

The Divorce Prescription

Adam had met Dr. C before?

Adam couldn't recall when he had. He shot Celine a penetrating glance.

He always felt that Celine was hiding something.

Now, Celine's clear eyes were twinkling brightly, and even Adam felt a tingle.

At that moment, Sonia and Lucy stepped out. Sonia called, "Celine."

Celine looked toward Sonia. "Mrs. Tate Senior, do you need something from me?"

Sonia looked at Celine. "Celine, have you brought your dad's ashes back and found a place for him?"

At that, Celine let out a cold laugh. "Mrs. Tate Senior, would you be so kind as to ask about my dad's ashes?"

"Sonia, how can you say that? Aaron, after all, is my first son. I am his mother."

"Mrs. Tate Senior, my dad is already gone. Who are you even saying these words to? My dad was never your biological son. My dad was adopted by you."

Sonia and Lucy froze. They hadn't expected Celine to know about this matter. "Celine, how did you know? Lucy asked.

Celine stepped forward, closing in on Sonia and Lucy. "Mrs. Tate Senior, back then, you hurried to get pregnant to secure your position in the family, but when you couldn't conceive for a long time, you ended up adopting my dad.

"As soon as my dad joined the Tate family, you got pregnant. You were pregnant with Hayden. In fact, Hayden is your first son, and Wayne is your younger son. Both of these sons are the apple of your eye.

"You've always been biased. My dad knew he wasn't your biological child, so he always yielded. He truly treated you as his own mother, built his career from scratch, and wholeheartedly supported his two younger brothers while fulfilling his filial duty to you.

"Whether as a son or as an older brother, he never did anyone in the Tate family any injustice! He had already repaid your adoption kindness from back then!"

Celine's words landed with force, and Sonia and Lucky stepped back. They really hadn't expected that Celine knew about those past events. What means had she used to find all this out?

Celine then looked at Lucy. "My dad truly loved you. He married, loved protected, and spoiled you. As a husband, he owed you nothing. Yet, what did you do to my dad

Lucy, as if she had been caught off guard, instantly bristled. "Celine, what do you mean by this?"

"You don't know what I'm talking about? You know all too well what you did to my dad. I really don't understand how you can so comfortably enjoy the wealth and luxury my dad left behind.

"Haven't you ever dreamed in the middle of the night that my dad would turn into a fierce ghost to come and claim your life?"

Lucy's face turned pale. "Celine, what on earth are you talking about?"

She raised her hand and directly slapped Celine's face.

However, Celine reached out and grabbed Lucy's wrist, stopping her from hitting.

Lucy gasped. "Celine, I'm your mother, after all. How dare you hit me, you ungrateful child!"

In Celine's beautiful, sharp eyes, a cold gleam flashed. "Mom? You're the one to talk!"

With a forceful jerk, Celine sent Lucky reeling. Lucy lost her footing, staggering a few steps backward before crashing straight into the wall in utter disarray.

Sonia and Lucy looked at Celine in shock, fuming. "You've gone too far! Celine, you've really gone too far!"

"Celine, do you think that just

because you're dating Mr. Marshall, you can act lawlessly? Men are never to be trusted. Once Mr. Marshall no longer wants you, you'll just be a worthless housewife!"

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Celine wasn't in the least angry. "Is that so? Let's see, then!"

She then turned and left.

At that moment, Adam's tall, upright figure blocked her path. Celine glared at him.

"As for you, let's wait and see!"

With that, Celine left immediately.

Adam stayed silent.

"Mr. Alvarez, Celine is really out of line. How dare she mouth off to you? Has she lost her mind?" Sonia shouted.

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Adam watched Celine's graceful figure as she departed, and he curled his lips. He suddenly felt that Celine seemed a bit different.

He couldn't quite put his finger on it.

In fact, ever since the divorce, Celine had been changing, becoming more and more unpredictable.

Before long, night fell, and the banquet began.

For now, everyone set aside their conflicts with Celine and dressed in their finest to attend the grand event.

The banquet was packed with the elite of high society. Powerful, influential figures, all gathered for one reason. It was all to catch a glimpse of the legendary Dr. C.

Carly and Tracy were dressed in haute couture evening gowns, and their makeup looked flawless. Both of them were beaming with excitement.

