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Lizbeth pouted. What Evelyn said was true. Even if Abel did not get married, she would not have a chance. Abel and Emmeline were getting married soon, and they had four children.

It was better for Lizbeth to choose a dress to attend Adrien's party. If she were to be chosen by Adrien, she might be able to see Abel more often in the future. Moreover, she would become a wife in one of Struyria's wealthiest families, and not have to stay with the Murphy family anymore.

Although she was a biological daughter of the Murphy family, Paul, and his wife did not like her. Even her sister would be two-faced when dealing with her. She would rather find a suitable husband and get married soon.

"You can try out the wedding dresses here. I'll go upstairs to take a look," Evelyn said to Lizbeth.

"Evelyn, are you going to Emmeline?" Lizbeth asked.

"What about it? She knows you, but she doesn't know me." Evelyn sneered.

"You and Emmeline have nothing against each other, so you shouldn't disturb her," Lizbeth said.

"Don't worry. I know that you two are good friends. I'm curious about her, so I want to talk to her a little." Evelyn smiled.

"Mmhm." Only then did Lizbeth nod.

There were several designer studios upstairs. The top designer, the boss of the store, had his studio on the top floor.

After confirming where the boss' studio was, Evelyn went to the top floor.

"Miss, do you have an appointment?" A red-haired attendant stopped her.

"I'll make one now. Does being in Altney's Murphy family qualify me for that?" Lizbeth pouted. What Evelyn said was true. Even if Abel did not get married, she would not have a chance. Abel and Emmeline were getting married soon, and they had four children.

Altney's Murphy family? The attendant was taken aback.

If the Ryker family were the wealthiest in Struyria, then the Murphy family could be considered to have a similar status in Altney.

"Miss, please wait in the tearoom. Our boss is attending to another customer now, but you're next in line," the attendant said.

"I'm friends with Ms. Emmeline, who's inside now, so I can join her."

"In that case, please come in," said the attendant.

Emmeline was trying out a new product when the door suddenly opened, and a slim, charming woman entered.

"I don't have any appointments with other customers. Miss, why did you come over on your own accord?" The man in his thirties said seriously.

"I'm Ms. Emmeline's friend, so I'm here to chat with her," Evelyn said with a sweet smile.

"Friend?" The male designer looked toward Emmeline.

Emmeline was about to say that she did not know Evelyn. However, Evelyn had already reached out her hand and said, "Hello, Emmeline. I'm Evelyn Murphy." Emmeline could only reach out to shake her hand in this situation.

"The Murphy family and Ryker family have always been friends. I heard Mr. Abel is getting married soon, so I'm here to see the bride-to-be. You're beautiful indeed."

Emmeline replied indifferently, "Ms. Evelyn is just as charming."

"I'm nothing compared to you. It seems like Mr. Abel has a good eye," Evelyn said as she looked at Emmeline.

"You're really outgoing huh? Does Emma even know you?" Janie stood in front of Emmeline and said.

"Won't she know me now that we've met each other? Miss, you're also gorgeous! I'm so envious." Evelyn continued smiling innocently.

"But we don't know you!" Janie said with a cold expression.

"Janie, Ms. Louise, if you don't want to see her, I can send her out," said the male designer.

"Forget it. Everyone who enters the store is a customer. Janie and I are fine with it," Emmeline replied.

What Emmeline said was true. Evelyn was also a customer, so she could not stop them from letting her in.

"Ms. Louise is so open-minded. No wonder Mr. Abel likes you," Evelyn praised.

"Ms. Evelyn, are you close with my husband?" Emmeline frowned slightly.

"Our families have always been in contact, so we have known each other since we were little," Evelyn said with a smile.

If Abel was here, he would probably say, "I don't know her. This woman is lying."

"Oh." Emmeline did not say anything else.

Janie also suppressed her anger. Since the Murphy family was a family friend of the Ryker family, she could not offend Evelyn.

"Ms. Louise is so nice. I'm happy for Mr. Abel to have a wife like you. It's said that a good woman can bring prosperity to a family for three generations. This saying must be describing a woman like Ms. Louise, right?" Evelyn continued flattering Emmeline.

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Emmeline could tell Evelyn had no malicious intentions, so she smiled and said, "You're flattering me, Ms. Evelyn. I'm not that outstanding."

"I believe in Mr. Abel's taste. Since he has chosen you, he has definitely made the right choice."

Emmeline was speechless. This woman really knew how to flatter someone. Nonetheless, she did not argue with Evelyn.

