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Evelyn did not think that Abel was gay, but she did not understand how Emmett was capturing all of his attention either. She would only stand a chance against Emmett if Old Mr. Ryker played into her plan and removed Emmett from the picture. After all, the old man had to support her union with Abel if he wanted to quell the gay rumors once and for all.

“Honey, what do you think we should do?” Rosaline asked her husband anxiously.

“How should I know?!” Lewis’ voice was irritated. “I never imagined that Abel was dating a man!”

“Perhaps they’re just friends and there’s nothing going between them...” Rosaline suggested tentatively.

“I’m sure the media blew it out of proportion like they always do. If I find out who leaked the news to the paparazzi, I’ll be sure to tear them a new one!”

Evelyn felt the goosebumps on her skin when she heard Rosaline’s angry declaration. She knew the usually polite and poised woman could turn venomous if she wanted to.

“There’s no point for all this now...” Lewis muttered. “You’ve seen the photos yourself. I don’t blame anyone for thinking he’s gay! The only person to blame here is Abel himself for not listening to us when we told him to stop hanging out with that twat!”

“I still think there was a malicious sabotage attempt at play here,” Rosaline added suspiciously. “I bet that good for nothing Adam Ryker had something to do with it!”

“Well, if our son behaved himself in the first place, Adam wouldn’t even have the opportunity to attempt anything!” Lewis boomed.

“It’s not Abel’s fault,” Evelyn said softly. “It’s Emmett who’s always hanging around him. Abel’s just too nice to get rid of him.”

“Yes, I knew it! It must be Emmett!” Lewis’ face was beet red. “I might still be alright with him if he were a woman, but they’re two grown a*s men hugging and touching each other, for god’s sake! It’s no wonder the media is lapping it all up!”

“That’s true. If Emmett wasn’t in the picture, none of this would have happened,” Evelyn quipped.

“This is absolutely unacceptable! I will run that sissy out of this household if that’s the last thing I do!!” Lewis’ eyes burned with fiery determination.

“Let’s see what Oscar has to say first,” Rosaline tried to calm her husband down. “The old man might just threaten to take Ryker Group away from Abel!”

“That’s already expected!” Lewis fumed. “Abel needs to get rid of that man and apologize to his grandfather for all this to come to an end! There’s no one else more qualified to head the company than Abel!”

“Call Abel right away and warn him,” Rosaline urged. “Make sure he doesn’t do or say anything to make Oscar even more upset than he already is.”

“Good thinking!” Lewis quickly dialed Abel’s cellphone.

Abel himself had just ended the call from Ryker Mansion informing him of the family meeting when his cellphone rang again. It was his father calling.

Abel swallowed his anger before he accepted the call. “Father,” Abel greeted.

“Has Granddad contacted you?” Lewis was straight to the point.

“Yes, I just ended the call,” Abel confirmed.

“Your granddad called for an emergency family meeting. What do you make of it?” Lewis tested the waters.

“Ha! Some people will go to great lengths just to slander my name!” Abel’s tone was sharp.

“What do you mean? Does that mean you and Emmett are not...” Lewis could not even finish his own sentence.

“Your son is not gay!” Abel almost yelled. “I treat Emmett like a lovable little child. What is this nonsense going around about us being gay lovers?!”

“But... there are leaked photos of the both of you...” Lewis countered. “... all taken at angles that say otherwise!”

“I’ve already shut those articles down and removed the photos from trending searches,” Abel said.

“It’s too late. I’m sure everyone in Struyria has seen those photos at least once by now. They’ll see you differently, Abel,” Lewis trembled with worry.

“Well, what else can I do?” Abel retorted. “Their eyes and mouths belong to them.”

“The only thing that would help you now is if Emmett became a woman, or this will be a permanent stain on your pristine track record, son!” Lewis told Abel.

“If Emmett became a woman...?” Abel said the words out loud to himself. He turned to look at Emmett who was lounging on the sofa. “I too wished he could, but that’s wishful thinking...”

Wishful thinking? Emmeline jumped to her feet. She was a woman from the very beginning! She perked up and strained to catch more of the conversation going on between the father and son.

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“We don’t have much of a choice now,” Lewis said. “Let’s just go over to the Ryker Mansion first. Your mother and Evelyn will come along too. If the need arises, just apologize to your grandfather and tell him you’re dating Evelyn. Once the media gets wind of that, they’ll forget this ever happened!”

“I don’t agree,” Abel said curtly. “I would rather the whole city think I’m gay than to lie and say I’m dating Evelyn Murphy.”

“You... You...!! Hgghhh!” Lewis wheezed angrily.

“Father, please calm down,” Abel told Lewis. “It’s no big deal, I’ll handle it.”

"You'll handle it? Pfft! I'll watch and see how you handle it!" Lewis slammed the phone down.

"God d*mn it!" Abel cursed. "Who did this to me?"