Tracy said, "Dr. C should be here soon, right? I'm so happy, I can hardly wait."

Carly nodded. "Me too. I've always wanted to meet the famous Dr. C. She's the only one who can cure my heart condition."

Adam, in a tailored black suit, stood beneath the dazzling chandeliers. His posture was poised, and his presence was commanding. A group of high-profile executives had gathered around him, all engaged in conversation about Dr. C.

Just then, someone called out, "Mr. Marshall, hello!"

Adam lifted his head. Perry had arrived.

Perry walked up to Adam. "Mr. Alvarez, good evening."

"Mr. Marshall, what brings you to Mercy?"

Perry raised an eyebrow. "I'm here with my girlfriend. She's in Mercy."

"Mr. Marshall has a girlfriend now? I wonder which socialite from Mercy managed to steal your heart."

Perry's smile was warm as he glanced at Adam. "My girlfriend is from the Alvarez family."

"The Alvarez family?" Several of the business executives were taken aback. "But we've never heard of Mr. Alvarez having a daughter or a sister."

Perry looked at Adam. What he really meant by "from the Alvarez family" was Adam's ex-wife.

Adam, of course, understood Perry's meaning. His gaze turned cold as he glanced at Perry.

"My girlfriend is from Mr. Alvarez's family. She's incredibly, incredibly talented, and Mr. Alvarez personally shaped her into the person she is

today great leader trains only the yAgreat best should really thank Mr Alvarez for letting me have such an amazing girlfriend."

Carly and Tracy had just walked up to Adam, and upon hearing Perry's high praise for Celine, Carly was stunned.

Carly whispered to Adam, "Adam, this Mr. Marshall must be out of his mind. He's not the least bit ashamed about picking up after you. He's actually proud of it."

Adam's gaze fell on Carly, giving her a cold, sharp look. Carly immediately went silent.

Tracy, growing impatient, said, "Why isn't Dr. C here yet?"

Sonia and Lucy were getting anxious, too. "That's right. Dr. C should be here by now. We can't wait any longer.

Just then, the grand doors of the banquet hall swung open. Instantly, all eyes turned toward the entrance. A stunning, ethereal figure stepped into view.

Celine had arrived.

Tonight, she wore a

champagne gold evening gown. The form-fitting dress perfectly accentuated her elegant, hourglass silhouette. Her long, jet-black hair was swept up entirely, revealing her delicate, angelic face. Under the dazzling lights, she seemed to glow with a soft radiance. Lifting the hem of her gown, Celine took graceful steps into the hall. She exuded confidence and allure with every step, captivating the entire room.

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Celine was here!

Carly was stunned. "Why did Celine show up?"

Adam's gaze fell on Celine, looking at her intently.

At that moment, Celine came up to them, and Perry reached out and wrapped his arm around her soft waist. "Celine, you're here."

Sonia, Carly, Tracy, and Lucy all gathered around. As they looked at the radiant Celine, Sonia asked, "Celine, why are you here too? You're here to see Dr. C as well? Dr. C truly lives up to her reputation as a nation-renowned genius. So many people admire her that even a housewife like you knows her name."

Celine raised her delicate eyebrows and said, "That's right, I'm here to see Dr. C."

Tracy sneered. "Celine, even if you see Dr. C, so what? Dr. C won't talk to someone like you."

Celine looked at Tracy. "Then, will Dr. C talk to you?"

"Of course, I studied medicine," Tracy replied somewhat proudly.

Then, Lucy said, "Celine, today, the real Dr. C has arrived in Mercity. This is a big day. Put away your little schemes for seducing men, and don't disgrace the Tate family's reputation."

Celine smiled and said nothing more.

Perry looked at these Tate family members and smirked. Soon, they would all know how foolish they were.

Adam, with his cool, distant gaze, looked at Celine. "You're here to see Dr. C?"

Celine nodded. "Yes."

Just then, Perry spoke up. "Judging by the time, Dr. C should be making her appearance now."

"Then, I'll excuse myself for a moment," Celine said.

With that, she left.

After Celine left, Carly, arm-in-arm with Adam, disdainfully said, "Adam, I think Celine is scheming again. She definitely knows that Dr. C can save me, and she wants to keep Dr. C from saving me."

