

The Day I Kissed An Older Man #Chapter 1421 - Read The Day I Kissed An Older Man Chapter 1421

Chapter 1421

After lunch, Xante stepped out to take a call, leaving Corinne alone in the room when suddenly someone knocked on the door.

Knock! Knock!

Corinne knew Xante would not knock before coming in, so her eyes suddenly became filled with hope again. "Come in!"

Jason came in with a smile and carried a whole load of expensive supplements in his hands. "Hey, Corinne. It's been a while. Congratulations on giving birth to twins!"

Corinne's eyes instantly dimmed a little when she saw it was Jason. "Thanks," she said with a perfunctory smile.

Jason put down the bags of supplements on a table before walking over to her bed.

"Sorry for not visiting you sooner. I was quite busy with work and thought that your due date was still some time away. I came rushing over here right after finding out from Lucas that you've given birth."

Apart from his flirtatious nature, Corinne had always been grateful for all the help Jason had given her before. Thus, she nodded and said, "Thanks for taking the trouble to visit me. You don't have to do or buy me all these expensive supplements."

"How can I come without bearing gifts?" asked Jason with a smile. He then looked around the room and asked, "Where's Jeremy? Shouldn't he be here with you?"

Corinne fell silent.

Jason instantly knew something must have happened. "Ahem! How can he not be here for you during your delivery? Doesn't he know how to prioritize his wife and his work?"

Corinne was not in the mood to talk about Jeremy, so she tried to change the topic, "Mister Jason, feel free to take a bottle of mineral water there if you're thirsty. Sorry for not getting up to give you one because... Well, you know."

Jason smiled. "It's okay. I'm not thirsty."

There was an awkward silence as Corinne turned to look outside the window at the blue sky streaked with a plane's trail.

"Corinne, do you regret it?" asked Jason softly.

Stunned, Corinne looked at him and asked curiously, "Regret what?"

Jason stared deeply into her eyes. "Do you regret choosing a man who doesn't care about you? I mean, he didn't even come when you gave birth to his own kid!"

Corinne frowned. "He's not as bad as you say he is. Of course, I am angry at him, so I'm going to teach him a lesson when he's back."

Jason laughed mockingly. "And what if he doesn't come back?"

Corinne raised an eyebrow. "That's not possible. His home is here. Even if it weren't for me, he'll still come back."

Jason narrowed his eyes meaningfully. "Corinne, I won't comment on whether you were right to choose Jeremy to be your husband. But, like I said, I'll always be here if you need me. I'll always welcome you with open arms when you're ready to be with me."

Corinne was quite speechless. Her lips twitched as she asked, "Don't you think it's shameless to say something like that to a woman who has just given birth?"

Jason smiled. "Not at all. I'm the type that doesn't pass up any opportunity to let you know how I feel."

Corinne was at a complete loss for words. She found Jason odd since most of the men she knew would prefer a girl with a blank slate. However, it seemed like Jason had a penchant for girls who were already married with kids.

'Is this some sort of fetish for him?' she wondered.

At that moment, Xante finished her call and went back inside the room. She was not surprised to see Jason there at all. She gave him a nod and then said to Corinne, "Boss, the doctor said you're recovering well and can be discharged tomorrow."

"Okay," said Corinne simply, though there was no hiding the disappointment that flashed across her eyes.

She was about to be discharged, yet Jeremy never once showed up.

Chapter 1422

"But the babies still need to stay in the incubator for the time being," added Xante.

Corinne immediately frowned when she heard she would have to leave the babies in the hospital. "In that case, I'll stay here too."

"Boss, you won't be able to stay with the babies even if you continue to stay here; they need to be in the incubator. It's better for you to go home so you can nurse your body back to health. Aaron and I, along with Mister Lucas and the nurses will take turns to look after the baby. Rest assured that they'll be well taken care of," advised Xante.

Even if she could not spend every second with her babies, Corinne still could not bear to leave them all alone in the hospital.

"I'll go home when the babies go home."

