

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

Chapter 31

Chapter 31 More Lethal

"Papa...take care of mama please..." Lucy whispers while he was prepared to be brought for surgery.

"Of course, buddy. Papa will take care of mama while you are inside. But you have to be strong, Papa and mama will be waiting for you. If Mama cries long, Papa can't make her stop but you, buddy" Lucien assures him, holding his small hand.

"I am strong, Papa. But my heart is not strong. I'm happy you found us. Mama will not be alone anymore. Mama if papa said not to cry, you have to listen" he turned to his mother with a weak smile.

"I was never alone, baby love. I have you. You are mama's life. And you must be stronger this time because papa will be waiting to play with you. Can you do that, my love? Mama and Papa will be waiting for you, we will go to the park, right?" anxiousness and panic were consuming her as the time nears Lucy's surgery

"I will mama...thank you for always taking good care of me. Even if it's difficult, even if you no longer have money, even if you have to mortgage our house again. I will grow big so I could help you and papa to pay for our house. I love our house, mama. I don't want to lose it"

Hearing what the boy said, Lucien will make sure to do something about the house his son was talking about. As time passes being together, he is slowly discovering a lot of the struggles Zia and his son have undergone.

"Yes, of course, my love. We will go home to our house once you are healed. Our roses might have bloomed by now. Your chickens and your goats were all waiting for you to come home" with tears streaming down her face, she assures him while trying to smile.

"It's time..."

They were interrupted by the team who are now lined up and waiting to bring Lucy to the operating room.

"Be strong, my love. I love you so much my brave Lucy. I will wait... Mama will wait" she lean down to shower the boy with quivering kisses while Lucien was doing the same.

"I love you, my boy. Papa will be waiting for our brave Lucy...for my little Lucien" he whispers near his ears.

"I love you, papa, I love you, mama" Lucy mumbles as he was rolled away while Lucien and Lexie watch.

Crying, Lucien pulls Lexie into his embrace until they were out of the door. Her muffled sobs fills the room while she was comforted by him.

"He is a brave boy, Zia" he whispers as he buries his face in her hair. It would be a long wait for all of them and he will be her strength as he avowed to their son.

Trying to loosen his tense nerves, he inhales her sweet scent as she had a long time ago. Her distinct scent never fails to ignite his desire for her but is now comforting him.

The grueling five hours of surgery was over and Lucy is now rolled inside the room together with all his doctors for continued monitoring.

During the whole procedure, all the Wright were waiting anxiously with Lexie who was held by Lucien in his arms despite her feeble resistance.

Dom and his parents were also with them despite their awkwardness towards the Wright family. Before Lucy was brought to the operating room, the whole family and Dom's family cheer the boy up. All were praying with tears in their eyes for the operations to be successful and thankfully, their prayers were heard.

After the doctor announced the successful surgery, Lucien claims her lips to a passionate kiss. Though

surprised, she did not do anything to stop the man. She feels like celebrating and it feels so right when she was enveloped in Lucien Wright's warmth.

Looking at her son's sleeping figure, tears continue to swell her eyes. It's the same feeling she felt the first time he had his surgery. There was relief and fear.

"He will be fine now" Lucien pulled her to his chest.

"Thank you...thank you for accepting Lucy, thank you for making this possible..." tearfully, she whispers.

No matter how she denies her feelings, she was grateful Lucien came in at a perfect time she needed him the most. She has been trying to be strong for her boy, but having Lucien made her realize how it is to have someone she can rely on. There is still fear but with his presence, she becomes stronger

"This is still not enough for the past years I was not with you, Zia. My boy deserves everything and I will make sure he will have it" he whispers, tightening his hold around her,

Everyone remains quiet in the solitude of the two. Both sides knew they still have a lot to resolve but they will be starting by being great parents to their boy.

Dom stares at Lucien Wright, the strong pillar of Wright's empire after his father, Daniel Wright. He only sees him as a shrewd businessman, astute and cold. Seeing him for the first time in the auction event, he readily understood why Lexie choose not to tell Lucy's father.

The man is a magnate. And upon knowing he is Lucy's father, fear struck his heart for Lexie and the boy. With Lucy's face, the man could not deny him but at Lexie's expense. Lucy is her life. Her gift as she is fond to call the boy. Without her son, she will be shattered.

He fears for the day the CEO would discover Lucy's existence but seeing him comfort Lexie at this time she needed it the most, he was greatly appeased together with his parents.

"The CEO's interest doesn't just stop in our dear Lam..." Carla whispers. She too is watching the two.

"Seems to, mom..." he replies with a fond smile.

The CEO does not even hide his tenderness towards Lexie. After Lucy was taken away, the CEO never left her side. He has been comforting her. His arms would always find her to envelop her in his warmth. His lips were always pressed on her hair or her temple. Such endearment she allows the entire time or she was just unaware of it.

As relief washed over the earlier tensed room, low chatters were already heard.

Levinia and Daniel Wright approach Dom's parents for some conversation, which they haven't done earlier due to the tension of the boy's ongoing surgery.

Not long, a sumptuous dinner was served and everyone enjoyed including the medical team. It's their time to celebrate after Lucy woke up but due to intended sedation to give his body to recuperate he went back to sleep again.

After everyone has left, Lucien and Lexie remain in silence as they watch the peaceful sleep of their son.

"Thank you." she whispers,

"There you are again, thanking me..." he retorted.

"I won't get tired of thanking you..." she counters.

“You still see me as a different person and not his father” with the obvious pain in his voice, he spoke.

Caught with the fact of what she was thinking, she remains quiet.

“I know it’s too early and it’s not easy. But still, I’m hoping you will give me a chance to be a father in the

true sense of it” he softly said. Still hurt by the way she sees him.

