

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

## Chapter 421 to 435

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### Chapter 421

Jeremy said she did not put her heart and soul into the first draft she sent him so she used up every ounce of her creativity this time to finally complete the new drawing before he came back. She emailed the new drawing to him and waited patiently for his reply.

'There should be no problem this time,' she thought. She

could finally take a mental break now that she completed the design.

She turned on her phone, wanting to play a game to relax, but accidentally caught a glimpse of the date. Today was the last day of her three-month agreement with Jeremy.

'Wow, has it been three months already? How time flies!' she thought. Her relationship with Jeremy was a little

complicated. 'If Mister didn't express his intention to have a serious relationship with me and I didn't agree to give it a thought then. I'd be packing up my things to leave this now.'

Previously, she waited for this day to come but now she did not want to leave that much anymore.

In the half-month that Jeremy was abroad, he would video – call her every night just so that he could see her, talk to her, and tell her goodnight. She was more than happy to accept his video call and was curious to find out what he was up to as well. She was starting to miss him a little bit.

'Maybe I can consider making this relationship official once he comes back,' the thought made her blush, 'so this is what it feels like to miss someone.'

She tapped on the messaging app, wanting to text him to ask him what he was doing. However, the red circle with the numbers 99+ at the top of her chat window caught her eye. She took a closer look and discovered that the profile picture was a pretentious selfie of Sherlyn.

Corinne raised her eyebrow, clicked into the chat window, and started to read the messages. Each sentence, without exception, was punctuated by a spattering of swear words. Sherlyn sent those vicious messages ever since she and her parents were kicked out of the mansion that day. The messages got even more vicious as time passed.

Sometimes, Corinne would read the messages as a way to amuse herself but most of the time she chose to ignore them. because she did not have the time or energy to waste on the Carews. It just so happened that she had nothing to do today so what better time than to go home and make a clean break from them?

Corinne rang the doorbell at Carew's mansion. It had been a while since she stepped foot inside the mansion. Sherlyn who had a sheet mask on her face – opened the door. Her eyes immediately snapped wide open when she saw it was Corinne at the door.

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“Oh, look what the cat dragged in,” she said sarcastically, isn't this the high and mighty Corinne? What are you doing here when you have the Holden family at your beck and call? Surely your own family is nobody to you now. Don't tell me they're sick of you already and that's why you've come here to ask us to take you back.”

Corinne remained calm and indifferent. “I only came back to take back what's mine,” she said with a smile.

Sherlyn knitted her brows together, gritted her teeth, and glared viciously at Corinne. “Take back what's yours? Just how shameless can you be, Corinne? What could you possibly have in this house? Are you talking about the junk in the attic? Well, sad to say but I've already thrown them away 'cause I thought they were trash so what else do you want to take back?”

Our father was the one who raised you up and yet you forgot all about him the moment you married into a wealthy family. Not to mention, Jeremy should've been mine! I have no idea why you turned out to be like this! Get out of here, you heartless b\*tch! You're not welcome here!"

## Chapter 422

Corinne was not fazed by Sherlyn's hysterics. Judging by the lazy yawning she did just now, she was bored by the whole thing. Suddenly, she smiled and said, "I'm sorry but I don't care whether I'm welcomed here or not. I'm just here to take back my engagement gifts."

At the mention of the 'engagement gifts', Sherlyn's whole body immediately tensed up. Then she frowned angrily and said, "What right do you have to take away the engagement gifts?"

Corinne raised her eyebrow. "You're asking me what right do I have? If I remember correctly, those engagement gifts are from my husband, are they not? Therefore, I have every right to take them away."

The words, my husband, made Sherlyn even angrier. 'How dare she call Jeremy her husband? He was supposed to be mine! If only he didn't get seduced by Corinne.'

The more she thought about it, the angrier she got. She pointed her finger at Corinne and shouted, "Corinne Carew, I had enough of your bullsh\*t! Jeremy didn't give those engagement gifts to you. You know d\*mn well he gave them to me so they belong to me and not you! You were the one who stole my man away from me, you shameless b\*tch, so how dare you come here to take away my engagement gifts?! I can't believe you would even think of that! I warn you, Corinne, don't ever push your luck!"

Sherlyn already lost her dream man so h\*ll would freeze over before she let Corinne take those engagement gifts away from

her. The engagement gifts Jeremy gave to the Carews were all expensive items. She knew any one of them could fetch hundreds and thousands of dollars in the market.

It was very important for her to hang on to those engagement gifts because she had no job and no possible way to go back to acting since she crossed the most famous director in the country – Director Goran Sheffield. Therefore, she was hoping to eke out her living with the engagement gifts.

‘No way am I going to let her take away my engagement gifts!’ thought Sherlyn.

“Sherlyn, who’s there? Why are you shouting at the door?” Lilliana heard the commotion outside so she came out to the entrance to see what was going on.

Sherlyn looked back at Lilliana and pointed with her lips at Corinne. “Corinne’s here and guess why she’s back? She has the face to come back and ask me to give back the engagement gifts,” she said viciously and superciliously.

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and said

Lilliana’s reaction was the same as Sherlyn’s when she heard Corinne came back to take away the engagement gifts. She frowned, walked over to stand beside Sherlyn, looked at Corinne who was still outside the door unhappily, “Corinne, you’ve crossed the line this time. Isn’t it enough that you stole Jeremy from Sherlyn? How can you even think of coming here and taking away the engagement gifts? Your father will never forgive you or let you do this to Sherlyn if he finds out about this.”

Corinne looked calmly at her stepmother. “I came back to take back what’s mine so I don’t need anyone’s permission. I, only, have the right to say what can be done to my personal

belongings.”

Lilliana did not believe Marvin would ever let Corinne take away those engagement gifts so she rolled her eyes and said, “Don’t get offended when I say this but is there no end to your greed? You should just give up the engagement gifts since you already got Jeremy!”