"By the way, the day after tomorrow is Mr. Adrien's party. Ms. Louise, will you be attending?"

Emmeline nodded. "I'm going to support Adrien."

"I'll be going if I have time. See you then?" Evelyn said.

"Mmhm, see you then." Emmeline nodded.

"You guys can go on then. I won't bother you anymore." Evelyn waved at the designer and left with a smile.

When she was at the staircase, Evelyn texted, "Help me get some drugs that can cause death, and send it over tomorrow. I'll need to use it the day after tomorrow."

The other party replied, "Roger, Ms. Evelyn."

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"How strange. This woman appeared at such a weird time," Janie said to Emmeline after Evelyn left.

"Forget her. Help me look if this dress' waistline suits me," Emmeline said.

"I think it'll be better if the waistline is higher so it can accentuate your long legs," Janie replied.

"What do you think?" Emmeline asked the designer.

The man pinched his chin and looked at Emmeline with his head tilted. This woman was so perfect that any wedding dress would look good on her. However, he already had a better design for her in his head. Emmeline could tell Evelyn had no malicious intentions, so she smiled and said, "You're flattering me, Ms. Evelyn. I'm not that outstanding."

"I've taken note of your features, so I'll design a better one for you."

"I'll have to trouble you then!" Emmeline was excited. She wanted to be the most beautiful bride and shock Abel.

"This designer only produces a few special designs in a year, and all of them are worthy to be in an international fashion show," Janie said.

"Then I'm really honored. Just imagining it is nice!" Emmeline said.

"You're marrying someone from the Ryker family. In Struyria, only his designs are worthy for you." Janie said.

"That's too much! I'm flattered." Emmeline smiled.

As they talked, Janie's phone rang. Her heart almost skipped a beat as she subconsciously thought it was Benjamin. She took out her phone and saw that it was indeed Benjamin calling. At the thought of last night, her face flushed, and her heart panicked.

What will Benjamin say to me? He won't chase me off with money, right?

Seeing that Emmeline had entered the fitting room, Janie walked away to pick up the call nervously.

"Janie, let's talk." Benjamin's deep voice sounded from the other end.

"I... I can't talk here," Janie replied.

"You didn't come to Adelmarr, so where are you?" Benjamin asked.

"I'm accompanying Emma to order her wedding dress. I promised her yesterday, and you know it too," Janie said.

Benjamin stayed silent for a moment. Janie could feel that his heart was aching when he heard Emmeline was ordering a wedding dress.

"Mhm, then we'll meet in the evening," Benjamin said.

"Wait." Janie did not let Benjamin hang up the phone.

"What is it?" Benjamin said in a deep voice.

"I just want to say that I won't force you to take responsibility for me, so..."

After some silence, Benjamin replied, "We'll talk about it in the evening."

"Alright. I'll go back once I'm done accompanying Emmeline," Janie said.

"Don't tell Emma about this. This is between the two of us," Benjamin said.

"I know..." Janie then hung up the phone.

Janie originally planned on telling Emmeline and asking for her opinion on handling this. However, since Benjamin did not want her to spread this happening, she would keep it to herself. Maybe he was afraid of embarrassing himself in front of Emmeline.

"Who were you talking to? You were being so cautious. Could it be Benjamin?" Emmeline asked after she finished changing.

Janie smiled shyly. "It's indeed him."

"What's the matter? Is he forcing you to go back to work?"

Janie stayed silent.

Seeing that Janie had a bad expression, Emmeline raised an eyebrow and asked, "Do you need me to help you teach him a lesson?"

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"Of course not! I've made a mistake in my work, so I need to make some amendments later," Janie quickly explained.

"Then let's hurry up. I thought of shopping with you at first, but it seems you're busy, so it's fine," Emmeline said.

"Next time, I'll definitely accompany you," Janie quickly said.

"Mmhm. We've ordered the wedding dress, so your mission here is done. I'll treat you to a meal next time as thanks," Emmeline held her hand and said.

"Why are you being so polite?"

"Can't I use this as an excuse to treat you to a meal?"

Janie laughed upon hearing Emmeline's words, and the tension brought by Benjamin also eased.

After leaving the bridal store, they returned to the Nightfall Cafe.

It was only 11.00 am, but Janie soon bid Emmeline farewell and called Benjamin once she was in her car.

"Can I meet you now? I don't want to wait until the evening. Let's get this done and over with."

After a few seconds of silence, Benjamin laughed and said, "Janie, what are you saying?"

