

THE DAY I KISSED AN OLDER MAN

Chapter 1261



What should I do? What should I say? Marcus will think something's going on between me and Mister Aaron if he comes here and sees we're having a candlelit dinner! How am I going to explain to him then?' thought Annie in a panic.

"What's the matter, Annie? Why aren't you saying anything?" asked Marcus quizzically after a while.

After thinking about it, Annie decided to not let Marcus come. "Umm... The restaurant is very far from your office, and I'm just about to finish. Why don't we have lunch next time instead?"

Marcus sounded dejected. "But I've already asked for a half-day leave, so it doesn't matter if the restaurant is far. I can take a cab there, and if you've already finished eating, I can send you home."

Annie did not know what to say. 'He's so patient and kind to me. I can't let him come! He'll be super hurt if he does.'

The private dining room they were in was very quiet. Aaron smiled at Annie when he heard what Marcus said.

"You should just have him join us for lunch since he took the effort to take time off work."

Annie was speechless. 'Of course he'd say that! He's not the one that has to explain what's going on to Marcus.'

Unexpectedly, Marcus heard Aaron's voice too. "Annie, are... Are you with someone else? Is that why you don't want me to go?"

Annie started to panic. "Ah, no! No... That's not it..."

"But I heard a man's voice just now!"

Annie felt really guilty. "That... In any case, it isn't what you think it is!"

She could not bring herself to tell Marcus that she was having lunch with Aaron.

Marcus laughed bitterly. "You know what, it's okay. You sound like you're really busy, so I won't bother you anymore."

He was about to hang up the phone when Annie, who could tell he was angry, panickingly said, "No! I'm not busy. Please come. I'll text you the address later. I want you to come and pick me up."

"Really? Do you mean that?" asked Marcus.

Annie sighed helplessly. "Yeah. Just come over. I'll explain everything to you once you're here."

Marcus smiled happily. "Okay. I'll see you soon!"

Annie immediately got a headache after she hung up the phone. 'How am I going to explain this to Marcus?'

"Mister Aaron, can we change into another room where it isn't so...romantic? I don't want Marcus to get the wrong idea about us," said Annie in a bid to negotiate with Aaron.

Aaron smiled easily at her and simply said, "No."

Annie glared at him. "Why not? Don't you think this is inappropriate? It makes me look like I'm cheating on him."

"No, it doesn't."

Annie stood up angrily. "Then you can have this lunch by yourself. I'm going to move to another private dining room to wait for Marcus."

She walked to the door, but the waiter, who had been standing by the door the whole time, stopped her from leaving.

"Miss, the dishes haven't been served yet, so you can't go out."

"I don't want to eat anymore!" shouted Annie angrily.

"Then please wait until Mister Aaron has finished eating," said the waiter respectfully.

Annie turned back to glare at Aaron.

Aaron simply smiled and continued to sip his juice. He did not seem like he had any intention to order the waiter to let her out.

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Thus, Annie had no choice but to return to her seat. "You've crossed the line this time!"

Aaron smiled and said softly, "Just stay and enjoy the lunch with me."

After that, the waiter brought in one fancy dish after another.

Annie ate without really tasting the food. All she could think about was how to explain what was going on to Marcus.

The restaurant was not that far from Newmoon Group. In fact, it would only take Marcus 15 minutes by car to get there.

Marcus smiled when he saw Annie in the room, but his smile froze when he realized Aaron was inside the room as well. He looked at Aaron, then back at Annie.

“Annie, why are you having a romantic lunch with Mister Aaron?”

Annie smiled awkwardly. “Umm... It might look like a romantic lunch, but I can assure you it’s just a casual lunch. Here, have a seat, Marcus. Order whatever you want. It’s Mister Aaron’s treat today,” she explained as she patted the seat next to her.

Marcus chose to believe Annie, but he still felt pressured to be in this kind of setting with Aaron. After all, this was the first time he had ever been so close to his boss. Thus, he bowed slightly and said, “Thank you, Mister Aaron, for the lunch.”

