

The Day I Kissed An Older Man By Cher the Cherished

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It had not been a few days since the last similar incident happened and now Corinne had to go through it again? She looked contemptuously at Anya, hating her with every fiber of her being.

“There’s no limit to how shameless this woman can be! How can she still think of herself when

her child is hurt!’

Although she did not like Anya, it did not mean she would pass on that hate to her innocent child. “That poor kid must be in a lot of pain/ He probably doesn’t understand why it’s hurting

so much either.’

Instead of calling out on Anya’s lies, Corinne quickly called for an ambulance. After giving the operator the address, she hung up the phone, and only then did she say, “The waiter was the one who accidentally tripped, causing the soup to splash all over your kid. I tried to catch the bowl but I was too late. After that, the waiter legged out of the room ’cause he was afraid of what was going to happen to him.”

that

Anya looked at her in disbelief. “Corinne, how can you lie like that? I saw with my own eyes you snatched the bowl from the waiter’s hand and threw it across the room at Joey. That waiter being falsely accused by you! You’ve crossed the line this time!”

poor

Corinne was getting more and more annoyed at Anya’s hypocrisy so she coldly said, “Miss Anya, why don’t you tend to Joey first? He’s crying out in pain, for god’s sake.”

Anya’s face stiffened before breaking out in another uncontrollable sob. “Are you accusing me of not caring about my son? How can you stand there and

pretend to be worried about him when you were the one who caused him to be like this? Is this how you repay my kindness for inviting you to lunch? I can't believe I used to think you were a nice person."

Corinne was tired of Anya's acting so she simply ignored her.

Seeing that Corinne was not going to pay her any more attention, Anya tugged at Jeremy's sleeves and said, "Jeremy, what should we do about Joey? Oh, my poor child!"

Jeremy calmly checked to see if Joey was hurt anywhere else and was relieved to discover that he was not. After that, he scooped him up and said to Anya, "Don't panic. Let's bring him to the hospital first."

Anya nodded tearfully and said between hiccups, "Okay. Let's go to the hospital."

Corinne blocked Jeremy from leaving and said, "I've already called the ambulance and they'll be here soon. It'll be faster for you to wait here than to drive to the hospital yourself."

Jeremy simply ignored her and walked past her quickly with Joey in his arms. Anya followed behind but she did not forget to throw Corinne a victorious smile before turning her nose up

in the air.

A chill ran up Corinne's spine. 'How can she still smile like that when her kid is hurt?'

who was taking a call outside.

At that moment, Jason

was on his way back to the room and he saw Jeremy and the crying Joey in his arms leaving hurriedly with Anya behind them.

Bewildered, he immediately asked Corinne what happened when he got back into the room.

"Their kid was badly burned by some hot soup."

Jason was shocked. "How did that happen?"

A corner of Corinne's lips went up. "Would you believe me if I said I was the one who did it?"

"Of course not!" Jason answered without hesitation. He then looked her up and down with worry in his eyes. "What about you? Did you get burned anywhere?"

Some of the soup indeed splashed onto her hand when she reached out her hand to catch the bowl. She could still feel the burning pain spreading across her palm.

However, she did not want to make a big deal out of it so she shook her head and said, "I'm fine."

"No."

Jason was relieved to hear that. "That's good. We should go to the hospital to make sure Joey is okay."

Corinne agreed so she nodded and said, "Yes, let's go."

She pitied the poor child. With a mother like Anya, Corinne would not be surprised if Joey grew up to have traumatic memories of his childhood.

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In the emergency ward.

The doctors tended to Joey's burn and after bandaging up his eye, one of the doctors told Anya and Jeremy to mentally prepare themselves to accept the possibility that Joey would forever have a scar on his left eye since that was where he was the most badly burned.

Tears immediately flowed from Anya's eyes when she heard that. "Oh, my poor, poor child! He's so young and yet he has to leave with this disfigurement forever! Jeremy, what should we

do?"

