

The Day I Kissed An Older Man By Cher the Cherished

Chapter 761

Chapter 761

Jeremy remembered how Anya sucked the poison out of his body, how she brought him food and medicine every day, and how cute she looked when she addressed him as 'Mister'.

He held a special feeling for that girl ever since. It was not of love but of gratitude for saving his life. Even if he was blinded by the snake's venom in his body, he could clearly remember everything. Everything except for the girl's look.

Later, when Anya came to look for him with the bracelet at hand, he felt something was different about her. Not able to put his finger to it, he just chalked it down as him imagining things.

Jeremy felt extremely guilty after learning Anya could not have children nor did her health ever recover from the snake venom she sucked out of his body. He tried to make it up to her ever since but the one thing she wanted from him, he could not give.

After taking a trip down memory lane, Jeremy shoved the bracelet back into Anya's hand. "My promise to you still stands, so take this bracelet back. It's yours to keep forever."

He then stood up, picked up Joey from the sofa, and left for the guest room upstairs. He stopped walking when he passed by Corinne and looked at her, conflicted. "Wait here for me. I'll be back soon."

Corinne said nothing else and simply nodded.

Anya had gotten what she came for. She wore the bracelet and waved it in front of Corinne while smiling smugly as if to say, 'See this? As long as I have this bracelet, Jeremy will forever take

my side.' She then glared at her condescendingly before turning to follow Jeremy and Joey up to the guest room.

Corinne watched the three of them leave apprehensively.

“Corinne, your kid would have to fight for his father’s attention with Anya’s kid once it’s born. Doesn’t that bother you?” asked Jason.

His question pulled Corinne out of her thoughts. She threw a glance at him and thought, ‘Him. and his stupid mouth... It’s such a shame a good-looking guy like him only knows how to annoy me with that stupid mouth of his.’”

“That’s none of your business,” said Corinne.

Jason shrugged and smiled. “Come on, Corinne. Don’t be so cold to me. I was just being kind enough to warn you.

Corinne rolled her eyes at him. “As if!”

“Of course I am. To be honest, it breaks my heart to see you like this. Tell me, how does it feel to see your husband walking away with another woman and her kid? I’d be so disappointed in him if I were you.”

Corinne had no time to wallow in self-pity as something about that bracelet looked familiar to her. She was quite sure she had seen it before...but where?

No data found.

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Posted by **AbMark**, 111 Views, Released on August 1, 2023

Chapter 762

By then, the firework show had ended and a strong gust was blowing. No one outside the balcony noticed Anya’s arrival because of how loud the fireworks were, so they were surprised to see Corinne and Jason talking on the sofa with Jeremy nowhere in sight when they came in. Zeke sat down and asked, “Corinne, where’s Jeremy?”

Corinne pointed at the stairs with her chin. “He went up to the guest room.”

Annie sat beside Corinne and asked, “Why did Uncle Jeremy go up there? How could he leave you alone here?”

Corinne did not answer and simply sipped her juice.

Annie, being the easily distractible child she was, did not think too much of it. She quickly

took out her phone to show Corinne the photos she took of the firework show. "Look, Corinne. Aren't they beautiful?"

Corinne looked down and saw Annie's firework photos posted online had garnered a high number of likes. She smiled and gave her a nod of approval. "Yeah, they are."

"Right? That's what I think, too!" said Annie happily. She busied herself with replying to the comments under the photos.

Lucas walked over gracefully, carrying with him a gust of cold air. He then carefully sat down beside Corinne and asked gently, "Why didn't you stay till the end of the show? Don't you like the blue fireworks?"

Corinne glanced at him emotionlessly. "No, they were beautiful. Thank you. How much did the firework show cost you? I'll pay it back to you along with the cost of tonight's dinner."

Lucas nearly choked at her words. "The firework show and this dinner are my gifts to you. You don't have to pay me back," he said with a frown.

Corinne smiled. "Thank you, but I can't accept the gifts. After all, you and I are not friends or family, so I insist on paying for everything. Otherwise, I won't ever come here again."

Her words cut deep into Lucas' heart. He sighed heavily and said nothing more.

At that moment, a servant came with the blanket Lucas ordered him to bring. Lucas offered the blanket to Corinne, saying, "It's going to get colder with the wind howling like that. Put this on so you won't get cold."