"Abel..." Emmeline called Abel's name gently. "This must be Adam's doing. Ever since you brought me back from his place, he's held a grudge against you..."

"I thought so too," Abel agreed with her. "That man is rotten inside and out."

"Oh, yes! I almost forgot," Emmeline said as she suddenly recalled her encounter with Alana Lane. "I met a strange woman at Adam's place too."

"Strange woman?" Abel cocked an eyebrow. "What do you mean?"

"The woman was incredibly beautiful, but she only had three fingers on her left hand, and she addressed Adam very formally," Emmeline said.

"Alana?" Abel reared back in shock "You met Alana?"

"How would I know what her name is? I just heard Adam ask her what level she was at, and she told him Level 2," Emmeline told Abel.

"What's this level nonsense?" Abel was confused.

"It sounded like they were talking about assassin training," Emmeline said. "Adam told her she was not assassin material."

Abel's expression turned grave as he took in a deep breath. "So that's where you've been all this while, Alana? Hiding with Adam and becoming his assassin?" Abel said out loud.

"Abel, is this going to trouble you?" Emmeline asked on purpose.

"Yup," Abel nodded slowly. "Big trouble."

"So, what will you do?" Emmeline asked.

"I'll talk it out with Adam soon," Abel replied. "But I'll have to deal with the family meeting first."

"Go ahead," Emmeline said. "I know you'll get through this. It's no big deal for you," she comforted him.

"Mm," Abel made an affectionate sound as he stroked her cheek. "Emmett, don't you worry. I promise I'll protect you. I won't let anyone hurt you," Abel reassured.

"Will you leave me?" Emmeline asked.

"Of course not. Don't ever think that way," Abel said gently.

"Then I'm not worried anymore," Emmeline smiled. "I'm worried for you now. How are you going to stop the rumors?"

"Let them say whatever they want. I know I haven't done anything wrong, so I have nothing to be afraid of," Abel's expression darkened.

“But... if your reputation is damaged, Ryker Group will be affected too. The Rykers will surely bring that up!” Emmeline thought on his behalf.

“Let’s deal with that when it happens,” Abel pinched her jaw lightly. “Don’t worry, no one can hurt me. Just sit here and wait for me to come home, alright? Don’t go anywhere.”

Emmeline felt the heat rush to her body. “I got it, Abel,” she nodded gently.

“That’s my boy,” Abel said before he put on his coat and strode out of the office.

Emmeline thought about the situation for a moment before giving Benjamin a call.

“Ms. Louise,” Benjamin’s voice spoke through the phone. “I’ve seen the news about you and Abel. It’s everywhere! What do you need me to do?”

“Get in contact with the media,” Emma instructed. “I think it’s almost time for my grand appearance.”

“Grand appearance? Isn’t it still a little early?” Benjamin asked.

“I don’t have a choice. I can’t just allow Abel to be ruined like that,” Emmeline sighed.

“Hmm, that’s true,” Benjamin nodded. “The only way to save his reputation now is if your true identity is revealed.”

“There’s also the matter of the four munchkins,” Emmeline added. “Imagine how sad they’d be if they thought their father was gay. They might think that Daddy betrayed Mommy...”

“Makes sense,” Benjamin agreed. “We’ll follow your plan.”

“Once you’ve gotten in touch with the media, get them to go to the Ryker Mansion,” Emmeline said.

“Of course, Ms. Louise,” Benjamin said before hanging up.

Less than an hour later, a few journalists had already gathered together, eagerly awaiting Emmeline’s arrival.

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By the time Abel arrived, the rest of his family members were already gathered at the Ryker Mansion. He first bumped into his aunt, Julianna Campbell in the living hall.

Julianna had a sly, sideways smile as she greeted her nephew. “I knew you’d get into trouble sooner or later...” she muttered under her breath.

Abel caught every word despite her whispering and turned around to give her a sharp look. However, Julianna was still an elder of the family and a woman too, so anything he said back to her would be considered disrespectful. Abel swallowed his words and gave her an unpleasant frown instead.

Rosaline, who had also heard what Julianna said, walked up to her in a huff. “Julianna, don’t think I didn’t hear you. Was that really necessary?”

“Well, I was only speaking the truth,” Julianna countered. “Always remember, what goes up must come back down eventually. Just look at the state of your family! Emmeline is dead, and now Abel’s gay! Levan Mansion is in disarray, and you won’t even let me talk about it? What a joke!”

“There’s nothing wrong with Levan Mansion,” Rosaline fumed. “We’re doing great! You’re just jealous of us, Julianna.”

“Tsk tsk tsk,” Julianna pursed her lips. “You’re getting ahead of yourself now. You were doing great when Emmeline was still around, but now? I’m sure you know where you stand.”

Rosaline was so furious she could barely speak. To a certain extent, Julianna was not wrong. Nothing had gone well for the family ever since Emmeline’s incident, and now they had to deal with the repercussions of Abel’s gay scandal. How could she not be worried?

