

The Day I Kissed An Older Man By Cher the Cherished

Chapter 731

Chapter 731

Lucas frowned when he saw the sandwich. "It's already so late in the morning and you haven't had your breakfast yet?"

Being really hungry, Corinne picked up the sandwich and took a bite before saying, "Yeah. It's a long story. A lot of things happened that prevented me from having my breakfast in peace. You have no idea what I had to go through to be able to eat this sandwich right now. You probably had your breakfast already so forgive me for not offering you any."

Lucas did not mind because he did not come here to eat. More importantly, he was worried for her. "You're pregnant, Corinne. A plate of sandwiches is hardly nutritious enough to grow a healthy baby. Not to mention you should have your breakfast earlier."

"Like I said, something happened to prevent me from having breakfast earlier. Besides, it's going to be lunchtime soon," said Corinne nonchalantly.

Lucas checked the time on his wristwatch. "It won't be lunchtime for another two more hours. Don't tell me you're going to go hungry until then."

Corinne waved the sandwich in front of him. "Hello, I'm eating, aren't I?"

Lucas frowned and turned to look at Bowen accusingly. "Is this how you all have been taking care of her all this while?"

Bowen did not get why Lucas was so angry but even so, he kept his tone polite as he answered, "Mister Lucas, things are not as they seem. All the ingredients are delivered to the kitchen. three times a day and according to mealtimes. This morning, the kitchen along with the nutritionist prepared a very lavish breakfast spread for Ma'am but due to some reason... she didn't get to eat it. And since the ingredients for lunch haven't been delivered yet, the kitchen. can only make the sandwich with what they have..."

Lucas looked at the plain sandwich in Corinne's hand before turning back to ask Bowen, "Then does the kitchen have any oatmeal and dried nuts or berries?"

“Yes, the kitchen does keep a supply of grains and dry foods in the pantry. Only fresh vegetables, meat, and seafood are freshly delivered three times a day so the kitchen doesn’t keep any stock of those ingredients.”

Lucas stood up and said, “Great. Prepare the oatmeal and dried nuts or berries for me. I’m going to use them to cook something.”

Bowen was slightly taken aback. After a while, he finally said, “Yes, Mister Lucas. Please wait a

moment.”

Corinne continued to chew on her sandwich while looking at Lucas with her eyebrow raised. What the h*ll is going on? Is he really going to cook something in this house? This isn’t like him at all.’

Lucas took off his suit jacket and walked into the kitchen while rolling up his sleeves. Bowen had no idea what was going on too. ‘What exactly is happening here? Did Mister Lucas specially drop by just to cook something?’

While thinking of that, Bowen quickly instructed a servant to report this turn of events to Jeremy.

While Lucas was busying himself in the kitchen, Corinne could be found leaning against the kitchen doorway, chomping on her sandwich and watching Lucas curiously.

“Mister Lucas, I never knew you could cook,” said Corinne.

Lucas was hovering over the stove and stirring the pot. After a few seconds of silence, he finally said, “To be honest, I only know how to cook a few of my sister’s favorite dishes since she would beg me nonstop to play house with her when we were young.”

Corinne did a double take before continuing to chew on her dry sandwich. A hint of coldness flashed through her eyes as she chuckled softly. “Well, I guess I have Miss Anya to thank for getting this chance to try your cooking.”

Jeremy suddenly stopped stirring the pot. He then turned around and looked at her weirdly with reddened eyes. “Why don’t you wait outside? All these fumes wouldn’t be good for the baby. I’ll bring out the food once it’s done.”

Corinne shrugged and said, "Alright. I'll leave you to it then." She then went back to the dining room. 'Did Lucas take the wrong medicine today? Or is this another one of his tricks to make me give up Jeremy so that Anya can have him? Well, in any case, things are surely getting interesting.'

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Fifteen minutes later, Lucas brought out a hot bowl of oatmeal and placed it gently in front of Corinne. "Here. Try some."

Corinne looked at the oatmeal before picking up the spoon to stir it, revealing some dried nuts and berries within it. She looked at Lucas and asked, "Oatmeal with nuts and berries?"