After that, he pulled out his chair and sat down.

Aaron smiled warmly while he gracefully cut his steak.

“Marcus, I heard you asked for a half-day leave because something happened to your family?” he asked casually.

Marcus’ expression became sheepish. “Umm, well... I...”

Was there anything more embarrassing than being caught red-handed in a lie by the boss?

Annie could tell Marcus was embarrassed, so she retorted, “His girlfriend could be considered to be his family, too! Plus, it’s perfectly normal for a guy to take some time off work for his girlfriend!”

Aaron glanced at the both of them. “Yes, you’re right. It’s perfectly normal,” he said with a chuckle.

To vent her anger, Annie called over the waiter so that she could order the most expensive dishes in the restaurant for Marcus. Only then would she be able to lessen the resentment she had for Aaron.

Thinking it was not appropriate to do that, Marcus tried to stop her, but Annie stubbornly insisted on doing things her way.

After the steak was served, Marcus cut a piece of it and blew on it before feeding it to Annie. "Here you go, Annie. Try some of my steak."

As embarrassed as Annie was to be fed by her boyfriend, she was equally more afraid that Marcus' feelings would be hurt if she turned him down. After some hesitation, she opened her mouth and chomped down on the steak.

"Mmm, it's delicious! Thanks, Marcus. But you don't have to worry about me. I got plenty of food myself."

There was no reaction from Aaron. However, the sound of him cutting the steak sounded just a little louder after that.

Somehow or rather, the three of them managed to finish their lunch under the awkward atmosphere.

Before they left the restaurant, Aaron ordered some takeout for Corinne.

"Mister Aaron, is it okay if you go visit Corinne alone? I think I should hang out with Marcus since he did take time off work for me. I'll drop by Corinne's place later in the night," said Annie after they walked out of the restaurant. How could she not, when she saw Marcus looking at her with his puppy eyes?

Aaron narrowed his eyes. Ignoring Annie, he looked at Marcus quietly.

"Marcus, I'll just treat this as your lunch break and not dock your pay off the leave if you go back to work now."

Marcus was first happy at the offer, but he decided to turn down the offer after looking at Annie.

“Thanks, Mister Aaron. I appreciate the kind offer, but I’m sure the meeting is already over, so there’s no point for me to go back now. I might as well take full use of the leave to spend time with my girlfriend.”

Update of The Day I Kissed An Older Man by Cher the Cherished

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Aaron smiled threateningly, causing a chill to go up Marcus’ spine. For a moment, he thought he was going to fire him.

“Okay, then. Goodbye, Mister Aaron! We’re going now,” said Annie, breaking the silence as she pulled Marcus to the shopping mall near the restaurant.

Aaron remained standing where he was, lost in thought for a few minutes before getting into his car.

Annie dragged Marcus to the shopping mall and pushed open the glass door entrance before looking furtively back in the direction where they came from. She sighed with relief when she saw Aaron’s car finally driving off.

Marcus looked at her anxiously. “Annie, what is going on with you and Mister Aaron? Why does he seem like he really hates me?”

Annie snapped back to the present and looked at him sheepishly. “Sorry, Marcus. I didn’t mean to cause you any trouble...”

Marcus quickly shook his head. “No, I don’t mean that. I’m just worried that he’s trying to steal you from me. I mean, I’ll surely lose in a fight against him.”

Annie smiled embarrassedly. “You’re overthinking things! Everyone in the office knows he’s a player who likes to flirt with every woman he sees. You don’t need to take him seriously even if he’s interested in me. I’m sure it’s just a phase.”

Marcus visibly relaxed after that. “I thought you’d fall for a funny, charming, and successful man like Mister Aaron too.”

“I... Well, forget it. Let’s not talk about him anymore. It’s leaving a bad taste in my mouth,” said Annie sheepishly. “We should enjoy ourselves in the shopping mall since you took the time to get off work for

me. You must still be hungry ’cause you didn’t eat much just now. Come, I’ll buy you lunch again.”

