"The Day I Kissed An Older Man By Cher the Cherished"

Chapter 866

"Corinne!"

Corinne heard someone shout out her name just when she was about to get into the car. With one foot inside, she turned to look around and saw Lucas striding toward her.

"Corinne, a moment of your time, please? There's something I'd like to tell you in private," said Lucas softly.

Corinne raised her brow a little. After considering it, she turned to Jeremy and said, "Mister, can you go buy me a bottle of yogurt drink at that convenience shop over there? I suddenly have a craving for it."

Jeremy knew Corinne was trying to steer him away. He would not have allowed her to speak privately to a man if this had happened in the past, but it was different since he knew Lucas. was her brother.

They were long-lost siblings, and since Corinne was willing to speak to Lucas, Jeremy felt like it was not in his place to prevent her from doing so. Thus, he gently ruffled Corinne's hair and said, "Alright, then."

He thus walked slowly to the convenience store in front of them.

Lucas made sure Jeremy was well out of earshot before turning to look at Corinne. "Let's go talk at that park over there. I'm worried the fumes in the parking lot will make you uncomfortable."

Corinne nodded. She might as well do as he suggested since she agreed to hear what he had to

say.

The two of them came to the park in front of the hospital. Lucas found a place to sit, but he then took off his jacket and laid it on the bench. "Here, Corinne. You can sit here."

Corinne plopped down unceremoniously on the bench whereas Lucas pulled up his pants a little before sitting down gracefully next to her.

"Well, why don't you get on with it, Mister Lucas? I'm in quite a rush to get home."

Lucas looked at her helplessly when he heard her address him as 'Mister Lucas'.

"I'm sorry... It's my every intention to make sure you have a good time at our house today, but not only did we cause trouble for you again, but you also nearly lost your baby..."

Corinne chuckled softly. "Oh, sorry ain't going to cut it this time. Plus, this isn't the only time your family has caused me trouble."

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Lucas frowned and looked apologetically at her. "Do you really have no plans to go home?"

"Of course I do!" replied Corinne without missing a beat.

Lucas' eyes immediately lit up. 'She's willing to go home?'

"I'm going home with Jeremy later," added Corinne.

Lucas was dumbfounded by her response, and he smiled wryly. "So the Holdens' place is where

you call home?"

Corinne shook her head. "Nope. The Holdens' place is just like any mansion in the city. Meaning to say, there's nothing special about it. My home is wherever Jeremy is."

Lucas was filled with conflicted feelings. As her brother, he had lost the chance to vouch for the man Corinne had married.

"I'm glad Jeremy makes you happy. But if he ever cheats on you, you can come to me, and I'll teach him a lesson!"

Corinne scoffed. "I don't need you to teach him a lesson 'cause I'll just break up with him if he dares to cheat on me. I'd rather go without a man in my life than to desperately hang on to at cheating dirtbag!"

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Chapter 867

Corinne's response took Lucas aback, but his eyes were then filled with admiration for his long -lost sister. "The difference between her and Anya is quite stark. This is what my sister should be like an independent woman who's not afraid to love and let go at the same time! Anya only knows how to cry and act like a damsel in distress. I must be blind in the past to not see what a drama queen she was.'

He took a deep breath before asking, "Corinne, did you come to work for me because you wanted to find out why Mom left our home with you?"

"Yup, that's right," admitted Corinne. There was no reason to hide it as everything had come to this point.

Lucas sighed. "You don't need to do that anymore. I'll tell you whatever you want to know."

Corinne narrowed her eyes and said mockingly, "You'll tell me? Hah! You're just going to tell me Mom made a mistake and was caught in bed with another man, and that's why she was kicked out of the house."

Lucas frowned. "I didn't want to believe that either, Corinne, but...I did see Mom coming out of a hotel with another man."

Corinne scoffed. "What about it? That's not proof enough. I myself have come out of many hotels with many different men. Does that mean I slept with all of them?"

Lucas' face darkened. "Don't speak nonsense like that!"

Corinne rolled her eyes. "No matter what happened back then, I'll always believe my mother isn't that kind of woman!"

Lucas was glad to see Corinne defending their mother vehemently. He nodded and said, "I believe Mom isn't that kind of woman too. That's why I've

asked my men to look into the matter all these years. Though, we haven't found anything that proves otherwise."

Corinne was disappointed in him. "That doesn't mean there isn't anything! It doesn't take a rocket genius to figure out who has benefited the most from Mom getting kicked out of the house! That person is the biggest suspect...

"And you! You welcomed the thief into the house and treated her like your mother!"

Instead of being angry, Lucas just felt really misunderstood. He had never seen Phoebe as his mother. He only called her 'Aunt Phoebe' out of respect for Anya, and he rarely talked to her unless it was necessary.

After Emily and Corinne left the house, a pregnant Phoebe came to force Maxwell to marry her. The only reason Cedric and Beatrice would allow her to marry into the family was because she carried the bloodline of the Rivera family.