Sonia nodded. "Right, later, we'll make sure Dr. C stays away from Celine."

Adam pursed his thin lips and said nothing.

Perry smirked and said, "Then, once Dr. C makes her entrance, the real show will begin."

Celine went to the second floor to touch up her makeup. Soon, she would be appearing as Dr. C.

Soon, the expressions on Sonia's, Carly's, Tracy's, and Lucy's faces will be priceless. They still thought she was just an unaccomplished housewife.

At that moment, a waiter walked in. "Ms. Tate, you may go out now."

Celine stood up. "Okay."

Just as she was preparing to make her halt.

turned to look at

"What did you just call

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The waiter actually called her Ms. Tate instead of Dr. C.

A clear, cold gleam flashed in Celine's sharp eyes as she said, "Who are you? Who sent you?"

Just as she finished speaking, a pain struck the back of her neck. Someone had ambushed her from behind.

Celine's vision went black, and she fell into unconsciousness.

"Quick, take her away," the waiter whispered.

Adam and the others were still standing in the hall, and Carly was et there too. At that moment, her phone rang with a notification.

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Carly opened a text message. It simply read, "It's all taken care of."

She curved her red lips into a smile.

"Adam, I'm going to the restroom."

Adam looked at Carly. "Dr. C is about to make her entrance, and you're going to the restroom now?"

Dr. C was certainly important, but her plan was even more important.

Carly said, "Adam, it's because Dr. C is about to appear that I'm nervous. I need

to go to the restroom. I'll be right back."

After saying that, she turned and left.

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Before leaving, Carly exchanged a look with Lucy, signaling each other with their eyes.

Adam and Perry stood together. Perry checked the time. "Mr. Alvarez, Dr. C should be making an appearance any minute now."

Adam glanced at Perry. "Mr. Marshall, how do you know Dr. C?"

Perry didn't answer the question directly. Instead, he said, "Mr. Alvarez, you know Dr. C too."

Adam frowned slightly. Celine had said the same thing to him before, that he knew Dr. C. Now, Perry was saying it too.

What were Perry and Celine trying to imply? Could it be that Dr. C was actually someone he knew? Had Dr. C been around him all along?"

At that moment, the host took the stage. "Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for attending this evening's banquet. The moment you've all been waiting for has finally arrived. Please welcome Dr. C!"

In an instant, all eyes turned toward the upstairs balcony. Everyone held their breath in anticipation of Dr. C's arrival.

Adam lifted his gaze.

Sonia, Tracy, and Lucy had all moved forward. Sonia was practically trembling with excitement. "She's coming! Dr. C is finally here!"

Everyone waited.

But as the seconds passed, nothing happened upstairs.

A hushed murmur spread through the crowd.

"What's going on? Why isn't Dr. C coming out?"

"Is she even here tonight?"

Even the host was beginning to feel uneasy. Dr. C was supposed to enter at this exact moment, so where was she?

The host quickly reassured the audience, "Please remain calm. I'll go upstairs to check. Dr. C will be here shortly."

The host hurried up the stairs.

Tracy frowned. "Could it be that Dr. C isn't coming after all? We're all here just for her."

Adam frowned as he turned to Perry. "Mr. Marshall, this Dr. C of yours certainly enjoys keeping people waiting."

Perry also found it strange. Celine had definitely arrived, so why hadn't she come out yet? Could something have gone wrong?

Without hesitation, he strode toward the stairs, heading up to check.

Adam was about to follow. He had missed seeing Dr. C multiple times already, and his curiosity about her identity had only grown stronger.

But just then, a soft, melodic ringtone broke the tension. His phone was ringing.

Adam answered, and Carly's panicked voice came through immediately. "Adam, help me! Please!"

Adam's fingers curled around the phone, gripping it tightly. "Carly, what happened? Don't panic. Take your time and tell me clearly."

"Adam, I... Ah!" Carly let out a piercing scream before the line went dead.

Lucy immediately turned to Adam. "Mr. Alvarez, what happened to Carly?" Adam's expression darkened. "Carly is in trouble."

"How is that possible? She just went to the restroom. We have to check right away!"

Lucy rushed to the women's restroom.

Inside, the place was a mess. Signs of a struggle were evident everywhere. Carly's phone lay shattered on the floor, broken into two pieces.

