

The Divorce Prescription Chapter 311

Benjamin froze for a moment. “Celine, how did you know my goddess doesn’t like red roses?”

Before Celine could respond, Sonia cut in sharply. “Benjamin, don’t listen to Celine’s nonsense. **She’s** just jealous that the genius girl caught your attention. She’s trying to sabotage you.”

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Benjamin’s expression darkened as he turned to Celine, narrowing his eyes in warning. “Celine, you’d better not ruin this for me. I’m officially pursuing my goddess.”

Celine was amused, her lips tilted into a subtle smirk as she regarded him. “Well, good luck with that.”

Benjamin snorted, unimpressed.

Carly, eager to distract the group from the mysterious genius girl, mocked Celine instead.

“**Adam**, look, Celine is also here at the Pinnacle of Academic Symposium. But guess what? She doesn’t even have an invitation.”

Adam’s

flicked over to Celine. In a low **voice**, he asked, “You don’t have an invitation?”

Celine shook her head. “No.”

A faint smirk tugged at the corners of Adam’s lips. “Looks like your so-called amazing boyfriend isn’t all that amazing after **all** Couldn’t even get you an

invitation.

”

Celine didn’t respond.

Was he secretly obsessed with her supposed boyfriend?

Adam brought him up constantly-“your boyfriend this“, “your boyfriend that“, Honestly, **he** seemed to remember the guy better than she did

Halley broke the silence, turning to Adam Mr. Alvarez, neither Celine nor I have invitations. **Can** you **take** us inside?"

Adam's gaze lingered on Celine's exquisite, delicate features before he spoke, his voice low. "Do you want me **to**?"

Was she asking for his help?

Celine's response came quickly. She shook her head. "No need."

Hailey nudged her, growing anxious. She leaned in to whisper, "Celine, we don't have invitations. Don't you want to go in? It's fine, Mr. **Alvarez** can help

"

But Celine only smiled faintly. "Hailey, we don't need Mr. Alvarez's help."

Carly and Tracy exchanged glances before sneering at Celine.

"Celine, stop pretending. Without Mr. Alvarez, how are you planning to get in?"

"Exactly, Celine. If you're so confident, go ahead, get inside right **now**."

The group's eyes were on her, openly mocking her, waiting for her to falter.

Celine straightened her slender, elegant back. Taking Hailey's hand, she said firmly, "Hailey, let's go in."

With that, she turned and started walking forward, guiding Hailey along with her.

Behind her, Melody let out a mocking laugh. "Celine, the entrance is over here."

in."

Sonia rolled her eyes. To her, Celine was nothing but an embarrassment to the Tates. She didn't even know where the entrance was.

But Celine didn't turn back. The main entrance was to the left, but she wasn't heading there. Instead, she was walking toward the VIP entrance.

The sound of a sharp intake of breath rippled through the onlookers as they gasped at her

Sonia's smug expression faltered. "Why is Celine heading toward the VIP entrance?"

Is Celine going to use the VIP entrance?

Carly and Tracy stepped forward, their gazes glued to Celine in shock.

The VIP entrance was reserved for people of Adam's caliber—those at the very top. Even with their precious invitations, the rest of them had to use the regular entrance,

What made Celine think she could **use** the VIP entrance?

“Adan, why is Celine using the VIP entrance?” Carly asked aloud, her voice shrill as she turned to him.

Adam stood in the center of the crowd, his **cold**, piercing eyes following Celine's every move.

Meanwhile, Celine continued her calm stride toward the VIP doors, Halley staying close at her side. As she approached, several staff members with blue ID badges hurried forward to meet her.

Their expression was respectful. “Ms. Tate, we've been expecting you. This way, please.”

Celine inclined her head slightly, her cool and ethereal profile catching the light. Without hesitation, she followed the staff through the VIP entrance, her

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figure disappearing behind the doors.

Adam's eyes narrowed slowly.

Carly tried to say something else to him, but Adam had already stepped forward, his long legs carrying him toward the VIP entrance. A moment later, he

entered through the same doors

Then

group left behind was stunned into silence

“What's going on? How is Celine able to use the VIP entrance?”

“And did you see the way the staff treated her? They were senior organizers of the Pinnacle of Academic Symposium. They came out to personally greet

her!!!

Soni and Lucy were both equally dumbfounded.

Melody, however, coveted first. “Tha

You

Celine hasn’t been in school since she was 16. She’s **always** been sly and full of tricks. Don’t let her intimidate

Exactly. She’s definately up to something. Let’s head inside right now and expose her!”

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Carly was convinced Celine **was just** putting on a show. “Grandma, Mom, let’s go inside and see what Celine is up to.”

Sonia scoffed coldly. “Good thing I had the foresight to cut ties with Celine early on. Whatever trouble she stirs up in there won’t have anything to do with us.”