Jeremy patiently tried to calm her down. “The doctor said it’s only a possibility. That means there’s a chance it won’t happen.”

Anya kept crying. “But, what if?”

Jeremy was losing his patience by then. “He’s a boy so a little scar is nothing! We should be glad that he’s fine!”

Anya could tell Jeremy was not in the mood for her theatrics so she immediately turned off her waterworks and said pitifully, “You’re right. Joey is a boy so a little scar will not affect him in any way. It’s just that, I can’t help but think he doesn’t deserve something like this happening to him.”

Jeremy ignored her and instead went into the emergency ward to check on Joey. After all, it was more important to comfort Joey – who had no idea what was happening

than to

comfort Anya who was an adult.

Anya followed Jeremy into the emergency ward and saw Joey’s left eye covered in bandages. He was not crying anymore though he did look a little dazed as if he was in shock. Seeing him like that reawakened all the hate Anya had for Corinne. She immediately turned around and glared at Corinne, who was standing at the door with Jason, before rushing over to her like a bull who saw red.

“Corinne, why? Why did you hurt my son? I can accept anything you dish out to me but how can you do something like this to a child so young? Have you no heart?”

Anya kept shaking and pulling on Corinne’s clothes, not letting her go for a moment, as she repeated the questions over and over again.

Seeing this, Jason immediately came to Corinne’s rescue. “Anya, stop it. I understand what you’re feeling but you need to calm down. Besides, I trust that Corinne had nothing to do with

this.”

However, his words did not affect Anya. Still grabbing hold of her clothes, she said tearfully to Jason, "How can you say that, Jason? I saw it with my own eyes! She was the one who snatched the bowl from the waiter and threw the soup all over Joey's face. I'm not the type of

person who would accuse another person for no good reason!"

Although Jason wanted to protect Corinne, he could not do anything against Anya so he was stuck between a rock and a hard place.

Corinne, however, pushed him away. She was going to face Anya's accusation head-on. She looked mockingly at her and asked, "Miss Anya, do you even care about your son?"

Anya became even angrier at her question. "What are you trying to say, Corinne? I'm his mother so of course I care about him!"

"Oh really? Then why does it feel like punishing me is more important than making sure your son is alright? Why do you keep shaking me like this instead of comforting your son?"

"Well, it's 'cause Jeremy's watching over him so I'm not worried about him! Besides, any good mother would make sure the culprit who did this to her son gets her just punishment!"

Corinne looked at her disdainfully. "Miss Anya, you're behaving like a crazy woman right now. Aren't you afraid of ruining your demure image?"

Anya suddenly felt like she was just slapped in the face. She was in so much of a hurry to get rid of Corinne that she forgot to keep up her usual facade.

"Ahem! It's understandable for a mother to behave like this when it comes to protecting her kid. I can guarantee you no mother would stay calm and gentle in a moment like this. I'll fight anyone who dares to hurt my

son!"

Corinne chuckled coldly. "Then you should fight yourself since you're the one who hurt him.

the most."

This caused Anya to descend into hysterics. She glowered at Corinne and said, "How can you show any remorse? You're an evil, evil woman! Why did you hurt my son?"

She kept shaking Corinne non-stop as if she went insane.

Annoyed, Corinne pushed her away as if she was a disgusting piece of trash. For the life of her, she could understand why Anya insisted on pouring her pointless anger on her.

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Although Corinne only pushed Anya lightly, the latter acted as if the former pushed her very hard. Anya staggered back exaggeratedly and pretended to fall. Her plan worked! She wanted Corinne to raise her hand against her to make it more believable that Corinne would do something as insidious as harming Joey.

A hand reached out to grab her just when she was about to fall to the ground. Anya thought it was Jeremy who saved her, which made her secretly happy. However, when she looked up, she discovered it was Lucas who saved her.

Lucas put his arm protectively around Anya after he righted her up. He then glared coldly at Corinne and said, "I dare you to push her again."