"Thank you," said Corinne with a smile as she accepted the blanket. However, instead of putting it over herself, she put it over Annie's shoulder. "Here you go, Annie. Don't catch a cold now."

Annie was so focused on replying to her friends' messages that she was pleasantly surprised by the sudden kind gesture. She looked at Corinne gratefully. "Thanks, Corinne. You're so good to me."

Even though Corinne was slightly younger than Annie, she treated the latter as if she was her little sister. “Of course, you’re my niece-in-law now. Be a good girl and go back to playing with your phone,” she said as she patted Annie’s head.

Lucas was speechless. ‘Grr, why is she so stubborn? It’s only a blanket. Seems like she’s

determined to not accept me as her brother.”

Meanwhile, Zeke and Jason were sitting and drinking some distance away from Corinne and the group Zeke leaned toward Jason and whispered, “Jason, have you noticed how weird Lucas is acting today? Why would a guy like him do all this stuff to make Corinne like him?”

Jason drank his wine and threw him a bored glance. “When are you ever going to stop gossiping about other people?”

“Tsk! You’re not fun at all,” said Zeke huffily. He did not expect to receive such a cold. response from Jason.

“Well, it’s still better than being a gossip...” said Jason with a scoff.

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Zeke disagreed with Jason. “Don’t tell me you don’t find it weird, too? I mean, we all know Lucas thinks everyone is beneath him, so why would he put down his pride in front of Corinne? You know what I think? Lucas might be trying to avenge Anya by stealing Corinne away from Jeremy.”

“Wow...you should go be a scriptwriter,” said Jason sarcastically.

“Ugh. Talking to you is like talking to a brick wall. This is getting nowhere,” growled Zeke.

Annie had just finished replying to her friends’ comments. She was ecstatic by all the praises thrown at her and wanted to find something else to show off, so she turned on her phone camera and pulled Corinne over.

“Say cheese, Corinne! I’m going to post a picture of us later so that everyone will know I just got myself a new aunt-in-law!”

Corinne smiled helplessly toward the phone’s front camera.

After checking the photo, however, Annie seemed displeased. “Eww, the front camera is useless. Just look at how blurry the photo is. Let’s try again with the back camera!”

The phone’s back camera flashed before Corinne could refuse, but Annie did not seem to be happy with the newest photo either. The previous photo was too blurry, but this time, it was because both of them were not even in the frame due to the angle it was taken.

“Ugh, it’s so hard to find the right angle using the back camera!”

Corinne was about to tell Annie to stop trying when Jason suddenly came over and said, “Why don’t I help you take the photo, Annie?”

Before Corinne could say anything, Annie passed her phone to Jason. “Sure thing. Make sure you take a nice photo of us!”

Jason smiled and put Annie’s phone to the side. He then fished out his phone from his pocket. “Let’s use my phone instead. My camera has a very high resolution.”

Corinne did not want Jason to have a photo of her in his phone, but before she could stop him, Annie said happily, “Okay, sure! Remember to send me the photo later.”

Corinne was speechless.

Jason aimed his camera phone at Corinne and Annie and played around with the focus before saying, “Ready? One, two, three. Smile!”

Not wanting to be a party pooper, Corinne gave her best smile to the camera.

Jason took a few more photos before giving them the ‘OK’ sign. “Okay, great! That should do it.

“Let me see! Let me see!” said Annie excitedly as she ran up to Jason. “Hey, you’re right. Your camera really does have a high resolution. Look at how clear the photos are. I can even count the strands of hair on our heads!”

She scrolled the photo albums until she came to a funny photo. In it, Lucas had his head tilted, but the angle made it look like he was resting his head on Corinne's shoulder.

Annie cackled heartily. "Hahahahaha! Corinne, look! The way Mister Lucas has his head tilted makes him look like my pet dog. Hahahaha!"

Lucas was speechless.

Corinne was disinterested in looking at the photos, but her curiosity was piqued when she saw Annie laughing like that. She turned her head to look where Annie was pointing, and a smile immediately appeared on her face. "You're right. He does look like a dog."

Lucas was even more speechless.

Jason received a message from Lucas as soon as he got back his phone.

[Send me the photo.]

Jason was puzzled, but he then smiled and typed, [Which one?]

[Need you ask?]

Ding!

