

# The Day I Kissed An Older Man By Cher the Cherished

## Chapter 441

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Corinne frowned. Even though Jason had the information she wanted, she still could not help. but hesitate a little.

Jason smiled. "Don't worry. I won't reveal your whereabouts to the Holden family and that's including Jeremy."

Corinne was a little taken aback. She had no reason to turn down his invitation anymore since he noticed her reservations in her heart and gave her his promise that he would keep her

whereabouts a secret.

"Alright then. I know of this great little Asian restaurant so let's go there. It'll be my treat," said Corinne. She was worried that she would bump into someone she knew if Jason

who

was dressed so formally – were to bring her to some high-end restaurant.

It would be troublesome for her if she was involved in another scandal and that was why she

proposed the Asian restaurant. She knew it would be crowded at this time of the day and it would almost be close to impossible for anyone from Jason's and Jeremy's circle of friends to

frequent such a place.

Besides, it would not look like the two of them were dating if they were found to be eating in such a lively atmosphere. It would just look like they were two friends who were having a meal and catching up with each other. She really could not afford any more scandal with the upper echelon of the society.

Jason looked at her slyly and seemed to have guessed her intention. He smiled happily and said, "Fine by me. Thanks for buying!"

Corinne left her address with the gallery so that they could deliver the two Nellie Nymphaea paintings to Aaron's place. After that, she left the gallery with Jason and the two of them. drove off in his car. The restaurant Corinne chose was a very popular barbecue restaurant in the city.

Once there, they could hear the many gasps coming from different women once they laid eyes on the handsome Jason. It was as if they could not help but be attracted to his nobility but they did not dare to approach him for it was that same air of nobility that made him seem very unapproachable.

Under the gaze of all those swooning women, the waiter brought Jason and Corinne to their table. Once seated, the waiter then passed Corinne the menu so they could decide on what to

order.

Corinne ordered her usual and then passed the menu across to Jason. "Please order whatever you like, Kind Sir."

'So she has decided to use her nickname for me again.' Jason simply smiled and ticked off quite several items on the menu, not holding back on spending at all.

It did not seem like his first rodeo in this particular restaurant. He was at ease and knew where everything was. He didn't even need to ask any questions regarding the food at all.

Logically speaking, rich men like him rarely came to restaurants like this. Corinne would not be surprised if he did even know what half of the food items on the menu were.

'Why does he look like he has been here a thousand times before?' Corinne wondered.

After Jason finished ordering, Corinne took over the menu to check what he ordered.

'Stir-fried beef tripe, braised chicken feet, fish curry. He sure knows his food!' thought Corinne.

She suddenly recalled the first time she came to this restaurant with Jeremy. His reaction was different from Jason's. Although he did not show it, Corinne

could still tell that he was not used to the food being offered. To his credit, he did try for the sake of making her happy.

Corinne and Jason passed the menu back to the waiter after they finished ordering. Jason then poured a glass of lemon water for her before asking her casually, "Corinne, I heard out of Jeremy's place a month ago. Does this mean the two of you have separated?"

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In the month since she left Jeremy's place, Corinne hardly heard anyone mention his name in front of her. Xante and Aaron probably talked about it with each other and came up with the agreement to not bring up anything about Jeremy in front of her. They even tried their very best to avoid talking about the business they have with Holden Group.

Corinne told herself that it should not matter if they talked about Jeremy for he was nothing but a stranger to her now. Having said that, she still could not feel the disgust rising from her throat whenever she heard his name.

Corinne smiled and said, "Kind Sir, do me a favor and don't ever mention that man's name

when I'm eating. It just puts me off my food."

Jason was a little taken aback. He looked at her with interest dancing in his eyes and smiled. Sure thing. Consider it done."

She might not have answered his question directly, but her attitude said it all want to have anything to do with Jeremy anymore.

she did not

Corinne took a sip of the lemon water and found it very refreshing. She proceeded to take a big gulp and smacked her lips after that. Then it was time to ask the burning question.