“That’s enough!” Oscar Ryker bellowed as he made his entrance into the room. “The lot of you better listen up!”

Rosaline and Julianna eyed each other fiercely before taking their respective seats. Abel sat next to his parents with an unreadable expression on his face. Still angry from their previous argument, Lewis ignored Abel’s presence, while Rosaline tried to minimize interaction with her son too. Why would a proper adult man take a liking to another man and embarrass his parents like that? What was wrong with a nice girl like Evelyn Murphy?

“Mom,” Abel whispered to Rosaline. “It’s not what you think...”

“Hmph!” Rosaline made her disapproval clear as day. “It’s too late for you to say anything now. The whole of Struyria have already made their judgment. Tell me, how are you going to live out your future days? I’ve already warned you about Emmett, but you refused to listen to me when I told you to stop hanging out with him. Are you happy now?”

“Firstly, that’s my prerogative...” Abel insisted. “...and it’s not as complicated as it sounds.”

“Just get rid of Emmett and publicly announce that you’re dating Evelyn! That’s the only way to salvage whatever’s left of your reputation!” Rosaline hissed.

“I told you I’m not doing that,” Abel asserted. “I’ll handle this myself. The both of you don’t need to worry.”

Beside him, Lewis only grew more furious with his son. Rosaline quickly calmed him down by soothing his chest, helping his breathing.

“Abel Ryker!” Oscar boomed. “You know why we’re gathered here today, don’t you?”

“Mhmm,” Abel nodded. “Crystal clear.”

“And that’s all you have to say? Anything else you would like to add?” Oscar’s croaky voice was surprisingly clear and loud.

“What else is there for him to say?” Julianna rolled her eyes haughtily. “Abel singlehandedly dragged our family name into the mud.”

“Our reputation is one thing, but more importantly, we are losing business because of this scandal,” Adam added.

“Exactly, how is our family going to survive if we don’t make any money?” Julianna dramatized.

“Mom,” Adrien cut in. “It’s not like what you guys are thinking. Why don’t you guys just talk less?”

“Adrien Ryker!” Julianna scolded her second son. “Are you siding with them instead of us?”

“Well, you’re deliberately twisting the truth! Just be careful that it comes back to bite you one day...” Adrien said.

“Oh, you horrible son! How could you say that about your own mother?!” Julianna looked aghast.

“Adrien, everyone knows the truth about Abel. What is there to argue about?” Adam chided his brother as well.

“Fine, fine. Whatever you say, then!” Adrien waved his hands.

“How dare you talk back!” Julianna stared at her son angrily. “Are you going to turn gay and end up like him too?”

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Abel scratched his head. Who said he was gay? He was straighter than a ruler!

“Julianna, I suggest you zip that mouth of yours!” Rosaline barked as she stood up from her seat, ready to rip into Julianna at any given moment. “Who are you calling gay?!”

“Who else do you think I’m talking about?” Julianna smirked coldly. “It’s one of the three Ryker grandsons, and it’s definitely not Adam or Adrien, so that leaves...”

“Stop it, all of you!” Oscar snapped. “Why is everyone squabbling as though I’m dead?”

Rosaline and Julianna continued staring daggers at each other, but they knew better than to continue arguing. Both ladies took their seats once again.

“Abel, I’ll give you one chance to give everyone a proper explanation. I don’t want to see our family’s good name tarnished and ruined!” Oscar croaked.

“What do you want me to explain, granddad?” Abel spoke calmly.

“Of all the people I chose to succeed me as head of Ryker Group, I chose you, Abel. However, I never expected you to indulge in that sort of shameful vice! Even until the day I die, I will never approve of it!” Oscar lamented.

“Granddad, my relationship with Emmett is nothing like what the media is portraying,” Abel explained. “I’m not gay, nor do I fancy men. I treat him like a younger brother, that’s all.”

“Younger brother? Pfft, who are you trying to kid?” Adam mocked. “I’ve seen you hugging and cuddling with Emmett with my own eyes, not once but twice now!”

“Emmett’s just a kid. Stop trying to turn an innocent friendship into something more than it is!” Abel was increasingly agitated.

“You’re still trying to hide the truth? Alright then!” Adam yelled angrily as he threw a bunch of the incriminating photos of Abel and Emmett on the table. “How do you explain these? I can’t even look at them without blushing!”

Rosaline and Lewis looked ashen as they caught a glimpse of the photos spread out on the table, while Julianna and Landen were trying their best not to look too gleeful.

“Abel, you’ve disappointed me so badly,” Oscar sounded more tired than angry now. “Tell me now then, what do you intend to do about this?”

“Father,” Lewis said as he stood up. “I’ve spoken with Abel. He will make sure he distances himself from Emmett and cut all ties with him. He will also make his relationship with Ms. Evelyn official and make a public announcement, so all of this should be forgotten in no time.”

