THE DAY I KISSED AN OLDER MAN

Chapter 1250

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The maid brought some soup and fed some to the dazed Jeremy. Jeremy took two sips and waved his hands, indicating he did not want any more.

The maid obediently placed the soup down and excused herself right away.

Pamela sat next to Jeremy and looked at him dejectedly. "Drink the soup and sober up with a bath. Getting wasted is hardly the kind of thing a grown man should be doing!"

Jeremy could feel a headache coming. He leaned his head on the back of the sofa and placed one arm over his forehead to cover his eyes. He ignored what his grandmother had said to him.

When Pamela saw a flickering light in his trouser pocket, she reached out to take his cell phone. It had been put on silent.

The caller ID displayed an unsaved phone number, and Pamela's eyes lit up as she answered the call.

"Are you home yet, Jeremy?" On the other end of the line was Sophia, who asked concernedly.

The glow in Pamela's eyes dimmed considerably, and she replied, "He's home, Sophia. Don't worry. Get some rest."

Sophia was a little surprised when she heard an old woman's voice. Nevertheless, she smiled sensibly and said, "Okay, Grandma Pamela! You should go to bed soon, too!" After ending the call, Pamela placed her hand on her forehead and said, "What's going on in your mind right now, Jeremy? Are you going to accept Sophia, or are you planning to bring Corinne home?"

Jeremy spoke emotionlessly. "Were you expecting Corinne to call and show concern about me just now?"

Pamela was silent. He was right; she did think that the call was from Corinne.

Jeremy sneered. "She won't come here even if I die."

"Corinne isn't heartless!" Pamela refuted. "I can see that you still care a lot about her, and I think you should find a chance to explain things clearly to her. She must've misunderstood your relationship with Sophia."

'Misunderstand? If she thought it was a misunderstanding, she should've been angry at me and questioned me about it so I could explain to her! Disappearing silently for half a year was hardly a reasonable response! She even wore a mask when she met me because she was so afraid that I'd recognize her and bother her! In the end, I'm nothing more than a dispensable commodity to her!'

Jeremy smiled sullenly.

"I'm sorry that I still have to let you worry about my problems. I'll take care of everything. You should get some sleep." Jeremy got up, took his cell phone, and went upstairs sluggishly.

Francine walked over with pursed lips and handed Pamela some soup to soothe herself. "This misunderstanding between Jeremy and Corinne is too strong!"

Pamela sighed helplessly and sipped some soup. "How was everything? Did you contact Annie to ask if Corinne is all right?"

"I already did," said Francine. "Annie told me that she's staying over at Corinne's place. Corinne is doing just fine there."

Update of The Day I Kissed An Older Man by Cher the Cherished



Sophia turned to look at Jeremy's sullen expression. She asked cautiously, "What will you do if Corinne doesn't care about you anymore?"

Jeremy's jaw tightened. He kept quiet and started the engine.

When Sophia saw his attitude, she thought to herself, 'There's probably no chance that he'd be with Corinne again. The only bond he has with her is the child in her womb!'

Sophia sighed worriedly. "You shouldn't force it if things aren't meant to be, Jeremy. I can tell from the way you reacted today that Corinne's temper is a little, well... How should I put this... Well, I'm not saying that Corinne is a bad person. It's just her temperament that doesn't suit you very well. It's going to be tiresome for the two of you together!"

After Jeremy turned the steering wheel, he answered, "She's young, so her temper is a little childish. I apologize to you for what happened today. If today's incident leaves a scar on your forehead, I'll take responsibility for it and get someone to find a plastic surgeon for you. I'll also compensate you double for whatever losses you suffered."

Sophia was startled. "What are you talking about, Jeremy? We've been friends for years! You don't have to do all that. I'm not that bothered by this little injury on my forehead anyway!"

Jeremy responded with a grunt. He focused on driving and did not say anything else.

Sophia, on the other hand, did not intend to keep quiet. She asked cautiously, "Why are you still apologizing to me on her behalf if you think she doesn't care about you anymore?"

She had never seen him apologize for the 10 years she knew him. That was her first time seeing him apologize, and it was on another woman's behalf, no less.

This, of course, shocked Sophia.