Lucas saved the photo of him photobombing Corinne to his phone as soon as he received it from Jason. Although he did look funny in that photo, it was after all still the first photo that had him and Corinne together, and that was reason enough for him to treasure it.

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Just when Lucas was staring at the photo in a trance...

"Hey Jason, were you guys taking pictures?" said Anya curiously from behind Jason. She came just in time to have caught a glimpse of the photos in Jason's phone.

Jason turned and smiled at her. "Yeah. Do you want to take one with us, too?"

Anya shook her head. “No, thanks. I didn’t put any makeup on today, so I’ll look ugly in the photos.”

“Nonsense. You’re beautiful even without makeup on,” said Jason in a gentlemanly manner.

Annie rolled her eyes and poked her tongue out at Anya while muttering to herself, “Oh, please. I can’t believe she has the cheek to say she doesn’t have makeup on when her face is caked with it. What does she think we are? Blind?”

Corinne sipped her juice with a bored expression, so used to Anya’s theatrics.

Anya heard what Annie said. She threw a dirty glance at both Annie and Corinne before realizing Lucas was there, too. “Oh hey, Lucas. You’re here too?”

Lucas’ face darkened at Anya’s sudden arrival. ‘She should be at home at this hour,’ he thought, but out loud, he asked her, “When did you come?”

Anya walked over, sat next to Lucas, and leaned her body against his as she usually would. Lucas, Joey has been crying nonstop for Jeremy, so I called him to ask about his whereabouts. He said he was in Lunar Century Manor, so I thought I’d bring Joey here to see him.”

Lucas made no move to hold her in his arms. On the contrary, his face became stern when he asked, “You brought Joey here, too?”

Anya was a little alarmed at how stern Lucas looked. She stuttered as she explained, “I... I didn’t have a choice. Joey just kept crying and crying...”

“Why did you bring him out at this late hour when he’s still recovering from his injury from yesterday?!”

“He wouldn’t settle down no matter how I tried to comfort him. He said he only wanted Jeremy...”

It finally dawned on Lucas why Corinne sat alone while Jeremy was upstairs. It was all because of that troublemaker Anya!

He pinched his glabella defeatedly. “Where’s Jeremy now?”

“He’s still upstairs with Joey. I was worried he’d be thirsty, so I came down to get some drinks for him,” Anya answered. She then picked a bottle of unopened soft drink from the table.” Let’s talk later, Lucas. I’m going to go back upstairs now.”

However, before she left, she did not forget to keep up her pretense of being a nice girl. Corinne, I’m going up now. You enjoy yourself now, you hear? If you need anything, don’t be shy and just have the servants bring it to you, okay?”

Her words sounded polite enough, but it was obvious she was trying to show her who was boss.

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Corinne smiled and was about to say something when Annie rolled her eyes and said fiercely, Oh, don’t you worry, Miss Anya. We won’t be shy at all. This place might belong to you Riveras, but for this one night, it belongs to my Uncle Jeremy since he paid for the right to use. it! In other words, we’re your customer, and as the saying goes, the customer is king and a king never bargains!”

Anya’s face immediately turned pale, and even her signature fake smile stiffened. “You... You’re right. I was worrying for nothing.”

Annie was Jeremy’s only niece and the two of them had a very close relationship, so it would not benefit Anya if she fought with Annie. Hence, she quickly left the scene before things got out of control.

“Stop right there,” said Corinne all of a sudden.

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“Yes, Corinne?” said Anya as she turned.

Corinne raised her eyebrow and said, “If he’s thirsty, I’d highly suggest you bring him some water instead of a soft drink. Soft drinks aren’t that thirst-quenching, and two, he doesn’t like them.”

A hint of hatred flashed across Anya's eyes. "Is that so? But Jeremy specifically asked me to bring him some soft drinks. If I didn't know any better, Corinne, I would've thought you don't really know him that well at all."

"Alright, then. Don't say I didn't warn you," said Corinne with a smirk after sipping her juice.

Anya hated how Corinne always remained unfazed by her insults; it was like throwing punches. at the air and did nothing to assuage the anger in her heart. Anya scoffed and left with the soft drink in her hand.

Seeing this, Lucas glanced worriedly at Corinne before he got up and followed Anya upstairs.

Jason immediately sat on the seat Lucas just vacated. He then picked up a plate of cut oranges and offered it to Corinne. "Here, Corinne. Have some oranges. It'll cool you down."

