

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

## Chapter 15

### Chapter 15 Ten Million Bid

Unable to tear her gaze away from the man across, she stiffened at the uproar his presence caused her. She wanted to look away, she wanted to run but she was nailed on her seat while burning under his intense gaze.

"You alright, Lex?" noticing his anxiousness, Dom worriedly asks. He even turn to face her, but he got no response. She remains quiet while staring afar.

Following her gaze, he tried to find what made her look ashen. He scan the entire hall for something peculiar until a certain man caught his attention. The same man Lexie was staring at. Watching as they continue to lock their gazes, his eyes narrow upon realizing something.

"Lexie is he..." he asks without turning to her but paused midsentence.

"Dom...later..." she whispers her plea as she struggled to look away. But not before she saw the sharp scowl from the woman beside him, Ellen Johnson, his wife.

Needing to maintain her composure, she calmly turns to the stage. Although her mind is still on him, she manages to avoid looking back in their direction. She watch the host get to the center of the stage but all her senses were aware of the piercing gaze boring at her.

If she struggles not to look, Dom is openly staring at the CEO whose eyes were still fixed at Lexie. Even the woman beside him is staring sharply at their way. He is so engrossed in trying to discern the situation when the host spoke.

"Ladies and gentlemen, good evening! The wait is over, at this time we will be quenching your thirst and hunger to own these magnificent masterpieces from our brilliant artists and painters. We will be starting the much-awaited event this evening. The auction exhibit is officially open!"

The event has officially started but it came in a blur to Lexie. She cannot concentrate. Even during Dom's introduction, she was in a daze. She just grasp a little of what has been said about his career track as a painter.

The only time she came back from her trance was the time she saw her painting being carried in the middle of the stage.

In a snap, her eyes darted towards the CEO's table, and as she expected he was looking at her. His face looks grim but unremarkable.

"Gather yourself, Lexie. Why would you be afraid of him? You no longer have anything to do with him. You're a free woman. She has his wife now, and he doesn't care what you do with your life" a stern voice filled her head, which made her come back to the present. Why did she allow herself to be affected by his mere presence?

With what she thought, she straightened her back and meet his intense gaze. She even casually turn to look at Ellen Johnson beside him, looking sophisticated in her red shimmering gown.

His socialite mother is also around together with his father. Another younger woman is beside Daniel Wright who she assumed was the heiress, Lucien's sister.

With a more composed self, she tears her gaze away and turns to look at the stage. Though she can still feel his gaze on her, she ignored it.

"This masterpiece is titled, Bared Soul. The painting itself illustrates the story and the mystery surrounding this goddess. Isn't she stunning? And good news, we have the model with us tonight. Please welcome, Miss Alexzia Montes" upon hearing her name, she glued the most charming smile on her face before standing up.

Facing the guests, she waved and bowed at all sides but avoided looking at the CEO. She stayed standing for a while, grazing everyone with her smile. She almost giggles upon noticing Gabriel Simon, fangirling her. With a chuckle, she waves at the man who stands up and bows at her.

With what Gabriel did, they earn applause from other guests. Obviously, Gabriel Simon is a charmer and everyone knows it as they play along with him.

"Miss Montes has clearly earned a fan and it's no other than President Gabriel Simon of Simon Steel Corporation" the moderator raves cheerfully as he also becomes playful "This painting will not be left empty-handed since the caliber collector is in the house. Right, President Simon? I bet you will be the highest bidder of this masterpiece" the moderator teased the gentleman.

"I won't hesitate to spend for the right pieces and yes she's a masterpiece" Gabriel gushed but his eyes were plastered at Lexie, instead of the painting they were talking about.

"Indeed, President Simon, she is a masterpiece" the moderator agreed after noticing the man's gaze. He also turns to Lexie with admiring eyes.

"Can we start to bid? How about fifty thousand dollars for Bared Soul? Anyone..." the moderator started the bid

"Come on Samuel... fifty thousand dollars? Are you trying to insult this gorgeous woman here?" Gabriel incredulously exclaims as he stands up.

Watching the men, Lexie was appalled by what was happening. She could feel the blush creeping her face. She was aghast when Mr. Simon stand up to question the starting amount of the bid. She was not expecting it to be over fifty thousand dollars.

"I bet we will be having more than we expected, Lex" Dom leaned towards her ear and whispered. A glimmer of hope reflects his eyes. Lexie badly needed the money and they will have a chance to have more.

"I'm getting nervous, Dom" she whispers back.

"Let him. I heard he is a great charmer and has the power to set the price of any art piece. His influence is beyond any auction events" Dom softly explains.

"How about we start at five hundred thousand dollars? Will that be plausible, President Simon?" the moderator gamely suggested.

