

The Divorce Prescription

Carly's eyes widened in shock as she caught sight of the name tag pinned to Celine's coat.

She gasped, staring at Celine in disbelief. "Dr. C? Celine, you're Dr. C?"

Sonia, Tracy, and Lucy had also seen the name tag. Their jaws dropped as if they had just seen a ghost.

"Celine, who are you, really?" Tracy stammered.

Celine raised an eyebrow. "Haven't you all been looking for Dr. C? Well, congratulations-you found her. I am Dr. C."

Carly, Tracy, Sonia, and Lucy were utterly stunned. For a moment, none of them could speak. They had never imagined that Celine could be Dr. C.

Carly was the first to recover, shaking her head. "No way! This has to be fake. Celine, you're lying, aren't you?"

Tracy chimed in. "Dr. C is a nation-renowned genius. For the past few years, you've been nothing but a housewife after marrying Mr. Alvarez. How could you possibly be Dr. C?"

Lucy scoffed. "If you were really Dr. C, you wouldn't have kept such a low profile. There's no way it's you."

On the other hand, Sonia was completely speechless. She simply couldn't process it.

How could Celine, the granddaughter she had always dismissed and underestimated, turn out to be a nationally renowned genius?

If Celine was Dr. C, then what did that make Carly and Tracy-the two she had always taken pride in?

Compared to Celine, they weren't just inferior-they were utterly eclipsed.

Had she thrown away a pearl, only to clutch at worthless sand?

Sonia refused to accept it.

Just then, the vice director of the hospital, standing behind Celine, spoke up. "Enough! Dr. C is standing right in front of you! Carly, your heart condition can only be treated by her. Haven't you been desperate to have Dr. C treat you? Well, your savior is right here."

Carly staggered back a step, struggling to process the revelation. She had never imagined that Celine would be Dr. C-the very person who could cure her heart condition.

The expressions on Carly, Tracy, Sonia, and Lucy's faces were priceless.

Celine's piercing gaze swept over each of them before she smiled softly. "Carly, weren't you always hoping I'd come? Now that I'm here, you don't seem very happy. That's fine. If you don't want me to treat you, you can find someone else."

"I..." Carly stammered, but Celine didn't give her a chance to finish.

Instead, Celine turned and walked gracefully toward Adam. "Mr. Alvarez."

Adam stood in the corridor, dressed in a custom-tailored black suit, exuding an air of elegance and authority.

On the other hand, Celine wore a clean white lab coat, her dark hair tied into a low ponytail that framed her delicate face and elegant neck as she approached him.

Adam stared at Celine, momentarily speechless.

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The shock wasn't limited to the Tate family-Adam was equally stunned. Never in his wildest dreams had Adam imagined that Dr. C-the elusive medical genius he had searching for-was none other than

Celine. neel

She had been right by his side all along.

Leo broke the silence. "Ms. Celine, you're actually Dr. C?" he asked in astonishment.

Celine smirked. "Yes, I am."

Then, she turned her gaze to Adam and extended her hand toward him. "Mr. Alvarez, nice to meet you."

Adam slowly regained his composure and reached out to shake her hand. Her touch was soft and delicate.

Before he could fully grasp it, she withdrew, leaving him momentarily dazed.

Celine continued, "Mr. Alvarez, we had a prior agreement. You hired me at a high price to treat Ms. Carly. Now that I'm here, Ms. Carly doesn't seem to welcome me and has even questioned my identity. Therefore, our collaboration will have to be called off."

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Upon hearing Celine's words, Carly immediately stepped forward. "That's not what I meant..."

Celine looked at her calmly. "Then, what do you mean? Do you want me to treat you?"

Carly fell silent.

Celine smirked. "I can treat you, but you'll have to beg me."

She wanted Carly to beg.

Carly's face turned deathly pale.