Lucy picked up the damaged phone and handed it to Adam, her voice filled with

look urgency. "Mr. Alvarez.

it's Carly's phone! Do you think she was kidnapped?"

Soon, Sonia and Tracy arrived at the scene.

Sonia's face immediately paled. "Who would kidnap Carly? Her heart condition is bad. She can't handle this kind of stress!"

Tracy turned to Adam. "Mr. Alvarez, you have to do something! We have to save Carly!"

Adam stared at the broken phone in his hand, his handsome face as cold as ice.

Just then, the soft, melodic ringtone chimed again. Another call was coming through.

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Adam answered the call, and a rough male voice came through. "Mr. Alvarez, good evening."

Adam held the phone, his face unreadable. "Who are you?"

"Mr. Alvarez, my identity doesn't matter. All you need to know is that the person you're looking for is with me."

Lucy's eyes widened in alarm. "He's the one who took Carly! Mr. Alvarez, we have to save her!"

Adam's tone remained cold. "Carly is with you?"

"That's right. Here, I'll let her talk to you."

A moment later, Carly's voice came through, panicked and desperate. "Adam, help me! Please! I'm so scared!"

Adam's lips pressed into a thin, icy line. "What do you want?"

"Mr. Alvarez, I want money. Get one billion dollars ready immediately."

Adam let out a short, mocking laugh. "You kidnapped someone and are now extorting me for one billion? That's more than enough to lock you away for life. You'll never see the outside world again."

The man on the other end of the line wasn't the least bit intimidated. "Mr. Alvarez, don't try to scare me. I wasn't raised to be afraid of threats. Is one billion dollars too much for one person's life? What if I make it two?"

A sharp glint flashed through Adam's eyes. "Two people?"

At that moment, Perry rushed over. "Mr. Alvarez, bad news. Celine is missing."

Dr. C had been scheduled to make her appearance, but when Perry went upstairs to check, she was nowhere to be found.

Celine had disappeared.

Adam froze for a brief moment before gripping his phone even tighter. "Celine- is she with you too?"

Somewhere in an abandoned warehouse on the outskirts of the city, Celine's eyes fluttered open.

She quickly realized that her hands and feet were tied. In front of her stood a man with a scar across his face, flanked by several men in black.

Celine immediately grasped the situation. She had been kidnapped.

She let out a silent, bitter laugh. What a dramatic turn of events. She had been

moments away from revealing herself as Dr. C, only to end up here instead.

A familiar voice interrupted her thoughts. "Celine, you're awake?"

Celine turned her head and saw Carly.

Carly was tied up as well, dumped beside her.

Celine's eyelashes quivered slightly. "Carly, they took you too?"

Carly struggled against her restraints, attempting to break free. "Let me go! Do you have any idea who I am? I'm Adam's girlfriend! you so much as lay a finger on me,

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Will make sure you regret it. This is his territory. You won't make it out alive!"

The scarred man chuckled, holding the phone in his hand. "So, you're Mr. Alvarez's girlfriend. And this one here is his ex-wife."

He crouched beside Celine. "Celine, say something to Mr. Alvarez."

Celine quickly scanned the surroundings before raising her voice. "Adam, we're in

a warehouse on the wet side of the city-"

The scarred man hadn't expected her to spill their location. His face twisted with rage, and he swung his hand hard across Celine's face.

With a loud smack, her head

snapped to the side, her delicate features stinging from the blow. A

bright red handprint quickly

appeared on her cheek, swollen and glaringly visible.

Back on Adam's end of the call, he had heard both Celine's voice and the unmistakable sound of a slap.

His expression darkened instantly. His voice dropped to a dangerously low register. "Stop. If you lay another hand on her, you won't live to see the sunrise."

The scarred man let out a loud, amused laugh. "Oh? Mr. Alvarez, you seemed quite protective of your ex-wife. One slap, and you're already this upset?"

Adam's voice sounded razor-sharp as he said, "One billion dollars. I'll

give you what you want. Send me the location, and I'll bring the money. You give me the hostages.

The scarred man grinned. "Now that's the spirit, Mr. Alvarez. I knew you'd be reasonable. But there's one condition. You need to come alone."