'Me? Greedy? Ha! No matter how greedy I am, I'll never be as greedy as the two of them!' thought Corinne.

A faint smile appeared on her lips as she said, "Aunt Lilliana, ever since I was young, I've never taken what's not mine but it doesn't mean that I won't fight for what rightfully belongs to me! The engagement gifts were given by my husband so I, as his wife, have the right to take it back!"

Chapter 423

Lilliana scoffed. "Oh, please! Stop using Jeremy to scare us. He would've been Sherlyn's husband if you didn't come in

between them! My Sherlyn would have been the real Missus Holden then!"

Lilliana would get so worked up every time she remembered what could have been.

Corinne was speechless at just how confident Lilliana and

Sherlyn were. Even now, they still did not give up on the belief that Sherlyn was the woman Jeremy wanted to marry in the first place.

'Ha! As if Mister will ever fall for someone as pretentious as Sherlyn!' thought Corinne.

At that moment, Marvin just woke up from his afternoon nap. Still yawning, he walked down the stairs and came to the entrance after he heard the commotion outside.

His eyebrows immediately shot up when he saw it was Corinne at the door. "Oh, it's you, Corinne. How dare you come back?!"

Corinne noticed his face still carried the injuries from before; his eyes and nose were all swollen and bruised, making him look like a defeated boxer.

'The servants must have dragged him out and beat him up when he came to the mansion with Sherlyn and Aunt Lilliana that day,' thought Corinna.

After giving it some thought, she finally nodded and said, " Yeah, I've come back, and why not? It's not like I've done

anything wrong.”

Marvin glared at her and gritted his teeth. He took one big step forward and pushed Sherlyn and Lilliana to the side. He then pointed angrily at Corinne and shouted, “You ungrateful child! You should be ashamed to come back! How dare you order the servants to beat me up and chase me away? I swear to god, if I don’t teach you a lesson today, my name is not Marvin Carew!”

He raised his hand and brought it down hard on Corinne’s face but before his hand could make the connection, Corinne reached out her hand and grabbed his wrist without any trouble at all. “Mister Carew, I would advise you to not act so rashly. Why don’t you come down ’cause I’d like to talk to you in private.”

This was not the first time Marvin wanted to hit Corinne.

However, in the past, she never doubted whether he was her biological father so she would always give him a little bit of leeway. Whenever he wanted to hit her, she would simply dodge his attack, instead of grabbing his wrist like she did now. She did not want to be hit nor did she want to humiliate Marvin.

This was the first time she put a stop to his physical abuse. She held Marvin’s wrist firmly in her hand. The expression on her face showed no respect or sympathy for him.

Marvin got fat with age so he was confident he was stronger than Corinne. However, to his surprise, he could not even shake off Corinne’s – who was smaller and thinner than him

grip.

‘When did she get so strong? Is she the same person as the annoying little brat I know her to be?’ thought Marvin.

Humiliation washed over him and he blamed Corinne for causing him to lose his dignity as a father. “Are you out of your mind, Corinne? How dare you raise your hand against me? You’ll go to h\*ll for this!” he shouted angrily.

Corinne held his wrist calmly. "Please calm down, Mister Carew. I have something to ask you and I only expect only the truth from you. If you do that, I can consider not taking back the engagement gifts," she said lightly and slowly.

Marvin was speechless. 'So the reason she came here is to take back the engagement gifts? D\*mn if I'm going to let her do that! Why, those engagement gifts were the most expensive things I've ever laid eyes on in my life!'

## Chapter 424

Although the Carews lived in a decent residential area and always used expensive items which gave people the impression that they were quite rich it was all a lie. Their lives were not as glamorous as they made it out to be.

Marvin inherited some properties from the older generation, but those properties were not in prime locations. It would be difficult for him to sell them should he need some cash.

Over the years, Marvin rented out those properties to other people, but the rent received was only a drop in the bucket for his family's expenses; it was not enough to satisfy the family's vanity and their penchant for keeping up with the Joneses.

Previously, they could count on Sherlyn's acting money to live a glamorous life but now she was canceled and could no longer get an acting job. In other words, they were doing nothing but frittering away whatever little fortune they had left.

The engagement gifts given by Jeremy were their only hope to continue living their glamorous life so it stood to reason they would be unwilling to let Corinne take them back.

Marvin tried his hardest to free himself from his youngest daughter's restraint. However, no matter how much force he exerted, he could not shake free from her. He – who always treated women as less than would never stand for this kind of humiliation.

“You ungrateful child! Isn’t it enough that you forgot all about me after you married into a wealthy family but now you want to take back the engagement gifts? Well, let me tell you

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something, don’t even think about it! Since time immemorial, the engagement gifts were given to the bride’s parents and do you know why? It’s because the father alone has the right to decide how the engagement gifts would be used so you better let go of my hand now!”

Instead of letting him go, Corinne tightened her grip around Marvin’s wrist. “Mister Carew, I’m going to ask you one last time. Are we or are we not going to have a little talk in private?”

Marvin gritted his teeth in pain, feeling that the bones in his wrist were about to be crushed. He never knew Corinne — who seemed so powerless to him was so strong.

“Fine! Just let go of me and we can talk in my study!”

Only then did Corinne let go of his wrist. She then smiled and said, “Good. Let’s go to your study then. Please lead the way.”

Marvin shook his wrist to drive out the soreness. He then glared at Corinne angrily before turning around to take her upstairs to the study.

Sherlyn was a little worried that Corinne would brainwash Marvin with her sweet words so she stopped him and said anxiously, “Dad, don’t listen to her. There’s no need for you to have a little talk with her. The only way to deal with an

ungrateful and heartless daughter as she is to chase her out of the house.”