Adam stepped into the main venue, his sharp eyes scanning the expansive space. He didn’t see Celine anywhere,

Despite following her **in** quickly, she had somehow slipped out of sight. **Where** had she **gone**?

He turned to a staff member nearby. “Who is allowed to use the VIP entrance?”

The staff member straightened, answering respectfully, “Mr. Alvarez, the VIP entrance at the Pinnacle of Academic Symposium is reserved for the top scholars from each distrier.”

Top scholars? Then why had Celine been allowed to use the VIP entrance?

“Mr. Alvarez, your seat is right this way. Please follow me.”

Adam was led toward the center of the venue, where the front row **was** situated. It was the most prestigious section, reserved for the most significant

attendees.

When he reached his seat, he noticed the chair next to him **was** empty.

Adam’s gaze lingered on the unoccupied seat for a moment before he asked, “Is this **seat reserved** for my junior?”

“Yes, Mr. Alvarez,” the staff member **replied** promptly.

“She hasn’t arrived yet?”

“I’m not sure, Mr. Alvarez,” the staff member admitted

Adam waved his hand, dismissing **him**. Sinking into his seat, he glanced down at the sleek steel watch on his wrist.

The Pinnacle of Academic Symposium was about to begin, **yet** his “Junior“, the one rumored to be untouchable and aloof was still nowhere to be seen.

At this moment, Sonia, Carly, Tracy, Melody, and the others were seated in the right section of the venue. Their necks craned as they stared at the empty seat next to Adam, their curiosity palpable.

“The empty seat next to Mr. Alvarez must be reserved for the genius girl, right?” someone whispered eagerly.

“Of course! Today’s biggest highlight is the first public appearance of Mr. Alvarez and Miss Genius C together. Everyone’s been waiting for this moment.”

“Why isn’t she here yet?”

“I can’t wait to see her!”

As the murmurs around her grew louder, Carly’s face twisted with **jealousy**. “**What** a show-off, keeping everyone waiting like this.”

Meanwhile, Benjamin, seated directly behind Adam thanks to some well-pulled connections, was both nervous and excited

Clutching a bouquet of red roses tightly in his hands, he leaned forward to whisper, “Adam, why isn’t my goddess here yet? Can you send her a message?” Everyone’s waiting,”

Adam pulled out his phone, opened the WhatsApp group chat, and sent a message tagging C. “You’re not here yet?”

A moment later, his phone vibrated with a single reply. “I’m here.”

She claimed she was already here. But if that were true, why hadn’t anyone seen her?

Still staring at the letter “C” in the group chat, Adam typed out another question. “What does ‘C’ stand-for?”

Creplied, “It’s my name.”

Her name?

And then, as if out of nowhere, a name surfaced in his thoughts—Celine.

Could “C” stand for.. Celine?

For a moment, Adam froze, his thoughts grinding to a halt. Was it possible **that** the elusive Miss Genius C was none other than Celine?

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He dismissed **it** almost immediately.

Celine had dropped out of school at 16. How could she possibly be the genius everyone revered as Miss Genius C?

Just then, the host stepped onto the brightly lit stage, drawing the audience’s attention.

“Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests, Welcome to the Pinnacle of Academic Symposium. I now officially declare the symposium open.”

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The Pinnacle of Academic Symposium officially began, and a wave of applause swept through the venue like an Incoming tide

The host smiled as he addressed the audience. “The most anticipated moment of today’s Pinnacle of Academic Symposium is the first public appearance of Mr. Alvarez and Miss Genius C I’m sure everyone has been eagerly awaiting the debut of this incredible genius girl.”

At his words, all eyes nimed toward Adam and the empty seat beside him.

Someone in the audience couldn’t hold back and called out, “We can’t wait any longer! Let the genius girl take the stage already!”

The host chuckled warmly. “Alright, then. Up next is the highly anticipated appearance of Miss Genus C, who will deliver the opening speech for the Pinnacle of Academic Symposium.”

The genius girl was about to appear.

The noisy hall fell into a sudden, profound silence. Every breath was held, every gaze fixed on the stage.

Melody and the classmates seated nearby Jeaned toward one **another**, whispering excitedly, “She’s coming! She’s finally coming!”

Sonia, Tracy, and Lucy had been searching for Celine ever since they entered the venue, but they hadn't been able to find her anywhere.

Frustrated, they decided to stop looking and focus on the stage instead. After all, this was the main reason they'd come. Their curiosity burned, they couldn't wait to see who this elusive genius girl was.

Carly, on the other hand, felt nothing but jealousy and malice. **She** sneered inwardly, "Let's see what this so-called genius girl looks like. She's probably hideous."

