

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

Chapter 21

Chapter 21 His Heart

Returning to the hotel, her mind was still filled with the conversation she had with Ellen Johnson. She can't believe the revelations from the woman and it confuses her more. Even Dom heard everything after he guarded the door and send people away who wanted to enter.

It can't be true what Ellen Johnson told her. Lucien Wright was a very virile man when they were together. It can't be possible he has erectile dysfunction like Ellen claims him to be.

"Don't mind what that deranged woman said. She has motives for doing it" she was interrupted by Dom's voice and by then she realized they were in front of her room.

"I still can't believe she could be deceptive just to get what she wants. She was bent to ruin someone for her ambition" she whispers in disbelief.

"There are a lot of people like her, Lexie. Controlled by greed and ambition. Go inside, it's almost dawn. We need to rest" Dom softly explains while pressing a kiss on her forehead.

"Don't think too much about it. We will leave later and you won't be seeing her or anyone again" Dom continues while caressing her face.

"Thank you, Dom. Goodnight and see you later. We still have a few hours to rest before our flight" she tries to smile and cast aside the disturbing thoughts inside her head.

She wanted to dig deep into what Ellen told her but she realizes it was no longer her concern. Lucien Wright will deal with her if he knows what she was doing. But whatever the outcome of Miss Johnson's act, the information will not be coming from her. She will let Lucien Wright deal with her.

After her quick shower, she slept until her phone blasted with the alarm she set earlier. Dragging herself from bed, she washes her face and brushes her teeth. She was about to go out of the bathroom when just in time her phone rang. With furrowed brows, she picks up her phone with an unknown number.

"Hello...?" she reluctantly answered.

"Lex? Lexie? Is this Lexie?" stuttering and panicking voice filled her ears but she grasp something.

"Mom...?" she unsurely mutters, recognizing Dominic's mother, Carla.

"Oh god oh god... Lexie... Thank god I memorized your number...yes it's me" Carla gushed, sounding relieved.

"Mom, calm down. What happened? I'm trying to call you last night but your phone was off" she was anxious all of a sudden.

"Lexie, I'm so sorry but it was so sudden... I dropped my phone in panic" Carla sounded panicked, which added to her anxiousness.

"Mom... What happened?" she nervously asks.

"He was just playing...and...and I don't know what happened... he fell to the floor, he was panting. He looks blue and had difficulty breathing..."

She wobbled on her feet before slumping on the bed while listening to Carla. Her greatest fear has come. Her son's health is deteriorating.

"We panicked... We brought him to the center and thankfully, Dr. Chel was there. He is fine for now, Lexie. I'm so sorry..." Carla sniffles and Lexie could imagine what the old woman has gone through.

"No mom, don't be sorry. I owe you my son's life, I was not there when this happens. Where are you now?" she snap from her daze and tried to focus despite the numbing of her whole being. She needs to be strong for her son.

"We were brought here in the capital" Carla readily replies.

"Capital?" panicked consumed her. They will not be brought to the capital if it's not serious.

"Yes. We are here at Ace Hospital. Lexie, he needs emergency surgery and the doctors were waiting for you. They need the go signal and... at least a downpayment" Carla seriously muttered while Lexie was left stunned. Her mind went blank.

"Lexie...? Are you still there?" Carla anxiously checks after she becomes quiet.

"I will be coming mom, I'll be quick" she abruptly announces before rummaging to her luggage for her change.

She was struggling to wear her clothes when she calls Dom who instantly was at her door.

No words were exchanged between them as they rushed to the elevator until they reached the hospital.

"Mom" Lexie dashed to the woman's side who immediately hugged her tight.

"He is fine now, Lexie. But he needs surgery or this might get worse" Carla mutters after they parted and face the sleeping boy in the bed. He looks pale and Lexie had not contained herself to cry. Her boy looks weak.

"He is stable now but he needs to be closely monitored" Carla added.

"Yes, mom, I know. I didn't expect, he will worsen this fast" she frustratingly whisp

"The doctor here explain last night, he had developed congestive heart failure due to the hole in his heart.

They advise having surgery soon or it will get worse. They have much modern facilities here, they immediately detected the problem. I'm glad I heed what the doctor at the mainland advised, to bring Lam in the capital. The hospitals here were more advanced and Lam will have a great chance to be cured" Carla softly explains.

She was aware Lexie has been saving for the amount but the boy's medication and constant hospitalization had drained her. Thirty thousand dollars for the surgery alone without insurance is a

struggle for her. Their hospitalization since yesterday had surely earned Lexie a great amount of debt already. The five thousand dollars she left for an emergency was all been spent.

"Oh my...this is my fault" Lexie gasps as she continues to cry. She was not aware of the new diagnosis of her son's health.

"Lexie, don't blame yourself. You need to be strong. Lam needs you and this time we will stay here. He needs these kinds of facilities. They could take good care of our baby here" Dom made her look at him as he speaks.

"I will find a way. It's about time I will give my son what is due to him" she whispers. Her head was spinning for a possible way she could get the money.

"I called my agent and the money from the auction will be released two weeks from now. But I still have money, we will pay whatever we have as downpayment" Dom

interjected.

"The money you gave me before you left was all spent yesterday, Lexie. The airfare and all... The hospital asks for the down payment last night, knowing we don't have insurance. I just begged to let us stay and we will pay this morning" Carla tearfully added.

"It's okay mom, it's meant for emergency and you did great, you and dad. Thank you so much" she hugs Carla again and smiles at Dom's father who remains quiet across them. He has been watching her son sleep.

"I still have remaining money, we will settle the downpayment" she announces while looking at Dom.

Kissing her son's forehead, she caresses his pale face. Her boy has undergone a lot since a baby. He was diagnosed with a hole in his heart since birth and when they thought he was recovering after his surgery, the hole relapsed, preempting him to have a normal childhood. Strenuous activities were prohibited and he is constantly hospitalized.

She has been saving for another surgery but every time Lam is hospitalized, she is always left drained.

"The surgery will cost thirty to forty thousand dollars, Lex. Here is the quotation I asked earlier. The downpayment is only for the accommodation and the medication he was given since last night" Carla handed her the paper and her heart sank. The amount is only for the surgery, not including the doctor's fee of at least four doctors including a specialist.

"Lex..." Dom softly called her.

"I can't wait for two weeks, Dom. I don't know what will happen to my son while we wait" she whispers while staring at the paper.

"What's your plan?" he asks but he could see her plan. Lexie could sometimes be easy to read.

"I have to take chances. Can you stay here while I take care of some things so mom and dad could rest" she asks him.

"Yes, of course. I will stay by Lam's side until you come back" he smiles, assuring her.

"Thank you" she whispers, folding the quotation before putting it inside her sling bag.

Wiping the tears in her eyes, she bends to the sleeping boy.

"Hello baby, mama is here. Don't worry, we will cure your heart. You can play and run again. We will visit a park and you will play at the monkey bar you wanted to try. Mama will find a way. I love you so much" she softly whispers near his ear despite him being asleep. He was in induced sleep to make his heart rest.

Inhaling his baby scent to make herself stronger, she stayed buried near his head. She let her tears fall.

After a long moment, she moves away, wiping her tears. Kissing and caressing her son's face again, she forced herself away from his bed.

"I won't be long" she just mumble before turning towards the door.

"Whatever your decision now, Lex. Please keep in mind, this is for Lam. For his young life, for his normal childhood, and his normal life" Dom's father's words made her stop midstep.

Silence ruled as she remains unmoving.

“Yes, dad...I will” she whispers before continuing her sure steps.

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Chapter 22

Chapter 22 Someone Important

Entering the building, she went directly to the reception.

“Good morning, could I please have an appointment with CEO Lucien Wright?” she calmly said, which earned her a raised brow from the two women behind the desk.

“Can I have your name, purpose of appointment, and contact number, Ma’am? I will get back to you once the CEO’s secretary confirms your appointment” one of the women gave her a piece of paper, sporting a serious look.

“I’m sorry, but can I please see him now? It’s just very important” she insisted, ignoring the scornful look on the women’s faces.

“I’m sorry ma’am but everyone wanting to have an appointment with the CEO has urgent and important matters too” the woman casually retorted before going back to what she was doing.

“Please, Miss. It won’t take long. I just want to talk to him then I’m off. Please tell him it’s Alexzia Montes” she persisted. She can’t leave without talking to Lucien Wright. She can’t back down now.

“Miss Montes, the CEO is presently on a meeting with foreign investors. It’s beyond our function to interrupt him just because a certain Alexzia Montes would urgently need to talk to him” the woman sarcastically exclaims, looking at her like she lost her mind.

“I’m sorry for that. Can I just wait for him? Please, I beg you to facilitate me if he is available” she ignores their sarcasm. She will beg if she needs to.

“We cannot assure you of his availability, Miss Montes, but of course, you could wait. Suit yourself the woman shrugs and ignores her again.

Without so much choice, she frustratedly looks around the lobby. There are some eyes on her but she ignores them. Spotting a vacant couch afar, she walk towards it and took a seat. She feels dejected but she has no choice but to wait.

Staring at her phone, she is thinking of calling the number he used the previous night.

“There’s no harm in trying” she whispers to herself while scrolling through her incoming calls.

Trying her luck she dials it. She held her breath until it rang and someone picks up.

“Hello, who is this?” a woman spoke at the other line.

“Ahm, can I talk to CEO Lucien Wright?” she nervously spoke.

“CEO Wright is in an important meeting. Who is this? And how did you get this number?” her stern voice made Lexie gulp hard.

“Ahm, this is Alexzia Montes. Please tell CEO Wright, I want to talk to him. It’s important” she tried to be calm though her heart is beating fast.

“The CEO is immensely busy right now. He can’t be disturbed with insignificant matters” the woman sternly spoke before the line was cut, surprising her.