"Kind Sir, you mentioned at the gallery just now that you might be able to help me look for Nellie Nymphaea so just how do you plan to do that?"

Jason poured himself a glass of lemon water and took an unhurried sip before finally answering her, "I don't plan to help you look for her."

The light in Corinne's eyes immediately became extinguished. She frowned unhappily and asked, "Are you playing me?"

Jason smiled. "Let me guess, you have half a mind to leave this table when I said I don't plan to help you look for her."

Corinne rolled her eyes at him. "Since I'm already here, I might as well finish the food before leaving but next time, don't ever use this kind of method to trick me into having lunch with you again! I don't like it!"

Jason looked at her with admiring and probing eyes. "This girl might be quirky but she knows how to handle herself. I'm quite surprised she didn't just get up from the table and leave this place.

He liked how she was able to express her dissatisfaction in a way that did not make the other party feel sad or uncomfortable. 'She has a beautiful soul, alright.'

Jason decided not to tease her anymore so he said seriously, "Corinne, I didn't trick you. I can't help you look for Nellie Nymphaea but what I can do is to give you an important clue."

Corinne's eyes immediately lit up again. She stared straight at him and asked, "What is it?"

"You don't necessarily have to go through Michel to look for Nellie Nymphaea. It would be better for you to look for her through someone else instead."

"Well, who is it?" asked Corinne solemnly.

"Lucas Rivera," answered Jason with a smile.

'Lucas Rivera? That arrogant prick who has it in for me? Anya's brother, Lucas?'

Corinne could not help but frown at the mention of Lucas who she thought had a sister complex. "Why him? What does he have to do with Nellie Nymphaea?"

At that moment, the waiter came over with their food, interrupting their conversation. After putting down all the food on the table, the waiter left them to their meal and walked away.

Jason placed some food on Corinne's plate before answering, "From what I know, Nellie Nymphaea is the pseudonym Lucas's mother used for her painting. That's why his place has a lot of her unpublished work. He also has in his possession a few of Nellie Nymphaea's most famous paintings."

A multitude of emotions flashed across Corinne's face. She was so overwhelmed that she accidentally dropped the fork in her hand, causing it to hit the table with a clang. 'Nellie Nymphaea is the pseudonym of Lucas's mother? That means Lucas is her son?'

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'So that makes Lucas my brother? How can we even share the same mother when he's so arrogant and mean? This is-'

"Corinne?" Jason asked the waiter for a new fork. Then he waved it in front of the zoned-out

Corinne.

Corinne snapped out of her trance. She frowned and looked solemnly at him. "Jason, are you sure about what you told me just now?"

"Of course! Don't you remember I told you that I met Nellie Nymphaea when I was little? That's because she and my dad are old friends. The three paintings in my gallery were given by

her to my dad many years ago," Jason replied.

Corinne had mixed feelings about the answer. 'If my mom is Lucas's mom too then that means I'm connected to the Riveras in some way. I wonder if that family has something to do with my mom going missing.'

After observing Corinne's reaction, Jason said thoughtfully, "Corinne, can I ask why you're looking for Nellie Nymphaea?"

Corinne did not answer him. She was still reeling from the shock of the news. Her mind was all jumbled up and she did not want to tell him that Nellie Nymphaea was her mother.

Ten seconds passed and Jason still did not get an answer from her so he simply smiled and said, "It's okay. You don't have to tell me if you don't want to but I have another question I want to ask you. Is that okay?"

Corinne suddenly lost her appetite. She took another sip of the lemon water and said, "Yeah, go ahead."

Jason looked deeply into her eyes. "Can I court you now?"

Corinne was a little taken aback but she rolled her eyes at him and chuckled wryly. "Kind Sir, don't tell me you came to a gallery in Thalassa just to flirt with me?"

Jason put away his teasing smile and said seriously, "Corinne, I'm being serious. I'm not flirting with you. I'm being sincere when I say I want to court you."

"Is there a difference?"

"Of course. Flirting is just for fun but with courting, I'm doing it with marriage in mind."