Marvin frowned. He was not in agreement with Sherlyn. No matter how presumptuous Corinne was, she was still Jeremy’s wife. Chasing her out of the house would not be a problem. He was more afraid of what would come next should she go home crying to Jeremy. He could not afford to be beaten up by



Jeremy's men again.

Lilliana was also worried about leaving Marvin alone with Corinne. 'Who knows what trick that girl's hiding up her sleeves this time,' she thought.

"Marvin, I think Corinne," she started to say but Marvin simply waved her away as if she was some kind of annoying fly. "That's enough! The two of you shouldn't meddle in this. If she wants to talk then let her talk! I, for one, want to see what she has to say for herself!"

Both Sherlyn and Lilliana were speechless. They failed to stop Marvin and Corinne and could only watch as the two of them went up to the study.

In the study.

Marvin sat down behind the desk authoritatively and asked with a straight face, "Well, spit it out now. What do you want to talk to me about?"

Without waiting for an invitation, Corinne pulled out a chair and sat down. "Mister Carew, be honest with me."

Chapter 425

"What's your relationship with my birth mother? Why, instead of her, did you go to the hospital to pick me up?"

Marvin's face stiffened and he looked at her in astonishment, "You knew about that?"

"Yeah, and I also know you're not my real father."

'This explains why she has been addressing me as Mister Carew lately,' thought Marvin. His eyes flashed as he shouted, "How dare you! When are you going to stop with your nonsense? Corinne Carew, you're my daughter! Are you seriously thinking of cutting ties with your flesh and blood just because you've married into a wealthy family?"

Corinne remained calm. "I'm sorry, Mister Carew, but I've already done a paternity test and you and I have no blood ties at all so you can't fool me."

Marvin did a double-take. He never expected that she would do something like this. "How dare you do a paternity test behind my back?"

Corinne folded her arms lazily. "Oh, I didn't plan for it. I just thought I might as well do it when you and Sherlyn were doing yours."

Marvin knew he could not hide the truth from her anymore. He gritted his teeth and scoffed. "So what if you have no blood ties? I was the one who brought you up and that makes me your father!"

Corinne smiled. "Did you? I don't seem to remember you ever doing that."

Marvin was completely speechless. It was true that he did not raise this adopted daughter of his. Instead, she was thrown into the countryside and was only allowed to come back after she got into university. Moreover, she never spent a penny of this on her education since she received a full-ride scholarship.

Corinne did not care about that; she did not come here to rehash what he did wrong as a parent. "It doesn't matter if you're my real father or not because I came here to talk about my mother. Tell me everything you know about her, Mister Carew."

It was obvious Marvin did not want to talk about Corinne's mother at all. He knitted his brows in consternation and said seriously, "There's nothing to talk about! Whatever happens, is only between me and her! You have no right to butt into our affairs."

Corinne narrowed her eyes. "She's my mother! So, of course, I have the right to find out the truth about her!"

Marvin was not in agreement with her. "Even so, I still have nothing to tell you 'cause I've long forgotten what happened in the past."

"You've forgotten?" Corinne did not panic nor did she get angry. She stood up slowly and

continued to say, "Very well then. Since you're unwilling to tell me anything, I'll be taking the engagement gifts with me then!"

Marvin immediately panicked at the thought of the engagement gifts getting taken away.

"Wait!"

Corinne paused in her tracks and looked back at him. "Yes? Has your memory come back now, Mister Carew?"

Marvin glared at her angrily. "I can only tell you what I know 'cause I'm not sure about the rest."

Corinne sat back down. "Okay, what do you know?"

Thinking back to the past irritated Marvin to no end. "Your mother and I used to go to the same university and she turned me down after I confessed my feelings to her. One day fifteen years ago, when I ran into her again by chance, she anxiously asked me to go to the Children's Hospital to pick you up, and we lost contact with each other after that."

The corners of Corinne's eyes tensed up. "What's my mother's name?"

"Em. Em Love."

'Em Love.' Corinne repeated her mother's name in her heart. Then she fixed her gaze on Marvin and asked, "Go on. What else do you know about her?"

Chapter 426

"I don't know about the rest. I only know that she comes from a wealthy family 'cause this one time. Ahem, I happened to see her going into a very grand mansion and addressing the old couple inside as Mom and Dad."

Seeing how guilty Marvin looked, Corinne could easily guess that he must have secretly followed Em home so that he could find out more about her.

Marvin had that faraway look in his eyes as he took a trip down memory lane. “Your mother has always been one of the quieter ones. Not only is she a straight -A student but she’s kind, doesn’t put on airs, and is popular in the school. Guys and girls alike worshiped her.”

‘So mom’s kind and gentle,’ Even though Corinne had no clear memory of her mother, she could nonetheless sense she was always smiling down at her. She remembered that she was already five years old when Marvin adopted her. Logically speaking, a five-year-old should be able to retain some memories of her childhood and yet, Corinne could not recall anything from before the age of five, which she found very strange indeed.

“Mister Carew, do you remember where is the mansion where you saw my mom entering?” asked Corinne carefully; she was trying to get a lead she could follow.

Thalassa

“It was in Thalassa city and the university we studied in shared the same name University. But the city changed to the extent of being unrecognizable since my university days. I’ll get lost if I go there now. As for the mansion, well, I won’t be surprised if it has already been demolished to make way for other urban facilities.”

Corinne thought for a while and asked, “Then did my mother ever tell you why she couldn’t go to the hospital to pick me up herself?”

Marvin hesitated for a while before answering, “The thing is, your mother and I were in the same art club during our university days so you can say we know each other quite well. Later, the art club organized a reunion dinner for past members and it was then I ran into your mother again. Everyone at the dinner exchanged phone numbers and after the dinner ended, your mother suddenly called me and told me that someone was after her life. She begged me to keep you safe and I, being blinded by emotions, agreed without hesitation. After that, I couldn’t reach her no matter how hard I tried so I thought, maybe the people who were after her got to her and that she’s not of this world anymore.”