"I didn't push her. I just flung her hand away from my body," said Corinne.

Lucas frowned. "I saw everything so there's no use of you denying it!"

Corinne was speechless. 'How can he know what happened when he wasn't even here, to begin with? He must be making things up.'

Anya was a little disappointed that it was not Jeremy who saved her but Lucas. Still, she did not forget to keep up her pitiful act. Without missing a beat, she buried her head inside Lucas's chest and said tearfully, "Thank god you're finally here, Lucas. Joey! Joey! His face will forever be disfigured."

Lucas looked coldly at Corinne. "What did that kid ever do to you for you to do something like this to him?"

“Mister Lucas, I didn’t do what Miss Anya said I did.”

Lucas scoffed. “And who can prove that you didn’t?”

“You can report me to the police if you want.”

Corinne thought it through. There was only herself, Anya, and Joey in that room then. As for the waiter, well, Corinne was sure he would never come clean himself since that would mean he would have to face the consequences.

Lucas hated how Corinne could be so laissez-faire about the whole thing. He patted Anya lightly on the back to calm her down and at the same time, he fixed his cold gaze on Corinne, thinking of how to punish her later.

At that moment, Jason decided to come out and say, “Lucas, there must be a misunderstanding. Corinne has no reason to hurt Joey. I mean, what good would that bring to her? I’m sure the restaurant has cameras all over the place so you’ll only need to ask your men to check the footage to find out what happened.”

“I’ve already asked my men to check. The restaurant said their cameras have been out of order

since last month so there’s no footage to speak of.”

Hearing this, Anya cried even harder. “Corinne must have known the cameras were out of order! That’s why she dares to do something so heinous like this toward Joey. Oh, my poor child!”

Lucas frowned. His heart ached to see Anya so sad. “Don’t worry, Anya. I’ll make Corinne pay

for hurting Joey.”

Corinne just stood there, seemingly unfazed by Lucas’s death stare. She found the whole thing ironic. After spending so much time with Lucas at work, she knew very well that he was only rational and cunning when it came to his work and socialization but when it came to his precious sister, Anya. Well, it would not be an overstatement to say his intelligence level would drop to that of a village idiot. Corinne was in awe of just how much of a sister complex

Lucas had.

Lucas gave up on asking Corinne anything because he understood very well that she would not admit to anything so instead, he turned to look at the man who just came out of the emergency ward.

“Jeremy, aren’t you going to come over here and say anything?”

Jeremy just completed the hospitalization procedure for Joey. He walked over to them, threw Lucas a glance, and then emotionlessly said, “Corinne, can I have a moment of your time?”

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Anya immediately started to panic when she heard Jeremy asked Corinne to talk in private. She turned around and looked tearfully at him, “Jeremy, where are you going with Corinne?”

Jeremy threw her a glance and said, “Go in and watch over Joey for a minute. I promise I’ll settle this matter with Corinne as soon as possible.”

‘Does he mean that he’s going to make Corinne pay for what she did? I mean, of course, he would. I didn’t put up all that act for nothing. He must have believed my story over Corinne’s and is now itching to punish her!’ thought Anya.

Thinking of this, Anya nodded her head docilely and said, “Okay. I’ll go tend to Joey first and wait for you to come back.”

Jeremy did not say anything to Anya after that. Instead, he looked coldly at Corinne and barked out an order, “You, come with me!”

Corinne did not want to talk to him but knew with Jeremy’s character, he would not stop until he got to the bottom of who did that to his son. Therefore, she had no choice but to cooperate

with him.

After thinking it through, she simply nodded and followed him out when suddenly Jason grabbed her arm and said, "Jeremy, where are you taking her? Corinne will never do something like that. She will never hurt a kid."

Jeremy narrowed his eyes and gone was the politeness he usually reserved for his friends.

"You sound as if you know her very well."