Celine knew Carly all too well. Carly had always looked down on her, believing herself to be superior. Finding out that Celine was Dr. C was already a crushing blow, but having to swallow her pride and beg was even worse than death.

It wasn't just Carly-Sonia, Lucy, and Tracy all felt the same bitter humiliation.

Celine's clear, sharp eyes swept over them with amusement. "You're the ones asking for help now. When you ask for help, you need to show sincerity. Isn't that what you taught me?"

Lucy snapped, "Celine, you—"

Celine cut her off. "Of course, you don't have to beg me. But then, you'll just have to watch Carly die."

"Celine, as a doctor, shouldn't you have compassion? How can you say such things?" Sonia interjected.

Celine stepped forward, closing the distance between them. She met Sonia's gaze head-on. "Anyone else could say that to me but not you. Do I need to ask you how my father died, Mrs. Tate Senior?"

Sonia's face went pale with fear. Did Celine already know?

Celine watched Sonia's expression with satisfaction. This was only the beginning. She had plenty of time to play.

"Well, you wanted to see me, and now you have," Celine said lightly. "As I said, if you want me to treat you, come and beg me. I'll be leaving now."

With that, she left arrogantly.

Carly's face was livid with rage.

She turned to Adam. "Adam..."

However, Adam didn't even glance at her. Instead, he strode off after Celine.

Carly stomped her foot in frustration. "Adam!"

Sonia let out a mournful sigh. "Is Celine really Dr. C? Oh my God, Celine is actually Dr. C!"

Tracy's face was ashen. She had always been the pride of the Tate family, but now, compared to Celine, she felt utterly insignificant.

Lucy was so furious that she felt like coughing up blood. She had exiled Celine to the countryside, yet somehow, she had thrived instead of being ruined. It was as if her talent was something beyond

anyone's control.

"Mom, what do we do now? We need Celine to treat Carly, and look-Adam just went after her!"

Adam had been just like them, believing Celine was merely a housewife with an impressive degree. Now that her identity as the nation renowned genius Dr. C Kad been revealed, he could no longer ignore her brilliance.

Carly felt a deep sense of crisis. It was as if Adam, whom she had tightly held onto, was slipping through her fingers like fine sand.

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Adam caught up to Celine and called out, "Celine."

Celine stopped and turned to face him. "Mr. Alvarez, do you need something?"

Adam said, "Celine, I need to talk to you."

Celine raised an eyebrow. "I'm sorry, Mr. Alvarez, but I have a majorē surgery scheduled soon. I don't have time. # you need to speak with me, please make an appointment with my assistant."

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Adam's expression instantly darkened when Celine told him to schedule an appointment. No one had ever dared to make him take a number and wait- Celine was the first.

"Mr. Alvarez, I'll be going now," she said.

With that, Celine strode off with her entourage, leaving Adam standing there in silence.

Just then, Leo came forward. "Mr. Alvarez, should I coordinate with Ms. Tate's assistant to schedule an appointment?"

Before Leo could finish, Adam shot him a sharp glare.

Feeling wronged, Leo quickly defended himself. "Mr. Alvarez, Ms. Tate was just an ordinary Ms. Tate before, but now she's Dr. C-the nation-renowned genius. Even billionaires have to make appointments to see her. I don't think she's doing this just to spite you."

Leo had meant to console him, but instead, Adam's expression turned even colder.

"If you can't say anything useful, then shut up," Adam said icily.

Leo fell silent.

Just then, Adam's phone rang-it was James.

He pressed the answer button. "James, did you know about Celine's identity all along?"

James chuckled. "Adam, sounds like you've finally figured out that Celine is Dr. C. Why are you blaming me now? Dr. C is your wife. If you didn't know, how is that my fault?"

Then, James added, "Oh, wait. I almost forgot-Dr. C isn't your wife anymore. You two got divorced."

Adam wondered what kind of day this was. Everyone around him seemed to be taking turns stabbing him in the back.