It was obvious Marvin came to regret his overly-emotional response in agreeing to adopt her. Corinne did not hold any grievances against him. She was not his biological daughter after all so it was understandable that he did not love her. Besides, she might not even be alive now if he did not take her in then.

Corinne committed everything to memory before asking, "Do you have any other information about my mother?"

Marvin thought about it and answered, "Just one more."

"And that is?"

"Your mother loves art. She's quite a well-known painter in the country and the name she used to sign off her paintings is Nellie Nymphaea."

"I already know about this."

"As far as I know, the teacher who taught your mother to paint is the world-famous painter, Michel. If you can get a hold of him, he might be able to tell you more about your mother."

Corinne nodded. "Okay, I know what I have to do now. Thank you for telling me all this, Mister Carew."

She then got up and was heading out of the study when Marvin called out her name.

"Corinne."

Corinne stopped walking and looked back at him. "Do you have anything else to add, Mister Carew?"

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Marvin looked at Corinne who looked more and more like Em – with mixed emotions. Corinne was the child of his first love. On one hand, he wanted to love her as much as he loved Em but on the other, he was at the same time repulsed by the fact that the

child's father was another man. That was why he did not hesitate to send Corinne to live in the countryside. Out of sight, out of mind, so to speak.

Marvin frowned and said, "Don't say I didn't warn you but it's best if you don't look for your mother."

"Why is that?"

"I don't know what exactly happened to your mother but she repeatedly told me that no matter what, no one should ever find out you're her daughter. 'Cause otherwise, you'll be killed."

Chapter 427

"You should just live your life as a wealthy man's wife and forget about the past. I once promised your mother that I would not let her enemy find you so that her soul can rest in peace in heaven," said Marvin.

Corinne was stunned to hear her father

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who did not show her any affection before something like this to her. 'Maybe he's being nice to me 'cause he still has feelings for my mom,' she thought.

Corinne smiled and said, "Thank you for telling me that. I'll live a good life and protect myself. Goodbye, Mister Carew."

She then walked out of the room at a leisurely pace.

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Marvin frowned and let out a long sigh. The fact that Corinne grew up to be twenty years old meant that he already did his part in keeping her safe, just as he promised Emily. It would not be any more of his responsibility should anything happen to Corinne in the future for that girl already spread her wings and fly.

A few burly men were moving the engagement gifts out of the Carew's mansion downstairs.

"Hey! Who are you people? How dare you barge in here and steal our stuff? Put them down! All this stuff belongs to me! You can't take them away!" shouted Sherlyn hysterically.

"She's right! You can't take our stuff away! I'm going to call the police if you don't put them down and leave our house right away!" said Lilliana.

Corinne walked leisurely down the stairs and said, "I was the one who ordered them to take the engagement gifts away."

Sherlyn looked up and glared at her with red eyes. "Corinne, you b\*tch! What right do you have to take our stuff away?"

Corinne smiled. "Of course, I have a right since the engagement gifts were given to me by my husband. Don't you think that's reason enough?"

Sherlyn gritted her teeth. "Not only did you steal my man but now you're stealing away the engagement gifts? I swear to god, Corinne, that I'm going to kill you if it's the last thing I do!"

She then pounced on her but Lilliana who was the calmer of the two-stopped her.

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Sherlyn, calm down! Don't do anything impulsive!"

"What is it now? What's all the fuss about? When will the two of you ever give me some peach and quiet?"

Marvin heard the commotion downstairs so he came down from his study to take a look.

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“Why is that?”

“I don’t know what exactly happened to your mother but she repeatedly told me that no matter what, no one should ever find out you’re her daughter. ‘Cause otherwise, you’ll be

killed.”



## Chapter 428

Sherlyn snapped out of the shock and looked enviously at Corinne. “Huh! Where else could she have gotten the money from if not by deceiving Jeremy to give her some?” she said saltily.

Lilliana, of course, thought the same way as her. “Corinne, you shouldn’t use other people’s money to clean up your mess. Aren’t you afraid that the Holden family would look into this and punish you if they found out you use their money without their permission?”

Corinne smiled. “Aunt Lilliana, you seem to have forgotten something very important. Jeremy

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my husband so technically speaking, his money is also my money. Take yourself for example, has your husband ever asked you to give back all the money you’ve spent that was his, to begin with?”

Lillian’s face first became pale with shock then black with anger. She was so angry that she could not think of a comeback.

Sherlyn’s face looked even more terrible than her mother’s. She thought that the Holden family would look down on Corinne who grew up in the countryside and that they would eventually chase her out of the house. She did not expect Corinne to be able to control such a large sum of the Holden family’s money, to the extent that she began to doubt everything about her life.

‘D\*mmmit! Things weren’t supposed to turn out this way,’ thought Sherlyn.

Corinne looked at her watch nonchalantly and then yawned listlessly. “It’s getting late so I won’t stay for lunch. As for the check, well, you shouldn’t care where the money comes from as long as you got it. If you think the money is too little, then grow a backbone and don’t spend any of it.”

Both Sherlyn and Lilliana did not dare to speak because they did not want Corinne to think they would not spend the money on the check. Even if the Holden family asked about the money in the future, all the signs would point to Corinne using it without their permission; the Carew had nothing to do with it so it was better to spend the money and worry about the consequences later.

Marvin did not say anything too. He quietly pocketed the check and let the burly men take away the engagement gifts. His thinking was – Corinne could do whatever the h\*ll she wanted now that she gave him so much money.

In the end, the burly men hired by Corinne successfully took away all of the engagement gifts and the painting 'Geese in Late Autumn' painted by her late mother, Nellie Nymphaea, which was given to Corinne by Jeremy.

From now on, Corinne and the Carew would have no ties with each other. They would all be living their own separate lives.