Jason smiled kindly at him and said, "I've known her for quite a while so I'm pretty sure she's not the type who would do something like this. Though I do wonder why you don't seem to know her as well as me when you know her longer than me."

Jeremy scoffed. "You're sure? Based on what? Your gut feeling? Or is it because love has blind you to the type of person she is?"

Jason's eyes

darkened but he still kept the kind smile on his lips. "Jeremy, can we at least talk nicely about this?"

"Forget it, Mister Jason, it's okay. I can settle this myself," interjected Corinne.

She did not want to see the two of them fighting over whether she was the type of person who would go around hurting a kid. Those who did not know might even think she was some kind of Helen of Troy, causing two friends who knew each other for years to turn into enemies because of her.

Jason frowned and said worryingly, "Corinne, you don't have to!"

"It's fine." Corinne waved her hand nonchalantly and immediately followed Jeremy out to the hospital corridor.

After reaching the end of the corridor, Jeremy entered the stairwell. Corinne did not even hesitate as she pushed the door and entered after him too.

"Ask whatever you want, Mister Jeremy, but I must tell you, my answer is going to be the same no matter what you ask. I didn't do anything to Joey and you can report me to the police if you don't believe me. Besides, it's not like I haven't seen the inside of a police station after someone wrongly accused me of doing something I didn't do!" said Corinne as soon as she

entered the stairwell.

Jeremy did not say anything. Instead, he leaned casually against the wall and slowly lit up a stick of cigarette. After taking a puff, he fished out a rectangle box and threw it at her. "Put this on your hand first."

'What?' Corinne instinctively reached out her hand to catch the item flying toward her. She then opened her hand and saw it was an ointment to heal burn wounds. Shocked, her pupils immediately shrank to pinpoint size. 'How did he know I burned my hand when I didn't even tell anyone?'

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In any case, Corinne might as well apply the ointment on her burn wounds since Jeremy so kindly gave it to her.

"Thanks," said Corinne coolly. She decided to forgo delving into how Jeremy knew her hand.

was burned.

While opening and packaging and applying the ointment on her throbbing hand, she said, "In any case, "The bottom line is I didn't hurt that kid. It was the waiter who accidentally threw the hot soup on him."

At that moment, Jeremy's eyes seemed to have lost their focus. He looked at her through the haze of cigarette smoke and asked emotionlessly, "Did I ask you that?"

Corinne frowned. "Then why did you ask me to follow you here? Don't tell me you did that just to give me this ointment."

Jeremy did not answer her. He narrowed his eyes and fixed his gaze on the sparkling diamond ring on her ring finger. "Miss Carew, why are you still wearing the wedding ring my family gave you when you're remarried to another man?"

Corinne was speechless. She thought it was not accurate for him to use the word "remarried" since the two of them were never really married in the first

place! 'Has he forgotten that ours was only a marriage of convenience? And it's not like I like this ring!'

"Well, I would have taken it off if I could! But it seems like there's a contraption keeping this ring stuck to my finger. Why don't you give me one of those special liquids your family makes and I'll take this ring right here and right now so that you can give it to your future wife."

Jeremy looked coldly at her with caliginous eyes. "There's no need for that since my future wife deserves something new."

Corinne was stunned but then she quickly frowned. 'Is he trying to imply something by saying that? Does he mean he'll never let his future wife wear something that has been used before or that he'll never accept a divorced woman as his wife? Wait a minute! He's making fun of the fact that he has already used me and now I'm just a second-hand good to my husband!'

The thought made Corinne immensely upset. However, she was not going to let him get away with commenting on that so she chuckled coldly and said, "Forgive me for being blunt but unfortunately, your future wife won't be able to escape her fate of using a second-hand good since you're a second-hand good yourself!"

Jeremy's face stiffened a little before rage broke out all over his face. His comment was only reserved for the ring and it did not mean what Corinne thought it meant. 'Huh! She's the one who misunderstood me and yet that didn't stop her from coming up with a clapback so quickly!'