Lucas nodded. "Yeah. You need all the vitamins you can get now that you're carrying a baby inside of you. This used to be your favorite when you were..."

Hearing this, Corinne suddenly felt a shockwave coursing through her body, causing her to knit her brows together and her eyes to waver as the realization dawned on her.

Lucas found it hard to continue when he saw the frown on Corinne's face so he stopped speaking, worried that revealing what he knew then would affect her appetite. "Ahem. What I meant to say was, eat the oatmeal while it's still hot."

Corinne regained her senses and said, "Thank you." She narrowed her eyes, scooped up a spoonful of oatmeal, blew on it before putting it in her mouth. 'Oh my god! This is delicious!' The oatmeal was unexpectedly up to her taste and the sweetness level was just right. However, she had no recollection of ever eating this when she was young.

Lucas sat back down in his original seat and gently looked at her. His eyes seemed to contain within a thousand storms as he tried to suppress all the emotions of finally finding his long- lost sister.

"How's the taste?" he asked softly and tentatively.

Corinne gave him a nod of approval and was about to praise him when...

“Lucas! What are you doing here?” cried Anya from the stairs. She quickly ran down the stairs, made her way to the dining room, and looked at Lucas curiously.

Lucas was surprised to see Anya coming down from the stairs too. “Anya, what are you doing here?” he asked with a stern frown on his face.

Anya averted her gaze out of guilt. “Umm... I came here to find Francine. What about you? Why did you come?”

She found it extremely strange that Lucas would show his face around the Holdens’ mansion. Francine, who had followed Anya down the stairs, immediately knew the reason for Lucas’ visit as soon as she laid eyes on him. “Need you ask, Anya? Lucas must’ve come here to bring you home,” she said confidently.

After thinking about it, Anya thought that must be it too; otherwise, what other reason would be strong enough for Lucas to personally come here to the Holdens’ mansion. Even though she had no idea how Lucas knew she was there, one thing she was sure of was Lucas must have been worried sick about her to make him come all the way to bring her home.

This made Anya very happy since she thought Lucas was still mad at her for what happened to Joey yesterday. Now she could finally rest easy with the knowledge that no matter what, her brother would always believe her, forgive her, and love her.

Corinne stopped speaking and put all of her attention on finishing the bowl of oatmeal in

front of her the moment Anya and Francine came into the dining room.

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Seeing Corinne enjoying her food so much infuriated Francine. Thus, she decided to make her life difficult. “Lucas, I’m so glad you’ve come! Guess what happened just now? Corinne poured an entire bowl of piping hot ramen soup on Anya’s head. Not only did that dirty Anya’s clothes but her face got burned too! So I had no choice but to take Anya up to my room to wash up and change into a clean set of clothes.”

After Francine had finished speaking, Anya knew it was her cue to pretend to be forgiving. "Lucas, please don't be too harsh on Corinne. She didn't mean to and I'm fine..." she said. tearfully.

Lucas frowned and looked unhappily at Corinne. "Why did you order takeout when the kitchen had already prepared a lavish breakfast spread for you?"

Anya and Francine were stunned by Lucas' question. Initially, they were waiting expectantly for Lucas to blow up at Corinne so the question really caught them off guard. In fact, they could not help but feel like Lucas had gotten the wrong point.

Corinne was really enjoying the oatmeal. She smacked her lips and said, "Well, I wouldn't have to order takeout if our guest didn't happen to eat the lavish breakfast spread that was specially prepared for me and I wouldn't have to make do with the sandwich if our guest didn't happen to spill some milk into my ramen."

A deep frown immediately appeared on Lucas' forehead. "The only guest that was here before me is... Anya! So she's the culprit that caused Corinne to miss her breakfast?"

Anya secretly became happy when she saw the anger rising in Lucas' face. 'Yes! He's finally going to blow up at Corinne!'

She thought it was a given Lucas would take her side since that was how it had always been. Thus, she did not think twice about fanning the fire. "Lucas, I didn't mean to eat Corinne's breakfast. I swear I didn't know it was hers. I was feeling a little dizzy from low blood sugar so Francine offered me some food....