Jeremy did not think much of it and sighed. "As unruly as she is, she's still the girl that I forced to become my wife. If I don't take responsibility for cleaning up the troubles she caused, who will?"

Sophia looked shocked, coupled with a bit of envy and jealousy. Jeremy still professed himself to be Corinne's husband even at such a juncture.

She smiled reluctantly and sighed. "You know, Corinne is lucky to have you tolerate her like this! She shouldn't have left you and run away when you've treated her so well."

Jeremy sneered. "She's heartless."

He sent Sophia back to the hotel and drove off. She invited him to come up and have a seat, but he refused and left.

In the afternoon, Annie took out all the available ingredients in the refrigerator and began to prepare dinner. She did not plan to leave that day and was determined to cook some food for her pregnant aunt!

Aaron followed her into the kitchen and looked at her with a smile. "Do you need my help?"

'No' was Annie's first thought. She did not want Aaron to hinder her. She would be unable to control her nervousness with Aaron around. Then again, she also knew that it was impossible to get Aaron to leave. After all, he would never listen to her! All she could do was to ignore him.

"I'll be fine. Just don't give me more trouble!"

Aaron might not be an angelic character, but he still had some measure of sensibility. Knowing that it was rude to let a guest cook alone, he rolled up his sleeves and walked to the sink. "I don't know how to cook, so I'll help wash the ingredients for you!"

Annie glanced at him in surprise. She nodded, backed away a little, and handed over the task of washing vegetables to him. Then, she went to prepare the other things on her own. She was never good at cooking in the first place, and she only enrolled in a cooking class to try and win Aaron's heart.

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Being a pampered young lady, Annie never did laborious tasks before. It was only for the sake of love that she set her mind to learn cooking. Having a clear goal allowed her to pick up the technique with relative ease, and she managed to master a few dishes. In hindsight, she felt like laughing at herself

for what she did. Every time she learned something, she did it for men instead of herself.

"Doesn't this feel like the kind of routine that married couples go through daily?" Aaron asked out of the blue.

Annie was busy handling the bacon when she heard Aaron's words. She blushed as soon as she snapped back to her senses, but she felt unhappy more than anything. "If you want to help, you can do it quietly. If you can't keep your mouth shut, you are more than free to leave!"

Aaron snickered. "I'm just saying what came to mind! Are you angry just because of that?"

Annie snorted and ignored him.

While the two of them were preparing the dishes, they heard the door of the house being opened from the outside. They both glanced toward the door at the same time and saw Xante walking in with a tired face. A buoyant Sunny followed behind her.

As soon as Annie and Sunny saw each other, they frowned and asked each other simultaneously.

"Why are you here?"

"Why are you here?"

Xante was a little surprised to see Annie in the kitchen, but she did not ask anything and walked straight to Aaron. "Where's the boss?"

Aaron washed his hands. "She fell asleep in her room."

Xante nodded in relief. She took off her coat and threw it on the sofa. Then, she walked to Corinne's room and went in after knocking on the door.

Sunny knew better than to follow her in. He went into the kitchen and narrowed his eyes at Annie. "Why are you in the kitchen, Annie? Are you and Aaron..."

Annie glared at him angrily. "Zip it! I don't want to hear your nonsense! I should be the one asking you why you came with Xante. How far have the two of you gone?"

Sunny puffed his chest and raised his head. He did not even bother to hide it at all. "We're in a relationship now!"

Annie rolled her eyes. "I can't wrap my head around why she'd ever fall for a childish guy like you!"

Sunny frowned in displeasure. "What are you trying to say? Who are you calling childish?!"

"You, of course! You're a childish brat!"

"Just because your uncle is Jeremy doesn't mean I won't take it out on you!"

Annie scoffed. "Pfft. I don't need Jeremy to deal with you! I can just call your elder brother and tell him you're here! He'll send someone to drag you home right away!"

Sunny's eyes widened and he began to feel scared. "No, don't! I... I don't want to go home yet! Since you're preparing all this delicious food, I'll leave after I eat some!"