He glared at her for a long while but then thought nothing good would come out of him arguing with her so in the end, he gruffly said, "You can leave once you're done putting on the ointment."

"Huh?" Corinne was once again stunned. Thinking she heard wrong, she looked at him in bewilderment and asked, "Are you saying that I can leave, Mister Jeremy?"

Jeremy puffed out a cloud of smoke. "Yes. I'll handle the rest of the matter so you may leave now."

He then threw his cigarette down on the floor and stepped on it before turning around and exiting the stairwell.

Corinne remained rooted to her spot. She looked down at the tube of ointment in her hand and thought back to what Jeremy said and his attitude toward her.

'This is odd! So he never suspected that I was the one who hurt his son? Did he call me over here just to allow me to escape?

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Anya stayed in the ward to watch over Joey but her mind kept anxiously drifting back to Jeremy. She was not that worried about Joey since the doctor already told her his condition already stabilized and this would not affect his health in any other way.

The reason he was hospitalized was because the doctor was worried Joey's wound would get infected from improper caring so it was best to monitor him for a few days in the hospital. No, what Anya was worried about was why Jeremy asked to have a word with Corinne in private.

'Why isn't he back yet? What the h*11 are they talking about that it needs them to take so long?' thought Anya.

Joey fell asleep on the bed due to the overwhelming pain. From time to time, he would make a whimpering noise.

'Poor child. He's not even at the age where he can talk yet,' thought Lucas, who was standing over the bed and looking down at him with a serious expression on his face. How could he, Joey's uncle, not be angered when he saw how much pain his nephew was in?

'Corinne is the root of all problems! Trouble seems to follow her wherever she goes! Not only is she a threat to Anya's relationships with Jeremy but there's a chance she might put her and Joey's safety at risk.'

He regretted hiring her to work for him. Yes, she was a very capable woman at work and yes, she helped his grandfather once before, so Lucas did not want to leave her with no recourse. However, he did not like it when Corinne repeatedly challenged his limits by bullying and hurting Anya!

'I must hire someone to get rid of Corinne for the sake of Anya's safety and emotional health!' thought Lucas. He then went outside of the ward to make a call.

Not long after that, Jeremy came into the ward.

Anya's eyes immediately lit up. She stood up and went to greet him, "Jeremy, you're back!"

However, she quickly realized something was not right. 'Why is he back alone? Where's Corinne?'

Anya took another look behind him to make sure there was no Corinne before asking quizzically, "Jeremy, where's Corinne? Is she still in denial about what she did?"

Jeremy looked at her indifferently and answered, "She has already left."

"What? She has already left?!" said the stunned Anya.

Jason – who scrolled through his phone and waited for Corinne to come back – also stood up and walked over to Jeremy.

"Jeremy, where did Corinne go?"

Jeremy threw him a glance and answered, "I don't know."

Jason frowned but he let it go at that. He made a mental note to himself to call Corinne later.

Anya's eyes became filled with resentment and tears.

"Jeremy, how could she just leave like that? How could she just leave when she was the one who put our kid into the hospital?!"

Jeremy's eyes darkened when he saw Anya looked like she was about to cry.

"Why do you keep insisting Corinne was the one who hurt Joey?"

Anya was stunned. She raised her head and said woefully. "Because, because I saw she did it with my own two eyes!"

Jeremy narrowed his eyes suspiciously. "How sure are you about that?"

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Anya was unsettled by the way Jeremy's eyes were boring into her so she started sobbing to cover up her guilt. Her eyes immediately turned red and tears after tears rolled down her

cheeks.

At that moment, Lucas came back into the ward after finishing up his calls. As soon as he pushed open the door, he saw Anya – who he never raised his voice to once in his life being questioned by Jeremy in an unkind manner and making her cry.

Enraged, Lucas quickly strode over to where Anya was and put his arms protectively around

her.

