

Are Mine 451

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"I haven't accompanied anyone like this except Emma. I'm sorry." Abel said.

"Mr. Abel!"

Abel had already left.

Evelyn felt like crying instantly.

It was not easy to enter The Precipice and stayed with Abel under the same roof. Why did she think of getting closer to him? Right now, she is left alone by Abel.

The Security Guard opened the gate for Abel when he returned to The Precipice. Two bodyguards on duty greeted him and hurriedly opened the driver's seat door.

"You're back, Mr. Abel."

"Hmm." Abel nodded and tossed the car keys to the bodyguard.

These two bodyguards wanted to follow Abel to the hospital but were refused by Abel.

They could only stay at the Villa.

It's a good thing that Abel came back soon, otherwise they would have been scolded harshly by Luca.

Abel got to his bedroom and drank warm water with a supplement.

His stomach was better now but he didn't feel like sleeping anymore.

He sat in the dark and smoked cigarettes.

When dawn came, Kendra got up early.

She saw that the door of the guest room was open, but Evelyn was not there.

She thought Evelyn went to the living room downstairs, but there was no one in the living room either.

Kendra came upstairs again, only to see that the door to Abel's bedroom was partially closed.

"Mr. Abel?" Kendra called tentatively while thinking if Evelyn was in the room or not. The thoughts made her angry and she pushed the door open.

Smoke was in her face and she choked.

There was no sound in the room and the bed was empty.

Kendra stepped in and saw Abel was asleep on the sofa. A dozen cigarette butts were in the ashtray.

She hurriedly opened the window to ventilate and covered Abel with a quilt.

"Emma..." Abel murmured, with tears in the corners of his eyes, "Where are you?"

Kendra felt heartbroken too.

“Emma, don’t leave me...”

Kendra took the tissue from the coffee table to wipe Abel’s tears. It woke him up.

“Why are you here?” Abel sat up at once, “Who let you in?”

“Mr. Abel, please don’t misunderstand. The door was open and the whole room was filled with smoke. I came in to open the window to ventilate and to put a blanket on you.

Abel noticed the quilt on him and said, “I’m fine. You can leave now.”

“Ms. Evelyn has disappeared. Have you seen her, Mr. Abel?” Kendra asked.

“She left. Don’t mind her.”

Kendra remembered that last night Abel had told Evelyn to leave at dawn. She did leave.

Kendra was relieved. As a woman, she could see what Evelyn wanted even though Emmeline was her friend.

Kendra felt angry just thinking about it. No one except Emmeline can get close to Mr. Abel!

“Mr. Abel, go to bed and take a nap. I’ll cook you a bowl of chicken soup.”

“It’s fine. I can’t sleep anyway.” Abel got up from the sofa.

“Wash up first and I’ll cook the chicken soup.”

“Mm.” Abel nodded.

“Waah! Waah!” The sound of Quincy crying came from the baby’s room.

Kendra panicked for a moment.

She was about to go to the kitchen to cook chicken soup for Abel and Quincy woke up at the same time.

“Bring Quincy to me. I’ll watch over him,” said Abel.

“Quincy might be hungry and wants to drink milk,” Kendra said.

“Alright, I can feed him,” Abel said.

“Then I’ll go carry Quincy.” Kendra went to the baby’s room hurriedly.

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Hearing Quincy’s cries, Luca also came upstairs.

He trotted to Abel’s room, and he saw him totally exhausted.

“Mr. Abel,” Luca almost teared up seeing him like this, and he asked, “Did you not sleep for the whole night?”

“I’m fine.” He answered shortly.

Kendra carried Quincy while she held the milk powder and milk bottle. She then put the things on the table, and then she handed Quincy to Abel. He carried the baby with one hand, and he used another to make the milk.

Kendra turned and walked down the stairs to make some soup.

Luca was taken aback, and then he opened his arms and said, "Mr. Abel, do you want me to carry the baby?"

"I can do it myself." Abel answered calmly.

"Do you need me to make the milk?"

"You don't know how to."

"Then..."

"Don't you worry," Abel said. "I saw Emma feeding Quincy before; I know how to do it."

Luca was about to cry. So this is how Mr. Abel is remembering Emmeline.

Luca stopped talking and stood quietly at the side.

After pouring out the warm water, Abel put in the milk powder and shook the milk bottle. And he dropped the milk on his hand to test the temperature. The temperature was just nice.

He carried Quincy and sat on the sofa, and he put the milk bottle closer to her. She was starving and cooing. Feeling the milk bottle near her mouth, she quickly opened her mouth and bit onto it; she was drinking hastily.

