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Alondra helped Alana to her feet. "She's pregnant, and she's easily frightened by intense scenes."

"Quick, bring her back to the living room so she can rest," Rosaline said. "She's carrying my grandchild!"

The bodyguards dragged the man out of the bushes, tied him up, and splashed cold water on him.

At the same time, the family doctor confirmed that Emmeline was

indeed drugged, and the surveillance footage was retrieved.

Everyone could see the young man approach Emmeline, hand her a glass of red wine, and coax her several times to drink.

Even though Emmeline drove that young man away after a short while, they could see her face was beginning to redden.

"Who brought this guest here?" Adrien roared angrily. He wanted to chop that man into a million pieces.

"You b*stard! Alana suddenly pounced on that man and slapped him with full force. "How dare you drug my cousin? I'll kill you!"

"That's right!" Alondra slapped the man's other cheek. "You deserve to die for harming my stepdaughter!"

The young man instantly understood they wanted him to take the fall. He could not expose their involvement even if Adrien killed him.

If he did, he was not going to escape from the two women's clutches!

"Have mercy on me, Mr. Ryker! I gatecrashed the party to score some

free food and alcohol, and was aroused by the sight of that beautiful woman. But I didn't manage to lay a finger on her! She nearly killed me before I could do anything!"

"You deserve to die!" Adrien followed

up with two more punches.

Abel came over and kicked the

young man twice, which caused him to pass out once more.

"Stop it, both of you!" Landen said with a frown. "We're not going to mar the happy occasion with that guy's death. Just throw him out!"

"He got away easy this time!" Adrien said angrily. "How dare he try to violate my wife. He'd better pray I don't meet him again!"

Emmeline was brought to the guest room to rest, and Adrien guarded the

entrance with the three boys.

Abel stood next to them, feeling that he did not fit in.

Adrien glared at him. "Abel, can't you see we're a family here? Outsiders like you aren't welcome!"

"I'll go downstairs then," Abel said reluctantly. "Call me if you need anything."

Adrien smirked. "What do you mean? I can take care of my wife if she needs anything."

"Adrien, Emmeline is my good friend. Is it wrong for me to show her concern? Also, she's not your wife yet!" Abel said coldly.

"She's not my wife now, but she'll eventually be my wife," Adrien said. "After all, we already have three children together!"

"Suit yourself then!" Abel huffed and turned around indignantly, slamming the door on his way out.

In the banquet hall, Alana was uneasy after seeing Abel go upstairs to check on Emmeline, and he had not returned after ten minutes.

She whispered into Alondra's ear, "Abel hasn't returned downstairs yet. I'm afraid he might have feelings for Emmeline!"

"D*mn that Emmeline!" Alondra said through gritted teeth. "Why is she so lucky? Nothing that we throw at her seems to stick!"

"No, I'm not going to call it quits yet. I want that woman to suffer!" Alana said. She hugged Alondra's arm and begged, "Please help me think of something, Auntie. I won't let that b*tch off so easily!"

Alondra thought for a moment and cackled. "I've got it!"

"What are you thinking of, Auntie?"

"If we can't set her up, we'll just have to set her children up!"

"Her children!" Alana seemed to understand what her aunt was talking about.

Right after Abel left, Adrien shooed the children away.

"Your mommy needs some peace and quiet. Go downstairs and play. I'll be here to look after her."

"But we want to be with Mommy," Sun said unhappily.

"Yes. Mommy will be worried when she wakes up and doesn't see us," Moon protested.

"We're not going to leave Mommy's side." Star pouted defiantly.

Adrien patted the boys' heads. "Don't worry. Once your Mommy wakes up, I'll go and get someone to inform you!"

“Really?” The boys sounded hesitant.

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Liar, liar, pants on fire!” Adrien said.

“Alright then,” Sun said, “We’ll go downstairs. Remember to tell us when Mommy wakes up!”

“Mmh. Go and play!” Adrien shooed the children out of the room.

“Timothy,” Alana crouched in front of the boy and said to him, “The three boys are downstairs. Weren’t you complaining you were bored earlier? Why not bring them to the garden?”

“Yes, Timothy,” Alondra added, “You’re the only kid here, and all the adults are drinking wine and dancing. If you want to have some fun, you should bring them to the garden.”