Benjamin clutched his bouquet of red roses tightly, and his palms were damp with sweat.

Damn it. He, the infamous troublemaker of Mercity, was actually nervous.

"Adam, my goddess is about to take the stage!"

Adam didn't respond. Instead, he simply lifted his eyes, his piercing gaze settling on the podium. And then, a slender, graceful figure emerged under the lights.

She was wearing a simple white blouse paired with a fitted black pencil skirt. The understated uniform hugged her frame, perfectly outlining her youthful yet elegant silhouette. Her jet-black **hair** was tied into a high ponytail, and she wore no jewelry or accessories.

She moved from the shadows into the dazzling lights, her every movement exuding composure and poise.

She reached the podium, her bright eyes swept across the audience, taking in the sea of faces before her. Then, with a soft, composed smile, she introduced herself

"Hello, everyone. My name **is** Celine Tate."

Her clear, melodic voice carried through the microphone, ringing crisply in everyone's ears—NOW

Adam, who had been sitting back lazily in his chair, suddenly straightened up. His gaze locked onto Celine and refused to shift even the slightest bit.

He was stunned

It was her? It was actually her!

So, Celine Tate was Miss Genus C.

In the right section of the venue, Sonia and Tracy's eyes widened in unison as they recognized the figure on stage. Their pupils contracted in shock.

“Celine?”

“Oh my God, Melody, loold **it’s** Celine!” one of the classmates exclaimed, tugging **frantically** at Melody’s sleeve.

Melody’s head snapped toward the stage. She froze, her jaw slack as if she’d just seen a ghost. Words faärd her.

Why was it Celine? Wasn’t she supposed to be the infamous “Goddess of Sleep?”

The most stunned of **all**, however, were Carly and Lucy. The moment Celine stepped onto the stage, both women shot up from their seats, their faces a mix of shock and disbelief.

“How could it be Celine? No way! She dropped out of school when she was 16!” Carly stammered.

But before Carly could say another word, murmurs began to ripple through the audience. The hushed voices were filled with admiration and awe

“Wow, the genim girl has finally made her appearance. I heard she’s just like Mr. Alvarez, she slapped **grades** and earned dual master’s degrees from Hallard University at 16. That’s why she stopped going to school‘ at 16.”

Carly’s breath hitched audibly.

Her thoughts were in chaos. “So that was it. Celine **had** stopped going **to** school‘ at 16, but the difference between ‘stopped going to school‘ and ‘dropped out of school was astronomical.”

It turned out that Celine, like Adam, had graduated with dual master’s degrees by the age of 16.

The rumors about her being the “Goddess of Sleep“? Fake.

The claims that she had no education? Also fake.

All this time, Celine was the genius girl everyone revered. And Adam’s mysterious Miss Genius C? She was Celine.

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“I didn’t expect this genlos girl to be so beautiful. She looks like a fairy. She possesses both talent and looks!”

“Oh no, I just felt my heart skip a beat.”

Carly’s hands, resting at her sides, clenched into tight fists. She couldn’t accept this. The Celine she had always looked down on was actually the same genius girl she was so jealous of

Lucy was equally stunned, her mind spinning in disbelief.

How could Celine be standing on the podium right now? Hadn’t she sent her off to live in the countryside?

Behind them, the murmurs of discontent were growing louder.

“Hey, you two! Sit down already! You’re blocking our view of the genius girl!”

“If you don’t sit down, we’ll call security to throw you out!”

Lucy’s cheeks flushed a deep red. Flustered, she quickly dropped into her seat and reached to tug Carly’s sleeve. “Carly, sit down.”

Carly eventually sat down. Her fists clenched so tightly that her nails bit into her palms, yet she barely noticed the pain.

On stage, Celine stood tall and composed. After a poised Introduction, the room erupted into thunderous applause.

The crowd was welcoming her warmly.

The dazzling overhead lights bathed her in a radiant glow, highlighting her flawless features. Her beauty was so striking that it was almost impossible to look away.

Celine’s lips curved **into a** graceful smile as she began to speak. “It’s an honor to meet all of you here today. Now, I’ll begin my speech. The topic of my presentation is…”

Her voice rang out, clear and confident. Her delivery was captivating, brimming with fresh ideas that resonated deeply with the audience.

When she finished, the applause swelled to a deafening **roar**, so prolonged it felt like it might never end.

The speech ended, and Adam finally spotted Celine.

She was standing beside Samuel, who had **already** arrived. Samuel was proudly introducing her to the top scholars from various regions and industry elites, his demeanor brimming with pride.

As Samuel turned and caught sight of Adam, his face lit up **with a** welcoming smile. “Mr. Alvarez, you’re here.”