Corinne threw him an annoyed look before saying, "Are you stupid? How can eating oranges cool you down?"

Instead of getting angry, Jason simply smiled and said, "Well, have some water, then. You have to put out that fire inside of you somehow."

"Thank you, but that won't be necessary since I'm not angry at all. You, however, should wash that mouth of yours with soap and water."

Jason shrugged and popped the orange into his mouth while he flirtatiously wiggled his eyebrows at Corinne.

Sensing him looking at her, Corinne turned and was immediately greeted by his eyes. 'Man, I've gotta hand it to him. He must be the first man in the universe who can make eating oranges look sexy.'

Meanwhile, back in the guest room upstairs.

"Jeremy, you must be thirsty. Here, drink this," said Anya as she offered him the soft drink. Jeremy was sitting by the bed and looking tenderly at the half-unconscious, feverish Joey. He took a glance at the soft drink and said coldly, "No, thanks. I don't like soft drinks. You can have it instead."

Anya's hand froze in mid-air. Her heart throbbed with anger when she recalled Corinne's warning to her. Not wanting to force Jeremy to drink the soft drink, she simply put it aside.

"Joey looks to be settling down now that you're here, Jeremy," said Anya gently as she looked at Joey.

"Did

you give him his medicine before you came? Why is the fever not subsiding?" asked Jeremy.

Anya nodded. "I did give him the fever medicine, but the doctor said there's a chance the fever was due to anxiety. The poor kid must've really wanted to see you..."

'What anxiety could a one-year-old kid have?' thought Jeremy. He frowned and checked the time on his wristwatch. 'It's getting late. That little rascal must be getting tired.'

"Jeremy, you should go

down to check on Corinne. I'll stay here with Anya and Joey instead," said Lucas lightly as he walked into the room.

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Jeremy looked at Lucas with surprise. He never thought that Lucas would do something like that for him or Corinne.

"Are you sure?" Jeremy asked.

Lucas walked over to the bed to check on Joey. "Yes, I'm sure. After all, this kid is my family's responsibility. In fact, we should be apologizing for causing you so much trouble."

Jeremy narrowed his eyes in disbelief. 'Wasn't he the one who asked me to spend more time with Anya? Why the sudden change of heart?'

"Lucas, what are you doing here? Umm...shouldn't you be down there drinking with your friends?" Anya asked with a frown.

Lucas threw a glance at Anya and said meaningfully, "Jeremy should be the one doing that since he's the star of the night."

Anya was speechless. She knew what Lucas was trying to tell her, but d*mn if she was going to let Jeremy go down to be with that b*tch!

"Lucas, Joey really needs Jeremy right now. His temperature has finally just come down, and I'm afraid that it'll go up again if Jeremy's not here," said Anya pitifully.

Instead of speaking to Anya, Lucas asked Joey, "Hey there, little guy. Is it okay if I stay with you instead?"

Joey was actually awake. He blinked a few times out of discomfort before saying, "Un... Uncle..."

Lucas leaned in closer to him. "Yes, little guy? Do you want me to stay?"

Joey nodded. "Uncle...stay..."

Hearing this, Jeremy immediately stood up and patted Lucas' shoulder. "Thanks, man."

Lucas nodded. "Go now. Corinne's waiting for you downstairs."

"Okay." Jeremy felt more at ease knowing Lucas would be there to watch over Joey. His only worry was Corinne. He was afraid she would be lonely or that she would be angry at him for making her wait that long. Thus, he quickly left the room.

Anya, however, was not happy at the turn of events. She was not going to let Jeremy go without a fight; not when it had taken her so much effort to lure him upstairs.

"Jeremy, wait! Let me see you off," she shouted as she chased after him.

"Come back this instant!" roared Lucas before she had gone far as if he expected she would do that.

Anya stopped in her tracks and said, "Lucas, I was just-"

“He’s just going downstairs to look for his wife, so there’s no need to see him off. More importantly, have you forgotten that you have a sick child lying in this bed right here? Joey needs his mother too, you know,” said Lucas sternly.

Anya looked toward the door, panicking. “But...”

“Anya, listen to me. Don’t ever use Joey as an excuse to trouble Jeremy again. Come to me if you need any help with Joey. I promise I’ll take care of everything for you,” said Lucas wearily.

“But Lucas! Jeremy and I adopted this kid together. Both of our names are listed as his guardians! That means he’s both of our responsibilities!”