James chuckled. "Adam, the Lambert family is hosting a banquet tonight in honor of Dr. C. You should come."

Now that Celine had publicly revealed her identity, James-being her most prized mentee—had naturally arranged a formal celebration.

"I'll be there," Adam replied.

At the Lambert family banquet, Adam stood beside Mr. Lambert, surrounded by distinguished figures from the academic and medical fields.

One of them marveled, "Mr. Lambert, I never expected Dr. C to be such a young lady. To have achieved such medical mastery at her age-she truly is a legend."

James beamed with pride. "Who would have thought? Celine was a genius at Haffard University and possesses an unparalleled talent in medicine. She's indeed

unparalleled."

Then, James glanced at Adam and smirked. "But I bet no one was more shocked than Mr. Alvarez, right?"

Adam, who was still in a sour mood, gave James a cool look. "James, you seem awfully happy."

"Why wouldn't I be?" James said

with a chuckle. "Dr. C is Ms. Tate. If she were still your wife, I'd have to

salute you every time I saw you. That would mess up the hierarchy, wouldn't it?" en

Adam fell silent.

James shot him a meaningful look. "Feeling any regrets now?"

Adam wasn't sure.

Just then, a stir rippled through the crowd.

"Look! Dr. C is here!"

Adam looked up.

Celine had arrived.

She wore a sleek black gown. Her long, jet-black hair was loosely pinned up, with a few strands curling against her snow-white neck. She looked effortlessly elegant, like an ethereal beauty untouched by the

world. Content belongwr

By her side, Hailey wore a flowing white gown, exuding a playful charm and

delicate elegance.

Together, the two of them were a breathtaking sight.

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James stepped forward with a warm smile. "Ms. Tate."

Celine and Hailey approached, and James took the time to introduce everyone to Celine.

Celine smiled and gave a graceful, composed nod.

Adam watched Celine, and now he finally understood why she always addressed his uncle James by his first name. It turned out James had been her mentee.

Celine was none other than Dr. C.

"Dr. C, you went to Eastoria to work on a large-scale vaccine research project for

a plague after graduating from Haffard University. But then you suddenly disappeared. What happened?"

"Yeah! You've been out of the public eye for three years. We've all been wondering where you've been!"

The crowd was filled with curiosity about her.

Celine answered candidly, "I got married."

"You got married? Dr. C is already taken?"

"What kind of remarkable man was able to capture Dr. C's heart? I'm beyond curious!"

Celine's clear, almond-shaped eyes briefly flickered toward Adam before she looked away, smiling as she said, "At the time, he was in a vegetative state."

"A vegetative state? Dr. C actually married someone in a coma?"

"He must be fully recovered now. With Dr. C's medical skills, he's probably walking and running without any issues."

Celine smiled. "Yes, he's doing very well now."

Adam felt his heart soften at her words. It was only now that he realized it was Celine who had cured him.

He had always wondered about it.

Back then, when he fell into a vegetative state, every doctor had given up on him. Even Carly had walked away. Yet, Celine had chosen to marry him. And three years later, he had miraculously recovered.

He had never known it was Celine who had healed him

"I bet you and your husband must be deeply in love now."

"How could they not be? Without Dr. C, he wouldn't be where he is today."

Celine chuckled. "We're divorced."

A wave of shock spread through the group. "Someone actually divorced Dr. C?"

Celine waved a hand dismissively. "It's all in the past. Let's not talk about him anymore."

Hailey looped her arm through Celine's and grinned. "Exactly. No need to dwell on old news. If anything, losing Celine is his loss."

She glanced at Adam meaningfully.

The murmurs started again.

"That man truly didn't know how lucky he was. When he was in a vegetative state, Dr. C married him and cured him. That kind of fortune is something most people wouldn't get in several lifetimes."

James laughed. "Well, when one door closes, another opens. Ms. Tate is an outstanding woman. Plenty of great men out there for her. Am I right, Mr. Alvarez?"