Luca felt relieved to see it, and he could see a faint smile on Abel's face. He really could cry from seeing all of these. Mr. Abel must be thinking that this was how Emmeline raised three of his sons.

Quincy was smiling innocently after she was full, and she looked at Abel curiously with her big eyes. Shortly after that, she chuckled sweetly. Abel finally broke into a bright smile. He felt that Quincy's smile was a good sign.

At that moment, Kendra ran up the stairs and said, "Mr. Abel, Janie is here; do you want to let her in?" Abel knew that Janie was Emmeline's true best friend. So he nodded and responded, "Let her in."

Kendra took Quincy from him and walked downstairs. She picked up the phone and told the security guard to let Janie in. The gate was opened, and Janie's car was driven into the gate.

Luca went downstairs first, and Janie saw her and asked, "Luca, is there any news of Emma and Benjamin?" He sighed and shook his head.

"Where's Mr. Abel?" She said, "I recalled something, and I must tell him now!"

"Mr. Abel will be here soon." He said, "Ms. Eastwood, please sit down first."

She sat on the sofa, and she stood up after a while. She repeated the same actions several times, and she lingered in front of the sofa.

She recalled Benjamin muttering something to himself when he was drunk the other night; she was not sure if it could help Abel find them, but this was a clue after all.

But it would expose the truth that Benjamin actually mistaken her for Emmeline the other night, but she had no choice at the moment.

The most important thing for them to do was find the two of them.

Abel casually cleaned himself up, and he changed into a black shirt and black pants. Janie saw him and gasped. Abel was indeed eye candy. Even though he looked sad now, he was also mesmerizing.

"Ms. Eastwood," He greeted her and said, "Please have a seat."

She sat on the sofa, and he sat opposite her. "Mr. Abel," she said hurriedly, "I have something to tell you."

"Is it about Emma?"

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Janie nodded. "Yes, and there's also Mr. Benjamin."

"Ms. Janie, please continue," Abel said, his expression becoming serious.

Luca was also listening.

"We were eating at Fifteen Avery Park that night. Mr. Abel, do you remember?" Janie said.

"Sure," Abel said, "It was only a few days ago."

"Well, you and Benjamin both drank too much that night," Janie continued.

Abel nodded.

"Benjamin is more drunk than you."

"Yes." Abel nodded.

"Then I sent Benjamin back to Glenbrook and helped him upstairs to his bedroom," Janie continued.

Abel was listening silently.

Suddenly Janie blushed with her head down. "Mr. Benjamin called me Emmeline and said many affectionate words."

Abel made a sound of agreement.

He knew that Benjamin loved Emmeline.

"Mr. Benjamin hugged me and cried. He said..."

Janie sighed in relief, "I know he mistook me for Emmeline. He said he regretted bringing Emmeline to Struyria and never thought that Emmeline would fall in love with you at first sight. He deeply regrets it."

Abel remained silent, but he was anxious. It seemed that there was a deep connection between Emmeline and Benjamin.

"Benjamin said he wanted to take Emmeline back to Reykjavík and Adelmar Island," Janie continued.

"Reykjavík? Adelmar Island?" Abel stood up abruptly.

Janie nodded, "Yes, I only recalled it last night. I was upset when it happened, so I didn't remember it then."

"So, you mean Benjamin took Emma to Osea?"

Janie replied, "That's what it seems like. And an old man also went into the emergency room that night."

Suddenly, Abel frowned because he was thinking about Adelmar Island.

"Mr. Abel, what are you thinking?" Janie asked.

Abel was thinking about the Adelmar Clan. Oscar and Adam set up a trap for Emmeline because they suspected that she was from the Adelmar Clan.

It seemed that they were right!

So, the Wonder Doctor was actually from the Adelmar family!

Oscar did not know the whole story.

If he had known that the Wonder Doctor was a member of the Adelmar family, he would not have asked him to pursue her but to eliminate her.

Abel was frightened when she thought about Oscar's longstanding feud with the Adelmar family.

Fortunately, he did not ask in front of Oscar yesterday.

Otherwise, it would have been troublesome.

Oscar would not have only objected to him marrying Emmeline as his wife but also would have compelled him to divorce her and keep their kids by their side.

But Abel did not care about the grudge between the Ryker and Adelmar families.

To him, all those grudges were worthless. He just wanted to find his wife!

"Let's go to Osea!" Abel was excited, "Luca, book a helicopter route immediately!"

"Yes, Mr. Abel!"