“I’m trying, but I’m so used to being on my own. I don’t want to sound insolent, I’m sorry” she apologized, which earned her an understanding smile.

“If it’s a consolation, I was not that frightened as before with you beside me. I don’t feel alone in this anymore...I feel like I have someone to rely on and it immensely comforted me” she added with a grateful smile, which placated him.

“You are no longer alone, Zia. You have me now. We will raise Lucy together” he mumbles softly as he tilted her face to look at him.

With a tender smile, she nodded. Lucy needs his father and if she will just be honest with herself, her heart gleams with hope whenever he is around.

“We have to rest too...he will be sleeping till morning” he added before pulling her to the other bed. The bed they were sharing since last night.

Lucien helped her get settled before he joins her. Though she was used to being with him, she can’t help her heart to be in an uproar like last night. His closeness and the intimacy of sleeping together still make her flustered.

Ignoring her thundering heart, she faces in the direction of Lucy’s bed and feigns to be asleep while he is still busy checking his phone.

She is almost drifting to sleep for real when she was startled by an arm wrapped around her waist and the warmth of his body pressed against her back. He is spooning her and she becomes wide awake when his hot breath fan against her nape. As goosebumps spread, covering her skin, she inhaled deeply to calm her senses.

“Good night, Zia...” he huskily whispers, tightening his hold around her. The lips pressed on her nape, nibbling her, created a fire slowly burning her.

“Lucien...” she grumbles but to her aghast, it sounded lewd.

“Hmmm...” a low rumble came from him as he buries his face deeper into her nape while pulling her waist closer to him.

“Calling me by my name is more lethal than what you used to call me...” his hot breath fanned her already inflamed skin and his hoarse voice, unexpectedly fueled the pain of need between her legs.

Both their breaths become ragged as their bodies become so aware of each other. Her breath hitched upon realizing the familiar hardness was cradled between the crack of her butt. He seems to nestle it on purpose. With all the familiar sensations, her body is reacting deliciously painful.

“This will be another torture, Zia” his heavy ragged breath fill her ears and it somewhat snapped her to the present. She becomes too immersed, she forgot her inhibitions.

Lucien Wright has had the same effect on her, may it be four years ago or now.

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Chapter 32

Chapter 32 Her Dream

Lexie went inside the elegant room for her unexpected meeting. Yesterday she had the surprise of her life. She received a call from a design company asking her for a further discussion about her submitted designs. Which she readily accepted. She has been submitting her portfolio to different design companies and she was delighted to get feedback today. And it's not just any company, it's the leading brand in the market.

After Lucy's first surgery, she had so much time to make fresh designs and Dom had encouraged her to send them to different companies, which she did. She thought it was already hopeless for her designs to be noticed after several months of waiting. But today proves she made the right choice to gamble her chance in the design world.

Thankfully, Carla and Bill have yet to go back home. She ask them to look after Lucy while she is away, which they delightedly accepted.

Lucy has been recovering quite fast than his doctor's prognosis after the five days timeline. Though he is still confined to his bed, he has been awake most of the time. And very talkative.

“Good day, Miss Montes” a well-modulated voice made her come back to the present.

“Good day sir...” she stands up, smiles, and extended her hand for a handshake. She brought with her all the self-confidence she could muster. This has been her dream and she cannot let this pass. She has to claim this chance.

In front of her is a handsome man, intently looking at her. Unlike Lucien’s masculine and manly look, the man has paler skin and pinkish cheeks. He has a very bright aura as he smiles except for his gaze which is quite making her self-conscious. With her two inches heels, she could guess he is almost six feet tall. Just an inch shorter than Lucien.

“Welcome to Silhouettes Designs” the man spoke, gesturing for her to take a seat again as he took his across her.

“Thank you, sir” politely, she smiles, enduring the intense gaze from the man. Despite the awkward silence, she plastered her charming smile on her beautiful face.

“Good day everyone!”

A cheerful greeting fills the silence after several people entered the room, which surprised Lexie but she did not flinch in any way. She casually stands and faces the newcomers with a charming smile like what she gave to the first man. By then she remembered, the man haven’t introduced himself to her yet.

“Good morning, President Deutche...” one of the women greeted the man before taking a seat beside him. Her eyes immediately darted to Lexie who is still greeting the others.

They waited for everyone to be settled before all pairs of eyes turned to Lexie.

“Welcome to Silhouettes Designs, Miss Montes, I’m Eve, this is Jason and Emily. Senior design specialists. You have already met our handsome president, President Arvin Deutche” the woman introduce with her casual smile.

“Nice meeting you all. It’s an honor to meet you President Deutche” a sincere smile grazed her lips. She hasn’t expected she will be meeting the president himself.

A reserved smile carved the man’s face as she nods at her. And though his intense gaze was somewhat unnerving she maintained her polite smile.

“So let’s get to business. I know we are all busy people” Eve exclaims as she looks around and got a nod

from the president.

“Miss Montes, we have reviewed your portfolio and we are quite impressed with the freshness of the ideas. We are presently looking for a spring collection and your design fits what we are looking for”

“In connection with that, we are offering you to work with us for the spring collection launching. We will add your design to the collection so you will be working closely with these people” Eve gestures to Emily and Jason who nods at her.

She was overwhelmed by the straightforwardness of the woman but she was too ecstatic she doesn't know how to react. She remains calm despite the mayhem the erratic beat of her heart is causing her chest.

“This will be your portfolio for the possibility to join the company. Once your designs become successful i In this launching, we will offer you a spot in Silhouettes Designs. Wherein you will be having your own

team and your brand name” Eve added as she checks the documents in front of her.

“This will be your contract for the spring collection. You could review and sign if you are amenable with the content, especially the compensation and the compromise agreement” Eve continues.

She received the documents and skimmed through them but showed no reactions. She was speechless to say something and doesn't want to jump for joy in front of these prominent people.