Adam remained silent.

Hailey added with a teasing smile, "Mr. Alvarez, you must know plenty of eligible bachelors. You should introduce some to Celine."

Before Adam could respond, Hailey continued, "Oh, but I was just joking. Celine is the nation-renowned genius DOC. The line of suitors pursuing her probably stretches all the way to Frankford. She certainly doesn't need Mr. Alvarez to worry about such things."

Adam was speechless. It seemed he was the target tonight, and everyone was taking their shots at him.

The crowd slowly dispersed, leaving Adam standing beside Celine.

He took a deep breath and said softly, "Celine, thank you."

Celine looked at him. "For curing your vegetative state?" Adam nodded.

Hailey scoffed. "Mr. Alvarez, do you really think a simple 'thank you' is enough? The difference between people is really something. When you were in a coma, Carly ran off, but Celine stayed.

"The nation-renowned genius Dr. C disappeared from the world for three years, and now we know why-she was by your side, as your wife."

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Celine had disappeared from the medical world for three years—all because of Adam.

It was only now that Adam finally understood this.

His gaze landed on her delicate face. "Celine, I..."

Before he could finish, Celine interrupted him. "Adam, it's all in the past. There's

no need to talk about it anymore."

Then, she turned to Hailey and said, "Let's go have some fun."

"Alright," Hailey agreed.

Just as they were about to walk away, Adam reached out and caught Celine's slender wrist, stopping her.

Celine winced in pain.

Adam's eyes fell on her arm. "What's wrong?" he asked.

Hailey immediately pushed Adam's hand away. "Mr. Alvarez, Celine was injured when those kidnappers took her. She got hurt trying to escape, and her arm is still badly bruised."

Adam frowned.

Hailey scoffed. "At that time, you didn't hesitate to choose Carly. You carried her away and left Celine behind. So, Mr. Alvarez, please don't pretend to care about Celine now. You and Carly were no different from those kidnappers!"

Adam fell silent.

He wanted to ask Hailey whose cousin she really was. Wasn't he supposed to be her family? Why did it feel like all her sharp words were aimed at him?

However, he had no defense. He couldn't deny that he had chosen Carly. Celine looked at him calmly. "Mr. Alvarez, it's fine. I'm used to it."

Adam felt his heart ache at her words.

Celine added with a self-deprecating smile, "I'm the shooter all, when it comes to choosing between Carly and me, I never wavered. I was always one left behind."

The ache in Adam's heart only intensified, like a thousand tiny stings he couldn't ignore.

"Celine, I'm sorry," Adam said. "Carly once saved my life."

Celine was momentarily surprised. This was the first time Adam had ever mentioned it. She simply felt surprised that Carly had saved someone.

"I didn't realize Mr. Alvarez was the type to repay a drop of kindness with an ocean of gratitude. Carly saved you, so you've never forgotten her saved you too-why did you forget me?"

Celine found it bitterly ironic. She had also saved Adam once, but he didn't even remember her as his savior.

Adam was taken aback. "You saved me? When?"

Celine replied coldly, "Years ago, weren't you seriously injured and lost in a forest?"

Adam froze. How did she know that? How did she know about what happened between him and Carly?

Adam walked toward her. "How do you know about that? Did Carly tell you?"

Celine couldn't help but laugh. "What does Carly have to do with this? I don't need her to tell me anything. I was there that day!"

Adam was stunned to learn that Celine had been in that forest too. How was that possible?

"What were you doing there?" he pressed, taking another step forward.

Before he could say more, a voice interrupted them. "Adam!"

Celine looked up to see Carly approaching, with Sonia, Tracy, and Lucy by her side.

Carly quickly rushed over and clung to Adam's arm possessively. "Adam," she called sweetly.

Amused by Carly's defensive stance, Celine couldn't help but smile faintly, finding the situation rather entertaining.

