

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

## Chapter 361 to 380

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### Chapter 361

Everything originated from Jeremy's change of attitude toward her.

Corinne waved her hand and said, "It's fine. I'll get lunch on my own."

Bowen hurriedly asked, "Where are you going, ma'am? Shall I ask the driver to send you there?"

Corinne walked toward the gate and said, "No thanks. I was thinking of going out for a walk anyway."

Bowen still did not feel at ease. "Umm... Did you bring your cell phone with you? Is it fully charged? That'll make it much easier for Mister Jeremy to look for you. It'll be terrible if something happens to you and he can't contact you."

He remembered when Jeremy came back from a business trip and was unable to reach Corinne after she did not return the entire night. Jeremy searched frantically for her throughout the night and barely stopped short of turning the entire city upside down.

Just thinking of this left Bowen feeling horrified.

Corinne changed her shoes at the entrance while saying, "Don't worry. I won't lose it! You should get back to what you were doing, Bowen. I'll be leaving now."

Bowen had no choice but to obey and bowed to see her off. "Take care, ma'am. Be careful out there."

"I will," Corinne replied and walked out leisurely.

Sunny had heard Bowen talking to Corinne, so he turned his head and looked over to wait until he saw Corinne exiting the house. As soon as he spotted her, he exited his mobile game and got up to chase after her.

After leaving the gate of Holden's estate, Sunny caught up with her and asked, "Hey, Corinne. Where are you heading?"

Corinne ignored him and hummed her favorite tune as she strolled to the nearest bus stop.

Sunny was not too happy when he got ignored, so he stepped in front of her and frowningly said, "I asked you a question! Where are you going? Are you dumb or deaf?"

After being forced to stop, Corinne raised her eyebrows lazily and asked, "What are you, my mom? Do I have to tell you where I'm going?"

Faced with Corinne's disgusted eyes, Sunny remembered that he had come to ask for forgiveness and felt a little guilty again. "Well, no, I'm not... Didn't you say you wanted to deal with me? You've been dragging this for such a long time, so I came to ask how long you're going to give me the cold shoulder."

Corinne felt that it was a little pointless to say anything to him. "How do you expect me to deal with you

when you didn't *do* it?"

Sunny was taken aback and looked at her in surprise. "You... You believe I wasn't the culprit? Why'd you let me stay here, then?"

Corinne rolled her eyes. "Would you have the chance to enjoy your games here at the Holdens' if I didn't tell you to stay?"

Sunni's mind went blank for a moment. Had he gone home with his sister, his brother's subordinates would watch him like a hawk while he studied. He could barely have any chance to catch his breath!

By the time Sunny realized that, Corinne had walked past him. Sunny did not stop her anymore and meekly followed her as he asked puzzledly, "Why do you believe in me? Didn't I bully you a few times in the past? I thought you wouldn't see me in a good light..."

Corinne chuckled and said, "I don't see you in a good light, but in my opinion, you don't have enough IQ to make all those articles online in such a short period."

Sunni's handsome, youthful face turned sour, and he became angry. "How dare you look down on me?!"

In response, Corinne turned around and glanced at him, "I'm curious, though. Why would a proud young man like you admit to something you didn't do?"

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Sunny scratched his head. "Well, my sister said that the conflict between the Riveras and the Holdens will deepen if no one comes forward to take responsibility. If that happens, her relationship with Jeremy will be affected..." His voice unconsciously became softer as he spoke. At that moment, he realized how inappropriate it was to talk about his sister and Jeremy in front of Corinne.

Corinne, however, did not care at all and simply curled her lips in a smirk. "Will you die for your kind sister if she tells you to?"

Sunny nodded without thinking. "Of course!"

Corinne could only give him a thumbs up. "What an awesome younger brother you are!"

Though her words and actions were that of praise, Sunny felt that it was a little weird, almost as if there was some deep yet negative implication in her praise. Still unconvinced, he followed Corinne and asked again, "What do you mean by that, Corinne? My sister treats me the best, and I can't just leave her to die if she's in danger. My life isn't as important as hers!"

Corinne merely smiled and said nothing.

Anya was so cunning that she brainwashed and manipulated her younger brother. If Anya was as good a person as Sunny believed her to be, she would not have allowed her younger brother to come forth, admit something that he never did, and take responsibility as well as the blame for those actions even though he was a minor.

Moreover, if said matters had nothing to do with the Riveras, there was no need for one of them to

come forward and confess to it.

The

only explanation as to why Sunny would have to take the blame was that Anya had a guilty conscience, knew who did it, and was afraid that the foundations she laid would collapse if her deviousness was discovered. As a result, she tricked her younger brother Sunny into taking all the blame so the matter would end there and no one would suspect her again.

In reality, the true culprit behind the scenes was none other than Anya.

That

being said, Anya was extremely talented in manipulating people, and she could get those around her to die for her, be her willing sacrifice, and even do evil deeds for her. On the other hand, Anya remained safe in the shadows and spurred people to have the impression that she was weak, innocent, and pitiful.

Such abilities were far beyond the realm of an ordinary hypocrite.

Corinne could conclude that Anya's duplicitous hypocrisy was twofold through the confirmation that Anya deceived

Sunny to take the blame for her and the results of Aaron's investigation.

Aaron found out that there were a total of 1203 people named Anna Fuller in the city, yet none of them returned to the country on the day that a certain mysterious individual publicly confessed their love on the LED advertisement board at Yonder River's shore. In addition, Aaron also found something unusual with the order for the LED advertisement on Century Bank Tower.

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The advertisement was paid for in cash, which was not standard practice because people were generally unwilling to bring so much cash for such a big advertisement. According to the staff there, a woman wearing a cap, sunglasses, and a mask came to place the advertisement that day. She was very straightforward as she negotiated the time and the content before paying everything in cash.

On that same night, there happened to be a record of Anya consuming a cup of coffee in the shopping mall just opposite the Century Bank Tower.

Aaron hacked into the surveillance system of that cafe and retrieved all the surveillance from that day. Sure enough, he saw Anya there. He then took out the section of the video where Anya was present and sent it to Corinne. The footage showed Anya sitting alone by the window of the cafe as she watched the public confession of the LED display on the Century Bank Tower. That unsettling smile she had was a far cry from her harmless demeanor in front of everyone.

It was obvious, then, that the confession was Anya's doing to confuse the public and create the illusion that Jeremy was deeply in love with her. She came prepared when she went back to the country, and a lot of things happened even though she had only been back for a few days. Corinne decided that it was best to be more careful around Anya in the future.

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A bus happened to arrive as soon as Corinne arrived at the bus stop. She regained her senses, jogged a couple of steps, and hopped on the bus before finding a seat by the window.

Sunny chased after her and boarded the bus too, but since it was his first time taking a bus, he did not know that he had to swipe a card before getting on. In his embarrassment, he had to go back and scan the QR code to make payment after the bus driver reminded him in a loud voice.

After paying the fare, Sunny sat next to Corinne with a sullen face.

Corinne ignored him and had a pleasant mood as she looked at the scenery outside the window.

Sunny frowned, stared at Corinne for a while, and asked in confusion, “Hey, Corinne. You’re Jeremy’s wife now. Why do you still take the bus?”

Corinne leaned lazily on the chair with a relaxed expression on her face. “What’s wrong with taking the bus? Isn’t the service good?”

Sunny glanced around inside the bus and saw that it was generally clean and spacious. There were not many passengers on the bus during noon, so it was not too crowded.

“Well... It’s not that bad, but you can beat the comfort and convenience of a private car. You just need to get in the car when you step out of the home, and you’ll be sent to wherever you want.. The car waits for you around the clock, and you don’t have to wait for the bus at the station!”

Corinne slowly turned her head to look at Sunny. “On the contrary, I don’t like having a car following me all the time and waiting for me. Taking the bus is already super convenient for me. The world you live in is different from mine, and we don’t have anything in common either. Why would you follow me into the bus? You should get off at the next stop and go home to play.”

Sunny frowned and said stubbornly, "I'm going to follow you, and there's nothing you can do about

it!"

Corinne did not care at all and said, "Suit yourself."

Sunny did not intend to keep quiet, and he thought for a while before saying, "Hey, Corinne, since you said that and we're not from the same world, you should be aware that you and Jeremy live in

different worlds too."

Corinne nodded frankly. "I'm aware of that."

Sunny raised his chin and said arrogantly, "Then why don't you give up earlier? Jeremy doesn't suit

you at all!"