A black luxury minivan was parked not far from where the Carew's house was. After coming out of the house, Corinne slid open the car door and got into the minivan.

Inside, Xante was seated in the driver's seat and was reapplying her lipstick with the help of the rearview mirror while Aaron was seated in the front passenger seat playing a game on his smartphone to pass the time.

Aaron immediately exited the game when he saw Corinne was back. He turned around and asked, "Boss, sorry to butt in your business but why do you still treat the Carews so nice when they were nothing but horrible to you? Besides, I'm sure it'll be easy for you to take your revenge now."

Corinne massaged her temples. She was exhausted so she leaned against the leather seat and closed her eyes. She stayed like that for a moment before saying softly, "My mom must've been desperate back then for her to seek help from an old classmate who she didn't see for so many years. It doesn't matter why Mister Carew decided to take me in but for him to risk his life to help my mother when she was at her most helpless is something I'm grateful for. From now on, as long as the Carews don't bother me, I won't seek revenge for what they have done to me in the past."

## Chapter 429

Aaron and Xante glanced at each other. Both of their hearts went out to Corinne. Since she was little, Corinne never experienced what it felt like to have the love of a family. Instead, she was sent to the countryside to suffer all kinds of hardships. They saw with their own eyes the amount of blood, sweat, and tears for Corinne to get to where she was today.

Seeing Corinne so down, Aaron decided to change to a more cheerful topic. "Boss, let's go and have fun at the bar now that you've gotten your engagement gifts back."

'Drinking in broad daylight? No thanks!' thought Corinne. She was in no mood to be drinking so she waved her hands and said, "Aaron, go find out if any grand mansions have been demolished in Thalassa in the past twenty years. If there is, find out the original owner of the mansion. Also, send someone to find out about an ex-student called Em Love in Thalassa University and send me the information once you have it."

Aaron could see this was important to her so he asked seriously, "Em Love, is that your mother's name?"

Corinne nodded. "Mister Carew might think my mom has been killed by her enemy but I have a feeling she's still alive."

Xante turned around and pushed up her gold-rimmed spectacles. She then frowned when she saw how pale Corinne was. "Maybe we should get something to eat first. Look at how skinny she has become!"

Aaron looked at Corinne and nodded in agreement with what Xante said. He then smiled and teasingly said, "Boss, don't tell me you have no appetite because you're missing Mister Jeremy too much. A good meal is a balm for the soul! It'll be my treat today so what do

you wanna eat?

Xante side-eyed him. "You're buying her lunch? Has it ever crossed your mind that you won't be where you are today if it wasn't for her? Why, you wouldn't even have two pennies to rub together!"

Aaron was not in agreement with her. "That's why I'm buying her a meal! What's so wrong with that?"

Xante was annoyed with him. She pushed up her gold-rimmed spectacles and scoffed. "Let's go to have some grilled lamb chops then. The weather's getting colder and eating lamb can warm us up. The boss has always loved the fat on the lamb at this time of the year."

At the mention of grilled lamb chops, Corinne immediately thought of the smell and taste of very well-done grilled lamb chops. Usually, she would be salivating at the thought but for some reason, she felt sick to the stomach this time.

Suddenly, she could not control herself anymore. She quickly rolled down the window, poked

her head out, and started retching. After a while, she felt better and popped her head back into the car. While taking some deep breaths, she noticed both Xante and Aaron were looking at her as if they were wondering whether she was.

They grew up together so she, of course, knew what they were thinking from the way they were looking at her. Corinne scrunched up her face and said, "Oh, stop looking at me like that. It's not what you think I'm just feeling a little queasy in the stomach, that's all."

It was obvious Aaron thought she was pregnant. He smiled mischievously and said, "Oh really? Then tell me something, boss. Have you and Mister Jeremy been using protection all this while?"

Corinne yawned nonchalantly. "There's no need for that since we sleep in separate bedrooms."

Aaron drew his brows together. "What? And let all that hotness go to waste? How can you bear to sleep apart from such a hot guy, boss?"

Xante could not bear to listen to where the conversation was going anymore. She slapped Aaron hard on the arm and said, "Hey, just whose side are you on? Our boss is the hot one in the relationship, okay? Mister Jeremy should count himself lucky to have her as his wife!"

"Ouch!" Aaron massaged the spot where Xante slapped him. He then laughed and said, "I guess you're right."

Xante rolled her eyes at him and added, "But, to be on the safe side, you should get a pregnancy test at the drugstore for her."

Corinne was speechless.

Chapter 430

Aaron pretended to be embarrassed. "Why me? I'm still a virgin. It'll be so awkward for me to buy that kind of thing!"

Both Xante and Corinne were speechless.

Aaron was only trying to be funny to liven up the atmosphere but it did not work as both Xante and Corinne were looking at him with disgust and with their mouths in a tight line.

He immediately dropped the act and shrugged. "Okay, okay. I'll go get the pregnancy test. Huh! I can't believe that I, the owner of the Newmoon Group, am being ordered around like a little scullery maid. Sigh! What has become of my life!"

Xante gave him a side-eye and said nothing else as Aaron continued with his blabbering. She then started the car engine and drove to the nearest drugstore. While driving, she kept looking up at the rearview mirror to check on Corinne.

'She doesn't look too well after all that retching she did moments ago,' thought Xante with a worried frown on her face.

Corinne was indeed not well. Recently, she burned candles at both ends in coming up with a design for Holden Group's new building. She did not rest much even though she spent most of her days cooped up at home. Moreover, she seemed to feel tired easily to the point she suspected she might be suffering from chronic fatigue syndrome.

Aaron pointed to a drugstore outside the window and said, "Xante, we just passed by a drugstore. Why didn't you stop the car?"

The more Xante thought about it, the more worried she became. "I think it's best if I bring the boss to the hospital for a checkup," she said solemnly.