“Jeremy, what did you mean by what you just said? Are you saying that Anya would frame Corinne for something she didn't do?”

Jeremy's expression remained indifferent. He looked straight into Lucas' eyes and said, “What I'm trying to say is maybe Anya saw the whole thing wrongly.”

Anya collapsed against Lucas and shook her head woefully.

“No! I didn't see it wrongly/ It was Corinne who poured the hot soup over Joey's face. Jeremy, did she say something to you just now? Is that why you don't believe me anymore?”

“She didn't say anything.”

“Then why don't you believe me? In your heart, do I strike you as a person who would accuse somebody of things they didn't do? No, Jeremy, I'm not that kind of person!”

Anya started sobbing uncontrollably again and this enraged Lucas even further.

“Jeremy, are you suspecting Anya’s character now? How can you believe Corinne’s words over Anya’s when one is trying to deny her wrongdoing in this matter and the other nearly died trying to save you?”

Jeremy frowned when all the memories of Anya saving him came rushing back into his mind. After that, the look in his eyes softened with guilt when he turned toward Anya again.

He did not question Anya anymore but instead said matter-of-factly, “I’ve checked the restaurant’s security camera before I left and the camera itself isn’t broken so I’m guessing it’s the surveillance system that is done. We should be able to retrieve the footage and reveal the truth once we get someone to fix the system.”

Lucas thought that was a good idea too.

“Great! Let’s get someone to fix the restaurant’s surveillance system right away. I, for one, can’t wait to find out what happened ’cause I’m pretty sure Anya is telling the truth!”

Anya, however, went pale with shock and fear when she heard the surveillance system could

be fixed.

‘Sh*t! Everyone would know I was lying once they saw it was the waiter who hurt Joey!’ thought Anya darkly. She never expected the surveillance system could be fixed. ‘If that happens, not only Jeremy will hate me but Lucas will be disappointed in me too.’

All of a sudden, her guilty conscience found her, and she immediately put on a generous act.” Sigh! I think we should just let the whole thing slide, Lucas. Since Corinne has already left. Plus, I’m so tired of talking about this and I don’t want you and Jeremy to wrack your brain over this.”

Lucas’s heart started to ache with how forgiving Anya could be so he said gently, “No, Anya. We can’t let the whole thing slide, not when Joey’s face has been disfigured. You can rest here. with him if you’re tired and leave the rest to me. Don’t worry, I’ll make sure to make Corinne pay for what she did.”

Seeing that Lucas insisted on getting to the bottom of the matter, Anya started to panic. She grabbed his arm and said, “No, let’s just forget it, Lucas. I don’t

want to take up any more of everybody's time. Besides, I'm to blame in this matter too. This wouldn't have happened if I didn't insist on Corinne joining us for lunch and she only hurt Joey because she hates me. It was all my fault and I'll make sure to stay away from her in the future!"

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"Miss Anya, that should be my line. I should be the one who stays away from you in the future. After all, trouble seems to follow me whenever I'm with you."

That was what Corinne said after coming into the ward with a lazy and mocking smile on her

lips.

Jeremy's face immediately darkened at her reappearance. He looked at her in a way that asked, "What the hell are you doing back here?"

Corinne only had to look at his face to know what he was thinking. She simply shrugged and looked him in the eyes in a way that said, "I didn't do anything wrong so why should I run away?"

Jeremy threw her one last cold glance before looking away.

Seeing Corinne come back, Anya immediately came up with a new plan. With eyes still glistening with tears, she walked up to her and said, "Corinne, let's put all this behind us. I'm willing to forgive you as long as you promised not to hurt Joey anymore. I won't hold a grudge against you even if you still won't admit what you've done."

Corinne instantly backed away when she saw Anya walking up to her as if she was nothing but an annoying gnat. She refused to let Anya get any closer to her.

"No, don't forgive me, Anya. 'Cause I don't need it! What I need now is to prove my innocence!"