Janie said, "But Mr. Abel, for all I know, there are many islands in the Osea, more than 20,000 in different sizes. Which one is Adelmar Island?"

Abel said, "We'll figure it out when we get there. Even if Adelmar Island is not registered, I will find it by searching one by one!"

With tears, Janie's eyes turned red, "Then I'll go with you. I want to find Mr. Benjamin."

Abel seemed to have thought of something. That night, Benjamin was so drunk he might do something disgraceful to Janie.

Abel nodded, "Okay. I'll wait for you. Go home, pack up, and come over immediately."

Janie immediately picked up the car keys and left.

Kendra prepared a delicious meatloaf while inadvertently eavesdropping on the part of the conversation between Abel and Janie.

Kendra said, "Mr. Abel, you should eat something first. It could be problematic if your body becomes fatigued."

Abel nodded, "I will eat some more."

Kendra said, "Then I will make some buns. They are soft and easy to digest."

"Okay." Abel suddenly seemed to have an appetite.

Two hours later, Janie returned.

She was wearing sportswear and carrying a backpack.

The helicopter was also ready.

The driver sent several men to the helipad owned by the Ryker family.

Kendra ran out of the gate, "Mr. Abel, take your medicine!"

The Rolls-Royce had already roared away.

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Kendra stood at the gate, holding the medicine and feeling very regretful.

Why did I not think of it earlier?

Mr. Abel has been experiencing stomach issues in the past few days.

It is really bad.

Kendra turned around and was about to enter the gate, but she saw a taxicab approaching her.

Only one villa called The Precipice was in this area, and the taxicab was heading towards The Precipice.

Kendra stopped in her tracks.

The taxicab stopped at the gate, and the door opened, but Evelyn stepped out.

She was wearing a long white dress, with her hair loosely tied up, looking delicate and pretty.

Kendra was surprised to see her, "Ms. Evelyn? Didn't you leave early this morning? Why did you come back?"

Evelyn said, "I had a fever last night. Mr. Abel took me to the hospital."

Kendra said, "Mr. Abel took you to the hospital? No wonder I didn't see you this morning. Are you feeling better now?"

Evelyn said, "I had an infusion, and the fever is gone. I go back to the hotel to change clothes and come back here."

"But Mr. Abel has already left on a trip. You should go back," Kendra said.

"I bought some medicine for Mr. Abel," Evelyn said. "He was in so much pain last night that he couldn't stand straight. Am I too late?"

"Yes," Kendra was about to return to the main gate.

Evelyn said, "Wait. When will Mr. Abel come back from his trip? What is his trip for?"

"Don't ask about it," Kendra said. "I need to go back to the kids."

"Kendra," Evelyn stopped her, "Mr. Abel is not at home, so there is no one else here, right?"

"Um," Kendra nodded, "Only me and my daughter and a few workers."

"Then can I stay here with you? I can help you take care of the kid."

Kendra considered it and concluded that it was a good idea.

As the only woman in the villa, she felt it was better to have Evelyn as a accompany.

"Then come in," Kendra agreed.

Six hours later, the helicopter landed at the airport on an island in the Osea.

Leaving the airport, Abel, Luca, Janie, and four bodyguards went directly to the reserved hotel.

After a brief rest, they started searching for the location of Adelmar Island.

However, as Abel had anticipated, Adelmar Island was not marked on either the paper or satellite navigation maps. Even the residents were clueless when asked.

Things suddenly became difficult.

With over 20,000 islands in the Osea, were they going to search for them one by one?

Abel commanded, "Luca, hire one hundred local fishermen and ask them to investigate each island. I don't believe we can't find it!"

Janie said, "We can also offer a reward on the media. Someone will come with helpful clues."

Abel said, "Let's stick with the fishermen. It's not easy to leak the news this way."

This reminded Janie that offering a reward through the media to gather clues might not be a good idea if the Adelmar family became aware of it.

It would be okay if they were willing to meet, but if they were not, it would backfire.

"Also, rent a yacht, and we'll go out to search."

After finishing his deployment work, Abel held his stomach again.

Luca frowned and asked, "Are you having stomach pain again, Mr. Abel?"

Abel replied, "Yes, I forgot to bring my stomach medicine when I came."

"I'll go buy it," Janie said. "What kind of stomach medicine does he usually take?"

Luca said, "Let me go instead. You're a young girl and not familiar with the place."

Janie retorted, "Are you familiar with the place?"

Luca replied, "Of course not, but it's safer for a man to go than a young girl."

Janie did not say anything after that.

Luca left the hotel and went to look for a pharmacy along the street.

As he was walking, his phone rang.