“We are welcoming new ideas and fresh designs. A lot of designers have vied to submit their designs but the company is extremely selective. Silhouettes Designs is the top in the market and we aim to keep the spot for the longest time possible” the president casually spoke while the three nodded with smiles on their faces.

Lexie turns to stare at him as he speaks. She was already aware of what he said and being called for her designs is already an achievement for any designer, especially for a starter like her.

“If this launching will be a success for your designs, you will have several exposures and your brand will b e displayed in different high-class boutiques and shops all over the country” Emily added.

“The company is also participating in several runway shows in different countries. Exposure is vital to new designers and the company is ensuring you will have the proper exposure for your masterpiece”

Jason also added with an eager smile.

Lexie realized they are convincing her, which is already unnecessary. She has been dreaming to work with her designs in any design company and Silhouettes Designs is topping the market nowadays. She needs n

o more convincing.

Her silence about the offers may have made them conclude her disinterest. Not wanting to create such an impression, she smiles and tries to explain.

“Wow...I’m so sorry but I was so overwhelmed” she raves awkwardly.

“Is that a negative thing for us?” the president seriously asks what she said.

“We are sorry we are this straightforward. Time is essential for this kind of business. We don’t dally. Every second new designs were out from the brilliant minds of several designers, including our competitors. We are used to acting quickly” Eve clarifies while staring at her.

“Silhouettes Designs is making sure to gather all the brilliant designers in this country and that includes you. Your designs are exceptional and I want them to grace our runway shows. I want them to be seen worn by celebrities, socialites, career women, and anyone who wants to make a point in society. That is what your design implies. Confidence, strength, and elegance...woman power” Arvin Deutche exclaim as he seriously stares at her. His face is of a businessman who is determined to close an important deal.

“With your exceptional talent, Silhouettes Designs is the proper avenue for you to grow in this field. We

will open a lot of doors for you. We will introduce you to upper-class clients who will dream to wear your brand. Among other design companies, SD is capable to make any designer’s dreams come true” the president added without giving her the chance to respond. They are too focused on convincing her.

Carefully, she formulates the words she will say. She was too overwhelmed to react but she needs to correct their perception.

“I’m greatly honored to work with Silhouettes Designs. Pardon me if I may look passive but truly, I was just so overwhelmed by the attention” she stares at every eye staring back at her while she speaks.

“You gave us a fright!” Eve and the rest slumped in their seats when she started talking. Relief washed over their faces.

“I’m so sorry if I’ve given a different impression. This is my first offer and a huge surprise for me. I have submitted my portfolio to three companies and honestly, I never expected to hear from Silhouettes Designs. Though I dream to be part of this company, I am not delusional” she politely explains but her eyes were fixed on the president who is shaking his head for she doesn’t know why.

“No, I disagree on that point. You are definitely not delusional. Your designs were exceptional. I almost fired my review team for not reviewing your portfolio earlier. We

almost lost a brilliant one. The first time I saw them, I was instantly drawn to the projection it implies. If they haven't contacted you on time and you are already with the competitors, three people will be out of this company, including Eve" he mutters seriously while the rest, especially Eve, were all nodding in agreement.

"Eve is in charge of the review of portfolios and sometimes do scouting and for worst scenarios, pirating of designers" Jason spoke with a smirk.

"So welcome to the team" Eve extended her hand to her, which she readily accepted.

"Thank you"

"We will have three weeks at most for the preparation and production of your design before the launching "Emily announced, which made her gape in surprise.

Three weeks? That's a very narrow timeframe.

"We have almost finished with the rest. Your design will be the additional collection and we will focus on it for the remaining weeks. Can we make it? Yes, we can and yes, we must" Eve added seriously, while she is still contemplating.

But anyway, she is up for the challenge.

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Chapter 33

Chapter 33 Awakened Desire

Still, in a daze, Lexie went back to the hospital just before dinner time. After their meeting, she has already taken part in the planning and thankfully, she brought her iPad where she had several designs she had already finished aside from the ones she submitted,

They have done a lot earlier. And with Emily and Jason's supervision, she learned a lot. Tomorrow she will be back for the finalization of the already approved designs. She will be choosing the fabric and all its accessories. Which will be forwarded for production. She can't believe, soon she will see her design materialize.

They are in a hurry for the three weeks time frame before the launch. And the pressure is mostly on her as the added designer. Later she plans to add some intricate details to the remaining designs she has.

It's quite tiring but at the same time satisfying. It has been her dream to make her designs into reality. For someone to wear them. And she will make sure she will nail this portfolio, now that she had the chance to prove herself.

Her son's medical issues and her struggles to cope with life have slowed her down in achieving her dream but she never stopped dreaming. She just set them aside. And now she has a perfect chance, she has to give her best.

Entering the ensuite, she found Lucien already with their son.

"I already sent Carla and Bill to the hotel to rest. I also ordered for their meal" he spoke before she could ask

"Thank you... I haven't foreseen I will be coming back late" she apologizes while walking closer to them.

"Hello, baby love. Sorry, mama got back late. How are you?" she kissed the boy's hair before pecking his cute pointed nose.

"Hello, mama. Good evening. I'm fine mama, the pretty nurse gave me a sponge bath earlier" a grin on the boy's face made her chuckle.

"You are happy because you have a pretty nurse? Or because you had a sponge bath?" she playfully

gushes.

"Ahmmm...both..." the boy grins more, earning him a shuffle of his black hair from his father,

"Why am I seeing a lady's man in my son...?" Lucien teases the boy who instantly becomes shy.

"She is just pretty, papa. But mama is far more beautiful. I want to have a wife like mama" Lucy declares making his parents stare at him with surprised faces.

"What do you need from mama, this time, Lucas Alexander?" she playfully glares at her son and used his full name for fun.