'Marriage? That's funny. A guy I used to know also told me he wanted to marry me for real and look what happened. All men are the same. When they say they want to court a woman, it just means they want to see if they can win over you to satisfy their ego,' thought Corinne.

"Previously, you were Jeremy's wife in name and he's my friend so it was impossible between

1. However, now that we're both single, it's not wrong for me to tell you I have feelings for you," Jason added after getting no response from her.

Corinne picked up some duck meat from the plate and said, "I'm sorry but it's a hard

me."

"How come?"

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“I have no time nor the mood to be in a relationship right now. If you want to love someone, go find someone else in court. You’re not that bad looking so I’m pretty sure girls will be lining up to be your girlfriend in no time.”

Jason raised his eyebrow. “But I’m only interested in you.”

Corinne was about to argue with him but he beat her to it, “Corrine, I know what you were going to say but can you please at least think about it first before turning me down so quickly? I know you’re not interested in getting into a relationship right now but who’s to say you’ll feel the same way in the future? I don’t mind waiting for you so I’m only asking that you’ll think of me first should that time ever come, okay?”

Corinne frowned in disbelief. “Jason, what exactly do you see in me?”

Jason smiled impishly as though he knew just how irresistible he was and that he could charm anyone at the drop of the hat. “I don’t know how to answer that. I just know that I like you!”

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After staring at each other for ten seconds, Corinne thought that she should eat the duck meat on her fork. After that, she wiped her mouth and said, “Mister Talbot, thank you for giving me information about Nellie Nymphaea but I have yet to verify the veracity of it. Therefore, I would need to look into it more as for the other matter. Well, let’s talk about it again sometime in the future.”

‘She’s willing to talk about it?’ This was better than Jason expected. At least there was still some hope for him.

“Corinne, I’m not going to force you but I hope that I’ll be the first person that comes into your mind whenever you need someone to help you.”

Corinne smiled. “I see that you’re as kind as ever, Kind Sir. I’ll be sure to keep that in mind.”

The reason she told Jason she would be willing to talk about the matter of their “relationship” sometime in the future was that she knew that he would not stop talking her ears off if she rejected him directly now. She wanted to be spared from all that talking.

Jason looked at her hopefully. “Then do you mind if we exchange phone numbers with each other?”

After giving it some thought, Corinne took out her phone and passed it to him. Jason was a little taken aback but he immediately understood what she wanted him to do. After taking her phone, he saved his number on it and then proceeded to call himself with the same phone. Then, he took out his ringing phone and saved the number shown on the screen. Finally, he

gave

back the phone to Corinne.

“Thanks, Corinne. You can’t imagine how happy I am,” he said with a smile.

Corinne smiled too. “Well, you should eat more to celebrate. The food won’t be as nice once

it’s cold.”

“I’ll be even happier if you can call me Jason.”

“You got it, Kind Sir.”

Jason chuckled. He knew it would not be that easy for him to change her mind. He then dug in on the food on his plate and the two of them changed the topic to something a little less

serious.

When they came out of the restaurant, the row of TVs displayed in the electronics store were playing breaking news that was set in a loop.

[The heir to an international conglomerate and the second daughter of a business tycoon is set to marry each other. This would be the business alliance of the century.]



Corinne quietly watched the same news being broadcasted on the row of TVs at the same time. The picture shown in the news was a silhouette of a man and a woman. Even though there were no defining characteristics, nor did they mention the name of the couple getting engaged, anyone who knew them would be able to tell who they were at a glance.

Jason

who was standing next to Corinne. have finally gotten their wish to get married despite the objections from both sides of the family.”

was shocked by the news as well. “I guess they

Corinne smiled mockingly and averted her eyes from the news. “Let’s call it a day. I’ll be making a move first. Goodbye, Kind Sir.”

Jason stopped her. “Corinne, wait. When can I see you again?”

“How about we leave that up to fate?” Corinne waved goodbye to him and walked away from him at a leisurely pace, leaving Jason to stand where he was alone.