“Forgotten in no time?” Julianna said incredulously. “The damage has already been done! People won’t forget so easily!”

“I, for one, won’t be pleased if we let this go so easily,” Adam added.

“Adrien, Mom,” Adrien frowned at his vindictive family members. “Just let it go already. It’s not like that...”

“Quiet, you fool!” Julianna admonished her second son. “What else could it be then? This is as obvious as it gets!”

“Exactly! If we don’t come out and make a statement to clear the air, we’ll lose our standing in front of all the other influential families of Struyria!” Adam cried.

“Adam is not wrong,” Oscar agreed. “No one in Struyria would respect us anymore if they knew that one of the Rykers was a homosexual!”

“You guys are blowing things way out of proportion! Since when exactly did Abel turn gay?” a chirpy voice filled the hall. The Rykers turned toward the door only to find Emmett dressed in a smart black suit, looking like his usual pretty, charming self.

“Emmett?” Abel’s voice was filled with surprise and a little delight. “Why are you here?”

“Abel,” Emmett hopped toward Abel and held onto his elbow. “I was worried that they’d give you a hard time, so I decided to look for you.”

“Don’t worry, they can’t bring me down so easily,” Abel said as he wrapped an arm around Emmett’s tiny waist. “You didn’t have to come all the way here for me.”

“This whole scandal started because of me. How could I not be here?” Emmett cocked his head slightly.

Abel and Emmett chatted as if they were in their own world, oblivious to everyone else around them.

Adrien smiled, knowing that things were about to get a lot more interesting.

Evelyn looked like she was about to throw a fit.

Adam, on the other hand, looked green with jealousy. He could not believe how lucky Abel was all the time. He was rich, successful, and always got everything he wanted, including Emmett, the pretty boy. Adam had always wanted a pretty little gay friend like Emmett too, but he did not have Abel's luck.

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"You little punk!" Lewis jumped from his seat, ready to pounce on Emmett. "How dare you show up here? Haven't you caused enough trouble for Abel?"

"So, you're the little troublemaker?" Oscar narrowed his eyes at Emmett in warning. "The person who singlehandedly smeared and tarnished my family's good name?"

"Granddad," Abel said, still holding on to Emmett's arm. "Emmett's not like that. Please don't scare him..."

"I'm scaring him? I think he's scaring me!" Oscar yelled. "Look at him! He's prettier than a woman! It's no wonder he's got you wrapped around his little finger!"

"Emmett!" Evelyn spoke in a cloying voice as she stepped forward. "Are you going to keep hounding Abel? What are your intentions?!"

"I just want to help him clear his name," Emmett smiled. "I've already explained that Abel isn't gay, but no one seems to believe me!"

"Stop lying to us!" Evelyn pointed at the scandalous photos on the table. "Tell me, is that not you in the photos with Abel? Aren't you embarrassed to be caught red-handed? Or did you do it on purpose?"

Emmett casually picked up one of those photos from the photo. "Tsk-tsk, who took these photos? The angles are horrible!"

"You know what's horrible? You seducing Abel, you shameless minx!" Evelyn shrieked.

"Please, you're the shameless one," Emmett rebuked. "You're the one who's been trying to seduce Emmett, and now you're directing your anger at me when he didn't fall for your tricks!"

"At least I'm a woman!" Evelyn argued. "I wouldn't have humiliated Abel and his family like you did!"

"I told you all of you are stretching the truth," Emmett intertwined his hand with Abel's just to prove a point. "Abel and I are just being friendly. What's the big deal?"

"You crazy b*stard!" Oscar slammed his fist on the table. "How can time like this? Someone, get this man out of my house!"

Abel immediately stood in front of Emmett protectively just as a few guards burst into the room.

"Emmett's just a child! He doesn't know what he's saying!"

"Oh, I think he knows exactly what he's saying..." Oscar muttered. "Abel Ryker, if you insist on protecting that kid, you may leave Ryker Group with immediate effect!"

“Father, don’t be rash!” Lewis immediately stepped in. “Abel is not in his right mind, but I’ll make sure he snaps out of it! I’ll get rid of Emmett!”

“But I’m here to help Abel!” Emmett pouted. “Why can’t you see that?”

“You call this helping?” Lewis asked with one raised eyebrow. “Can’t you see you’re only making things worse?”

“Well, how can I help then?” Emmett scratched his head innocently.

“Why don’t you just leave? Stop causing more trouble for my family!” Lewis said.

“But I have to be responsible for tarnishing Abel’s reputation, right?” Emmett said.

“Please, you can’t afford to bear such a responsibility!” Lewis huffed impatiently. “For all the trouble you’ve caused, just leave and never talk to Abel again!”

“Well, what are you still doing here? Are you going to leave only when you’ve thoroughly destroyed Abel?” Evelyn chimed in with her arms folded.