Hopeless, she ran her fingers through her unbound hair. She has no other option but to wait. Until when? She doesn’t know.

She has been sitting, watching the elevator for she doesn't know how long. Since she arrives she hasn't left her spot, afraid she will miss his departure. The staff has left for lunch but she remains unmoving. Despite her thirst and hunger, she limits her water intake from the dispenser beside the reception desk, afraid to go to the restroom.

Ignoring her growling stomach, she slowly sipped the water from her cup. Her head is painfully throbbing and she feels queasy from hunger but she doesn't want to leave to buy food. She has no other way to see the CEO aside from waiting for him.

For her to endure the time of waiting, she has been calling Dom to check on Lam. The boy is peacefully sleeping and the two oldies have also taken a nap.

After talking to Dom, she glance at the clock in the lobby, it was almost three o'clock.

Feeling dizzy, she shook her head to regain her focus. She slowly stands up to relieve the stiffness in her muscles from sitting long when she wobbled. She almost fell if she had no grasp on the couch.

She remains unmoving on her spot to keep herself steady when the private elevator opened and several men went out, including Lucien Wright.

Seeing the man gave her hope, but her next ordeal is how to approach him with all the security surrounding him. He was engrossed talking to someone.

Several vehicles line up outside, waiting for them. And seeing the doors were opened for the whole entourage made her panic. He can't leave without her talking to him.

Despite the throbbing pain in her head and dizziness, she tried to come closer but security blocked her way.

"Just a moment, I want to speak to the CEO" she spoke but her voice is unexpectedly weak.

Though she was creating a scene by eluding the security trying to stop her, the CEO remains unaware of her presence. Some security nearby already had their attention on her.

"Please..." she begged as she grab the man's arm not to assault him but to keep herself steady when her vision blurred from her sudden movements.

"Hey, are you okay?" noticing her pale face, the security who has been preventing her from moving closer towards the CEO's entourage worriedly asks.

"I want to talk to the CEO, please..." she whispers, tightly grasping the man's arm, she is losing strength in her feet. She bows her head as she took several deep breaths.

"What's this commotion?" another grim-looking man approached.

"She was asking to talk to the CEO, chief" the man readily replies.

The man turned to the woman grasping one of his men and his brows furrowed. His intense gaze was on her when she raises her pale face.

"Madame Wright?" he exclaims in pure surprise and immediately held her steady. The security was stunned hearing their chief. He gapes at the woman who is now in the chief's arms.

Dazed and with blurred vision, she tried to recognize the man holding her. He called her Madame Wright or she was just mistaken. She was hearing nonexistent things.

"Boss!"

She flinched at the loud voice beside her ear, adding to the discomfort she feels. She keeps on shaking her head to regain her focus but it's a difficult battle.

Unaware of what is happening around her, she massaged her throbbing temple.

"Madame, inhale, exhale" the man holding her spoke to her but she cannot understand

him much.

“What happened, Ben?” a familiar voice spoke but she is too dizzy to turn towards it. She is buried in the man’s chest.

“Madame Wright” the man replies while turning to face the boss, holding her hair away from her paperwhite face.

“Zia...” immediately, another arm enveloped her, this time with the scent she was so familiar with.

“What happened?!” his stern voice echoed in the entire lobby, asking no one in particular.

Lifting her in his arms, she instantly rounded her arms around his neck. Her strength is quickly abandoning her body and she has no time to be fussy towards him.

Unconcerned about what would people say, she buried her face in his neck. She doesn’t want to faint but she is almost there. Without breakfast and lunch, her body surrenders to hunger.

“CEO Wright is everything okay?”

“Yes, Mr. Petrov. I will just take care of someone important. I will catch up with you later” Lucien Wright calmly replied, staring at the man’s eyes.

“Of course, CEO Wright. Take care of your woman first” another man nods as he speaks.

“President Gabriel Simon will assist you on my behalf” Lucien turns to Gabriel who is standing behind the man. Looking at him, he issued an unspoken command, which was clearly acknowledged.

He waited for the entourage to leave before turning to Ben and his security.

“What the hell happened?” his voice roared in the entire building, making everyone around flinch in fear as they scurried away

“She was trying to approach you boss but I stopped her. I didn’t recognize the madame” the man readily explains.

“Excuse me, CEO Wright, I saw her since morning, sitting on that couch. Even during lunch, she didn’t leave her spot, watching the elevator. I offered her water but she was just taking sips. She said she don’t want to go to the restroom. I had my break after lunchtime and I just got back. I saw her still here and very pale so I brought her food” a woman in janitor’s uniform interrupted while holding a pack of sandwiches.

With what he heard, he turns to the reception desk. With his chilling cold gaze, he looks at the two women afar.

“Bring me food. Warm soup and something light” he ordered without averting his gaze from the two.

“I want a report of what happened here. Why I’m not informed she was here looking for me” he continues, darting his piercing gaze to Ben and his assistants.

“Yes, boss. I have ordered the CCTV footage in this particular area. I will be reviewing it now” Ben replied with the same grimness.

Leaving everyone a warning cold gaze, he strides towards the private elevator with the unconscious Lexie in his arms.

Ben, left to deal with the matter, sharply stares at everyone in the lobby until his serious eyes turn to the reception desk.

“Speak” he seriously ordered.

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Chapter 23

Chapter 23 Paid

With his grim but unremarkable expression, all his secretaries were on their feet seeing him come back with a woman in his arms.

"Bring me some inhaler" he ordered without looking at anyone.

Ignoring the curious looks from his staff, he enters his office. He rushed to the couch and carefully placed Zia who did not stir.

"Hey..." ever so softly he tried to wake her up, caressing her cheek. Seeing her ashen face, he clenched his jaw. She fainted from hunger and it's making his blood boil.

"Mr. Wright..." a knock sounded at the door followed by a hesitant voice.

"Come in" he snapped.

"The aromatic ammonia, Mr. Wright" one of his secretaries is nervously handing a small bottle, which he readily accepted.

"Leave" he ordered, making the woman scurried to the door.

After they were left alone, he put the small bottle near her nose. Just after a while, she started to stir.

"What have you gotten yourself into, Zia?" he murmurs while watching her lids move.

"Are you on a hunger strike?" he added, though knowing she doesn't hear him.

Watching Zia come around, he sat at the table, facing her.

"Ugh..." she groans before meeting her dazed gaze.

"What got into you going hungry? You are always hungry every time we meet" he mumbles softly. "It's a different circumstance and it happens only twice" despite her parched voice, she counters, earning her a scoff.

"Good thing you still remembered" he sneers.

Seeing her try to sit up, he helped, in time for a knock sounded at the door.

"The food, Mr. Wright"

"Come in"

The door opens and one of his security enters with a take-out bag and left after leaving the bag on the table.

"You have to eat" he made her sit straight before taking out the food.

"I can do it" she tries to get the bowl of steaming soup from his hand when he was about to feed her.

"Don't move and open your mouth" he glares as he held a spoonful of warm liquid.

Not wanting to argue further, she let him feed her and she finished the whole bowl. She was famished. The tension of having Lam in the hospital again drained her strength, in addition to her hunger.

"Good girl" he mutters before taking another pack from the bag.

"Let's slowly eat this" he added and started to feed her again without complaint.

Finishing everything, she washed it all down with bottled water while he was watching her.

"You feel better now?" "Yes, thank you"

"What happened? Why didn't you call me instead of aimlessly waiting downstairs?" he grimly asks.

"I called, but someone answered. You are in a meeting and cannot be disturbed" she explains, looking straight in his narrowed eyes.

Standing, he fish out his phone and his face hardened seeing the received call. His grim look remains on his face as he took a seat again.

"What's so important skipping all your meals waiting for me?" he earnestly asks.

"I need money" straightforward, she replies.

He stares at her, his expression unremarkable.

"Just one hundred thousand dollars. I will pay you back once I got the money from the painting" she added. She doesn't care what he was thinking, she needs the money and time has already been wasted. Her son is lying in the hospital waiting for the money she could get from his father. 1

He remains staring at her until he pulled his wallet from the back of her pants.

"I won't ask where you will spend it with and I forbid you to return whatever you spent" he speaks, handing her the card.

"It has fifty million, spend for whatever you want" he added. Alexzia is a woman of pride. Coming to him asking for money has surely taken a toll on her pride if not for the great importance of her purpose.

Accepting the card, her eyes becomes misty but she fought the tears. She doesn't need fifty million dollars. She will just get what her son needs for the surgery.

"Thank you, I need to leave now" she abruptly stands but he caught her hand.

"If you are no longer caught up with something you have now and I had finished this transaction with the foreign investors, we will talk. You will not leave again until we could talk" he spoke, looking up to her.

"Yes, I can't leave anyway" she nods before hurrying towards the door. Leaving Lucien following her back.

"Ben, bring Zia wherever she will go, she's on the way downstairs" he ordered on the phone before ending the call and making another.

"Carmen, everyone in my office" he seriously commanded before cutting the line.

Leaning in front of his office desk, he waited for his five assistants and secretaries who were slowly entering and lining up in front of him.

"Who answered the call from Alexzia Montes this morning?" he asks with a clenched jaw.

"Mr. Wright" Heidi anxiously responded.

"What time is it now?" he turns to the woman. His gaze sent chilling fear to her spine.

"3:30 in the afternoon, Mr. Wright" she nervously replies.

"Almost seven hours from the time of Miss Montes' call. My meeting ended before eleven. What time do you plan to inform me?" he looks calm but everyone knows he was far from being one.

"I forgot, Mr. Wright, I'm so sorry" lowering her head in fear, her eyes become teary.

"Go to the Human Resource Office to know your re-assignment" he casually announced with his piercing sharp tone.

Stunned, she looks up at the CEO with pleading eyes.

