a free and easy life.”

“Emmeline, will you say yes and be my bride?”

Getting down on one knee, Adrien presented the roses to Emmeline.

“Get up! Didn’t we agree not to take it there? I might just take the kids back to the rural area, and they will become farmers for life,” Emmeline furiously blurted.

“Woah!” The triplets turned wide-eyed. What did we do for Mommy to put us in a career in agriculture?

“You can bring me along. I have thought about it long and hard. I’ve made up my mind to be with you. We can be a family of farmers.” Adrien chuckled.

“Woah!” The triplets’ jaws dropped. Mommy had the power for Daddy to give up his life in the city to be a farmer.

“I don’t have time to waste with you. You have 30 seconds to get out of here. I need to drop the kids off at school.” Emmeline was in a hurry.

“Emmeline, these are our kids. Can’t you at least give me this?”

“Tsk.”

Adrien’s statement did not sit well with Emmeline.

“I told you to leave! Take your flowers and leave!”

“Don’t you love roses? You can’t imagine the number of women who would die for 999 roses and a Ryker boy.”

“I say. I don’t care about you or your roses You should find someone better than me.”

“Emma, please reconsider.”

“I have nothing to reconsider.”

Emmeline whipped out her phone to call Benjamin. “Send me ten cleaners to clean up the mess at the entrance.”

Benjamin was dumbstruck. “What happened, Ms. Louise?”

“I said I need cleaners. What are you blathering about?”

Adrien waited until Emmeline hung up the call before asking, “Who did you call, Emma?”

“The health and safety department! Your roses pose a safety hazard to my entrance.”

It finally dawned on Adrien. “Ah. I spent thousands to fly these roses from abroad. They are not trash.”

“Roses without love are garbage! You dumped these flowers here, and you’re not letting me take out the trash?”

Benjamin urgently assembled ten cleaners from various floors. To play it safe, he put on the cleaner’s uniform and put on a mask before rushing to Emmeline’s café.

Following the arrival of two MPVs in front of the café, the vehicle doors opened, and out came eleven

eleaners armed with brooms and
mops.

It took Adrien by surprise. Emmeline seemed to have the health and safety department on speed dial.

She was able to summon close to a dozen cleaners with a single call.

“Ms. Louise, what do you need to do?” Benjamin asked from behind the mask.

Emmeline pointed at the L.O.V.E- shaped roses. “Take out this trash.”

“Got it.” Benjamin instructed the eleaners to get right to the job.

“Seriously, it’s fine if you don’t like the flowers, but you didn’t have to waste them. These flowers are beautiful.”

“But this is not the place for them. find them an eyesore.”

“I got a better idea. I can get my security detail to deliver these roses to Ryker Group to brighten up the lobby”

“Alright. At least I can save the cost of the cleanup.” Emmeline nodded her head.

Holding a broom, Benjamin asked, “Ma’am, do you still need our service?”

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“Never mind then. I’ll wire the fees to you later.” Emmeline waved her arm.

“Since we haven’t started the work. A hundred for the drive here will do,” Benjamin said.

“Sure. Thanks.” Emmeline nodded her head.

Benjamin gathered the cleaners. “Let’s go, ladies.”

With the cleaners getting into the vehicles, the two MPVs soon drove off.

Adrien called his security team over. “Deliver these roses to Ryker Group to furnish the lobby.”

The bodyguards rolled up their sleeves and buckled down to sort out the 999 roses.

Emmeline’got ready to drive the triplets to school.

“Pretty mommy?”

A boy raced from the corner of the street and called out to Emmeline in a sobbing voice.

Feeling a tug at her heartstrings, Emmeline abruptly turned around and found Timothy standing there with a backpack.

His chubby face bore hurt and

sorrow.

With her vision turning blurry, Emmeline spread her arms apart and cried, "Timmy! You're here, Timmy."

"I miss you like crazy, bro!" The triplets were thrilled.

"Wah!" Timothy wailed as he jumped into Emmeline's embrace and put his arms around the nape of her neck.

"Don't you want me anymore, Mommy? Why are you sending me away?"

"That's not true, Timmy. It's not that I don't want you. It's not up to me to decide when it comes to you." Emmeline was overwhelmed by a mix of feelings.

"I don't care! I don't want to leave Mommy! I don't want Alana! Alana is not my mommy!"

"You can't say that. Although I like and adore you, I'm an outsider at the end of the day. Alana is your real mommy."

Adrien drew close and pointed at the triplets. "Yeah, Timothy. These three

boys are Emmeline's sons. You are the son of Alana and Abel, not mine and Emmeline's."

"You're lying. My mommy is Emmeline, not Alana. You're all lying to me!"