...

Aaron bumped into Tommy, who had been standing guard by the main entrance, as soon as he got home. Momentarily stunned, he then glared at him. “What are you doing here?”

Tommy nodded at him politely. “Hello, Mister Aaron. Mister Jeremy ordered me to stay here to protect Miss Corinne.”

Aaron frowned and scoffed. “How unnecessary of him! Tell Mister Jeremy that Xante and I will protect Corinne. There’s no need for that jerk to worry about her.”

Having worked with Jeremy for many years, Tommy had trained himself to not show any emotions even when provoked. He smiled politely and said, “No matter how much of a jerk my employer might be, he’ll never be as much of a jerk as you, Mister Aaron. It’s like the pot calling the kettle black.”

Aaron was speechless. ‘I know I’m a jerk, but is that how everyone sees me too?’

He could not offer up a retort because Tommy was right. However, that did not mean he had to let him stay.

“You can go back now that I’m back to take care of Corinne.”

Tommy remained standing where he was. “Yes, you’re back, but that doesn’t mean I can leave my post. Besides, me doing my job and you coming back have nothing to do with each other.”

Aaron was already in a bad mood to begin with, but Tommy’s words just made it even worse. “Why you!”

“Aaron!” called Corinne as she walked out of the bedroom. She yawned and said, “What food did you bring back for me? I’m starving!”

Aaron turned to look at her. “Boss, I brought you some beef Wellington and mushroom soup. Is that okay?”

Corinne nodded. “Yup.”

“Okay, then. Wait at the dining table while I go heat up the food for you,” said Aaron with a smile.

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Aaron went into the kitchen to heat up the food.

Corinne glanced at Tommy. As annoyed as she was with him, there was nothing she could do about his presence. Thus, she sat at the dining table to wait for her lunch.

Tommy frowned worriedly. He then took out his phone to text Jeremy.

[Mister Jeremy, Miss Corinne is having takeout for lunch. It doesn't look like anyone living in the apartment knows how to cook.]

Meanwhile, back at Holden Group.

Jeremy was in a meeting, listening to his subordinates giving a slideshow presentation when his phone flashed twice.

He picked up his phone to read the message, which caused his eyes to darken. He quickly replied to Tommy's text message.

[Did she drink the soup?]

Tommy looked up at the thermos that Corinne ignored ever since she left it on the table.

[No.]

After that, he did not receive any more reply from Jeremy. Nonetheless, he could feel his employer's anger through the screen.

He looked at Corinne, who was eating the beef Wellington, and took a deep breath before saying, "Miss Corinne, should I heat up the soup for you since you're already eating lunch? I'm pretty sure the soup Mister Jeremy made is healthier than the mushroom soup from the restaurant."

Corinne ignored him.

Tommy picked up the thermos and was about to go into the kitchen when Aaron stopped him.

"What soup is that? I can't let her drink something of unknown origin."

“Mister Aaron, this soup is cooked by Mister Jeremy using only the freshest ingredients. It’s not something of unknown origin like you said.”

“More the reason I can’t let her drink it! Who knows, Mister Jeremy might’ve poisoned the soup!”

Tommy frowned and ignored him. Instead, he turned toward Corinne and said, “Miss Corinne, you should know Mister Jeremy will never poison you, right?”

Corinne continued cutting her beef Wellington. “You can just ignore him, Aaron.”

Aaron shrugged and let Tommy through before going back to his room to change into more comfortable.

However, not a minute after he went into his room, he came out again with a puzzled look on his face. “Boss, did someone go through my closet?”

“Yeah. Me,” said Corinne before taking another bite of the beef Wellington.

“You rarely go into my room. Why would you go through my closet today?” asked Aaron with confusion.

“Jason came this morning. I accidentally dirtied his clothes, so I gave him your clothes.”

Aaron pretended to be angry. “Boss, do you know how expensive all my clothes are? How can you give it away without asking me?”