Just then, James walked over. "Tracy, you're here? Come, let me introduce you. This is Dr. C-my mentor. By seniority, you should respectfully address her as Dr. C as well."

Tracy's face turned as pale as a sheet of paper.

Celine smiled. "James, I've long heard that Tracy is your prized mentee."

With that, she gracefully took a seat. "By seniority, Tracy is my mentee's mentee, which makes her my grand-mentee. In that case, she should formally show her respect."

Celine sat in the center of the room, looking at Tracy with a faint smile.

Tracy felt as though her most prized achievement-her prestigious education-had just been crushed under the weight of Celine's status.

"Alright, prepare the tea," James instructed.

Soon, a maid brought over a tray with tea.

James turned to Tracy, saying, "Tracy, go ahead and present the tea to Dr. C as a sign of respect and be sure to address her properly."

Tracy stood frozen.

Celine smirked. "Tracy, why aren't you coming over?"

Laughter rippled through the crowd. "Tracy, it's a blessing to have Dr. C as your grand-mentor. Shouldn't you be showing your respect?"

Sonia and Lucy stood behind Tracy, looking utterly helpless.

With no way out, Tracy reluctantly picked up the teacup and walked over to Celine. "Dr. C, please have some tea," she said, her voice trembling.

She was on the verge of tears.

As Celine recalled Tracy's once-arrogant and condescending demeanor, she didn't reach out to accept the cup. Instead, she smiled lazily. "Is this how you

show respect? When you were fooled by that fake Dr. C, I tried to warn you, but you wouldn't listen. Shouldn't you kneel while serving me tea?"

She wanted Tracy to kneel.

Tracy's eyes reddened, and they misted over with unshed tears.

Celine watched her coldly.

Compared to the humiliation and harm the Tate family had inflicted on her, this was merely collecting a small fraction of what they owed her

Not to mention her father's death-she would take full revenge for that.

James spoke up, emphasizing the tradition. Tracy, what are you waiting for? It's customary for a grand-mentee to show proper respect when honoring their grand-mentor."

Tracy looked at Celine, then slowly lowered herself to her knees with a heavy thud.

She raised the teacup high, offering it to Celine. "Dr. C, please have some tea," she said.

Sonia, Carly, and Lucy watched in horror as Tracy was utterly humiliated.

Celine looked down at Tracy. "Tracy, as a medical professional, you must remain humble and pure-hearted. Arrogance has no place in this field. Remember, there will always be someone greater than you. I hope you'll take this lesson to heart."

Tracy's tears fell onto the ground. She had truly been humiliated.

The pride she had built over 20 years crumbled before Celine, leaving her as nothing more than a laughingstock.

Tracy's lips trembled as she whispered, "I'll keep that in mind."

Only then did Celine accept the teacup, taking a graceful sip. "You may rise," she said.

Tracy stepped aside, swallowing her humiliation.

Someone noticed Sonia and called out, "Mrs. Tate Senior, you're here too! You must be incredibly fortunate to have a granddaughter as legendary as Dr. C!"

Sonia could only force an awkward smile. She had always considered Carly and Tracy the pride of the Tate family, but now they paled in comparison to Celine.

The Tate family's so-called fortune had indeed shined upon them-but in the form of Celine.

Another guest recognized Lucy. "Isn't that Mrs. Tate? Mrs. Tate, how on earth did you give birth to someone like Dr. C?"

"Mrs. Tate, you must have amazing genes! You have to share your secret with us!"

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The crowd surrounded Sonia and Lucy, marveling at how they could have raised such an exceptional daughter like Celine.

Tonight's banquet was filled with elites from all walks of life-the very people Sonia had always dreamed of impressing.

Sonia, who had spent her life chasing vanity and prestige, longed to stand on the highest stage and be admired by everyone.

She had pinned all her hopes on Carly and Tracy, indulging in the fantasy of Carly marrying Adam and Tracy securing a future with Dr. C, believing they would be her ticket to the top.