Thus, it stood to reason Lucas suspected Phoebe was the culprit behind Emily getting kicked out of the house. However, he was just a kid then, so he faced one problem after another when he tried to look into the matter.

Later, when he took over the helm from Maxwell and got the power he needed, the first thing he did was to arrange for his men to look into his mother's 'affair' so he could clear up her name. Alas, they could not find conclusive evidence pointing to what Phoebe had done.

The reason he told Corinne he did not find anything and asked her not to look into the matter anymore was because he did not want her to go through all that effort to only come up empty- handed, and not because he thought their mother was promiscuous.

He also did not want Corinne to end up just like him-stuck in the past and feeling guilty over his inability to protect both Emily and Corinne. It was just too tiring to live that way. Lucas did not explain himself to Corinne. He simply sighed and asked, "Where did you Mom go after you two left the family? Why didn't you two live together?"

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Corinne frowned as a multitude of emotions welled up in her heart. "I don't know what happened either. All my memories of that time are a blur to me. I only know Mom entrusted me to the Carews, and she disappeared after that."

Posted by **AbMark**, ? Views, Released on September 4, 2023

Chapter 868

Lucas narrowed his eyes. "So there's a high possibility Mom is still alive?"

Corinne took a deep breath. "I'm counting on that, but I'm not sure either since I couldn't find any trace of her still being alive. I only managed to gather the paintings she left behind."

Lucas sighed. "I've been looking for her all these years and will continue to do so now that you're back."

Corinne nodded. "Okay. Thanks, Mister Lucas. Please let me know as soon as possible when you've gotten any leads."

She did not mind having an extra pair of hands helping her since that would make the work faster. 'I'm actually worried Mom got killed after entrusting me to the Carews... I'm pretty sure she wouldn't have given me to that family if her life wasn't in danger. She must've thought that was her only choice to keep me safe.'

Lucas noticed the sadness on Corinne's face and knew she was thinking about Emily. He then thought of all the hardships Corinne must have suffered alone, causing his heart to nearly break. He wanted to give her a hug, but...he did not dare to.

He knew she had not accepted him as her brother yet, and she was only willing to talk to him. because she wanted to find out more about Emily. Otherwise, she would not have kept addressing him as 'Mister Lucas' to remind him they were not close at all.

He told himself to have patience and that it would take consistent effort on his part to make Corinne come around.

"Corinne, it's fine if you don't want to accept me as your brother, but can you at least promise. me that you won't go disappearing on me again?"

Corinne smiled faintly. "You can always find me at the Holdens', but please don't contact me unless necessary...and by that, I mean to not contact me unless it's to tell me you've found more leads about my Mom. The Holdens will never welcome the likes of you.

She then stood up and did a stretch. "Now then. Jeremy has been waiting for me long enough, so I'll be going."

As much as Lucas did not want her to go, he did not ask her to stay as he knew he did not have the right to do so. He, too, stood up and said worriedly, "Don't walk too fast, okay? And watch your steps."

Corinne simply waved at him without looking back as she walked toward the parking lot.

Lucas fixed his blazing eyes on her back. He wanted to walk her off but was worried doing so would displease her. It was a good thing the parking lot was not that far, so he was able to see whether she had reached the car safely from where he was.

He did not pull back his gaze until he saw Corinne standing beside Jeremy. After that, he picked up his suit jacket to dust off the dirt on it.

Just when he was about to turn around, he bumped into Maxwell. The two of them had not had the greatest relationship ever since Emily left.

"Lucas, what were you talking about with Corinne just now?" asked Maxwell.

"Oh, nothing. I was just apologizing to her for everything that happened today. What a bad day for our family," replied Lucas indifferently.

Maxwell thought so, too. He nodded before he then asked, "How did she end up marrying that Holden kid?"

Lucas' eyebrow shot up mockingly. "Why are you asking? Are you interested in her?"

"I just think she looks a lot like your mother when she was younger," admitted Maxwell.

Lucas scoffed. "As if you still remember what my mother looks like! Forgive me for being blunt, but you're not worthy to ever speak of her!"

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Chapter 869

After that, the poker-faced Lucas-with his suit jacket flung over his shoulder-walked past Maxwell.

Maxwell was used to Lucas' indifferent behavior toward him and thus did not blame him or was provoked. Lucas was unwilling to speak to him ever since Emily and Corinne left the family.

Maxwell sat on the bench, narrowed his eyes, and looked toward the parking lot.

Jeremy twisted open the cap of the yogurt drink and passed it to Corinne to drink. After taking a big mouthful, she put the bottle near Jeremy's lips, but she cheekily pulled it away again and burst out in laughter when he opened his mouth.

The look in Maxwell's eyes softened. 'She really does look like Emily when she was younger. It's been ten years... I wonder how Emily is doing?"