“Of course, not!” Emmett laughed. “I told you. I’m here to turn things around!”

“There’s no way you can turn this around!” Lewis clawed at his head in frustration. “Unless you become a woman!”

“Well, well,” Emmett quipped. “I’ll become a woman then. How hard could it be?”

“Emmett...” Abel frowned, tugging on Emmett’s sleeve. “Stop it. The adults are talking.”

“Well, I have something to say too,” Emmett’s voice was gentle as he whispered in Abel’s ear. “If I become a woman, then all of your troubles would disappear!”

Abel stroked Emmett’s head gently. “Go home first. I’ll look for you in a bit,” Abel promised.

However, instead of leaving, Emmett brought his hands to his head and removed the wig he was wearing.

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As thick, luscious locks of black hair cascaded down Emmett’s back, he removed his fake mustache and brows to reveal his, or more correctly, her bare, beautiful face. Everyone else in the hall stared at Emmett, or Emmeline, with their mouths agape.

After a long moment, Adam was the first to jump up from his seat and speak. “Emmeline!”

Adrien rolled his eyes. I tried to tell them, but no one listened to me... This was exactly what I was telling them... he thought to himself.

The journalists that came along with Emmeline entered the hall with their camera and video equipment, broadcasting the entire scene live on social media. The rumors of Abel Ryker turning gay were instantly shattered there and then. Abel had just been roleplaying with his own wife all along.

“How... How is this possible?” Evelyn said as she crumbled onto the floor dejectedly.

“Em... Emmeline?” Abel too was recovering from shock. “How is it you?”

“Abel...” Emmeline said nervously as she stood in front of him. “Are you... upset with me?”

“Explain it to me. How is it you?” Abel repeated himself, this time with more sense of urgency in his voice.

“I... I...” Emmeline stammered, looking at Abel with big, brown eyes. “I was afraid you wouldn’t accept me, so I...”

“... Come with me!” Abel pulled her by the elbow across the hall toward the door.

“Hey, where are you taking me?” Emmeline squealed as she tried to break free from his hold.

“Follow me back to The Precipice!” Abel said as he escorted her into his Rolls-Royce.

“Honey, is there... something wrong with my eyes? Was that Emmeline for real?” Rosaline gasped.

“It is her, darling,” Lewis said emotionally. “It’s Emmeline! The four munchkins have their mother back! No one will dare to insult Abel and call him a homosexual any longer, since Emmett was actually Emmeline all this while!”

“We’ve wrongly blamed him!” Rosaline began to tear.

“Who was the evil-hearted person who started the rumor?” Lewis said angrily.

“That’s right, and that includes all the other people who insisted that the rumor was true,” Rosaline added while side-eyeing Julianna.

Julianna could not believe how everything had played out. How was Abel Ryker’s family so lucky all the time? Today was supposed to be the day the old man kicked Abel out of the family, but the tables have turned yet again. The most shocking part was the fact that Emmett had been Emmeline all along!

“There’s nothing left for us to discuss now, I suppose. We’ll be taking our leave now,” Lewis declared loudly for all to hear before taking Rosaline by the hand and walking out the front door.

Back at The Precipice, Abel was about to drag Emmeline upstairs when they bumped into Kendra by the stairs. Kendra gasped in shock when she saw that the person that Abel brought back was Emmeline dressed in Emmett’s clothes. “Oh, my goodness, it’s you, Ms. Louise! You’ve returned!” she exclaimed.

“Hello, Kendra!” Emmeline tried her best to wave at Kendra while still being manhandled by Abel.

“How have you been, Ms. Louise? I’ve missed you so much!” Kendra said as she tried to extend an arm out to Emmeline, but Abel got in the way by cocooning Emmeline with a hug.

“I’ll catch up with you later, Kendra!” Emmeline’s muffled voice called out.

“Alrighty then!” Kendra played along.

Abel practically carried Emmeline into the bedroom and flung her onto the king-sized bed before walking over to the door and locking it.

Kendra had a million questions running through her head as she looked at the bedroom door from the bottom of the stairs. So, Emmett was Emmeline all along! How did she manage to trick Abel for so many days?! Kendra wondered.

“Tell me, why did you lie to me?!” Abel demanded angrily as he pressed his palms next to Emmeline’s head, not giving her an easy escape.

“Hey, Abel, hubby, darling...” Emmeline said coyly as she struggled to scoot further away from Abel. “I’ll confess everything, but please stop looking at me with those angry eyes. I’m scared...”

“You’re scared? Then you should know that I despise people lying to me!” Abel’s voice was cold and stern.

“I didn’t lie to you on purpose!” Emmeline did a small wave with her hands. “I had no other choice...”

“You’re still trying to deny it? Why did you have to go to such lengths?” Abel asked.

“Well...” Emmeline frowned. “You didn’t even want to see me, so I had to come up with this plan...”