Lucas’ voice turned even sharper when he realized he was not getting through to Anya. “Have you forgotten that you begged him to adopt this kid with you? Didn’t you promise him that he’ll only have to put down his name and you’ll take care of the rest?”

“Jeremy only agreed to adopt Joey with you out of a sense of obligation to you for saving his life, yet here you are, calling him over for every small matter. You should be ashamed to call yourself a mother when you can’t even take good care of Joey.

“Just look at him! He’s been getting hurt one time after another ever since you brought him home! I warn you, Anya, if you don’t take good care of Joey from now on, I’m going to give him to someone who can! You can kiss goodbye to him then!”

Lucas’ threat seemed to have made its mark on Anya because she was actually cowering in fear. She

knew that while Lucas did spoil her in many ways, he was also the type to do what he said.

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“I know it was wrong of me for not taking good care of Joey...but please don’t give him away. I promise I’ll be a better mother to him from now on!” Anya pleaded tearfully.

The sight of her was enough to give Lucas a headache. He pinched the bridge of his nose and said, "Fine ... Just look after him now while I go out to take a call."

He then fished out his vibrating phone and turned to leave the room, but before he could even take a step, Joey shakily grabbed Lucas' hand. "Uncle...don't go..." he said weakly.

Joey wanted to tell Lucas he was scared of being left alone with Anya, who would turn into a monster when no one was around, but he could not.

Lucas had no idea what Joey was thinking, so he simply stroked his cheek and said coaxingly, "Be a good boy, Joey. I promise I'll be back in a jiffy, okay? And in the meantime, your mommy will stay here with you." "Uncle...don't go... I...scared," said Joey fearfully. He looked like he was about to cry.

Lucas immediately became suspicious of Anya when he saw how frightened Joey was at being left alone with her. 'Is he actually afraid of...Anya? When did he become so afraid of her? Did Anya lose her patience and blow up at him?'

His phone kept vibrating. It was an important work call, so he had no choice but to take it. After cooing gently at Joey, he quickly left the room..

Joey reached out his hand helplessly as he watched Lucas leave the room, but no matter how hard he tried, he could not reach him.

Once the door closed and the sound of Lucas' footsteps faded, Anya immediately slapped Joey's face. "D *mn you, you little brat! Why did you do that? Do you want everyone in the world to find out just how scared you are of me?"

Joey immediately burst out in tears. He started blubbering with what limited words he had, "Mama...sorry

Joey bad..."

His crying only made Anya angrier. She slapped him again, but this time on the mouth. "Stop crying right now! If you don't, I'll make sure I'll give you something to cry for when we're home!"

Joey bit his bottom lip to stop himself from crying, but there was no stopping the fear and sadness in his heart.

A few minutes later, Lucas came back into the room, and the first thing he noticed was how red Joey's face was and how he had tear stains on his cheek.

"What happened? I haven't been out for five minutes, so how did Joey's face become so red?" asked Lucas with a frown.

"Didn't I tell you Joey's fever would start burning again whenever Jeremy's not with him?" said Anya helplessly, pretending to be worried sick about Joey.

Lucas placed his hand on top of Joey's cheek; it was burning hot! He sat down and said gently, "There, there, little guy. Uncle's here now, and the doctor will be here soon so chin up."

Joey dared not cry or speak after having suffered through Anya's violence moments ago. He simply nodded weakly.

Suddenly, Anya thought up a reason to go downstairs. "Lucas, I have some fever-cooling patches in my bag downstairs. I'll go get them now."

"Okay, but be quick about it," warned Lucas.

"You got it!" said Anya. She then left the room and made her way downstairs, all the while smiling smugly.

Posted by **AbMark**, ? Views, Released on August 2, 2023

Chapter 768

When Jeremy got downstairs, he saw Jason passing one dessert after another to Corinne. Seeing this, he frowned and stopped in his tracks.

"Come here," he ordered. His voice cut through the room, causing everyone to fall silent.

Corinne was enjoying the dessert with gusto, and when she looked up, she saw Jeremy glaring at her. Still, that did not stop her from enjoying her dessert.

“Didn’t you hear what I said? Come. Here. Now!” ordered Jeremy again when he saw she had no intention of doing so.

Only then did Corinne get up and walk over to him with the dessert still in her hand. “Why are you being such a sour puss?”