Corinne raised her eyebrows and smiled. "Do you mean to say that he suits your sister?"

Sunny had a determined expression. "That's how it was supposed to be from the very beginning! Anya and Jeremy are a good match in terms of status, talent, good looks, and worldviews! They lived in similar environments when they were young, and the experiences they had in their life are the same too. They're a match

made in heaven! Even if our families have some conflicts, I believe they'll soon be resolved one day! You and Jeremy have completely different concepts of spending, and I don't think you have anything in common, right? He's not suited for you, and you're

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not suited for him!"

Corinne thought of Jeremy's exceptionally handsome face and raised her chin while saying leisurely, "No, he's different from you people. He doesn't look down on me because I

take the bus, and he doesn't think I'm inferior because I'm from the countryside. Although his issue is that he's pampered and lives in his ivory tower, he knows that it's his problem and doesn't attribute it to me. He isn't on the same level as superficial snobs like you."

Sunny was a little skeptical of his worldviews and felt that the Jeremy Corinne spoke of was not the same cold-hearted and untouchable man he knew.

"Humph! I'm not a snob! I'm just stating the facts!"

Corinne smiled. "Whatever floats your boat."

Sunny stared at her unhappily and asked, "So... Do you like Jeremy now, Corinne?"

Corinne was dumbfounded for a moment, and she felt a burning in her heart. "Did I say that?"

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Sunny crossed his arms and snorted confidently, "It's useless even if you do like him. The two of you **won't** last long anyway! Just take my advice and quit while you're ahead, or it'll feel much worse if you get dumped in the future..."

The bus pulled over at the station as he spoke.

Corinne got up, walked past Sunny, and got out of the bus without glancing at him.

Sunny snapped back to his senses and chased unhappily after her. "Hey! Corinne! Did you listen to what I just said? Corinne!"

Corinne turned a deaf ear to Sunny's nagging and walked into a café. Meanwhile, Sunny followed her in and continued to yap non-stop. After a while, Corinne came out with an iced café latte and walked relatedly into the shopping mall in front of her.



Sunny followed her while droning on about his unfinished topic. He was determined to persuade Corinne to quit and return Jeremy to his sister. Corinne, on the other hand, ignored Sunny entirely and sipped on her café latte while going shopping. She visited stores from the first floor all the way to the top floor and bought some bits and bobs from many different stores.

Meanwhile, Sunny followed her the entire time and was so tired that he could not even straighten his back. "Hey...wait for me! Girls are always so weak in gym class, but they can somehow go shopping without getting tired! I'm already exhausted!"

Corinne's face was neither red nor out of breath, and she glanced at him faintly as she said, "You're already tired? Then don't follow me around and go do what you're supposed to be doing right now."

Sunny still did not give up. "Is it wrong for me to follow you? It isn't safe for a girl like you to

wander around outside by yourself. Aren't you going to appreciate that I'm protecting you for free?

"

Corinne looked at him like he was a clown and sized him up from head to toe. "You? Protect me?"

Sunny could feel her looking down on him, so he raised his arms and rolled up his sleeves to show off his biceps. "Is something wrong with me? I'm strong, you know!"

Corinne pursed her lips, smiled, and kept quiet.

Sunny felt that even more underestimated by Corinne and became increasingly frustrated. Just as he was about to show her how manly he was, several girls called out his name in unison.

"Sunny!"

Their

yell left Sunny stunned for a moment, and he turned to look in the direction of the voice. There, he saw three girls staring at him at the door of an escape room. They seemed both surprised and happy to see him there.

The girl in the middle with long hair and a long skirt walked over first. She had an infatuated expression as she said, "It's you! We thought we mistook someone else for you!"

Sunny looked at the three girls with disinterest. "Ah, it's you girls."

Though they were his classmates, he was not all that familiar with them. To make things worse, he did not even remember their names, and he guessed that they were his classmates because they looked familiar.

After the girl greeted Sunny, she looked at Corinne who was sipping the iced café latte not far from him. A wary expression appeared in her eyes as she asked, "Sunny, is she...your girlfriend?"

Corinne was speechless, while Sunny had a convoluted expression as he turned his head to look at Corinne beside him. Though he had planned to chase after Corinne once he turned 18 so that Corinne would fall hopelessly in love with him and make room for Anya to be with Jeremy, he had not put that plan into action yet and answered honestly, "... No!"

After the long-haired girl received that answer, she relaxed slightly and looked at Corinne with a less defensive gaze. She glanced back and forth between Corinne's face and Sunny's, as if to make a comparison, and finally said with a smile, "Is she your elder sister or younger sister? She looks a bit like you!"

Sunny immediately frowned in disgust and said angrily, "What are you, half-blind? How do I even remotely look like her?"

The girl felt awkward after being scolded as 'half-blind', and her eyes began to turn red.

Sunny, meanwhile, did not seem to think that he did anything wrong.

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Corinne felt that Sunny's handsomeness paled far in comparison to his stupidity. Even if he did not like the girl, it was unbecoming of him to talk to her like that.

When Corinne saw that the long-haired girl was about to cry, she could not help but feel sympathetic and decided to step forward and comfort her. "Ignore him. Being polite isn't one of his quality traits. He has a problem with me, not you."

The long-haired girl was stunned, and she suppressed her tears while looking at Corinne in awe and curiosity. "Hi, nice to meet you. Are you Sunny's sister?"

Corinne could tell at first glance that the girl had a crush on Sunny. If she said no to the girl's question, it would only cause the girl to further misunderstand her relationship with Sunny.

"... Sort of."

After Corinne comforted her, the long-haired girl was no longer as awkward as before and smiled at Corinne. "My name is Charlene Schumer, and I'm Sunny's classmate. I'm sorry I wasn't aware of your identity earlier. You seem to be about the same age as us, so I wasn't sure if you were his elder sister or younger sister."

Corinne

paid it no mind and shook her head. "No worries. Are you girls here to shop, too?"

"Yeah." Charlene nodded. "The three of us wanted to give the escape room a try after we were done shopping, but when we went in, we got too scared to play and ran out."

Corinne nudged Sunny with her elbow. "It's time for you to show your manliness! Why don't you form a group with your classmates and protect them?"

Sunny frowned in disgust. He hated being with girls as the girls at school were annoying and acted like nymphos.

"No! It's pointless!" Sunny retorted.

"Is it because you're a scaredy-cat?" came the reply. The person who said that was neither Corinne nor the three girls, but the voice of a boy from the far end.

Everyone looked in the direction of the voice, and Sunny immediately frowned in animosity after seeing who it was.

The girls were surprised to see who it was, and they nearly said in unison, "It's Yash and his group!"

Corinne recognized them as the guys who beat up Sunny in the Lunar Century Manor previously.

Yash approached with a few of his buddies and put on airs as he looked at Sunny with disdain. "Sunny, I didn't expect you to be such a loser! As if being a terrible student isn't bad enough, you're such a scaredy-cat that you don't even dare to enter the escape room!"

Sunny stared angrily at the other party. "Who said I'm afraid to play? I'm just not interested in bringing offline games!"

Yash snorted. "How would I know if you're not interested or a scaredy cat?" His friends then burst into contemptuous laughter.

Being the young and proud man that he was, Sunny could not bear to be provoked. He gritted his teeth with a sullen face and said angrily, "Let's play, then! I'm not scared!"

When Charlene heard that Sunny was willing to play, she was immediately overjoyed and politely invited Corinne as well. "Will you join us, too? We can be in a group with Sunny!"

Corinne was about to decline when Yash suddenly stared at Corinne and asked, "And who is she?"

He recognized her as the woman who stood up for Sunny at Lunar Century Manor some time ago, so it was natural for him to be a little unhappy when he saw her!

Charlene said, "This is Sunni's sister!"

When Yash heard that, he immediately dismissed the remark. "I've met your sister Anya before. How is this woman your sister? Did you knock this one up or something?"

Yash's disrespectful words made Sunny angry, and he blurted out, "Anya is my second sister, and she's my eldest sister, Luna! Got a problem with that?"

His statement left Corinne speechless.

Yash was stunned, and he looked at Corinne again. "I remember hearing that you had a big sister named Luna who was lost since young. When did your family find her? Why haven't I heard about it?"

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Sunny raised his head, raised his eyebrows, and shot back, "Were you expecting the Riveras to tell outsiders about what happens in the family? Who do you think you are?"