"But Boss, you've just given birth, and the first month is important for getting your body back to tip-top condition. Otherwise, it'll be easier for you to fall sick in the future. Of course, it'll be more comfortable for you to stay at home than at the hospital," advised Xante again.

"This girl is right!" said Pamela from the door before Corinne could say anything.

Everyone in the room turned to look at her.

Pamela came walking in with the help of Francine. The old woman's expression was filled with worry and concern.

“Corinne, didn’t you promise you’d call me if anything happened? Why didn’t giving birth so I could be there with you?”

Corinne immediately thought of Jeremy when she saw Pamela.

Xante frowned and threw Francine a reproachful look when she saw Pamela.

Seeing this, Francine whispered helplessly, “Why are you looking at me like that? I wasn’t the one who told her. She found out about this herself.”

Jason greeted Pamela with a smile before stepping off into a corner to let the women talk among themselves.

Francine helped Pamela to the chair beside Corinne’s bed. The old woman looked at her with a pained expression on her face and asked, “Corinne, how do you feel right now? Does your body still hurt?”

Corinne shook her head. “Don’t worry, Grandma. The birth went smoothly, and I’m recovering well.”

Pamela felt more at ease when she saw how relatively healthy Corinne looked. She then sighed deeply and said, “Corinne, I feel like I have no right to face you since none of us Holdens were there when you were giving birth.”

Corinne’s face fell. The only Holden she really wanted with her when she was giving birth was Jeremy —not Pamela, Francine, or Greg.

Not wanting to pretend anymore, she asked her, “Grandma, where’s Jeremy?”

Pamela’s face contorted unnaturally at the question, but she quickly said, “He’s still at Molomia. Something really serious happened to our company there, so he had no choice but to stay behind. But don’t you worry. I’m going to make him get on his knees and beg for your forgiveness the moment he’s back in the city.”

Corinne was no fool. She could tell Pamela was lying. “Grandma, how did you manage to get in contact with him? Did he tell you himself that something really serious happened at the company over there?” she asked with a frown.

Pamela was instantly stumped by her questions.novelbin

Chapter 1423

Francine quickly jumped to Pamela's defense, which was rare for her to react so quickly. "Corinne, Grandma didn't find out about the news from Jeremy. She heard it from Grandpa, and he heard it from the company's board of directors.

"Both Jeremy's and Tommy's phones were stolen in Molomia, and they couldn't get new numbers at the moment. This, coupled with the fact that he's very busy with putting out fires in the company, made it very hard for him to contact you."

Corinne stared at Francine quietly. "Is that so?"

Holding her gaze, Francine nodded and said, "Yes. You don't need to worry about him while you're nursing your body back to health. He'll explain everything to you once he's back."

Pamela nodded as well. "She's right, Corinne. The most important thing for you to do now is to get your body back to health. The reason I came here today is to bring you home. I've already arranged the best care for you there. What do you say?"

"No, thanks. I'm not that fragile. Besides, it's more convenient to stay in the hospital since there would be a team of medical staff to attend to me if anything happens."

Pamela shook her head disapprovingly. "How can the hospital be as comfortable as at home? The air here is filled with the smell of disinfectant and illness. Corinne, be a good girl, and come home with me. Please?"

Corinne was about to turn her down again when Lucas came in and said, "Miss Pamela, Corinne would be going back to our house and not yours, even if she is discharged from the hospital."

Pamela turned around with a darkened face when she heard that. "Oh, it's you. Thank you for taking care of Corinne, but it's time for her to go home now."

"Don't mention it. Our home will forever be her home. I must ask: What right do you have to ask her to go home with you?" said Lucas.

Pamela frowned. "Ha! That's rich coming from you. Corinne is my great-granddaughter-in-law, so I have every right to bring her home!"

Lucas scoffed. "She's your great-granddaughter-in-law? Do you have any proof? Which of the Holden men did she marry? I didn't see any Holden man beside her when she was giving birth!"

Pamela was speechless.

Seeing this, Lucas decided to give the final blow. "Leave now, and don't come back to bother her! None of you can ever take her away unless that b*stard grandson of yours comes back."