“Alright then.” Timothy thought the banquet was getting quite boring. He took the three boys to the garden.

Alondra exchanged glances with Alana. “Now’s our chance!”

“Be careful, Auntie!” Alana was feeling uneasy.

Alondra lifted her gown and followed the four children into the garden.

“Mr. Ryker.” Alana elegantly walked up to Abel’s side. “Shall we dance?”

Even though Abel was downstairs, his heart was still upstairs. He could not shake off the image where Adrien was so concerned about

Emmeline.

He wanted to take care of Emmeline too, but he did not have a good reason as Adrien did.

Alana came to ask him for a dance

at a bad time, and he was feeling annoyed about it.

He was about to décline when Rosaline walked over.

“Abel, you’re bound to marry Alana some time in the future. What would others think if you don’t dance at least once with her?”

“Yes, Mr. Ryker,” Alana said while lowering her head to look pitiful. “I’d feel absolutely humiliated.”

“Mm.” Abel stood up reluctantly, took Alana’s hand, and entered the dance floor with a sullen face.

Alana could sense the anger emanating from Abel’s body, but she was nonetheless happy that Abel was physically close to her in front of so many influential individuals and families of Struyria.

Suddenly, someone shouted at the back door. “Oh no! One of the boys fell into the pond! Will somebody save him?”

His voice was drowned by the music in the hall.

Alana clung to Abel tightly and led him to a far corner of the dance floor.

The people near the back door stopped dancing and ran outside.

“What’s going on over there?” Abel frowned slightly

“It’s none of our concern. Let’s

continue dancing.” Alana turned Abel around.

“No, something seems to be happening,” Abel said.

“What could possibly happen on this joyous occasion?”

At that moment, the music suddenly stopped.

Abel heard someone yelling, “One of the boys fell into the pond!”

One of the boys? Is it one of the three or Timothy?

Abel immediately shoved Alana aside and walked quickly toward the back door.

Emmeline and Adrien also heard the commotion and went downstairs.

“What happened, Mother?” Adrien asked Julianna, who seemed very flustered.

“You should go to the back garden quickly! Someone said one of the boys fell into the pond. It’s either Timothy or one of my three grandchildren!”

Adrien was surprised. What? How did that happen?

When Emmeline heard that, she flipped over the banister and ran to the garden.

“Help, someone!” The nanny was kneeling next to the pond. “Someone please save Hesperus!”

“Don’t die, Star!”

“Mommy will come and save you! Hang in there!”

Sun and Moon were also crying next to the pond.

Timothy was wiping tears from his face. “I’m sorry, Star. I didn’t mean to shove you. I thought someone shoved me from behind, and I accidentally shoved you too. I didn’t mean to do that, Star. Boo hoo...”

Alondra was cackling while hiding in the bushes. “Heh! You happened to be standing in the perfect position. No one would suspect that I shoved you! They will only think you’re the one who shoved Hesperus into the pond! Hahaha!”

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Emmeline ran to the pond and was about to dive in when she heard a loud splash.

Someone managed to jump into the pond before she did.

She did not hesitate and jumped in as well.

It did not matter whether the boy who fell in was one of the triplets or Timothy. She loved everyone equally, and she did not want anything to happen to them.

More importantly, she did not see Hesperus, the weakest child, next to the pond!

The pond was not very deep, but it was slightly deeper than an adult's height.

Emmeline was about to submerge

when she saw Abel surface with Hesperus in his arms.

"I have the boy!" Abel said after spitting out a mouthful of dirty water.

Emmeline swam toward him and helped him support Hesperus.

The little boy was unconscious. His body was limp.

"Star!" Emmeline broke out in tears. "Please be safe!"

"Someone call the ambulance!" Abel shouted at the people at the edge of the pond.

Adrien came to his senses and quickly dialed emergency services on his phone.

Abel placed Hesperus at the edge of

the pond and began to administer CPR.

Emmeline took her son's hand and pinched a certain point.

"Urgh!" Hesperus spat out some

dirty water and began to breathe weakly.

Emmeline was slightly more at ease.

"Star!" She hugged the boy tightly. "You gave me such a fright! I'm so glad that you're fine. What would I do if I lost you?"

Abel patted her shoulder. "Star is safe now. Don't cry."

Emmeline cried even harder. She turned around and hugged Abel.