Jeremy went up to shower after getting home. Corinne told him she wanted to watch the TV in the living room for a while, so she did not follow him upstairs. However, what she really did was to go into the kitchen.

'Mister mustn't have eaten yet since he went straight to the Riveras' place to pick me up after work,' she thought. Many things happened after that, and it was not till nighttime that they came home.

Corinne washed her hands, put on an apron, and made Jeremy a big bowl of noodles. A servant came in to help her but was promptly waved away. 'It's not like I'm cooking anything complicated. Having another person here will just mess up my flow.' After chopping the tomatoes, she proceeded to whisk some eggs when she heard loud footsteps coming toward the kitchen. She continued to whisk the eggs when a few seconds later, Francine walked in and looked around to make sure Jeremy was not in the kitchen too before asking angrily, "What are you trying to pull, Corinne?"

Not stopping what she was doing, Corinne raised her eyebrow and glanced at Francine. "What's the matter? You want me to make you something, too?"

Francine rolled her eyes at her. "Who wants to eat your stinky food? I'm asking you what you're trying to pull with the parcel you asked Bowen to give me today."

Corinne smiled. "Oh, that! That's a gift I specially picked out for you."

"Gift?" repeated Francine unhappily. "You should be embarrassed to call that a gift! I've never ever seen such a cheap gift in my life!"

She kept waving the book in her hand as she spoke.

"Cheap? I gave you a practice book to help you increase your knowledge. Isn't that a good thing? Don't you know that knowledge is the most precious wealth there is? It's so much better than those useless bags and shoes you have."

Francine gritted her teeth and scoffed. "I wouldn't be this p*ssed if you didn't give me a practice book meant for elementary school kids!"

"Well... I was kinda worried you wouldn't be able to do the practice question if I gave you any higher than that."

Francine never felt so humiliated in her life. "Corinne, you're the stupid one here! In fact, your whole family is stupid!" she said hysterically.

Corinne smirked. "Well, why don't you prove me wrong then? I'll buy you ten Hermes bags if you can get at least half of the practice questions right."

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Chapter 870

Francine loved nothing more than to go shopping for bags, but she could not do that since her grandmother had canceled her card. Understandably, her eyes lit up when Corinne offered to buy her 10 Hermes bags.

That was until she remembered how poor Corinne was. She looked at Corinne suspiciously and scoffed, "Are you sure you have the money to uphold your end of the deal?"

Corinne smiled. "I'm sure your brother has even more if I don't have the means to. Or have you forgotten that your brother has given all his money to me?"

'Oh, that's right. Hermes bags, here I come!' she thought happily.

"You better keep your word, Corinne. Don't you dare go back on your promise after I finish doing the practice book!"

Corinne smiled. "Don't worry, you have my word. By the way, are you sure you don't want to have some noodles?"

Francine glanced at the beaten egg in disgust and rolled her eyes. "Pfft! I don't want any of your stinky noodles. Even my dog wouldn't eat poor people's food like that."

She then turned, ready to go upstairs to do the practice questions so she could get her 10 Hermes bag. However, as soon as she turned around, she saw Jeremy glaring at her from the kitchen door.

He had just finished showering and was dressed in a bathrobe. His arms were crossed at his chest, and he was evidently glowering.

Francine immediately tensed up. "Jeremy...when did you get here?"

Jeremy frowned. "Looks like you're not going to change that bad temper of yours until I teach you a lesson!"

Not wanting to waste his breath on her, he slowly walked toward her with his hand raised.

Francine immediately backed away and hid behind Corinne, who was whisking the eggs." Jeremy, I know I'm wrong now! I-I..."

"Get over here!" ordered Jeremy sternly.

Trembling, Francine tugged Corinne's sleeve helplessly. "Save me, Corinne..."

"Mister, I need one more egg. Can you please get me one from the fridge?" requested Corinne nonchalantly.

Never one to defy Corinne's order, Jeremy simply threw a warning glance at Francine before sighing and walking over to the fridge.

Francine quickly ran out of the kitchen.

Once in the hallway, she heaved a huge sigh of relief. However, she could not help but feel weird about something.

'Why was it my first instinct to hide and ask Corinne for help? And why did she help me? 1 mean... I've given her nothing but trouble and even scolded her ever since she moved into this

house, so why did she help me? What a weird girl... Ugh, this is annoying. Wait, now's not the time to be thinking about this! I have to finish the practice questions in this book to get my ten Hermes bags!'

Back in the kitchen.

Jeremy walked over to Corinne with an egg in his hand and cracked it open over the bowl before he threw the shells into the trash can. He looked at her resentfully and said, "Why did you help her when she's been nothing but rude to you all this while?"

Corinne started whisking the eggs. "Huh? Did I help her?" she asked absent-mindedly.

Jeremy rested his hand against her cheek. "You lured me away by asking me to get an egg from the fridge for you so she could escape. If that's not helping her, I don't know what it is."

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