Corinne rolled her eyes at him. “Oh please, how expensive can it be? I’ll just buy you a new one.”

Aaron smiled. “I’m just kidding. I’m glad that I could be of help. What I really mean to say is, I should buy your boyfriend some new clothes instead of letting him wear my second-hand clothes.”

Corinne gave him a side-eye. “What nonsense are you talking about? He’s not my boyfriend! In fact, I don’t have a boyfriend!”

Aaron snickered lewdly. “Then how did his clothes get dirty?”

Corinne was speechless. ‘I should really clean his brain with some soap so he’ll stop thinking dirty things.’

“Do you seriously think we can do anything when I’m eight months pregnant?” asked Corinne with a smirk.

“Oh, you’re right. Such a pity.”

Corinne was once again speechless.

Tommy brought out a bowl of soup and placed it gently in front of Corinne.

“Miss Corinne, I’ve already heated up the soup for you. Why don’t you give it a taste?”

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Corinne glanced at the soup and continued to eat her beef Wellington.

Tommy looked helplessly at her before retreating to his spot at the main entrance.

Aaron sniffed the soup. “This soup doesn’t smell that nice. Guess Mister Jeremy isn’t a good cook at all.”

Tommy was speechless.

Corinne put down her fork and knife after she was full. She had finished all of the beef Wellington and half of the mushroom soup. The soup Jeremy cooked for her remained untouched.

Just when Tommy was about to give up hope, Corinne suddenly picked up the bowl of soup. His eyes immediately lit up.

'Miss Corinne might act like she doesn't care about Mister Jeremy, but I knew she still has a soft spot for him. She must've been waiting for the soup to cool before drinking it. If only Mister Jeremy was here! He'd be so happy to see Miss Corinne drinking the soup he cooked,' thought Tommy.

With that thought in mind, he secretly took out his phone to take some photos of Corinne drinking the soup.

However, after he aimed his camera at her, Corinne suddenly stood up after blowing on the soup and walked over to a corner of the living room to tip the soup into Mimi's food bowl.

Seeing this, Mimi walked over gracefully to drink the soup.

Corinne stroked Mimi lovingly on the head and said, "Drink up. It's all yours."

Tommy was speechless. He accidentally sent the photos to Jeremy, and it was too late to delete them. He stared at the screen in a panic and saw that Jeremy had received the photos.

'Sh*t! Mister Jeremy is going to be furious if he sees the photos!'

Tommy was right.

Jeremy's aloof expression became icy cold when he saw the photos of Corinne feeding the soup to the cat.

The subordinate giving the presentation thought he had misspoken and started to break out in cold sweat.

Not only that, but the temperature in the room suddenly dropped. No one dared to breathe out loud.

The meeting had just ended when Sophia arrived at the Holden Group building.

Jeremy walked out of the meeting room with a darkened expression, causing all the employees to back away when they saw him. For some reason, they thought Jeremy looked even scarier than usual that day.

Sophia had just sat down on the sofa outside Jeremy's office when she saw him walking toward her. She quickly got up again and walked up to him with a container in her hand.

"Jeremy, you must be tired from the meeting. I brought you some cut fruits. You can eat them to replenish your energy."

Jeremy was used to seeing Sophia appearing in his office, so he did not stop to greet her. He simply pushed open his door and said, "You don't have to come all the way to give me this."

Sophia followed him into his office. "I didn't come all the way. You should know I don't really have many friends here. In fact, you're the only person I can talk to when I'm bored."

Jeremy sat down on his office chair and rubbed the bridge of his nose. "Go back to Molomia if you're bored."

Sophia pretended to be angry. "Hmph! Do you really wish for me to go back to Molomia that badly? Some friend you are!"

Jeremy glanced at her indifferently. "All your family and friends are in Molomia. What's the point of you staying here?"