Yash stared unhappily at Sunny. "Fine. I'll treat her as your sister, then! The last time I lost to you a mobile game, you were lucky to have matched with a full-level boss! Let's see if you guys are lucky enough to complete the escape room challenge this time. I can't wait to see the two of you running off like scaredy cats!"

Sunny had a disdainful look on his face. "We'll see about that!"

"Bring it on!" Yash sneered and swaggered off smugly with his four friends into the escape room premises.

Sunny turned to Corinne and was pumped up as he said, "Come on! Let's go in there and show them what we've got!"

Corinne raised her eyebrows. "I don't remember agreeing to go with you."

An unhappy look appeared on Sunny's face as he grabbed her and said, "Why are you backing out at this juncture? Come with me!"

Corinne did not know what to say. 'Me? Backing out? There's no issue with backing out because I was never part of your group! What does this have to do with me when I was never interested in participating in the first place?'

Upon seeing that everyone went in, Charlene and her two friends walked into the escape room club with Sunny.

Inside the premises, Yash and his group insisted on choosing 'Hospital of Horrors', the most terrifying theme. They then casually asked Sunny if he had any comments.

Sunny was not afraid of it and went along with their suggestion. "Whatever! I'm fine with anything!"

The girls who were headed by Charlene were very much disinclined to the terrifying 'Hospital of Horror' theme and got closer to Sunny in fear. "S-S-Sunny, can the three of us be in the same group as you?"

"If that's what you want, then sure." Sunny had no objection. There were five people on Yash's side, so the three girls would complete his group and make it five people too.

Yash laughed mockingly and said, "Hey!

Are you sure you girls are okay with being in a group with Sunny? He might pee his pants before you and sacrifice you to the ghosts inside!"

"Don't be so condescending, Yash," scoffed Sunny. Those things don't scare me."

Yash glanced disdainfully at Sunny and ignored him while walking directly to the receptionist. He explained the theme of their choice, then leaned to the receptionist and whispered something to her ear as a sinister smile appeared on his face.

Before the game started, they all prepared to enter the 'Hospital of Horrors' when Charlene

realized that her group was short by one person. She asked curiously. "Wait... Where's your sister, Sunny?"

Sunny was startled, and he finally noticed Corinne's absence when he looked all around him to find her. 'Damn it! That sly woman ran off!

Upon seeing that, Yash asked in a suggestive tone. "Oh? She ran off before we went in! Can you still do it without your big sister protecting you, Sunny? If you can't, it's not too late to admit that you're a coward!"

Sunny gritted his teeth and replied, "You should mind your own business! Don't end up having to call your mom because you peed your pants!"

Yash's face darkened, and he retorted, "You're going to end up eating your words later!"

Sunny ignored Yash and looked around once more to confirm whether Corinne had returned. When he did not see her figure anywhere, he could not help but feel a little discouraged.

Unfortunately, he was unable to back down from the challenge.

After calming down, Sunny said to Charlene and the three girls, "Don't be nervous, girls, Just remember that those ghosts inside are just people wearing a disguise. There's no need to be scared. Make sure you follow me closely when we go in later."

Charlene's fear decreased considerably when she saw her crush speaking in such a masculine manner. She nodded with a look of admiration and said, "Okay, Sunny. Let's do our best!"

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Before long, everyone stepped foot into the 'Hospital of Horrors', and everything within the room- including the atmosphere, lighting, sound effects, and temperature—was hair-raising.

Yash and the other five went in first, and they deduced the clues to move on to the next area. Sunny then hurriedly led the three girls to search for the clues to clear the area, and that was when two 'ghosts' appeared.

They were both male 'ghosts' with disheveled hair in hospital gowns.

Those two male ghosts ran in from a door close to Yash's side, but they walked past Yash's group and rushed to attack Sunny's side. The three girls screamed in fright and hugged Sunny without letting go, which made it difficult for him to bring them away even if he wanted to.

At that moment, Yash and the others had already found the clue to clear the area, and he waved triumphantly to Sunny and said goadingly, "Sorry, but looks like we're ahead of you! Make sure you don't pee your pants!"

Sunny was pissed, but he did not have the luxury of lashing out at Yash. The two male ghosts next to him wandered around him and tried to instill fear into them. When he snapped back to his senses, Sunny pushed the two male ghosts to the ground and wanted to flee with his female group members, but a large group of zombies then began to swarm in.

The zombies moved toward them with jerking movements, and even Sunny broke out in cold sweat, much less the three girls. Aft

all, the actors had such realistic makeup and top-notch acting skills that it **felt** like everything was real!



When Sunny saw the zombies surrounding them, he took a deep breath and said to the three girls. "Don't be afraid. Just relax, close your eyes, and follow me!"

Charlene built up her courage after hearing her crush's voice, and she took a deep breath before reassuring her friends, "Come on,

we shouldn't be a burden on Sunny! Let's go!"

The four of them made a mad dash and finally caught up with Yash's group.

They could not afford to lose because

both sides were racing against time to find clues that would enable them to clear that area. Since Sunny was the one who found the clue first, he immediately told the three girls to go over and open the mechanism at the door in front of him. Once the door opened, the room was silent at first

before seven or eight nurses in bloodied white uniforms came out with eerie grins.

"Patients aren't allowed to leave! It's time for your injection! Hehe..."

"Injections... This injection will make you happy! Hehehe..."

The room was suddenly filled with the chaotic, eerie laughter of the female nurses who all held injection

syringes and surrounded Sunny's group. They pressed down those that they could subdue and pounced on the others who resisted their injections.

Yash and his group reveled in Sunny's misery from a distance. They seemed confident that the nurses would not attack them. However, a female nurse with a bloody face suddenly strangled Yash's neck from behind and waved a bright dagger in front of his eyes. "Time to take your blood!"

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Yash yelled in fright and cursed angrily, "F\*ck! Why are you attacking me? Didn't I tell them

receptionist to arrange for the actors to attack that group instead of ours? Don't you want to get your double pay?"

When the female nurse heard that, she seemed to realize that she had attacked the wrong person. She let go of Yash, ran toward Sunny frantically, and stabbed him in the abdomen.

Blood splattered everywhere.

Yash and his group were dumbfounded to see that because it was beyond their expectations. "Did the nurse...really stab him?"

A lot of blood flowed out when the nurse drew the knife, and after Sunny fell to the ground, she squatted down again and raised the knife in her hand to stab him again.

Sunny's body tensed up, but he then grew limp and was out of breath.

Charlene covered her mouth in horror and her eyes were red with fright. "She's... She's killing him!"

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The bloody-faced female nurse repeatedly stabbed the dead Sunny. Yash finally came to his senses and realized the seriousness of the situation. "Hey! Hey! What are you doing?! Stop!"

Upon hearing the voice, the female nurse stopped moving and raised her bloody face to look at Yash. A half-smile appeared on her face as she asked sullenly, "You wanted me to stop? Didn't you tell the receptionist your request that we avoid your group and target this guy? You even said that you wanted to scare him to death! Wasn't that your request, too?"

Charlene and her friends were incredibly angry after hearing what the female nurse said. They completely forgot about their fear and looked angrily at Yash.

“How can you be so evil, Yash?!”

“Yeah! How could you do this?!”

“Sunny died because of you! Hic, hic...”

Yash was embarrassed and frantic after being accused by his female classmates. He gritted his teeth, stared at the female nurse, and yelled, “What are you talking about? I asked you to scare him, not kill him!”

The female nurse tilted her head like a lifeless mechanical puppet. “Oh! Guess I misunderstood, then. But oh well! It’s too late now!”

In a fit of rage, Yash rushed over quickly and lifted Sunny’s lifeless body from the ground. He shook Sunny vigorously and said, “Hey! Sunny! Sunny! Wake up...”

Sunny did not respond, and Yash’s face paled in fear when he saw that both his hands were covered with red blood.

“You! You murderer!” He rushed over angrily and tore the bloody mask off the female nurse’s face. She smiled eerily, but he was determined to see what the murderer looked like.

However, when he tore off the mask, what he saw was a pale face with neither eyes nor a nose. All he saw were peachy, smiling lips. Yash’s hair stood on end, and he let go of the nurse while backing away in fright. “Ghost! It’s a ghost!”

The female nurse approached him with an unnerving smile. “Who are you calling a ghost?”

Yash's legs were so weak that he could not even stand up. "You... Don't come near me! I didn't offend you, did I?! Get away..."