"Your daddy is Abel, so that can only mean that your mommy is Alana."

"No, my daddy is Abel, and my mommy is Emmeline. You got it wrong!"

Emmeline pulled Timothy into her arms. "Timmy, your mommy is Alana. Don't get into it with her. She loves you. All mommies love their

children."

"But Alana doesn't love me. My gut feeling is telling me that I've been kidnapped, and the kidnapper is Alana!" Timothy played those puppy

dog eyes to the core as tears ran down his cheeks.

"Don't say that. Why would she do that to her own son?" Emmeline brushed away his tears.

"Mommy, why can't Timothy stay with me? I feel bad for him." Helios felt the urge to cry too.

Endymion's eyes welled up. "Yeah, Mommy. I get the feeling that Timothy and we are real brothers."

"I think so too. I bet his mommy isn't Alana. You adults got it mixed up!" Hesperus was crying at this point.

"Mommy, don't send me away." Timothy choked with sobs.

Tucking his little frame against her chest, Emmeline patted his back. "Be a good boy. It will freak everybody' out if you leave the school on your own. I'll drive you back."

Timothy clung tightly to Emmeline, refusing to let go. "I don't want to go back. Sob, sob, sob. I don't want to leave you. Don't leave me. Sob, sob, sob..."

“Emmeline! So it was you who abducted my child!” Alana’s angry voice came from behind.

“Have you no shame, Emmeline?”

Rosaline was here too. She scowled and shouted, “You’re Adrien’s woman, and you gave birth to his children. Stop hitting on Abel and steering Timmy away from us. Alana is carrying another child now. Have you no morals?”

Emmeline rose to her feet. “I did

Nothing of that sort. I never seduced Abel. You got the wrong idea about me!”

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Rosaline criticized, “Don’t try to talk your way out of it. Did Abel not stay at your place with Timmy for more than a month? I couldn’t even stop my son from doing so!”

Alana pointed the finger at Emmeline. “That’s right. I saw it with my very own eyes. She forcefully came in between me and Abel. This

woman has no shame!”

“Watch your mouth, Alana!” Adrien came forth.

“Gee, Adrien. I can’t believe you’re still on her side. I guess you don’t mind her cheating on you,” Alana taunted.

Adrien was speechless, at a loss for a comeback.

“Don’t insult my mommy! I’m calling the cops if you continue to use that language.” Hellos yelled at Alana.

“That’s right. The cops will arrest you because it’s a crime to slander.” Endymion raised his brow.

“We won’t forgive you for picking on our mommy!” Hesperus stood in front of Emmeline with guns blazing.

Rosaline shared fondness and jealousy of the three adorable and righteous little men.

Why could these triplets not be Abel’s?

Well, it was not an issue. Alana had a bun in her oven now anyway.

Rosaline hoped Alana could give birth to triplets.

She would not mind if Alana had twins. It would make three children with Timothy in the mix. Abel would have the same number of children as Adrien.

Rosaline said, "I'm warning you, Emmeline. Stop hitting on Abel. Abel is going to marry and have a big family with Alana."

Alana had a finger up Emmeline's nose. "So you better stay away! Don't ever get too close to Abel!"

"My, my. That's a cocky tone. Who is pushing my precious sister and nephews around?"

Ethan scoffed and approached in

large strides, standing in a protective stance with his back facing

Emmeline and the triplets.

"Uncle Ethan! Uncle Ethan! Perfect timing. They picked on Mommy!" The triplets cried.

dare them to try me!" Ethan rolled up his sleeves.

Although Ethan kept his hands to himself, his towering build intimidated Alana and Rosaline to take a couple of steps back.

Oh, so it's you, Alana. Are you throwing your weight around again? It's high time we even the score, including the old."

With Alana's mind harking back to the humiliation from Ethan at her birthday party, she was scared, to say the least.

Alana would have to face the music if the siblings went nuts right now.

"I can't be bothered to continue with this. Consider yourself lucky that you're off the hook for now. Come on." Alana grabbed Timothy's hand

and let out a scoff.

"Pretty mommy! I don't want to go with Alana." Timothy burst into tears.

Rosaline picked Timothy up. "Be good now, Timmy. Don't waste your time with this woman. There's not a good bone in her body."

"Pretty mommy!" Between the weeping, Timothy was shoved into the car by Rosaline.

The boy's cries faded as the car sped away. All Emmeline could hear was the breaking of her heart.

"Timmy..." She could not stop her tears from flowing. It was unlike her to be choked up with emotions.

"Sigh. By the looks of it, Mommy can't send us to school now," Helios commented.

"Yeah. How can she drive when she's heartbroken?" Endymion's brows were in a knot.

Hesperus shook his head. "It'll be bad if she spaces out while behind the wheel. Never mind. Let's call a cab.