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Sophia put the container of cut fruits on the table and sat on the chair across from Jeremy. She then opened the container and said with a smile, “Okay, it is boring here, but you’re here! I want to meet new friends and challenge myself in different areas to make the most out of my life. I mean, isn’t that the point of living? Experiencing new stuff and stepping out of one’s comfort zone?”

As she spoke, she picked up a piece of chilled watermelon with a fork and passed it to Jeremy.

Jeremy’s head was throbbing from the long meeting and the photos Tommy sent. He took the fork from Sophia’s hand and put the chilled watermelon inside his mouth to allow the coldness to wash away his annoyance.

Sophia picked up a piece of watermelon and took a small bite. She then blinked and said curiously, “Jeremy, Miss Corinne must’ve treated you very well in the past for you to like her this much, huh?”

Jeremy frowned at the mention of Corinne’s name. After a long while, he asked her back, “How well does she have to treat me to be called treating me well?”

Sophia rested her chin on her hand while she continued to eat the watermelon. “Mm... Take me for example. I’d bring you some cut fruits without you asking. Or call you to ask you when you’re coming home. Or cook your favorite food for dinner. Or...create little surprises for you. Or show you how much I love you frequently.”

Jeremy's face darkened, but then he suddenly smiled mockingly. 'How laughable. That little rascal never did any of those things. Heck, I don't think she even knows what my favorite foods are.'

Sophia pretended to be shocked when she saw Jeremy being silent. "What? Don't tell me she's never done any of those things for you. Sorry, Jeremy. I didn't know it was a one-sided relationship on your part."

Jeremy kept his eyes down. 'One-sided relationship, huh? How apt of a phrase to describe my relationship with that little rascal. From the beginning until the end, she's never been serious about me. Otherwise, she wouldn't have left me without saying a word.'

Jeremy laughed at himself. After all, he had never lost once in the 30 years he had been alive, yet Corinne managed to play him.

Sophia cleared her throat embarrassedly. "Jeremy, I'm sorry for bringing up something that makes you unhappy. Umm... How about we change the topic? It'll be my twenty-fifth birthday in a few days!"

Jeremy snapped out of his thoughts and looked at her. "Oh. What would you like as a present? You just need to tell Tommy, and he'll arrange it."

Sophia sighed secretly. 'He's still the same old Jeremy. He never takes my birthday present seriously. But this time, I'm not going to ask him for a present.'

"You can give me whatever you want, Jeremy. But there's something I want you to help me with."

Jeremy looked up at her. "What?"

Sophia smiled innocently. "Well... This will be the first time I'll be having my birthday here, so I want to have a birthday party. But...I don't have a lot of

friends or family here, so can you ask some of your friends to come to the party? It's my wish that I'll have lots of people to celebrate with me!"

'Oh, that's not too hard,' thought Jeremy, so he nodded and said, "Sure. I'll ask Zeke to invite all the people he knows."

Sophia was really happy. She smiled and said, "Oh, thank you so much, Jeremy! Back in Molomia, my friends and I would party till the morning! But I don't have any friends here, and I'm not really that

familiar with Zeke and your friends, so I feel somewhat embarrassed to ask them. It's great that you're willing to help me out!"

Jeremy picked up his coffee and sipped it absent-mindedly.

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Sophia noticed Jeremy's attention was not really on her. After thinking about it, she said, "By the way, if possible, can you please invite Miss Corinne too? We didn't really start off on the right foot during our first meeting, but I'd still like to be friends with her. Can you please ask her for me?"

At the mention of Corinne's name, Jeremy turned to look at her. "Why do you want to be friends with her that much?"

Sophia grinned and said, "We're friends, Jeremy, so I should be friends with your wife too, no? That way, we can hang out together."

Jeremy narrowed his eyes. "Probably only you'd think that."

Sophia blinked innocently. “Huh? What do you mean? Don’t you think Miss Corinne would think the same?”

Jeremy glanced at Sophia’s bandaged forehead. “She wouldn’t have bashed your head onto the counter if she thought the same as you.”