The female nurse curled her lips coldly, raised the knife in her hand, and looked down at Yash. "Didn't you just blame me for killing him? Why don't you keep him company in the afterlife, then? it's only fair!" exclaimed the nurse just as she was about to stab him with a knife.

"Yash!" His four friends wanted to save him, but they were blocked by the rest of the female

nurses. They were unsure whether or not the nurses were humans or ghosts, but they were surrounded as the nurses cornered them step by step.

Everyone froze with fright.

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"H-Help! There are real ghosts here!"

"Help! The ghost killed someone!"

"Someone! Anyone! We quit! We're leaving!"

There was no response from inside the closed room other than the sound of the girls' cries.

Seeing that the female nurse was about to stab her with a knife, Yash's eyes were bloodshot with fear, and tears welled up in his eyes, "Mommy! Mommy, help-"

"Hahahahaha..." someone laughed all of a sudden.

The female nurse did not stab him, and she brandished it in the air before holding it in her hand and playing deftly with it. Yash came back to his senses, looked at the female nurse in shock, and glanced over at the source of the sudden laughter!

In the distance, Sunny had risen from the dead and was laughing loudly as he sat up. “Stop shouting, Yash! Your momma’s not going to come and rescue you today!”

Yash was taken aback. “Sunny... You’re alive?”

Charlene was pleasantly surprised when she saw that Sunny had woken up. She wiped away the tears on her face, ran over to him, and hugged him tightly as she said, “I’m so glad you’re fine! You have no idea how scared I was earlier...”

Sunny had an indifferent expression as he pushed his concerned classmate away indifferently. He stood up, folded his arms, and raised his chin arrogantly as he said to Yash, “You would’ve died before me!”

Yash and his four friends were stunned. ‘What’s happening? How is Sunny still alive when the female nurse stabbed him so many times?’

They looked at the female nurse again and saw her gently raising her hand to remove another mask. Underneath that mask was none other than Corinne!

Corinne had an insipid expression as she used her fingertips to press the tip of the knife. The blade retracted into the handle and spurted blood at the same time.

After that demonstration, she threw the fake knife away and got bored of having to play their games.

‘It’s a prop?!’

Yash had a sudden realization. His face turned red with anger, and he gritted his teeth and said, “You tricked me!”

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However, the three girls breathed a sigh of relief and said, “Sunny’s sister was playing a prank on us all along! It was just a false alarm...”

Sunny stepped forward to shield Corinne, worried that Yash might get angry and hurt her. He then said, “Tch! You said that I’d pee my pants because I’ll get scared, but you’re the one who ended up yelling for your mommy!”

Yash gritted his teeth and stood up. “How dare the two of you join hands to trick me!”

Sunny had an air of confidence as he said, “Weren’t you the one who wanted to trick us in the first place? You paid double the ticket price to bribe the actors into targeting us and letting your group have an easy time! Don’t even bother playing if you can’t accept that you might lose!”

“It doesn’t count! Even though I paid them double, none of them went through with it and did as I instructed!” Yash felt a little embarrassed and started to become unreasonable as he pointed fingers at several of the actors headed by Corinne,

Sunny frowned and said in disgust, “I didn’t think you’d be as shameless as you are despicable!”

“You...” Yash gritted his teeth and did not know how to retort.

Corinne had gone to the bathroom within the premises before the game started, but as soon as she came out, she happened to overhear Yash bribing the receptionist and the actors with double the ticket price. It was a despicable move, so she paid the receptionist three times the ticket price and requested them to let her enter the venue as one of their actresses.

People who could be bought with money were usually less reliable because they would happily forgo their principles as long as someone else offered them a higher price.

While Sunny looked for clues to clear the area, he received a text message from Corinne using Jeremy’s number. [Remember to play dead later.]

Though he did not understand what that meant in the beginning, he immediately understood when the nurs

e's stabs did not hurt at all. Once that realization sank in, he immediately cooperated with

her and put on an act.

After coming out of the escape room, Yash caught up with Sunny and stopped him. "You were pretty good in the escape room earlier! If you have what it takes, why don't you have another round with me?"

Sunny

snorted and was not interested at all. "Why would I want to play with a cheat like you? Out of my way! Don't stand in front of me like a statue!"

Yash was, alas, persistent. "There's a swimming pool nearby. The water's clear, and we're comparing our physical strength, so there's no question of me cheating anymore. Care to take me up on that challenge?"

"I'm not interested!"

"You can't swim, can you?"

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2/2

Sunny

was in a good mood after relieving his irritation at Yash in the escape room. He was not going to fall for Yash's goading a second time.

"Whether or not I can swim is none of your damn business!" Sunny shot back as he led Corinne away and left Yash behind.

Like before, Yash did not give up. "Hey, stop right there, Sunny!"

Corinne raised her eyebrow and looked back and forth between Yash, who was chasing after them, and Sunny, who dragged her away. She seemed to sense something and a

sked with intrigue, “Why is he so insistent on challenging you to all sorts of games? Is he trying to get your attention on purpose because he likes you?”

Her question nearly made Sunny faint. “Quit it! He likes that girl, but she likes hanging around me all the time. That’s the reason he always tried to give me a hard time!”

Corinne turned around again and saw Yash looking at Charlene while calling out to Sunny. Charlene was following them too, but her gaze was fixated entirely on Sunny.

‘Tsk, tsk, tsk! Now isn’t this your typical love triangle?’ As it turned out, Yash simply wanted to show off how good he was in front of Charlene and embarrass his rival Sunny while he was at it. Alas, none of his efforts bore fruit, which was why he probably insisted on challenging Sunny again to try and restore his dignity in front of Charlene.

“Stop, Sunny Rivera! I’m talking to you!”

Since Yash was unable to stop Sunny, he switched his target and shouted at Corinne, “What’s your name again... Oh yes, it’s Luna! Stop right there, Luna!”

At this moment on the shopping mall escalator, the mall’s manager was nodding and bowing as he accompanied Lucas—the president of the Rivera Group—down.

“Rest assured, Mister Lucas. The event held by the Rivera Group in our mall will be a sure success. We’ll do our best to make sure everything is to your satisfaction!”

Lucas nodded slightly. “Well, I sure hope so.”

“Luna Rivera! I said stop! Do you hear me? Hey...”

‘Luna Rivera...’ Lucas’s cold eyes looked toward the direction of the sound.

Edmund heard that name too, and he looked over in shock to see Sunny being chased by Yash’s

group.

“Sir, it’s Sunny and his classmates.”



Lucas's expression soured as he got off the escalator and walked over quickly.

As soon as Sunny saw Lucas's sudden appearance, he panicked and became nervous. "Lucas? Why are you here?"

Lucas ignored him and glanced coldly across Sunny's friends, especially the three girls. "Which one of you is Luna Rivera?"

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Sunny was not the only one who was rattled by Lucas' sudden appearance. Even the group of students following behind him felt rattled and nervous.

It was the girls' first time meeting Sunny's elder brother, and they did not expect him to be so much more handsome than Sunny. They seemed awestruck by his presence, more so because he

had the charm of a mature man.

Yash and his guy friends were all quiet. Though they were not afraid to confront Sunny, they did not dare to cause trouble in front of his elder brother Lucas. The Riveras were one of the strongest and most influential families in the city, perhaps even the whole country. None of their families could ever compare to the Riveras' status.

Lucas's handsome eyes became even more sullen when his question remained unanswered. He frowned and asked a second time, "Which one of you is Luna Rivera?"

No one came forth even after a while.

Sunny was so guilt-ridden and terrified right that he sweated profusely. He knew better than anyone that his missing sister occupied a sacred place in his brother's heart. It was difficult to imagine the consequences of his brother knowing that someone else had used that name.

Yash glanced at Sunny, noticed his guilty conscience, and surmised that he must have lied earlier. Knowing that Sunny's greatest fear was his brother, Yash deliberately called

out to Corinne next to him, "Hey! Luna! Your brother is talking to you! Why are you so quiet?"

Since Charlene liked Sunny, she wanted to get on his family's good side and felt that something was a little off about what was happening. She thus stepped forward and said politely, "Umm, sir. Isn't Luna your little sister? Why do you sound like you don't know her? Isn't Luna right next to Sunny?"

"Right next to him?" Lucas cocked an eyebrow and turned to look at Corinne, who stood beside

Sunny.

