

Chapter 477 Emma

Anthony's POV:

My heart had become numb since Jennifer's abduction. There was a saying that some pain hurt too much to be felt. I believed it to be true because it was what I was feeling now.

However, I was still a king. No matter how much pain I was in, I could not abandon my people. I worked even more diligently and continued to deal with government affairs. Keeping myself extremely busy was a way to keep my mind occupied.

I did not want to be idle for even a minute. If I had any free time, my mind would become filled with thoughts of Jennifer.

I had sent many guards and royal knights to look for Jennifer, but they failed to find even a single clue to her whereabouts. I nearly went crazy from disappointment.

Jennifer! My Jennifer! Where the hell was she?

I really wanted to leave the palace and search for her myself. If I did that, perhaps I would have a better chance of bringing her back. However, I was the king. I couldn't do that.

If Jennifer ever learned of this, she would scold me. She would never want me to abandon my responsibilities—even if it was for her sake. I did not want to let her down so I had to cheer up. I sincerely hoped that she would be the same when she returned.

Today, I was not as busy with government affairs as I had expected to be. I managed to finish my workload before evening so I ended up sitting in a daze.

I stared at the picture frame on my desk. It was a photo of me and Jennifer from the day we got married. She was smiling so sweetly in the photo.

Where in the world could my Jennifer be?

I picked up the photo and took a better look at it. The pain in my heart grew, and my longing for Jennifer intensified.

Without Jennifer, my body felt as light and insignificant as a single sheet of paper. I also felt as if my body was rotting and being feasted on by maggots. I was going to go crazy if I never saw Jennifer again.

"Mr. Jones, Jerome is here. Are you free to meet with him?" Night Crow suddenly approached and asked me in a low voice.

"Let him in," I answered without raising my gaze.

"Oh my God, Mr. Jones. It's only been a few days since I last saw you, but you look so haggard." As soon as Jerome saw me, he became very worried. "Mr. Jones, I know how sad you are that Jennifer is missing, but you can't torture yourself like this. If you go on as you have been doing, your health will suffer."

"Mr. Jones..." Skylar walked in after Jerome and looked at me sadly. "I really wish there was something I could do to help. Has there been any news?"

I shook my head silently.

"Don't be sad, Mr. Jones. Skylar and I are also looking for Jennifer. We will find her soon enough," Jerome said in an effort to comfort me.

I let out a long and heavy sigh. I had heard similar statements from my mother and Caroline before. Everyone kept trying to assure me that we were going to find Jennifer. They probably knew that their words were just empty promises at this point. What I feared the most was finding Jennifer in an awful state. She could be injured or even...

"That's enough, Jerome," I replied in a hoarse voice. "Thank you, but I don't need any reassurances. I'm fine. I just miss Jennifer a lot. I can't stop missing her."

"I'm sorry, Mr. Jones. There's not much else we can do to help you." With reddening eyes, Jerome shook his head. "Skylar and I shall not disturb you anymore. At least go to bed early."

"See you another time." I forced a smile as I watched Jerome and Skylar leave.

After Jerome and Skylar left, I remained seated in a daze.

"Mr. Jones, I've brought some turmeric milk made by the royal chef. Your mother ordered it especially for you. Would you like to drink it?" Just then, a maid approached my desk with a tray in her hands. She lowered her head and added softly, "Your mother is worried about you, Mr. Jones."

The maid's words reminded me of my mother. I sighed. What an unfilial son I was! It probably saddened my mother to see me like these, but she would not have the heart to scold me.

"Give it here." I accepted the turmeric milk and took a sip.

The sweet milk reminded me of the times I spent with Jennifer. Before she disappeared, she often made desserts and snacks for me out of fear that work would leave me exhausted. I never liked desserts until I got together with Jennifer. I came to like sweet treats because the ones she made for me were always very delicious.

Memories of the past made me feel guiltier. It was as if a lump had grown in my throat.

Jennifer! Oh, my Jennifer! This was my fault. If I had better foresight, she wouldn't have gotten abducted by Larry.