Pamela frowned. "And what gives you the right to speak to me like that? Who are you to Corinne? On what grounds do you have to stop us from taking her home?"

"Who I am to her is not important nor do I have to explain myself to you! You Holdens have no right to take her away based on how unreliable your grandson is! Don't even think about bringing Corinne home with you unless that b*stard comes back and takes responsibility for all the hurt he caused her!"

Pamela knew Jeremy was guilty as charged, but that did not do anything to quell the anger inside of her.

"Hey! Corinne hasn't even said anything yet, so what are you shouting about?" Francine half-shouted rudely. "Do you have a crush on her or something? Are you hoping to steal her away while Jeremy's gone? Tsk! What a hypocrite."

Lucas glanced at her. He was not going to waste any of his breath arguing with a kid.

Corinne was starting to get a headache from all the shouting, so she said, "Pipe down, all of you. Francine, please bring Grandma home first."novelbin

Chapter 1424

"But, Corinne..." said Francine, reining in her attitude a little.

Corinne did not want to listen anymore to anyone telling her what to do, so she made clear her position. "I'm not going back with you or to the Riveras. I'm going to stay in the hospital. You're all more than welcome to visit me or the babies here."

Pamela's face remained riddled with worry. She still wanted to bring her home. "Corinne..." novelbin

"Grandma, I suggest you save your breath," said Corinne politely, "I'm not going back home with you until Jeremy's back as well. Now then, I'm tired and want to rest, so I won't keep you anymore. Xante, bring Grandma and Francine to the nursery to see the babies, and then send them off for me."

"Yes, Boss. Miss Pamela, Miss Francine, this way please," said Xante.

Pamela frowned. She knew Corinne would never go back with her because of the resentment she held toward Jeremy, so she sighed and gave up on forcing her to go back with her.

At the mention of the twins, she became eager to visit them since she never met them before.

Before she followed Xante out, Pamela reminded Corinne worriedly, "Please do take care of yourself, Corinne. Keep your body warm and stay off cold dishes. Understood?"

Corinne nodded. "Don't worry, Grandma. I know how to take care of myself."

Pamela sighed deeply. "Okay, then. I'll go see the twins now and visit you another day."

Francine pouted and bade Corinne goodbye grudgingly. "Well, we'll be going then. Do take care of your own body like Grandma said. It'll hurt Jeremy to see you all weak and tired."

Corinne smiled emotionlessly. "Okay."

Francine helped Pamela out of the room after that.

Now that the room had become quieter, Lucas walked over to Corinne's bed and asked gently, "Do you want to come home with me?"

Corinne's expression remained the same. "I've already said I'm not going anywhere. I want to stay in the hospital with my babies, so I'll leave when they leave."

Lucas frowned helplessly. He knew there was no changing Corinne's mind once it was made up. He lovingly stroked her cheek. "Okay. I'll stay here with you then and get a private nurse for you. As for your meals, I'll get the kitchen staff at home to cook and deliver to you since there are no facilities to cook her in the hospital."

Xante had hired a private nurse for Corinne, but she had stepped out of the room to give her some privacy while she talked to Pamela and the others.

Thus, as much as Corinne was unwilling to accept another private nurse, she did not turn down Lucas' offer. She knew he would not take no for an answer. Regarding this matter, she would just let them do whatever they want.

"Thanks," she said simply. She was not in the mood to say anything else.

At that moment, Jason—who had been quiet all that time—sidled up to Lucas and asked, "Lucas, are you looking to hire a private nurse for Corinne? I know someone who's really professional. Shall I introduce you to her?"

Lucas turned toward him. It was only then he realized Jason was there in the room too. "When did you get here?" he asked with a frown.

Jason laughed. "I came before you. In fact, Corinne and I had a long talk. I must say, Lucas, are you blind or something? How can you not see me at all?"

Even though they were friends, Lucas was in no mood to joke around with him. "That's enough. Corinne needs her rest. Come out with me now."

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Jason turned toward Corinne, who looked a little lost and confused. "I think she needs someone to talk to more than she needs to rest."