"Did you forget that the boss hates going to the hospital?" asked Aaron quizzically.

"She'll only need to do a blood test and that won't take long," insisted Xante. She looked at Corinne from the rearview mirror and said, "Boss, you should go to the hospital. You don't look that well. You should do a check-up even if you don't think you're pregnant. Besides, what if it's an ectopic pregnancy? It'll be easier to treat if it's detected earlier."

The corners of Corinne's lips twitched uncontrollably. 'I'm pretty sure I'm not pregnant and yet here she is worrying that it might be an ectopic pregnancy? Indeed my period hasn't come for two months straight.'

Corinne was not sure whether her period schedule was messed up from stress or if she got pregnant that night. In the end, she gave in to Xante's and Aaron's nagging and agreed to do a blood test at the hospital.

In the hospital's OB-GYN department.

The OB-GYN specialist looked down at the blood test result and said solemnly, "Congratulations, You're seven weeks pregnant and the fetus is developing very well."

Corinne was stunned at the discovery. She subconsciously touched her belly and thought, 'I'm seven weeks pregnant?'

Xante stayed calm at the news, but Aaron was tearing up excitedly. His emotions were all over the place as he said, "My god! I'm going to be-"

The OB-GYN specialist immediately gave him a fierce look. "Can the dad please be quiet? This is a hospital after all. You must not disturb the other patients."

Aaron laughed and quickly explained, "Doctor, you're mistaken. I'm not the father. I was going to be an uncle!"

The doctor frowned and said, "Why are you so excited if you're not the father? Where's the father anyway?"

At the mention of the baby's father, Corinne blushed. "He's on an overseas business trip and doesn't know about this yet."

The OB-GYN specialist sighed and said pointedly, "I'll let it slide this time but he must accompany you on all future visits. Men! How can they leave all the birthing to the women? No matter how busy they are with work, they should still accompany their wives to the hospital for a check-up!"

Corinne nodded. "Yes, you're right, doctor. Thank you for your advice."

## Chapter 431

"The fetus is developing well but your own body is a little weak. You must rest more and eat more nutritious food. Don't overwork yourself and maintain a good mood. Please ask your family members to take care of you too," said the OB-GYN specialist.

"Don't worry, doctor! We'll take good care of her," said Aaron with a smile.

Corinne walked out of the consultation room in a daze. She was a little overwhelmed at the thought of a baby growing inside of her.

She only ever did it once with Jeremy. That night, she had no choice but to do it with Jeremy because he had been given a strong aphrodisiac and would have suffered serious consequences to his health if he did not have s\*x there and then.

'I can't believe it only took that time for me to get pregnant,' thought Corinne.

She was only twenty years old and just starting her adult life; the thought of getting married and giving birth did not even cross her mind a few minds ago so the news of pregnancy was a huge shock to her.

Besides, she did not like kids at all. She thought that they were troublesome little monsters who would blow up all the plans she had set for herself. There were still so many things she wished to accomplish and she did not want to be encumbered by kids.

However, weird as it might be seeing as she disliked kids she could sense a little spark of joy spreading all over her body. Her mind flashed back to that night when Jeremy clutched her so tightly as they came together. He was violent with lust but suppressed the animal instinct that had been awakened by the aphrodisiac so that he would not scare or hurt her too much.

She could not help but blush when she remembered how gentle and sexy Jeremy was in bed nor could she remain indifferent. 'I wonder whether Mister will be happy once he finds out I'm pregnant? Would he blubber like an idiot once he realized he's going to be a dad?'

Corinne did not know how he would react and that made her wish she could meet him even

more. 'He's been gone for half a month so he should be back soon, right? I'll wait till he's back to tell him the news 'cause I'm pretty sure he'll drop everything and fly back here if I tell him over the phone. I don't want to keep him from his work.'

"Boss, are you excited to be a mom?' asked Aaron teasingly.

Corinne snapped out of her trance and yawned lazily. "I guess so."

Aaron carefully holds Corinne by the elbow. "Boss, be careful! The janitor has just finished wiping the floor here so it's still slippery. I'll support you to make sure you won't fall."

Corinne rolled her eyes at him. "Oh, please! You're making me sound like an invalid. The pregnancy isn't showing yet so don't worry so much."



Xante was holding Corinne's patient records and walking alongside her. "Boss, you should let Aaron support you since you're pregnant now. The doctor did say your body is a little weak just then. Let's make sure you eat only healthy food from now on."

At the mention of food, Corinne suddenly realized just how hungry she was but she was not in the mood for greasy food and would like to have something light and refreshing instead.

Suddenly, Aaron saw something. He beamed a smile at Corinne and said, "Boss, look! Isn't that Mister Jeremy standing over there in front of the pediatric department?"

Corinne paused and looked over where Aaron was pointing. That height, that perfect body, and that elegant but authoritative stance. Who else could it be but Jeremy?

"Tsk! He's already back from abroad? Could it be that he already knew in advance that you're pregnant so he came to the pediatrics department to learn how to be a dad?" asked Aaron.

## Chapter 432

Corinne's heart skipped a beat when she saw Jeremy's tall and handsome back. 'I can't believe he appeared before me when I wished to see him the most! It almost feels like a miracle.'

She smiled and walked toward Jeremy while thinking of how to break the news of her pregnancy to him. Aaron wanted to chase after her to make sure she did not hurt herself but Xante stopped him. "Don't be a third wheel. Let them have some private time."

Aaron shrugged and scoffed. "I just wanted to make sure the boss doesn't fall flat on her face."

Xante pushed up her gold-rimmed glasses and said, "Don't worry. She's not as clumsy as you think."

Aaron crossed his arms and waited with great interest to see how Jeremy would react to Corinne's news.

As she got closer to him, Corinne opened her mouth and said, "Mist-

However, she did not even finish calling him when a toddler suddenly stumbled out of the pediatric room, wrapped himself around Jeremy's legs, and said in a baby voice, "Da, dada, da!