"And I didn't mean to spill the milk into Corinne's takeout. I was worried she would choke on the ramen so I brought her some milk but I lost my balance on the way and accidentally spilled the milk into her ramen..."

"I did apologize to her immediately and promised to compensate double of what she paid for the food... but her anger must've gotten the better of her since she poured the ramen over my head... but I understand where she's coming from so please don't get angry at her, Lucas... It was all my fault in the first place."

Anya's voice became more and more weepy as she went on to the point of her nearly

dissolving to full on crying.

Lucas' eyes darkened. He stared at Anya coldly and scoffed. "So you do know what you did was wrong."

Not getting the usual preferential treatment from Lucas caused Anya to do a double take. She looked up at him in shock. "Lucas...?"

"Why did you come here when you know you have low blood sugar? You should have rested at home!" Lucas lectured sternly.

Anya did not understand why Lucas was acting that way. It took her a while to snap out of her shock. "Lucas, I didn't know I was going to get low blood sugar before coming here. But now that I think about it... It must be because I've forgotten to have breakfast at home..." explained Anya feebly.

Lucas was unmoved by her explanation. "So what are you doing here instead of staying at home to take care of Joey?"

A hint of guilt flashed across Anya's eyes. "Umm... The nanny is taking care of Joey so I thought I..."

"Not only is Joey severely injured but he nearly lost his life yesterday and yet you don't seem to worry

about him at all! If I didn't know better, I'd have thought the nanny is Joey's adopted mother instead of you!"

"Lucas, I..."

Posted by **AbMark**, ? Views, Released on July 27, 2023

Chapter 734

Lucas' head started to throb with a painful headache. He could not believe how irresponsible Anya was being. He pinched the space between his brows and said, "I don't care what you're doing here. You're to go home this instant!"

Anya could tell Lucas was being serious. She nodded docilely as she walked up to him. "Lucas, I know I shouldn't have left Joey alone and come here... I

promise I'll spend some time with him. once I'm home. Let us go back now, Lucas."

Lucas remained seated where he was. "Edmund is outside. He'll give you a ride home."

Anya was shocked and hurt at the same time. "Lucas, aren't you going to go home with me?" "I still have some unfinished business here so you go home first."

'What? So he didn't come to bring me home?' thought Anya with shock. She looked at where Lucas was sitting and discovered that opposite him was... Corinne! 'Did he come here to find Corinne?'

The more she thought about it, the more the whole thing seemed off to her. "I don't mind waiting for you to finish your business here, Lucas. I'd rather wait so that we can go home together."

"You don't need to do that. Just go home now. Besides, I'll be going straight to work after this,

said Lucas impatiently.

At that moment, Anya could not come up with any more excuse to stay behind even though she really wanted to hear what Lucas had to say to Corinne so she simply said, "Fine... I'll make a move first."

Before she left, she looked at Francine pointedly. Seeing this, Francine was first shocked but then realization dawned on her. "Anya, Wait for me. I'm coming with you!"

Anya was speechless and a corner of her mouth started twitching. "That silly girl! Why is she coming with me? I want her to stay and eavesdrop on Lucas and Corinne... Gah! What an idiot!"

Francine had no idea that she had gotten the wrong message. She linked arms with Anya and the two of them walked out of the mansion. "Anya, what's the matter with Lucas today? I thought he came to bring you home... No?" whispered Francine.

Anya secretly rolled her eyes before laughing fakely. "Beats me... Maybe there's something he needs to tell Corinne."

Francine gave Anya's answer some thought when inspiration suddenly struck her. "Oh, I know! Your brother must've come here to put pressure on Corinne to leave my brother so that you can get him back!"

Anya mulled over the possibility of that happening and came to the conclusion that it was wholly possible since Lucas had always worried about her prospect of marriage. 'Yes, he must have come here to pressure Corinne into giving Jeremy back to me.'

After Anya and Francine had left, Bowen and the other servants had the self-awareness to leave the dining room too so that Corinne and Lucas could talk in private.

Lucas quietly looked at Corinne who was still focused on eating her oatmeal. "How's the taste? Do you like it?" he asked gently.