"Thank you for saving Star! I can't imagine what might happen if you didn't!"

"Everything's fine now. Don't cry." Abel hugged her with one arm and comforted her

"Ahem!" Adrien coughed behind Abel. "Can you keep some distance between you two?"

"What did you say?" Emmeline glared at Adrien. "Abel saved your son, and that's all you have to say? As Star's father, what did you do to help him?"

"I..." Adrien did not know what he was thinking. In any case, he never had the intention to dive into the pond.

"Thanks, Abel," he muttered.

“Don’t mention it. I was only acting on instinct,” Abel said.

Adrien scratched the back of his head and wondered why he did not have that instinct.

After settling down and putting Hesperus on a bed at the hospital, Julianna came to look at the boy.

“Oh, my dear grandson, you gave me such a fright! I was so afraid that I might lose one of you. I’m so glad that you’re okay,” she said while wiping tears.

“How did Star fall into the pond?” Landen asked. “There aren’t any security cameras in the garden, and we can’t investigate what happened.”

“The boys were jostling each other. It’s only an accident,” Emmeline said.

She heard Timothy say he did not mean to do it, and she guessed that Timothy must have shoved Hesperus into the pond.

She did not blame Timothy for it. Even though the boy was Alana’s child, she loved her as much as the triplets.

Julianna seemed displeased. “But I heard Timothy say he shoved my dear Star into the pond.”

Abel’s face turned pale for a split second.

“You can’t blame Timothy, madam. Also, Abel was the one who saved Star,” Emmeline said.

“Hmph! I’m sure someone is envious that I have three grandsons!”

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Abel’s expression sank. “Aunt Julianna, my mother wasn’t in the garden when the incident happened.”

“What about Alana?” Julianna asked. “I think there’s something fishy about her!”

She was at the dance floor with me,” Abel explained somewhat reluctantly.

“Fine, whatever,” Julianna said. “Let’s keep a close eye on our own children and minimize our interactions between families!”

Quite obviously, she was referring to Emmeline and Abel.

The two people seemed awkward.

“Yes, Abel.” Adrien went up to stand beside Emmeline. “I’m very grateful that you saved my son, but what

happens after is strictly within our family. You should leave.”

Abel glanced at Hesperus, sleeping on the hospital bed. The boy was in a better condition than before.

He nodded at Emmeline before stepping out of the ward.

Emmeline could hear his footsteps echo rhythmically down the corridor and into the elevator.

Somehow, she felt vacant inside, as though she and Hesperus had lost a shoulder to lean on.

That's strange. I thought the father and grandparents of my children are here with me!

Abel stepped out of the hospital.

The night wind was blowing fiercely, but he did not feel cold at all.

He took a cigarette and placed it between his lips. He was about to search for a lighter when Luca presented a lighter next to him.

Abel furrowed his brows a little as he took a drag.

The atmosphere in the hospital ward made him uncomfortable.

It made him feel even worse that he

had to leave Emmeline and

Hesperus there.

However, Adrien was right. Whatever happened next had nothing to do with him.

He was only an outsider.

"Are we going home, Mr. Ryker?"

Luca asked.

"Let's get a drink." Abel stubbed out the cigarette after taking a few drags. He tossed the cigarette into the trash can and walked toward his car.

Luca turned around and looked at the window where Hesperus' room was.

He could imagine what was going on inside.

Sigh, it's all because of that mistake five years ago. Emmeline should have been with Abel and not Adrien!

Abel was driving, so Luca sat in the side passenger seat. They went to a bar named Golden Memories.

Abel had not been back in the

country for very long, so the people

in the bar did not know who he was.

Even so, the bustling atmosphere in the bar died down a little after Abel stepped into the place with an icy demeanor

The male guests stepped aside and made way for Abel, while the female guests gasped and wondered who the mysterious guest was.

“Wow, he has the demeanor of a devil but the looks of an angel!”

“How charming!”

Someone recognized him. “That’s Abel Ryker! He’s the head honcho of the Ryker Group!”

“Wow, it’s really Abel Ryker!”

“He’s so handsome! This is the first

time I met him in person!”

Some people in the crowd were cheering excitedly.

That made Luca very nervous. Even though he and Abel were good fighters, he could not help but be guarded against what might happen.