He picked it up and saw that it was Sam calling.

Luca and Sam had each other's phone numbers and added each other on WhatsApp, but they had never talked on the phone before.

They only communicated on WhatsApp when Sam helped Emmeline return the rent to Abel and transferred money to Luca.

They had never even chatted on WhatsApp before. Luca was excited when Sam suddenly called and quickly answered the phone.

"Sam?"

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Sam's clear and pure voice came through, "Luca, may I ask if there is any news about Emma?"

Luca replied, "Not yet. Mr. Abel is still searching."

"I see." Sam did not know what else to say.

She and Daisy knew about the whereabouts of Emmeline, but they could not say anything.

She called Luca because she missed him but could not find a better reason.

Luca said, "I will be the first to tell you if there is any news. You are making an international call. Hang up now."

Sam was surprised and asked, "International call? Where are you?"

"Osea," Luca replied.

Sam was even more shocked.

Osea is Reykjavík. So, does that mean that Abel goes to Reykjavík? How does he know that Emmeline is there? Does he know about the island of the Adelmar family?

Oh no, Mr. Adelmar will not allow them to reveal their identities.

This is bad. How did Abel find out?

Sam felt uneasy, and Luca had already hung up the phone.

He found the pharmacy and was busy buying medicine for Abel.

The next day, the hired yacht carried several people out to sea.

After a day, they only visited three islands, but none were called Adelmar Island.

The next day, they went to sea again to search but still found nothing.

On the third day, they still found nothing.

Even the highly paid fishermen did not bring back any useful information.

"This is not a solution," Janie said, becoming anxious, especially since Abel's stomach illness kept flaring up.

Watching him suffer with a pale face, sweating profusely, unable to eat or drink, everyone was worried.

If this continued, they would not find Emmeline, and even Abel would be tortured.

What should they do?

Luca pleaded with Abel on the deck, "Mr. Abel, can't we go back first? You need to see a doctor."

Abel held his upper abdomen and said, "I'm fine. This is an old malady. It may cause pain from time to time. It'll be better in a few days."

Luca looked worried and said, "I know about your old malady. But it's been too long this time, and it's easy to cause perforation."

Abel smiled and said, "It's okay. We just need to find Emma. She's a Wonder Doctor. She'll cure me."

Luca did not say anything.

Emmeline might indeed be a Wonder Doctor.

But is she still alive?

Luca did not dare to voice his concerns.

He was afraid that his boss could not take it.

His unwavering belief in finding Emmeline fuels Abel's entire being.

Luca was feeling uneasy when his phone in his pocket rang.

He took it out and saw that it was from Sam again.

In a low mood, Luca hurriedly went to the cabin and pressed the answer button.

“Luca, any news about Emmeline?”

“No,” Luca said downhearted, “We’ve been searching at sea for three days, but there’s been no sign of her.”

“And Abel is not well. I’m really worried.”

“What happened to Abel?” Sam was also shocked to hear this.

Abel is Ms. Louise’s husband and her four children’s biological father!

If something happens to him, even if they save Ms. Louise, it will still be a big trouble.

“His stomachache is in pain. Seriously, he doesn’t eat or drink, and sometimes he even vomits,” Luca’s voice choked.

Sam anxiously said, “Then ask him to come back. Don’t put his health at risk.”

“But he didn’t listen,” Luca said, “He won’t give up until he finds Ms. Louise!”

“How can this be?” Sam murmured, “Or...”

Luca said, “Forget it. I’ll hang up now. I’ll ask him which island he’s going to next.”

Sam called out impatiently, “Luca, wait a minute.”

Luca frowned and said, “Sam, I’m not in the mood to talk to you. I have important things to do.”

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Sam said anxiously, “No, maybe I can help you.”

“You?” Luca chuckled bitterly, saying, “Sam, it’s not a good time to joke.”

Sam said seriously, “I’m not joking. Because... I work for Ms. Louise.”

“What did you say? I didn’t get it.” Luca was stunned.

“I’m her bodyguard. She is the daughter of the Adelmars family. Do you understand now? So, I know where to find her,” Sam explained.

Luca was completely dumbfounded.

Does the simple-minded waiter, Sam, know martial arts?

Is she Ms. Louise’s bodyguard?

Whose daughter is Emmeline?

Is she from the Adelmars family?

Sam said, “Luca, are you listening?”

“Yes!” Luca was sweating nervously.

Can he have found what he is looking for without effort?

"Wait for me. I'll book a ticket to Osea immediately."

Luca took a breath and asked, "Can you tell me the specific location of Adelmar Island over the phone?"