This time, he did not chase after her. He remained standing where he was as he watched her leave with a meaningful smile on his lips.

Corinne went back to her place in Thalassa.

Aaron was lying on the sofa and playing a game on his phone. He threw his phone to the side when he saw her coming back.

“Boss, you’re back! How did it go? Did you get to see Michel?”

Corinne was exhausted. She collapsed on the sofa and answered, “No.”

“Then why did it take you so long to come back?” Aaron asked curiously.

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“I bumped into a friend and we had lunch together,” answered Corinne.

“A friend? Who?”

Corinne massaged her temples. Then her eyes became sharp. "It doesn't matter who it is. Aaron, I want you to look into the Rivera family. Especially Lucas Rivera. Get me as much information about him as you possibly can."

"Yes, boss!" He did not even question why but immediately picked up his phone to make a call.

Corinne leaned lazily against the sofa and closed her eyes. She was two months along in her pregnancy and it made her easily tired. She did not seem to have the same level of energy as

before.

She was living in Thalassa with Aaron for the past month while Xante stayed back in New Capital City to take care of the business. Sometimes, she would visit them in Thalassa.

This one month, Corinne looked into her mother's identity but there was no progress. Going by the information Marvin gave her, she searched the entire student database at Thalassa University but there was never a student by the name of Em Love, either past or present.

She even called Marvin again just to make sure he gave her the right information to which the latter insisted that the information he gave her was accurate. Her mother was called Em Love and she was the campus belle in Thalassa University.

Corinne had nothing to go on with after that so she wanted to meet Michel to see if he could give her any new information about her mother. However, it was just her rotten luck that Michel could not come to the exhibition because his wife fell sick.

Therefore, imagine her surprise when she learned something shocking about her mother from someone none other than Jason.

Aaron hung up his phone and said, "Boss, I got the information you want!"

Corinne opened her eyes. "I'm listening."

Aaron read out the information his subordinate sent him, "The Riveras come from a long line of scholars and are one of the most distinguished families in New Capital City. The older generations were all important figures who

contributed much to the society. Lucas Rivera is the son of Maxwell Rivera and Emily Lovelace, who herself happens to come from a very prominent family in Thalassa.”

‘Emily Lovelace? This name is so close to Em Love that it couldn’t possibly be a coincidence. They must be the same person! Mister Carew didn’t give me the wrong name after all. Mom must have told her classmates a shortened version of her name!’ thought Corinne.

“Continue,” said Corinne after a while.

“Later, Emily Lovelace was chased out of the house after the Riveras found out she had an

affair and gave birth to a daughter with another man. However, to save their reputation, the Rivera declared the mother and daughter as missing.”

Corinne frowned and said, “That’s impossible!”

She could not believe her sweet and gentle mother would ever do something like that. Aaron must have guessed what was going on in her mind so he stopped talking. He knew from the very moment Corinne asked him to look into the Riveras that they had something to do with Corinne’s missing mother.

Corinne pinched the center of her brows. She remained silent for a moment before finally saying, “Aaron, go find out what jobs are available in Rivera Group right now.”

Aaron did a double-take. Then he immediately did as she said. “Boss, the Rivera Group is looking to hire a secretary for its president, Lucas Rivera.”

Corinne narrowed her eyes and made up her mind that instant. “Aaron, pack your things. We’re going back to New Capital City tomorrow.”

A worried frown appeared on Aaron’s face. “Boss, you’re not going to apply for the job, are you?”

“Of course I am.”

“But everyone knows how notoriously difficult Lucas can be. Not to mention, you had all those unhappy misunderstandings with him. He’ll make your life difficult if you become his

secretary.”

“Well, he’s my best bet on finding my mother now so I’m willing to take the risk.”

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A wealthy family like the Riveras was just like any other wealthy family. All they cared about was money and reputation. With both in their hands, they would be able to prevent the scandals their families were involved in from getting out to the public.