"Corinne!" Anya pretended to be hurt by Corinne's refusal to accept her forgiveness. "Please don't be like this. I want to make things up with you!"

Corinne had enough of her theatrics so she completely ignored her. Instead, she looked at Lucas and said, "Mister Lucas, I heard Mister Jeremy say the restaurant's surveillance system could be fixed just now. Can we all go now to get the surveillance footage so that I can prove my innocence?"

Before Lucas could say anything, Anya chimed in again, "Let's just forget about it, Lucas. Don't listen to what she says. We should just let her go. I'm so tired and I don't want to drag this any longer than it has to be. Besides, it's more important for me to stay here and take care of Joey."

Corinne raised her eyebrow. "Miss Anya, why does it seem like you're afraid of seeing what's in the surveillance footage? Even I, the so-called perpetrator, am not afraid so why should you be?"

Her words hit too close to home, making Anya at a loss for words.

Seeing this, Lucas frowned slightly. He was starting to believe that Corinne might be innocent

as she did not seem like she had anything to hide whereas Anya was acting a little weird.

From the very beginning, Anya was the one who insisted on making Corinne pay for what she did to Joey but she suddenly changed her tune to wanting to let the whole matter slide after Jeremy said the surveillance system could be fixed.

'Could it be? Anya deliberately lied about the whole thing to make Jeremy hate Corinne so that she could keep him by her side forever?' thought Lucas. Doubt began to fill his eyes when he looked at Anya. 'If that's really what happened then, just how well do I know this little sister of mine? No, she has always been kind and gentle since young. She couldn't have become so manipulative overnight!'

Anya started to panic as she noticed the doubt in Lucas's eyes but she forced herself to think clearly. The more she was suspected, the more she could not afford to mess up. Besides, nothing was set in stone yet so there was still a chance for her to turn this around!

She quickly came up with a new plan. After putting on a mock angry face, she said to Corinne, I'm not afraid! I'm just doing this for your good and don't want to see you being punished,

that's all!"

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"Corinne, you should know that you won't be able to get away with what you've done once everyone sees what happened in the surveillance footage. Lucas will sue you for hurting Joey. I'm giving you a chance to turn over a new leaf 'cause after all that's said and done, you've helped Jeremy with his family before and I see you as a friend so I would advise you to take the olive branch while it's still being offered to you!"

The way she spoke was so righteous and affectionate that those not in the know might think. Anya was nothing but a kind-hearted and forgiving little angel.

However, Corinne saw through her. She smirked and said, "Miss Anya, your kind gesture is noted. However, I'm the type who's willing to pay for my own mistake so if the surveillance footage showed what you said I did, then I would turn myself into the police station and sit out my prison terms no matter how many years it's going to be."

Anya glared at her and inwardly gritted her teeth. However, as the "victim", she still remembered to maintain her big sad puppy dog eyes look. Her back was against the corner now and it would make her very suspicious if she still insisted on not going to the restaurant to view the surveillance footage. Even Lucas who was her staunchest supporter forever was starting to doubt her.

"Fine! We'll have it your way!" She then acted as if Corinne did not appreciate her effort. After taking a deep breath, she added, "Lucas, I wanted to let Corinne off the hook this time since I'm worried that you'll punish her too severely in your bid to mete out justice for Joey after seeing the surveillance footage.

"But since Corinne doesn't seem to appreciate my kindness, and even implied that I was lying, it would be foolish of me to keep worrying about her. In any case, I don't think I need to be merciful anymore so let's go to the restaurant now.'

The doubt in Lucas' eyes finally disappeared after hearing her say that. "Okay, let's go then."

By then, Joey's nanny already arrived at the hospital so after giving her a few instructions, Anya could finally leave without worry.

Corrine, however, was wary about the sudden change in Anya's attitude.

'She must have something up her sleeve. If not, why would she suddenly not be afraid of being exposed for her lies? She knows the surveillance footage would show everyone what happened.