"I..." Hearing Benjamin's laughter, Janie eased up a little, but tears were already rolling in her eyes. This man might not be as merciless as she thought.

"Where are you? I'll go to your place. It's inconvenient to talk in the office," Benjamin said.

"The car park opposite the Nightfall Cafe. I'm sitting in my car," Janie replied. "Of course not! I've made a mistake in my work, so I need to make some amendments later," Janie quickly explained.

"Alright then. I wanted to go to the Nightfall Cafe too," Benjamin said.

"Mmhm, I'll wait for you." After hanging up the phone, Janie immediately let out a breath of relief.

No matter what the result was, everything would be revealed once Benjamin arrived. However, judging from his tone, it did not seem that bad.

Adelmar was only 10 minutes away from the Nightfall Cafe, so Benjamin soon arrived in his Bentley. Once he parked his car, Janie got out of her car and sat in the passenger seat of the Bentley.

"Just say it," Janie said nervously as she fiddled with her hands.

She was scared of Benjamin seeing through her nervousness. She was not the person he wanted, but she still accommodated him for some reason. It was not like she could not reject him, but she had never wanted to resist him. Janie's head sank lower and lower.

"I haven't even said anything yet, but why do you look like you've committed a crime?" Benjamin joked.

Janie stayed silent. Well, I seduced you last night. If I reminded you that I'm not Emmeline, things would not have escalated that way, so it's also my fault.

“If you agree, Janie, I can marry you,” Benjamin said in a low voice.

Janie immediately raised her head in shock.

“But I can’t give you love,” Benjamin continued.

Janie’s lit-up eyes immediately became dull. “What’s the point of a marriage without love?”

“I said that I would take responsibility for you. What I give you now is only money and a loveless marriage. I think that compared to money, you’ll need a marriage more. After all, a marriage also includes money,” Benjamin replied.

Teardrops fell from Janie’s eyes. “Benjamin, I think you got it wrong. I don’t need your money or a marriage with you. I know the woman you love is Emmeline, so I wish you the best of luck.” After she finished speaking, she rushed out of the car.

“Janie!” Benjamin called out in the car.

Janie had run over to her own car.

“Janie!” Benjamin lowered the car window and called out again. However, Janie started her car and drove away.

Benjamin pinched his forehead and cursed in a low voice, “Damn it!”

What was he doing last night? How could he lose control after drinking? No matter how Janie rejected it, Benjamin knew she had become his unshirkable responsibility. As a man, this was his principle.

“Damn it!” Benjamin hit the steering wheel with his fist.

He planned on visiting Emmeline at the Nightfall Cafe but did not feel like going anymore. Emmeline would be worried if she saw him in such a bad state. After all, he was family to her. He did not want Emma to worry about him.

Benjamin then started the car and drove away.

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At the Imperial Palace, Alana’s hand was wrapped in thick layers of gauze.

Hearing that Adam had returned, she went up to the 29th floor.

Adam was pouring some red wine for himself.

“Mr. Adam, let me do it.” Alana reached out a hand.

“Hmph, can you pour wine with only one hand?” Adam sneered.

“I can use this hand. It’s just that I’m not that used to it,” Alana replied.

“You can get prosthetics next time. Then it won’t be much of an issue,” Adam said.

“However, the most important thing to me now is revenge. Is there an opportunity now?” Alana looked at him and asked.

“The day after tomorrow will be Adrien’s party. It’ll be crowded, so it’s a good opportunity,” Adam replied.

“How do you plan on dealing with Abel?” Alana asked with cold eyes.

“You’ll know it by then.” Adam picked up the glass of red wine and swirled it, as red wine had to be decanted to taste good.

“You’ve promised to let me attend it, so you can’t break your word,” Alana said.

“Mmhm, I’ve already thought about it. You’ll need to disguise yourself and mix in with my bodyguards,” Adam said as he pinched her chin.

“Bodyguard? How can there be a bodyguard as thin and petite as me?” Alana asked. At the Imperial Palace, Alana’s hand was wrapped in thick layers of gauze.

“Who told you a bodyguard must have a tall, burly figure? Being short and dainty also has its advantages, right?” Adam snorted coldly.

“Alright, please prepare a black suit for me, Mr. Adam,” Alana replied.

“I know, but how do you want to deal with Abel?” Adam asked.

“I haven’t thought about it, so it depends on the situation.”

“Don’t act rashly. Abel isn’t someone you can easily deal with.”

“Of course, I know this.”

“It’s good that you know. Otherwise, you’ll ruin my plan.”

“Don’t worry, Mr. Adam.”