"I agree, buddy, mama is the most beautiful woman in the whole world" before Lucy could answer his mother, his father had agreed with him.

"Now, there are the two of you. What you two need from me?" she also glares at Lucien who just chuckles at her playfulness

"You are such a stubborn mama...why don't you believe me and papa? You are the most beautiful mama i in the world"

"Fine...but this time you have to sleep, it's past your sleeping time, young man" she continue to playfully glare at him, which only made him giggle.

"Come on, buddy, mama is right. It's past your sleeping time" Lucien helps his son get settled on the bed, Both kissed the boy whose smile is as charming as his mother's.

"You have my face but you have mama's smile" Lucien had noticed several times and now pointed it out.

"I am your child, that's why papa. You both made me, right?" he amusingly retorted to his father who chuckles.

"Yes, right" he playfully slaps his forehead, making the boy giggle again. Lexie who is quietly watching has a smile plastered on her face. She is amused by the father and son's playfulness

"Sleeping time, buddy...good night" she reminded and kisses his forehead. She caressed his already pinkish cheeks. He is getting better after the surgery.

"Good night papa, good night mama" he smiles before closing his eyes already heavy lids

In a scant time, while he runs his fingers through the boy's soft hair, steady breaths escape indicating he had already fallen asleep

"You had a busy day?" he softly asks, slightly turning to her

"started working at one of the design companies, Silhouette Designs" she mumbles, watching his

reaction

"That's a great company, I didn't know you are also in design" he earnestly looks at her.

"I'm a graduate of fashion design" she smiles.

"Wow, that's great. That's why you have magnificent choices in clothes" his admiration is evident in his smile.

"I met President Arvin Deutche several times. Tell me if you need help with his company" he announces before she could respond to his compliment.

“No, that would be unnecessary” she abruptly exclaims, which startled him. Her panic is rather baffling for a simple conversation.

Calmly staring at her, he waited for her explanation.

“Ahm... You are... a Wright” she whispers.

“I know who I am...” he calmly retorted.

Heaving a sigh, she decided to explain her side.

“A Wright’s influence could easily bring me to the top. But I want to be recognized in my craft without anyone’s intrusion. I dream to succeed and seeing people wear my creations with pride. Not because they seemed to be dictated by society” she earnestly explains, staring straight into his piercing eyes, while he remains quiet

“I won’t do such a thing, Zia. I will never manipulate anyone” he is incredulous.

“Your name is capable to do that, Lucien. A Wright has that ability and I don’t want to use that power just because we are...together. I don’t want to only succeed, I aim to be valued for my contribution to the craft of fashion design” she counter.

“As I have said, I want to be recognized without anyone’s influence, especially, Wright’s influence” she added.

Silence ruled as he continue to stare at her, mulling her words.

“Well then, nobody will know your connection to me, if that’s what you want. I will give you your pride to

succeed without my name” he conceded.

“Thank you” she was relieved.

“So, what could be my prize for doing this?” he seriously ask, making Zia nervous

“I will just take a shower” she mumbles to avoid him.

“We could do it together...” his words startled her before she glares at him.

“We have done it several times...” he seriously added upon seeing her expression.

“Really?” incredulous of his conceitedness, she raises a brow to him. She can’t believe he was acting as nothing had changed between them.

“I’m serious...” he persisted.

“I’m serious too...” she dismissed before turning away towards the closet.

They have been living in the hospital for several days now. And all her things were brought by Dom from the hotel. Lucien, too, has his clothes brought in.

Ignoring the man, she prepares her clothes before getting inside the bathroom.

“Zia...” he tries to convince her but she did not give him a chance. She shut the door and locks it. Once inside, she weakly leans on the door while taking several deep breaths. She is trying to calm her erratic heartbeat

All her reserves almost crumble down with Lucien’s persistence.

Shaking all thoughts from her head, she quickly took her shower. The warm water relieved the rigidity of her muscles. She was exhausted and she just realized it now.

Fully dressed, she went out to find Lucien leaning just outside the door. She almost had screamed if she has not caught herself on time.

“What are you doing here?” appalled, she glares.

“Waiting for you to open the door. I thought you would change your mind” he shamelessly explains, making her roll her eyeballs.

“You have your shower now so we could eat” she raves instead while combing her hair.

“Please prepare my clothes” he casually declares before entering the bathroom without even closing the door.

“This man...” she murmurs as she went back to close it.

As what she was used to, she indeed prepares Lucien’s clothes. She arranged it on the bed and while waiting, she open her iPad to check her designs.

She was already so engrossed with what she was doing when he went out of the bathroom together with the masculine scent of his body wash. Knowing his presence, she turns to watch as he dry his hair with the small towel while the bigger one was hanging dangerously low as it was clumsily wrapped around his toned hips.

“My boxers please...” he mumbles to her aghast. Not planning to pry on his front bulge but her eyes darted in its direction. Which confirmed he was not wearing anything. Her face was immediately flushed upon seeing the tent in front.

To avoid the awkward dilemma she hurriedly turns away towards the closet to get his underwear.

The moment she turn back to him, she froze. The shameless man was now totally naked and his monster is proudly standing ready to charge.

“Lucien...what the hell are you doing?” irritated, she grittily raves as she rushed to give him his boxers.

“I’m about to wear my clothes. I can’t wear them with a towel around me” he casually explains, shaking his underwear in front of her.

“Can you wear it now? Your son might see you with that...that...thing” she mumbles before turning away but to her despair, he grabbed her by the waist and pulled her close. His thing is now nestled on her stomach.

“He is asleep...and this thing as you refer it, made my son...” he whispers near her ear. His hot breath, husky voice, and his intoxicating scent made her close her eyes.

