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

Chapter 1039

Joey fell backward from the force of impact and immediately cried.

"You mutt! How dare you spy on me?!" roared Phoebe.

"I... I...not spying on you," whimpered Joey.

He really was not spying on her. He wanted to go out to the living room but was not sure whether it was safe for him to do so. He thought he would observe the situation outside first.

Phoebe, who already thought of Joey as a nuisance, became even more irritated at him due to the anxiety and anger brought on by Anya's arrest. Thus, she decided to use him as a punching bag.

She kicked him again. "This is all your fault! Nothing ever went right for Anya after she adopted you. We should've thrown you away the first chance we got!"

Joey immediately curled up in pain.

Almost every day, he would receive some kind of beating. Whenever Anya was upset, she would take it out on him. However, she would make sure to hit him on the parts of his body that would not be easily noticed should a bruise form. She was worried Lucas would find out what she had been doing to Joey.

With Lucas not around, Anya was more brazen in her beatings.

Joey actually felt relieved when he saw Anya going out because that meant he would be spared from getting beaten up today. Alas, that was not the case.

'Why is Grandma hitting me too? She's so scary, just like Mommy... I want to leave this place... I want to go back to my own country. I'd rather starve in the orphanage than stay with these scary people...'

Phoebe became even more annoyed when Joey started crying. She lifted him by the collar and slapped his face harshly. "Stop crying, you little jinx, or I'll give you something to cry about! Don't you know you're the reason your mommy was arrested by the police? Ooh, I should just kill you right here!"

Phoebe kept slapping Joey, even when his face became swollen and red. She had no intention of stopping until he was dead.

'There's no way the Holdens are going to let Anya marry into the family now that she has a criminal record. That means she needs to find another man to marry, and this little jinx will just get in the way! I might as well get rid of him for her now!'

Suddenly, she heard the doorbell ringing. Only then did she let Joey go.

She walked out of the bedroom, making sure to close the door after, and went to open the entrance door for Sunny to come in.

"Sunny, you're finally here!" she said, tears rolling down her face as she threw her arms around him. "Have you heard? Anya has been arrested, and it's all Corinne's fault! You must think of a way to save your sister!"

Sunny stood stiffly. He did not know how to feel about his mother. As a son, he was not immune to his mother's tears, but at the same time, he could tell from what his mother just said that everything Anya did had something to do with their mother.

'Why? Why are both of them so vile, ruthless, and hypocritical? Why does she have to be my mother?'

The more he thought about it, the more upset he became.

He pushed Phoebe away. "Enough is enough! Anya got what she deserved, Mom! You need to wake up, too. Stop doing the wrong thing!"

Phoebe looked at him in shock.

"Sunny, what are you talking about? How could you say that she got what she deserved? She's your sister, for god's sake! Hasn't she always spoiled you? How can you team up with other people to bully her? You're the one that needs to wake up!"