"Mr. Wright...please give me another chance" Heidi desperately begged while the others remained with bowed heads in fear of the CEO's wrath.

"Better than to fire you, I'm being considerate" snickering, he stares at her, undeterred by her pleading eyes.

"I don't need an incompetent assistant. Leave" he coldly dismissed her. Knowing her hopeless predicament, she scurried towards the door. Tearful, she went outside. Her six years of service to the CEO had ended today. Lucien stares at the remaining four who all remained with their heads lowered and eyes cast down.

"As the CEO's assistants, I am entrusting everything to you and I expect competency... efficacy... Wright Group of Companies is a multi-billion conglomerate. Don't casually tell me you forgot to mention an important call on my personal phone. That call may be life-threatening or WGC's future is at stake. You are on my team for a reason and it does not include incompetence... inefficiency... You have no right to commit a mistake" he grimly mutters, looking straight to the earnest eyes staring back at him the moment he started to talk.

"I don't give second chances" he added.

"Yes, Mr. Wright" everyone choruses.

Silence rules as he remains staring at his four assistants.

"And remember the name, Alexzia Montes will be given priority. No matter where I am, no matter how important my meeting is, you must inform me of her presence or even just a mere phone call. No one could make her wait unless she is already inside of my office. Make sure everyone knows" he added calmly but the warning is evident in his voice.

"Yes, Mr. Wright" all choruses.

"Carmen, ensure Heidi's replacement understands the CEO's assistant's responsibilities" he added before turning to the door.

"Yes, Mr. Wright" Carmen readily responded.

He walks straight to the elevator with two assistants following together with his security. He will be joining the site visit, Gabriel Simon took charge in his absence. A different vehicle is waiting outside and he knows, Ben has yet to return from sending Zia.

The entire time the vehicle is traversing the highway, his mind is full of thoughts about Zia. He has to talk to Ben later about having a tail for the woman. He can't take any chances again with her leaving the capital. He is always at a loss when it comes to Alexzia.

He is still busy thinking when his phone rang.

"Boss, I have joined the convoy"

"How is she?" he readily asks.

"I brought her to Ace Hospital" Ben casually informs.

Silence rules but the call was ongoing. His thoughts wandered but he has a lot to do before the day ends. He will find time later.

"Put some men for her" he ordered instead.

"Yes, boss. Will I investigate?"

"No. I will deal with her later" he casually counters before ending the call. He doesn't want someone snooping with Zia's affairs unless it's him. Ben is his trusted man but he wants to know, coming from her.

He went back to his thoughts before a notification pops into his phone. Opening, he stares at the amount paid to Ace Hospital.

"What's going on, Zia? You are not sick, right?" he whispers while staring at the screen.

He was not bothered by the money being spent but by the reason. He stares blankly ahead while he waited for his call to be connected.

"Tell me you are not sick" he speaks after she answered the call.

"No, I am not sick" she readily responded to his relief.

"Good. I will be busy but you could call me anytime" he added before ending the call. Not waiting for her response.

Relieved by her assurance, he went out of the vehicle. They arrived a while ago and he has a lot to do, but he has to make sure Zia was alright.

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Chapter 24

Chapter 24 Left Alone

"He will be prepared for the surgery. Blood and several physical tests will be performed to ensure his body could endure the procedure. The specialists have already been informed and we are waiting for the confirmation of their availability. The sooner we could perform the surgery, the better for his recovery. Hopefully, it will be in time for his tests to be released. Waiting could be crucial for his frail heart" the resident doctor carefully explains after Lexie had settled the surgery payment.

"Thank you, doctor. Please help us get the soonest schedule of the specialists" Lexie politely pleaded.

"Don't worry, ma'am. We are prioritizing the severity of the case and he is on the list" the young doctor warmly smiles.

"Thank you, doctor" she gratefully exclaims before he went out.

"Mama..." a weak soft voice made her rush to the bed.

"Hello, my dear Lucy..." she tenderly smiles while caressing the boy's pale face.

"I want candy..." the boy pursed his chapped lips.

"I'm afraid we cannot have candy for a while, my love. They will cure your heart this time and you have to be strong. Candies could make you weak, it's not good for the health" she carefully explains. Despite being afraid, she has now an assurance her son will be given the proper procedure.

She has lived in fear for Mr. Wright to know about her son, but she is more frightened to lose the boy. He is still so young to lose his life. He had already lost part of his normal childhood because of her cowardness, she will make it right this time.

Lucas Alexander is not part of their deal four years ago. So CEO Lucien Wright has nothing to do with her son. He will acknowledge him or not, she will raise him full of love. She will ensure he will have a normal childhood like any other child.

She never fills her son's heart with hate for his father. Lucien Wright doesn't know his existence, he was not at fault, it's all hers. She was not being careful when she and Lucien Wright were together. It's her responsibility to make sure she will not get pregnant but she fails on that part.

"Just after the doctor's visit, I could have candy, mama?" Lucy insisted, looking hopeful.

"Mommy will give handsome Lam candy after the doctor's visit" Carla interrupted with a promise, earning her a bright smile from the boy and an incredulous look from Lexie and Dom.

“Spoiler alert” Dom mumbles but got a glare from his mother.

“Yeay...thank you mommy” the boy was ecstatic but the rapid beeping of the monitor worries everyone. This time Dom and his father glares at Carla who looks regretful and worried.

“Calm down, baby...it’s time to sleep” Lexie panics and made her son settle until the rapid beeping stops.

“I just woke up, mama” the boy complains, pouting.

“You will grow up if you will sleep a lot” she grins. It’s just after dusk and indeed the boy has just woken up.

“You are looking funny again, mama. I’m feeling fine now. Don’t worry. The doctors will take care of me. You can relax” Lucy assures his mother who looks anxious.

“Mama is just worried” she tenderly smiles.

“I will be fine. Don’t worry I will not leave you alone, mama. I will live long. I will become a man and I will find papa to take care of you, mama. Mommy told me, you love papa so much, that’s why I don’t look like you. She was sure I have papa’s face” Lucy playfully exclaims but his words made the adults tearful.

“I thought you will take care of me” she counters, acting hurt. But she wanted to weep by her son’s words.

“Of course, I will. But you will be happier if we have papa. So don’t worry, I will be fine. I will obey my doctors. I want to live long for you and papa” he added with a hopeful smile.

She repeatedly nods, despite the tears in her eyes. Even Dom turned away to hide his bloodshot eyes.

“Thank you, my love. Mama will be stronger too. We can do this right, my brave little hero?” she tries to make herself cheerful for the boy.

“Yes, we can do this, mama” he gave her a two thumbs up despite his hands full of needles and tubes connected to him. His bright hopeful smile made her hopeful and at the same time anxious. He is so hopeful about his father and it won’t be long before Lucien Wright would discover him.

Plastering a smile on her face, she plays and talks to him until his lids surrender to sleep.

“He is really hopeful, Lex” Dom whispers beside her.

“It’s one of the things keeping him fighting. That someday he will find his father” she whispers dazedly, starting to get lost in despair again.

“Yes, Lam still hasn’t realized how dumb his mother to loss his father in the crowd” Dom made her recall one of the reasons she gave to Lucy when he asks about his father.

“Don’t remind me” she playfully spat, pulling her from her affliction.

Dom chuckles. He succeeded in distracting her from her miserable thoughts.

“But it won’t be long, his father will find him, instead of the other way around” Dom mutters, staring at her eyes.

“Yes, and I don’t know what to do if he will not acknowledge Lucy. It will surely break his heart. He has so much hope in meeting his father. He has a lot of plans to do with him. He wanted him to hold him while h

e finish the monkey bar” she blankly whispers, watching the sleeping figure on the bed.

“I don’t see him to be that kind of person, Lex. He is an honorable man and just looking

at Lam's face, he will know. There's no way he will deny our brave boy" Dom pacified her, circling his arm around her.

"I do hope so, Dom. I can't take it if he will break my son's heart" she grimaced at the thought.

"He won't" he assures, placing a kiss on her hair.

"Thank you, Dom. Your family has been my anchor since I knew of my pregnancy. I have caused so much trouble in all of you" she whispers.

"Don't talk nonsense, Alexzia" Dom's father who is a man of few words angrily interjected.

"I'm sorry, dad" abruptly turning to the old man, she apologized. Dom's father never wanted her to talk about her and her son being trouble to them. He loves Lam like a grandson. He even favors her son over Dom most of the time.

"You could bring, mom and dad to the hotel so they could rest well" she turns to Dom after a while.

"We don't want to leave Lam" Carla disagreed even before they could tell them.

"He will still have some tests to undergo. You can return tomorrow, mom. Anyway, we still don't know what his surgery schedule is. And you are also sick, it's best if you could rest well tonight. We don't want you getting sick mom" she insisted.

Acknowledging Lexie has a point, the three left after several reminders from Carla. If not for her husband who pulled her to the door, she will continue her endless talk.

Left in silence, she stays beside Lucy, caressing his raven black hair. One thing he got from his father together with all his facial features. The color of his eyes was undeniably from the Wright genes. His prominent nose, the shape of his lips, and the mole just below his lip is the exact copy of Lucien Wright. Even some of Lucien's mannerisms can also be seen from the boy.

Telling Lucien, Lucas is her son from other men would be an obvious lie. They cannot escape him with Lucas' face.

"You are your father's son indeed, my love. Mama cannot hide you any longer" she whispers as her thumb caressed his cheek.

"How could I mend your heart when he cannot accept you? Will mama's love be enough to fix you once he shatters your dream? Can you be this strong if he rejects you?" she whispers in the silence as she tenderly combs his hair.

She stayed watching her son sleep for she don't know how long. She was tired but her body seemed to be evasive of sleep.

