

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

Chapter 17

Chapter 17 Wright Family

Coming back at the event with Dom, she discreetly looks around. Seeing him casually conversing with other guests relieved her. She will no longer endure his intimidating gaze. She can't understand why, but his gaze looks confronting, making her feel she did something wrong. And the worst part was, she was guilty of something she doesn't know what.

Seeing him from afar with Ellen Johnson beside him makes her heart hurt, which is a surprise. It's been four years and she should have moved on.

He looks very imposing. The power he holds is immeasurable not only to the business world and society as a whole but also to her weary heart.

"He was never yours, Lexie" the voice in her head reminded her again. Yes, indeed he was never hers.

Plastering a smile on her face she notices Gabriel Simon staring at her. A smile immediately grazes his face as their gazes meet. The man knows how to charm a person.

"You want to drink, tonight?" Dom interrupted her thought.

"Just a glass of champagne, Dom. I don't want to be intoxicated" she softly replies, watching him pick up two glasses and handed one to her.

"Cheers to the success of this night" Dom whispers, only the two of them could hear. Hearing Dom, she bitterly chuckles.

"Dom, I don't know if it's worth celebrating" she looks at his eyes with fear in hers.

"I told you several times, don't overthink. Come to think of it, it's better it was him than any man, Lexie. You know what I mean, right?" Dom whispers back.

"I had thought of it, Dom, but he was married and I can't help to worry" she anxiously retorted.

"It's no longer your problem how he will explain to his wife why he acquires the painting. Think of the positive side of it. We got the 70% of the ten million and it's all yours" Dom softly explains while holding her gaze.

"We have to split the amount, Dom. I won't allow you to sacrifice for me again. You also need money for mom. It's fair enough to split it. We got more than we hope for" she counters and glares at him when he is about to disagree.

"I don't want arguments, Dom. I mean it" she added, seeing him about to contradict her.

"Lexie..." he incredulously mumbles.

"Enough...that's final" she dismissed with a glare.

"Stubborn" he jeers.

"Same to you" she snickers, earning her a rolling of his eyes.

They glare at each other but were interrupted when a clearing of the throat disturb their silent argument.

"Excuse me, the Wright family would like to invite you to their circle if you may so" a man, smiling at them announces after they both turn to his side.

Surprised, their questioning eyes darted to each other. Her eyes widen in fear while Dom was plainly surprised. Silence rules while the man waited for their response.

“Ahm...yes of course sir. We are greatly honored” Dom was the one to have recovered first.

“This way please” the man immediately gestures for the way.

With a thundering heart, she held onto Dom’s arms. Knowing her anxiousness, he covers her gripping hand on his and squeezed it. Assuring her.

They walk in silence but the violent beat of her heart is deafening her. Sounds around seem to come from far away. Conversations come indistinct and incomprehensible. She feels numb.

“Lexie...” she hears Dom’s far-away voice but it’s too far for her to comprehend, she ignores it.

But a tight squeeze made her come back to her senses. Turning to her side, she saw Dom looking at her with his worried eyes. Subtly inhaling a deep breath, she turns to the group who are all looking at her.

“Good evening” her usual charming smile grazed her face as she greeted everyone. In front of her are the very dignified family. Daniel Wright with his wife Levinia Wright and Samantha Wright who is looking at her with a raised brow.

“Nice meeting you two. The artist and the masterpiece. I’m Levinia, this is my husband, Daniel, and my daughter Samantha” Levinia Wright was the one who spoke first while they casually shake hands. The socialite has a cheerful glint in her aura, making Lexie comfortable around her.

“Thank you, madame. I’m Dominic Lint and this is Miss Alexzia Montes” Dom was the one who responded.

“You will have a long way to go in this craft, young man. Continue your passion” Daniel, though with a very intimidating aura, spoke of appreciation to the young artist.

“Thank you, sir. I’m greatly honored by your attention” Dom politely responded with a humbled but bright smile.

“Miss Alexzia Montes is a perfect subject for your masterpiece, Mr. Lint” Levinia exclaimed while smiling at Lexie.

“Yes, madame, she is” Dom smiles, turning to Lexie.

“You have effectively brought out her emotion. I was amazed after I scrutinize your work. From afar, it was just a taunting nude painting but the closer you look at it, you could almost read the whole story of such a masterpiece. I regretted I didn’t bid for it, though my son had and I’m greatly appeased. I can’t allow such a masterpiece to go to other hands, I’m sorry but I’m quite greedy when it comes to exemplary things. I will find a way to have it” Levinia exclaims, giving Lexie a kind of look she cannot fathom.