"There is no Adelmar island. It's a joint name," Sam replied.

Luca was puzzled, "Joint name? What does that mean?"

"It's hard to explain in a few words," Sam said, "Without guidance, it can be difficult for you to find it."

Luca was speechless.

"I'll book a flight now," Sam said, "Tell Mr. Abel to rest well. Don't worry. I'll be there tonight and take you out tomorrow."

"Okay, okay," Luca replied excitedly.

Sam hung up the phone and quickly booked her flight.

Luca rushed out of the cabin, "Mr. Abel, stop searching!"

Abel covered his stomach with one hand and held onto the railing.

He missed Emmeline.

When he heard the shouting from Luca, he turned his head.

"What's wrong, Luca? Have you discovered something?"

"That's right," Luca was excited, "Adelmar Island, we found it!"

Abel grabbed his hand. "What did you say?"

"I know where it is. Huh, it's not me. I know someone who can take us there."

"Luca, are you speaking in riddles?"

"Mr. Abel," Luca licked his lips. "I mean, Sam. She knows where we're going!"

"Of course, we're going to Adelmar Island. What's the point?"

"But there's no Adelmar Island," Luca said, "It's just a joint name."

Abel frowned, "Joint name? Does it mean all the islands belonging to the Adelmar family are called Adelmar Island?"

"Probably yes," Luca replied.

Abel asked suspiciously, "Who told you that? You just mentioned Sam?"

"Yes, it's Sam!"

Abel was surprised, "How could she know?"

Janie also said, "Yeah, how could that little girl know?"

"Mr. Abel," Luca said, "I'll tell you what Sam told me. You have to hold on."

Abel nodded, "Hmm, I'm fine."

"Emmeline is the daughter of the Adelmar family, and Sam is her bodyguard."

Abel's mind buzzed.

Even though he had almost figured it out, he was still surprised when he heard it.

Abel asked, "Then Benjamin... is also Emma's bodyguard?"

Luca said, "Maybe. He is also working for her. Otherwise, he wouldn't call her Ms. Louise."

"What about Adelmar Group?" Janie exclaimed, "It's no surprise that Benjamin always followed Emma's words. Could it be that Emma is the CEO of Adelmar Group?"

Abel took several steps back.

Luca supported him and said, "Mr. Abel, you promised to hold on and not get agitated."

"I'm not agitated," Abel wiped the sweat off his forehead.

"The Ryker Group has always treated Adelmar Group as a mortal enemy. Recently, we've started to build a better relationship since we got close to Benjamin, but we have always been enemies in business. It turns out I have been unknowingly competing with Emma all along!"

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"That's not important now," Luca said, "Sam will arrive tonight. And tomorrow, she will take us out together."

Abel blacked out, and his legs felt weak. He had not eaten much for three days, and he was constantly experiencing stomach pains.

Upon hearing that there was a chance of locating Emmeline, he was overcome with sudden physical weakness.

Luca said, "Turn back. Let's go back to the hotel. Mr. Abel needs to take a good rest."

Abel nodded. "Then let's turn back and rest."

Back at the hotel, Abel's stomach ache was still severe. He took medicine, but it hardly affected him, and his handsome face was pale.

Luca said, "Mr. Abel, why don't we go to the hospital and get an infusion? You can't be like this."

Abel held his stomach and said, "No, we'll wait for Sam and immediately set sail. I need to find my Emma as soon as possible."

"But you're in pain..." Luca was still distraught, "Your gastric ulcer is severe and has the potential to cause bleeding."

"I said I was fine."

Luca dared not speak anymore. He knew that his boss was quite stubborn.

Since Emmeline was missing, he had not eaten or slept well.

He only ate a few bites of food and then pushed away the food.

He only slept briefly and then got up to smoke, one cigarette after another.

His handsome face became thin and cold.

His eyes were in a deep melancholy.

They could not look away at first glance.

"Don't worry about me," Abel could read Luca's expression. He looked at his watch, "When will Sam arrive?"

Luca picked up his phone and checked the message.

Sam had booked a flight and sent a screenshot.

Luca told Abel that she would arrive at around 2.00 am.

"Then you go and pick her up ahead. Rent a car and wait for her there early. She's a young girl, don't let her be scared," Abel said.

"Mr. Abel, Sam is a bodyguard."

Abel said, "Oh, yes. You still have to pick her up. After all, she's a young girl."

"Okay, Mr. Abel," Luca nodded, "I'll go downstairs to order dinner first. You can come later when it's ready."

"Well, I'll shower first," Abel said from the sofa, "Just bring the dinner to my room."