“Mmhm!” Adam then drank a mouthful of red wine. Decanted wine indeed had a better taste.

He smiled coldly. Abel, I’ve decided that I won’t worry about us being relatives anymore. This time, I’ll definitely kill you!

Adam then threw the glass away and laughed out loud.

Two days later, Adrien’s party was held in the Ryker’s residence. The hall was brightly lit, and it was really lively.

Most of the guests were ladies of wealthy families in Struyria. A lot of them wanted to get together with Adrien. Unfortunately, he also had high standards. He would not like someone who was not pretty or had a bad personality, so these ladies were all waiting for the drama to unfold. They wanted to see who he would get together with.

Oscar wore a suit and held a walking stick, looking happy.

The Ryker residence had not been this lively in a while. Star’s banquet last time had become a shooting scene, which left a scar on Oscar’s heart. This party was a good chance to brighten things up.

“Congratulations, Old Mr. Ryker! It seems like you’ll have a granddaughter-in-law soon! It’s a happy occasion!” Dolores Clark stepped forward to greet Oscar.

“Thank you. Your eldest son also got married, right?” Oscar asked.

“They’ve already given me a grandson, and we just held a banquet for that child last month when he turned a month old.”

“That’s nice!” Oscar nodded.

“Once you have a granddaughter-in-law, you’ll have a great-grandchild soon! The Ryker family is really lucky!”

“Yes, yes!” Oscar smiled happily. At his age, he loved to see his grandchildren have children too. Seeing his family lively and happy was what he wanted the most.

Landen, Lewis, and their respective wives had also arrived. The wealthy ladies all surrounded them and chatted with them.

The reporters of Struyria were also busy taking pictures or having livestreams.

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Adrien’s party became the headlines in Struyria. Everyone was waiting to see what would happen. Which beauty would Adrien get together with? This had become the greatest gossip in Struyria. Reporters also took advantage of this chance to make their news gain popularity.

It was said that Adrien’s ideal partner was someone as beautiful as Emmeline. This also sparked gossip. Could it be that Adrien was secretly in love with Emmeline? He was too bold. Emmeline’s husband, Abel, was like a devil from hell, but Adrien dared to provoke him?

Moreover, to be able to gather so many beautiful women who looked similar was also interesting. However, the background of these women had not been revealed yet. Either way, it seemed like there would be lots of drama today. It could even be said that a situation like this was unprecedented.

Emmeline was also curious how so many women looked like her at the party, so Abel had brought her over earlier. How similar were they to her? Emmeline could not wait to watch the show.

Once everyone had arrived, Adam also arrived. Alana wore a black bodyguard uniform and mixed in with the other bodyguards. She also wore a wig, sunglasses, and black gloves, making her disguise look legit. Even Adam thought she looked like an actual bodyguard. Adrien’s party became the headlines in Struyria. Everyone was waiting to see what would happen. Which beauty would Adrien get together with? This had become the greatest gossip in Struyria. Reporters also took advantage of this chance to make their news gain popularity.

Alana looked at Emmeline through the crowd. Emmeline wore a long blue dress with her hair down, making her look beautiful and pure.

Abel stood by Emmeline’s side like a protective deity as he wrapped his arm around her slim waist. Emmeline seemed to be filled with happiness as she was in his arms. Abel would lower his head occasionally to look and chat with her.

Abel's face was filled with gentleness, and Alana had never seen him give her such a gentle smile before. Her heart was filled with jealousy and hatred. She clenched her hand, which had lost two fingers, and gritted her teeth.

Emmeline, how can you be that happy? I've become like this, so what right do you have to be so happy? Damn you, Emmeline! I won't let you continue having such a good life! Just you wait! Today, one of us will fall!

Alana gritted her teeth so much that the bodyguard beside her looked at her strangely.

"What are you looking at? I'm the Palace Lord's woman, but you dare to look at me like this?" Alana sneered.

The bodyguard quickly turned away.

In this period, Alana had worked hard learning seducing and bed techniques. Every time she tried her best, she managed to make Adam feel good. Soon, she became popular in the Imperial Palace, so the bodyguards bowed to her.

Nonetheless, the bodyguards did not dare to get distracted because they had a mission now. The Palace Lord had asked them to kill Abel, so their sharp eyes were all staring at Abel.

"Emma, let's go inside," Abel said with his arm around Emmeline's shoulders.

As they were talking inside, a woman shouted, "Emma!" Emmeline turned around and saw that Janie was there.

"Janie? Don't you have work today? Why are you here?" Emmeline asked when Janie came over.