Staring at him deep in sleep, she decided to grab some coffee from the cafeteria downstairs. Dom is yet to come back later, so maybe she could have some caffeine while waiting for her sleep and him.

Kissing Lucas, she slowly went outside.

"Good evening, nurse. I will just grab some drinks downstairs. Could I please ask to keep an eye on room 12A?" she went to the nurse's station, two rooms away from theirs.

"Yes, Ma'am. The room with Lucas Alexander Montes" the nurse smiles.

"Yes, nurse. I will just be quick" she pleaded politely.

"Sure, Ma'am. Just be quick" the woman nodded.

"I will, thank you"

Hurriedly, she rushed to the hallway, in time two men in head caps went out of the elevator, opposite from where she went.

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

Chapter 25

Chapter 25 First Meeting

With Ben by his side, they went out of the elevator. With the head caps hiding their faces they walk towards the nurse's station nearby.

He walks slowly passing by every room with small clear glass on every door. Partly seeing the inside, he would quickly peek, hoping to see a familiar figure before they would reach the nurse's station. He wants to avoid asking as not to reveal his presence inside the facility.

His slow steps halted at one of the doors with his eyes fixed at the bed. Blinking and shaking his head several times to clear his vision, he earnestly stared at the figure inside. Ben remained behind him while cautiously looking around.

Certain of what he intended to do, he quickly went inside the unlocked door, Ben followed behind after ensuring no one saw them enter.

The steady beeping of the machine welcomed them but his eyes were fixed at the same color of eyes he has, staring back at him.

Remained on the door to guard, Ben checked the outside, spotting his men giving him a gesture he fully understand

Silence fills the room as the two continue to stare at each other. Two versions of the same face, the old and the young one.

Lucien calmly held the boy's gaze and for the first time in his thirty-five years of existence, it's the first time his chest violently rumbled as it is now. An invincible force seemed to be choking him despite the absence of adversaries. The frail figure across him is making him frightened for the first time.

His intent gaze is making his heart thunder with uncertainty and fear. The boy terrifies him.

Feeling the tension inside the room, Ben glanced at the bed but froze. He hasn't expected what he will see as he stares at the small figure. Despite the swell of unexpected emotion, he remains quiet and went back to guarding the door.

"I'm looking for my papa. Mama lost him in the huge crowd before I was even born" a weak voice disturbed the silence and Lucien could recognize the mannerism of the way he talks.

Wanting to reply, his voice failed him. His throat is too constricted to speak, all he did was gulp hard but it doesn't lessen the pain. He wanted to counter the boy that a Papa will not be easily lost in the crowd but he was incapable to do.

"I don't look like my mama, though my mama is very beautiful. Mommy said maybe I look like my papa" the boy continues while he remains quiet, unable to speak.

"Mama just got her coffee. She thought I'm asleep" he giggles despite it being a weak one. He looks triumphant of his naughtiness.

"She can't sleep again, she was afraid papa won't like me. She was afraid, papa will break my heart if he rejects me. But I won't. I'm fine with my mama. I just want to have

papa so he could take good care of my mama. My heart is not healthy, that's what the doctor said. I don't want to leave mama alone" he added softly, a faint smile lingering on his pale lips.

"She is always crying when she thought I am asleep" he whispers as if his mama is in a hearing distance.

"She said I am my father's son and she cannot hide me any longer. Mama is funny sometimes, of course, I am my father's son, right? Mama could not have me if there's no papa" he chuckles.

"Yes...you...are... There should have a... mama... and papa... to have...a baby" for the first time, Lucien found his voice, though hoarse.

"I hope papa will hold me while I cross the monkey bar. Mama promised after my heart is healed, I can play in the playground and I can cross the monkey bar" he gushed excitedly.

"Papa... will... hold you while...you cross the... monkey bar" Lucien tried so hard to speak despite the pain in his throat from containing all the emotions that kept rushing like a boulder, hitting him hard.

"I know papa will. I will ride his shoulder just like what my classmates do when their papa picks them up from school" he boasted.

"Papa... will love to carry you on his shoulder...he will bring you to the park, he will bring you to places you haven't gone" Lucien found his confidence but the tears brimming his eyes were unstoppable.

"Papa will buy me candies?" his enthusiastic voice made Lucien smile.

"All the candies in the world, but that is if mama will let you" he smiles as he sniffles.

"Ice cream too?" his small eyes brightens.

"All the ice cream there is. Every ice cream in the world" he nodded while wiping his tears.

Silence rules while the boy watches him in his miserable state.

"You are just like my mama, you are both a cry baby" he exclaims in awe.

"Yes, we are..." he was never embarrassed by his tears in front of the boy who nodded his agreement.

Silence rules again with just Lucien's sniffles while the boy earnestly stares at him, looking like he wanted to ask something

"Will...will my papa love me?" he timidly asks, his voice is almost indistinct but Lucien heard him.

"Yes... Papa loves you...so much" his tears drop again, especially seeing the boy's face lightens up like a lightbulb.

"Will...will you love papa even if he lost in the crowd? Even if he was not there when you were born? Even when he was not there every time mama cries?" closing his eyes, he fires all his uncertainty despite not expecting too much from the boy.

"I love papa even if he is dumb. Even if he didn't know the way home. Even if he doesn't know I was already born. Even if he took so long finding me and mama" he replies with a smug smile.

Welling his eyes, his tears were unstoppable. His shoulder shook, making the boy worry for him.

“Don’t cry...” he whispers worriedly.

Unable to respond, he fervently nodded while he tries to wipe his tears. No one would believe, CEO Lucien Wright is a mess with all the tears streaming down his face. Only a frail boy had made him cry.

“I am Lucas Alexander Montes. Mommy and daddy call me Lam since my name stands for it. But mama calls me Lucy, like my father’s name” he blurts out after a while he saw him more composed.

“Yes, indeed...” he whispers while taking several deep breaths. Everything is overwhelming and it creates chaos inside him.

He composes himself while still holding the boy’s adorable gaze. He knows he was waiting and he will give it to him.

Composed and confidence regained, he step closer to the bed. Unaware of the tender look on his face, h e extended his right hand.

“Nice meeting you, Lucy. I am Lucien Wright, you can call me... Papa...for short his voice falters as it

quivers midway. The tears he had successfully tamed earlier brimmed his eyes again.

“Papa...” Lucy whispers, like Lucien his eyes brimmed with tears while grasping his hand with his small ones full of tubes and needles.

Ever so gently, he cups the boy’s hands as he bent low to place his quivering lips to his small hands, kissing the plaster securing one of the needles.

“I’m so sorry... I was not at your side every time they put this in you, buddy...” he whispers as he places gentle kisses in every needle on Lucy’s hands. The pain of his inability to protect his boy is painfully killing him.

“It’s okay Papa, Mama always holds me tight. And I’m already used to the needles” Lucy boasted and smiled but the more it made Lucien feel bad about himself.

His son. Yes, his son. The word sounded so right even just in his mind.

“Papa will always be by your side from now on. Papa will not be lost in the crowd again. Papa has found his way to mama and Lucy. Papa will take care of you and mama now” despite his quivering voice his sniffles, he made an earnest promise to the boy.

Caressing his face, he places several gentle kisses on his forehead. Sitting on the bed beside his boy, he bends and tries to hug him. Surprised, he was overwhelmed when the boy carefully rounded his small arms around his neck.

“Papa...papa...papa” Lucy suddenly cries and whimpers in his father’s arms. The first time he felt his love a s he hugs him, though careful but tight. 1

“My boy, my son...my little brave Lucy” he whispers as tears freely fell from his eyes. Unaware of the opening of the door, they continue to hug while crying.

The frozen figure on the door almost dropped the steaming cup of coffee if not for Ben who is abrupt in getting the cup from her hand. 2

Her gaping eyes are as wide as the full moon in the sky while staring at the hugging figures of father and son.

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

Chapter 26

Chapter 26 Two Different Reasons

Watching the two hugging figures until they parted, Lexie stayed frozen on her feet.

“Mama!” Lucy raves upon noticing her at the door.

“Mama, papa has found his way to us. He is no longer lost in the crowd” Lucy continues and his words made her snap to the present.

Blushing from the lame excuse she gave to her son, she cautiously glances at Lucien who is earnestly staring at her with his smug face. Though he looks like a mess with his tearful eyes.

“Are you happy, mama? Papa is here now. He made it” Lucy looks so ecstatic while his mother is grimacing from embarrassment. Lucien Wright’s intense gaze is adding to her anxiousness.

“Of course, my love. I’m glad papa made it through the crowd” she mumbles as she fights the humiliation she feels.

“I told you, Papa will make it. I don’t need to find him, he finds us first” Lucy continues to rave while Lucien tries to hold his small hands in his.

“And mommy Carla was right, I look like papa. Have you noticed our resemblance too, mama?” he added as he caress his father’s face. Still can’t believe he looks like him.

Mentally grimacing, she scratches the unexistent itch on her ear. How could she tell her son, it’s not just a mere resemblance but he has all the face of his father.

“Ahm...yes, Lucy. You exactly look like, Papa” she smiles and choose a safer response.

“We are both handsome, that’s why you love us so much. You love papa so much that’s why I look exactly like him” she swears, all the stars in heaven are conniving to punish her tonight. And its medium is her son.

“Why are you so energetic tonight. You are supposed to sleep, young man” to avoid her further disgrace, she diverted Lucy’s attention.

“Mama, Papa has just arrived. We should be celebrating. Why are you always making me sleep?” the boy pouted as he look up at Lucien for help.

“Mama is right, buddy. It’s late so you have to sleep” Lucien, though not wanting to spoil the boy’s enthusiasm in seeing him, sided with Lexie.

“But I don’t want to sleep. You will leave and I might not see you again” Lucy whispers making the two gasp in surprise.

