

The CEO's Ten Million Dollar Wife by R.C.BRIE

Chapter 13

Chapter 13 Back To The Past

"What will I do, Dom? I have nothing left. The mortgage of the property is taking so long" she whispers frustratedly.

"There will be another way, Lex" the man responded, rubbing her back.

"All my savings were gone. Where will I get the remaining amount? It's been two months and we should have been back for the assessment" she softly retorted.

During the first attack Lucy had, a relapse was discovered. An occurrence of after a few months of improvement, his heart condition undergo regression. And they were back to the start.

"Why not give the invitation a try? It could work, Lex" Don moves away to look at her tearful eyes.

"Dom, it's embarrassing" she glares at the man.

"No, it's not, Lexie. It's an art. I have submitted it to my agent and she was ecstatic to have it. She said it has great potential. Please...give it a try" Dom persisted.

"Imagine the money we could get from it. Minerva said I will get the 70% share from the income" he continues.

"But...what if it won't sell? Or for a lesser price. That's me in there Dom. I don't want my almost naked body in anyone's wall!" she raves incredulously.

"It's art, Lexie... Don't you trust me? Yes, it's almost naked, but it was never scandalous. More than your nakedness, the painting is something else... It's an emotion, the baring of one's soul" Dom becomes dejected of what Lexie has been saying.

"I'm sorry. You are a great artist, Dom. I trust your talent and your skill, it's the reason I pose for you. But it's just me who is uncomfortable with all of this kind of...art things..." she smiles, trying to pacify him.

"The painting could cost a fortune, Lex. The agent told me so. It has that certain depth that draws collectors. We can give it a try. It's one of the paintings I have submitted in my portfolio that was not included in the exhibit. Please, let me exhibit it" he persistently pleaded.

"Dom..." she was conflicted as she stares at his begging eyes.

She just poses for Dom to divert her mind from her heartache four years ago. He is an artist and he had made his name for a short time. With his articulate eye for the beauty around him, his works were acknowledged in several art galleries on the mainland. He could bring life through his art.

He painted her with only a flimsy chiffon cloth draped around her nakedness while looking straight to whoever stared at her soulful eyes. He gifted it to her three years ago but he kept on convincing her to exhibit it.

"Bared Soul will be a hit, Lex. It could help you with the money you need. I will give everything to you once it's sold. It's sure money. Not less than \$50,000, Lex. Please think it over"

"Unless you could contact someone who could help you with your problem now" he added.

“No” she abruptly retorted, glaring at him.

“Then, give it a try” he challenged.

Lexie becomes thoughtful as she weighs her situation. She needs money and she has nothing left. Unless she mortgages the property again, she has no other way to raise the \$40,000 to \$50,000 she needs. She could need more, depending on the assessment. Her small boutique could only compensate her bills and daily expenses, more than that, she has nothing.

“What is usually the agreement for that kind of event?” she softly asks. With what he heard, his face immensely brightens with a smile.

“I will be present in the exhibit and I will be bringing you. The price could go up with you around” he was ecstatic while Lexie remains anxious.

“We will be leaving the day after tomorrow and don’t worry, I will arrange everything, including mom and dad. They will be super happy, you know that” he glares at her while he talks. He didn’t give her the chance to have a single complaint.

Without a choice, she heaves a deep breath while giving Dom her puppy eyes.

“We will be doing this for a great purpose, this is for Lam. If only I could have the money you need, I will give you, Lex. But you know how mom’s health too, right?” Dom pacified her, pulling her to his embrace again.

“You know I won’t accept anything from you, you need the money too for mom” she counters him with a glare,

“We need this both, Lex. We can do this” Dom whispers as they remain to hug each other. They are each other’s strengths, especially for Lexie who has been struggling since she came back from the mainland.

Though not the specific people involved, she told Dom everything that happened to her and she had his support since then.

Slowly, she tried to pick up herself after the shattering realization of her previous relationship with CEO Lucien Wright. And she was grateful, Dom was always by her side.

Anxiously, she looks around the familiar place. She was back. After four years, she returned to the place she bows she will never return to. 1

“Ready?” Dom interrupted her reminiscing.

“Yes,” she faintly smiles. She was uneasy for she don’t know why.

After hailing a cab, she enters first while Dom puts their luggage in the trunk.

They will be heading to the hotel and this evening, they will be attending the exhibit. She wanted to be done with it. So tomorrow they could go back home. She doesn’t want to stay longer than necessary.

She becomes lost in deep thoughts while watching all the familiar sceneries outside. Nothing had changed that much. It is still what she could remember.

Unknowingly, she held her breath as they passed by the tallest building in the city. The main office of Wright Group of Companies. Her ex-husband’s office.

After she left four years ago, she deactivated all her social media accounts and bought an outdated phone so she won’t be tempted. She has no other way of knowing what happened to him and his girlfriend since she hasn’t purchased a new television, not until lately. But, news or any entertainment shows was never on their tv.

“You okay, Lex?” Dom noticed her anxiousness.

“Yeah, I’m no longer used to traveling this long” she assures him with a smile.

"We are almost at the hotel, you could rest after we get settled" Dom rubs her back as he used to do.

Arriving at their booked hotel, her heart thundered upon realizing where they are.

"Come on, we are here" Dom went out first while she continues to stare at the name engraved outside.

Wright Hotel and Casino.

"It's as if, he was here. He is too busy to hang out around here. Calm down, Lex" she whispers while looking around. She don't know why but she was so anxious even by her shadow.

"You can do this, Lexie. You need to do this" inhaling deeply, she opens the door of the vehicle. In time Dom had retrieved their luggage and was not waiting for her to go inside.

While in the lobby, she can't help herself from looking around. She was almost unrecognizable, she was on tattered jeans and just a plain white shirt paired with sneakers. Also, a large pair of sunglasses partly cover her face but she still feels anxious someone might recognize her.

She only feels relieved after she entered her room. She haven't realized how her heart was drumming inside her chest until she was left alone.

Leaning at the door, all her strength seems to abandon her. She feels so weak and breathless.

Despite her effort to block the memories of the past, it seems to be mocking her. Recollections of what happened four years ago fill her head like a landslide.

Gasping for air, she rubs her painful chest. All the vivid memories were drowning her.

"Why can't you let me forget?" frustrated by her reaction to the mere thought of her being in the same place they first met, she tug her unbound hair.

"It's been a long time. We have our own lives now. You're overdramatic, Lexie" she spat as she tries to compose herself.

"As if he will spare you a second glance if ever you will meet" she added after she feels a little better.

"But it would be impossible for you to meet him. You will be leaving tomorrow. You have to leave" she continues to whisper while she drags her luggage towards the bed. She needs to unpack her change after her quick shower and the gown she will be wearing later.

Trying to keep her mind busy, she hustles thinking of taking a nap before she becomes busy again preparing for the event this evening.

Her brain is still at its peak as haywire thoughts keep her awake, but exhaustion won when her lids become heavy. They left the island at midnight to have the three-hour sea travel. They arrive just in time for their flight towards the main city.

The last thing in her mind before drifting to sleep is a little prayer she won't be bumping with CEO Lucien Wright or his wife, Ellen Johnson, during her stay at the hotel.

She is not prepared to face any of them, thus, she has to be extra careful considering his penthouse is just on the top floor of the same hotel she was in.