Weak to resist the tempting sensation pulling them together, they remain on their spot. With Lucien nibbling her ears, she enjoys his lips against her skin with closed eyes. Not to mention the delicious effect of the humongous and hard monster between them.

“You smell so good, Zia...” he whispers, his breath being ragged and his voice already hoarse. His lips have trailed their path to her ear down to her jaw.

“Lucien...” she aims to stop him but she always sounded moaning.

“I missed you, Zia...you could see how desperate my body is craving for you” he added, already panting from his contained desire to have her.

“Lucien, Lucy might wake up...” she whispers in distress. She was too weak for Lucien Wright. Her body is betraying her and it’s deliciously painful. The need to have him deep inside her is like torture.

Every day of being together in one bed is like hell not only for her but for him. She could see how he struggles not to have her. Knowing his sexual appetite, he must be going crazy every night.

“Lucien...” she almost shrieks when he hoists her up and quickly walks to the bathroom.

She is fully aware of what he intended to do but she said no word or do anything to stop him.

After locking the door, he puts her down on the spacious counter. She was in pajamas and his fingers were doing wonders in unbuttoning her top. Before she knew it, her pajama pants were already removed, naked to his burning gaze.

“Beautiful as ever, Zia...” he whispers as he gazes at her nakedness. Ravenous hunger reflects on his face as he enjoys what he was seeing.

Although she was used to being watched by him before, she feels awkward under his intense gaze this time. She fully knows his fetish, and it's watching her nakedness and the scent of her body.

“Please tell me I can have you, Zia... I'm going crazy every single time you are so near...yet I cannot have you” he mumbles as he delves into her neck, nibbling her sweet-smelling skin.

“Lucien...” torn between her desire and reason, she closes her eyes and finds Lucien's lips. She ignores her affliction and delves into what her body wants. A growl sounded from him as he deepens the kiss she initiated.

“I can't stop once I start, Zia...you know that...” he grumbles in between his fervent kisses. He is hungry, famished with his need for Zia's body. Thinking of her warmth deep inside keeps him awake every single night they slept together.

Four years of his life had been empty of burning heat of desire like he has when he had Zia. Only Zia could awaken his desire to such intensity he cannot handle despite being shrewd in the business world.

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Chapter 34

Chapter 34 Not Just Anyone's Touch

Enjoying his lips against her burning skin, she explores his toned muscles as she used to do back then. Lucien is a demigod. His tan skin, his slightly masculine athletic physique, his towering height, his dominant aura, the powerful contour of his face making him look fierce, the enigma surrounding his mere presence, and not to mention the billions of dollars net worth. He is a whole package, beyond any woman's dream. And she has him now, craving for her body. For how long, she doesn't know. And she doesn't want to entertain insignificant thoughts at this time. She will enjoy him as he will enjoy her.

Her palms trail down, fervently touching his washboard abs she missed so much. Her hands find every curve and crevice of his perfectly toned body.

“Ahhh...missed your touch so much... Touch me more, Zia” he panted with his ragged breaths. His kisses were trailing down her neck down to her prominent collar bone until he reaches her mounds.

“Ahhhn...” her moan echoes inside the bathroom as he finds her pinkish buds, suckling them like a hungry baby

Tangling her fingers through his hair, she gapes with a wide mouth. His tongue is doing wonders, it's mind blowing. Writhing in pleasure, she throws her head backward.

She was still in bliss with his tongue's heavenly ministrations when his hand found her heaven between her legs.

“Arghhh...” stunned by the electrifying sensation, her body arched lewdly. Embracing his touch, she opens her legs for him.

“Argh...I missed this, Zia...so sleek...so warm...my heaven...” he panted as he speaks. Dying to taste her, he brought his wet fingers to his mouth.

“Delicious...as always” he mumbles as he licks every drop of her juice coating his fingers.

Zia was already mindless of what was happening. All she could feel is the crazy sensation pleasuring her. After four years, she experiences this kind of heaven again. And it's only with Lucien.

“Ahhhn... Lucien...” panting breaths fill their ears as his lips trail further down, nipping her twinging flat

stomach, covering it with goosebumps.

Her breath hitched and her moan was trapped in her throat by the moment Lucien's lips reached the welling wetness between her trembling legs.

“Lucien... Oh my...” her lewd voice chimed as she grasped his head and opens her legs wider. His attack on her sensitive bud is making her whole body tremble with need.

“Ohh... Lucien...ahhhn...this is crazy...” he was sucking her and it was making her delirious.

Her body is arching to respond to his wild desire. His hands are stroking her to the right places, adding to the flame, burning her.

“I missed you so much, Zia...four years...without you...” he muffled followed by the slurping sound.

“Lucien...I'm close...” she lewdly mumbles, her hip is already moving to the rhythm Lucien set with his mouth.

“Delicious...” he gushes before standing to claim her lips while he rubs his tip at her wet entrance.

“Ready for me, Zia?” he luckily asks between his fervent kisses. 1

“Always...” her hoarse voice replies as she embraces herself for his intrusion. She could feel him prodding his way inside her.

“Arghhhh...shit...” her loud growl together with his, echoes inside when he forcibly thrust deep. His humongous size knocks her breath off.

Gentleness is not in his plan at this moment. He was dying to be engulfed by Zia’s tightness and he can’t wait to be inside her. The instant he seems to be strangled by her right wall, he repeatedly pounds her deep. Withdrawing almost all of his erection before harshly plunging deep.

“So tight... Zia” he grumbles, mindless of his crazy pounding. Her tightness is making his need uncontrollable.

“Fuck Lucien... I had no one for four years, slow down...argh...” her body is harshly bouncing above the counter and she cannot seem to keep up with him. Unable to stop his raging assault, she would just grimace at the pain of his every thrust.

But Lucien is too distraught with his desire to own her, he continues pounding. He grab her hips and pounded hard. His face is pressed on her neck, making chunky bite on her shoulder and fervently sucking her skin. Leaving her with bold marks.