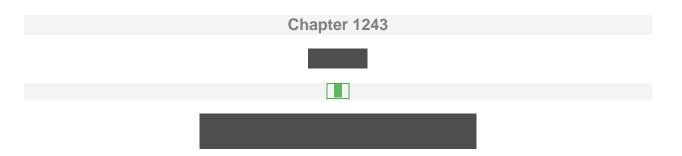
Annie smirked. "Food? As if. You're here for Xante, aren't you?"

Sunny blushed. He had this boyish shyness as he raised his chin arrogantly. "Well, isn't it obvious? Can't I stay with my girlfriend for a while longer?"

Annie pursed her lips. "Of course you can! That's normal! Go ahead and look for your girlfriend. Don't get my way!"

Sunny did not plan on leaving, however. He scrutinized her and said, "I've already told you why I'm here, but you still haven't told me why you're here! Are you getting it on with Aaron?"

Update of by Cher the Cherished



Annie picked up a piece of sliced cucumber and threw it at him. "What do you mean, getting it on? Would it kill you to be less rude?"

Sunny dodged the flying cucumber. "Okay, okay! I shouldn't have used that phrase. I'll rephrase my question, alright? Are you in a relationship with Aaron?"

Annie's face soured even more. "Like hell I am!"

Sunny frowned in confusion. "So, you came here to help out voluntarily?"

Annie snorted. "Corinne is here! Can't I come and take care of her?"

Sunny finally realized what Annie meant. "Ah, so you're here for Corinne! What happened to her and Jeremy, though? Why did she come here instead of going back to the Holdens?"

Annie started to worry a little when he mentioned Jeremy and Corinne. "Nothing happened. They met, the atmosphere between them was really bad, and they parted ways on bad terms because of some animosity. Corinne then decided to come here."

Sunny showed a bit of concern for Corinne. "Parted ways on bad terms? Didn't Jeremy chase after her? He's been looking everywhere for Corinne! Logically speaking, he should've tried to follow her here!"

Annie shrugged helplessly. "I have no idea what's going on either. But since Uncle Jeremy didn't chase after her, I've decided to come over and take care of her on his behalf."

Sunny thought for a while and moved closer to try and ask some more questions. Before he could ask the question, someone grabbed him by the collar from behind and pulled him away.

Aaron smiled, but his tone was rife with displeasure. "You don't need to go that close if you want to talk to her. Don't you know that men and women should always maintain a distance from each other?"

Sunny nearly laughed when he realized that Aaron was the one who pulled him away. "Who are you to tell me that men and women should always maintain a certain distance from each other? You love having intimate contact with women more than anyone!"

After that remark, Annie rolled her eyes at Aaron and looked away.

Aaron ushered Sunny out and said, "Go watch some television in the living room if you're not helping. Don't make a fuss here!"

Sunny tidied up his collar. "Tch! And I thought you're not in a relationship with her. You're jealous!" He then turned to Annie and said, "I should warn you, Aaron is allergic to being exclusive to one partner. You need to be careful!"

Aaron glared at Sunny with a smile. "I can get Xante to dump you with just one sentence, you know. Would you like to see me try?"

Sunny immediately zipped his mouth. He turned around arrogantly and went to the living room to watch television.

Annie lowered her head and prepared to start cooking.

Aaron walked up to her and said in a low voice, "I was a jerk in the past. Could you give me a chance to change my ways?"

Annie did not look up at him. "You're saying this to the wrong person. You should be telling that to someone willing to give you a chance, not someone who already has a boyfriend!"

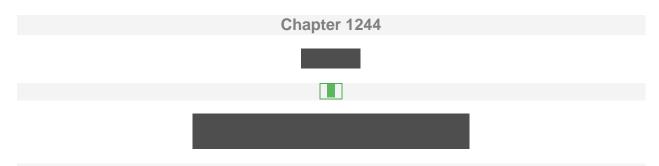
Aaron kept quiet. He reached out to take some of the sauce-stained bowls on the table and brought them to the sink to wash them.

Annie heaved a sigh of relief as well. She thanked the heavens that she was a woman of principle. Otherwise, she would have been unable to control herself from surrendering herself to Aaron. The way he acted that day was so genuine. If she did not have a boyfriend, she might just fall in love with him.