Abel stood on the bar counter and raised his beer glass. “If that’s the case, everything is on me today!”

“Wow! How lucky! Mr. Ryker is footing the bill!”

“Drink, drink, drink! Let’s drink to our fill!”

Several young women came over to Abel. “Mr. Ryker, can I toast you?”

“Why don’t you come over and sit with us?”

Luca stepped in front of the women

and said sternly, “Mr. Ryker doesn’t allow anyone of the opposite sex within ten feet of him. You have been warned!”

“Oh? Ten feet? Is he celibate?”

“I’ve heard rumors that Mr. Ryker doesn’t interact with women. Looks like they’re true!”

“Don’t tell me he’s into men!”

As soon as the woman said that, the beer glass in her hand shattered into pieces, and beer splashed all over her body.

She did not know how the glass exploded, though she was extremely shocked.

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The bartender behind the counter was also shocked.

He noticed Abel hold a bottle cap in his hand and flicked it toward the woman’s beer glass. A split second later, the beer glass exploded.

Not only was the head honcho of Ryker Group incredibly handsome, but he was also incredibly skilled!

The bartender shuddered and topped up Abel’s glass.

After the episode, the guests of the bar learned to behave.

None of the female guests stepped within ten feet of Abel. Of course, none of the male guests did so either.

They did not want to risk offending that man who seemed to be in a bad mood.

Even so, they drank to their fill that night, and almost everyone was drunk.

Abel was also drunk. Luca helped him back to his car.

“Mr. Ryker, are you going back to the mansion?” Luca asked after starting the ignition.

“You idiot!” Abel blurted. “I’m going back to the café, of course! I pay my rent on time! It’s a waste of money if I don’t sleep there.”

A waste of money? Is that it?

Luca did not believe what he said.

However, Emmeline was still in the hospital with her son. There was no one in the café to accompany Abel

even if he went there.

In any case, he had to follow Abel’s orders.

Luca stepped on the gas pedal and brought the almost unconscious Abel back to the café.

It was already very late when they arrived. Daisy opened the door for them.

“Oh my, why is he so drunk?” Daisy covered her nose. The stench of alcohol from Abel’s mouth was very strong.

“Mr. Ryker wasn’t in a good mood, so he had a bit more to drink,” Luca said and smiled awkwardly.

Daisy frowned. “He shouldn’t torture himself like that. Take him to his room. I’ll make some hot tea for him.”

“Thank you so much, ma’am,” Luca said.

Daisy helped Luca bring Abel up to the third floor, after which she went to the second-floor kitchen to make some tea.

Luca helped Abel change his clothes. He also wiped Abel’s face with a clean towel.

Daisy came to the room with a mug of hot tea, and they worked together to force the sugary liquid down Abel’s throat. Soon, Abel opened his eyes.

After that, Daisy went downstairs. Only Luca remained to accompany Abel.

“Get out,” Abel said while pinching

his forehead.

“Huh?” Luca did not understand.

"I'm telling you to get out," Abel said. "I'm feeling a lot better now. I want to take a shower, so you can leave now!"

"But you're still drunk. I should stay here and take care of you," Luca said.

"Get lost! I'm not into men at all! People will think otherwise if you stay!" Abel said.

Ah! Luca shuddered. He was actively looking for a girlfriend, so he did not want people to misunderstand.

Seeing that Abel was fine as he claimed, Luca took the car keys and hastily left the room.

"I'll be in the parking lot. Call me if you need anything!"

"Mm." Abel waved his hand dismissively while removing his necktie.

Luca, that idiot. He loosened my tie but didn't remove it! He doesn't know how to take care of people!

Abel took off his clothes and took a

cold water shower.

He was already sober by then, but he still felt a little dizzy.

He changed into pajamas and sat next to the window.

He wanted some fresh air, and he also wanted to smoke a cigarette.

He had taken a cigarette from the box when he saw a car stop in front of the café.

It was Adrien's sports car.

Abel was shocked. The cigarette was already in his mouth, but his hand with the lighter froze in mid-air.

A while later, he saw Adrien step out of the car, go to the other side, and open the side passenger door.

Emmeline stepped out. She seemed forlorn under the cold street light.

Abel's jaw clenched, and he bit on the cigarette hard.

Emmeline is back. It should mean that Hesperus is safe now.