"Cheer up, Mr. Jones. All of us are praying for Mrs. Jones' safety. If she learns that you are overworking yourself, she would be very sad." The maid who had brought me the milk tried to comfort me.

Surprised, I looked up at her. Her face was a little familiar, and after giving it some thought, I finally recognized who she was. The maid's name was Emma. She was the girl who helped me testify against Austin.

Emma's POV:

Life has been chill since Austin's tyranny was put to a halt. I still worked as a maid in the royal palace. I had witnessed Anthony's ascension to the throne and his marriage to Jennifer. The two of them have been living happily until now.

I often served them both. Not long ago, I was ordered to serve the queen as her personal maid. In my opinion, Jennifer and Anthony were a perfect match. They were an extremely good-looking couple envied by many. They had a touching love story. I didn't think there was another couple in the world who loved each other as much as those two did.

I also had not expected such a kind and gentle queen to disappear so suddenly. When I heard the news, I was both surprised and saddened. I prayed for Jennifer's safety.

After all, it was thanks to Anthony that I could live a peaceful and happy life. I was really grateful to the two of them.

Jennifer's abduction was a big blow to Anthony. Since Jennifer disappeared, Anthony had completely lost his appetite. He worked like crazy every day. It was obvious that he was trying to drown himself in work.

Everyone felt sorry for the king—so did I. Anthony was such a good man. It saddened me to see him this down. I wanted to comfort him, but I was just a humble maid. I didn't deserve to talk to him about Jennifer.

But when I delivered the milk that his mother ordered for him, I caught Anthony staring at his wedding photo. He had such a melancholy look on his face that I spoke before I even realized what I was doing.

"Mr. Jones, your relationship with Mrs. Jones is stronger than anything in this world. You two will definitely meet again. Just think about it. Your relationship survived even when you suffered the Love Curse. I truly believe you will be able to overcome this test too. You must stay strong—not only for the citizens but also for Mrs. Jones and your child."

As soon as I finished speaking, I became conscious of my social status. I regretted speaking out of turn. I quickly bowed and apologized, "Oh! I'm so sorry, Mr. Jones. I shouldn't have said all that. Please punish me as you see fit!"

"It's fine, Emma. I remember you." Instead of punishing me, Anthony looked at me gently. "You are right. I appreciate your words of encouragement."

"But, Mr. Jones, I'm just a maid. I had no right to speak like I just did. Aren't you offended?" I asked in astonishment.

"Maid is just a job title. You merely gifted me with some of your kindness. Why should I be offended?" Anthony shook his head with a smile. "As king, I wish more people could be frank with me as you are. If I have done or said something that you disagreed with, you can tell me."

I was overjoyed after hearing what Anthony said. I bowed once more and replied, "Thank you, Mr. Jones. You really are a wise man."

Anthony nodded and said, "You may leave me be."

I nodded, picked up the tray, and left quietly.

After leaving Anthony's office, I returned to the kitchen with a gleeful smile on my face.

"Now that the queen is gone, I think some of us are getting some ideas." When I passed by the garden, I saw that several maids had gathered there. They whispered among themselves. Stunned by what I just heard, I stopped in my tracks, hid behind a big tree, and listened some more to their conversation.

"You're right. I heard that the queen was taken away by an evil wizard. She can't possibly still be alive after that. Sooner or later, the king will need a new queen," one of them said.

"Hey! How could you say that? Do you want to die?"

"I'm just saying what everyone's thinking."

"Oh, I wish the king could come to like me. I'd love to know what it's like to be that wealthy."

"You? You should find a mirror and see how stupid you look."

"What's wrong with me? Wasn't Jennifer a commoner before she became queen?"

I was stunned by their discussion.

Was Anthony going to find new queen? Oh my God! If only that person could be me! No one knew that I had fallen in love with Anthony the moment I first laid eyes on him. He was elegant, very handsome, patient, and kind. There were so many good things about him that I couldn't possibly list them all.

Even though I could never admit it to anyone, I was in love with Anthony. If, by any chance, Jennifer never returned, I was willing to take good care of the king in her place.