'Stop thinking about it! I've already decided that I'll get to know Marcus better! Stop thinking about Aaron! I can't have an emotional affair! Snap out of it!' Annie reminded herself.

Sunny was sitting in the living room while enjoying some snacks and watching television. However, he snuck a peek into the kitchen from time to time. 'If only Jeremy knows that his beloved niece is together with that jerk...

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After Annie finished cooking, Aaron helped to bring the food to the table.

It was time to eat, and Sunny called Xante out as he was already hungry.

Annie came out of the kitchen after washing her hands. She saw that Xante and Sunny were sitting side by side, while Aaron sat opposite them with an empty seat next to him. Aaron looked at her with a smile as if waiting for her to sit down.

The other empty seat was the main seat at the head of the table.

She did not want to sit next to Aaron but could not take the main seat either since she was a guest. Instead of sitting down, she asked, "Where's Corinne?"

Xante replied, "She said she wasn't hungry, so she'll eat after us."

Annie frowned. "But the food will be cold! I'll try and persuade her to come and eat!" She immediately turned and walked towards Corinne's room.

After knocking on the door, she walked into the room and saw Corinne leaning on the bedhead. Corinne was busy reading a very thick book.

"Corinne! It's time to eat! You can read that after you're done eating! Let's eat first!"

Corinne looked up at her. "I'm not feeling hungry yet. You guys can go ahead without me."

Annie had a stern look. "No! You're pregnant! You need to eat on time. Even if you don't care about yourself, you should at least take better care of your developing baby!"

Corinne was unmoved. "I know my body better than anyone. Nothing will happen to the fetus if I miss a meal. I just want to be alone now, so please leave me alone."

For some reason, Annie became a little afraid of Corinne and did not dare to persuade her again. "Okay. I'll bring some food for you so you can eat them later."

Corinne had no appetite whatsoever, but she decided to let Annie do it. After all, nothing she said could persuade Annie against it.

When Annie turned around begrudgingly, she felt a gust of cold wind and realized that Corinne's window was still open.

It was getting dark, and the dropping temperatures would make her catch a cold.

Pregnant women should avoid taking medicine on a whim, and it would be bad news if Corinne ended up catching a cold. As soon as she thought of that, she went over to help close the window before leaving the room.

While she was closing the window, she inadvertently looked downstairs and saw a familiar figure standing by a familiar car!

"Uncle Jeremy! He's downstairs!" Annie said excitedly after recognizing the man.

Corinne continued to read her book. She only cocked her eyebrows slightly when she heard those words and did not even bother to look up.

When Corinne did not respond, Annie ran over and grabbed her hand, "Aun—I mean, Corinne! Look! He is downstairs!"

Corinne withdrew her hand insipidly and cocked an eyebrow. "If he's here, then that means he's coming to pick you up. It's getting late. You should go home!"

Annie frowned. "That's not why he's here! He would've called me if he was here to pick me up! Why would he just stand there doing nothing? He's not an idiot!"

Corinne could not care less, but Annie dragged her off the bed by force and urged her to glance down from the window. She saw Jeremy smoking while leaning against the front of the car. He raised his head slightly and seemed to be looking upstairs. She was high up, and her distance from him was sufficiently far that he could not see her facial features. However, his eyes seemed to be gazing intently at her.

Corinne felt a sense of peace before this, but his gaze made her feel agitated again.

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Annie excitedly said, "Uncle Jeremy must've come all the way here to see you, but he's too embarrassed to come up here. Older men and their fragile masculinity, am I right? Let me call him up!"

After staring at Jeremy for a few seconds, Corinne reached out to close the curtains. "He's not welcome here." Out of sight, out of mind.

Corinne's indifference made the excitement on Annie's face disappear. She pouted helplessly and secretly opened the curtains to take a peek. Jeremy and the car were both gone. 'Why did he have to leave so quickly? Can't you stand there a while longer just to show your sincerity?'

Corinne did not feel like lying down again after being pulled out of bed. "Didn't you say you wanted to eat? Let's go and eat, then."

Annie nodded and forced a smile. "Yeah! Let's eat."

Corinne came out of the room and went to the dining room where she took her seat at the main seat of the table.

Annie no longer felt that awkward when she sat next to Aaron.