“Lucien... Lucien...stop...slowdown...you are hurting me...” she whimpered as she was trying to push his ravaging hips from making another thrust.

Realizing what he was doing, he immediately stops and slumped his whole weight toward Zia. Shoving himself deeper but she accommodated him quite well. His ragged hot breath fanned her neck. 1

“I’m sorry...I lost control...” although panting heavily, he comforted her with his gentle kisses.

“Slowdown...I won’t be going anywhere” she responded while she lazily stroked her hands on his back.

“Four years of not having you made me crazy for the need to claim you again... I never thought I can still have this with you... it’s overwhelming me, Zia” he whispers, sounding dejected.

Listening to him, she was somewhat baffled and at the same time intrigued. If he is telling him, he still dreams of having her after their agreement, she is thrilled. Never did

she stop thinking of what they had for the short six months together. Despite being a contract wife, he treated her well to the point she fell in love with him. He made her experience her fantasy in romance, which Coby failed to even kindle.

She had prepared for the worst pain she could once she saw him with someone else, with Ellen Johnson and their children. But her fear did not happen, she came back to the same Lucien who is still dying to possess her body.

She doesn't know his real motives but she could take chances. For her son and herself. She will grab this slim opportunity to have him, to enjoy him. If sex is what he needs to make him stay by her side, then be it. She will wholeheartedly give it to him. She had sacrificed her happiness for four years, this time she will give herself a chance even it's temporary, even it's borrowed.

He is a great father, no question about it. And it's making her love him more. It's making him more than a man to her.

With all the thoughts in her head, she snuggles her face to his, planting gentle kisses, inhaling the distinct scent of his skin. She worships his handsome face with her lips, which Lucien obviously enjoys as he closes his eyes.

She never stop covering his whole face with her tender kisses until Lucien started moving again but this time, more gentle than earlier.

Having Lucien on his usual pace gave her the pleasure she was used to. They started to dance in the rhythm while she clung to him. It's a steady ride while they both explore each other's bodies.

"Ahhhhh... Lucien..." as her peak nears, she whimpers in pleasure and arching lewdly digging her nails on his back. Giving Lucien the chance to claim her two mounts.

"Bear with me, Zia...argh...you're tightening..." his panting voice mixed with her whimpers as they both were about to reach their heavens.

"Lucien..."

"Zia..."

Moans and grunts echo as he fastens his hips, digging deep towards the finish line.

"Arghhh..." Lucien has almost lifted Zia from the counter when they were engulfed by the euphoria of their orgasm.

Their bodies convulsed and trembled as they tightly clung to each other. Zia embraces the hot liquid gushing inside her, mixing with her essence.

Lucien had hoisted her, straddling his hips as she still cradles his erection. And they remain in that position for a while as they rest.

“One more, Zia...” he huskily whispers as he starts to nibble her ear.

“Lucien, Lucy might wake up and find us not in the room...” she tries to reason but her body is speaking otherwise. She still wanted him and he is already starting to move while he is standing with her straddling him.

“Lucien...ahhhh...” she has no longer control over her body as it enjoys the slow thrust he was doing.

“This will be quick...just one more...” he continues with his slow thrust before he brought her to lean on the wall.

“Hold tight...” he mumbles as he started to fasten his hips.

Her arms rounded his neck and her legs wrapped around his hips while he remains standing. She clung to him while he is thrusting upwards.

“Ahhh...” her body is bouncing against the bathroom wall. She could feel all of him inside, he is so deep.

“Ahhh, Lucien...”

Another round of moans and grunts fills the bathroom. Panting and ragged breaths adorned the silence as their bodies took their passionate ride.

Locking her in a blissful kiss, they reached their peak together. With their growls drowned in their locked lips.

After the height of euphoria they reached, they slumped weakly to each other, panting.

“We...need...another shower...” breathily, she mumbles against his sweaty hair.

“Yeah...” he chuckles while nibbling on her sweaty collarbone.

Slowly, he brought her to the shower cubicle and his sluggish walk created a great sensation in their still joined bodies. With closed eyes and low whimpers as he took his step, they reached the cubicle.

“Put me down” she weakly whispers after he remains unmoving,

“I don’t want to leave your body...” he muffled while he buried his face in her neck. They were all sweaty but he is nibbling her like she is a feast to be devoured.

“Lucien, Lucy might wake up...come on let's have a shower...” she tries to go down but he cups her butt, not letting her

“You won't let me have this again...” he mumbled to her surprise.

Staring at him, she wanted to know if he is toying with her. But by the look on his dejected face, she realize he was being serious. And it astonishes her.

“We are together every night” she just said instead.

“You are flinching with my touch” he softly retorted, making her confused. She hasn't remembered flinching from his touch.

“I did not...” she counters, appalled by his accusation.

“You did...and it hurts...” staring at her, he calmly responded. Their gazes locked while she is trying to recall all the nights they were together. But she can't remember she blatantly refused or rejected him.

“I didn't mean to reject you if ever I did flinch. I was just... may be surprised. It's been a long time, Lucien. Your touch would sometimes startle me but it doesn't mean I hate it...it doesn't mean I'm rejecting you” she carefully explains. Even she didn't realize she had done it.

“I love to touch you, Zia. No one has made me feel the way you did. Please let me...” he calmly asks.

“No one had touched me the way you did...and I don't want anyone's touch but yours” looking straight into his eyes, she softly announce.

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

Chapter 35

Chapter 35 Teased

After the steamy encounter, they had last night, Lexie becomes more comfortable around him. She made sure not to elude whenever he initiated to touch her.

Thankfully, Lucy is still peacefully asleep when they went out of the bathroom. And had their late dinner in comfortable silence.