“Buddy, no. Papa will not leave you again. Papa will sleep with you and mama here tonight. I won’t be able to sleep without you and mama, now that I found you. Please believe papa” Lucien readily explains as he cups his tiny face.

Realizing Lucy’s fear of losing his father, she almost wobbles on her feet. Even Lucien was stunned.

“Promise?” Lucy looks begging more than asking for assurance.

“Promise, from now on, Papa will not leave Lucy and mama. We will live together and will never be apart again” Lucien firmly but gently holds the boy’s two arms as he speaks. He looks straight to his misty eyes to show how serious he was with his promise.

Seated on the chair near the bed, Lexie tenderly watches the father and son. She doesn’t want to interfere with the two but she can’t help but be anxious about what Lucien Wright was promising her son.

She doesn’t want to doubt Lucien’s words but her heart is somewhat uncertain for her son’s sake.

"Tomorrow if I wake up, you will still be here?" he persisted. 1

"Yes, buddy. Papa will still be here once you wake up tomorrow" Lucien assures the boy as she shuffles his hair.

Lucy stares at him for a long while, gauging his words before he nodded his head and smiles.

"I will sleep now, papa" he announce while raising his arms for a hug, which Lucien gladly gave. Lexie, reaching for her son on the bed, gave him a gentle hug before placing a kiss on both his cheeks.

"Good night papa, goodnight mama. Don't worry mama, papa will not leave again. Just sleep" before settling on his bed with Lucien's assistance, he made sure to assure his mother who warmly smiles at him.

"Good night my little brave Lucy. Mama and papa will guard you while you sleep" Lucien whispers to his son as he slowly lulls him to sleep by his gentle stroke on his hair.

As the imposing CEO was so engrossed with his son, Lexie watches him in awe. He was so natural with dealing with Lucy like he was used to being around with children.

Silence rules as they waited for the boy to sleep for real. Lucien knows better than to be deceived by his son as he did with his mother.

It's been a while he was sure, Lucy was asleep but he continues to stroke his hair as if by doing so, he could fill in the years he was not around while he was growing up.

"Why didn't you tell me about him?" he painfully whispers without looking at her.

"He was not part of the deal" she responded softly, watching her son's peaceful face. He loses a lot of weight since the relapse.

"Still, you could have told me. He is my heir, Zia" he softly confronted.

"How would I know you will accept him? As I have said, he was not part of the deal and you are getting married. You were so clear about the agreement and I just fulfilled what has been agreed. My pregnancy i

s my fault. But having Lucy is the best thing I have. So how could I put my son to an impending heartache? How could I tell him his father doesn't want him once you felt otherwise towards him?" she carefully counters.

Recognizing Zia has a point, he became quiet. The deal between them was so clear. He indeed included the possibility of her being pregnant and it would be her sole responsibility if it happens. But it was when they were just starting. After six months everything was different for him but Zia was already gone.

"I will never reject him, Zia. I will never break his heart" he whispers instead.

"I don't know what made you change your perspective about having a child from someone you just contracted but I'm happy you assured him of your affection" she smiles gratefully but his words pierce his insides like a knife.

"I am not heartless, Zia. He is my blood" he painfully counters.

"You won't be saying that if you have your children with Miss Ellen Johnson" she smiles bitterly.

"That will never happen" he firmly counters but she only smiles and shook her head.

"Things may have changed between you and her but I have no way of knowing. So I can't gamble the happiness of my son. He only has me during these times to protect him. All this time, my mind was so busy thinking of how could I protect him from you. I can't hide him forever, with his face. It won't be long the world will know who he is.

When he turns two, he started to ask for his father. Then when he went to a

local nursery, he saw everyone has their father with them and he has none. He becomes more persistent in knowing where his father was. It was not an easy quest” she smiles wistfully, reminiscing her lame excuses.

“I fully understood the agreement, Mr. Wright. I made a mistake of not protecting myself from an impending pregnancy but it was the greatest mistake I had” she continues as she tenderly stares at her son.

“I hope... I’m not too late” he whispers, his voice almost fading.

“He only had three years in his life and he will have more. If the surgery is successful, he will live normally and it will be a long time. You will have a long time together. You will have a lot of chances” she assures him.

The mention of his case made Lucien snap from brooding.

“Why does he need surgery?” he seriously asks after he looks at her.

“He was born with congenital heart disease. He had undergone surgery but it relapsed two months ago. The regression has been very difficult for him” she carefully explains while he looks stunned.

“Oh, Zia... I don’t want to think of what you two have gone through all these years without me” he frustratedly ran his fingers through his hair.

“We survived” she whispers, tears starting to brim her eyes.

“The painting, the reason you sold that painting. I know you won’t do it if not for a valid reason. It was your body, Zia. You were naked, though it’s art” he mutters with a clenched jaw.

“I have no other way. Lucy needs surgery” she responded as she sniffled.

“I have all the money my son needs but where I am? I am a useless father, Zia. I’m sorry... ” he raves, his voice quivering as his tears fell. With his balled fist and bowed head, tears streams down the concrete floor.

Surprised by his tears, she gapes at him. She was not expecting to see such vulnerability from the CEO.

“You didn’t know, Mr. Wright” she softly counters.

“I have all the means to know, Zia, but I’m so stubborn, so dumb, so stupid. My pride got into me and what does it give me? I failed to know because I choose not to know what happened to you after you left” he retorted. Blaming himself for his inadequacy.

“Please let me make this right, Zia. Let me be a father to my son. Please...let my son claim his birthright. He is a Wright and he deserves the world. He deserves my world and everything in it” he looks up with his tearful eyes as he begs her.

Overwhelmed by all the emotions, she cries hard instead of responding. They both cry for two different reasons.

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

Chapter 27

Chapter 27 Chances

“I won’t curtail Lucy’s right to be your son. He deserves it” her soft voice rang amid their sobs and sniffles.

With what she said, his shoulders shook from his sobs. He bent to place a kiss on

Lucy's small hand, cupping it inside his hands. Zia's words relieved him though he was bent on doing what he think would be best for his son despite her possible resistance. "You will be alright my brave boy...papa is here..." he whispers while he showers his small hand with tender kisses.

Silence rules as they gave themselves time to compose their emotions. It's a painful yet amazing moment and Lucien was overwhelmed by the chance he was given.

Knowing Lucy is the greatest surprise in his life. After Zia had left, having an heir become a dim predicament for him, even with Ellen around.

"When will he have his surgery?" he asks after a long while that they have been silent.

"He will still undergo some tests and depending on the availability of the specialists" she softly explains which made him think. He nodded his head while being thoughtful.

"You have to rest..." he whispers after a while, looking at Zia's tired face.

"I'm fine"

"No, you are not. You are exhausted. You have to rest" he persisted.

"I am here now, Zia. You will not be alone in this anymore" he added while Lexie remains looking at him.

"Let me take good care of you and Lucy...please..." he softly pleaded.

"Your only responsibility is Lucy, Mr. Wright" she softly counters.

"I want to take care of you" he clenched his jaw at Lexie's denial of him.

"I don't want to complicate things" she softly retorted.

"Nothing is complicated" he persisted while she just sadly smiles.

"If it's Ellen you are worrying, don't...she has nothing to do with me, especially with us" earnestly, he mutters.

"I don't want to create more trouble. Lucy's presence in your life will already create turmoil" she insisted.

"You are no trouble. Trust me in this, Zia. Ellen will not create trouble, she has no right to do so" he insisted, trying hard to convince her.

She stares at him for a long while before heaving a sigh.

"I won't be tolerant of your woman once she tries to hurt my son...know that, Mr. Wright. I didn't come begging you to accept him, it is you who offered it. You should know how to value him or I will take him away. I don't care if you have all the money in the world to find him, I am his mother and I will protect him from everyone even from you if I have to" she looks straight into his eyes as she speaks.

"It will never happen, Zia and for the record, Ellen is not my woman" he counters but only got a rolling of eyes from her, which he just dismissed. Zia could be brazen sometimes despite her obvious fear of him.

"You will never have the chance to protect my son from me, you don't need to. I will be the one to protect him and you from the world. Please let me, Zia...let me be a father to him without your doubt, let me be your partner in this with your trust. I know this will not be easy but I want to work this out... with you and Lucy" he softly counters, pain is evident in his voice.

"And Ellen will not meddle with us. I have cut ties with whatever we had a long time ago" he added while intently looking at her.

His words somewhat made her curious but she was afraid to ask more. She doesn't want to give her heart hope amid her doubts.

"You don't need to hide whatever you have with Miss Johnson, it's none of my business"

in the first place” she retorted while trying to avoid his gaze.

“But I will mind... I will not hide anything if there is any I don’t want you to think more than what it is supposed to be. Ellen will not be a threat to us” he counters.

“There’s no us, Mr. Wright. You are a free man, do whatever you want. And whatever I am thinking is not for you to be concerned of. Besides, I don’t think Miss Johnson shares your point of view. She has been setting her perimeter around you” she scoffs.

“She has no right to set any perimeter” he counters grimly.

“Yeah... Whatever. Resolve your lover’s quarrel. I don’t want to be involved with it anymore” she dismissed before standing to turn away but he follows her.

“What do you mean by that?” he earnestly asks after making her look at him.

“If you have a misunderstanding with Miss Johnson at this time, resolve it on your own, don’t involve me. Don’t use me again, I won’t allow it despite the price you will offer” she mutters while gritting his teeth.

“I am not using you and I will never offer a price again. This is no longer an agreement, Zia. The stupid agreement was over a long time ago so let’s move on from that. Please don’t imprison me in the past. Are you not listening to what I said about me and Ellen?” he was exasperated while she becomes quiet. She knows she was being unreasonable but she cannot help it.

Pipl.