Celine shifted slightly, **and** her clear gaze lingered on **his** elegant, handsome face

Samuel gestured toward her with a grin. “Mr. Alvarez, let me formally introduce you. This is your genius junior, Celine Tate”

Adam’s eyes moved to Celine. Around her neck hung a blue badge with a small photo clipped to it.

In the photograph, a 16–year–old Celine stood proudly in a graduation gown and cap at Haffard University. That was the young prodigy Celine, radiant and extraordinary

Adam’s gaze returned to the woman before him.

Under the dazzling lights and the lively buzz of the crowd, Celine stepped forward with calm confidence. She stopped just beside him, her rosy lips curving into a brilliant smile as she extended her hand toward him..

“Mr. Alvarez, let’s get reacquainted. My name is Celine Tate.”

She told him her name and that she wanted to start over.

Adam stared deeply at her delicate features. Slowly, the corners of his lips lifted into a faint smile, and a low chuckle escaped him.

It really was her.

The person who had **once** rejected his friend request. The one **who had** inexplicably claimed to hate him. It was her. The one who stood beside him, building **a** legacy together. The one who was his equal.

His genius junior was Celine.

Adam extended his hand, clasping hers firmly. His voice dropped to a low murmur. "**Why** didn't you tell me?"

Celine's bright eyes held his, shimmering with something deep. "Mr. Alvarez, I knew who you were, but you didn't know who I was."

She had walked a long, lonely road to stand beside him now. But how bittersweet it was; he hadn't even recognized her.

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Adam's heart skipped a beat. He opened his mouth, wanting to say something, but before the words could form, his palm suddenly felt empty—Celine had already pulled her hand away.

She was swept up by a crowd of admirers, all young and successful elites.

Among them was Randall Potter, a fellow Haffard University **graduate** and a rising star in the tech world, the young CEO of a publicly listed company.

His gaze lingered **on** Celine's breathtakingly beautiful face, and a playful smile appeared. "Celine, what's your relationship status? Are you seeing anyone?"

”

Adam's attention sharpened, his eyes fixed on her.

Celine raised her delicate, arched eyebrows. Her voice was calm as she replied, "Single. Available"

Single. Available.

Those two words seemed to light a sparkle in Randall's eyes. Wasting no time, he pulled out his phone. "Celine, since we're fellow **alumni**, let's exchange WhatsApp"

Celine nodded slightly. “Sure, Randall.”

The two exchanged WhatsApp contacts, **the** process effortless and casual

Adam stood off to the side, watching it all unfold.

His thought drifted to a different time, a time when Celine had rejected his friend request. She hadn’t wanted to add him.

But here she was, adding someone else.

Her voice even softened when she addressed him as “Randall”

But she never called him by his first name. To her, he was only “Mr. Alvarez.”

A hollow ache spread through Adam’s chest, gnawing at him with an inexplicable sense of loss.

“Celine!”

Sonia, Carly, Tracy, and Lucy had arrived, but they couldn’t get close. Celine was in the VIP section, and access was restricted.

The staff quickly stepped forward, holding up their hands to block them. “**Sorry**, ladies, but you can’t go any further.”

Sonia looked up at Celine, visibly emotional, and exclaimed, “I’m here to see Celine! I’m Celine’s grandmother!”

She had never imagined that Celine, the young woman she **had** always considered the disgrace of the Tates, would one day turn **out** to be a prodigy. She couldn’t wait to see her in person.

Hearing the commotion, Celine turned her head in their direction.

A staff member quickly approached her **and** spoke respectfully. “Ms. Tate, they’re here to see you. This woman claims to be your grandmother.”

Sonia forced an awkward smile as she stepped forward. “Linny, it’s me, Grandma!”

Linny?

It was the first time she had ever heard Sonia call her that. She couldn’t help but let out an incredulous laugh. “Grandma? If I remember correctly, didn’t we sever ties about an hour ago?”

Sonia froze, the color draining from her face.

Celine's gaze shifted past Sonia to Hazel and Tracy, the mother-daughter pair standing behind her.

Hazel looked deeply uncomfortable, while Tracy, normally so proud and self-assured, stood like a lifeless shell, her confidence completely shattered.

Behind them, Lucy and Carly lingered in silence. Their expressions were dark and bitter, their eyes glinting with barely concealed jealousy and resentment as they watched Celine from the shadows.

Hazel tried to smooth things over with a nervous smile. "Celine, Grandma was just upset earlier. We're family, after all."

Celine stood there, calm and ethereal. She blinked slowly and fixed her gaze directly on Sonia "So what you're saying is, you all want to be family with

Sonia's face lit up with eager hope. "Linny, we've always been family-

"But," Celine interrupted sharply, "this time, I don't want to be family with you."

Sonia stiffened, her expression freezing as the blow sank in.

Celine's unyielding gaze swept over the group before her.