To her surprise, Celine had effortlessly accomplished what Carly and Tracy had failed to achieve.

Now, she was finally the center of admiration.

Yet, this was not how she had envisioned it.

Sonia forced an awkward smile, while Lucy clenched her fists and barely managed a smile more painful than a grimace.

At that moment, Celine turned her gaze to Sonia and Lucy. With a smile, she said, "You don't need to ask Mrs. Tate Senior and Mrs. Tate for advice anymore— because I've already cut ties with them."

The room fell into stunned silence.

"Dr. C, why would you sever ties with the Tate family?" someone asked hesitantly.

Celine stood up, the dazzling lights casting a radiant glow around her. She slowly walked over to Sonia and Lucy. "As many of you may know, I grew up in the countryside. I wasn't raised in the Tate family-I grew up in a rural village."

As soon as she said this, whispers broke out among those who knew the story. "Celine grew up in the countryside? I heard her own mother sent her there when she was just a child."

"Why? Isn't Celine Mrs. Tate's biological daughter?"

"What else? Mrs. Tate remarried to her late husband's younger brother and became Carly's stepmother."

"Wow, Mrs. Tate's life is quite the drama, isn't it?"

Lucy gritted her teeth as she overheard the murmurs. She hated when people brought up this part of her past.

Celine knew exactly what Lucy was sensitive about.

She smiled faintly and continued,

"As you all know, Mrs. Tate is my biological mother. However, she remarried my uncle, who brought his daughter, Carly, into the family. Naturally, there was no place for me in the Tate household.

"I can understand Mrs. Tate's choices-every woman has the right to pursue love. Yet, it's rare to see someone so blinded by romance that they abandon their own

daughter in the coat

to fend

for herself while showering another's child with affection."

Hailey smirked and looked at Lucy. "Mrs. Tate, you're in your 40s, right? Who knew love could make someone so blind at any age? Your needs are truly something else."

Hailey's mocking tone set the tone for the crowd.

The crowd's gaze toward Lucy shifted instantly. Disdain, ridicule, and amusement

filled their expressions.

"I've never seen a woman this eager to please a man. She's completely lost herself."

"This is honestly beyond belief. I've never witnessed anything like it."

"And now, her own daughter has risen to fame as the world-renowned Dr. C. Talk about life's greatest irony!"

Lucy's face flushed as she became the center of ridicule.

Carly seethed with resentment. Celine had come out in full force-first humiliating Tracy, and now setting her sights on Sonia and Lucy.

Carly stepped forward and said, "Celine, I know you've always resented Mom, but she has raised me well all these years."

Then, as if to prove her point, she proudly looped her arm around Adam's. "Am I right, Adam?"

The crowd's attention shifted to Carly-or rather, to the man standing beside her, Adam.

As the wealthiest man in Mercity, Adam held immense power and influence. His presence alone silenced any criticism of Carly.

In other words, Carly had Adam, and that was the Tate family's greatest source of pride.

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The murmurs of the crowd immediately quieted down.

Lucy smirked triumphantly. "Celine, I know you hate me, but you can't just stand by and let Carly die, can you?"

Carly quickly chimed in, "Celine, you know I have a heart condition. Adam even spent a fortune to ask you to treat me, but you refused. You wanted to watch me die. How can you be so heartless?"

Carly and Lucy were tag-teaming, bringing up the issue of Carly's heart condition to shift the blame onto Celine.

Celine had expected this. She knew the duo had come prepared with a plan to corner her.

Celine's gaze was icy as she replied, "Carly, do you really not know why I didn't want to save you?"

Carly immediately put on a pitiful expression. "Celine, what did I do wrong? I was just a child back then. Why are you taking out your hatred for Mom on me? I'm innocent!"

"Innocent? Did you not conspire with those kidnappers to kill me?" Celine shot back.

Carly froze. Did Celine know?