Jeremy pulled her to him tightly before confiscating the dessert in her hand. “Didn’t I tell you not to eat too much dessert?”

Corinne pouted. “You took so long to come down, and I got bored. It’s not like I can drink with the others, so what else can I do but eat?”

Her words cut deep into his psyche. He immediately felt his heart tightened because he knew he was wrong.

“Sorry, little rascal, for making you wait so long. You can punish me however you want, but you have to stop eating dessert right away.”

Corinne simply scoffed and pouted.

It was rare for the others to see Jeremy behaving so love-struck. Zeke, with a glass of his wine, leaned against Jason and said, “Jeremy, never in my life would I imagine seeing this side of you.”

To this, Jeremy simply glared at him.

“Corinne, do make sure to punish Jeremy as hard as you can so that he’ll learn not to leave you alone like this again,” said Zeke mischievously.

Gerald had never been the type to involve himself in his friends’ love life, so he chose to remain silent and

nurse his wine instead.

Jason, however, laughed and asked, “Corinne, how are you going to punish Jeremy?”

Corinne stroked her chin. “Should I ask him to kneel on a remote or a washboard?”

Annie raised her hand and said resolutely, “You should ask him to kneel on a cactus!”

Zeke clapped in agreement. "Yes! That's a great idea. Leave the cactus to me! I'll have it delivered to your place tomorrow!"

-Jeremy threw a cold glance at the group. He was not in the mood for joking, so he said seriously, "It's

getting late, so I'm going to bring Corinne home now. The rest of you can stay here for as long as you like. I'll pick up the tab later."

*Tsk! Nonsense. It's still so early. Or could it be....you're in a rush to go home to receive your punishment?" asked Zeke.

Jeremy took off his jacket and placed it around Corinne's shoulder to fend her from the cold night wind. "I can stay here and drink like there's no tomorrow, but she needs to go home to rest. So let's make it another day."

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Zeke raised his glass and shook his head. "Tsk, tsk, tsk. Bros before h*es, Jeremy. Have you forgotten that?" He then stood up and walked over to Jeremy. "Not allowing her to have too much dessert, worried about her catching a cold, and wanting her to sleep early... Why, Jeremy, if I didn't know better, I would've thought she's your daughter instead of your wife."

"Oh, p*ss off!" said Jeremy while throwing him a dirty look.

Gerald could not stand seeing Jeremy getting teased anymore, so he pulled Zeke aside. "Ignore him, Jeremy. This guy's drunk out of his mind."

Having been friends for years, Jeremy naturally would not hold a grudge against Zeke.

"You had some wine too, didn't you? Is your chauffeur here? I can give you two a ride home if he's not, Gerald offered.

Jeremy shook his head. "It's okay. You can stay here with the rest of them."

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"Then who's going to drive you two home?"

Jeremy turned around and called his niece, "Annie, come here."

"Coming!" She walked over to them, and Jeremy threw his car keys at her.

"Pull the car over," he ordered.

Annie only had some juice and some soft drinks that night. She did not dare to touch the wine, not when Jeremy watched her like a hawk.

After she caught the car keys, she rolled her eyes. "You only think of me whenever you want someone to be your minion."

"Cut the crap. It's howling outside, so pull the car to the lobby."

"Fine..." She then went out to get the car.

Annie knew Jeremy was worried about Corinne catching a cold. Well, I should be glad that a fool like my uncle has changed for the better after meeting his true love. I guess all that worrying about him dying alone was for nothing."

She pulled the car into the lobby and honked twice to let Jeremy know she had arrived.

After bidding the rest of the guests goodbye, Jeremy steered Corinne to where the car was his hand around her waist.

"Jeremy, wait!" rang Anya's voice, mingled with the sound of her footsteps coming down the stairs.

Jeremy stopped and turned to look at her emotionlessly.

"Jeremy...are you leaving now?" said Anya, panting, once she was at the foot of the stairs.

Jeremy nodded. "Yes. It's getting late."

"Aren't you going to say goodbye to Joey? He's been burning up ever since you left," said Anya pitifully.

Jeremy frowned. "Isn't Lucas with him? Ask him to send for a doctor. Or you can take Joey to the hospital, too."

"Lucas is with him, but...the one he's asking for is his daddy."

