

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

## Chapter 16

### Chapter 16 Just For Charity

Startled by the spectacle, everyone was dumbfounded while staring at the serious-looking CEO. Even Gabriel Simon looks surprised by the last-minute bid.

“Ahm...wow. That caught us quite in surprise. Ten million dollars from CEO Lucien Wright” Samuel awkwardly announced.

Dom contained his grimace at the digging nails on his skin as Lexie was unaware of her tight hold. She looks like ready to faint and to ease her anxiousness, he pried her hand from his arm and intertwined their fingers.

“Hey...” he leans closer to her ears.

“You will be fine...inhale...exhale, Lex” he whispers, which Lexie follows. It may be normal bidding to everyone but for Lexie, it means everything. What does the CEO plan to do with such an abrupt decision?

At the CEO's table, all eyes turn to Lucien. His parents were looking at him with unremarkable expressions while Ellen was glaring at him, which he openly ignored. His eyes were fixed afar.

“What's this drama, brother?” Samantha mockingly said. Her perfect brows were raised. But Lucien remains quiet.

Ellen Johnson obviously wants to throw a fit by looking at her expression but surprisingly did not.

“Anyone higher than ten million dollars?” Samuel in time interrupted the rising tension. He waited and announced a countdown which was finished without another bid. Even from Gabriel Simon who looks calm despite losing the chance to have the painting.

“Bared Soul will officially be granted to CEO Lucien Wright. Congratulations everyone. This has been the highest bid for the night and we are still not finished. We have two remaining artists to showcase their masterpiece” Samuel cheerfully announced while the buzz inside has started to fill the previously silent room.

Can no longer endure her conflicting emotions, Lexie excuses herself. But Dom followed despite knowing she wanted to be alone.

Her heavy and hasten steps echoed outside while her teary eyes blurred her vision. She feels suffocated, she wanted air and the building seems like a cage to her drumming heart.

She walks without direction, unaware of the man following behind her.

With her mindless walking, she reached the balcony. Taking deep breaths she let her tears fall. The fresh air relieved her as it enters her lungs and touched her skin. Now she understands how fishes felt when they are out of the water. Her lungs seemed curtailed by precious air.

After a while of her silent tears, sobs racks her bare shoulder. The emotion overflowed, overwhelming her.

Grasping at the rail, her hands paled but she ignored the sting.

“Lex...” Dom called from afar. Giving distance between them. Hearing him, she took several deep breaths before turning towards him with her hand raised for a hug.

Almost running, Dom catches her in time. Embracing her right. He allows her to cry and brought her outside to hide her from anyone who might pass by. At the dark side of the balcony, he held her tight while her tears welling her eyes.

“Shhh...you will be fine. You are a strong woman, Lex. You had overcome more than this, right? We made it through” Dom whispers in her ears.

She nodded despite her tears. She continue to cry until she got tired. Dom never let her go until her sobs subsided.

“You don’t need to tell me, I know, Lex” he continues, rubbing her back this time.

“I was...surprised. I never realized what a small world we have. But what are his reasons? Why is he messing with me?” she chuckles despite her sniffles.

“I fulfilled the part of our deal, I left without a fuss. Why is he doing this?” she whispers painfully. What is he trying to prove by doing the bid, with the same amount he paid her four years ago?

“Let’s just think, he is doing this for charity, Lex. Don’t overthink. Whatever his reasons are no longer of your concern. Let’s just be grateful to have acquired such an amount.

We need this” Dom whispers. He had seen Lexie struggle and the pain in her eyes earlier equals what he saw after she came back to the island four years ago.

Continuing to comfort her, they stayed quiet until Lexie moves away. Wiping her eyes, he got his handkerchief and handed it to her.

“I’m a mess....” she chuckles.

“Still beautiful...” he smiles tenderly.

“Thank you, Dom” she inhaled deeply before facing Dominic, staring straight into his eyes.

“You are always welcome, Lexie” he smiles.