The hospital doesn't allow any visitors after working hours. The professional staff there can take care of the boy...

Abel continued to gaze at the scene while his mind wandered.

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Emmeline and Adrien shared a brief exchange of words. A short while later, Adrien left in his sports car.

Emmeline turned around and walked toward the café entrance.

Abel hurriedly moved away from the window and sat on the sofa in front

of the bed.

He did not understand why he was feeling uneasy.

From the exchange, it seemed Adrien and Emmeline had been arguing, but Abel felt frustrated about it.

He did not want to see the two of them together!

He lit up his cigarette and dragged it deeply.

Suddenly, the door to his room opened.

Abel was surprised. Is Emmeline coming in?

He heard Emmeline's voice from outside the room. "I heard from the manny that you drank a little too much tonight. Are you feeling better now?"

"Mm," Abel answered.

Emmeline pushed the door open and noticed that the room was unlit. She saw a vague silhouette on the sofa and the glowing tip of the lit cigarette.

She pressed the light switch and immediately saw Abel's alluring figure.

Abel was dressed in a set of pure

white pajamas. His hair was slightly damp. Under his sculpted browline was a sensuous pair of eyes.

Emmeline was momentarily taken aback.

"I thought you returned to the mansion."

"Why can't I come here?" Abel smirked. "I pay rent. I have the right to stay here."

"I didn't mean that," Emmeline said.

"How is Star?" Abel asked.

"He's okay now."

"Is that why Adrien sent you back?"

Emmeline was surprised. What does Abel mean? Was he spying on me earlier?

Abel sneered. "Don't be so nervous. I happened to see it from the window."

"There's nothing between me and Adrien!" Emmeline was feeling frustrated.

"I can't do anything about it. After all, you and Adrien are a family," Abel said.

"What do you mean?" Emmeline suddenly raised her voice. "Can you not be so sarcastic when speaking to me?"

"Was I wrong?" Abel abruptly stood up. His tall figure towered over Emmeline.

Emmeline instinctively took a step backward, and her back slammed on the door.

The gesture made Emmeline seem

weak and fragile, but at the same time, there was a hint of temptation in that fragility.

Abel went up to her without hesitation and pinned her against the door.

“What do you want?”

“You tempted me!”

“I didn’t! Mmh...”

Abel had already forced himself upon Emmeline with his lips.

His actions were fueled by jealousy and resentment!

“Mmh!” Emmeline started to slap him with her hands, but he grabbed her hands and pinned them against the door.

His lips continued to force themselves on Emmeline.

Emmeline was running out of breath. She fell limply onto his chest.

Grunting softly, Abel lifted Emmeline with his hands, walked over to the bed, and pinned her down on the soft mattress.

He tore the clothes off her body and prepared to pounce on her.

“Abel Ryker!” Emmeline yelled, angry at Abel’s treatment of her

Before she could strike back, Abel abruptly stood up and said hoarsely, “Sorry.”

Tears welled up in Emmeline’s eyes.

Five years ago, she had been

violated by Adrien. She did not want

to repeat the same mistake with Abel!

“I thought you were a better person!” She sounded like she was sobbing.

Abel stumbled toward the door and said, “I’m really sorry, Emma. I couldn’t control myself. I drank a little too much tonight, and the

alcohol is still affecting my judgment.”

“That’s no excuse!”

“I know,” Abel said softly. “I didn’t mean any harm. I...”

“What about you?” Emmeline noticed that Abel was suddenly stammering.

That was not how he usually acted.

“I...” Abel wanted to say “I love you,” but as soon as the words reached the tip of his tongue, it became “I want to take a shower.”

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I thought you just had one,” Emmeline said curiously.

By then, Abel was already in the bathroom.

Soon after, she heard the sounds of running water.

Was he going to say something else? Emmeline thought but could not find an answer.

Thinking back on his actions, Emmeline could see that Abel did not act out of malice.

Instead, he wanted to claim her out of... love.

“Pfft!” Emmeline suddenly chuckled.

I didn’t expect that serious-looking man to have such an interesting side.

By the time Abel came out of the bathroom, Emmeline was already gone.

The rest of the night passed uneventfully.

Abel left the café early the next morning.

After what happened last night, he had to admit he did not know how to face Emmeline.

He did not expect that he had such a barbaric side to his personality.