Lucas frowned. "I don't think she wants to talk to you right now."

"How can you be so sure? If you don't believe me, you can go out now and let me talk to her alone for a while. I'm pretty sure I can make her smile."

“Cut the crap and come out with me now!” said Lucas impatiently as he dragged Jason out.

Jason did not know whether to laugh or cry. “Corinne! I’ll come back to see you tomorrow!”

Corinne glanced at him impassively before turning back to look outside the window dazedly.

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Jason straightened out his clothes after being dragged out of the room by Lucas. “Lucas, you idiot! How can you ruin my chance to talk to Corinne alone?”

Lucas rolled his eyes at him. “Oh, save it. She’s in a bad mood as it is, so why add to it?”

Jason scoffed. “Oh, so you know she’s sad as well? And we all know very well who made her sad. Lucas, I’m sure you can tell Corinne will never be happy with Jeremy. What happened here just proves that.”

Lucas frowned. ‘He’s right. Corinne will never be happy with that b*stard Jeremy, but...’

“That doesn’t mean she’ll be happy with you either! I’m warning you, stay away from her! Neither you nor Jeremy are fit to be her husband!”

Jason spread out his hands innocently. “How could you say that about me, Lucas? What have I done to make you think that?”

“Oh, please. Drop the act. You know very well how messy all of your past relationships were. Do I really need to spell them out for you?” answered Lucas with disgust.

Jason smiled cheekily. “Well, I’m a man after all. It’s only normal that I have a colorful past with women. I mean, what man doesn’t?”

He instantly regretted saying that last sentence after he remembered who he was talking to. Smiling apologetically, he said, “Oops. I almost forgot I’m talking to a virgin. I must say, I’m impressed, Lucas. You’re like a rare, mythical beast.”

Lucas' expression instantly darkened. "Get out of my face this instant! Don't make me beat you up in a hospital."

Jason patted his shoulder. "Look at you, getting all worked up again. Can't you take a joke at all? Plus, I was praising you."

Lucas slapped his hand away. "Get lost!"

Jason shrugged and turned serious. "Lucas, jokes aside, I really think I can make Corinne happy. I, at least, will be there when she needs me, unlike Jeremy. So won't you at least consider me? We've been friends for so long, so why not make our friendship even closer by accepting me as your brother-in-law?"

Lucas continued to look at him with disgust when he said, "You're not worthy to be with my sister, so don't even think about it."

Jason shrugged. "Tsk! Some friend you are."

Chapter 1426

In the baby incubator room, Francine put both of her hands on the glass partition wall to get a better look at Corinne's twins. novelbin

"Grandma, Grandma, look! They're so cute! The baby girl looks more like Jeremy while the baby boy looks more like Corinne," she said excitedly.

Pamela's eyes naturally filled with happy tears when she saw her great-grandchildren. However, that did not stop her from frowning. Unlike the simple-headed Francine, she had more things to worry about.

She turned to Xante after taking a look at her great-grandchildren and said, "Child, I know you're an old friend of Corinne's, and I also know what happened. But just to confirm, are you sure my grandson, Jeremy, really took one of the babies away while Corinne was giving birth?"

Xante nodded gravely. "Yes. We all saw him do it."

Pamela frowned. "But we had looked into the matter already. While it was true Jeremy bought a return ticket back on the day Corinne was giving birth, he didn't get on the plane. There was no immigration record of him coming back

to the country, either. How can a person who didn't come back appear in Corinne's delivery room?"

Xante pushed up her gold-rimmed glasses. Thinking that Pamela was making up some excuse for Jeremy, Xante coldly said, "Miss Pamela, there's no reason for me to lie to you. Miss Annie was also there on the scene when it happened. And if you don't believe her, you can check the hospital's surveillance footage to see if Mister Jeremy was the one who stole the first baby from the delivery room."

Pamela sighed. "Don't get me wrong. I'm not doubting what you said. It's just that there's really no record of Jeremy entering the country, which is very perplexing. I just want to confirm that you all

haven't mistaken someone else for him. Otherwise, how can we explain the whole thing?"