Sophia touched the bandage on her forehead. “Oh, you mean this! I would’ve forgotten about it if you hadn’t brought it up. Jeremy, I don’t care about what happened yesterday. I think I get where she’s coming from. I mean, yes, we two are friends, but what woman wouldn’t get jealous if she saw her husband hanging out with another woman? So it’s okay. I’m willing to turn the page and be friends with Miss Corinne.”

‘She thinks Corinne did it out of jealousy? Heh!’ Jeremy did not think Corinne would ever hurt another woman for him. He thought she did it because she was simply angry. ‘No one in this world can make her jealous!’

Sophia thought she should leave because she knew staying any longer would just annoy Jeremy. It was important for her to know when to pull back.

Thus, she stood up and said, “Well, I’ll be off then so that you can get back to your work. Don’t forget to eat the fruits. You need to take care of yourself well. And don’t forget my birthday party either!”

Jeremy nodded but he did not get up to see her off. His gaze fell on the cut fruits after Sophia left. ‘Corinne would never miss me nor would she ever bring cut fruits to my office. D*mn that self-centered little rascal!’

...

Corinne kept sneezing. She then rubbed her nose and said to herself, “Who’s smack-talking me now?”

Aaron knocked on her door before he came in. “Boss, I heard you sneezing just now. Are you getting a cold?”

He then touched her forehead and sighed with relief after confirming she was not having a fever.

“I’m fine. You should head back to work now. It’s not fair to leave Xante with all the work while you do nothing. She’s still a woman no matter how capable she is,” lectured Corinne with a wave of her hand.

Aaron shrugged. “But I’m too sad to go to work today.”

“You’re sad? Why? Or should I ask who made you sad?” asked Corinne with a raised eyebrow.

Aaron sat down beside her and rested his head on her shoulder like a kid. “It’s Annie. She’s ignoring me, and...”

Corinne’s lips twitched. “Well, she’s right to ignore you! I mean, why should she waste her time on a player like you?”

Aaron scoffed. “Boss, I don’t care what other people say about me, but how can you misunderstand me, too? I’m a very loyal and loving person underneath my player persona.”

Corinne got goosebumps all over her body.

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Chapter 1268



“Fine. You can stay in your room instead of annoying me here if you don’t want to go back to work,” said Corinne.

Aaron revealed a vulnerable side of him that he would only show to Corinne.
“Boss, I actually need your help with something.”

Corinne looked sideways at him. ‘I knew this was coming.’

“What?” she asked gruffly.

“Can you tell Annie I’m so sad that she’s ignoring me and choosing her boyfriend over me?” said Aaron cheekily.

Corinne was already annoyed by what happened, so she did not hesitate to push him away. “No! Not happening! Did you care about what she was feeling when you asked her to buy you some condoms that one time?”

Aaron also knew he was guilty of that, but he still tried to defend himself.

“That’s ’cause I didn’t like her then! Plus...it was you who asked me to make her give up on me.”

Corinne glared at him. “So this is all my fault? I only ask you to stay away from her. I didn’t ask you to do something so hurtful!”

Aaron waved his hand. “No, no, it’s not your fault. In fact, it’s all my fault, and I really regret it! If it helps, I didn’t use the condoms she bought. Can you please help me? This is about my lifetime happiness... Do you have the heart to watch me die alone?”

Corinne scoffed. “Sorry, but I don’t want to help you men anymore. You only want Annie because she’s with someone else now. Let me ask you something: Would you still stay with her once the novelty wears off?”

“Of course I will!” answered Aaron unwaveringly. “I’m so sick of playing around with other girls that I don’t even want to look at them anymore. Please, Boss! Please help me get Annie back. Pretty please?”

Corinne had never seen Aaron acting so stubborn about a woman before, so she thought he must be serious this time.

“Well... Let me think about it,” she said finally.

Aaron broke out in a happy grin. He knew that was as good as her agreeing to help him, so he hugged her and rubbed his face onto her shoulder.