Corinne nodded happily and said, "Yup! This is super delicious."

Happy to receive praise from Corinne, Lucas smiled and said, "Seems like your favorite food hasn't changed from when you were little."

Corinne was slightly taken back by what he said. She looked up at him and calmly said, "Really? I have no recollection of ever eating this though."

A frown appeared on Lucas' forehead for a second. "Don't you find it weird that I know what your favorite food was when you were little?"

Corinne smiled and said, "I do find it weird. So are you going to tell me how you know?"

After a few seconds of silence, Lucas solemnly said, "Corinne Carew, you're actually my long- lost sister and your name is Luna Rivera."

Corinne calmly ate another spoonful of oatmeal before saying, "I know."

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Chapter 735

"You knew?" asked Lucas with shock.

"Yup," said Corinne nonchalantly.

“When did you know?” asked the confused Lucas.

“Not long after I met you.”

Her answer confused him even more. “Then why didn’t you tell me?”

Corinne curled her lips into a mocking smile. “Would you have believed me if I told you then? Haven’t you always seen me as a wanton social climber? Think about it... What would you think if I suddenly tell you I’m actually the long-lost sister who you’ve been looking for all this time? You’ll most likely see me as a devious woman who’s willing to lie and cheat my way into your family, right?”

Lucas’ immediately tensed up because he knew he had behaved absolutely horribly toward Corinne in the past. “I admit I did hold some biases against you then and I shouldn’t have done that. I’m sorry, Corinne. Can you please accept my apology?”

Corinne put down her spoon and waved her hand. “No. Don’t say sorry to me, Mister Lucas. This isn’t like you. You should just let things stay as you are. You’re Anya’s brother and not mine!”

Lucas understood Corinne had every good reason to hate him but still he tried to convince her otherwise. “Corinne, we will forever be tied together by our blood so no matter what you say, I’ll always be your brother.”

Corinne leaned back on her chair and looked at him coldly. “Mister Lucas, you’re right. We are related by blood but that doesn’t mean anything to me. In fact, we’re nothing but strangers who just so happen to have come from the same womb. We have nothing in common other than that. You might even say we are two people who live in a totally different world from each other.”

“I know what I did to you in the past is really unforgivable and you have suffered a lot because of that but can you please find it in your heart to give me a chance to make it up to you? Please?” begged Lucas.

Corinne chuckled drily. “Let’s cast aside the fact we’re brother and sister for a moment. Mister Lucas, I know you don’t like to associate with an unruly country bumpkin like me and similarly, I don’t like someone like you who thinks he’s better than everyone else just because he was lucky enough to be born in a wealthy family. We don’t share the same values and we don’t have the benefit of having grown up together so there’s really no need for us to force ourselves into taking up our sibling roles.”

“No... It’s not what you think...” Lucas tried to explain. In all fairness, he actually admired Corinne but because of all the things that happened between her and Anya, he could not help but hold some prejudice and hostility toward Corinne.

As for Corinne, she finally knew why Lucas had come to visit her today. ‘So that’s why he has been hounding me for a meeting...’ Even though she did not know how Lucas found out about her identity, she did not want to waste her time in listening to him asking her to forgive him.

“Thank you for making me this oatmeal. I’m lucky to have tasted your cooking,” said Corinne with a calm and polite smile.

“I can make it for you again if you like...” said Lucas softly.

“No, that’s not necessary. Once is enough. Now if you’ll please excuse me, I’m feeling a little tired so I won’t ask you to stay for lunch. Bowen, please see Mister Lucas off.”

“Yes, ma’am.” Bowen took a step forward and added, “Mister Lucas, this way please.”

Lucas wished to stay a bit longer but could not bring himself to do so after thinking about all the horrible things he had done to Corinne in the past. Thus, he sighed helplessly, stood up, and said, “I’ll come visit you again another day.”

“No, thank you. I prefer if you don’t ever come again. Don’t forget, Mister Lucas, I’m now Jeremy’s wife. Your family and his family has always hated each other so it’s best if we don’t ever contact each other again.”