"I resigned, so I'm here to accompany you today," Janie replied.

"Resign? You were doing fine in Adelmarr, so why did you resign?" Emmeline asked in surprise.

Janie lowered her head and stayed silent.

"Is it Benjamin? He must have offended you!" Emmeline's face darkened.

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"No, I just want to change jobs. I don't want to work there anymore," Janie explained.

"Aren't you lying? Who else can become a Company Secretary at such a young age like you?" Emmeline said.

Janie stayed silent. Of course, she did not want to resign, but she did not want to face Benjamin. She did not want him to use money or a loveless marriage to compensate her. It was better for them to not see each other.

"Wait, I'll ask Benjamin to apologize to you! He must have offended you!" Emmeline immediately took out her phone.

"No, it really has nothing to do with him." Janie stopped Emmeline as she shook her head with tears in her eyes.

“That’s impossible. You wouldn’t resign if everything’s fine!” Emmeline said.

“Emma, I beg you, don’t call Benjamin.” Janie was going to cry.

“Once we’re done here, I’ll go to Adelmarr to visit him personally! Let’s see if he still dares to bully you!”

“Emmeline, you’re here?”

As they were arguing, a beautiful figure walked over.

Emmeline and Janie looked over and saw that it was Evelyn. This woman actually came? Emmeline and Janie glanced at each other.

Of course, Evelyn said that the Ryker and Murphy families had always been friends, so it was normal for her to be there. However, Abel was taken aback. Why’s this woman here? “No, I just want to change jobs. I don’t want to work there anymore,” Janie explained.

“Mr. Abel.” Upon seeing Abel, Evelyn naturally walked over to his side and held his arm. “I’m friends with Emmeline. Who knew that we would meet here?”

Abel shook off her hand with a cold expression and did not believe what she said. “Emma and you are friends?”

“Yep. We even chose her wedding dress together that day and chatted happily, right Emmeline?”

“Mhm, Ms. Evelyn said that the Murphy and Ryker families have always been friends.”

“Oh Emmeline, I forgot to tell you. If it wasn’t for your appearance, me and Mr. Abel would be together,” Evelyn said with a smile.

Emmeline looked at Abel in surprise. What was she talking about?

“Mr. Abel, am I right? We had a marriage agreement previously.” Evelyn looked at Abel.

Janie was also taken aback. How could Abel and Evelyn have a marriage agreement?

“Emma, don’t misunderstand. That’s the marriage agreement discussed by our two families, but I rejected it, so there’s no such thing anymore.” Abel quickly held Emmeline’s hands and explained.

“So that’s the case. I thought I became the mistress.” Emmeline let out a breath of relief.

“How can that be? You’ve always been my only woman. My wife can only be you, not anyone else,” Abel said with his arms around her shoulders.

“I know that Mr. Abel is loyal, and he’s known for it in Struyria. I heard you two are getting married, and I’m also happy for you. Remember to invite me to your wedding!” Evelyn said with a smile.

“I will.” Emmeline nodded with a smile. She did not think that Evelyn was annoying.

“Mr. Abel, will you invite me to your wedding?” Evelyn asked Abel with bright eyes.

Abel was a little uncomfortable due to Evelyn's sudden appearance at first. However, she did not say or do anything overboard. Instead, she even gave them her blessings, which improved Abel's impression of her.

"Don't worry. The Murphy family will receive an invitation." Abel nodded at her.

"Then I'll thank you in advance, Mr. Abel."

A male waiter brought two glasses of red wine, so Evelyn took one.

She raised her glass to Emmeline. "Emmeline, why don't we have a glass?"

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Emmeline picked up the remaining glass and smiled at Evelyn.

"I won't bother you two anymore." Evelyn took a sip of red wine and left with a smile.

"Let's go inside and see how Adrien's preparations are going," Abel said with his arm wrapped around Emmeline's shoulders.

"Sure." Emmeline looked around and passed the glass of red wine to the maid at the side. She did not want to look drunk as her face would be flushed if she drank red wine. The maid then took the glass and put it on the drinks counter.

Adrien had just finished changing in the room on the second floor and was looking at himself in the mirror.

His assistant walked in and said to him, "Mr. Abel and Ms. Louise are here."

"Let them in! I need to ask them whether I look alright," Adrien quickly said.

His assistant then went out to invite Abel and Emmeline in. "Please come in."

"Abel, Emma! Do you guys think I look better in a black or gray suit?" Adrien had walked out of his cloakroom and asked them.