After everyone sat, they chatted for a moment and started to dig into the food. Annie managed to produce some delicious food with her excellent cooking skills. She became a little embarrassed when everyone praised her for it.

While Sunny was eating, his intrusive thoughts got the better of him and he asked, "Hey, Corinne, will you acknowledge Xante as your godmother once your baby is born?"

Xante placed some food on his plate and hinted to him to shut up.

Sunny was oblivious to the fact that he had asked an inappropriate question, and he insisted on getting an answer from Corinne.

Corinne glanced at him and said, "What are you trying to say?"

With a hearty smile, Sunny said, "If Xante becomes your baby's godmother, then technically, I'm the baby's godfather too! That means I'll have a godchild! I never thought I'd ever get a godchild at eighteen years old! Hahaha!"

Everyone was speechless.

Annie rolled her eyes and was unable to wrap her head around how a mature, independent woman like Xante would fall in love with a bumbling idiot like Sunny.

The atmosphere turned awkward after Sunny's remark, but fortunately for everyone, the doorbell rang.

Annie stood up and said, "It must be Uncle Jeremy! He probably can't hold himself from wanting to meet Corinne! I'll open the door!" She immediately ran over excitedly to open the door.

Everyone at the table looked at Corinne to see her reaction. Corinne merely staggered slightly while she was taking some more food, and there did not seem to be any special reaction.

As soon as Annie opened the door, her smile gradually disappeared. Her eyes were filled with disappointment.

The person who came was not Jeremy but Lucas instead.

He seemed surprised that the person who opened the door was Annie. He even looked up at the unit number above the door and thought he had come to the wrong place.

Annie asked, "Why are you here? Are you here to pick up Sunny?"

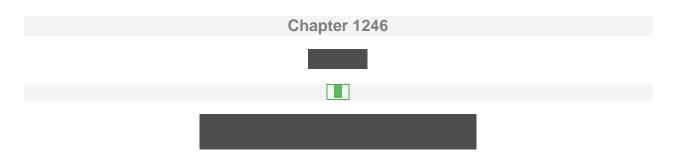
Lucas frowned slightly. "He's here?"

"Yeah, he is eating inside!" Annie nodded. She then yelled, "Sunny! Your brother is here to pick you up!"

Lucas massaged his temples and said, "I'm not here to pick him up."

Annie was puzzled. "You're not? Then why are you here?"

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Lucas said, "I'm here to look for Corinne. Is she in?"

This startled Annie a little. "Corinne? Do you know her? Why are you looking for her?"

Before Lucas could answer, Corinne appeared from behind Annie. She looked at him indifferently and said, "You were looking for me?"

Annie instinctively backed away when Corinne came to the door.

Corinne had been missing for half a year, and Lucas's pupils contracted as soon as he laid eyes on her. His initial tenseness immediately dissipated due to relief, and his eyes reddened. "Where have you been for the past six months?"

Corinne frowned. "Everyone's been asking me that question today. I don't need to report my whereabouts to anyone, and it doesn't matter where I go as long as I come back in one piece."

The high and mighty Lucas was peeved by Corinne's disrespectful tone, but he did not get angry at her. He nodded in relief and said, "Well, it's good that you're back. I'm glad to see that you're safe."

Corinne had nothing else to say to him, so she turned and went back in.

Lucas followed her in, and she spotted the people sitting at the dining table. He greeted Xante and Aaron with a nod, and that was when he noticed that the seat next to Xante was empty.

Since there was a used set of plates and cutlery at the empty seat, Lucas narrowed his eyes and instantly knew who had been sitting there. It was none other than his insolent younger half-brother.

When Sunny heard that Lucas had arrived, he was so frightened that he hid under the table. However, Lucas did not show up to bring Sunny home, nor did he have any time to talk to him.

He went straight to the room that Corinne entered and knocked on the door before walking in.

After Annie closed the door, she returned to the dining table with a puzzled look on her face. "What's going on? Why does Lucas want to speak to Corinne? What's the deal between them?"

Xante and Aaron exchanged glances but did not answer. They had no right to explain Corinne's situation to them.

Aaron pulled Annie to sit down. "Don't worry about it. Let's continue eating, shall we?"