These were the people who had hurt her once-deeply, irreparably. The scars they'd left on her heart were etched so painfully that now, all that remained was a glacial indifference.

"You abandoned me when I was little. Other kids had grandmothers, mothers, and families.. but I always felt like an orphan. You said it yourself before,

we've already severed ties. And now, it's my turn to cut you off."

Without another glance, Celine turned to the staff member standing nearby. "I don't know these people. Please remove them."

The staff member nodded briskly. "Ladies, I'm going to have to ask you to leave at once."

"Linny, you can't do this to us..."

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At the staff member's signal, security guards rushed over and swiftly escorted Sonia, Carly, Tracy, Lucy, and Hazel out of the venue.

Sonia nearly stumbled as she was pushed outside. Carly and Tracy hurried to her side, each grabbing one of her arms to steady her. "Grandma, are you okay?"

Sonia angrily shook them off, her sharp glare slicing through them. "Did you see that? Celine is the genius girl!"

Sonia, who had always treated Carly and Tracy as the brightest stars of the Tates, showering them affectionately and never raising her voice, now unleashed her tury without restraint.

"The two of you! Do you have any idea how much I've invested in you? Private Tutors since you were kids, one-on-one **lessons**, every opportunity handed to you on a silver platter, and what did you achieve? The best you could do was get into a decent university!

"And then look at Celine! **She** was sent to the countryside as a child, and now she's turned out to be a genius, on par with Mr. Alvarez! You two are such disappointments!"

Regret churned in Sonia's chest, bitter and relentless. She deeply regretted cutting ties with Celine.

Celine was a genius. Did they even comprehend the glory Celine could have brought to the Tates? Carly and Tracy combined couldn't hold a candle to her.

Their faces turned ashen, neither daring to utter a single word in response. All they could think about were the countless times they had mocked and **insulted** Celine. In hindsight, they realized how foolish they must have looked in front of her all these years.

Then Lury stepped forward and tried **to** calm Sonia down. "Mom-"

"Shut up!" Sonia snapped, her ley gaze pinning Lucy in place. "You're the most useless one **of** all!"

Lucy froze. At that moment, **she** was consumed by a searing hatred for Celine. How could the daughter they **had** abandoned so long ago have transformed into a genius?

"I don't

"Mom!"

ant to see any of you right now! Every single one of you is making me sick!" Sonia shouted, furiously swiping her sleeve as she stormed out.

"Grandmal"

Tracy, Lucy, and Hazel hurried after Sonia, calling out to her as they followed

Carly, however, stayed behind. She stood frozen in place, unable to move. Her face darkened as she stared at Celine through the doorway, jealousy burning in her eyes. Her **jaw** clenched so tightly that her gums began to bleed.

Why did it have to be Celine?

She was **Adam's**

pondus junior!

Would Adam regret it now? Who in this world doesn't admire brilliance?

Today, he had learned that the woman who had spent the past three years living as an ordinary housewife was, in reality, a genius who could match him on every level.

Would this version of Celine make his heart sritz?

Ads didn't get another chance to talk to Celine because Hailey **had** shown up.

Circling Celine with bubbling excitement, Hailey's voice was filled with awe. "Celine, are you **really** the genius girl?"

Celine's lips curved into a faint smile. "Absolutely

"Oh my God, Celine, I swear, I'm obsessed with you!" Hailey gushed, her admiration pouring out like an endless river.

Celine couldn't help but laugh softly. "Hailey, we should head back"

The Pinnacle of Academic Symposium had officially ended. After bidding farewell to Samuel and the others, Celine left with Halley.

The two were on their way back to the dormitory when Adam appeared. His tall, elegant figure approached them, his deep, magnetle voice breaking the air. "I'll give you a ride back."

It was clear he wanted to take Celine home himself.

Before she could respond, Randall, the renowned tech mogul, walked over as well. His gaze fixed on Coline, unwavering. "Celine, where are you headed? Let me drive you."

Randall wanted to take Celine home,

Halley glanced between the two men, and her thoughts were instantly in chaos. “Uh-oh. Both of them wanted to take Celine home. So, who was Celine going to choose

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Adam hadn't expected Randall to show up. As a **man**, he could instantly sense Randall's feelings for Celine

Randall biked her a **lot**.

Celine glanced at Adam, then turned to Randall “Randall, would you mind **giving** us a ride?”

Without a moment's hesitation, Celine chose Randall, Adam's sharp, handsome features darkened instantly.

Thrilled, Randall stepped forward and politely opened the back door of his car. “Celine, please.”

Celine got into the car without a second thought, and **Hailey** followed close behind.

From her seat, Hailey turned and threw Adam a look, equal parts sympathy and smug satisfaction. “Serves you right for treating Celine poorly. Now she doesn't want you anymore.” She steered inwardly.