Xante's face softened a little after realizing Pamela was not trying to be unreasonable. "Did you get any news from Molomia? Have you managed to contact Mister Jeremy or his right-hand man?"

Pamela shook her head helplessly.

Francine turned and said sadly, "We're all panicking because we can't contact either Jeremy or Tommy. We have no idea what happened to him. Another weird thing is the plane Jeremy was supposed to be on was delayed for three hours during departure, but it crashed into the sea due to some technical problem not long after it took off. Luckily, both Jeremy and Tommy didn't board that plane."

Xante narrowed her eyes. Both she and Aaron also found out Jeremy did not board the plane, but they did not know the plane had crashed into the sea. They did not care about the plane's fate after finding out Jeremy was not on it.

Thus, Xante was surprised at the news.

"Could it be that someone is trying to make us think Jeremy died in a plane crash, but you were able to find out he didn't board the plane before they could falsify the records?"

Chapter 1427

It was reasonable for Xante to suspect that.

“Sophia must’ve had something to do with it!” insisted Francine. “Losing Jeremy must’ve twisted her personality. We should go to her house to save Jeremy now!”

Both Xante and Aaron, of course, suspected Sophia. They had arranged for their men to keep an eye on Adam Group and Sophia’s house, but nothing out of the ordinary happened for the past few days.

Sophia would go shopping or meet up with her friends every day; no signs pointed to her hiding Jeremy.

Pamela was a cautious person. She threw Francine a stern glance to shut her up before saying, “Adam spoils that daughter of his. If they do have Jeremy locked up, they must’ve prepared for all eventualities. It’ll be stupid of us to barge in without a plan. Now, the important thing for us is to stay calm.

“I’ll have a talk with my husband to see what our next steps are going to be. Please take care of Corinne for us. Make sure she doesn’t catch wind of this. I promise us Holdens will give her a satisfactory answer.

“I hope Corinne can forgive Jeremy if he can’t make it back because of some difficulties. But rest assured that my husband and I will teach that useless grandson of ours a lesson if he really did something to hurt her.”

Seeing that Pamela was not the type of foolish grandmother who would defend her grandchildren even when they did something wrong, Xante nodded respectfully and said, “We’ll definitely take care of Corinne well. Please have a safe journey home, Miss Pamela.”

After she saw Pamela and Francine off, Xante turned around.

Her face instantly fell when she saw Corinne, dressed in her hospital gown, standing not far away and looking at her quietly.

Not knowing how long Corinne had been standing there, Xante walked over to her sheepishly and worriedly. “Boss, what are you doing out here? You need to keep your body warm. It’s too windy here with all the open windows. Let’s go back.”

“I find it uncomfortable to be lying down all the time. Plus, I want to see my babies,” said Corinne sadly.

‘She didn’t ask me anything. Does that mean she didn’t overhear the conversation with Miss Pamela just now?’ Xante sighed with relief. She then took off her suit jacket and put it around Corinne’s shoulder. “Here, take this. It’ll keep you warm.”

Corinne accepted her kind gesture. She then walked to the baby incubator room to take a look at her babies through the glass partition wall.

“Xante, did something happen to Jeremy?”

Xante’s heart sank. ‘So she overheard our conversation, huh?’

Even though her voice was trembling, overall speaking, Corinne was so calm that it was unnerving. “I searched for his flight details with my phone just now and saw the news of the plane crash. The rescue team is still looking for survivors. Is that why you’ve all been acting weird around me? You guys didn’t want me to find out what was happening, so you all stopped me from looking at my phone.”

Xante did not know what to say.

Corinne took a deep breath to compose herself. “Don’t worry. I’ve never been so clear-headed in my life as of this moment. I’m not going to do anything stupid because I have two babies who need me.

But, you must send our men to look for him. Don’t stop until you find him. If he’s alive, I want to see him standing before me. If he’s dead, I want to see his dead body.” novelbin

Xante frowned. She did not know whether she should tell her the truth, so she said, “Boss, Aaron and I have ordered our men to look for Mister Jeremy. We’ll let you know as soon as we get news on him. So don’t overthink things, okay? I’m sure Mister Jeremy is still alive...”