His pupils contracted, and the woman that he completely excluded from the equation earlier did not pay any attention to him at all. A sharp flash of coldness appeared in his warm eyebrows, and the embers of hope that were ignited in his eyes were extinguished at that instant. With all traces of warmth removed, Lucas moved his body slightly and took one step toward Corinne. "You called yourself Luna?"

Corinne had an insipid expression, and she calmly opened her mouth to explain the situation. "I-"

Lucas did not have the patience to listen to her explanation. He interrupted her directly and said sarcastically, "I'm not interested or concerned about how you managed to associate yourself with the Holdens, but I won't allow you to associate yourself with the Riveras and use our name to elevate yourself. If you pretend to be my sister and use her name again, I'll make you pay the price for your actions if I ever run into you again."

He emphasized the words 'pay the price'.

Sunny understood that Lucas never joked around with such things, and he knew that Corinne was.

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in deep trouble because Lucas was a man of his word. Even so, he could not bear to see Corinne being treated like that. After all, she was innocent, and the only reason she had been misunderstood as Luna was because of him.

Sunny gritted his teeth, plucked up the courage to stand up, and stood in front of Corinne. "It's not what you think it is, Lucas. She never did those things you accused her of, and she never pretended to be Luna. I lied to my classmates and told them that her name was Luna."

Lucas then slapped Sunny in the face. It came so abruptly that everyone was startled.

Sunny covered his face in shock and fear, and he slowly turned his head to face forward after the slap tilted his head to one side. His ears buzzed, and there were tears in his eyes which he refused to shed. "I swear it wasn't her. It was me..."

"It was you, then. D\*mn you, Sunny! How could you let someone greedy for wealth and power pretend to be your missing sister? What was your thought process behind that?"

Lucas had always been a calm and elegant person, yet he was absolutely furious after being rubbed the wrong way.

He then pointed at Corinne with the same hand that slapped Sunny and asked, "Do you think she's fit to use that name?"

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Corinne was at a loss for words. 'What did I do? I didn't provoke anyone! Why am I needlessly attacked here?!

"Don't point at her," a deep, booming voice sounded from not far away. Though the voice was loud, the tone sounded almost deafening to anyone who heard it. Everyone felt a chill down their spine as they looked over in the direction of the voice.

Standing

in the distance was a tall, handsome man. His neat and handsome hair highlighted **his** beautiful facial features, which looked good from every single angle. His entire person was as reminiscent of a walking sculpture, and he carried an aura of prestige despite his expressionless face.

Jeremy walked over calmly and exuded a daunting aura from his body.

Lucas narrowed his eyes and shot a hostile glance at the man.

Sunny was stunned, and he wondered why Jeremy would be there..

Meanwhile, the rest of the people felt oppressed by the increasingly tense atmosphere and did not dare not speak out as they looked anxiously at the exchange between the two men.

Corinne raised her eyebrows and was surprised that he showed up there. In the absence of those whom she was close with, she was very amiable toward his gesture of showing up there and instinctively leaned over to look up at the man who was much taller than her. "Why are you here?"

Jeremy lowered his eyes, and his cold gaze softened a little as he looked at her. "It's raining, so I came to bring you an umbrella."

Tommy, who had followed him from behind, was holding a black umbrella.

'Is it raining outside?' Corinne wanted to look out the window, but since there were no windows around, she could not see what was going on outside the mall and if it was raining.

The man's big rough palms held her little head, lifted it at a 45-degree angle, and fondly stroked her little face with his long fingers. "Are you done enjoying yourself the entire afternoon?"

'Enjoying myself? I just got scolded!'

Corinne yawned lazily. "I'm tired. I want to go home."

The man pretended to be unhappy and frowned. "I didn't think you'd get tired. Do you prefer being lashed out at by someone else instead of spending time with me? Couldn't you have called me if you were bullied outside?"

She was speechless to hear that sort of tone from him, but it sounded overly doting as if he genuinely regarded her as an elementary school student.

Corinne pursed her lips and said, "Aren't you here now even when I didn't call you?"

"You wouldn't think to call me at all if I didn't show up here!" Jeremy rubbed her head and spoke reproachfully in a mature voice.

Corinne was speechless. 'I can't stand his sappiness!'

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Jeremy did not tease her anymore, pulled Corinne gently to his side, and protected her under his arms. Since Lucas had spoken rudely to his woman earlier, he looked up at the man and stood up for Corinne. "I hope the Riveras will do better than to become the very definition of the word 'ungrateful'. How dare you point your finger at the girl who once helped your old man?"

Lucas glanced at Jeremy, and his irritated expression finally returned to normal as a calm yet elegant smile unfurled across his face. "The same can be said for you in terms of ungratefulness, Jeremy. My sister Anya saved your life too, so given that you're being so intimate with another woman in front of me, I can't help but wonder if Anya still has a place in your heart. Have you forgotten what my sister had to sacrifice to save you?"

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Jeremy's cold expression turned even gloomier. "I've never forgotten Anya's kindness, and I will repay it for you."

"Is that so?" Lucas sneered and glanced at Corinne with a hint of sarcasm.

Jeremy did not seem to have anything to argue about

regarding that issue. He was only polite to the Riveras because Anya had saved him in the past. With no further remarks, he immediately took Corinne's hand, led her away, and said, 'Let's go home.'

Rather than leaving, Corinne grabbed his hand in a signal for him to wait a while instead of leaving in such a hurry.

Jeremy stopped, frowned slightly, and glanced at her. 'What does she want now?'

However, Corinne merely looked calmly at Lucas as she said, 'Can I ask you something, Mister Lucas? Do the Riveras have a tradition where one must always pledge their lives to the person who saved them?'

Lucas narrowed his eyes. 'What are you trying to say?'

Corinne smiled. 'Does Jeremy have to pledge himself to your sister because she saved his life? Is it a sign of ungratefulness if Jeremy doesn't do that?'

Lucas kept quiet and waited for her to continue.

Corinne smiled slightly and cocked her eyebrow. 'Remember when I saved your grandfather? According to your logic, does your grandfather have to pledge himself to me, too? Would

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that mean you'll have to call me 'grandma' now?'

It was probably the first time Lucas had ever heard such an impudent remark, and his expression changed suddenly as he asked, 'What did you say?'

Even Sunny was stunned. 'What nonsense is Corinne talking about?!'

Yash and the other boys were stunned at first, then gasped in awe, and finally had to keep themselves from laughing out loud. None of them expected that there someone would

d have been so brave as to talk to the Rivera's scion like that. Their worldview changed completely!

Jeremy frowned, glanced at Corinne with a complicated expression, and did not quite like the analogy she used earlier.

Corinne continued, "What I'm trying to say is, the act of saving a person's life should always be done out of the kindness of one's heart rather than for the sake of showing off, holding a person to emotional blackmail, or using that person to secure benefits for oneself. Humans have the instinct to go forth and help those in need, and those who have a heart will feel

drawn to doing it. I trust that a good and considerate person like your sister wouldn't have rescued my man here simply because he was a pretty boy, would she?"

Jeremy raised his eyebrows. Though he was pleased to hear her call him 'my man', he did not particularly like that she called him a pretty boy. He did not know how to react to that statement, and he wondered if she was trying to piss him off too.

Sunny's gentle and handsome face was full of gloom at the moment, and he remained silent.

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Corinne then added, "Jeremy has never been an ungrateful

person, and I don't want to hear anyone call him that. While it's true that your sister is Jeremy's savior, Jeremy never once abandoned your sister. My husband rushed to save your sister when he received a call from her, and she even called him to ask him to send her home. Can you imagine a noble person like him having to do all that? Hasn't he been helping your sister whenever she faces a problem?

"If your sister is sick and needs blood transfusions or an organ donation, I firmly believe that Jeremy will feel obliged to donate without any objections.

However, subjecting him to emotional blackmail will give the impression that the Riveras are crass and undignified!”

Lucas was silent. It was the first time in his life that something like that happened to him, and he had no idea what to reply to Corinne.

Meanwhile, Edmund was frustrated because that was also his first time seeing his employer being scolded by a little girl. Despite wanting to vent his anger on Lucas’s behalf, he did not dare to act rashly and speak out of turn when Lucas was silent.

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Corinne had a lot to say, and she smiled softly as she continued, “And another thing. Luna isn’t a copyrighted name, is it? If it isn’t, why can’t I use it? Names that aren’t copyrighted can be used by anyone, and you have no right to define what name I can or cannot use. The alphabet was

created long ago, not by you or your family.