Abel and Emmeline looked at him and saw that he was currently wearing a black suit, making him look good and elegant."

"A black suit." Emmeline thought that black would make one look dependable.

"I think gray will look better. Black makes him look a little like a bodyguard." Abel tilted his head as he observed Adrien. Emmeline picked up the remaining glass and smiled at Evelyn.

"How does black make one look like a bodyguard? Aren't you wearing black too?" Emmeline asked.

"I'm used to it, but Adrien is different from me. He has always been fancy," Abel said.

Emmeline did not say anything else as she agreed with Abel.

"Abel, you're making fun of me in front of Emma! I've always been well-dressed because of Granny. She liked treating me like a daughter," Adrien said while blushing.

“Anyway, I suggest you wear a gray suit. It suits your temperament better,” Abel said.

“Temperament? What temperament do I have?” Adrien asked.

“Gray looks more luxurious than black, which suits your noble temperament,” Abel explained.

After his explanation, Adrien and Emmeline thought he was right.

Adrien was secretly happy that Abel had praised his looks. Besides, he had always thought that he looked good.

Emmeline also said, “I think what Abel said makes sense, so try out the gray one.”

“Sure.” Adrien quickly went back to the cloakroom. Two assistants also quickly followed him to serve him.

In the cloakroom, there were hundreds of high-quality customized suits from international brands. Soon, Adrien changed into a dark silver suit and walked out.

Abel said without hesitation, “This is the one. It suits you well!”

Emmeline also thought that it looked better than the black suit and nodded. “Adrien, I also agree, so this is the one!”

She then tilted her head and looked at Abel from head to toe.

“What are you looking at me for? Adrien will be the one going on stage, not me,” Abel said.

“I’m just wondering why black looks good on you,” Emmeline said.

Abel laughed. “You’re just used to me, so you’ll think I look good in anything.”

“Mhm, beauty indeed lies in the eyes of the beholder.” Emmeline nodded with a smile.

“Hey, I haven’t found myself a partner here yet, so stop acting all lovey-dovey in front of me. I’ll get jealous!” Adrien said with a sullen expression.

“Adrien, how many of them did you pick today?” Abel quickly changed the topic.

“They’re the ones here.” Adrien picked up the stack of photos on the table.

Adrien took them over and was surprised. “Lizbeth?”

“Lizbeth? Which Lizbeth?” Emmeline was also surprised.

“The one I saved from the Imperial Palace. She’s Evelyn’s younger sister. The Evelyn we saw just now!”

“No wonder Evelyn is here. It turns out she’s here to support her sister.”

“Lizbeth? Number one?” Adrien asked.

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Looking at the photo, Abel nodded. “Yes! Number 1!”

“Adrien, Lizbeth looks a lot like me!” exclaimed Emmeline.

“It’s her then. Adrien, I met this girl before. She looks good!” Abel said again.

“Emma, what do you think?” Adrien asked, looking at Emmeline.

“We’re trapped together in Imperial Palace before. I think she’s good too,” replied Emmeline.

“So, it’s her then. Shall we call her now?” Adrien asked.

Just when the three of them were talking excitedly, someone shouted, “Someone is poisoned. Call 911.”

Hearing that, Abel opened the door and asked, “What happened? What’s going on?”

“Mr. Abel, Old Mr. Ryker is looking for you. You’d better go downstairs to take a look. Someone was poisoned and was spitting out blood!” exclaimed the butler, Fabian Ryker.

Poisoned? Spitting out blood?

Abel felt a chill run down his spine. How could such a thing happen on such an occasion?

Without further ado, he ran downstairs to take a look.

Adrien and Emmeline followed too.

The living room was in chaos.

A middle-aged lady was lying on the floor with blood dribbling from the corner of her mouth.

Another young lady held her in her arms and cried, “Mom, what’s wrong? Are you okay?”

Seeing Abel, Oscar commanded at once, “Abel, be alert! Someone just poisoned the lady!” Looking at the photo, Abel nodded. “Yes! Number 1!”

“Adrien, Lizbeth looks a lot like me!” exclaimed Emmeline.

Hearing that, Abel quickly informed Luca.

Luca gathered all the bodyguards in a hurry and searched the whole villa.

Abel squeezed his way to the middle-aged lady and squatted down to take a look. The middle-aged woman’s eyes were closed and dark red blood dribbled from the corner of her mouth. Apparently, she was being poisoned.

“What happened to her?” Emmeline ran over too.

“She seems to have been poisoned!”