Annie sat down in a daze and realized that someone was missing from the dining table. "Where's Sunny?"

Aaron smiled and hinted at her to look under the table.

Annie's mind went blank for a moment, and she immediately looked under the table.

Sunny was hiding under it like a coward!

Annie burst out laughing. "Hahaha! You're such a coward! This is your elder brother we're talking about, not some assassin!"

As humiliated as Sunny was at that moment, he did not dare to get out from under the table. He glared at Annie angrily and said, "I wouldn't even be hiding under here if an assassin came! Please keep your voice down! Don't let Lucas know I'm here!"

Meanwhile, inside the room...

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Corinne sat lazily on the bedhead and continued flipping through the book she read halfway. She did not seem to mind that Lucas followed her in, and she simply ignored his presence.

Lucas scanned the room and finally rested his gaze on his sister, whose belly had grown significantly. He pleaded earnestly, "Why don't you come home with me, Corinne?"

Corinne calmly turned a page of the book. "Home? I'm already home. What other home should I go back to?"

Lucas walked to her side and sat down gracefully. "You know what I meant. Don't kick up a fuss."

Corinne glanced at him. "Could you tell me how you found out that I'm here? Was it your brother Sunny? Or your good friend Jason?"

Lucas came clean and said, "It was Jeremy."

That answer caught Corinne by surprise.

"Aren't you his rival? I didn't think the two of you would be in contact with each other."

Lucas sighed. "That's not important, Corinne. I won't ask you where you've been for the past six months, but you're pretty far ahead in your pregnancy now. I can't be at ease if you're living alone elsewhere. Come home. I'll find someone to take care of you. Is that okay?"

Corinne looked at Lucas as if he was a stranger. "I appreciate your kindness, but this is my home now. I won't go anywhere."

Lucas stretched out his hand in distress and touched his younger sister's head. "I know you still resent him, and I'm aware that you don't plan on forgiving him. But you still need to take good care of yourself

now that you're a little further into your pregnancy. Come back with me to the Riveras. I'll make sure to do everything you say!"

Corinne snorted. "Who says I'm not taking good care of myself? Haven't I done that during the past six months? You don't need to worry about me. You're free to leave now that you've seen me safe and sound."

Lucas frowned worriedly. "Corinne!"

"What's wrong?" Corinne cocked her eyebrows. "Are you upset because I'm not as obedient as Anya is?"

Lucas was startled. "No. I wasn't thinking about that. I'll never compare you to her."

Corinne smiled indifferently. "I get that you're worried about me, and I understand that you have good intentions when you persuade me to go back with you. But have you ever thought about how you're going to explain my status to everyone in the Riveras after you bring me back?

"Even if you publicly stated to them that I'm your long-lost sister, did you stop to consider what they'd think of me? Now that I'm pregnant, are your grandparents going to be prejudiced against me because I got pregnant out of wedlock with someone from their rival family?

"They're already prejudiced against our mother, and the misunderstanding runs too deep! If I go back like this, they'll just use this as a reason to say that my mother hasn't raised her daughter well. I don't want the Riveras to badmouth my mother because of something I did."

Lucas looked at his sister with a complicated expression. "To be honest, Grandpa and Grandma aren't as bad as you think they are. You've met them before, and you—"

Corinne sardonically interrupted, "Are you sure? I've always thought well of them, though. If I hadn't, then they'd be more likely to be skeptical that I don't have the Rivera bloodline! Didn't they kick my mother out of the house because they suspected her of cheating and giving birth to someone else's child?"

Lucas was silent.

Corinne did not want to waste her breath with him anymore and told him to leave. "You can go. I'll take care of myself! You don't need to worry about me."

Lucas had a distressed expression. "If you don't want to go back to the Riveras, then you can go to my place! I live alone! Your pregnancy is almost at full term now, and I'll arrange for someone to take good care of you. That way, I can know your condition at any time."

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Corinne slammed the book shut irritatedly. She could not continue reading anymore.

"How many times do I have to tell you that I'm an adult capable of taking care of myself? I am very responsible when it comes to my health, so there is no need for you to worry about me."

Lucas could understand why his sister was so averse to him, but he still found it difficult to set his mind at ease.