Celine looked at Lucy and Carly with a cold smile. "Did you really think I wouldn't find out? Those kidnappers were hired by you. You wanted me dead!"

The crowd gasped in shock.

Adam pursed his lips as he turned to Carly. "Carly, did you do this?"

Carly quickly shook her head. "Adam, Celine is lying! Don't believe her! Celine, don't slander me like this. If you're going to accuse me, you'd better have proof!"

Lucy immediately stood by Carly's

side. "Celine, I know you hate me but don't make up such outrageous lies. Carly is kind-hearted. How could we ever do something like that?"

Just then, Perry appeared. "Mrs. Tate, Carly, you two really know how to act. The Oscars owe you both a Best Actress award."

"Mr. Marshall!"

The crowd parted to make way for Perry as he walked over to Celine's side.

Perry turned to Adam. "Mr. Alvarez, don't you find it suspicious why those kidnappers targeted both Celine and Carly and then forced you to choose between them?"

Adam's cold, piercing gaze locked onto Carly, making her shudder under its intensity.

Perry pulled out a USB drive. "This contains the bank transfer records between Carly and Scarface. Mr. Alvarez, everything will become clear once you see this." He handed the USB drive to Adam.

Adam reached out to take it, but Carly suddenly snatched it away. "Adam, don't look at it!"

Adam's expression darkened as he stared at Carly. "Why can't I see it? Carly, I'm giving you one chance to come clean. There's a big difference between you confessing and me

finding out the truth my nove

Carly was visibly shaken. She had thought their plan was foolproof, that no one would ever find out.

Celine was supposed to die in that warehouse. If she had died, none of this would have happened.

Celine shot Carly a cold, mocking

smile. "Carly, do you really think you

can keep covering up the truth? Secrets don't stay buried forever.

You're the one behind all of this!"

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Carly froze in panic. "I..."

Her eyes darted to Lucy in desperation.

Without missing a beat, Lucy stepped forward. "It wasn't Carly! It was me! I was the one who contacted Scarface and planned the whole kidnapping!"

Celine watched Lucy carefully. She was really willing to take the fall for Carly.

Celine sneered, finding it ironic how Lucy was willing to protect Carly like a devoted mother.

She was Lucy's biological daughter, yet Lucy had always treated Carly like her own while casting her aside. What had she done to deserve this?

No matter how cold she tried to be, the betrayal still stung.

Gasps spread through the crowd.

"Mrs. Tate, was it really you?" Hailey questioned. "Mrs. Tate, Celine is your own daughter! You actually hired criminals to kidnap her? Were you trying to have her killed?"

Lucy hadn't expected the truth to come out like this, but she couldn't let Carly take the blame. If she did, her reputation would be ruined, and Adam would never forgive her.

So, she took it all on herself.

Lucy turned to Celine. "Celine, I'm sorry. I never meant for this to happen."

Celine let out a cold laugh. "Sorry? If I remember correctly, you and Mrs. Tate Senior cut ties with me a long time ago. If I had stayed in your family, I probably wouldn't have even known how I died."

Hailey scoffed. "Celine saw you as family, and you repaid her by trying to get rid of her. Do you even have a conscience?"

The crowd erupted in murmurs.

"What kind of mother abandons her own child while doting on someone else's?"

"She's completely consumed by her obsession. It's unsettling."

Lucy's face burned with humiliation, but with so many people watching, she forced herself to stay composed.

This time, both she and Carly had lost everything.

Celine turned to Carly. "Carly, do you really think the USB drive in your hand holds any evidence?"

Carly stiffened, gripping the drive. "What are you talking about, Celine?"

Perry chuckled. "Carly, Mrs. Tate, you've been played. That USB drive is empty."

Carly and Lucy's faces went pale.

Perry turned to Adam. "Scarface was taken in by Mr. Alvarez, who's already gone through

everything-and found nothing. But when mentioned the USB earlier, Mr. Alvarez didn't correct me have to thank him for playing along."