With three weeks timetable, she becomes busy with the team of Silhouettes Designs. She has no time to dally. She had visited the production site to choose the fabrics for her every design, which she had so much fun with. Aside from the clothes she designed, she also included a few bags as a customized accessories for her collection.

She even proposed contracting Dom for one of the designs of her bag. A customized hand-painted handbag

Submitting her proposal to Eve and the president, she hopes it will be approved. She would love to showcase Dom's arts in her creations.

They were in the middle of checking the swatches for the designs when a report on the television caught everyone's attention. The groundbreaking of the largest oil refinery in the country, another business venture of Wright Group of Companies.

Staring at the screen, she saw him in the middle of the group of dignified-looking men. President Gabriel Simon is also in the group. She doesn't know what others think, but for her, Lucien Wright is exceptionally handsome above others. His commanding stance is remarkably conspicuous.

"Another fortune for Wright Company" Emily said while looking at the screen.

"CEO Lucien Wright is so handsome. He looks so expensive with those simple clothes" Jason raves as he stares at the very imposing man on the screen.

Lucien Wright is donned in black denim paired with a plain white polo shirt. Only an obviously expensive watch adorned his wrist. Unlike his usual everyday attire of coat and tie, he looks casually fresh this time. But even with his simple look, he is emanating a dangerously dominant aura.

With his simple get-up, his toned muscles were noticeable inside his perfectly fitted clothes. The prominent muscles in his arms were flexing every time he jabs the shovel on the ground for the ceremony.

Turning to her colleagues, she smiles. No one tries to hide their admiration as their eyes were all plastered on the news. Specifically centered on the man in the center. She felt the same but on a different level. No one knows she is enjoying the man of their dream every single night. And the clothes he was wearing were the ones she picked earlier. Even Lucy was amazed by how handsome his father was and asked to take a snap on Lucien's phone.

And now, despite how busy they were, they stopped working just to watch the footage.

"The woman he will marry will be the luckiest person in the world. I dreamed to be a woman, but I got a dick instead of a pussy. Now the chance to be noticed by CEO Lucien Wright is as dim as my dark balls" Jason raves dejectedly but makes everyone laugh,

"Don't worry, honey. Someone is out there who would appreciate your dark balls" Eve interjected, giving him a sympathetic smile.

“Yeah, right, I hope so, Eve” he playfully responded.

“I wonder why he did not marry Miss Ellen Johnson. It’s been a long time they were together” Emily wondered while she got back to her work.

“Honestly, I don’t like that trying hard ballerina, she was not good at all. I think she only got famous because of her connection with CEO Wright. But have you noticed after the rumor of the CEO breaking up with her, she is no longer given a spot in any ballet shows?” Jason exclaims. His dislike towards the woman is evident while he speaks.

“Yeah, she is shameless claiming she is a renowned ballerina. She was only been indulged because of CEO Lucien Wright. And that’s it, she has no talent, in fact,” Eve also added, which surprised her. She never expected people have these kinds of perceptions toward Ellen Johnson, And Eve is one of them Eve is a very promiscuous yet very straightforward person. Hearing such negative words from her is surely painful if Ellen will hear them.

“And she has been sticking with the CEO’s side despite not being offered marriage. I don’t think CEO Wright would wait this long to marry a woman he loves. What is he waiting for? To have an ample budget for the wedding? Hello, he is worth more than five hundred billion dollars. He could even wed every single day for the rest of their lives if he wants to” Jason rolls his eyes in exasperation.

“Unless he is gay...” Eve playfully raves while looking at Jason whose eyes were as wide as their dinner plate.

“Do you think, I need a visit with my dermatologist? A new hair color perhaps? I need to shave my dark balls, do you think he fancy a bald dick?” Jason immediately becomes ecstatic as he playfully checks himself on the glass wall beside him.

A good laugh erupted inside their workstation, even she, shared their amusement. She could not imagine Lucien to be gay. Lucien Wright being gay is absolutely an absurd idea. But about the bald dick, his hair down there is quite maintained so maybe he fancies good grooming. Just like how she maintained herself. Her mind has a different track from all of them and sadly, she cannot share it with them.

“Kidding aside, why do you think CEO Wright is not yet married until now? He is what...35?” Jason seriously asks after their boisterous laugh. They all went back to what they were doing as the news ended.

“He just hasn’t met the woman who could make him get settled. Men like the CEO has high standards. They won’t marry if it’s not for the right reasons. Look at President Arvin, still single. He is too focused on the company. No woman could equal the worth of Silhouettes Designs. But anyway, Arvin is just 30 years old, too young to settle down. He has a lot of opportunities” Eve casually explains while she remains quiet. She was entertained by the new knowledge she was hearing from them all.

“But the president has an eye towards Lexie...don't me...do you think I didn't notice the first time?” Jason turned to her and gave her a teasing smile.

“No, he is not” she mumbles, ignoring his teasing.

“But what if, sir Arvin would make a move on you?” Jason insisted.

“He won't...” she becomes incredulous about what they were thinking about the president.

“What if he will. Hypothetically...” Eve was the one who persisted, which made her serious as she turns to her.

“I already have someone” she replies shortly, smiling as she speaks.

“Awww...it hurts...” Jason playfully clutched his chest, acting hurt.

“Well, there's an equal chance in love and war...until there's no ring around your finger” Jason exclaims, a matter of fact.

Looking at her fingers, indeed both her ring fingers were vacant. Just an accessory ring adorns her middle finger.

Her gaze remains on her ring fingers. It has never been with a ring, even during her marriage to Lucien.

Anyways, it was just an agreement and not a real marriage. A ring was unnecessary with the circumstances. But despite knowing it fully well, it gave her a different impression today.