Lucas was unable to come up with a retort so he simply turned around with resignation. He was walking out of the dining room when Corinne suddenly called out to him, “Wait!”

Thinking she had changed her mind, Lucas immediately stopped walking and turned around to look at her expectantly.

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Chapter 736

Corinne looked at him cordially. "Do you still remember when I used to work in Rivera Group for a few days before you fired me?"

At the mention of that, Lucas became filled with shame and he quickly said, "You can come back to work for Rivera Group if you want. I'll give you any position you want and you can start at any date of your choosing."

"Oh, you're mistaken, Mister Lucas. What I meant to tell you is I hope you can pay me the salary you owed for those few days 'cause I don't like working for free," said Corinne with a smile.

Lucas did a double take and looked at her with mixed feelings. 'So it's not about the money

after all. She just wants to make it clear that we have nothing to do with each other. In other words, she doesn't want to accept me as her brother!'

Corinne raised her eyebrow. "What's the matter? You don't want to give me the money?" Lucas snapped out of his shock. "No, that's not it. I'm willing to give you whatever amount you want."

He then took out his wallet from his pocket and signed a check for her.

Seeing this, Corinne mockingly said, "Are you trying to buy me off with a check again?" Lucas paused in his movement as he suddenly recalled the times he bought Corinne off with a check. Once again, he became filled with guilt and shame. He quickly put away the cheque and said, "I can wire you the money if you don't like getting cheques from me."

"I'll take cash, thanks. You don't need to go through all the trouble of writing a check or wiring me the money since the amount from working those few days isn't that big."

After a few seconds of silence, Lucas said, "I don't have a lot of cash on me right now but I'll ask Edmund to deliver it to you later."

Corinne raised her eyebrow. "How much do you have right now?"

Lucas showed her the money he had in his wallet. "Around 275 dollars."

"That's more than enough." Corinne stood up, walked over to Lucas, took his wallet off him, and counted 200 dollars. "According to the market labor rate, 2

00 dollars would be more than the fair amount for the few days I'd worked but since I'd cinched a deal for the company, we'll just count the remainder as a little bonus for me. Is that okay with you?"

That amount of money was chump change for Lucas. Besides, money was not the important thing right now. He fixed his gaze at Corinne, hoping against all hope that she would change her mind. "Luna..."

"Don't call me that. My name is Corinne Carew," interrupted Corinne. She did not like to be called by her old name.

Lucas had no choice but to follow her wishes "Corinne, I know it'll take some time for you to accept me as your brother and to forgive all the things I did to you in the past so I'll try my **best to** give you some time to think about it. However, I hope you can remember to come **to** me if your in-laws or Jeremy ever make trouble for you I promise to protect you from now on.

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"

Corinne smiled. "That won't be necessary, Mister Lucas. Unlike Miss Anya, I can protect myself. Plus, no one in their right mind would dare to mess with me anyways."

There were so many things Lucas wanted to say to her but he did not know where to begin so he simply looked at her with a forlorn expression and with tired, bloodshot eyes.

At that moment, Bowen took a step forward and said politely, "Mister Lucas, our Ma'am would like to rest now. Please allow me to escort you out."

Lucas sighed heavily. He then threw a glance at Bowen before turning around to leave.

After coming out of the Holdens' mansion, Lucas saw his car was still parked at the gate. 'Why is Edmund still here?'

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Chapter 737

Lucas narrowed his eyes, walked up to the car, and got into it.

Anya and Francine were sitting in the backseat talking about something but they immediately stopped when Lucas got into the car.

Anya, who was now sandwiched between Lucas and Francine, turned to him and said, "Oh, Lucas, you're back!"

Lucas was exhausted by then. He leaned back on the seat and rubbed the space between his brows. "Didn't I ask you to go home first?"

Anya pouted sadly and tried to explain, "You'll be without a car if I go home first so I ask Edmund to wait for you..."

To this, Lucas simply made a noncommittal sound before closing his eyes and falling silent.

Francine, who could not contain her curiosity anymore, poked her head out to ask, "Lucas, how did the conversation with Corinne go? Did you manage to convince her to leave my brother?"