Even if words get out of what happened behind closed doors, no media company would be brave enough to expose them. Therefore, only a handful of people possessed insider information about the Rivera family and those people made sure to keep their mouths shut to

outsiders.

Under such circumstances, it would be impossible for Corinne to find out what happened back then if she did not walk into the lion’s den, so to speak. She thought that it would be

easy to clear up her mother’s name since it was confirmed that she did not share the same DNA as

Marvin.

However, now that she learned that she was rumored to be the child born out of an extramarital affair. Well, that gave her a headache. She could not and would not believe her mother would ever be a mistress so she vowed to get to the bottom of the truth. She must clear her mother’s name and take revenge on those who spread lies about her.

“Boss, aren’t you worried the Holdens would find you if you go back to New Capital City? I have a reliable source telling me that Mister Jeremy is still looking for your whereabouts,”

said Aaron.

“The best place to hide is in plain sight. They’ll never expect me to be right under their nose. Besides, I can’t give up looking for my mother just because of that.”

Suddenly, she remembered the news she saw on the TV a moment ago. She frowned and scoffed. “So what if he found me? It’s not like I owe him anything. Plus, I heard he’s getting engaged to Anya soon. He’s probably hunting me down so that he could give me an invitation to their party.”

Aaron was surprised to hear the news of the engagement but his surprise quickly turned to anger and contempt. ‘I can’t believe I used to think he was a good guy. A guy that the boss can live happily with for the rest of her life. Well, he certainly proved me wrong. How can he get engaged with another woman when it has only been a month since the boss left him? It’s a good thing the boss has always been the rational type and didn’t fall too hard for him.’

“Alright, boss. I’ll go pack up our things and ask Xante to send someone to pick us up.”

“Thank you,” Corinne said. Then leaned back on the sofa and closed her eyes.

‘It’s best for Xante to send someone to pick us up. Taking public transportation might leave our tracks,’ she thought. She was not afraid Jeremy would find her but she still wanted to avoid the possibility of running into him. For some reason unknown to her, she would get into one trouble or another whenever she was involved with the Holden family.

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A few days later.

At the Rivera Group’s headquarter, the Human Resources department.

Edmund was interviewing the candidates one by one. The requirements for this job were higher than normal since the new hire would be acting as the executive secretary to the president.

The candidates would be judged based on their qualifications, their looks, and how well they present themselves. Those who passed the first round of screening would then meet with Edmund Lucas’ right-hand man who had the final say on who to hire.

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Edmund already interviewed more than a dozen applicants and his disappointment seemed to grow in proportion to the number of applicants he interviewed.

‘None of them would even last one day with Mister Lucas. It’s so hard to find someone he likes. Not only do they have to be capable but they have to be discreet and have no ulterior motives.’

Most of the applicants were women and all of them were dressed like they were going to a party instead of a job interview. Plus, the heavy makeup on their faces did not give them any brownies points at all.

‘It’s obvious they’re not here for the job but for Mister Lucas! I’ll get an earful from him if I hire someone who only wants to climb into his bed instead of doing her job well.’

Edmund looked at the voluptuous woman sitting in front of him. She was playing with her hair and showing off her cleavage. He waved his hand impatiently and said, “I’m sorry but you’re not suitable for this job. Next!”

A few seconds later, Corinne walked in and sat down on the chair.

By that point, Edmund was sick of all the women who had nothing to show off but their make-

up skills. He lowered his head and pinched the center of his brows as he asked absent- mindedly, “Tell me, why did you apply for this position?”

“Because the money being offered is good.”

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Compared to the pretentious answers given by the candidates before, Corinne’s answer was like a breath of fresh air.

‘Wait a minute. Why does her voice sound so familiar?’ thought Edmund. He looked up and his eyes immediately widened in recognition. ‘Corinne Carew?!’

Corinne smiled amicably at him.

Edmund snapped out of his shock and frowned. He reminded himself to be wary of her since her history with both Lucas and Anya were less than desirable.

“Miss Carew, what are you doing here?”

“I came here for the interview, of course.”