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The scarred man sent the address to Adam and then hung up the phone.

Lucy immediately turned to him. "Mr. Alvarez, you have to save Carly. Her heart condition can't handle this kind of stress."

Perry looked at Adam seriously. "Mr. Alvarez, Celine is with them too. You have to bring her back."

Adam didn't say a single word. He simply turned and walked out.

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Inside the warehouse, the scarred man glanced at Celine and Carly before letting out a low whistle. "You can question a rich man's morals, but you can't question his taste. Damn, Mr. Alvarez's ex-wife and girlfriend are both stunning. I'm

jealous."

One of his men chuckled. "Sir, we've got time to kill. Why not have some fun with these two beauties?"

The scarred man cracked his knuckles and strode toward Celine, grabbing her delicate chin between his fingers. "Let's start with Mr. Alvarez's ex-wife. I've always wondered what it's like to taste a woman he's had before."

With that, he reached for Celine's clothes.

Celine met his gaze fearlessly, her voice steady and clear. "Try it. See what happens."

The scarred man froze.

He stared at her. Despite the bright red handprint swelling on her cheek and her disheveled state, her eyes were calm and unwavering, full of confidence and composure.

"If you're lucky, you might just walk out of here with one billion in your pocket. But the second you touch me, you won't be walking out at all," she threatened.

The scarred man slowly pulled his hand back.

Carly shot Celine a glare. "Oh, please. You really think Adam is here for you? No, he's here for me. If I weren't taken, Adam wouldn't have even cared whether you lived or died!"

Even in this situation, Carly was still talking nonsense. Celine cast her a cold glance. She was utterly ridiculous.

Just then, a voice came from outside. "Sir, Mr. Alvarez is here."

Adam had arrived, and he arrived fast.

With a boom, the warehouse doors flew open from a powerful kick. Cold air rushed inside, sweeping rough

the room like a blade. A tall,

imposing figure stepped in

Adam had arrived.

He was wearing a black overcoat, the frigid wind swirling around him. His entire presence exuded an icy, oppressive power.

Adam strode in, his long legs cutting through the dimly lit space.

The scarred man stepped forward. "Mr. Alvarez, you got here fast. You didn't disappoint me."

Adam's gaze locked onto him. "I want to see them first."

"Of course. Your ex-wife and your girlfriend are right over there."

Adam walked deeper into the warehouse, and his sharp eyes immediately landed on Celine and Carly, both bound.

Carly, upon seeing Adam, nearly

burst into tears. "Adam! You're finally

here! I was so scared. I knew you'd

come for me. Please, get me out of here I can't stand being in this place any longer!"

Adam glanced at Carly for only a moment before his gaze shifted to Celine.

Celine sat on the floor, silent. Her clear, bright eyes met his.

Adam's expression darkened slightly when he noticed the red, swollen handprint on her right cheek.

The scarred man walked over. "Mr. Alvarez, as you can see, they're both fine. Now, where's my money?"

Adam didn't even look at him. His voice was cold. "You did that to her face?"

The scarred man hesitated. "I..."

Before he could finish, Adam raised his hand and slapped him.

The scarred man stumbled backward, clutching his face in shock. He stared at Adam, utterly stunned.

Adam stood tall, his sharp eyes filled

with an overwhelming sense of

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authority. He curled his lips into a dangerous smirk. "You dare I hand on what's mine?"

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The tension in the room escalated instantly. The scarred man truly hadn't expected Adam to hit him.

But right now, Adam was his golden ticket, his big payday, so he didn't want to burn that bridge.

He swallowed his anger and forced himself to stay calm.

"Mr. Alvarez, did you bring the money?" the man asked.

Adam's voice was cold and unwavering. "I brought it-every cent. But we do this fairly. I give you the money. You give me the hostages."

The scarred man smirked. "Sure, we'll trade fairly. But I'm only giving you one of them."

Adam's sharp eyes narrowed, his deep voice turning ice-cold. "What do you mean?"

"We agreed on a trade, one person for one billion dollars. I never said anything about handing over two. That money only buys you one." The scarred man's grin was laced with cruelty.

Adam's jaw tightened. "I'll pay more."

"Mr. Alvarez, this isn't about money. This is how things work in my world. You only get one. Now, make your choice-your ex-wife or your girlfriend. One walks out with you. The other stays with us." He let out a dark chuckle.