Five years of training. Was it all in vain?

From the parking lot, Luca noticed Abel coming out He quickly drove the Rolls-Royce to the entrance, and the bodyguards

behind him also started their cars.

Abel stepped into the car. He seemed displeased about something.

Luca glanced at him through the rearview mirror. “Good morning, Mr. Ryker, Are you going to your office?”

“I want to have breakfast at Nimbus Hotel,” Abel said sullenly.

Nimbus Hotel was one of the most high-class hotels in Struyria. It belonged to the Ryker Group.

Luca could tell that Emmeline did not prepare breakfast for Abel.

In any case, Emmeline was already at the hospital to visit Hesperus, but Abel did not know that.

In fifteen minutes, Abel walked into the first-floor restaurant of Nimbus Hotel.

The restaurant was famous for its good food. It was packed with customers every morning.

The bodyguards escorted Abel to a private lounge at the side.

The lounge was exclusively prepared for people from the Ryker family. There were no distractions inside. It was a lot more peaceful.

At the door, Abel frowned when he heard some frivolous voices coming from inside.

What is this degeneracy? Who dares intrude upon my private lounge?

The waiter shifted uneasily when he noticed Abel's icy expression, but the bodyguards had already brought Abel into the lounge.

Abel was greeted by an unsightly scene.

Adrien was seated at a table near the wall. He was having breakfast while draping his arms over two women's shoulders.

The breakfast was secondary. He was flirting with the two women while eating.

"Won't you feed me a sausage?" Adrien opened his mouth at the woman to his left.

The bewitching woman giggled and picked up a sausage with a fork.

Adrien shook his head. "Not like that. I don't want you to use the fork."

"What should I do then?" The woman pretended to look confused.

The other woman giggled. "That's easy! You should use your mouth!"

"My mouth? Eww!" The woman pretended to be angry before placing half of the sausage into her mouth.

"Ahh..." Adrien leaned closer to her.

The woman noticed a man standing imperiously at the door with a group of eight bodyguards behind him.

Their presence in the room caused the temperature to drop by a few degrees.

The sausage fell from the woman's mouth and onto the floor.

Wow! Who's that guy? He's so handsome! If only I had my way with him, I'd pounce on him and rub myself all over him!

However, the woman knew not to go
close to an angry man.

Adrien also noticed Abel and his bodyguards. He could tell from Abel's expression that there would be trouble.

In the next second, Abel kicked the table in front of him, which caused it to slam into Adrien's table.

"Ouch!" Adrien quickly jumped out of his seat.

The two tables collided and slammed into the wall.

If Adrien had not moved away, he would be literally puking his guts out by now.

"Abel! What's the meaning of this?" Adrien's face was pale with fright.

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"You're one to talk!" Abel said. He turned around and ordered his
bodyguards, "Throw those two women out!"

"Yes, Mr. Ryker!"

Two bodyguards charged toward the two women, grabbed them, and tossed them out of the lounge.

Adrien shuddered. "A... Abel... What do you want?"

"You should ask that yourself," Abel said coldly. "Why are you here flirting with other women?"

Adrien tensed up and said, "It's none of your business!"

"It's none of my business, but I'm making it my business!" Abel roared. He approached Adrien and kicked his face.

Adrien quickly ducked and hid under a table.

"Hmph! Coward!" Abel snorted derisively.

Adrien was already drenched in a cold sweat.

He could tell Abel was only trying to intimidate him. If Abel wanted to get physical, Adrien would not have been able to dodge that kick.

According to his grandfather, Abel had become a devil after his five years of secret training!

In a second, Abel could turn into a killing machine!

Otherwise, Oscar would not have handed him the reins of Ryker Group.

With a trembling voice, Adrien said, "Abel, why are you throwing a tantrum at me so early in the morning? I'm your older brother! You humiliated me in front of those two women!"

Abel scoffed. "You should know why! How can you possibly face

Emmeline and her children after this?"

Adrien was taken aback. He realized Abel was here to seek justice for Emmeline.

Adrien sat down angrily on a chair. "Now that you mention her, I have to say she's a really stubborn one!"

"What do you mean?" Abel was confused. He saw Adrien send

Emmeline back to the café the night

before, and they had a brief

conversation before Adrien left.