"Yes, Mr. Abel."

Luca went downstairs to the restaurant, and Janie followed him.

They ordered some light and easily digestible dishes.

The waiter put the food onto a cart and sent it to Abel's suite.

Luca also reserved a table for the bodyguards. He and Janie went upstairs to accompany Abel.

Abel had finished taking a quick shower, wearing long pants and a shirt as he walked out of the bathroom.

His hair was not completely dry yet, with a few water droplets hanging from the tips. The shirt was unbuttoned at the top, revealing his sharp, cold collarbones.

He picked up a cigarette from the coffee table, lit it, and took a deep drag.

He was not a smoker, but the frequent smoking during this time appeared to have caused him to develop a mild addiction.

He needed to quit this bad habit once he found Emma.

As he was thinking this, he suddenly felt a sharp pain in his stomach, causing him to bend in agony.

“Uh, this is terrible,” he muttered, leaning against the back of the sofa, “Why does it hurt so much?”

Suddenly, a wave of intense nausea overcame him, causing him to rush into the bathroom. He leaned over the toilet, vomiting uncontrollably.

He only vomited a few mouthfuls.

There was hardly any food in his stomach. Almost all of it was clear liquid.

But he noticed traces of blood in the clear water he had vomited.

It was a sign of bleeding from his stomach ulcer.

He was worried that he might have a perforated stomach. But at this point, he could not afford to think about it.

Once admitted to the hospital, leaving within ten days or even a month was impossible.

Sam arrived in the middle of the night.

He still prioritized finding Emma over his health.

The Adelmar family was a renowned medical family. As long as he found them, his health would not be a problem.

When Luca and Janie returned, the staff pressed the doorbell of Abel’s suite, but no one answered.

“Let me,” Luca said as he knocked on the door. “Mr. Abel, I’m back.”

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Abel flushed his vomit down the toilet and wiped his face with a cold towel before entering the room. Luca could immediately tell that something was wrong with Abel as soon as he caught sight of his deathly pale face and beads of cold sweat on his forehead.

“Mr. Abel, are you alright?” Luca asked worriedly.

“I’m fine,” Abel managed to muster. “Just a little tired after showering...”

“Get some rest after dinner, Mr. Abel. You don’t look too good...” Luca said.

“Sure,” Abel said before turning to his butler. “Please serve the food now.” The butler and waiters quickly organized themselves, serving and presenting the dishes neatly in front of Abel before quietly leaving the room.

“Guys, don’t worry about me,” Abel told Luca and Janie. “Go out to a restaurant for your dinner.”

“Ms. Eastwood and I will stay here with you, Mr. Abel,” Luca was adamant.

“How can I eat comfortably with you two staring at me like that?” Abel chuckled. “I’m fine, really. Go and have a meal before picking Sam up.”

Luca and Janie exchanged looks. They were still worried about Abel, but they knew better than to disobey his instructions. Finally, they decided to leave Abel in search of some dinner.

Abel stared at the tantalizing array of food in front of him, but he could not stomach it at all. He was certain he was going to throw up again if he tried consuming anything. He stood up weakly and carried two platefuls of food into the restroom before flushing it down the toilet bowl and returning to his bedroom.

After having a quick dinner, Luca and Janie returned to find the remaining dishes on the table. Luca was relieved, thinking that Abel had at least eaten half the food. He thought that Abel’s appetite had improved since they were close to finding Emma now. Luca peeked into Abel’s bedroom and found him resting on the bed with his eyes closed. He put a finger to his lips to warn Janie and closed the door quietly.

Around ten at night, Luca started driving toward the airport. It was still more than three hours before Sam’s flight landed, but Luca was feeling restless since Abel had reminded him about Sam just now. He waited at the airport lobby until Sam’s flight finally arrived at 1:40am. Not too long after, Sam appeared from the gates carrying a bag pack as she made her way toward Luca.

“Luca!” Sam waved at him from afar.

Luca stretched his arms wide open like he was inviting Sam in for a hug, but he quickly put his arms back down at his sides, as if he thought better of it. Sam too resisted the urge to rush over to Luca and instead just gave him a toothy smile as she took her time walking over to him.

“Hey, Luca,” Sam greeted as soon as she finally reached him.

“Hey,” Luca said while offering to carry Sam’s bag pack. Without turning to look at Sam, Luca grabbed onto Sam’s arm gently as he led her toward the carpark. Sam felt her cheeks heat up as she felt the contact from Luca, but it was thankfully too dark for anyone to notice her blushing profusely.