Celine's face paled. She hadn't expected this twist.

He was making Adam choose between her and Carly.

Carly immediately turned to Adam, her voice urgent. "Adam, this isn't even a question. You're obviously choosing me, right? My heart isn't in good shape. I need to get out of here!"

Adam glanced at Carly briefly, then looked at Celine.

Celine met his gaze. "Mr. Alvarez, would you choose me if I begged you?"

Celine wasn't stupid. Of course, she wanted to leave. But it wasn't just about her anymore. She had Adam's baby inside her.

If she pleaded, would Adam choose her?

Adam frowned slightly, but he said nothing.

The scarred man clapped his hands together. "Tick-tock, Mr. Alvarez. I'm giving you until the count of three. If you don't pick, you leave here alone. One... two..."

Carly's voice turned desperate. "Adam! Did you forget your promise to me? You said you'd take me with you! You swore you'd always take care of me!"

The final count was about to fall when Adam spoke. "I choose Carly."

He had made his choice. He chose Carly.

Celine wasn't surprised-not even a little.

Because when it came down to her and Carly, Adam had never chosen her. Not once.

And yet, hearing him say it still hurt.

Her hand drifted toward her stomach. The baby was still inside her.

"Little one,

aba Tather just

us before you were

born. He left us behind," she the to herself.

The scarred man laughed. "Mr. Alvarez, I like a man who makes quick decisions. Take her and go."

At his signal, one of his men stepped forward and cut Carly loose.

The moment she was free, Carly scrambled to her feet and threw herself at Adam. "Adam! I knew you'd choose me! My legs are so weak from being tied up. Carry me!"

She pouted and clung to him like a child.

Adam sighed and lifted her effortlessly into his arms.

Carly beamed. "Adam, let's go."

Adam cast one last look at Celine. Then he turned and walked away, carrying Carly with him.

He then left with Carly.

Celine curled her lips into a faint, mocking smile.

The scarred man sauntered over,

gripping her chin between his fingers "See that, sweetheart? You're the one who got left behind. Mr. Alvarez doesn't want you"

Celine jerked her face away, shaking off his touch.

The scarred man chuckled. "Still got some fight in you, huh? Let's see if you taste just as fiery."

With a sick grin, he lunged toward her.

Outside, Adam carried Carly to safety and then gently sat her down.

Then, without a word, he turned back toward the warehouse.

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Carly gasped in shock and quickly grabbed Adam's arm. "Adam, where are you going?"

Adam's voice was firm. "I'm going back. Celine is still in there."

Carly's expression darkened. "Adam, you're seriously going back to save Celine?"

Adam pulled his arm free from her grip. "I would never leave Celine behind."

With that, he turned and strode away.

Carly panicked and tried to stop him. "Adam, my heart hurts... I feel faint... I think I'm really going to pass out."

But no matter how much she cried out, Adam didn't stop.

Adam rushed back into the warehouse, only to find the scarred man and his black-clad henchmen sprawled on the ground, groaning in pain.

Celine was gone.

Adam immediately grabbed the scarred man by the collar. "Where is she?"

The scarred man clutched his eyes, writhing in agony. "She ran! That little witch somehow untied herself without us noticing. When we got close, she threw some kind of powder at us. Damn it! My eyes! It burns like hell! I think I'm going blind!"

The henchmen were also rolling on the ground, suffering from whatever Celine had used on them.

Adam's eyes darkened. He sprinted toward the window.

It was open.

Celine had escaped through the window.

Adam pulled out his phone and made a call. "Clean this place up. And find Celine."

Later, Adam took Carly to the hospital. Sonia, Lucy, and Tracy all rushed over.

Lucy immediately took Carly's hands in hers. "Carly, are you okay?"

"Mom, I'm fine."

"What about Celine?"

Carly bit her lip in frustration. "Celine ran off on her own."

"What?"

Lucy froze for a moment. In reality, this whole kidnapping had been her and Carly's plan from the beginning.

They had hired the scarred man for a large sum of money.

The goal had been simple.

First, it was to force Adam into making a choice, one that would completely break Celine's heart and make her realize she was nothing.