“I need to go to the powder room” she mumbles after she hugs him again.

“Come on. We need to get back to the event” he pulled her and hold her hand until they reach the empty powder room.

He stayed outside while she freshen up. Staring at her reflection, she practices a smile. No trace of her tears was in her eyes and her light-colored lipstick gave color to her pale lips. Feeling satisfied, she heaves a sigh. She turns to leave but came to an abrupt pause.

“So you are the Alexzia Montes who Lucien married four years ago” a snicker rang in the emptiness of the room, coming from a lady who is looking at her in disdain.

“It was a long time ago, Miss Johnson” she calmly retorted, staring straight in her eyes.

“Then what drama was that earlier? Are you trying to mess with us? It will not be a lowly model who could mess with my relationship with Lucien” she sneers.

“It was a bid for charity, Miss Johnson and whatever motive CEO Wright from his action is no longer of my concern. Why not ask him yourself?” she remains calm despite her annoyance. 1

She never expected the petite woman to have a sharp tongue as now. She hasn’t seen many videos about her but she was very charming on TV and online.

“Even if you paint yourself naked several times, you will not have the attention of Lucien again. He dumped you a long time ago, why create such drama now? If you think you could come back in his life in that way, suit yourself. A lowly woman like you doesn’t deserve Lucien’s attention” Ellen continues with her insult while Lexie remains calm despite wanting to punch her pretty face.

"Who are you talking lowly, Ellen? Yourself?" another snickering word interjected. Looking at the door, they saw Samantha Wright.

"Sam!" Ellen exclaims and a smile immediately appears on her face.

"Cut the crap Ellen, Lucien is not here to see how of a bitch you are" the youngest of the Wright rolls her eyes as she sneers at Ellen.

"Sam, what are you talking about?" despite being mocked, Ellen remains charmingly innocent in front of the younger Wright.

"You're acting dumb for too long, aren't you tired, Ellen? But then, if you're enjoying, suit yourself" Samantha Wright shrugs.

"I don't know what you're talking Sam. We are like sisters" Ellen persisted, looking hurt and at the same time hopeful.

"I had enough drama for tonight... Now leave" Samantha muttered grimly as she dismissed her. She looks at Ellen with contempt.

Ellen seems to be used by the treatment when she just shrugs and turned away to leave. Leaving Samatha Wright and her.

"I'm fed up seeing that bitch" Samantha snickers as she went to the vanity, facing the mirror while Lex was at a loss of what to do.

"My brother spent ten million dollars for your painting. Who are you?" the younger woman blatantly asks while staring at her from the mirror.

Dumbfounded, she stares back at the chilling coldness of Samantha's eyes.

"Don't be stupid to tell me he did it for charity. You know it's more than that and I want to know" Samantha demanded, turning to face her. She looks intimidating just like any Wright.

"You've heard Miss Johnson" she whispers.

"I don't care what that bitch has been saying. I want to know from your mouth. So speak" she raised a brow as she seriously demanded. Realizing how imposing the youngest Wright is, she decides to talk.

"I once married your brother but we divorced. The marriage is just on paper" she softly declares while enduring her intimidating gaze.

Silence rules between them as Samantha remains staring at her.

"The one he contracted to make his ballerina come back" she jeered scornfully. But Lexie chooses not to respond.

Samantha's gaze openly trails from her face down to the hem of her gown. Silently assessing her. "So, what's your plan now?" she spoke after her intimidating silence.

"I will leave after tonight. I'm just here for the event" Lexie calmly replies.

"Yeah, the ten million painting. Aren't you curious why he bid such a huge amount?" she jeers.

"For charity" she spoke of the obvious despite knowing she won't convince the heiress.

"Yeah, nice try" she smirks at her.

"You're pretty, stunning actually, and I don't believe you are dumb" she added before heading to the door. Snickering at her when their eyes met.

Left in silence, she weakly lean on the wall. Strength seems to abandon her feet. Lucien Wright's sister is quite scary and very outspoken.