By the time the both of them returned to the hotel, Abel was up and waiting for Sam in the living room of his suite. He had not eaten anything but seemed to feel slightly better after having a short nap. His pale complexion only made him seem more severe.

“Hello, Mr. Ryker,” Sam greeted politely. She felt a tinge of guilt keeping her real identity a secret in front of Abel Ryker.

“Have a seat,” Abel nodded.

“I’m fine standing here,” Sam said softly as she remained standing.

“I have something to ask you,” Abel said flatly. “It’s better if you have a seat.”

Having no other choice, Sam took a seat on the sofa opposite Abel.

“You’re Emma’s bodyguard?” Abel asked, staring intently at Sam.

"Mhm," Sam flattened her lips and made a sound.

"You must be pretty good at fighting and protecting then," Abel continued.

"Ms. Emmeline never really needed my protection services, so I'm more of a personal assistant who buys her coffee," Sam explained.

"Emma's pretty good at fighting herself," Abel smiled at the thought. "She's not one to bring a bodyguard everywhere she goes."

"But Ms. Emmeline would be fine right now if only I was with her that day..." Sam's eyes welled up with tears as she spoke. "I should've been the one... I would have taken a bullet for her!"

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"I would've too. I stopped the first bullet, but I couldn't stop the second one..." Abel said regretfully as he noticed Sam's tears streaming down her cheeks. "Who is her real family? Is it the Adelmara family?"

Sam nodded gently without speaking.

"Who heads the family?" Abel asked.

"I... can't say..." Sam shook her head.

"I'll find out tomorrow anyway," Abel reminded her. "You might as well tell me now."

"No," Sam said, avoiding Abel's eyes. "If you find out on your own, no one can say it's because I told you..."

"Huh! The girl is tight-lipped, it seems..." Abel chuckled.

"I'm only here to escort you onto the island before I have to return to Struyria," Sam continued. "If you meet Ms. Emmeline, please let me know how she is."

"Since you're already here, why don't you just come along with us? Luca asked.

"I don't know how the Master would react when he meets you," Sam explained. "I should steer clear of him to avoid being punished. He's already angry enough that I failed to protect Ms. Emmeline. He gave me an earful through the phone that day..." Sam's lips quivered as she spoke.

"That's not your fault. It was mine," Abel frowned.

"It was my carelessness," Sam maintained. "I should've kept my eyes on Ms. Emmeline at all times, whether she liked it or not..."

"No point arguing over that now," Abel interrupted her. "So what does Benjamin do here?"

Sam shook her head again. "I'm not at liberty to say, Mr. Ryker. You'll find out soon enough."

Abel's frown deepened. The woman was doing an excellent job at keeping mum.

"The best I can do is show you the way to get to the island, or you might end up spending days or even months trying to find it." Sam repeated. "I wasn't sure if Mr. Ryker's body could take it, so I rushed over."

Mm," Abel nodded briefly. "Thank you."

"I'm also doing it for Ms. Emmeline," Sam raised her head, finally looking Abel in the eye. "I know you were good to her."

"Luca," Abel called out for his assistant. "Take good care of Sam, make sure she has some food to eat. We'll set sail first thing at dawn."

"Yes, Mr. Abel," Luca responded immediately before turning to Sam. "Your room is ready. Why don't you have a shower while I get some food ready for you?"

Sam's cheeks turned slightly pink again. "Thank you, Luca," she said softly before turning to Abel. "Thank you, Mr. Ryker."

Abel locked his door as soon as Luca and Sam left the room. He lounged on the sofa smoking a cigarette since he was unable to sleep any longer. His stomach still hurt, but the pain was dulled by the hopeful anticipation of seeing Emmeline again. If he was not considerate of the fact that Sam might need some rest after a long day of travel, he would have set sail right now.

The pain in his abdomen gradually worsened as he waited impatiently for dawn. Beads of cold sweat pooled on his forehead as he reached for some painkillers on the table. He gulped down two pills with some water and hoped for the pain to subside, but he only grew more nauseous as time passed and

finally ran to the toilet bowl again. He vomited a mixture of bile and blood as well as the painkillers he had taken, but the blood was noticeably more pronounced this time.

Abel wiped his mouth and washed his face in the sink, catching a glimpse of his pallid complexion in the mirror. "Emma..." he breathed heavily, holding on to the sink to support himself. "Please let me find you before I can't hold on any longer... Let me see your face once again..."

There was a knock on the door before Abel heard a voice. "Mr. Abel, are you up?" Luca's voice called out.