"Last night, Emmeline said she won't marry me no matter what, and she told me to give up," Adrien said angrily.

It was Abel's turn to be taken aback. Should think that it's good news?

Adrien pouted when he saw the glint of anticipation in Abel's eyes. "If you want to make your advances on Emmeline, you should clean up your mess first."

Abel's expression sank. He knew that Adrien was referring to the child in Alana's womb,

"What a hypocrite!" Adrien rolled his eyes at him.

Abel could not find a retort to

Adrien's accusation.

After all, no one would believe him if

he said the baby was not his.

"You'd better watch your back!" Abel said angrily and left the lounge.

Luca and the bodyguards quickly followed behind him. "Mr. Ryker, what about breakfast..."

"Get some for everyone," Abel said sullenly. "Send two portions to the café too!"

"Yes, Mr. Ryker," Luca replied.

Looks like he's not angry enough to forget to eat! He's considerate of Ms. Louise too.

Luca took a headcount of the bodyguards and bought twelve portions.

Everyone was out early that morning, and they were very hungry.

The bodyguards left Nimbus Hotel with Abel. One of the cars went to the café to deliver breakfast, while the others followed Abel to the hospital.

Abel wanted to visit Hesperus before he started work that day.

He somehow felt uneasy if he did

not.

This is strange. Why do I care so much about Adrien's son?

However, he could not convince himself not to visit Hesperus.

Abel parked the Rolls-Royce in the parking lot. He noticed the bodyguard who was supposed to deliver breakfast to the café had already returned.

The bodyguard walked toward him

with the breakfast still in his hands.

Abel stepped out of the car and walked toward the bodyguard.

"Aren't you supposed to deliver that?"

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"The nanny said Ms. Louise had left for the hospital early in the morning," the bodyguard explained.

"Oh," Abel replied. No wonder I didn't hear anything in her room earlier. I thought she was still angry at me.

He thought for a moment before reaching toward the breakfast box in the bodyguard's hands. "Let me deliver it."

The bodyguard handed the boxes to Abel.

In the ICU ward, Hesperus had already woken up, but his face remained pale.

He had inhaled the dirty water in the pond, and his lungs were infected.

Emmeline discreetly administered several injections, which made him feel a lot better.

"Mommy." With tears in his eyes, Hesperus took Emmeline's hands. "I'm sorry to make you worry."

"Don't say that, my baby." Emmeline placed a finger over his lips. She sounded like she was about to sob. "I'm happy that you're okay. I nearly lost you."

"I'm already feeling a lot better." Hesperus wiped the tears away from Emmeline's eyes. "I'll stay close to you so you don't have to worry about me anymore."

"Mm. You're a good boy, Star." Emmeline

To her, Sun, Moon, and Star were her everything. She would only be happy if the three boys were happy.

The door to the ward opened. Hesperus lifted his gaze over his mother's shoulder and saw Abel.

"Daddy..."

“Why are you here?” Emmeline the ward whenever I’m around?”

Abel could tell that Emmeline must have mistaken him for Adrien.

“Ahem, it’s me.”

Emmeline was surprised to hear that voice. She turned her head around.

“It’s you!” Emmeline stood up. “I’m sorry, Mr. Ryker.”

“Breakfast.” Abel showed the two

Emmeline blushed slightly. The

Abel also felt awkward. He put

“Are you feeling better?” he asked in a gentle voice.

He felt a lot more at ease when he saw the little boy gazing at him animatedly.

“Thank you, Daddy. I’m feeling a lot better now,” Hesperus said.

“That’s good to hear.” Abel patted Hesperus’ head. “When you’re feeling better, I’ll bring you all to the amusement park.”

“Yay!” Hesperus clapped his

though. He didn’t shove me into the pond on purpose.”

“Tell me, what happened last night?” Abel asked nervously.

“I’ve already asked Timothy.” Abel heard a voice from behind him.

It was Alana and Rosaline.

Alana was holding a flask in her hands.

“It was an accident. Timothy didn’t do it on purpose,” Alana said. “He tripped and accidentally shoved Star away.”

“Accidents can sometimes happen when children jostle each other while playing,” Rosaline said. “I think we should give this matter a rest.”

“I wonder if the culprit is a child,”

Abel said sullenly.