“You’re the best, Boss!”

Corinne simply rolled her eyes.

“Ahem!”

Someone suddenly cleared his throat, interrupting Corinne and Aaron’s conversation.

Aaron immediately straightened up himself and looked toward the door.

Tommy stood still with a serious expression and looked at them judgmentally.

“What are you clearing your throat for?” sneered Aaron with a raised eyebrow.

“Mister Aaron, please behave yourself and keep an appropriate distance from Miss Corinne,” replied Tommy.

Aaron had already let go of Corinne by then, but he hugged her again after Tommy said that. “What does my hugging Corinne have anything to do with Mister Jeremy? He can come beat me up if he doesn’t like it!”

Tommy gritted his teeth and clenched his fists. He would have beaten up Aaron if Corinne were not there.

“Mister Aaron, even if this has nothing to do with Mister Jeremy, you should know it’s dangerous to hug Miss Corinne so tightly when she’s eight months pregnant. For the sake of her health, please let her go.”

Aaron found what he said reasonable so he let Corinne go. He then stood up and said, “Boss, don’t forget what you’ve promised me. I’ll leave you to get some rest then.”

Corinne placed her palm on her forehead. ‘When did I ever promise to help me? I only said I’d think about it... Ugh. I should really teach this punk a lesson sometime.’

Aaron chased Tommy from the doorway too as he walked out of the room. “Shoo! You need to keep an appropriate distance from Corinne too, so stop looking into her room.”

Tommy was speechless. Not being able to offer up a retort, he quickly went back to his post at the main entrance.

...

When Annie came, Tommy was the one who opened the door for her.

“Tommy! What are you doing here?” she asked with surprise. “Oh, I know! Uncle Jeremy must be missing Corinne so much that he came to visit her, right? Where is he right now? I bought some chocolates for Corinne so he can share them with her.”

Tommy shook his head. “Mister Jeremy isn’t here, Miss Annie.”

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Chapter 1269



“What? Uncle Jeremy isn’t here? Why are you here, then?” asked Annie in confusion.

“He asked me to stay here to protect Miss Corinne.”

Annie's lips twitched. "Oh my god, he's hopeless! Doesn't he know that what Corinne needs now is for him to spend time with her instead of asking you to stay to protect her? Ugh. You know what? Forget it! I'm going to see Corinne now."

After that, she went into Corinne's room with a box of chocolates in her hand.

Tommy sighed helplessly. He then texted Jeremy, [Mister Jeremy, are you going to visit Miss Corinne later?]

A few minutes later, he received a reply from him. [Did she say she wants to see me?]

[No. She didn't say anything.]

This time, Jeremy replied faster. [Okay. All you need to do is keep an eye on her.]

Tommy sighed again. [Understood, Sir.]

Somehow, he was panicking even more than Jeremy. He had just put away his phone when he saw Annie walking out of Corinne's room.

She handed him some chocolates. "Here, these are for you."

"For me?" repeated Tommy with surprise. "Oh, it's okay, Miss Annie. Please keep them for yourself."

"Corinne asked me to give them to you. She said you've been standing guard here the whole day without eating or resting. She even told me to get you a chair and something to drink and eat."

After that, Annie brought over a chair from the dining table before running back to the kitchen to get him some bread and water.

Tommy was actually quite touched by the gesture. 'Miss Corinne might not welcome me here, but she still cares about me after all. She's a good woman.'

“Corinne also said that it must be hard working for a greedy capitalist like Uncle Jeremy,” said Annie.

Tommy was speechless. ‘Yes, Mister Jeremy might seem cold and aloof, but he’s actually quite good to me. He never stopped me from having a break or going out for lunch. I was the one who didn’t want to go since I don’t get easily hungry.’

Annie looked at him sympathetically. “Dig in, dig in. I can’t imagine how hard it is to work for Uncle Jeremy. I mean, I can, since I used to work with him before. Once was enough for me, though—he’s colder and meaner than usual when he’s working. To think you’ll need to face him every day. Sigh... I would’ve quit long ago if I were you.”