Abel gargled his mouth once more before he headed toward the door and unlocked it, giving Luca a shock. His employer looked deathly sick and grey, but his dark eyes remained alert, yet sorrowful.

"Mr. Abel, what would you like to have for breakfast?" Luca asked. "I'll order some takeout from the restaurant."

"I won't be having any," Abel said simply. "You guys go ahead with breakfast. We'll depart in half an hour."

"... Alright, Mr. Abel," Luca nodded despite being worried.

Abel closed the door and poured himself a glass of warm water before swallowing a few more painkillers.

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An hour later, the yacht ferrying Abel and his crew sailed out to sea, breezing past hundreds of islands big and small. Close to noon, Sam finally pointed toward an island in the distance. "Mr. Ryker, look! That's where Master lives," she informed Abel.

"Wow, you were right. I'd take an entire month locating this place on my own..." Abel said, squinting his eyes to get a better look at the faraway island. He instructed the crew to speed up, and in less than an hour, the yacht arrived on the shores of the mysterious island. From afar, the island did not look to be inhabited nor have any buildings, but now that they were up close, Abel was surprised to discover that the island was a bustling city sprawling with vehicles and modern buildings.

"Master owns all of the businesses on this island and about a dozen other islands nearby too," Sam explained. "Adelmar Island is just a collective name for all these islands, but no one from the outside world knows about it. This island itself is known to us as Dawn Island because it is the first of the islands to see the sun rise at dawn."

Abel was momentarily silent, for he had not expected such a complicated backstory of the islands. It was no wonder information was scarce when they tried to look up the island themselves.

"This is where I'll leave you," Sam announced as soon as the yacht docked at the pier. "You'll find the magnificent Dawn Manor in the middle of the city center. That's where the Master lives. As for which island Ms. Emmeline is on, you'll have to ask the Master yourself."

Abel and his motley crew stepped off the yacht onto land while Sam remained on board. Luca watched Sam's figure gradually disappear from his sight as the little yacht reversed out of the pier and drifted back into the open seas. They then made their way to the nearest road to hail a cab to Dawn Manor.

In less than ten minutes, the cab stopped outside a palatial Victorian-style building surrounded by manicured gardens as far as the eye can see. Luca paid the cab fare, and the group made their way toward the manor's imperious front door, built out of copper and wood, and decorated with intricate wood-carved floral motifs. A smartly dressed man in a suit appeared from the security room at the side of the mansion barely seconds after Abel rang the doorbell. Abel informed him that he would like to meet with the head of the Adelmar family.

"Please hold on," the man said politely before returning to the room. Moments later, he came back out again. "Master will not see you," he informed Abel curtly.

Abel's breathing intensified. Of all the outcomes he had imagined, he had not expected the head of the Adelmar family to turn him away. What was he supposed to do now?!

"Hold on!" Abel snapped quickly before the man walked away. "I would like to see Benjamin York then. Ask Benjamin to meet me!"

The man shook his head. "I'm sorry, Sir. There's no one here with that name."

Abel was dumbfounded. "No one named Benjamin York?" Was he at the wrong place? "And this is where Mr. Adelmar lives?" he asked the man.

"Yes, it is," the man confirmed.

"Then how could Benjamin not be here?!" Abel almost yelled.

“There’s definitely no one named Benjamin here,” the man reiterated.

A few long moments after, Abel finally looked down in defeat. “Alright. Thank you then,” he said before walking away from the door.

Luca chased after his employer. “Mr. Abel, what just happened?” Luca was equally as confused.

“This must be the place,” Abel insisted. “Perhaps they have their reasons for not wanting to meet with us...”

“What do we do, then?” Janie asked anxiously. “What happens if we can’t find Emma or Mr. Benjamin?”

“That won’t happen. As long as we find the Adelmars, we’ll find her,” Abel sounded as though he was trying to convince himself as well.

“But why did the man say there was no one named Benjamin York?” Luca wondered out loud.

“Call Sam and ask her,” Abel instructed. Luca immediately called Sam on his cellphone, but the call could not go through even after a few tries. There was probably no phone signal on the yacht.

“Let’s find a nearby hotel first. We’ll think of a plan later,” Abel said, finally resigned to his unlucky fate.

“That works. I saw plenty of posh hotels on the way here. It feels like a tourist town around here!” Luca said.

“Yes, the way this place reeks of wealth and opulence... It feels almost like Dubai!” Janie added on.

“Looks like my father wasn’t wrong when he said the Adelmars could probably rule a nation with their wealth...” Abel concurred.

“So the Adelmar Group back in Struyria is probably one of their many businesses...” Janie remarked.