Emmeline quickly checked the woman’s wrist and felt that her pulse was very weak. She was dying.

“Who is so vicious to poison someone like this? My mother didn’t offend anyone!” The young woman cried. “She just had a sip of red wine and become like this.”

Red wine? Was the red wine poisoned?

Hearing that, all the guests were terrified. They put down their red wine glasses at once.

Emmeline was served a glass of red wine just now. Luckily, she did not drink it.

However, it seemed that not all red wines were poisoned. Otherwise, the middle-aged woman would not be the only one who fell to the ground.

Soon, Ryker's family doctor arrived. He rushed over and gave the middle-aged lady a shot.

Emmeline also took out a needle from her bag and inserted it through the middle-aged woman's vein to block her meridians. She wanted to slow down the middle-aged lady's blood circulation so that she could make it to the hospital.

In less than 10 minutes, the ambulance arrived. The paramedics quickly gave the middle-aged woman infusion before carrying her into the ambulance with a stretcher.

It was only until the ambulance drove away that everyone breathed a sigh of relief. Soon, the crowd dispersed.

Adam's bodyguard was hiding in the corner, aiming at Abel.

Adam had ordered him to kill Abel in one shot. Nonetheless, Abel was squatting down with the middle-aged woman just now and was surrounded in the crowd. The bodyguard had no chance to shoot at all.

Since the crowd had dispersed now, it was the perfect opportunity to shoot.

However, as soon as the bodyguard wanted to pull the trigger, Alana showed up.

The bodyguard was dumbfounded. What was Alana doing here?

"The target is not Abel!" whispered Alana.

Hearing that, the bodyguard was confused. "Who's the target then?"

"Emmeline! Mr. Adam wants you to kill Emmeline first!"

Kill Emmeline first?

The bodyguard scowled but did not ask anything further. He would kill whomever Adam wanted him to kill.

"Do it now before it's too late!" said Alana again.

With that, the bodyguard raised his gun and aimed at Emmeline who stood beside Abel.

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"It's strange. Who would do this on an occasion like this?" Emmeline frowned.

"Is the lady really the target? If so, her enemy must be here, among the guests!" Abel exclaimed.

"But I don't think the target is her!" Emmeline shook her head. "Her daughter said she didn't offend anyone."

“Yeah.. It’s kinda strange. Luca already searched the whole villa but found nothing. I’ve called Inspector Charles, and he’ll be coming soon,” Abel continued.

“So what about Adrien’s party?” Emmeline asked.

“It’s okay. Just stick to the girl we chose just now. I think Lizbeth is good enough.”

“All right. I’m going upstairs now.” Emmeline turned around to look for Janie but she was not around.

“Where is Janie?” Emmeline asked.

Hearing that, Abel looked around too.

Right then, Janie was answering a call from Benjamin. Benjamin was mad when she handed him her resignation letter. That was why he called her.

The moment Abel spotted Janie, he noticed something from the corner of his eye.

Many years of training made him alert at once. He saw a gun pointing in his direction.

Immediately, Abel turned around and saw a muzzle was actually pointing at Emmeline. “It’s strange. Who would do this on an occasion like this?” Emmeline frowned.

“Emma!” Abel shouted and pushed Emmeline onto the floor.

Bang!

The bullet shot the staircase and a loud thud was heard.

“Assassin!” Adrien shouted. He was shocked.

The guests screamed and began to run for their lives. The whole living room was in chaos again.

The bodyguard shot again since he missed his target.

Emmeline glanced back. She saw the bodyguard who was hiding behind the pillar was about to pull the trigger again.

“No!” Emmeline yelled and quickly pounced on Abel who was standing in front of her.

The bullet hit Emmeline right on her chest. She spurted out a mouthful of blood instantly.

“Emma!” Abel bawled.

Emmeline felt the bullet penetrate her heart. Everything went black all of a sudden.

However, before Emmeline completely passed out, she stabbed a needle into the Divine acupoint on her wrist. Then, she fell into Abel’s arms and fainted.

“Emma! Please wake up...” Abel shrieked. His eyes turned red.

Nonetheless, Emmeline was lifeless, lying in Abel’s arms.

“Emma, please. Wake up!” Abel shouted madly.

Adrien rushed over. "Emma! What happened? What is going on?"

Janie, who was talking on the phone rushed over too. She was shocked to see what happened.

"Janie! What do you want me to do?" Benjamin was still shouting over the phone. However, Janie could only gasp.

"Benjamin.... Emma... She..." Janie stammered.

"What's wrong with Emma?" Benjamin asked.