With his arm around Anya, Lucas then steered her out of the ward but before they left, he threw a warning glance at Corinne who was deep in thought and asked mockingly, "What are you still standing there for? Don't you want to prove your innocence? Come on, let's

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Corinne snapped out of her thoughts, nodded, and followed them out of the hospital.

Jason immediately walked next to her and asked quietly, "Corinne, where did you go just now?"

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"Nowhere. I just walked around the hospital to clear my head.

"Oh. For a moment there, I thought you abandoned me."

Corinne gave him a side-eye. "Mister Jason, you're not a kid anymore so even if I 'abandoned' you, you can still go home alone. Besides, all this doesn't concern you at all."

Jason smiled flirtatiously at her. "No, we came here together so we need to leave here together. That's what couples do!"

Corinne was speechless.

Jeremy narrowed his eyes when he saw Corinne and Jeremy walking shoulder-to-shoulder with each other. Suddenly, he received a call from Tommy.

"Mister Jeremy, I've already checked every OB-GYN record in the city and Miss Carew is definitely."

Chapter 540

At the sushi restaurant, Cherry Blossom.

“Sorry. It’s not that I don’t want to give you the surveillance footage but it’s just that our security cameras have been down for some time so there’s no footage to speak of,” explained the lady owner fearfully when Lucas and the others told her their reason for coming back to

the restaurant.

Lucas calmly looked over the security cameras located at the payment counter and the main dining hall. It was exactly as Jeremy said, the security cameras were fine since the on buttons. were all flashing green.

“We know your surveillance system isn’t working so we’ve brought a professional to fix it. We would, of course, require your cooperation in this matter,” said Lucas.

The lady owner did not know who they were but could tell from their clothes and demeanor that they were people she could not afford to cross. Then there was, of course, the matter of an incident happening in the restaurant so she did not dare to refuse.

“Yes, of course. The restaurant will cooperate with the investigation.”

Lucas summoned the best software engineer in his company and gestured with his chin for him to fix the surveillance system. The software engineer immediately got to work. He asked permission from the lady owner to go behind the payment counter and then used the computer there to check why the surveillance system was not working.

The lady owner stood watching from the side while she kept on blabbering about the time she found the surveillance system broken, how she asked someone to fix it, but then it broke down again, etc.

The software engineer was very good at his job. He quickly found the problem. There was a bug in the code which made the system close itself down as soon as it started up. Within ten minutes, he managed to solve the problem.

“All done, Mister Lucas,” he said after completing the task.

The lady owner was shocked. “Wow! You’ve fixed it and so fast too! You’re amazing!”

“Now find the footage that shows the four of them dining in the private room,” Lucas ordered.

“Yes, Mister Lucas,” responded the software engineer. He then turned around and asked the lady owner, “What’s the name of the private room and the time they were dining inside?”

“Bamboo Forest! The four of them were dining in Bamboo Forest at around half past twelve noontimes,” replied the lady owner honestly.

The software engineer nodded and started toggling the time of the surveillance footage. However, he soon ran into another problem. Frowning, he said. “Mister Lucas, I can’t find the

surveillance footage. All the security cameras except the one in Bamboo Forest are working fine. It says here that the security camera in that room has no memory card.”

Lucas’ face darkened. He cast a suspicious eye over the lady owner. “How do you explain this?”

The lady owner was just as bewildered as he was. She quickly shook her head and said, “I don’t know either. The memory card should be in there. No one has touched those cameras since the surveillance system broke down. The cameras are too high for the employees to reach so even

the cleaners don’t clean there.”

Lucas looked at the lady owner to see if she was lying and after confirming she was not, then ordered the software engineer to check the camera in Bamboo Forest.

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In less than a minute, the software engine came back and said regretfully, “Mister Lucas, there was no memory card in the camera in Bamboo Forest. Someone must have taken it away.”