The frown on Edmund’s forehead became deeper. “You want to be Mister Lucas’ executive secretary?”

Corinne nodded confidently. “Yup.”

Edmund did not have a good impression of her. He thought she came here to make trouble for the Riveras so he said coldly, “I’m sorry but, given your past, I don’t think Mister Lucas would have to have you as his executive secretary. You may leave now. Next!”

Corinne remained seated. “How do you know he wouldn’t want me to be his executive secretary?” she asked with the same amicable smile still on her face.

Edmund was just about to answer her question when Corinne added, “Don’t tell me it’s because you have a gut feeling.”

Edmund became speechless.

Corinne smiled. “Well, I must say this certainly isn’t very professional of you. How can an interviewer reject someone based on their personal feelings instead of meticulously going through the candidates’ ability to carry out the work listed down in the job description?”

“Well, what would you do if you were in my shoes?” Edmund asked. He was not at all happy at having to deal with her.

Corinne straightened herself up and said, “You should at least take a good look at my resume to see whether I’m qualified for the job, and if I’m not, you’ll need to give me a valid reason for not being selected.”

Edmund’s face became as black as thunder. Not being able to come up with a comeback, he could only grit his teeth and flipped through her resume.

'Let's see! Strong academic record. Previously worked in a Fortune 500 company. There's nothing in her resume that'll allow me to reject her!'

Edmund looked up at Corinne again. "What was your reason for applying for this job again?"

"I said, the money being offered is good!"

Edmund smirked. "So you're only doing it for the money. Well, our company doesn't need someone who's only in it for the money."

Corinne raised her eyebrow and asked without hesitation, "Then might I ask why you're working here? Is it not because you want to earn money so that you can take care of your family? If you're not doing it for the money, then you might as well volunteer to work for free. That'll show Mister Lucas just how much you love this job."

Edmund became red with anger. He was never been mocked like this before. "Where are your manners? How dare you talk like this to an interviewer?"

Corinne smiled. "Haven't you heard of the quote 'Life is like a mirror'? Smile and it smiles back at you so the fact that you're asking me where are my manners implies that you don't have any manners too."

"Why you!" Edmund could not win against her so he impatiently said, "Your personality isn't suitable for this job. You may leave now. Next!"

Again, Corinne did not move from her seat. "There's no one else after me. I'm the last candidate. You have no choice but to choose me. Besides, it'll take you more than a lifetime to find the perfect executive secretary for Mister Lucas so why not just choose me?"

Edmund glared at her silently. He wanted to call security to escort her out but thought better of it since she used to be Jeremy's wife. It would not bode well for him if he crossed that family again.

After thinking it over, he got up and went outside to call Lucas,

Lucas was in his office reading some emails. He picked up the phone absent-mindedly.



“What? Corinne has come for an interview?” he asked with narrowed eyes after Edmund told

him about the situation.

“Yes. She wouldn’t leave no matter what. I’m guessing she’s going to stay put until she gets the job. Mister Lucas, I have never met such a shameless candidate in all of my life.”

“Bring her to my office.”

“Yes, Mister Lucas.”

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Edmund hung up the phone.

“Miss Carew, please follow me. Mister Lucas would like to see you.”

Corinne was not surprised. She got up and followed Edmund to Lucas’ office. His office was just like his elegant but cold.

“Mister Lucas, I’ve brought Miss Carew here to see you,” said Edmund with a bow.

There were a few unique handicrafts on the desk and behind the desk was a large office chair with its back facing them. However, Lucas did not turn around even after Edmund greeted him.

After bringing Corinne here and greeting Lucas, he then turned around and walked out of the room without being prompted.

‘I guess his job is to only bring me here,’ thought Corinne. She waited patiently for Lucas to turn around but when he did not, she politely said, “Mister Lucas, my name is Corine Carew and I wish to work as your executive secretary.”

After a few seconds, Lucas finally slowly turned around. He was holding a cup of steaming hot coffee in his hand. His elegance gave him both a dignified and indifferent air.