Tommy was once again speechless.

Suddenly, Annie remembered something. “By the way. Uncle Jeremy—”

However, before Annie could finish her sentence, she felt someone coming up from behind her and whispering into her ear, “What are you guys eating? Is there any for me?”

She immediately jumped up from her seat as though she had seen a ghost before blurting, “Your... Your share is with Corinne. You can go get it yourself!”

Aaron crossed his arms and smiled. “Someone here doesn’t like me going into the boss’ room. Would you be so kind as to grab it for me?”

Both Tommy and Annie were speechless.

In the end, Annie went to Corinne’s room to get Aaron his chocolate.

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Aaron took the chocolate from Annie's hand. Instead of eating it, he simply stared at it.

"Did you buy this? Or was it Marcus?"

"Actually...Marcus bought it for me," said Annie truthfully.

Aaron raised an eyebrow. "So he won you over with this cheap chocolate? He might as well not buy it. Only chocolates from master chocolatiers are good enough to eat!"

Annie did not like his attitude. "Mister Aaron, you can give me back the chocolate if you don't want to eat it. But you should know not everyone is rich or can spend thousands on a box of chocolates like you."

Aaron smiled at Annie. "Well, that certainly doesn't apply to you. Your Uncle Jeremy can even hire a master chocolatier to go to your house to create custom chocolates right in front of your eyes, no?"

Annie's eyes flickered. "I can do that, but...Marcus can't! His family isn't that rich, so he can't be wasting money on frivolous stuff like chocolates!"

Aaron chuckled softly. "How is it wasteful when he's buying it for his girlfriend?"

"He'll buy it for me if I say I want it, but I don't want him to be spending money on me!" explained Annie.

Aaron smiled and shook his head. He then put the chocolate on the coffee table, stood up, and looked down on her condescendingly.

“Don’t you know that it’s best not to marry someone poorer than you? Sure, you can try to be frugal once or twice, but as time goes on, you’ll come to resent him for not being able to give you the good life.”

Annie did not dare to meet his gaze. She turned away and said, “How am I marrying someone poorer than I am? Weren’t you the one who told me that Marcus came from a very good family? Both of his parents are intellectuals, and you even said he’s a very talented young man.”

Aaron scoffed. “I’m only saying that from the perspectives of other female employees in the company. How the heck could I guess that you’d fall in love with him so quickly?”

Annie did not like how he was implying that she dumped him and moved on to another guy very fast. It was not like they were even together in the first place.

“I just want someone dependable and would love me for the rest of my life. In other words, money’s not really my concern.”

Aaron could not believe how naive she was. He leaned in closer and said, “Annie, even if you don’t choose me, you cannot be won over by a guy who gives you cheap chocolate. You deserve better than this!”

Annie’s ears turned red. She instinctively backed away before laughing wryly. “Thank you for thinking so highly of me.”

Aaron sighed. “I’m being serious. You shouldn’t trust men so easily. Not having the money to spend on you and not willing to spend money on you are two different matters.”

Annie was a little taken aback by that. Frowning, she said, “I never thought I’d hear those words coming out of your mouth, Mister Aaron.”

Aaron simply stroked her head and said, “Stay with him if you want. I promise I won’t try to ruin your relationship anymore. But just remember this: I’ll always welcome you back.”

Annie was speechless. ‘What does he mean by that?’

...

For the next three days, Tommy would keep watch at Corinne’s apartment from morning until the other bodyguards hired by the Holdens came to change shifts with him at night.

Corinne, Xante, and Aaron started to get used to this arrangement. After all, it was not like they could chase them away, and it was not so bad to have free bodyguards looking after the apartment.

One morning, Tommy was standing guard at the entrance as usual while both Xante and Aaron had gone to work, leaving Corinne alone with him.

The doorbell suddenly rang at around 10 o’clock.

Update of The Day I Kissed An Older Man