“Furthermore, I do not wish to claim that I am associated with the Riveras. If I wanted to have a relationship that I could use to show off, I would’ve changed my last name to Holden. You Riveras should stay away from me in the future!”

After ending her sharp and direct tirade, Corinne stretched her arm and took Jeremy’s arm meekly as she said, “Let’s go! I’ll treat you to some food. I saw a restaurant upstairs that looks pretty good!”

Jeremy snapped back to his senses and frowned. “You’re treating me?”

Corinne nodded in a matter-of-factly manner. “Yeah! I’m treating you using your money. Something wrong with that?”

Jeremy smiled brightly and curled his lips slightly. “No, not at all.”



They turned around as they chatted with each other and

walked hand in hand to the escalator. Tommy followed behind them in an orderly manner, but he made a point to wait about half a minute or so before going up the escalator. That way, he could keep a distance and avoid being too much of an interference.

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At the same time, Lucas was frozen in place, and his expression was particularly sour after being reprimanded by the little girl. He lived his entire life being calm and collected, yet he lost his composure at that moment, and even the veins were popping up on his forehead.

Edmund was a little uneasy, and he stepped forward to make a cautious remark. "Sir, don't you Missus Holden's tongue is a bit too sharp? How could she be rude to you just because she has Jeremy's support?"

Lucas closed his eyes, took a deep breath, and calmed his emotions before raising his head to glare at the main culprit- his blundering brother Sunny. He said sharply to him, "Go home!"

Sunny was startled after being yelled at and immediately lowered his head, his face hot with pain from the slap.

Lucas had always been strict and indifferent to him since he was still a boy, but that was the first time Lucas ever slapped him. Despite his resentment toward his elder brother, he did not dare to speak out and merely gritted his teeth before following them back home without saying a word.

Upon seeing that everyone else had left, Yash came back to his senses and walked up to the three girls. "You saw how useless Sunny is, right? He's just a wimp who tries to act tough, Charlene, and he turns into a scaredy-cat as soon as he sees his elder brother!"

Charlene stared longingly at the rear figure of her crush, and she rolled her eyes at Yash when she heard his remark. "Do

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you think you're better than him? You're always up to no good with all those shady tricks, and I hate sore losers like you the most! Hmph!"

Yash felt crestfallen. "Hey! I'm not that kind of person..."

Charlene ignored him completely and called her two friends over as they rushed away.

Yash was incredibly pissed to see his crush leaving him behind so mercilessly and clenched his fists tightly.

One of his friends came over to comfort him. "Sunny will get a big scolding when he gets home, so it's not entirely a waste today, at least!"

Yash gritted his teeth and spat on the ground. "I'll deal with him when school reopens!"

At that time, Anya had found the Carews and rang the doorbell.

Sherlyn was the one who came and answered the door. When she saw a beautiful woman wearing a famous brand standing outside the door, she immediately became jealous and disliked her right away. "Who are you looking for?"

Anya smiled politely. "May I ask if this is Corinne's family?"

When the woman mentioned Corinne's name, Sherlyn had an even more disgusted expression. "Who are you? And why are you looking for Corinne?"

Anya said with a smile, "I'm not looking for Corinne. I'm here to look for you. You don't know about Corinne's marriage, do you? I'm here to tell you the truth."

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Sherlyn was stunned. "Marriage? What marriage? That b\*tch is married?"

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Anya nodded. "She is, and she's even married to the Holdens, a first-tier family."

Sherlyn's complexion turned ugly. "What did you say? How is that even possible?!"

Anya had a kind expression on her face as she said, "It's

raining outside now, Miss Sherlyn, so if it's alright with you, may I come in and talk to you in more detail?"

Sherlyn thought for a moment and decided to let Anya in. Sure. Come on in, and make sure to tell me the details of what you just mentioned! I want to know how Corinne married Jeremy, and what's with her marriage."

Although she had no clue as to who the mysterious woman was, everything the woman said reminded her of the events that happened.

Corinne disappeared on the day that Sherlyn nearly married Jeremy and did not even come home that night. When Corinne reappeared the next day, she came back wearing a branded high-end men's suit jacket and suddenly told their father that she wanted to move out, Sherlyn then kept a close watch on Corinne and secretly followed her to find out what had happened. That was when she discovered that Corinne entered a luxury residential area in the city center, and when confronted, Corinne explained that she was working part-time there as a maid for her thesis.

In hindsight, Sherlyn felt that it was all very suspicious.

Furthermore, when she was recommended by the great

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director Goran to visit Jeremy at the Lunar Century Manor, Jeremy kept on staring at Corinne—who at the time was working as Sherlyn's assistant—with a very strange gaze.

As Sherlyn connected the dots, she felt that everything was becoming even weirder. 'Did that scheming little sl\*t marry Jeremy using my name on the day of the wedding and take away the man who should've been mine? ! If that's the case, then that d\*mn Corinne is simply too shameless!'

Anya was invited in, and 15 minutes later, she explained how Corinne married Jeremy to Marvin, Lilliana, and Sherlyn. It went without saying that she exaggerated the story a bit so it would better serve her purpose.

After hearing that, Sherlyn got so angry that she stood up from the sofa, jumped up, and yelled, "Dad, Mom! You heard that, didn't you?! Corinne stole my groom that day! I knew there was something wrong with the wedding! Why could the Holdens send someone to bring the dowry to our home? They haven't even asked for it to be returned! It must've been a mistake!

"Turns out, this is all Corinne's fault! She used her tricks to stop Jeremy from coming in to fetch his true bride, which wast me! She shamelessly seduced my groom-to-be and succeeded in marrying into the Holdens on my behalf! I should've been the one marrying into the Holdens! She's the worst!"

Lilliana was also very frustrated when she heard that as the huge misunderstanding during the day of the wedding prompted Marvin to slap her in front of all their relatives and friends. That incident had been so traumatizing that she was still ashamed to meet those relatives.

'So that's the truth! This was all Corinne's doing!'

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Lilliana tugged Marvin's arm in equal parts grief and anger, Marvin! Corinne picked up all sorts of bad habits from the countryside, and she has strayed off the right path even after she was accepted into a university in the city. All she thinks

about is how to use her opportunistic means to claim connections with upper-class families!

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“When she saw that Sherlyn had attracted Jeremy and was about to be married into the Holdens, Corinne got jealous and planned to snatch that chance away from her. After Sherlyn quit the entertainment circle to get married, her acting career was never as good as it was before, and the chance of getting married into a good family had been taken from her too! Sigh...

As Lilliana spoke, she felt sorry for what happened to her precious daughter and wiped away her tears in distress.

Marvin was unhappy, and he frowned when he saw how dejected and downcast his wife and daughter were. He frowned deeply from the moment Anya began to explain what had happened, and he burned with anger deep down as well.

However, he was a little more sensible and vigilant compared to his wife and daughter. He looked carefully at Anya, who turned up at their house for seemingly no reason, and scrutinized the way she carried herself. With her beautiful temperament and brand-name clothes, she was undoubtedly the daughter of a wealthy family.

As a result, Marvin asked suspiciously, “Who are you, and why do you know so much about the Holdens? Why would you come here to tell us the truth? What’s your purpose for doing so?”

Anya had factored that question into her expectations, and she had prepared a means of dealing with it. She smiled calmly and remarked, “Does my identity matter? I can’t stand to see Corinne taking what isn’t hers, so I came to inform your family out of the kindness of my heart. I hope that Miss Sherlyn can get back what should rightly be hers.

“Everything I said is true. If you don’t believe me, you can go to Holdens’ estate to see if your youngest daughter Corinne is staying there.” After ending her words, she took out a note. that she prepared in advance and placed it on the coffee table.

Printed on the note was the address of the Holdens’ estate.

Being the meticulous person that she was, she paid attention to all the small details and avoided using her handwriting.

As Marvin stared at the note in deep thought, Sherlyn reached out and picked it up. When she saw the address printed down, she exploded in a rage and said, “Dad! This is the correct address! It’s here! Remember the time I followed Corinne secretly? I saw her entering a mansion at this place, and she later told me that she was working as a part-time maid there! Now that we know the truth, she was never a maid there at all! She took my place to become Jeremy’s wife! Dad! Corinne is an evil, scheming woman! She lied to our entire family!”

Marvin finally believed everything Anya said after hearing Sherlyn’s reminder. He got so angry that he slammed his hand on the table and said, “That ungrateful girl went so far as to rob her sister’s prospective groom! This is outrageous!”