Corinne paused in her tracks while the smile faded from her face.

'Dada? Did that toddler just call him dada?'

Jeremy bent down to pick up the boy's toddler who looked to be one year plus.

"Where's your mommy?"

Corinne thought she got the wrong guy but when she heard his voice, she immediately knew he was Jeremy without a doubt.

'Mister has a kid?'

At that moment, Anya walked out of the pediatric room and over to Jeremy.

"Jeremy, the doctor said the baby's okay. The fever is most likely due to the cold so we just

need to keep him warm and give him medicine. I'm going to the dispensary to get his medicine so please keep an eye on him and wait here for me," she said gently.

"Okay. You go ahead," said Jeremy indifferently.

After that, Anya went to the dispensary with the prescription in her hand.

Corinne remained standing where she was as she silently watched what transpired. 'He looks so natural holding the toddler as if he has done it a thousand times.'

The situation was so unexpected that Aaron and Xanted exchanged glances with each other before quickly walking over to where Corinne was standing to check on her.

Corrine's expression was one of calmness. There did not seem to be any hint of powerful emotions. She was just standing there, quietly and composedly.

"I can't believe Mister Jeremy had a kid behind your back! Didn't you say he was single all the while before he met you?" said Aaron angrily.

Xanted scoffed coldly and said, "Him being single doesn't mean he didn't sow his wild oats everywhere. You men are all the same."

Aaron knitted his brow and said, "Hey! Don't bring me into this. Not all men are the same, alright?"

Xante ignored him and looked worriedly at Corinne. She was afraid that the pregnant Corinne would be able to handle the shock.

Corinne remained calm as she unhurriedly called Jeremy on the phone. 'There must be an explanation for this. It's best not to jump into conclusions without asking him about it first.'

Her call went through. Jeremy held the toddler in one hand and picked up her call with the other. "What's up," he asked in his deep and seductive voice.

Corinne watched his every move from where she saw. "Mister,"

"Yes? Are you missing me, you little rascal?"

"Yeah," she admitted.

Jeremy was a little taken aback. He never expected that she would admit it so easily.

Chapter 433

Before this, Corinne never answered the question so straightforwardly nor did she ever call

him first.

Jeremy chuckled. "I'll be back in a few days. There's still some work left for me to do here. Be a good girl and wait for me to come back, okay?"

"Okay," Corinne replied coldly.

Jeremy quickly hung up the phone after that because the toddler in his arms was starting to cry for his mommy.

Corinne's eyes lost their sparkles when she heard how busy Jeremy sounded on the phone. She then laughed at herself. 'How could I be so stupid?'

She always thought she was a very rational girl, unlike those girls whose existence was all about finding their soulmates. She was never the one who fell blindly in love or trusted men. However, the fact of the matter was she was human after all.

Corinne never once doubted Jeremy, not even when Anya showed her the cesarean scar on her abdomen and told her she had a kid with Jeremy. She thought Anya was just lying, wanting to drive a wedge between her and Jeremy.

'And here I thought Mister was the responsible kind who will never abandon his kid, but he lied to me just now. He's standing right there and yet he told me he's still abroad,' she thought.

She could not help but think that in the half-month that he was gone, he was in the city all along to take care of Anya and their kid. 'Is there a need to lie to me like that? If he wants to be with her then he should tell me! It's not like I'll stop him from doing that.'

Corinne understood very well her relationship with Jeremy was just a facade so she had no right whatsoever to interfere in his life. She would not have held out any hope to be with him if he did not suddenly tell her he wanted to start over with her.

She also knew that Jeremy only married her because he was forced to do so by his elders, who were worried that he would not be able to extricate himself from Anya if their relationship were to continue. The elders, they could not stand for that to happen because of the bad blood between the two families.

Seeing Jeremy with his kid made Corinne realize that he never stopped loving Anya at all. "The reason he treated Anya so coldly and indifferently before must be to trick his elders into believing he did not have feelings for her anymore.'

Corinne mentally berated herself for falling for one of his tricks. 'I was nothing but a tool for him to get his elders off his back. He tricked me into falling in love with him so that I'll be more convincing as his wife. He's worse than the devil. Has he no shame?'

The people around them started to whisper amongst themselves.

"Look at that man with his kid! He's so handsome!"

"Oh my, you're right. I just saw his wife walking past just now and she's quite the looker as well. She must have gone to the dispensary to get some medicine."

"Their kid is so cute! What a beautiful family they are.'

"Well, I'm not surprised. With parents like them, of course, the kid will turn out good-looking

as well."

Corinne heard everything. She looked down and took a deep breath.

Aaron gritted his teeth and could not hold it back any longer. "Boss, don't be sad. I'm going to beat up that b\*stard for you right away!"

Corinne waved her hand and said lightly, "There's no need to do that. Let's just go."

"But that sc\*mbag!" Aaron cracked his knuckles angrily.

Xante dragged him away and said, "Calm down. Don't make it any worse for the boss."

At that moment, Jeremy must have sensed something for he suddenly turned around with the kid still in his arms.

## Chapter 434

By the time Jeremy turned around, Corinne and the others were already nowhere to be seen in the hospital corridor.

'Was it my imagination? I could've sworn I heard a little rascal's voice just now,' thought

Jeremy.

Anya came back with the medicine. “Jeremy, I got the medicine for the baby. We can go back. now.”

—

Jeremy nodded. The toddler with his head resting over Jeremy’s shoulder

off and the three of them walked over to the elevator.

already dozed

Anya was glowing with pride and happiness when she realized all the passers-by were looking at her with admiring eyes. She tilted her head to look at the handsome man with her child in

his arms.

‘I can’t believe I’m finally living my dream life. From this moment onward, Jeremy, me, and our baby are going to live happily ever after.’