Lucas frowned and opened his eyes to take a glance at her. "You sound like you really want her to leave your brother."

Francine nodded. "Yeah! Don't you want that too? I mean, the only way Anya can be with my brother is if Corinne breaks up with him! Lucas, I know you would do anything for Anya so you must get rid of any obstacles that stand in the way of Anya's happiness."

Lucas threw a warning glance at her. "Miss Francine, why don't you mind your own business? And from now on, I don't ever want to hear you speak ill of your sister-in-law again. Otherwise, I would be the one to punish you even on Jeremy's behalf."

Francine was dumbfounded. "Lucas...? What's the matter with..."

Anya, too, was dumbfounded. 'Did I hear wrongly? 'Cause for a moment there I heard Lucas address Corinne as Francine's sister-in-

law... What's going on right now? Why does it seem like Lucas has completely gone over to Corinne's side?'

"Miss Francine, we don't welcome members of the Holden family in our car so please get out of the car right now," Lucas added rudely.

Francine could feel the oppressive aura, that was no less than that of Jeremy's, emitting from Lucas' body. Scared, she quickly and awkwardly got out of the car, dashing her plans of hanging out with Anya at her place.

Edmund immediately drove off with Lucas and Anya in the car after Francine got off.

"Lucas, what did you talk to Corinne about?" Anya asked in a fake relaxed manner.

"That's none of your business," said Lucas coldly. He was not in the mood to talk to Anya.

Anya moved herself closer to Lucas and in her usual act-cute tone said, "I know it's none of my business but please just tell meeee... If not, I'll certainly die with curiosity. I mean, the two of you weren't on the best of terms in the past so why would you specially drop by for a visit today?"

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Instead of answering her question, Lucas looked at her coldly and asked, "Is Joey willing to let you carry him now?"

Anya's face immediately tensed up. "Umm..."

"Why don't you put your own affairs in order first before butting your nose into other people's business!" lectured Lucas sternly.

Anya did not expect Lucas to treat her so sternly. Crestfallen, she said pitifully, "Lucas, I know I should put more attention into taking care of Joey but I'm just feeling so depressed about the fact that Jeremy doesn't want to be with me anymore..."

Lucas had heard enough by then so he interrupted her, "You can't keep using Jeremy as an excuse for not getting your life together! If he doesn't want you, fine! Go find something else to do. A woman's life shouldn't revolve around a man, Anya!"

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Anya was completely shocked because Lucas had never spoken so harshly to her before.

"But I really, really love him... You of all people should know that..."

Lucas knitted his brows together. "It takes two to make a relationship work. Yours is a one-sided love. If the other party doesn't love you, then it doesn't matter what you do, he still won't love you. Why don't you let him go, Anya? Time will heal all wounds and you'll definitely come out better for it."

Anya's eyes immediately reddened as tears spilled out of her eyes. "Lucas, what's the matter with you? Did Corinne say something to you? Why does it feel like you have completely become another person? Don't you love me anymore?"

No matter how annoyed Lucas was with Anya, there was one thing he could not stand to see and that was her crying. She was still his baby sister after all. 'Maybe I was a little too harsh on her...' he thought.

Lucas patted Anya on the shoulder in a bid to comfort her, "Come now, don't cry. I only want what's good for you, Anya. Do you know how much it hurts me to see you losing yourself over Jeremy?"

Anya rubbed her tear-stained face against Lucas' arm. "But I really, really love him! I can't help myself..."

Lucas put his hand to his forehead to quell the throbbing headache that was starting to show itself. 'The gods must be playing a joke on me! Why did both of my sisters have to fall for the same man? Why do I have to be caught in the middle?'

After sending Anya, who was tired out by all the crying, home, Lucas went straight to his office. Now that there were only the two of them, Edmund deigned to ask, "Mister Lucas, how did the talk with Miss Corinne go? Did she accept you as her brother?"

Lucas threw his head back and pinched the space between his brows. "What do you think?" After a few seconds of silence, Edmund said comfortingly, "Miss Corinne went through a lot when she was growing up in the countryside which gave way to her strong independent character so it's perfectly understandable if she needs some time to process the sudden news."