“Timothy is blaming himself,” Alana said while wiping away tears in her eyes. “He’ll be scared if you ask him too many questions.”

“That’s right,” Alana said. “I’m here to apologize to Hesperus on behalf of Timothy, and we’ll lay the matter to rest.”

“I’ve never blamed Timothy,” Hesperus said. “He didn’t do it on purpose.”

“You’re a good boy, Star.” Rosaline leaned over and gently touched Hesperus’ cheek. “Come over and play once you’re feeling better.”

“Thank you, Granny,” Hesperus said. “Sun, Moon and I love you very much. We thought you’re our real granny.”

Rosaline felt tears well up in her eyes when she heard that.

“You can still treat me as your real granny. I’ll always love you like you’re my real grandsons,” Rosaline said while wiping her eyes. “What do you think?”

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“Of course!” Hesperus smiled, and dimples appeared on his face. “I’ll treat you as my real granny. I’m sure Sun and Moon will do the same!”

“Mm.” Rosaline hugged Hesperus tightly, “You’ll always be my dear grandson!”

Alana’s expression gradually sank as she witnessed the scene. Waves of jealousy and resentment assaulted her.

Hah! Looks like blood is thicker than water. Look at the grandmother and the father. What can possibly break those invisible ties apart?

Alana glared at Emmeline resentfully.

Why can’t I ever get rid of that

woman?

While Alana was grumbling, the doctor came into the room to conduct a routine check-up, and everyone else had to leave.

“Isn’t it getting late, Abel? Shouldn’t you be at work?” Rosaline asked.

“I’ll go there later,” Abel replied. “I’m still worried about Star.”

“You don’t have to worry about my son, Mr. Ryker. I shouldn’t stop you from your work,” Emmeline said.

“You look tired. Why don’t you go home and rest, and I’ll stay here to take care of Star?” Abel looked at Emmeline with concern.

Emmeline shook her head. “Don’t worry. I’ll be okay.”

Alana rubbed her stomach and said, “That’s right, Abel. Why don’t you spend your time with me instead?”

“This isn’t the time to compare children.” Abel snorted coldly. “You should go home. There’s nothing for you here.”

“But...” Alana did not want to leave.

"I don't need so many people worrying over Star," Emmeline said tactfully. "You should go home, Madam."

"Mm." Rosaline turned around and prepared to leave.

Alana turned around and walked toward the elevator with Rosaline.

"You should go too," Emmeline said to Abel. "Company matters are more important."

"I'm still worried about you two." Abel frowned.

"I said we're okay."

"If that's the case, I'll pick you up later tonight. You can call me if you need anything," Abel said.

"Mm." Emmeline nodded. Even though she was still cold and distant, her demeanor softened a little.

Abel turned around and went into the elevator. Luca, who had been waiting around the corner, also went inside.

Emmeline accompanied Hesperus for the rest of the day.

In the afternoon, Julianna, Helios, and Endymion came to visit.

The two boys cheered Hesperus up.

Julianna praised Hesperus for being a brave boy.

After they left, a bodyguard came under Abel's orders to deliver dinner from Nimbus Hotel. Emmeline and Hesperus ate a lot that evening.

"Looks like Abel Ryker is very dependable," Hesperus said. "According to my observations, Adrien Ryker is nowhere near qualified."

Emmeline sighed. "Don't mention his name."

"But why isn't Abel Ryker our Daddy?" Hesperus said precociously.

I wish he's your father too, but things didn't turn out this way.

"Mommy, could you adults be mistaken?" Hesperus said.

"That's impossible. I've seen the results myself. Your father is indeed Adrien Ryker."

"What a pity." Hesperus pouted.

Emmeline could not help but chuckle at his worried face.

"Don't worry. It doesn't matter who your real daddy is, I'll always be here with all of you. Neither of them can claim you for themselves!"

"I'm glad to hear that." Hesperus nodded. "I'm sure Helios and

Endymion will be glad too.”

Hesperus’ condition stabilized later that night, but his body temperature remained high.

Emmeline was worried the bacteria might get into his blood, but fortunately, Adrien was available for a transfusion.

Even though Adrien might be a playboy, he was nonetheless dependable when his son needed him the most.

At the end of visiting hours,

Emmeline kissed Hesperus and said goodbye to him.

“I’ll be going home. Will you be okay being alone in the hospital?”