Chapter 1428

Xante could only say that at the moment as Corinne still looked composed. She feared that Corinne would have a meltdown if she told her that Jeremy had taken one of the babies away.

Corinne nodded. “Yes. I’m sure he’s still alive. After all, he came back safe and sound when everyone said he was killed in the explosion last time. Plus, he promised he’d come back to me no matter what... My, it’s really kinda chilly here. Guess I’ll go back to my room to wait for him, then...”

Corinne turned and walked back to her room stiffly as she muttered to herself.

It pained Xante to see Corinne acting so calm. ‘Poor Boss... She still had no idea Mister Jeremy had somehow come back secretly to steal the baby before he seemingly vanished into thin air... Might as well. It might be better for her to believe Mister Jeremy died in a plane crash if we can’t find him or the baby.’

...

Three years later, all the yet the company’s president seat remained empty.

The meeting was set to start at nine o’clock in the morning, and there were still 30 seconds left until the hour hand struck 12.

Suddenly, the double door suddenly opened.

A formally dressed woman came striding in

“Sorry for keeping you all waiting. I see that everyone’s here, so let’s begin the meeting,” said the woman calmly.

It had been three years since the last shareholder meeting was held in Holden Group. All the middle- aged shareholders in the room were not happy with a woman president. Doubting her leadership

capability, they threw her one difficult question after another to throw her off her game.

Corinne had expected that this would happen, so she was unfazed by it all. She leaned back on her chair and said steadily, “I know you all aren’t happy with me as the president, but there’s nothing you can do about it. I came to this position through reasonable means, so if you all have the time to grumble, why not instead discuss what strategies should the company take to ensure our future success? After all, every one of you here depends on the company’s success to secure your position, no?”

The elderly shareholder sitting on her right scoffed and said, "Ahem! What does a little girl like you know about running a company? You Holdens should choose someone from us shareholders to take over the president position if Mister Jeremy is still missing. It's really hard for us to take orders from someone who doesn't have any shares in the company yet felt like she deserved to be the president." novelbin

Corinne smiled at the elderly shareholder. "Let me ask you something, then. You all agree that Jeremy is the president of the company, right? So as his wife, isn't it justifiable for me to help him run the company while he's not here?"

Another shareholder scoffed and questioned her, "Wife? From what we know, you and Mister Jeremy never registered your marriage. At most, you two are boyfriend and girlfriend. Therefore, you have no right to take over the company."

Corinne remained unperturbed. "Even if I'm not legally married to him, both of our kids are still his successors. Being the mother of his successors gives me the right to sit here."

Chapter 1429

"I know you're all hoping to take over the company while my husband isn't here, but I suggest you all save it. The company will remain the Holdens' as long as I'm here!"

Corinne's words made everyone speechless. As unwilling as they were to accept her authority, staying silent was their best choice.

After all, reasons were not on their side. Corinne was right. Even if Jeremy was not around anymore, it would be the twins who would take over the company instead of the shareholders.

The meeting continued on for another hour and a half with Corinne providing her business insights as usual. As much as the cunning shareholders were not willing to accept a woman as their president, they had to admit that Corinne was capable, logical, and well-versed in the intricacies of running a company.

After the meeting ended, Corinne went back to her office to continue her work.

Francine, who worked as her secretary, immediately followed her into the office when she saw her coming back from the meeting.

“How was the meeting? Did those old foxes cause you any trouble?” asked Francine.

Corinne sat down and opened a bottle of mineral water, taking a sip before raising her eyebrow at Francine. “What do you think?”

Francine pouted. “I’m pretty sure they did. After all, those old farts have been vying to take over the company for the longest time, and they would’ve succeeded if it weren’t for Jeremy.”

This was not Corinne’s first time running a company. After all, she founded Newmoon Group single-handedly, but after that, she gave up the reins to Aaron and Xante.