Corinne, Xante, and Aaron were back in the minivan.

While driving, Xante took a glance at Corinne from the rearview mirror. “Boss, where to now? ” she asked cautiously.

“Take me back to Holden’s estate,” said Corinne lightly.

Aaron frowned. He turned around and asked in a frustrated tone, “Why are you still going back there when Mister Jeremy betrayed you like that?”

Corinne squinted her eyes as she calmly looked at the passing scenery outside the window. The time is not up yet. Our agreement states that we have to stay together for three months. and today is the last day so I need to stay in the Holden’s estate until midnight for it to count. I must uphold my end of the deal.”

Although Aaron admired Corinne's rigor, he could not but feel helpless as well. "Boss, are you okay?"

Both Xante and Aaron could tell Corinne fell for Jeremy. They never saw the kind of tenderness on Corinne's face when she found out she was pregnant.

Corinne smiled and replied softly, "There are plenty more fish in the sea and this too shall pass."

"What are you going to do about the baby growing inside your tummy?"

"Whatever will be, will be. Besides, Jeremy has good genes and I got his sperm for free. I'll just

treat it like I went to the sperm bank to have a baby on my own." She then closed her eyes

from exhaustion and added, "I'm going to nap for a while. Wake me up when we've reached the place."

Xante and Aaron looked at each other helplessly and said nothing.

Corinne leaned lazily against the backseat, but she failed to fall asleep. She would be lying if she said she was not sad. Jeremy was nothing but kind, gentle, and accepting to her as of late. She liked how meticulously he took care of her and listened to her.

Her fate was one of hardships from the very start. Therefore, she was cared for so lovingly so much that she had the illusion that Jeremy was different from any other man and that she could depend on him.

This made her want to open her heart to him to the extent that she even began to seriously consider whether to spend the rest of her life with him. In the end, she realized it was nothing

but a lie.

She, just like any other woman, fell for the oldest trick in the world.

'Oh well. I guess I've learned my lesson,' She would only admit how sad she was to herself but the level of sadness was not enough for her to have a breakdown.

All she felt was a little pain in her chest. 'This is nothing compared to all the hurt I lived through in the past. It'll pass soon, Corinne. All pain does,' she told herself.

Bowen immediately greeted Corinne when he saw her come back.

"Hello, ma'am. Have you had lunch?"

Corinne changed into her indoor slippers and walked into the foyer. "Not yet, Bowen. Can you ask the kitchen to make something light and refreshing for me?"

"Certainly, ma'am. I'll have the maid deliver the food to your room once it's ready," replied

Bowen.

Chapter 435

Corinne nodded. "Thank you."

As usual, she walked slowly up the stairs but halfway through, she stopped, turned around, and asked, "By the way, Bowen. Have my things arrived?"

Corinne arranged the engagement gifts she got back from the Carews to be delivered to Holden's estate.

"Yes, ma'am. I've already asked the maids to keep it in the storeroom. Would you like to take a look?"

Corinne waved her hand. "That's okay. Just remember to tell Jeremy about it when he's back."

"Yes, ma'am."

She then continued on her way. The reason she got the expensive engagement gifts back was so that she would not own the Holdens anything.



Bowen looked quizzically at Corinne walking up the stairs. He sensed there was something off about her but he could not quite put his finger on just what it was. 'Oh well, it's probably nothing,' he thought. Then he quickly went to the kitchen to instruct the cook to make something for Corinne.

Before he left, Jeremy specially told him what to look out for in Corinne's diet. She was allergic to quite a few things so he told Bowen to doubly make sure no food that would trigger her allergy should make way to her plate and because of this, Bowen would personally try all the food before giving it to Corinne.

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After taking a shower in her room, Corinne changed into a set of loungewear. Then she ate the lunch brought by the maid and proceeded to take a nap. She felt easily tired as of late which she now knew the reason to be because she was pregnant.

A feeling of unbelievable comfort spread through her body as soon as her head hit the pillow. 'I'm going to miss this bed so much,' thought Corinne, who got used to sleeping in the big bed.

Eventually, she dozed off while planning for her future.

It was late at night. The air turned cold and the wind was blowing fiercely.

Bowen got woken up by the sound of the wind and he immediately ordered the servants to check all the windows were closed properly so that no dirt or cold air could blow in and disturb Corinne's sleep.

At that moment, from the first floor's floor-to-ceiling windows, a car's headlight could be seen shining into the yard and the sound of the car's engine was getting closer and closer.

Bowen took a closer look at the car and realized it was Jeremy's car. 'Why did he choose to come back at midnight?' he wondered.

After a few minutes, Jeremy walked in hurriedly.

Bowen greeted him at the door. "Welcome back, Mister Jeremy."

Jeremy took off his coat – which was still cold from the night air – and passed it to the servant standing next to him.

and passed it to the

"Thank you. Where is she?"

Bowen naturally knew who he was referring to. "Mister Jeremy, she's probably sleeping at this

hour."

"Okay," replied Jeremy lightly. He then walked past the servant and made a beeline upstairs.

He thought about her ever since she called him in the morning. In the end, he could not help but rush back to see her. It was rare for Corinne to admit she missed him; that simple admission of hers was like a hook digging into his heart, luring him back to her.

He strode upstairs and not wanting to wake her up, he lightened his footsteps as he neared her room. He turned the doorknob and was delighted to find it was not locked.

'Why that little

rascal doesn't lock the door when I'm not home."

He massaged the space between his brows, not knowing whether to laugh or cry. Then, he opened the door and walked in quietly. The room was dark and the wind was blowing fiercely outside. There was no moonlight filtering in, making everything seem so surreal.

"Hey, little rascal. I'm back," whispered Jeremy gently. He sat down beside the bed and looked at the spot where she always slept. However, there was no reply. 'She must be sleeping very deeply,' he thought.