“Every art has its story and I’m greatly appeased the audience have recognized the message Bared Soul wanted to impart” Dom, being humbled, smiles at the woman.

“It got me curious though...” Levinia exclaims but stops on time without the hint of continuing.

Dom and Lexie look at her, waiting, but she just smiles and shook her head.

“Before I forgot, we have been talking about having lunch tomorrow with the two of you. It would be our great honor to get to know you more” Levinia said instead while alternately looking at Lexie and Dom.

Unable to directly decline, Lexie stared at Dom for a long time. While the family was just waiting for their response in silence.

“It’s just lunch. You are not thinking of escaping a mere lunch, don’t you Miss Montes?”

Samantha

snickers after she got impatient waiting.

“Sam... ” Levinia glares as she warns her. Though she stops, she didn't fail to make her mother know her irritation.

“It would be fine if you have other plans for tomorrow. We don't want to take much of your time. We will

have another chance” Levinia turns to Lexie and Dom as she appeases the two.

“No madame, that would be our great privilege to dine with you. We are available tomorrow” politely smiling, Lexie immediately counters while trying to compose her chaotic heart.

Agreeing would mean a change for her plan. But she was surprised by the sudden desire to appease Levinia Wright

“Oh, that would be great...” Levinia's eyes brighten from her smile.

“What is great, mother?” a deep voice behind her made Lexie almost jump off and run.

“Miss Montes will join us for lunch tomorrow, dear brother” Sam was the one who answered, her brow arched and a smirk on her red lips.

“That's great. I will have a chance to know the artist and the masterpiece of what I got tonight” Lucien Wright step nearer and stand beside Lexie. He is too casual for Lexie's peace of mind. If she did not see his grim dark look on her earlier, she will be convinced he was indeed casual with her.

The fresh, clean, and profoundly sensual woody vanilla and citrus scent immediately attack her senses, intoxicating her already chaotic heartbeat.

The man is so close for her sanity with his arm touching her side. To maintain her composure in front of the prominent family, she endures the electrifying effect of Lucien Wright to her already panicking nerves. Despite four years having gone by, his effect on her is still the same.

She's wondering if the space is too tight for all of them, so she steps back. But to her aghast, he seems to follow. The gap she wanted between them did not happen when he was still plastered on her side.

“Something wrong, Zia?” he whispers, to her surprise.

“I'm fine, Mr. Wright” she dismisses but the man is not ready to be dismissed.

“Afraid to touch me?” he snickers.

“I have a date, Mr. Wright. Touching you is the least of my concern” she softly counters, though she has to grit her teeth from annoyance.

“Yeah, a date. You look good together, if not for his eyes darting to other men in this room” he counters amusingly

Hearing what he whispers made her stare at him, gauging his intention.

“It's obvious, Zia, at least to me” he smiles, this time it's a polite and sincere one.

Their whispered conversation was not left unnoticed but no one interrupted except for one.

“Lucien, I'm tired. I want to go home” a sweet voice interrupted all of them.

“You could tell the driver to drive you home” before Lucien could respond, Samantha beat him to it with mockery. The youngest Wright didn't try to hide her animosity towards the ballerina.

Like she has been burned or more like feeling guilty, which she doesn't understand why, she made a huge gap between herself and Lucien by stepping backward.

Realizing what she did, Lucien turns to her with a grim look. She could see the clenching of his jaw and his sharp eyes on her. He is about to say something when the same sweet voice interrupted.

“Lucien, you will send me home right?” Ellen spoke again, getting his attention.

After Lucien turns to the woman, Lexie busied herself staring at her glass. She was no longer interested in the interaction between the couple.

“Excuse us, we will just mingle with other guests” she politely excuses herself looking at Levinia and Daniel Wright while trying to avoid the others.

“Of course, Miss Montes. Enjoy the night and see you tomorrow” Levinia smiled as she talk.

“Thank you and please excuse us” she politely bows and smiles before turning away with Dom who did the same. But not before she noticed the sharp look from the ballerina, which she disregarded.

Hastening her steps, she moves the farthest away from the Wright family. She won't give herself the chance to hear their conversation or take a glimpse of their interactions. She just wants to have a peaceful night, though it would be an impossible plight.