She remains quiet while trying to avoid his inquisitive eyes.
visitive even

“Look at me...” he demanded but she resisted

“Are you being jealous of Ellen? What did she do to you?” he suspiciously asks, narrowing his eyes to her.

“Nothing and I’m not jealous. How presumptuous of you” she mumbles while trying to get lost from his firm grasp

“Then look at me...” he demanded. After she stayed still and heaved a sigh, she looks up at him straight in the eyes.

“Satisfied?” she glares.

“Not quite...” he retorted.

“I’m tired, I will take a nap before Lucy wakes up later” she tried to escape, which he allowed this time. He is letting her off the hook but he will have time to settle her doubts once and for all after he settles his son’s case.

Quietly, he watches her get settled on the couch near the bed after she sent a message from her phone. He didn’t insist further, knowing she was indeed tired, it’s obvious in her face. Not to mention she fainted from hunger earlier.

Silence filled the room as he remains standing watching her and the hospital bed where his boy was peacefully sleeping. The room is quite decent but it doesn’t pass his preference. Not long, her steady breath fills the room.

Staring at her face, he realized she has been into a lot. Her complexion is pale and exhaustion shows

under her eyes. She’s distressed but he hasn’t noticed it despite their several meetings. He was too focused on other irrelevant things around her.

“Your boy got your face and the way you talk, boss” after being quiet for a long time, Ben spoke.

“Yes, everything. He is my little Lucien” he responds while his tender gaze was fixed at

the boy.

"This room is not comfortable for them" Ben added while looking at the entire room.

"Just as I'm thinking. First thing in the morning, arrange for their transfer. Tomorrow will be a busy day, I will have the best specialist for my son" he mutters without averting his gaze from Lucy before it drifted to Zia.

"They deserve what a Wright deserves" he added.

"I will see to it, before the sun rises. The family?" Ben softly asks.

"I will let them know once we have settled them in a more suitable room. I don't want my ears filled with mom's rants once she saw this miserable place" he mumbles.

"You have an heir, boss" Ben whispered, staring at the boy.

"Yes, I did have, Ben. I thought it's impossible" he mutters, pride blossoming in his chest.

"With Madame Wright, surely, you will have more, boss" Ben assures him. "I intend to, Ben. Once I overcome her stubbornness and after I erase her doubts to my motives" he amusedly declares.

"Will you tell her?"

"Not now but I will. I don't want her torn between her distrust over me and fear for our son's health. We need to focus on his surgery first" he explains.

Slowly, he went to the couch and carefully sat beside Zia. Caressing her face, he could see the hardships he failed to notice before.

"You're still as beautiful as I could remember..." he whispers.

"My doll, my precious surprise..."

Silence rules as he contented himself with watching Zia sleep. It's been a long time since the last time he was this close to her.

"Never did I think you will have this impact on my life. Thank you for coming back... thank you for Lucy"

"I'm sorry for not finding you. I'm so sorry I let you go..."

"I missed you so much, Zia...I hope you would believe me"

Tenderly caressing her face, a smile grazes his face whenever Zia was making several faces from his tickling touch.

"Welcome home, Mrs. Wright" he whispers before bending down to place a kiss on her slightly opened lips.

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

Chapter 28

Chapter 28 Not From Trash

"Good morning Director Lee, pardon me for calling this early. I want to talk to you regarding some urgent matter. I am here at Ace Hospital and I want to discuss the capacity of the hospital's facility to conduct pediatric heart surgery. I will be waiting for you in an hour. See you Director"

Even before the break of dawn, Lucien had already made several phone calls, which is what Lexie woke up to.

"Contact Dr. Miles and tell her I want her team not later than tomorrow" another call ended without the response from the other line.

“What are you doing in this holy hour?” with a hoarse voice from sleep, Lexie asks. She was disturbed by his voice despite it being low.

“Have you slept?” she added before he could answer.

“I had a nap...” he casually replies after pressing a kiss on her forehead. If Lexie was surprised, she tried to act cool upon seeing him go back to being busy with his phone.

“How’s your sleep?” he asks without turning to look at her.

“Ahm...good. It’s uninterrupted, I’m surprised. Lucy would usually wake up in the middle of the night or before dawn. He slept well tonight” she mumbles looking at the boy who is still peacefully sleeping.

“He woke up four hours ago, but I made him settle to sleep again. He is not a difficult patient” he replies with a tender smile while also looking at the bed.

Hearing him, she turns to him but remains quiet.

“I am his father, Zia. Nothing could be unusual with what I could do for him” he added without the question from her.

“I’m not just used to, even with Dom around, I’m making sure I’m the one who is making him comfortable” she softly retorted.

“As I have said, I am his father and we are together on this” he continues.

“I have ordered breakfast, you have to eat before you start your day. I don’t want you getting hungry again” he added after a while she remains silent.

“I will just go to the bathroom” she mumbles as she excuses herself but was not able to walk away, with him holding her by the waist.

“You haven’t greeted me good morning and gave me this...” before she realize what he intends to do, his lips covered hers.

With eyes wide, his tongue freely explored her mouth like he used to do before.

Stunned, she froze, and before she could avoid his attack, he withdraws from her.

“Good morning... Zia” he huskily mumbles while plastered near her ear.

Blushing, she ignores him as she rushes towards the bathroom with a thundering heart.

After four long years, she tasted him again and it’s still as amazing as she can remember. A mere morning kiss awakens her desire for him, something deep down there ached to have him again and it stunned her.

Ashamed of herself, she shook the thoughts out of her head. It’s shameless of her to think of dirty thoughts amid her son’s health issues.

Hurrying to the lavatory, she washes her face. She wanted to wash away not only her sleep but the

shameless thoughts she had with Lucien Wright. Her body was reacting sinfully to his mere touch and it was making her aghast.

She stayed inside longer than she intended, trying to collect herself. The turmoil of conflicting emotions came rushing as realizations dawned on her. Four years of being apart did not deter whatever she felt for him.

“Zia, you okay there? Breakfast is here” Lucien’s voice made her flinch as if he touched her.

Taking several deep breaths, she opens the door and went out while avoiding him.

“You, okay?” she hasn’t gone farther when he rounds his arms around her waist again.

How could his arm always find her waist? Is it that long?

“I’m fine...” she mumbles trying to be casual.

“Then look at me...” his soft yet stern voice rang in her ears.

Trying to prove she is fine, she looks up to him but immediately withdraws after seeming to be burned by his intense gaze. Keeping his silence, he heaves a sigh as she watches her awkward state.

“Do you want to eat breakfast now? I know it’s early but we have a lot to do today” he spoke.

“I won’t mind, I desperately need some caffeine” she replies while her eyes were on their sleeping son and not with the man holding her.

“There’s coffee, of course” he smiles as he slowly drags her towards the small table.

“We will be more comfortable once we have transferred room” he added as he stares at the tiny table, miserably holding their food.

“This room won’t work, Zia. Nowhere to sleep, the couch is too small, and this table...they have to be kidding me with its size...” he responded to her unspoken inquiry after she turn towards him.

“This is just what we afforded at the moment” she whispers, disheartened by the disgust she saw on his face.

“I’m sorry, I didn’t mean anything but to give you a comfortable place. You slept with a bended knee last night and if you are not that exhausted, surely you will feel how uncomfortable it was” he carefully explains, seeing the hurt in her face.

“I understand...” she whispers.

“Zia...” knowing she was hurt despite her assurance, he pulls her to him.

“I’m sorry if I’m being insensitive. I don’t mean to belittle you or anyone. My mind is just filled with things of how I could make this easy for you and our son. Of how I could give you all the comfort you deserve” hugging her, he softly explains.

“I understand, Mr. Wright” she assures him, which she indeed means it. He was right, the room is not quite conducive for a much-needed rest of family members. The reason she sent Dom’s parents to the hotel.

“Thank you. Mrs. Wright”

His response made her abruptly look at him.

“You kept on calling me, Mr. Wright. So it befits to call you Mrs. Wright” he explains without being confronted.

“You are Mr. Wright...so it is deemed to call you as such” she retorted but her already calm heart thunders inside her chest from the reminder.

“And you are Mrs. Wright...” he responded, sounding so sure of his words.

“Don’t mock me, Mr. Wright” he was quite surprised by her sudden irritation but he remains calm.

Ignoring him, she turns to the table and takes a seat.

Watching her become so cold and distant, Lucien and Ben just shared a meaningful look.

“I’m sorry, Zia, but I’m not mocking you” he softly spoke as he approach her side.

“Let’s eat, Mr. Wright,” she said instead.

Giving her space to deal with her mood, he quietly took a seat and started to eat.

Until they were finished eating, Zia remains quiet. The woman has a temper and he has somewhat accepted it a long time ago. She can be reserved and bold at the same time, her kind of personality that amazes him. Strong-willed yet softy.

“Papa...mama” a soft hoarse voice made them turn to the bed.

“Hello, baby love...how’s your sleep?” Lexie immediately stands up and went to Lucy’s

bed.

“Papa is still here...he kept his promise” the boy happily exclaims instead.

“Of course, I will be here, buddy. Papa will never leave our brave Lucy again, I promised already, right?” Lucien walks to the bed and stands close to Lexie.

Rounding his arm around Lexie’s waist again, they face the boy who looks so happy staring at them. Her heart is once again in an uproar with his closeness, his scent and the masculine arms around her are intoxicating

“I have a Papa and Mama...” Lucy whispers with teary eyes. His eyes brimming with tears were alternately looking at his parents.

“Hey, my love... What’s wrong?” surprised, Lexie immediately cups Lucy’s face.

“Tony said, I was dumped at the trash and you just picked me. He said children who don’t have a papa were just picked from the trash bin. And because I don’t look like you” Lucy mumbles, he snuffles as he talks.

Stunned, Lexie was dumbfounded while Lucien was flabbergasted by whoever was Tony.