Lucas closed his tired eyes and chuckled self-deprecatingly. "No, that's not it. She knew I was her brother a long time ago."

"She knew before you told her?" Edmund asked with a frown.

"Yeah," replied Lucas with a heavy sigh. "She knew from the very beginning and yet she didn't say anything in all the times I treated her harshly. She only sees me as a stranger so... knowing all this, do you think she'll ever come to accept me as her brother?"

"Well... **if you** put it that way, it would be kinda hard for that to happen. But why didn't she

say

anything if she knew? Does she not want to be welcomed back to the family and to know what it feels like to be loved by the people who shared the same blood as her?"

"Maybe that just goes to show how much she hates me..." Lucas curled his lips into a self-mocking smile.

Edmund had witnessed for himself the lengths Lucas would go to to protect Anya from

Corinne and to be honest, he did think Lucas went overboard a little. Thus, he sighed heavily and said, "Have patience, Mister Lucas. I'm sure Miss Corinne would slowly come to accept you eventually."

Lucas remained silent because he knew the chances of that happening were very, very slim. 'Luna isn't doing this because she's mad at me... She's doing

this because she doesn't need me at all! She doesn't care to have a rich and powerful brother or father... No, if she did, she would have come running to tell us she's Luna the first second she found out who she really is. And yet here I am... always thinking she's a scheming social climber who's h*llbent **of** marrying a rich guy...'

Posted by **AbMark**, ? Views, Released on July 28, 2023

Chapter 739

At that moment, Lucas wished he could travel back in time to give the old him a slap or two for mistaking Corinne.

Meanwhile, back in the Holdens' mansion.

Corinne fished out her phone, which had been vibrating the whole time, from her pocket as soon as Lucas left the house. It was a video call from Jeremy. She had put her phone on silent during the conversation she had with Lucas and now that he had left, she could finally answer the video call.

Jeremy's perfect and handsome face appeared on her phone screen as soon as she tapped on the 'Answer' button. "What were you doing just now? Why did it take you this long to answer my call?" he said angrily and coldly.

Corinne sat down languidly on the sofa. "I was eating just now."

"Eating? With who?" Jeremy asked with a frown.

'Someone from this house must have snitched on me!' thought Corinne. She pouted and said a little unhappily, "Don't you already know the answer to that?"

Jeremy narrowed his eyes; he decided to drop the pretense. "Why did Lucas come to see you when I'm not at home? More importantly, why did he cook for you?"

Corinne thought Jeremy looked cute when he was jealous. She beamed a cheeky smile at him and said, "He's probably just bored and thought he would come to our place and show off his cooking skills."

The words 'our place' made Jeremy's heart melt a little but his tone remained unhappy. "Why did you eat what he made for you? Have you already forgotten that I specifically told you not to eat food cooked or brought by another man?"

Corinne pouted again. “Well, I thought it would be alright since Lucas would not be that stupid to specially come to our place to poison me, right?”

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There it was again our place. Hearing those two little words made it very hard for Jeremy to stay mad at Corinne. Thus, he sighed and asked seriously, “So what was the reason for his visit?”

“It’s a long story. I’ll tell you when you’re back. You should focus on your work now.”

The frown on Jeremy’s forehead became deeper. It was obvious he was not happy with her answer. ‘It’s not like Lucas to come to our place unless something really serious happened... so the fact that he would do so must mean he has some serious business with Corinne and yet that little rascal has the cheek to make me wait for her answer!’

“Mister, look what I got!” Corinne held up the money for him to see.

Not lacking any money himself, Jeremy simply looked at the green pieces of paper in her hand with a raised eyebrow. “What about it?”

“I finally got the salary Lucas owed me for the work I did in Rivera Group! It had dragged on for so long I thought I was never going to get it back.” Corinne beamed happily at the stern

Jeremy through the phone screen. “Let’s go out for dinner tonight. It’ll be my treat!”

At that moment, the unhappy frown on Jeremy’s forehead finally disappeared. He could not stand just how adorable Corinne was. “Why, that’s very generous of you.”