“I didn’t want to see you?” Abel thought about what Emmeline said for a moment before nodding curtly. “That’s true, I suppose.”

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Emmeline’s eyes welled up with tears as soon as she heard what Abel said. “That’s what I said. If I hadn’t resorted to these tricks, I wouldn’t be able to get close to you...” she said dejectedly.

“It’s such a pity though...” Abel said as he pinched her dainty chin lightly. “...that I still don’t want to see you even when you resort to such tricks.”

“But you met Emmett, and you liked him!” Emmeline argued. “So, my plan worked!”

“You would’ve had to come clean sooner or later,” Abel’s voice was cold and distant. “You’re a despicable conman!”

“Abel... how could you say that about me?” Emmeline cried. “Do you really not love me anymore?”

“Did I ever love you?” Abel narrowed his eyes on her. “Why don’t I remember it then?”

“That’s because Waylon forced you to take Worryfree!” Emmeline said. “You were forced to erase your feelings for me.”

“What did you say?” Abel raised an eyebrow. “Worry what? Sounds like something Benjamin had mentioned to me before.”

“Do you remember when you went to Ademar Island to look for me?” Emmeline wiped at her tears as she recalled those memories.

“Of course, I do. I didn’t lose my memories,” Abel said flatly.

“When I was on the brink of death, how did you feel? Were you worried for me?” Emmeline prodded.

“Hmm,” Abel nodded slowly. “Yes, I was. I didn’t want you to die since you weren’t a bad person.”

“You kept waiting on me despite being sick yourself and refused treatment from Waylon, correct?” Emmeline continued.

“Hmm, that’s right,” Abel said after recalling that moment. “My stomach was bleeding out and my life was in danger too, but I was indeed extremely worried about you back then.”

“You were in that state, but you still insisted on being with me. Isn’t that proof that you love me?” Emmeline asserted.

Abel was silent for a moment as he regarded Emmeline’s words before he shook his head. “But I don’t have any romantic feelings toward you at all...”

“Then let me ask you...” Emmeline’s eyes were dark and intense as she stared at Abel. “Why did you eventually decide to receive treatment?”

“I... I don’t know,” Abel admitted.

“And once you finally received treatment and got better, you just packed up your bags and left the island without checking on me,” Emmeline recounted.

“Yes, I just... didn’t feel any urge or longing to look for you or check on you anymore, so I decided to leave,” Abel said honestly.

“Well, don’t you think your actions are in total conflict before and after you received treatment? You were initially so worried about me, but you seemed to have completely forgotten about me afterward...” Emmeline tried to point out the inconsistencies in Abel’s attitude.

“How should I know? Perhaps I just managed to let go...” Abel supposed.

“No, people don’t just “let go” all of a sudden!” Emmeline grew frustrated. “It’s because Waylon gave you Worryfree to erase all your feelings toward me. That’s the only reason why you finally accepted treatment and why we ended up like this. You didn’t intend to forget about me, Abel. It’s the effects of Worryfree, do you understand?”

“Who are you trying to bluff?” Abel snapped. “You’re saying there’s such a thing as a potion to forget about love?”

“It doesn’t matter whether you believe me or not. Worryfree was invented by Waylon, and you were the first human test subject, while I became the first victim of the drug!” Emmeline cried in despair.

Abel took two wary footsteps backward. “Emmeline, you’ve always been a little strange, but this can’t be true. There’s just no such thing on earth!”

“Fine, even if it’s not true and I’m lying to you...” tears streamed down Emmeline’s face as she spoke. “I’m just praying that you’ll fall in love with me again. I just want to go back to those days when we were madly in love with each other, Abel...” she weeped.

“That’s impossible,” Abel’s voice was flat and unemotional. “I’d sooner fall in love with a pig than with you!”

“Abel Ryker!” Emmeline stomped her foot on the ground as hot tears gushed down her face non-stop. “Are you saying I’m no better than a pig?”

“I’m just saying, a pig wouldn’t lie to me or deceive me like you did. I treated you sincerely and kindly for the past few days, but all you did was take me for a fool!” Abel barked.

“Darling, please forgive me. I told you I had no choice...” Emmeline pleaded.

“Don’t call me darling. You’ll only make me feel uncomfortable!” Abel frowned.

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Emmeline sniffed. “You forced me to call you hubby before!”

“The past was the past.” Abel waved. “Don’t call me like that anymore! Get out now!”

Emmeline burst into tears. “How can you drive me away? I’m your wife, the mother of your four sons! You’re too cruel!”

Abel was speechless. Emmeline messed up his feelings.

“Hubby!” Emmeline threw herself into his arms while sobbing. “I don’t care about Worryfree! We can start over. I believe you’ll fall in love with me again. I have confidence.”

“Hmph!” Abel pushed her away, pinched her face, and sneered. “Where did you get such a strong confidence?”