Second, once the scarred man had his way with Celine, they would keep her

captive and force her to donate her heart.

But now, Celine had escaped on her own.

Lucy's expression darkened. "How the hell did she manage to get away? Where did she go?"

Carly shook her head. "I don't know. Adam already has people searching for her, but so far, no sign of her."

Outside the hospital room, Adam stood tall, his sharp gaze locked in deep thought.

Leo approached and spoke quietly.

"Mr.

Ms.

rez there's still no trace of

She hasn't returned to

Jupiter Heights."

Adam's lips pressed into a tight line. Where did she go?

"Keep searching."

"Yes, Mr. Alvarez."

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Celine had managed to escape on her own.

On the way back, she ran into Perry, who had been out looking for her.

Perry's face was pale. "Celine! Are you okay?"

Celine placed a hand on her stomach, her complexion ghostly white. She shook her head weakly. "Perry, I'm fine."

His sharp eyes caught the way she clutched her belly. "Why are you holding your stomach? What's wrong?"

She opened her mouth to speak, but before she could get a word out, everything went black.

She collapsed.

"Celine! What's wrong?" Perry shouted, catching her before she hit the ground. He scooped her up without hesitation and carried her back to his house.

When Celine woke up, she was lying in a large bed inside Perry's house.

Perry sat beside her. His expression was tense. "Celine, you're pregnant. You overexerted yourself. You need to rest and take care of the baby."

Celine sat up.

She was a doctor. Of course, she knew she had overexerted herself.

She placed a gentle hand on her belly.

Thank goodness the baby was still there.

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Celine sat up. "Perry, I'm fine. The baby and I are both fine."

She would never let anything happen to her child. The only reason she had any complications was because of the stress from the kidnapping.

Perry studied her carefully. "Celine, you're still carrying Adam's child. Are you really not going to tell him?"

She curled her lips into a self-mocking smile. "You saw it yourself, Perry. Adam had no hesitation when choosing between me and Carly. He chose her without a second thought. Telling him won't change anything. It's better if he never knows. I can raise this baby on my own just fine."

Perry let out a sigh. He didn't push the issue, but he knew that no matter what Celine said, Adam's abandonment of her today had deeply hurt her.

At that moment, Robin and Hailey rushed in. Both of them immediately ran over and placed their hands on Celine's stomach.

"Celine! How's the baby? Is everything okay?" they asked.

Celine smiled. "Everything's fine."

Robin scowled. "That bastard, Adam! Is he insane? He left his own child behind and picked that snake Carly instead? Ugh, kid, when you grow up, don't bother acknowledging that deadbeat dad. Let him stay tied to Carly forever!"

Hailey frowned. "Adam went too far this time. Nope, I'm calling him right now to curse him out."

Celine quickly stopped her. "Hailey, Robin, forget it. The one who's loved can always act recklessly. I'm just the one who isn't loved. If you call him and yell at him, it'll only make me look pathetic."

Hailey and Robin exchanged glances, then reluctantly dropped it.

"Fine. Celine, that man isn't worth it. The baby has two amazing godmothers. We'll spoil this little one rotten."

Celine nodded and gently stroked her still-flat stomach. "Exactly. We don't need that father anyway."

With her best friends by her side, Celine visibly relaxed, and she felt her mood lift. That was what real friendship was for.

Perry smirked. "Celine, I had my people look into that scarred man. Guess what we found?"

Celine's clear, sharp eyes turned to him. "I don't know who he is, but I do know one thing—Carly hired him."

Perry raised a brow. "How did you figure that out?"

Celine let out a cold laugh. "I know Carly too well. If she were truly kidnapped, she would've been terrified. But when we were held together, she wasn't afraid at all. If anything, she looked like she was enjoying the show."

"Then, when the scarred man forced Adam to choose between us, it only confirmed my suspicions."

Perry nodded. "You're absolutely right. The scarred man was hired by Carly for a hefty price. This whole kidnapping? Carly staged it herself."

Celine's lips curled into a smirk. "Well, now that her act is over, it's my turn to take the stage. Perry, get in touch with Adam's people. Tell them they couldn't make it to the gala. But tomorrow, I'll be paying Carly a visit at the hospital."

Perry chuckled. "Oh, this is going to be fun."

Yes. Tomorrow was going to be a show worth watching.