“Of course!” Corinne lifted her chin proudly. “And I don’t do this for everyone so you should count yourself lucky, Mister.”

“Oh, really? Which restaurant do you have in mind then?” Jeremy asked with a smile.

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“I’ll send you the restaurant location later. All you need to do now is to work hard at your job, replied Corinne and before Jeremy could say anything, she had already hung up the phone.

The reason Corinne ended the call so quickly was because Francine had just come back from outside and was standing in front of her and glaring at her vehemently. Corinne did not want to worry Jeremy with what was going on at home so she was left with no choice but to hang up the phone.

Corinne was unfazed by the way Francine was glaring at her. She curled her lips into a

nonchalant smile and asked, “Why are you back? Didn’t you say you’re going to Anya’s place to hang out?”

Francine crossed her arms haughtily before sitting down on the sofa. “What I do is none of your business!”

Corinne let out a lazy yawn and said, “You’re right. It is none of my business but I should warn you, stay away from Anya. She’s a bad influence on you.”

Francine really liked Anya from the bottom of her heart since the two of them went way back. In fact, the latter had bribed the former with sweets and whatnots ever since they were young so it was only natural that Francine would wish Anya to be her sister-in-law.

When she heard Corinne telling her to stay away from Anya, she thought Corinne was jealous of Anya so she simply rolled her eyes and said, “Corinne, what right do you have to tell me what to do? Who do you think you are? I like hanging out with Anya ‘cause she’s a thousand times better than you and there’s nothing you can do about it!”

Corinne narrowed her eyes and said solemnly, “You ask me who do I think I am? Well, I’m your sister-in-law, that’s who! I have the responsibility to discipline you on behalf of your brother. This includes forbidding you from being friends with people who are a bad influence on you!”

In the first three months Corinne and Jeremy were together, they only saw each other as business partners so Corinne did not feel like it was her responsibility to care about anything that went on in his family.

However, the situation had changed. She really had every intention to spend the rest of her life with Jeremy so she felt like she had the responsibility to teach the spoiled Francine how to be a decent human being. Otherwise, there might be a chance that Anya would use Francine as a means to get rid of her if she did not nip their friendship in the bud.

Hearing what Corinne said made Francine rolled her eyes so hard that one would think she had become possessed by an evil spirit. “Don’t make me laugh, Corinne! What makes you think I’ll ever listen to you? Surely you’ve overestimated yourself.”

Corinne chuckled lightly as she slowly got up from the sofa. Then, without warning, she shot to where Francine was sitting, twisted her arm to the back, and pinned her down on **the** sofa. Francine yelped out in pain. “Corinne, what the h*ll are you doing? Let go of me!” she said fearfully.

“Now do you still think I’ve overestimated myself?” Corinne whispered into Francine’s ear.

Enduring the pain that was shooting through her arm, Francine looked vehemently at Corinne

from the corner of her eyes and said, “Tsk! So what **if** you’re strong? My bet is you wouldn’t dare to hit me at all!”

“I won’t hit you, that’s true. But it’s not because I’m scared. It’s just that it ain’t fun hitting an idiot like you,” said Corinne with a smile. After that, she let go of her grip on Francine. Francine stood up and shook her arm up and down to ease the pain. “Who are you calling an idiot! If anything, you’re the idiot here!”

Instead of offering her a retort, Corinne simply turned around and ordered the old butler, Bowen, you can ask all the servants to take the rest of the day off after lunch is served ‘cause Miss Francine here had oh—so—graciously offered to all the housework today.”

“Umm... forgive me Ma’am but... I don’t...” Bowen was so confused that he did not know what to say.

Francine glared at Corinne vehemently. “Corinne, have you gone insane? When did I ever offer to do that?!”

Corinne looked back at Francine with a raised eyebrow. “What’s wrong, Francine? I’m just abiding by what you said this morning when you barged into my room. If I remember

correctly, you said your family would not suffer any lazy woman in this household so what’s so wrong with asking you to do the housework today? Besides, it’s not like I’m going to do the housework since I have your brother’s protection so I won’t be cast out of the house even if I do nothing all day but eat and sleep.”