He smiled at Corinne but the smile did not reach his eyes. "Hello, Miss Carew. It's been a while. What tricks are you trying to pull this time? Tell me, why would you suddenly apply to be my executive secretary?"

"Because I need money and the salary being offered for this position is quite generous so I thought why not?"

Lucas smiled and took a sip of his coffee. He looked at her mockingly and said, "If I remember correctly, you're not the type to grovel for money. Previously, you were determined to give me back the cheque I wrote for you and that cemented my impression of you having no interest in money. You're probably regretting your decision now huh?"

Corinne looked at Lucas calmly. She did not seem to be fazed by Lucas' attempt at breaking her down. "I never said I have no interest in money. On the contrary, I love money very much. It's just that I don't like it when other people throw money at me so that they could feel better about themselves. Mister Lucas, why don't we let bygones be bygones? I didn't come here to beg. Instead, I came here today to apply for a job in the hope of using my skill to earn some money. And that's not groveling."

Lucas narrowed his eyes to size her up. He then smiled and said, "You wish to work here? Miss Carew, might you be overestimating yourself just a little too much?"

"No, I'm not. Why don't you hire me and see for yourself?" Corinne said resolutely.

Lucas pulled back his gaze from her and took a sip of coffee. "No, thanks. Our company doesn't

need a wild card like you working for us. I highly suggest you go work somewhere else, Miss

Carew."

Corinne frowned at him. The thought of sharing the same mother with the arrogant and mean man in front of her made her shudder uncontrollably. She would not be sitting here talking to him if it were not for the sake of getting more information about her mother. She swore to herself that she would not be walking out of the company without getting a job.

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Corinne walked up to the desk, pulled out one of the chairs, and sat down on it.

"Mister Lucas, I highly suggest you reconsider your decision."

Lucas frowned. He was not happy that she took a seat without his permission.

"Why should I?"

Corinne looked at his handsome face and said matter-of-factly, "While I was waiting for my interview, I helped you assess every candidate that walked in the door. Except for me, all the girls who came did not come for the job. Instead, they came in the hopes of getting close to you. I believe you wouldn't want someone who's trying to climb into your bed to be your executive secretary, right?"

Lucas laughed coldly. "That's quite a fair warning, Miss Carew, but the fact that I won't hire them doesn't mean that I'll hire you either. I can hire a man for the job to avoid getting myself into the tricky situation you so kindly warned me about."

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Corinne expected he would say that. She smiled and continued, "There were a few guys came for the interview but I overheard them talking about your body, your sexual orientation, and a few other things that had nothing to do with the job. I'm pretty sure they came for the same reason as the girls. I'm sure you'd much prefer a swooning girl secretary over a swooning guy secretary, right?"

Lucas was speechless. Corinne successfully riled him up. He was so angry that he could not even drink the coffee in his hand.

"You're right, Miss Carew. But how can I be sure that you're not the same as them? That you're not trying to climb into my bed as well?"

Corinne looked him dead in the eye to make sure he knew that she was serious. There was even a little bit of disgust in her eyes. "Mister Lucas, you

can rest assured at the fact I have no whatsoever interest in you. I'll never fall for you even if you use every trick in the book to

seduce me.”

Lucas choked on his coffee. He cleared his throat and glared at her. “And why won't you ever

fall for me?”

“Well, that's simple. It's because I hate you,” said Corinne without skipping a beat.

Lucas was stunned. This was the first time a woman ever told him she hated him.

“Likewise, likewise.” Lucas chuckled wryly. “If you hate me so much then why do you still want to work for me? Don't you think find this contradictory at all?”

Corinne did not think so. “Mister Lucas, the person I hate is you. Not your company or this job I'm applying for. So it's not contradictory at all. I'm perfectly able to keep my work and

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personal life separate so you don't have to worry that my dislike of you will affect my work. If you don't believe me, you can try me out for a few days. I can guarantee you that you'll find my performance up to your standard and I can also guarantee you that I'll never climb into your bed.”