Adam instinctively stepped forward and wanted to follow, but before he could, a hand gripped his arm tightly.

It was Carly. She clung to his arm with all her might, tilting her head to flash what she hoped was a sweet, delicate smile. “Adam, were you waiting for

dall with i

Adam didn't answer. His sharp gaze remained fixed on the Callinan as it pulled away, carrying Celine and Randall with in

Celine was gone.

Adam's gaze dropped. Slowly, he pulled his arm free from Carly's grasp, “I'm heading to the office. Go home on your own.”

Not sparing her another **glance**, he turned and strode toward his car.

Carly's face turned pale. Desperation clawed at her as she rushed forward, stepping in front of him to block his path. “Adam, I want you to take me home.”

Adam's handsome face remained calm and expressionless. His already strained relationship with Celine, worsened by his entanglement with Bailey,

seemed to weigh on him, and his voice was now distant,

"I need to head to the office," he said flatly.

"That's just an excuse! I overheard everything earlier. You and that rising tech tycoon were arguing about who would take Celine home. The when it's my rum, suddenly you have to go back to work?" Carly shot back.

Adam's expression darkened. His voice dropped, **sharp** and cutting, "Carly."

Her name was a warning. He had no intention of making a scene in public.

Carly truze.

Without another glance, Adam turned and strode purposefully toward the waiting car.

Left standing there, Carly glared at his retreating back and shouted after him, "Adam, don't tell me you've fallen for Celine! **It makes**

sense, though. Celine's a genius girl, born with everything going for her.

"Yet she humbled herself enough to marry you, a man who was a vegetable at the time and stuck by his side for three years, living like a housewife who revolved around you. If it were me, I'd probably fall for her **too!**"

Her biting words froze Adam mid-step. Slowly, he turned his head to meet her **gaze**, his cold, piercing eyes locking onto her delicate, furious face.

"You've already said everything, haven't you? **What** else is there for me to add? Yes, Celine is a genius girl. She put her pride aside to take care of me and make me happy. She's far more enjoyable to be around than you. So tell me, Carly, why would I waste my time with you when I could be with her?"

For the first time, Adam spoke his truth. Celine did make him **happy**.

It had always been obvious that Adam's feelings for Celine were the kind of feelings a man has for a woman.

Carly's cheeks tinged red as tears welled in her eyes.

Acar's lips curled into a slow, mocking smile, "You're the last person who should say anything about this. After all, it was you who pushed Celine to me in the first place."

The color drained completely from Carly's face. If she hadn't run off all those years ago, abandoning Adam after he became a vegetable in the aftermath of the car accident, Celine never would have entered the picture.

This was all her doing.

Without sparing her another glance, Adam turned and climbed into the sleek Rolls-Royce Phantom. Moments later, the luxury car sped off, leaving Carly

In the president's office at Alvarez Group, Adam sat in a sleek black leather chair.

Leo entered, his tone low as he delivered his report. "Mr. Alvarez, we've completed the investigation into Mrs. Alvarez's and Ms. Celine's background. After Ms. Celine sent her abusive stepfather to prison, she was sponsored by an anonymous benefactor

"That sponsor paid for her education. From that point on, Ms. Celine excelled academically. She skipped multiple grades and eventually **graduated** from Haffard University with dual master's degrees at 16."

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Adam stared at the file in his **hands**. The section for the sponsor's name was blank..

"Who funded Celine's education?" he asked.

Leo shook his head. "Mr. Alvarez, we haven't been able to identify the sponsor yet"

Adam pressed his thin lips together in thought, "What did Celine do after she graduated?"

Someone as exceptional as her should have started building a stellar career right after graduation

Adam's time at Haffard University had been defined by ambition, he was already making strides in finance and business. By the time he graduated, his first company had gone public in Quartz **Vale**.

But Celine? As far as Adam Jew, she didn't seem to have any current employment

It didn't make sense.

"Apologies, Mr. Alvarez, but we couldn't find **any** information on that either. Ms. Celine disappeared for two whole years after she graduated.

Two blank years. No one knew what she had been doing during that time,

Leo continued, "It wasn't until two years later, right after your **car** accident, **that** Ms. Celine suddenly reappeared in Mercity. Following arrangements made by the Tates, she married you!

The rest of her story Adam knew better than anyone

Setting the file down, Adam leaned back in his chair. "You can leave for now.

"Yes, Mr. Alvarez."

Leo exited the office, leaving Adam alone with **his** thoughts.

Adam sat there and picked up his phone. Today's entertainment headlines were dominated by Celine

A particular photo of her **had** gone viral, she stood at a podium, wearing a crisp white blouse with her hair pulled back into a sleek high ponytail

Her delicate, petite face was illuminated under the bright lights, its radiant beauty impossible to ignore. The media had **branded** her the "most beautiful genius girl".