“Am I not pretty? Am I not cute?” Emmeline approached him. “Look at me carefully! Don’t you like me?”

The delicate and lovely face was in front of him.

Abel admitted he had a slight feeling in his heart. But the next second, he still pushed Emmeline away.

“Stop making trouble! I won’t fall in love with you! Put away your confidence.”

He turned to leave while Emmeline threw herself on his back and wrapped around his waist.

“Hubby, don’t leave me alone! Don’t be so heartless. I’m so sad!”

“You’re so shameless!”

Abel threw her on the bed. “If you mess with me again, I’ll throw you out! Stay there quietly!”

“Hubby!” Emmeline exclaimed in surprise, “So you won’t drive me away?”

“It’s temporary!” Abel said, “You’d better be obedient and stop messing with me!”

“Hubby, I won’t make trouble anymore.” Emmeline immediately showed well-behaved. “I’ll obey you. Don’t drive me away again.”

“I’m not your hubby,” Abel said sternly, “Don’t call me that.”

“Just pretend you don’t hear me.” Emmeline blinked aggrievedly. “I’m used to calling you hubby.”

Abel glared at Emmeline, then turned and left the bedroom. Just as he opened the door, Kendra walked in.

Abel ignored her and went straight downstairs. His mind was buzzing, and he could not figure out anything. He wanted to find Luca and ask about the situation when he was on Adelmarr Island.

"Ms. Emmeline." Kendra closed the door and came to the bed.

Emmeline still had tears in her eyes, and her face was full of grievances.

"What's going on with you and Mr. Abel? Why doesn't he look like he used to?"

Emmeline sniffed hard, then wiped away tears. "Abel took a medicine that could lose his love for me."

"What?" Kendra was taken aback. "That medicine is so unethical! How can there be such a medicine in the world?"

"Waylon made that medicine," Emmeline said, "I was dying at that time. Waylon worried that Abel wouldn't want to live, and Abel's stomach was bleeding heavily. To save Abel, Waylon had to feed Abel that medicine. As a result, Abel's feelings for me completely disappeared."

"Then..." Kendra was anxious. "What will you do in the future? Mr. Abel loved you so much before!"

"I don't know either," Emmeline said, "That's why I pretended to be Emmett and stayed with him to see if he would gradually accept me, but today I was forced to expose my identity."

"But if you didn't expose it, you couldn't resolve the trouble," Kendra said, "I've seen it on the internet. The whole of Struyria suspected that Mr. Abel liked men, even I thought so."

"So I had no choice but to find some media reporters and reveal my identity on the spot. Tell everyone I'm a woman, then wipe out this matter."

"But Mr. Abel seems angry that you lied to him by pretending to be Emmett. What should we do now?"

"I can only work hard." Emmeline clenched her fists. "Make Abel fall in love with me again."

Kendra said, "I believe you can do it. You're so beautiful and kind. Mr. Abel will fall in love with you again."

"I hope so! I'll succeed!" Emmeline gritted her teeth and encouraged herself.

"Yes, you'll succeed!" Kendra also encouraged Emmeline.

[Chapter 549](#)

Downstairs in the living room, Abel and Luca sat on the sofa talking.

Luca slapped himself. "It's all my fault! I fed you the medicine at that time. I regret it to death!"

"It's not your fault," Abel said, "You only wanted to save me, but you didn't expect Waylon to give me such a medicine."

Luca responded, "If you weren't indifferent to Ms. Louise, I wouldn't have believed there would be Worryfree in this world!"

“What should I do now?” Abel pinched his brows. “I know Emmeline is the mother of my children, and we used to be sweet, but I don’t have feelings for her now. If the situation continues like this, we won’t be happy.”

“Uh...”

Luca thought to himself. It’s true. Isn’t it torture to be together without love?

“It’s annoying!” Abel frowned. “Waylon must be too bored to research such medicine!”

Luca explained, “Mr. Adelmarr researched this medicine to save people. Especially those who are lovesick and do not want to live. If this medicine was unavailable, you might die even if Ms. Louise recovered.”

Abel glared at Luca. “Can’t you say something nice?”

Luca stuck out his tongue. “I’m just stating facts.”

“Forget it!”

Abel was not in the mood to talk to Luca and waved. “I’ll get along with that woman first. Whether I can have feelings for her is up to fate.”

“Don’t think it too complicated,” Luca said, “If you don’t love her, just reject her! It’s easy for Ms. Louise to find a new boyfriend.”

“Huh?” Abel glared at Luca fiercely. “What do you mean? Do you have bad intentions? She’s my woman. How can she find another man?”

Luca spread his hands. “But you don’t love Ms. Louise. Don’t force yourself.”

“F*ck!” Abel yelled angrily, “Don’t come up with terrible ideas!”

“Isn’t you saying you don’t have feelings for her?” Luca asked.