For a woman, giving birth was like going through hell and back. It would be too late for him to regret it if something went wrong. Unfortunately, he knew Corinne would not heed his advice in her present state.

Lucas thought for a moment and offered a compromise. "Fine. You can stay here if you want, but I'll send someone here to take care of you tomorrow. I'll also visit you every day."

Corinne was thoroughly annoyed. "No thanks!"

"I've already decided! If you're not coming with me, this is how we'll do it. It's the only way I can be at ease." Lucas did not let Corinne have her way and got up. "Get some rest. I'll come and check on you again tomorrow. Think about what I told you. Sooner or later, you'll have to go home."

Lucas glanced at her one last time before turning around and leaving the room.

Corinne's mind was in a complete mess as she stared at Lucas's figure. She leaned back in exhaustion and stared at the ceiling after collapsing onto the bed.

After Lucas came out, his expression was no longer as gentle as when he spoke to Corinne. He pulled a long face and stared sullenly at the dining table.

"Are you going to come out on your own or should I go under there and help you?" he faced the dining table and asked.

After a second, Sunny crawled out from under the dining table with his hands over his head. "I'm here. Don't get mad at me..."

Lucas closed his eyes in disappointment. "Time to go home."

Sunny nodded obediently and walked out despondently. "Okay."

After finally getting Sunny out from under the table, Lucas glanced earnestly at Xante and Aaron. "Please take good care of Corinne for me."

Aaron smiled. "Of course, Mister Lucas. Don't worry too much."

After Lucas nodded in appreciation, he walked away calmly with his disappointing younger brother.

Once the two brothers had left, Annie became even more puzzled, not to mention a little skeptical of the entire situation. She looked at Aaron in surprise and asked, "Why did Lucas tell you to take good care of Corinne? What does he have to do with her?"

Aaron smiled. "I wouldn't know."

"You don't?" Annie frowned. "Then why would you agree so casually to his request?"

Aaron shrugged his shoulders. "I did it out of courtesy."

Something seemed off regardless of how Annie looked at it. She eventually decided to take out her cell phone and call Jeremy.

The cell phone rang for a long time before it was finally answered. The ambient sound from the other end of the line sounded a little chaotic.

"Where are you?" Annie asked.

Rather than answering her, Jeremy asked coldly, "Why did you call me?"

Annie pursed her lips. "Well... I'm here with Corinne, and Lucas just came to visit her earlier. His attitude toward her was a little suspicious. He seems to be

very fond of her, and I think he's up to no good! You need to hurry up and coax Corinne, or she might be—hello? Hey! Uncle Jeremy!" She heard a dial tone before she could even finish her sentence.

'Did he just hang up on me?' Annie thought. 'I don't care if he ignores me, but is he going to ignore Corinne too? What a jerk!'

Annie's angry little face made Aaron chuckle. "What's wrong? Were you given the cold shoulder again?"

Update of



Annie snapped back to her senses. She glanced at Aaron and said angrily, "Yes! That's right! I love getting the cold shoulder! Are you glad I said that? Didn't I get the cold shoulder from you last time too? Do you have to be sarcastic about it? Does seeing me like that make you happy?"

Aaron froze for a moment after her tirade and laughed again. "No, no! I'm giving you all the warmth from my shoulder! I'm on your side now! Don't be angry!"

Annie's face felt flush. 'What does he mean when he says he's giving me all the warmth from his shoulder? What the hell is this man talking about?'

Xante put down her cutlery and got up. "I'm full. You two go ahead." She went back to her room, leaving Annie alone with Aaron, who was smiling cheekily.

"I'm, uh... I'm going to check on Corinne!"

As soon as Annie tried to get up and leave, Aaron pulled her back and said, "Don't bother her right now. She just wants to be alone today."

Annie had no choice but to sit back down. She had lost her appetite by then.

"Relax!" Aaron said with a smile. "I won't gobble you up! You should eat more since you didn't manage to eat much earlier. I'll wash the dishes once you're done."

"You'll wash the dishes?" Annie did not expect him to offer to do that.

Aaron nodded. "Yes? I can't expect you to wash the dishes when you've cooked for us."