Adam leaned his tall, broad frame lazily against the back of the couch.

life around him was actually a genius girl. She was his

He never would have guessed that the housewife who had spent the past three years revolving her life Miss Genius.

A low chuckle escaped him as he thought back to the moment he had sent her to Vorhine University not long ago.

Why had she married him?

After his car accident, he had been declared a lost cause a man trapped in a vegetative state, one who would never wake up.

Curly had been terrified. She ran off without looking back.

But Celine had come to him. She'd married him

Those three years were the prime of her youth, yet she'd chosen to waste them on a man who was little more than a shell of himself. Why?

Adam reached for the file on the table and began flipping through its pages again. Suddenly, a photo slipped out and fluttered onto the table

He picked it up. It **was** a picture of Celine taken at Haffard University.

In the photo, she stood in front of the school's display window, wearing a simple white dress. Her radiant smile lit up her delicate face as she gazed at

the camera.

Adam's gaze froze as his eyes shifted to the display window behind her. That was when he noticed himself in the background

Inside the display window was the school's Hall of Fame, where his name and photo had long held the top spot as a legendary graduate.

Standing beside it in the image was young Celine, her arms cradling a stack of books, her head tilted ever so slightly toward his picture, and her smile

Adam froze, and a heavy realization washed over him. And then it hit him, Celine had loved him for a very, very

long time. In ways he had never noticed, Celine had always loved him.

Underneath the medu's Latest posts about the "most beautiful genius girl", comments were flooding in.

"I think I fell in love today."

Sere. I'm in love too

Lerbier, Carly's words had echoed in his mind. "Have you fallen for Celine?"

Today, it wasn't just the media or the city falling in love with

It was everyone.

And Adam? He was just a man. How could he not be moved by someone like Celine, a girl who burned so brightly, who loved so fiercely and purely?

Finally, he admitted it to himself. Yes, he had fallen for her.

Adam pulled out his phone, opened Celine's WhatsApp, **and** sent her a message.

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Adam typed a message, "Back on campus yet?"

He was asking if Celine had returned to Yorhine University,

After all, Randall had driven her back that night. Just the thought of her getting into another man's car made him press his lips together.

But in the next second, he froze. The WhatsApp message hadn't even gone through. A red exclamation **mark** appeared next to it, followed by a cold system notification

"You are not friends with this person. Please add them as a friend to start chatting."

Adam fell silent.

His handsome face darkened as realization hit him. Celine had already blocked him. In fact, she had blocked him the day they got divorced.

It was only now that the reality sunk in, they were divorced. It was over between them.

She had loved him once, passionately and fiercely, but that was in the past. She didn't love him anymore

"Adam, I don't love you anymore.

Her **voice** drifted back to him, soft but resolute, echoing in his mind. She had told him that herself on the day they ended things

Adam opened the chat with "C" Celine's new WhatsApp account. Without hesitation, he sent her a friend request.

There was no response.

Celine didn't add him back.

Just then, his phone began to ring Carly's name lit up the screen. She was calling him.

Adam didn't answer. A bitter smirk curled at the corner of his mouth, dripping with self-mockery.

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At Tate Manor, Adam still hadn't answered his phone.

Carly let out a sharp scream, and in a sudden fit **of** rage, she began smashing the vases in the **living** room.

Shards of glass flew in all directions, scattering across the floor like tiny, jagged stars.

Hearing the commotion, Hayden and Lucy rushed in. Lucy immediately moved **to** restrain Carly, panic in her voice. “Carly, what are you doing? The floor’s covered in **broken** shards! You’ll hurt yourself!”

But Carly shoved Lucy away with a violent push, her fury spilling over.

“This is all your fault! Why did you have to give birth to Celine? Why does Celine have **to** be the genius girl? Look at how **Grandma’s** attitude toward her has completely **changed**

! Adam won’t even answer my calls because of her! I hate Celine so much!”

Lucy stumbled back, swallowing the sharp sting of her daughter’s words. No one in the world loved Carly more than she did, but at this moment, Lucy felt utterly helpless

Hayden quickly stepped in, his tone firm yet soothing. “Carly, calm down. Your heart can’t take it.”

“Dad, I just can’t stand it! Celine’s just some girl from the countryside! She dropped out of school when she was 16! So why? Why is she suddenly this genius girl? I’m so scared, Dad

“I’m scared Adam’s going to fall in love with her. Mrs. Alvarez Senior doesn’t like me. I’ve already offended Allie. Dad, when will I finally get to marry Adam?”

Carly couldn’t handle what had happened that **day**. Her delicate, beautiful face was twisted with anger and frustration, tears streaming down her cheeks.