"She was shot!"

Hearing that, Benjamin was stunned. He was rendered speechless. He hung up the phone at once.

"Abel, send Emma to the hospital now!" Adrien instructed. "Come one. Hurry up!"

It was not until then that Abel came to his senses. He carried Emmeline and ran toward the door.

"Luca, start the car!" Abel shouted.

Evelyn stood in the corner and sneered with a glass of red wine in her hand.

Emmeline did not drink the poisoned red wine just now. The middle-aged lady drank it.

However, Emmeline was shot now.

She's dying but who shot her? Perhaps she's destined to die today no matter what?

Evelyn smirked. She was thinking about how to bring up the marriage proposal to Abel again.

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Alana stood beside Evelyn. They did not know each other. Nonetheless, both of them could not help but sneer. They were happy that Emmeline was finally dead.

When Alana was smirking, someone grabbed her arm and thrust her into a storeroom.

Slap!

Alana was slapped in the face all of a sudden. She fell to the ground with her nose bleeding.

Lying on the floor, Alana covered her face. She glanced up and saw a pair of shiny leather shoes in front of her.

In a hurry, Alana looked up. It was Adam, He was glaring angrily at her.

"Mr. Adam..."

"Go to hell!" Adam kicked Alana angrily. "How dare you change my plan and shoot Emmeline? Are you out of your mind? Do you have a death wish?"

"I don't want Abel to die." Alana wiped the blood from the corner of her mouth. "I only want Emmeline dead. I hate her. I don't even want to see her face for a second."

“Who do you think you are? Do you think you’re the boss?” Adam bawled. “I want Abel dead, not Emmeline! How dare you change my plan and tell the bodyguard to shoot Emmeline? Alana, I think I need to teach you a lesson today to show you who’s the boss!”

Slap!

Adam slapped Alana in the face again.

“Mr. Adam... No... I...”

“I don’t want to hear any excuses!” Adam grabbed Alana up and threw her against the wall. Alana stood beside Evelyn. They did not know each other. Nonetheless, both of them could not help but sneer. They were happy that Emmeline was finally dead.

Alana hit the wall heavily and fell to the floor. Nonetheless, Adam was still mad. He kicked her on her chest again and again.

Alana spurted out blood. She was half dead.

“Take her to the Imperial Palace’s dungeon. Let her rot there! Without permission, no one is allowed to let her out!” Adam ordered.

Hearing that, several bodyguards quickly lifted Alana out of the storeroom.

Luca honked and sped all the way to the Ryker Hospital.

As soon as they reached the hospital, Abel carried Emmeline and rushed toward the emergency room.

“Help! Someone... Please save Emma!”

Dr. Carter and the other doctors rushed over.

In a hurry, they pushed Emmeline to the operating room.

Abel followed. Nonetheless, he was restricted to enter the operation room.

“Emma!” Abel cried. He could not help crouching down in front of the operating room. “Please, don’t die.”

“Abel” Suddenly, someone called Abel’s name.

It was Benjamin. He rushed over and grabbed Abel’s collar.

“What’s going on? Why did Emma get shot?”

“I’m sorry. I failed to protect her.” Abel cried. “I’m the one to blame.”

“Of course, you’re the one to blame!” Benjamin roared and gave Abel a punch. “How did Emma get shot? Damn, you better explain to me.”

“I don’t know...” Abel did not dodge away and was punched directly in the face. The pain on his face was nothing compared to the pain in his heart.

“Damn, Abel!” Benjamin bawled. “How could you not know? I will not spare you if something happens to Emma!”

“The security and bodyguards checked everything! I really don’t know how could something like this happened...” Abel mumbled.

“What? How dare you said you’ve checked everything when someone entered the party with a gun?”

Benjamin was so angry that he gave Abel a punch again.

Suddenly, someone rushed forward and stood in front of Abel.

It was Evelyn.

“Who the hell are you?” Benjamin roared. “Get out of my way!”

“I’m Emmeline’s friend,” Evelyn answered. “There was an assassin at the party. Mr. Abel saved Emmeline when the assassin fired the first shot. But who knows the assassin fired again. It’s not Mr. Abel’s fault.”

“I don’t want to hear any excuses!” Benjamin glared. “I won’t let him off if anything happens to Emma.”

“Mr. Benjamin, no one wants such things to happen. You can’t put the blame on Abel!” Exclaimed Adrien.

“I trust him to protect Emma. And look what happens now. How could he fail to protect her?” Benjamin glared, pointing at Abel. He was really mad.