Everyone there knew Anya was madly in love with Jeremy, and they knew Jeremy could never say no to Anya. The whole thing was so complicated that even Zeke, who liked to tease others, kept quiet. In fact, he felt a little sorry for Jeremy.

Just when Jeremy was thinking about what he should do, Corinne smiled and said, "You're right, Miss Anya, a child does need his daddy. So why don't you go find him one?"

"Corinne, what do you mean?" asked Anya pitifully. "Why do I need to look for one when Jeremy is his daddy?"

Smiling smugly, Corinne leaned against Jeremy and said lightly, "Oh, I'm sorry, but I don't seem to recall my Jeremy ever having a kid with another woman. In fact, the only baby he has is the one I'm carrying right now!

"Do I need to make myself any clearer? Well, let me rephrase myself simpler for you. You should spend your time looking for a guy who loves you and Joey instead of gaslighting someone else's husband into being the father of your child. I do wonder if there's any moment in all of this when you've ever thought it

was wrong of you to pull all these shady tricks on Jeremy."

Anya's face turned pale with suppressed anger. Not once did she let her mask slip. "But...but... Jeremy and I adopted Joey together..."

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Corinne cut Anya off with a yawn and said nonchalantly, "You said it yourself. Joey's adopted, so he's not your son in the biological sense. And from what I heard, you were the one who begged Jeremy to adopt that kid with you, and you also promised he wouldn't have to do anything else after that.

"You should take up all the responsibility when that kid is concerned. Isn't it enough for you that Jeremy, out of the kindness in his heart, had been helping you to take care of Joey all this time? I mean, he had every right to ignore your pleas for help. I should warn you, Miss Anya, you're not entitled to any of Jeremy's help, and if you think you are...then you should do some self-reflection."

Knowing that she could not win an argument against Corinne, Anya resorted to using her signature act." But Corinne, I just...just wanted Jeremy to check on poor Joey. Why do you insist on making me out to be the bad guy here?" she asked tearfully.

Corinne smilingly stepped forward and roughly lifted Anya's tear-stained chin. "I'm making you out to be the bad guy? Is that what you think I'm doing when I'm only teaching you how to be a decent human being? Well, let me make something clear to you: From now on, don't you dare bother Jeremy again, or else-don't blame me for beating you up, you homewrecker!"

Corinne's threatening aura flowed from her fingertips and engulfed Anya in a second, causing her to shrink back in fear. "How can you...call me that? I'm not a homewrecker!" cried Anya pitifully.

Corinne jerked Anya's chin higher. "Only 1, Jeremy's wife, have the right to say whether or not you're a homewrecker. Like I said, don't blame me for beating you up if you ever show your face around Jeremy again."

After that, she released her grip with such force that Anya's face swung to the side.

Ignoring Corinne, Anya turned her tear-streaked face toward Jeremy, who stood behind Corinne. "Jeremy, I think it's best if I give you back this bracelet 'cause it seems like Corinne really doesn't like me. I promise I won't bother you again, and I hope the two of you get to live happily ever after."

Anya took off the bracelet, but before she could pass it to Jeremy, Corinne snatched it away from her hand.

"Are you sure you got this bracelet from Jeremy?" Corinne asked while she toyed with the bracelet.

Her act interrupted, Anya frowned subtly and answered, "Yeah, I'm sure. He asked his men to give this to me after I've saved his life. I'm not surprised you didn't know this since the two of you hadn't met each other at the time."

She was trying to imply that she knew Jeremy longer than Corinne had, but Corinne did not care about such trivial matters. "So what if Anya knew Jeremy before me? If they were meant to be together, they would've married a long time ago. But no, that didn't happen."

However, through Anya's explanation, Corinne knew one thing to be certain. 'So it wasn't Jeremy who gave this bracelet to Anya in person...'

Corinne took a closer look at the bracelet before handing it back to Anya. "You should keep this since he gave it to you. Pushing it around will only make Jeremy seem ungrateful."

Anya did not take back the bracelet. Instead, she clenched her fists tightly and forced herself to continue with her pitiful act. "Didn't you ask me to not bother Jeremy anymore? If that's the case...what's the point of keeping this bracelet?"

Corinne smiled. "You've misunderstood me again, Miss Anya. You'll forever be the person who saved Jeremy's life, and as such, he'd forever be indebted to you. But, you should also know he's a married man

now, so I hope you'll treat him as such."

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