Sherlyn felt as if she had missed out on millions of dollars, and she felt wronged, regretful, and frustrated. At that moment,

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she wished for nothing more than to rush over to the Holdens and expose that b\*tch, Corinne!

“Whatever it is, you need to get justice for me, Dad! Corinne has ruined my career, driven a wedge between the three of us, and turned our family relationship upside down! She even stole my husband, claimed my position of being a wealthy wife, and took away everything that should’ve been mine! I can’t just let her do as she pleases!”

Lilliana wiped her tears and wailed, too. "I won't object if you're more biased toward your younger daughter in certain things, but this is an important moment for Sherlyn! You can't just let Corinne do whatever she wants and bully my daughter!"

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Marvin pulled a long face as he pondered to himself for a while. Moments later, he suppressed his anger and said, "Don't worry, you two. We'll go to the Holdens tomorrow morning and settle things once and for all with that rebellious daughter of mine. I'll make sure that she returns every single thing she stole from Sherlyn!"

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It did not make any difference which of Marvin's daughters was married into the Holden family because it would still

make him Jeremy's father-in-law. However, deep down in his heart, he wanted his favorite daughter—Sherlyn—to become Jeremy's wife.

Marvin did not care much for Corinne since they never lived together as a family. No, she was raised in the countryside – away from him—so even if she married into a wealthy family, he would not get jacksh\*t.

'That little brat has been hiding in the Holdens' estate since she married into the family. She didn't even visit us once! What an ungrateful child she is!' thought Marvin.

Marvin felt that it would be better if Sherlyn were the one who married Jeremy so that he, as her father, could share the glory with his daughter.

The three

members of the Carew family discussed how to make Corinne pay for her insolence when Anya silently got up and left their place with a smug smile on her face. Her objective of visiting the Carew family had been attained.

Although she had been living abroad all these years, she kept a finger on the pulse of the happenings back in her home country.

To get Greg off his back about marriage, Jeremy came up with a plan to find a random woman who would be willing to go into a fake marriage with him. Initially, he found a woman named Sophia who came from a long line of martial artists in a

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country called Cativa.

However, Lady Luck must not be smiling down on Sophia that day because her plane was delayed due to bad weather, so she missed the engagement party with Jeremy.

Due to this, Jeremy—in his desperation—had no choice but to rope Corinne into being his fiancée. As for how he did that, Anya did not know.

However,

Anya learned Sherlyn had officially announced she was to wed and quit the entertainment industry after Jeremy sent Tommy to deliver the engagement gift to the Carews. Something must have happened in between because, for reasons unknown to her, Corinne – and not Sherlyn—was the one who married into the Holden family.

Therefore, Anya could not help but think that Corinne, in a bid to marry into a wealthy family, must have done something to Sherlyn so that Jeremy would choose to marry her instead.

Anya had hired someone to look into the matter and learned that the Carew family did hold a wedding banquet for Sherlyn that day. They made the whole thing as high-profile as

possible, and they claimed that their eldest daughter was going to marry Jeremy, the heir of the most notable family in the whole city.



However, Jeremy never went to the wedding banquet. It was all for naught, and thus, Sherlyn and her parents became a laughingstock of their friends and relatives. After finding this out, Anya decided to use this information to drive a wedge between Corinne and her adopted family. It would be best if Sherlyn could swap places with Corinne!

Anya could tell with one glance that Sherlyn was a typical

starlet, one that the entertainment industry was teeming with. Therefore, she was sure Jeremy would not be attracted to her. Corinne, however, was different. She had a certain, unique quality to her, one that was pure but down-to-earth, honest but cheeky, and cute but tough. It was a genuine personality, not faked.

It was the kind of free-spiritedness that was new to Jeremy, new and fatally attractive, so even if Anya could not get rid of Corinne this time, she would make her suffer for a while. Anya wanted Jeremy to see for himself that no matter how special Corinne was, she was nothing but a girl from a middle-class family whose parents only had money in their minds.

Anya was sure that once Jeremy knew what kind of

background Corinne came from, he would no doubt fall out of love with Corinne.

In any case, Anya could not wait to see how the drama would unfold in the Holden family tomorrow.

It was raining outside when Corinne and Jeremy finished their dinner in the Italian restaurant. The two of them went outside, and Tommy immediately passed Jeremy an open umbrella.

Jeremy took the umbrella and swiveled it toward Corinne naturally. "How do you want to go home today? Subway or bus?"

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Corinne raised an eyebrow and looked at the rain. Then, tilted her head to look at Jeremy and said, "Let's take your car since it's already

here. It'll be a bit of an overkill if I insist that you take the bus or subway with me in this kind of weather. I might not be a typical good girl, Mister, but I'm not a drama

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Jeremy turned to look at Tommy and signaled with his eyes to drive the car over. He then looked back at the cheeky Corinne, patted her head, and cooed, "Yes, I know you're the most thoughtful girl in the world."

This immediately elicited a pout from Corinne. 'I know he's giving in to me, but why does his compliment sound a tad bit insincere?' she thought.

Jeremy first made sure Corinne got into the car safely before putting away the umbrella and following inside. Then, Tommy slowly drove the car away from the shopping mall.

Corinne took out her phone to check the time and to reply to a few messages. She then thought of something, so she looked sideways at Jeremy and asked, "By the way, Mister, how did you know I was in that mall today?"

Jeremy

did not answer her question and instead grabbed one of the documents lying on the seat and started reading it.

Corinne narrowed her eyes. It was rare to see Jeremy, who was usually one step ahead of everyone, acting so guiltily, so she deliberately scooted closer to him and said, "Tell me, Mister, did you use a tracking device to track my location again?"

Jeremy looked up and was met with Corinne's inquisitive gaze. Knowing she would not stop asking him until he gave her an answer, he answered, "Yes, but only because it started to rain."

Corinne frowned unhappily. "The fact that it was raining doesn't mean you can track my location without my consent."

Jeremy knew Corinne did not like being tracked. He continued to speed—read the document in his hand. He then turned a page and said, “I’ll try not to do that again.”

Corinne raised her eyebrow and repeated, “Try not to?”

“Sometimes, it’s necessary for me to do that. After all, I’m only doing it to make sure you’re safe,” Jeremy answered solemnly.

Corinne scoffed. “Oh, drop the act, Mister. You’re only doing it because you desire to control me.”

Jeremy put down the document in his hand and decided to ‘drop the act’. He pulled the stubborn Corinne to his lap and roughly grabbed her chin. “You’re right, I do have a very strong desire to control you, and that’s not the only strong desire I have in me. Do you want to find out the rest?”

His words and touch made her blush. “Mister, don’t...you even think about it!”

Jeremy tilted her chin up and pulled her face closer. “I’ve been holding it in for far too long, you little rascal...”

Tommy—who was driving—silently raised the partition between the front and back seats of the car to give them some privacy.

Corinne knew she was not strong enough to push off Jeremy, so when his lips were just about to meet hers, she suddenly asked, “What did Anya lose to save you?”

Jeremy stopped doing what he was doing, and his eyes darkened; it seemed he did not want to be talking about this.

Corinne stared at him for a while before breaking out in a

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giggle. "Let me guess, she lost her virginity to save you?"

"You and your nonsense," said Jeremy with a frown.

"Then answer my question," said Corinne, not caring one bit that Jeremy seemed uncomfortable talking about it.

"Let's not talk about the past," said Jeremy as a multitude of emotions flashed across his face.

"I was just playing with you. It's fine if you don't want to talk about it. Besides, I have some secrets of my own that I'd never want you to find out." Corinne shrugged and took this

opportunity to return to her seat.

Jeremy was speechless. 'What secret does she have that she doesn't want me to find out?' he wondered. He felt conflicted by this, so he pinched his glabella in resignation. Not only did she let her distract him, but she also successfully made him wonder about what secrets she could have.

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It did not take long until Jeremy and Corinne reached home.

Corinne was exhausted after having been pestered by Sunny all afternoon, and since her belly was full, she wanted nothing more than to take a shower and sleep.

Jeremy followed her upstairs, and the moment she put her hand on the doorknob, he reached behind her and placed his on the knob too so that the two hands laid on top of one

another. It was as if he planned this.

Corinne frowned and stopped turning the doorknob. She looked up at Jeremy and asked, "Mister, what are you doing?" Jeremy put his lips close to her ear and whispered, "I want to..."