"Better, but it could double, triple, and more" Gabriel announced and meaningfully smiles at everyone before winking at Lexie.

With what they were hearing, Lexie grasped Dom's hand under the table. Her hands were cold, so is Dom's. She hasn't expected the turn of events. Her financial crisis could instantly end if the painting indeed is sold at least five hundred thousand dollars. She is still in pure surprise it could be worth that much.

"We start at five hundred thousand dollars, anyone higher?" Samuel started.

"One million dollars" Gabriel raised his hand. Cheers erupted. "Wow, President Gabriel Simon offered one million dollars" Gabriel is widely smiling and everyone saw him winking at Lexie again.

"Any higher?" Samuel looks around.

“Come on people...part of the proceeds will go to charity” Gabriel urged everyone. “One million and fifty thousand dollars” one of the guests raised his hand. “We have an increase by fifty thousand dollars from Director Vonn. Any higher?” Samuel continues to look around.

“One million two hundred thousand dollars” Gabriel raises his hand while winking at Lexie. Like the first time, cheers erupted.

“Gab is a charmer tonight. Is he interested in the model for real?” Levinia who has been silently watching was amused by the scene transpiring tonight.

“You know Gab is always the life of the party. And the lady is stunning, if the man beside her is just a friend, then Gab has a great chance” Daniel responded while chuckling at the fun atmosphere.

“She seems familiar, but I can’t remember where I have seen her” Levinia mumbles as she stares at Lexie.

“You are getting old, my love” Daniel teases his wife who playfully glares at him.

The couple was having fun with Gabriel’s antics while Lucien together with Ellen and Samantha were all looking serious.

“Am I hearing higher than President Simon’s offer? Anyone?”

“Will this masterpiece graze President Gabriel Simon’s bedroom this evening? Or I will be hearing a one million and three hundred thousand dollar offer?” Samuel teased the crowd, earning him chuckles while Gabriel groans playfully. 1

Lexie turns to the opposite table and again, she was met by his grim look. The kind of look that could always make her heart beat faster. Despite the cheerful atmosphere around, he looks unconcerned. Anyway, why would it interest him? She has his gorgeous wife beside him.

“Come on... Ladies and gentlemen” Samuel persisted as he looks around while Gabriel is playfully urging the other guests.

“How about our honorary host family? Madame Levinia please don’t cast Chairman Daniel out of the bedroom tonight if he bids for this painting” Gabriel stands up again and turns to the family, which earned him a chuckle from the couple.

“Don’t want to sleep away from my wife, Gab, please have mercy to this old man. I know she won’t mind but...I won’t take chances” Daniel gamely pleaded while rounding his arms around Levinia Wright.

“I understand Mr. Chairman, it takes a real man to stand up for his wife’s choices” Gabriel exclaims as he fondly looks at the couple before turning to the other side.

“How about you CEO Wright? You can bid and donate it to me if you don’t want it. I’m really dying to have this masterpiece. You are way richer than I am. And this is for charity” Gabriel playfully taunts the serious looking CEO, unconcerned of his deathly glare on him.

“Come on CEO Lucien Wright. Have fun once in a while. This painting will be great at the new mansion you are constructing” Gabriel teased him more, undeterred by Lucien’s sharp eyes and deathly warning.

With what Gabriel Simon was doing, Lexie is on the verge of having a heart attack. The CEO looks ready to kill while Gabriel is teasing him.

“It’s a no? Okay, just don’t sulk in one corner if you see this masterpiece inside my room” Gabriel added haughtily before turning to Lexie with another wink.

“Stingy” Gabriel added as he settle on his seat.

Daniel and Levinia shared a look while they both turn to the stunning woman across. They are reading more than what it seems between the one-sided banter of the two men, Lucien may not have spoken a word but they saw the warning in his eyes and Gab knew it. Their curiosity was piqued while staring at the paper-white face of the subjected woman.

“So let’s proceed? Any more bids? Part of the proceeds, ladies and gentlemen will be given to different charities we are sponsoring. Whatever amount you will spare at this event could educate thousands of youths and could save a lot of cancer patients’ lives” Samuel tried to bring back the momentum earlier, ignoring the tension in the room. Silence greeted him as he looks around.

“None? I think it’s destiny to have this masterpiece graze President Simon’s home” he turns to Gabriel who in return gamely bows at everyone. “So I need to have a countdown... After I finished, the masterpiece will be officially handed to President Gabriel Simon”

“Three ...”

“Two...”

“Ten million dollars” someone raised a hand as the deep crisp voice filled the room. Everything seem to freeze when all eyes turns to the table, where CEO Lucien Wright was raising his hand.