“Baby, that’s not true. You came from mama’s tummy. You saw our photo, right? You saw mama with big tummy, it’s you inside” she desperately explains while all the overwhelming emotions sting her eyes, making her teary.

“Tony keeps on saying I was from the garbage but I know I’m not, mama. After the doctor’s visit, we will go home and I will bring papa to school. I will show them I have a papa. My papa is very handsome and I look like my papa that’s why I don’t look like you, mama” the boy suddenly becomes serious as he wipes his tears, adamant to prove something.

“Yes, buddy, Papa will bring you to school. They will know, you look like papa and not mama” Lucien declares with a clenched jaw. He was aware it was children’s stuff but he can’t help to be outraged.

“I will ride your shoulder, Papa?” he raves.

“Yes, buddy...papa is strong to carry our brave Lucy and even mama” Lucien boasted, showing his flexing biceps.

“Mama is also a baby?” he chirpily asks, making Lexie tense.

“Of course, buddy. Mama is papa’s baby too” Lucien gushed, pulling Lexie closer to him and pecking a

kiss on her temple. With what he was doing, Lexie looks flushed.

Lucy giggles at his mother’s awkward predicament but he looks so happy watching them.

“You will make another baby, Papa? I want a sister” Lucy suddenly gushes.

Lexie froze while Lucien chuckles.

“Right away, buddy. You will have a sister soon...and a brother and another sister and another brother...” Lucien playfully exclaims while the boy’s eyes brighten with excitement despite his mother’s incredulous state.

She was trying to glare at Lucien but she was deliberately ignored. He was enjoying her discomfort or he is just inclined with his plans.

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

Chapter 29

Chapter 29 Long Journey

Before the strike of noon, Lucy was transferred to a suite room and his face has never dimmed since then.

“Mama, this is awesome...they have a huge television. This is my room?” Lucy was gawking at everything around him. His room is of massive size with a wide television in front of the bed. Aside from his bed with complete medical apparatus, there is another one near it, intended for family members. The entire place even the bathroom screams luxury.

Looking around, it's more of a hotel suite than a hospital room. Outside of the ensuite were the receiving area and an eight sitter dining with a huge refrigerator and some basic kitchen appliances and utensils.

“Yes, baby love. Papa prepared this room for you...” though still in awe of the changes since early in the morning, Lexie casually explains to her son.

“Papa is rich?” his eyes were sparkling with astonishment as he looks around.

Lost of what to tell her son, she becomes quiet.

“Are we rich now, mama?” he persisted when he got no response from his mother.

“Papa is working hard for you, baby love. He wanted to make you comfortable despite your doctor's visit” she carefully explains instead.

“Papa is awesome. Papa is rich” he gushes as he continues to gawk around the place. Seeing happiness in her son, she smiles as she caresses his hair. Lucy has been a cheerful boy but she never saw him gleam with happiness as he is now. More than anything, more than the luxury around him, finding his father is the main reason he is so elated since he wakes up.

Torn between being relieved of Lucien's acceptance of her son and fear of the drastic changes impending to happen, she heaves a sigh as she smiles at him. Tomorrow is uncertain but at least she was certain, Lucy will have the best of his father's world.

Earlier that morning, a new medical team appeared. A team of pediatric specialists and cardiologists. Even Lucy's previous doctors were cautious around the new team.

Grasping the hushed conversation between hospital staff, all members of the team are top-tiered on their respective crafts. The most expensive doctors in the country.

The team is more persistent and aggressive with the medical management as they presented it to Lucien and her earlier.

“Where is papa, mama?” she went back to the present after Lucy spoke again.

“He went to his office but he will be back later. And you, young man, will rest. Let's turn this off for now” she turns off the television with the remote before lowering the bed.

“Papa will be here when I wake up?” his question made her think. Lucien is quite a busy man.

“I'm not sure, baby, but papa will be back later once he finished work” she assures while tucking him in.

“Are you sure, mama?” he persisted anxiously, making her disheartened.

“Yes, Papa will be back later. Papa must work to have money for Lucy's surgery. He has to pay this magnificent room and the brilliant doctors who will heal my baby love's heart” acknowledging her son's trust issues, she patiently assures him.

“Papa loves me?” he added while his lids became heavy.

“Yes, he does. Papa loves you...” she whispers and a contented smile carves his lips. Not long, she hears

his steady breath. He is asleep.

“Your father loves you my brave Lucy. A love I never expected you will have from him” she added while

gently combing the boy’s hair.

It was just yesterday she was so frightened of how Lucien would take the fact about Lucy. Now, he is moving all his influence and resources for her son. He is striving to be a father and it’s immensely warming her heart.

“Good day, CEO Wright. Miss Ellen Johnson has been persistently calling since morning”

The instant he stepped out of the private elevator, he was welcomed by reports and documents he will be reviewing.

“No phone calls or visitors unless it’s urgent” he casually announces before entering his office.

“Yes, Mr. Wright”

Comforted by the silence inside his office, he get down to business. He has a lot for today and he needs to be back in the hospital or Lucy might worry.

Remembering his boy, a smile grazes his serious face. He can’t believe he has a son who looks exactly like him. His heir.

The thought of seeing his son later made him more motivated to finish the day. He was so engrossed in reviewing several documents when the door opened.

“Your secretary said, no visitor. I am not a visitor” a grin adorned the newcomer as he unceremoniously went inside and get comfortable on the couch.

“You’re a nuisance. I should include that in my order. No nuisance for today” he snickers without sparing a glance at his visitor.

“Savage...) should have not helped you...”

“Yeah, sure...you helped a lot...” he retorted as he scoffs.

“Hey, it’s because of me you found her!

“What do you want Mr. Simon?” he seriously asks instead.

“Juicy news. So, how’s she?” the man playfully replies.

“Why are you so interested perchance?” suspiciously, he stares at him.

“So your grumpiness might lessen if it turns out well between you two. Don’t get me wrong. She is a goddess but I know where I stand” Gabriel retorted with raised hands, surrendering his case.

Hearing his explanation, he went back to what he is reading.

“Possessive bastard” Gab whispers, lying on the couch.

“Are you not busy?” a sneer came from him after a while of silence and seeing Gabriel with his closed eyes, seeming to sleep.

“I am... but I need to rest”

“And you choose my office” he snickers.

“hmmm...it’s peaceful here...” his low voice just almost audible.

Staring at the man, he shook his head. Gabriel Simon looks troubled and he won’t be in his office if he is

not undergoing something.

“What did you do this time?”

“Nothing...I’ve been a good boy lately”

“What did Sam do this time?” he change his question.

"She went to a date..." Gab softly mutters after heaving several sighs.

"She is single...she deserves it just like you deserve your one-night stands" he calmly retorted.

"Yeah yeah, don't remind me. I'm not doing it now" Gab frustratedly dismiss.

"Really? That's new" he mocks returning to the documents on his table.

"I lost interest... it's all just the same hole... nothing special"

"Wow, coming from the number one playboy and one-night stand boy of the country, Gabriel Simon. Are you ill?" Lucien exclaims in surprise mockery.

"Fuck you, Lucien... Your sister is a pain in the ass. Don't mock me or I will kidnap her and cage her" Gabriel suddenly rises from the couch and glares at him.

"Try if you can" he challenged the younger man with a smirk on his face. Aside from the tight security all Wright have, Samantha is a black belt holder and exceptionally good in gun handling. Not to mention her dark disposition when it comes to Gabriel.

"Yeah, I know I can't. So can I just drug her? She won't be this hellcat if she will be pregnant with my child " he added, earning him a dangerous glare from Lucien.

"Yeah, I can't... Get it..." frustratedly, Gab slumped back to the couch in surrender.

"Serves you right" Lucien mumbles.

"Yeah, I know...but she will come around. Just make sure she will not get married before she could forgive me" Gabriel turns to him and ordered.

"I can't promise you that" to spite Gab, he unconcernedly shrugs.

"I am your best friend, Lucien, you should be by my side. You should support me" incredulous, Gab rises again to face him, his hair disheveled.

"And she is my sister..." he mockingly counters.

"Lucien, I could be your brother-in-law" knowing he won't win against him, Gab mellowed and pleaded.

"You screwed almost all the models and socialites in the country. Do you think I will surrender my sister to you that easily? You have overused your dick, my sister might be left with nothing" he added, mocking him more.

"Lucien... You're being unfair. Have some sympathy..." Gab pouted and sulked like a child.

Shaking his head, Lucien went back to his documents. Gabriel is again splayed on the couch with closed eyes.

Silence filled the room when they both remain quiet. Gabriel seemed to be asleep while Lucien was so engrossed with his work.

"When will Lucy have his surgery?"

He turns to Gab who he thought was already asleep. The mention of his son brought warmth to his inside.

"Tomorrow morning. So I won't be around the whole day. I need to finish everything today"

"I will drop by later to visit your boy, and I will handle what you have left off. Take your time"

"Thanks"

"Did they know?"

"Not yet, later I will bring them to the hospital"

"Auntie Anya might have a heart attack seeing your boy"

"Yeah, for sure she will before she rants my head off"

“Serves you right...your son is already three years old before you know you have one. Such a dumb father”

“I know that already, no need to repeatedly rub it on my face. Mom will surely rant that same thing on me later so spare me this time” irritated by his friend, he counters.

“Good luck, then. But surely, they will love Lucy”

“That’s unquestionable. I will have three spoilers. I have to protect my son from those three”

“As if you are not set of doing the same” Gab scoffs, earning him a grin from the always serious man.

Staring at Lucien, Gab remains quiet until a smile carves his face.

“Your son made you a human for a short time” Gab mumbles, earnestly staring at Lucien.