Corinne instinctively tucked her neck as he got closer. "What... do you want?" she stammered as if she had just seen a ghost.

Jeremy moved his lips close to her ear again and whispered huskily, "I want to go in."

His answer

made Corinne think of dirty thoughts. The words 'go in' sounded so seductive coming from his mouth, so much so that she could not help but blush.

Her entire body throbbed with desire, but she would not give in to him. "Mister, how can I believe that you're serious about me when you're so impatient?"

The hand that was holding hers tightened a little before letting go. Jeremy straightened himself and tousled her head. "Fine, I'll be patient and wait until the day you ask me into your

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room. I'll let you rest now."

Jeremy had turned to leave for his study when Corinne turned around and said, "Wait, Mister. I've forgotten to tell you something."

Jeremy stopped in his tracks and turned around. "Yes? Go on."

Corinne crooked her finger, signaling him to bend down a little as if she wanted to whisper some secrets into his ear but could not since he was too tall.

Jeremy narrowed his eyes, bent down, and brought his ear close to her face.

Corinne then stood on her toes and gave him a peck on the cheek before saying, "Mister, thank you for going out of your way to bring me an umbrella today. This is the first time anyone has ever done that for me. I'm very grateful for it. Good night."

A kiss and a good night—

that was all that was needed to make Jeremy's heart soften. However, it was a pity that

Corinne

closed the door in his face before he could even say anything. With a loud bang, she had slipped into the room, and he could even hear her locking the door! That extinguished whatever tender affection Jeremy had for her at that moment. It seemed like the softer she was to him, the more she could not wait to get away from him.

Jeremy was speechless. He looked at the locked door and

touched the spot where Corinne kissed him, and he could feel the warmth of her lips lingering. Thinking back to the kiss, he smiled and started to make his way to the study.

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After taking a shower, Corinne turned on her computer and logged into the company email account to check if she received any feedback on her drawings from Jeremy. As expected, there was an unreal email from him in the inbox, so she clicked it right away.

The content of his reply was simple and short as if saying anything more would cost him more. It only took Corinne to read this one sentence.

[Your design is pretty good, but it doesn't quite capture the feeling I was looking for.]

This immediately elicited a frown from Corinne. 'All clients are all the same. They'll give you free rein to be creative at the beginning but then come back with feedback such as this. How am I supposed to edit the design when they don't give me any concrete feedback?'

After giving it some thought, Corinne replied, [Mister Holden, I'm so sorry that you're not satisfied with the design. May I ask what kind of design you are looking for? I would really appreciate it if you could provide me with a brief description you have in mind. Thank you!]

After hitting the 'send' button, Corinne went to blow-dry her hair. By the time it was dried, she had already received a reply from Jeremy.

This time, the content was a bit longer.

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[Soul. What I want is for you to put your heart and soul into the design. This and the design must reflect Holden Group's commitment to providing value to the public. I didn't spend all that money to hire you just for your professional skills but also for the care you put into designing Crescent Building. Don't try to fool me with this hastily rushed design that looks flawless but has no soul. Moon, I can see that you're quite proficient in your designing skills, but you're not taking this project seriously.]

Corinne was stunned, though she agreed with what Jeremy wrote. Indeed, she did not put her heart and soul into the design she sent him. Instead, she relied on her refined technical skills to come up with another soulless design.

'Jeremy is right. I need to put my heart and soul into this, just like how I did with Crescent Building. Besides, it's reasonable for him to demand that I come up with a better design since he's paying a hundred fifty million dollars,' thought Corinne.

Thus, she replied, [Okay, I understand. Thank you for pointing this out. Please allow me some time to come up with a new design. You have my assurance that you'll be satisfied with the next design.]

No replies came from Jeremy after this.

Sitting in front of the computer, Corinne rested her chin on her hand and started brainstorming some ideas. The previous draft was completely useless to her since she would need to start all over again. 'I need to come up with a new design concept for Holden Group's new building...'

The next morning, Jeremy specifically asked Bowen not to

wake up the slumbering Corinne. He then took his breakfast and went to work.

At that moment, Corinne had not woken up, and unbeknown to her, Sherlyn and her parents had already arrived outside her house.

After Sherlyn got out of the car, she pointed to the mansion and resentfully said, "Mom, Dad, this is the place! I saw Corinne walking into the house like she owned the place last time."

Marvin and Lilliana were gobsmacked by just how huge the mansion was. They knew it would take more than money alone to be able to own such a huge mansion in the downtown area. Only powerful and prominent families like the Holdens. could get a permit to build a mansion right in the middle of the city.

"Marvin, look at how grand this mansion is! Our daughter would've been living there as Jeremy's wife if it wasn't for Corinne. We could drop by anytime we want to visit her instead of standing outside like this," said Lilliana bitterly.

Marvin frowned unhappily. He felt as though he had just lost an opportunity to pocket 15000000 dollars, and it was all Corinne's fault. Therefore, he was determined to get to the bottom of everything. "Sherlyn, go ring the doorbell."

Sherlyn nodded and jabbed at the doorbell repeatedly, angrily. However, the gate did not open for them. Instead, an old man's face appeared on the monitor.

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"May I know who you are looking for?" asked the old man kindly.

"We're looking for Corinne. Is she in?" Sherlyn answered.

Bowen was a little surprised by the discovery, and he immediately grew guarded. "Ah, you're looking for Ma'am. What business do you have with you?"

Sherlyn could have erupted with fury there and then when she heard Bowen addressing Corinne as 'Ma'am'. She gritted her teeth and said, "Mom, Dad, you both heard how he



addressed Corinne as 'ma'am'! This just proves that everything Anya told us yesterday is true! Gah! I'm so angry I could strangle someone right now."

Being more experienced than Sherlyn, Lilliana calmly pushed aside the overly-emotional Sherlyn and said to Bowen, "Hello. We, Corinne's father, mother, and sister, thought it'd be nice to drop in to visit her for a while. If she's in, would you be so kind as to open the gate for us?"

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Bowen was surprised when he heard what Lilliana said, but he immediately put on a respectful and kind smile. 'So they're Ma'am's family! What an honor it is to have them come here! I need to make sure to treat them with the utmost respect.'

However, he also reminded himself that he needed to make sure the three of them were who they said were. He could not just let anybody in without confirming their identity, so he said, "Please wait for a moment. I'll need to inform Ma'am first."

He left the intercom and went upstairs to inform Corinne of the unannounced visit from her family. Even though Jeremy specifically asked him not to wake her up, he had no choice but to do so since everything happened so unexpectedly.

The knocking on the door woke up Corinne. She frowned and groggily answered, "Yes?"

"Ma'am, a middle-aged couple and their daughter who looked to be your age had come to visit you. They said they're your family, but I'm not sure if that's true, so I've come to ask you."

'A middle-aged couple and their daughter who looked to be my age? My family?' thought Corinne.

Suddenly, her eyelids flapped wide open as all the sleepiness left her body.

'The Carews are here? How did they know I'm here? In any

case, they must've known I've married Jeremy since they had

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gone through all the trouble to come here, so there's no point in hiding from them anymore.'

Corinne sat up and casually brushed her slender fingers through her tousled hair. After deciding on her next step, she calmly said, "Bowen, let them in and ask them to wait in the living room for me. I'll be down as soon as I've washed up."

"Yes, Ma'am," replied Bowen, and he went down to do as she instructed.

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Sherlyn grew impatient to the extent she started cursing Corinne. To her, she should have been the rightful Missus Holden, so how dare Bowen let her wait outside for so long?!

'As soon as I take back what's mine, my first order of business as the rightful Missus Holden will be to fire that blasted old man!' snarled Sherlyn inwardly.

Suddenly, the gate opened, and out walked two servants who bowed respectfully to them before asking the three of them to enter the residence. Sherlyn glared and rolled her eyes at the two servants before angrily complaining, "What the hell were you guys thinking? How dare you make me and my parents wait outside for so long? Aren't you all afraid I'll ask Jeremy to fire you?"

The two servants were stunned and confused at the same time. All the while, they behaved respectfully toward the Carews because Bowen specially instructed them to do so, saying that the Carews were Corinne's family. He told them that they should treat them with nothing less than the utmost respect.

'What gives her the right to scold us and threaten us like that?'

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thought one of the servants unhappily.

'Who the hell does she think she is? Not only is she vicious, but she's always treating us like scum! Does she think she's the woman of the household and that Mister Jeremy will do whatever she asks him to do?' thought the other.