"Do you even know how to wash the dishes?" Annie raised her eyebrow curiously.

Aaron seized the moment to approach her and flirtily replied, "I don't, unfortunately. Could you teach me?"

His tone, coupled with the distance between them, made Annie blush. "I..."

Aaron chuckled. "Okay, okay! I won't tease you anymore! I'm not that dumb! Now eat up, or the food will be cold!"

"Okay..." Annie was still feeling a little awkward, but she did as he told and picked up the cutlery to start eating.

When Aaron saw that she was only eating potatoes, he placed some meat onto her plate and patiently waited for her to finish eating.

Annie looked down at her food and did her best to avoid looking at Aaron. After all, she knew she would lose herself again if she looked at him. He had been so gentle to her when she worked as his secretary, and that was why she fell deep into his trap.

At that time, Aaron's tenderness toward her had a teasing quality, almost as if it was some sort of game.

However, that feeling was far different from what she felt while she ate. She could not tell exactly what was different, but it was difficult for her to finish her meal in his presence.

Later that night, Jeremy returned to the Holdens reeking of alcohol.

Pamela, who had not slept a single wink, came out of the room as soon as she heard someone return. She was a little disappointed when she discovered that only her grandson had returned. "Why are you alone, Jeremy? Didn't you go and meet Corinne?"

Jeremy tugged sullenly on his tie and sneered. "Why should I?"

Pamela caught a whiff of the alcohol from his body and frowned even more. "How much did you drink? Could someone please get some soup to help with his hangover?"

One of the maids did as they were told and left immediately.

Pamela felt heartbroken as she looked at Jeremy sitting on the sofa.

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The maid brought some soup and fed some to the dazed Jeremy. Jeremy took two sips and waved his hands, indicating he did not want any more.

The maid obediently placed the soup down and excused herself right away.

Pamela sat next to Jeremy and looked at him dejectedly. "Drink the soup and sober up with a bath. Getting wasted is hardly the kind of thing a grown man should be doing!"

Jeremy could feel a headache coming. He leaned his head on the back of the sofa and placed one arm over his forehead to cover his eyes. He ignored what his grandmother had said to him.

When Pamela saw a flickering light in his trouser pocket, she reached out to take his cell phone. It had been put on silent.

The caller ID displayed an unsaved phone number, and Pamela's eyes lit up as she answered the call.

"Are you home yet, Jeremy?" On the other end of the line was Sophia, who asked concernedly.

The glow in Pamela's eyes dimmed considerably, and she replied, "He's home, Sophia. Don't worry. Get some rest."

Sophia was a little surprised when she heard an old woman's voice. Nevertheless, she smiled sensibly and said, "Okay, Grandma Pamela! You should go to bed soon, too!"

After ending the call, Pamela placed her hand on her forehead and said, "What's going on in your mind right now, Jeremy? Are you going to accept Sophia, or are you planning to bring Corinne home?"

Jeremy spoke emotionlessly. "Were you expecting Corinne to call and show concern about me just now?"

Pamela was silent. He was right; she did think that the call was from Corinne.

Jeremy sneered. "She won't come here even if I die."

"Corinne isn't heartless!" Pamela refuted. "I can see that you still care a lot about her, and I think you should find a chance to explain things clearly to her. She must've misunderstood your relationship with Sophia."

'Misunderstand? If she thought it was a misunderstanding, she should've been angry at me and questioned me about it so I could explain to her! Disappearing silently for half a year was hardly a reasonable response! She even wore a mask when she met me because she was so afraid that I'd recognize her and bother her! In the end, I'm nothing more than a dispensable commodity to her!'

Jeremy smiled sullenly.

"I'm sorry that I still have to let you worry about my problems. I'll take care of everything. You should get some sleep." Jeremy got up, took his cell phone, and went upstairs sluggishly.

Francine walked over with pursed lips and handed Pamela some soup to soothe herself. "This misunderstanding between Jeremy and Corinne is too strong!"

Pamela sighed helplessly and sipped some soup. "How was everything? Did you contact Annie to ask if Corinne is all right?"

"I already did," said Francine. "Annie told me that she's staying over at Corinne's place. Corinne is doing just fine there."

Update of by Cher the Cherished