Perry hesitated for a moment before adding, "By the way, Celine, Adam's still looking for you. Do you want to—"

Robin cut in immediately. "Hell no! What's the point of Adam looking for her now? He made his choice already!"

Hailey crossed her arms. "Exactly! Let him run around like a lost poppy. He doesn't deserve a response."

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Adam stepped into the hospital room.

Carly had been clinging to him non-stop, whining about her heart hurting, making sure he stayed by her side every second.

Just then, Leo entered the room. "Mr. Alvarez, we still haven't found Ms. Celine. There's been absolutely no movement on her end."

Adam frowned. Where the hell had she gone?

Carly scoffed. "Adam, Celine knows you're looking for her. She's just doing this on purpose, playing hard to get. What a scheming little brat."

Sonia added dismissively, "Mr. Alvarez, stop worrying about Celine. She's not going to die."

Leo glanced at the cold-hearted Tate

family members in the room.

Honestly, he was starting to doubt

whether Celine was really their

biological relative.

Leo turned back to Adam. "Mr. Alvarez, I do have one piece of good news."

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Adam's expression darkened. "What good news?"

Leo answered, "Dr. C just contacted us. They had something come up and couldn't attend the gala, but they'll be at the hospital first thing tomorrow morning to see Ms. Carly."

What?

Carly's expression lit up. "Really? Dr. C is coming first thing in the morning to check on me?"

Sonia beamed. "That's amazing! With Dr. C's legendary skills, Carly's heart condition will definitely improve."

Tracy sighed in relief. "I was so disappointed when Dr. C wasn't at the gala tonight. I can't believe we'll get to see her first thing in the morning. This is fantastic!"

Lucy, overcome with excitement, grabbed Carly's hands. Carly's heart condition had always been her greatest worry, but now, with Dr. C's arrival, there was finally hope.

The moment Dr. C was mentioned, Adam pressed his lips into a thin line.

Dr. C had stood him up too many times. If she failed to show up again, his patience would run out completely.

Adam's gaze turned sharp. "Fine. Tomorrow morning, I'll finally see who Dr. C really is."

...

By dawn the next day, Sonia, Carly, Tracy, and Lucy were already up.

Truth be told, none of them had slept well. They were too excited. They had been up early, eagerly preparing for Dr. C's arrival.

Now, they stood together in the hospital corridor, anxiously craning their necks, searching for any sign of their esteemed doctor.

"Where's Dr. C? I'm too excited. I can't believe she's still not here!"

Adam stood tall, his towering frame casting a long shadow as he waited silently.

Leo leaned in and whispered, "Mr. Alvarez, Dr. C has arrived."

A group of doctors in pristine white coats appeared at the far end of the corridor. They weren't just doctors. Every single one of them held a senior position.

The sight of them moving forward together was nothing short of commanding. "They're here! Dr. C is here!"

Sonia, Carly, Tracy, and Lucy all held their breath, their eyes glued to the approaching figures.

Then, a slim, graceful figure stepped into view. She was also dressed in a spotless white coat, leading the team forward with quiet confidence.

The moment Carly saw her, her pupils shrank. She froze completely.

Sonia gasped, "Celine?"

Tracy's voice sharpened. "Why is Celine here?"

Lucy's face twisted in confusion. "What is Celine doing here?"

Adam, too, was momentarily stunned. He hadn't expected to see Celine here at

all.

Celine walked forward with steady steps.

Carly immediately raised her voice. "Celine, what are you doing here?"

Before she could say more, the

hospital's vice director turned and

snapped, "Show some respect Do

you even know who you're speaking to?"

Celine lifted a hand, signaling the vice director to stand down.

Sonia was visibly shaken. "Celine, who exactly are you?"

Tracy scoffed. "Celine, are you pulling some kind of stunt again? We're waiting for Dr. C! Why are you even here?"

Celine's lips curved into a smirk. "The Dr. C you've been waiting for is already here."

Lucy frowned. "Celine, what are you talking about?"

Celine arched a perfectly shaped

brow and slowly raised a slender

pale finger, pointing to the name tag

on her white coat. "Lot

Adam's gaze followed her gesture.

And there, printed clearly on the name tag, was "Dr. C".

Celine was Dr. C.