“That won’t work either!” Abel said, “Even if I don’t love her, she can’t marry another man! Don’t forget that she’s my children’s mother. I won’t allow her to have an affair!”

Luca held back his smile. Mr. Abel is still reluctant to part with Ms. Louise. That’s right. How could he let another man take advantage of such a beautiful woman?

They were talking when Emmeline came downstairs.

After a shower, she changed into sexy pajamas and walked down the stairs coquettishly.

Abel and Luca were dumbfounded. The next second, Abel jumped up and covered Luca’s eyes.

“Mr. Abel.” Luca resisted his nosebleed. “Don’t worry. I didn’t see anything!”

Abel gritted his teeth. “Good! Or I’ll gouge out your eyes!”

“I’ll go first! Let me go now!” Luca worried about his eyes.

“Close your eyes and get out!” Abel shouted.

Luca closed his eyes and rushed out of the living room after falling several times.

Abel asked Emmeline sternly, "Why do you dress like this? Who do you want to seduce?"

"Want to seduce my hubby!" Emmeline had already come to him gracefully. She straddled him and reached to wrap him around his neck.

Abel suddenly felt a little itchy in his nose. He worried he could not control his nosebleed. If so, he would be ashamed.

So, he pushed Emmeline on the sofa and ran to the second floor.

[Chapter 550](#)

"Abel! Hubby!" Emmeline yelled, "You can't hide from me!"

Abel ran to the second floor to enter his bedroom, then closed the door.

The next second, he rushed into the bathroom and lay on the sink. His nosebleeds flowed down.

Luckily! A little later, that woman would see my embarrassed appearance. If she sees me having a nosebleed because of her, she'll be complacent and laugh at me to death! I don't love her! Nosebleeds are just a natural reaction and have nothing to do with love!

Kendra came downstairs and saw Emmeline pouting and grunting.

"How is it, Ms. Emmeline? Did Mr. Abel respond?"

"He's abstinent!" Emmeline complained, "He ran away!"

"No rush," Kendra reassured her, "If you keep it up, you'll succeed. Let's take our time. He won't refuse you sooner or later."

"But my purpose isn't to seduce him." Emmeline was a little worried. "What I want is for him to fall in love with me. That's more difficult than seduction."

"Take your time." Kendra continued to comfort Emmeline. "After all, you two live together. Mr. Abel will fall in love with you again."

Emmeline scratched her hair. "I finally understand how Janie feels. Aren't Abel and I the same as her and Benjamin?"

"But you and Mr. Abel have children," Kendra said, "If it doesn't work, bring the quadruplets here."

"I already thought to do so," Emmeline said, "But I can't bring them here."

"Why not? Children are the link between husband and wife."

"But if the quadruplets see that Abel doesn't love me anymore, they'll make a big fuss and backfire."

"That's right." Kendra nodded. "If they see their father doesn't love their mother anymore, they'll get hurt."

"So we can't pick up quadruplets for the time being."

"It's difficult." Kendra frowned. "You two used to be a good couple. But now..."

Emmeline said, "Let's not talk about this for now. Let's cook first. I'll continue to think about it when I'm full."

"You go upstairs to find Mr. Abel. Leave the dinner to me."

"That won't work. If I want Abel to be interested in me, I must cook it myself."

Emmeline ran upstairs to change her clothes in the guest room, then went downstairs to cook with Kendra in the kitchen.

After two hours, a sumptuous dinner was ready.

Emmeline went upstairs to call Abel. "Hubby, it's time to eat."

There was no sound in the room. Abel was busy in front of the computer.

"Hubby." Emmeline knocked on the door again. "It's time for dinner."

Only then did Abel open the door, but Emmeline bumped into him.

Abel reached to push her back. "This kind of trick doesn't work."

"I didn't use tricks!" Emmeline pouted aggrievedly. "I almost fell over."

"Really?" Abel snorted coldly. "But you seem to bump into me on purpose."

"On purpose?" Emmeline refuted angrily, "Abel, what's wrong if I did that on purpose? Are you someone else?"

"Of course not!"

"That's right! You're my man. What's wrong with me throwing myself into you? Have I broken the law?"

Emmeline successfully retorted Abel, and his expression darkened. No matter if he had no feelings for Emmeline, he was her husband and the father of four children. It was an indisputable fact.

"Go for dinner!" Abel walked past Emmeline and left the bedroom.

"Sh*t!" Emmeline followed behind him and shook her fist at his back.

Abel seemed to have eyes behind him and turned around suddenly. Now Emmeline slammed into his arms firmly.

"What do you want to do behind me?" Abel grabbed and lifted Emmeline. "You're quite brave!"

"Then you'd better not eat the food I made!" Emmeline shouted angrily, "Be careful that I'll give you laxative!"

"You'd better not do that!" Abel snorted coldly. "I'll cut you into pieces!"

He put Emmeline down, and they argued as they went downstairs.