Lucas was speechless. Every meeting with her seemed to bring a new surprise to him. It was not that he disliked her, it was just that he did not like her bullying Anya. He would not be surprised if one day, he came to admire her courage and grit.

Not only was Corinne beautiful but she possessed a kind of maturity that was beyond her age, though she looked younger than she was. Lucas was sure her come-what-may attitude alone would set her apart from the rest of her peers in the future.

‘I'm looking forward to seeing how she will continue to blossom!’ thought Lucas.

At that moment, a knock came from outside and Edmund's voice could be heard saying, "Mister Lucas. Miss Anya and Mister Jeremy have come to visit you.

Hearing this, Corinne's face immediately changed. She completely lost the composure she had moments ago. Her first instinct was to get up and leave the room.

'What the h\*ll? I get why Anya would come here but what's Jeremy doing here as well?

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'If I leave the office now I'd bump into Anya and Jeremy! What should I do?' thought Corinne.

Lucas looked at the panicking Corinne and thought he liked her better this way. 'She's way cuter like this than when she's all huffy-puffy,' he raised his eyebrow and said mockingly, "So the great and mighty Corinne does know how to panic as well."

Corinne was speechless. She was not in the mood for Lucas's mockery. 'D\*mmit! Of all the things I've expected to go wrong, this is certainly one I didn't see coming.'

She banked on the fact that the Holdens and the Riveras were at odds with each other. Therefore, she was confident Jeremy would not appear in the company. She even remembered the bad vibe clashing in the air whenever Jeremy and Lucas were in the same room.

'Things must be going well between Jeremy and Anya in the one month I was gone. Maybe the elders have started to accept each other? If that's true, that'll explain why they're getting engaged so soon,' thought Corinne, clenching her fists.

Lucas narrowed his eyes. Not giving a d\*mn about Corinne's feelings, he then said to Edmund, "Let them in!"

"Yes, Mister Lucas."

'Sh\*t! They're coming in!' Corinne started to scan the room for somewhere to hide as the door opened bit by bit. She did not want to see Jeremy or have any contact with him!

Finally, without asking for Lucas's permission, she ran over and hid behind the large bookshelf that was behind Lucas's desk. She heaved a sigh of relief after she hid herself.

Not even a few seconds later, she heard Anya's voice in the room.

"Lucas, why did you ask me to rush over here? Was there an emergency?" asked Anya softly. Her voice was as harmless as a newborn deer.

"Oh, it's nothing. It's just that you've been spending so much time with Jeremy that you rarely come home anymore. I was starting to worry that you'd forgotten all about me."

His voice was so much warmer than when he was speaking to Corinne just moments ago. However, there was a little bit of jealousy mixed in with the adoration he had for his little

sister.

"You know that's not true, Lucas! How can you say that I rarely go home anymore when I'm home every night?" said Anya, blushing madly.

"Yeah, but you go out every day at seven in the morning. I don't even come to work that early! And you only come home when it's close to midnight. Plus, you eat dinner outside so that's as good as not being at home in my eyes," replied Lucas with a scoff.

Anya walked around the desk and jumped onto Lucas's lap. "That's because I have something to do. It's not like I purposely don't want to be at home."

Lucas hugged his beloved little sister. "Just admit it! You have no room for anyone for your fiancee."

"Lucas!" Anya buried her head shyly in Lucas's chest.

else except

Lucas patted her on the head with a look of resignation on his face. He then looked up at the man who came in with Anya and nodded at him as a way of greeting.

“Jeremy, thanks for bringing my sister over.”

“Don’t mention it,” said Jeremy with a nod. He was standing with both of his hands casually shoved into his pockets.

At that moment, Corinne felt as though her chest was being pressed down by a thousand- pound rock. This was the first time in a month she heard Jeremy’s voice again and she did not know what to feel.

From the corner of his eye, Lucas glanced at the bookshelf behind him through the reflection on the computer screen, and his expression suddenly became sly.

“Jeremy, I would like to discuss with you about your engagement with my sister. Are you free to talk now?”

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