To her, it was easier running a new company since there was less office politics. The only thing she needed to do was to bring in sales and keep market risks at a minimum.

As a matter of fact, the longer a company had been around, the more office politics there would be. Thus, even Corinne had to admit that it had taken a lot out of her to deal with the shareholders. Having said that, she was quite pleased with the overall success of the meeting since the shareholders approved all of her plans at the end of the meeting.

Actually, after Jeremy vanished, Greg picked up his old mantle and went back to running the company. He kept it up for three years until the doctor advised him to stop working due to his ill health. It was just as well since he felt like he was about to drop dead at any time.

Thus, Greg called Corinne into his study and told her to run the company until Jeremy came back or... until the twins had grown old enough to succeed Jeremy.

Even though Greg did not like Corinne before, he came to know her character and capability after living together under the same roof. Hence, he was not worried about her running the company into the ground.

Initially, Corinne was reluctant to have anything to do with Holden Group, but Greg’s health was failing at an alarming rate, and the shareholders were all

ving for a piece of the company as though they could not wait to swallow it whole. Thus, she had no choice but to agree to Greg's request.

At the same time, Francine—who just graduated from university—was employed to work as Corinne's secretary. She did not really have to do much except to keep an eye on all the sneaky shareholders to see if they were pulling any shady strings behind the Holdens' backs.

"Corinne. What are you thinking about?" asked Francine with a tilt of her head when she realized Corinne was staring blankly at no particular point in the room.

Chapter 1430

Corinne snapped out of her trance and shook her head. "Nothing. I'm going to pick up the twins at the kindergarten later. Do you want to go with me or head back home first?"

"Let's go together!" said Francine without hesitation. "I've already promised them I'll treat them to pizza today."

"Okay." Corinne put down the mineral water bottle. With a wave of her hand, she said, "You may leave now. I still have some work to do."

"Oh... Alright, then." Francine went out of the office and closed the door behind her. Her expression became even sadder once she was out.

'Poor Corinne. Not only does she have to run the company, but she also has to take care of three kids—one of which is adopted, yet she treats him as her own,' she thought.

There had been no news from Jeremy in the past three years he was gone. It was as if he vanished from the face of the earth.

More importantly, Corinne never thought of leaving the Holdens. For the past three years, she had been raising the twins and Joey as best as she could.

Previously, Francine might have thought the only reason Corinne would do so was because she wanted to get a slice of the family fortune, but she knew better than that.

Not only was Corinne Newmoon Group's biggest shareholder, but she was also the boss of the company, which meant both Aaron and Xante had to listen to her. Thus, she was wealthy in her own right.

Thus, the only reason Corinne would stay with the Holdens was because of the missing Jeremy. Francine found her loyalty admirable. There were even some gossipers who pitied Corinne for ending

up as a widow at such a young age.

What was even more admirable was Corinne never lacked suitors, yet she never once wavered in the face of their courtships.

Suddenly, a voice interrupted her train of thought. novelbin

"What are you thinking about, Miss Francine?" asked Jason.

Francine's face instantly darkened when she saw it was him. "What are you doing here?" she asked icily.

"I'm here to see Corinne. I heard today's her first time holding a shareholder meeting, so I came to see how she's doing."

Jason beamed a dashing smile at her, but it just made Francine even angrier.

"Oh, please! You can cut the crap, Jason. Everyone here can tell you have a huge crush on Corinne."

"So what if I do? There's no law saying I can't have a crush on her, right?" said Jason with a cheeky smile.

"Well, I say you can't!" replied Francine with a determined frown.

"Why not?"

Francine glared at him. "Are you seriously asking me why not? She's my sister-in-law, as in she's married to my brother. Do you think it's appropriate to chase after a married woman like this?"

Jason raised an eyebrow. "And may I ask where her husband is now?"

"He's..."

Francine was obviously stumped by his question.

No one knew where Jeremy was. In fact, no one even knew if he was alive or dead.

'Godd*mnit! If only I knew where Jeremy is right now!' thought Francine.

Jason smiled and sidled up to her. "Miss Francine, you Holdens shouldn't be so selfish."