Hayden’s heart ached for her as he gently pulled her into his arms. “Carly, don’t worry. We’ll figure something out. You will marry Mr. Alvarez”

Once Carly had gone upstairs to her room and fallen asleep, Hayden returned to the living room.

The housekeepers had already cleaned up the mess of broken vases. He sank into the couch, alone with his thoughts.

The television was on, tuned to a financial news program. The host alternated between languages as he reported.

Sources confirm that Nigel Hampton, the legendary business mogul, returned to the Capitol yesterday and was spotted at the Royal Cemetery.

“Over the years, Mr. Hampton has been searching for his daughter, the cherished heiress to his vast fortune, who was lost to him as a child. To this day, her whereabouts remain undown.”

The screen cut to footage of the Royal Cemetery shrouded in gloom on a rainy day. A tall, imposing figure stood silently in front of a gravestone.

Behind him, an assistant held a black sunbrella over his head, the rain dripping steadily from its edge and further obscuring the man's face.

The melancholic scene lent him an air of profound mystery-

Hayden leaned forward and turned off the television.

at that moment, Lucy entered the room. Hayden glanced up. "Is **Carly** asleep?" he asked.

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Lucy nodded, her expression heavy with worry. "She cried herself to sleep just now. Honey, Carly's whole heart is set on marrying Mr. Alvarez. Can't you just help her make it happen?"

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Hayden's expression darkened. "What do you mean?"

"Honey, do you think I don't know? Carly isn't your biological **daughter!**"

Hayden pressed his lips together, his silence heavy with tension.

"**Carly** comes from a powerful family. If you reveal her true identity, all those obstacles will disappear. **She'll** be able to marry Mr. Alvarez without a hitch," Lucy continued

Hayden rose to his feet. "I don't want to hear **this** again. **Y**

You'd better keep it to yourself."

With that, he turned and headed for the staircase.

Lucy wasn't ready to let the matter go. "Honey, why won't you reveal Carly's true identity?" she pressed.

Hayden paused mid-stop, his figure still refined and gentlemanly but now cloaked in an air of solemnity. Finally, his voice came, "Because Carly's mother doesn't want her to return to the Capitol."

That woman again!

Lucy's eyes flashed with malice. No wonder Celine, even after being abandoned in the countryside, had managed to grow into such a genius.

What

kind of terrifyingly powerful genes must she have?

But so what? All that brilliance, all that glory, it would belong to Carly in the end.

Even though Hayden had refused outright, Lucy could sense his resolve faltering. He loved Carly too much to turn a blind eye to her suffering

It was only a matter of time before her true identity came to light

Asly, twisted smile crept across Lucy's face.

The next day, Adamsat in the president's office when his phone buzzed. It was James calling after returning from a business trip.

"Adam, do you have time today? Come over for lunch," James **said** casually.

He was inviting Adam to dine at the Lambert residence.

Adam had spent the night in his office, and it had been anything but restful. Pinching the bridge of his nose, he sighed "James, I don't have time today."

"That's a shame. I even invited Allie and Celine to join us for lunch," James replied.

Celine? Going to the Lambert residence for lunch?

Adam's mind instantly **changed**. "I'll be there in a bit."

Half an hour later, **Adam** arrived at the Lambert residence, but Celine and Hailey hadn't arrived yet.

James adjusted his glasses, the corners of his lips curling into a teasing smile. "**Adam**, didn't you just say you didn't have time? What made **you** suddenly rush over here?"

Adam ignored the comment, his sharp eyes subtly scanning the room.

"Stop looking, Celine and Allie are still on their way. They haven't arrived yet," James said knowingly.

Adam pulled his gaze back and sank into the couch in the living room

“I’ve heard all about it. At this point, there’s probably **no** one left at Yorhine University who doesn’t know that the so-called ‘Goddess of Sleep’ is the genius girl.

“No **wonder** she used **to** sleep through my lectures, and the moment she opened her eyes, I knew I must’ve said something wrong. **Adam**, your Mrs. Alvarez really knows how to keep a low profile. She’s incredible.”

James, of course, was blissfully unaware that Adam and Celine were already divorced.

Adam said nothing

Sensing a **shift in tone**, James **asked**, “By **the** way, how did Allie’s birthmark suddenly disappear? She said Celine **gave** her **some** kind of bitter pill.

Adam’s sharp eyebrows knit together. “I’m not entirely sure either, I asked Celine, and she said...”

James leaned in slightly. “What did she say?”

Aden’s mind fleshed back to Celine’s smug response. “Not telling you!”

Before Adam could say more, Linda’s cheerful voice rang out from the entryway. “Ms. Lambert, you’re back!”

Celine and Hailey had arrived.

Men instinctively glanced toward the door.