

must have suffered." ❶

The staff lifted the two brawny men off the floor and carried them out.

Annie took the opportunity to run. ❶

"Your arm is still bleeding. Let me dress your wound," Annabel told Rupert. She asked a staff member for a first-aid kit and led Rupert to a more comfortable place.

Heather tried to follow, but Annabel prevented her. "My fiance is injured. It's not a convenient time to entertain you. Please leave us alone." ❷

Heather looked at Rupert and suppressed jealousy before speaking to him. "That cut looks bad, Rupert. I should come, too." ❷

Rupert's response was stern and ice cold. "Annabel is with me. This is none of your business."

"Did you hear him? He doesn't want you here. I feel the same." Annabel slammed the door.

Heather just barely saved her hand from being crushed in the doorframe.

Her heart burned with jealous rage.

"Annabel, you were lucky this time! But you won't be lucky forever. Next time, I'll make sure you die miserably." ❶

Rupert and Annabel were alone in the lounge.

After closing the door in Heather's face, Annabel turned to see Rupert removing his shirt.

He was attractively thin and well-muscled, the delicate ridge of his collarbone creating an alluring contrast with his sculpted torso. His sex appeal was undeniable.

"Rupert! What are you doing?" Annabel demanded, feeling very hot in the face.

"If I didn't take off my shirt, how could you treat my wound?" Rupert asked innocently.

"Well..."

Annabel conceded helplessly.

He had been hurt saving her, after all.

Trying not to stare at his abs, Annabel took the iodine from the first-aid kit and tried to clean Rupert's wound.

Rupert saw that Annabel's face was flushed, and he couldn't stop the smile that spread across his own.

After a lot of awkwardness and effort, she managed to bind his wound.

"Now put your shirt back on!" Annabel snapped in a sour tone as she sorted and repacked the first-aid kit.

Rupert did as he was told with elegance. Once he was finished, he presented Annabel with the plush toy.

"Annabel, this is for you. Don't say no, okay?" Rupert's tone was firm and irresistible.

Annabel was caught up in the romance, and her heart beat faster.

The memory of him throwing himself in front of a knife to save her flashed through her mind.

It wasn't the first time he had saved her.

When the warehouse exploded, Rupert protected her with his body without hesitation.

When Nina tried to stab her, he rushed forward to protect her.

Rupert had saved her again and again. Was she mistaken in her belief that she was merely Candy's substitute to him? ❶