“It’s a different feel to be a father, Gab. Everything is too surreal I’m afraid this is just a dream” he mutters, staring dazedly at Gab.

“This is all real, Lucien. And I’m happy for you. You deserve them” Gab sincerely assure him.

“This will be a long journey, Gab”

“Patience...you will be there...”

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

Chapter 30

Chapter 30 A Kink

Lexie was startled when a group of people went inside the room following Lucien.

“Papa!” Lucy raves upon seeing his father but was suddenly becomes timid, noticing the other’s presence.

The three people were all earnestly staring at the boy who tries to hide his face by lowering his head.

“Hello, buddy...how are you?” Lucien tenderly asks as he cups the boy’s face to look at him.

“I’m great, Papa...” he whispers as he spares nervous glances at the visitors.

Lexie, like her son, was anxious about the unexpected visit of the Wright family. She knew it would come but not this soon. After sharing polite smiles and nods the three focus their undivided attention on the boy who is now hugging his father’s neck.

“I want you to meet some people...they are Papa’s parents and sister” Lucien carefully told his son who is nervous around his visitors.

“Papa...” he whispers anxiously, burying his face to his father’s chest.

“It’s fine, buddy. They are family. They want to meet you” he assures the boy.

“Baby love, it’s okay. They are papa’s family...” Lexie stepped in and helped.

After several persuasion and assurance from his parents, Lucy lookup to glance at the three who are patiently waiting for him to come around.

Tender smiles light upon their faces, closely seeing the boy’s face. Levinia Wright was teary together with her husband who tries hard not to.

“Hello, young man...I am Levinia Wright, your papa’s mother. This is Daniel Wright, your papa’s father and this is Samantha Wright, your papa’s sister” though, with a

quivering voice, Levinia introduced themselves. Upon hearing the last words Levinia said, Lucy's eyes fixed to Samantha.

"Papa said they will make me a sister, too, right mama?" the boy boasted, though timidly. Unaware that his words made his mother flustered with embarrassment.

"Yeah, right. I like you, buddy. So Lexie, will you be making our dear boy here a sister?" Samantha exclaims, glancing at Lexie while walking closer to the bed.

"Hello, call me Aunt Sam... How many sisters do you want?" after inundating Lexie, she gave the boy a sweet smile.

"I like many sisters and brothers. Hello...Aunt Sam... I'm Lucas Alexander Montes "

Lucy replies but suddenly paused and turned to his father.

"Papa, why mama and I are Montes?" his next question made Lexie's eyes widen but did not affect Lucien in any way.

"You will soon be a Wright. Papa is working on it. Soon you will be Lucas Alexander Montes Wright" Lucien casually explains as he has expected it from the boy.

"Mama too?" he added.

"Yes, mama too" Lucien smiles and nods, ignoring the gaping face of Lexie across the bed.

"Mama, we should have changed our name before. It was supposed to be Wright. You forgot mama?" Lucy turn to his mother while everyone waited for her response, especially Lucien. His earnest gaze is boring deep.

"Ahm...it slips mama's mind, baby..." Lexie carefully explains while smiling at the boy. But she glares at Lucien once Lucy turns away.

"Don't forget next time mama...my sister and brother should be Wright" Lucy lectured his mother, making everyone amused yet gauging.

Lexie becomes speechless without anything to counter her son. She felt outwitted but she was powerless to counter.

"Mama won't forget this time. Don't worry buddy, Papa will remind her that she is a Wright and she will bear Wright children soon" Lucien assures his son but his earnest eyes were fixed at her, telling her a forewarning.

As their gazes locked, awkward silence rule the room. A duel of dominance and Lexie doesn't want to back down, more so Lucien.

"Mama, I'm excited to see my sisters and brothers. When will you make it mama?"

Lucy's innocent words interrupted the silence and at the same time made his mother mentally grimace. If only Lucy knows the kind of predicament he has been putting her in.

To respond to the waiting boy, she smiles trying to be casual though he itches to smack the grin away from the CEO's face.

"Lucy is still not cured, ahm...maybe...ahm after...the doctor's visit " she just wants to indulge the boy with hollow words but the father seems to be earnest in taking note of what she said.

"Promise, Mama?" Lucien was the one who gushes with a stupid grin. Looking at his jeering face, she was suddenly annoyed. She was too caught up with her annoyance that she hadn't realized she glares at him in front of his family.

"Yes, mama... Promise?!" to add to her distress, Lucy enthusiastically raves.

"Hello, dear boy, grandma wanted to meet you too..." Levinia interrupted, seeing Lexie's flustered face. She even glares at her son as a warning of what he was doing to

Lexie.

Being warned with a sharp look from his mother, Lucien absolved the issue in the meantime. Though he loves to watch Zia torn between being discreet and brazen. 1 Since the day they met again, he had already acknowledged that whatever progress he will have with Zia and his son would not be easy. And though their son could become a catalyst, it would still be a difficult plight. The four years of separation have already built a massive rift between them.

He has plans to woo her but he is terribly inept in controlling himself not to tease her. The blush on her face would always amaze him.

“Can I hug this young man here?” enthralled by how the boy looks exactly like his father, Levinia closely stares at his face. She recalls how Lucien was at his age and his son is his spitting image.

“He has all your face, Lucien. Even the way you talk, he got it from you” cannot be able to tear her eyes away from the boy, she whispers in pure bewilderment.

“The little Lucien Wright. Hello young man, nice meeting you” Daniel announces as he stands beside his wife while extending his hand to the boy.

“Nice meeting you too...” polite and timid, Lucy greeted back.

“Come here to grandma” Levinia slowly leans down to hug him while he allows her.

After the three took turns to hug the boy, they became quiet and contented themselves by staring at him. “They are creeping me, mama” Lucy whispers to his mother, earning him an amused chuckle from the adults.

“They are just amazed how you look exactly like, Papa” Lucien was the one to explain.

“We brought dinner...you go eat. I will stay here with my prince” Levinia announce while she made herself comfortable beside the boy on the bed.

“I’m not that hungry too... We will eat together later” Daniel too, declares and took a seat on the chair beside the bed.

“You two eat first. We will have our dinner later” Samantha followed and took the spot on the other side of Lucy.

“Don’t overwhelm my son with your presence” Lucien warned his family.

“We won’t...right, Lucy? Grandma, grandpa, and Aunt Sam just wanted to spend time with you. We are happy to meet you” Levinia tenderly explains as she holds the boy’s hands.

“I’m fine, Papa...” he assures his father and turns to smile at his mother.

“Come on, Zia, let’s eat first...” pulling her by the waist, she hesitates to leave but lets him drag her away from her son.

“He will be fine...” he whispers while he made her sit down in the dining, where food were already arranged.

“Come on, let’s eat” helping her put food on her plate, she feels awkward again.

“I can do it...”

“How’s your day, were you comfortable here? Have you rested?” he asks after they both have started to eat.

“We are fine. I took a nap earlier in the afternoon. And the new medical team had requested new laboratory tests for tomorrow’s surgery” she casually responded, but her anxiousness did not escape Lucien’s interest.

“Yes, they are the best in this country. They will take good care of our son, trust them.

Tomorrow will be a great day, Zia. Lucy will no longer suffer. He will slowly regain the childhood he deserves. We will give him a normal life without worrying about his health” Lucien tenderly explains and it immensely appeases Lexie’s, weary heart.

“I know, Mr. Wright”

“I can’t wait to introduce him to the world, Zia. My son, my heir. The world will know Lucas Alexander Montes Wright. He is the heir of the Wright empire, Zia”

“Ahm... About that, Mr. Wright” she was apprehensive but she needs to discuss it with him.

Staring at her, he waited. He could see her anxiousness contradicting his excitement.

“Lucy might be too overwhelmed. Your world is far different from what he was used to...I want to ask you to take it slow for him. Not until he is fully recovered from his surgery, I don’t want anyone to know his relationship with you. Can we keep it with just the family for now?” she softly spoke. She tried to stare straight into his eyes though she feels flushed by his intense gaze.

“I understand you are all excited but I don’t want to jeopardize his health. He already had a relapse and I don’t want it to happen again. Though his doctors were the finest at this time, I still don’t want to take chances” she earnestly added. She had endured the three years of being frightened of losing her son and she won’t gamble it this time though he had all the resources to make him well.

“I understand, Zia. I’m sorry if I’m too eager. I didn’t take into consideration his feeble condition. I will

make sure no one would know aside from his doctors and some hospital staff. They will all sign a non disclosure agreement” he assures.

“Our son’s health is our utmost priority, I want him to be physically and mentally prepared. We will introduce him once he is ready. He deserves to be introduced as the Wright heir, I hope you understand, Zia” Lucien, seeing her point, readily conceded.

“Yes, I do and I won’t oppose once I’m assured he is fully healed. Thank you, Mr. Wright” sincerely, she smiled at the man.

“You don’t need to thank me all the time, Zia. I am his father and I’m bound to do what is best for him and not just to show him off” Lucien mutters.

“I’m not used to all of these nor my son but for him, I will try to cope, Mr. Wright” she becomes more relaxed around the man despite his occasional frivolousness.

“Did you know why I let you call me Mr. Wright during the whole time of the agreement?” his next question baffled her. With furrowed brows, she stares at him. Her look was questioning.

“It was a kink, Zia. I always have a hard-on whenever you call me that, so don’t tempt me now. We are still in the middle of our son’s medical concern. I need to focus on him than worry about my erection every time you call me, Mr. Wright” leaning closer to her, he huskily whispers. While Lexie was immediately appalled upon understanding what he meant.

“Mr. Wright, so shameless of you!” she was incredulous. Her face was flushed with mortification.

“On the contrary, since I’m already hard, we could have a quickie if that’s what you like... Lucy will be delighted if we could start making him a sister” after calling him again with his formal name, he shamelessly added to her aghast.