“I’ll drive you. You’ll be late if we don’t leave now.” Adrien stepped up to the plate.

“But what about Mommy?” The triplets did not feel comfortable leaving their mother in this state.

“Leave her to me. Hurry to school now. I’ll take your mommy home,” Ethan said.

“Thank you, Uncle Ethan.” The boys expressed their gratitude to Ethan.

Adrien took the children by the hand

and drove them to their kindergarten

in a hurry.

While on the way, Helios quietly discussed with his brothers, “Should we keep tabs on Adrien to make sure he’s a good fit for Mommy? The last thing we want is for her to be ill- treated.”

Endymion said, “We can work for Mommy if Adrien cuts it to be her husband.”

Hesperus uttered, “It’d be ideal if Adrien passes the test. He’s our daddy after all. It’ save a lot of hassle in the future.”

Helios chimed in, “Why don’t we check out the Rykers’ residence?”

Endymion and Hesperus bobbed their heads. “Sounds good to me!”

“Mr. Adrieh, take us to your family residence after you pick us up from school,” Helios said.

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Adrien nearly jumped out of his seat. “Wow! You can’t come up with a better idea! Everybody, especially Abel will be envious of me bringing all three of my sons home.”

“Don’t talk about Abel. He made Mommy sad,” The triplets said altogether.

Adrien pulled a scowl. “But you can ditch the form of address. I’m your daddy.”

“You are Mr. Adrien to us until we’re done running our checks,” Helios uttered with a straight face.

“But you call Abel your daddy!” Adrien was not having it.

“We thought he was our daddy at first. We got used to calling him that.” Endymion pouted.

“But he should only be referred to as Mr. Abel from now on. By the looks of things, he failed the test,” Disgruntled, Hesperus commented.

“You can count on me to get the green light. Adrien clenched his fists.

Meanwhile, at the cafe, Ethan lovingly put his arms around his sister’s shoulders.

His heart went out to Emmeline as the latter dwelled in tears and

sadness.

“Let me take you home to have breakfast together, Emma. My wife is there. She’ll make you something good to eat.”

Emmeline whimpered as her mind wandered back to Timothy crying out to her.

Sob, sob, sob. It was heartbreaking to see the child so.

“Now, now. It’s okay.” Ethan held his sister and settled her down on the passenger’s seat before fastening her seat belt.

Ethan was no longer the man he once was in a matter of days since Benjamin offered him the position of deputy CEO.

Not only was his suit an

international brand, but his ride was now upgraded to a brand-new Lexus.

Grace was around when they returned to the house.

Ethan had given Grace a call to get groceries of Emmeline’s favorite food when he was on his way home.

“Sit with Emma for a while. I’ll

manage’ in the kitchen.” Ethan took off his jacket and gave it to Grace.

Grace hung the jacket up and replied, “Leave Emma to me. I’ll return her to you in a happy state.”

Emmeline wiped away her tears. “Ethan, Grace, you don’t have to go through all that trouble for me. I can’t stand the way Alana treats Timothy. I’m going to skip breakfast. I need to talk to Alana and show her what it means to be a good mother.”

Grace pinned her down. “That won’t do. That temper of yours is going to get you in trouble. Your brother and I don’t want to be bailing you out at the station.”

“A night behind bars doesn’t matter if Alana can learn to be a good mother. It’s not like I hadn’t been there before.”

There was no stopping Emmeline as she appeared furious and unwilling to back down.

Ethan walked out with a spatula. “You have my support! Go and teach Alana a lesson! But you should only go after you have your fill. Otherwise, you won’t have the energy to hit her.”

Grace furrowed her brows. Why was Ethan adding fuel to fire instead of talking some sense into his sister?

She was about to give her husband a piece of her mind when Ethan tipped her the wink.

The years of married life trained Grace to read Ethan’s mind.

“That’s right, Emma. You should lay one on Alana, but you should only go after breakfast. I’ll go with you.”

“Exactly! Eat first and beat her up later!” Ethan raised the spatula.

Amused by her brother and sister-in-law's antics, Emmeline wiped away her tears and said, "Alright. I'll take your advice. I'll eat first and beat her up later."

"That's my wise sister! I got one more dish coming. I should go back to cooking."

Grace had set up the table and poured two glasses of hard liquor.

One glass was for Ethan while the other was for Emmeline.

She got the message from Ethan – get his sister waste so the last thing on her mind would be getting out there and stirring trouble.

As for Alana, her time would come.

I did not take long for Ethan to finish the cooking and serve up a feast.

Grace gave the glass of liquor to Emmeline.

Ethan raised his glass and said to his sister, "Cheers, Emma. Let's down the drink"