Carly turned to Adam in shock. "Adam, is that true? You knew the USB was fake

all along?"

Adam met her gaze. "Yes, I knew," he said coldly.

He had already done a full investigation when Scarface was taken care of, including tracking the money.

He knew it was a bluff from the very moment Perry claimed the USB held transaction records.

Perry had played them flawlessly, using a fake USB to lure Carly and Lucy into revealing themselves.

They had covered their tracks well, but they were no match for Perry and Adam. With just one move, everything fell apart.

Carly felt like her world was

crumbling. She turned to Adam and

asked, "Adam, whose side are you on? Why would you betray me like this?" .

Celine smirked. "Betray you? Didn't you just

claim you had nothing to
with this? Why are you
Tate acted alone?"
if

The Divorce Prescription

Hailey chimed in. "Exactly, Carly. If you really didn't know anything, why didn't you immediately confront Mrs. Tate after finding out she hired someone to kidnap Celine? Instead, you blamed Mr. Alvarez. What does that say about you? If you claim you didn't know, no one's going to believe you."

The crowd's eyes turned to Carly. "It's obvious Mrs. Tate and Carly conspired to kill Celine."

"Thankfully, Celine is the renowned genius Dr. C. Otherwise, she would've died at their hands long ago."

"What's wrong with Carly? She stole Celine's mother, her family, and her place. What more does she want? Why does she still want to harm Dr. C?"

"Some people are just born rotten."

Carly felt her face burn with humiliation as the words cut deep. She realized too late—Celine had lured her into a trap she couldn't escape.

Adam's gaze darkened with disappointment. "Carly, why would you do this? You've let me down."

Carly felt like a stranger to him now. Was she still the kind-hearted girl he had met in that cave all those years ago?

"I..." Carly tried to explain, but Celine didn't give her the chance.

She took a step forward and said, "Carly, now you know why I refused to treat you. I'm not a saint. Why should I save someone who wants me dead?"

Carly's breath hitched.

Celine turned to Adam. "Mr. Alvarez, now that you know Carly tried to kill me, do you still expect me to save her?"

Carly didn't want to die. She desperately grabbed Adam's arm. "Adam, save me." Adam pursed his lips, saying nothing.

Celine smirked. "Carly, if you want me to save you, then beg. Get on your knees and beg me."

Just moments ago, Tracy had been forced to kneel. Now, it was Carly's turn. Lucy's face twisted in shock. "Celine, how dare you make Carly kneel! You—"

"Mrs. Tate, you really do love Carly, don't you?" Celine replied with a mocking smile.

Lucy's words died in her throat.

Celine turned back to Carly. "Carly, you only get one chance. I'm giving you that chance now. Are you going to kneel and beg me or not?"

Carly refused to kneel. In her eyes, Celine was nothing but a vile woman. Why should she kneel to her?

Carly turned to Adam, pleading, "Adam, I won't kneel to Celine. She's going too far. Please, help me!"

Adam was her only lifeline now.

Lucy and Sonja stepped forward, trying to persuade Adam. "Mr.

Alvarez, Carly is your girlfriend. How can you let her kneel before Celine in front of all of Mercity's elites? This isn't just humiliating for her it reflects on you as well."

Adam remained silent, his handsome, noble face betraying no emotion.

Carly's heart raced. She couldn't tell what he was thinking. However, one thing was certain-she couldn't kneel.

Gripping his arm tighter, she

whispered, "Adam, don't you

remember your promise? You said you'd protect me, that you'd never abandon me. You haven't forgotten, have you?"

Adam looked at her. "Carly, I've indulged you time and time again, and it's led you to this point. If keep indulging you, I don't know what you'll do next. I can't let you become completely unhinged."

Carly's eyes widened in terror. "Adam, what are you saying?"

Adam turned to Celine. "Dr. C has given you a choice. If she says you kneel, then you kneel."