They have been living like husband and wife again, with Lucy, their son. But she realized, they haven't talked about their relationship. She doesn't know the real score between them. They are making love every night. Lucien has been very attentive and caring towards her and Lucy, a perfect husband and father.

But will it be enough?

There's no, I love you, between them. Although Lucien always says it to his son but never to her. She also hasn't told him about how she feels towards him. She wanted to but she is hesitant about how he will react. Will she be too presumptuous if she will initiate?

“Don't mind, Jason. He is always that playful” Eve spoke after noticing her silence.

“No, it's fine. I'm used to the same playfulness. My best friend is gay” she smiles at Eve before turning to Jason.

“A top or bottom?” he immediately asks, making her chuckle together with the rest.

“He is a top but he is fine to bottom if it’s worth it” she cheerfully replies.

“You will introduce me to him, right? I prefer to bottom but could be a top, depending on the situation” Jason excitedly exclaims. His hopeful puppy eyes were set on her.

“Of course, I would love to” she raves, also excited about the possibility of their meeting.

“Thank you so much, dear Lexie!” he sent her a flying kiss and another round of hearty chuckles fills the room. In time a figure enters the glass door.

“I see you are having a great time...” a deep voice interrupted.

“Sir Arvin...good day” everyone greeted with cheerful voices.

“Jason is excited about a possible love life” Eve casually explains. “Wow, that’s great. As long as you won’t be reporting with puffy eyes again, I’m with the idea” Mr. Deutche announces seriously, making Jason pouts. “Don’t remind me, Mr. President...please. This has been your fault, you won’t have me...you are not letting me love you...” Jason, being too comfortable with the president, poutedly confronted him.

“You are too precious, Jason. I don’t deserve you” Mr. Deutche playfully retorted, playing along with his gay employee. He was used to his teasings.

“I know, but between me and Alexzia, you will choose her” he added, sulking.

Surprised by Jason’s candidness, she gaped with wide eyes concurrent with the soaring tension that developed inside the workroom.

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

Chapter 36

Chapter 36 Wistful Memories

After two weeks of being confined in a luxurious hospital suite, Lucy is ready to go home, stronger and healed.

The night conceals their departure as Lucien had prepared a private helicopter to ferry them from the hospital to his penthouse. The team of Lucy’s doctors brought him to the rooftop of the hospital with Lucien and Lexie tailing behind.

Dom has also sent his parents back to the island but he will be back to fulfill his prior engagements.

"It's time to go home, sir Lucy. Be well and be healthy" the doctors exclaim in glee as they bid the boy goodbye.

"Thank you so much for taking good care of me!" his smile is as bright as the sun amid the darkness around. He fervently waves at all his doctors and hospital staff before the door closes.

"This is magnificent, Papa...! We are rich, mama? We could ride a helicopter" he raves while excitedly looking around the sparkling night lights of the whole city.

"Everything for my brave boy..." Lucien responded, tenderly smiling at his son's ecstatic face.

"Where are we going, Papa?"

"In the meantime, we will be staying at my penthouse while our house is being prepared" he smiles, gently pinching the boy's chin.

Lexie stares at Lucien with questioning eyes, but he just assuringly smiles at her.

"You will also live with us, Papa?" he timidly asks. His expression reflects his worry, bothering Lucien.

"Of course, buddy. Papa will be living with you and mama. The penthouse is papa's home, so you will be living with papa from now on" he carefully explains to the attentively listening boy.

"Thank you, papa..." Lucy was relieved but it worries Lucien. The way his son looks at their situation is far beyond what they assumed a three-year-old understood.

"Papa will take care of Mama and Lucy from now on. Everything papa has, is for Lucy and Mama. Papa will not leave you again, buddy. Please remember always and please believe papa" he softly explains and though he understands Lucy will still doubt, he will not get tired of assuring him.

"Okay, Papa" he nodded and turned to his mother.

"Papa will not leave us again, mama. Don't worry" the boy assures his mother while he grasps her hand.

Lexie was stunned by her son's assurance. She doesn't realize he was concerned about her more than himself.

Looking up to Lucien, she smiles at the man who looks hurt. But it's not anyone's fault, definitely not Lucien's. It's the circumstance bringing them to such a situation.

“Papa, will not leave us again, my baby love. Papa has promised Lucy, right? We will believe papa” she softly explains, caressing the boy’s cheek.

“Yes, mama. And I’m happy now. My heart is healed and I already have a Papa and Mama. Nobody will tell me I’m from the trash” he exclaims with a grin.

Heaving a sigh, Lucien and Lexie hug their boy. At a young age, he has a deep wound caused by the incomplete family he was born with. Lexie thought she was enough, but a child will always be a child, he will seek the answer to the incompleteness of his being. Lucy is smart and he knows what he deserves. A child should have a father and he fully knows it. He will strive to get what he thinks he deserves.

“Yes, buddy. You are not from the trash. You have Mama and Papa” Lucien agreed before they become quiet. They enjoy the night scenery from above until they reached the rooftop of Wright Hotel and Casino.

This time, Lucien declined to use the wheelchair. Instead, he carries his son in his arms. Lucy’s face lit brightly as he circled his small arms around his father’s neck. While Lexie tenderly watches the two, her chest is overflowing with happiness. She never had thought, she will witness how his son’s face lit with happiness in his father’s arms.

However, upon their arrival at the lobby of the penthouse, memories flooded her senses. She could vividly remember the first time she came up to this floor. It’s the night she mindlessly gave up her innocence to a stranger

Keeping his apprehension with her silence, she followed the two. Ben and a few of the securities were nearby.

Entering the penthouse, Lexie was somewhat suffocated. The ambiance, the smell, and the entire place haven’t changed after several years. It’s as what it was more than four years ago.

Realizing she had stopped at the door, Lucien stopped midstep before turning to her,

“Zia...?” he softly calls. But seeing her pale face, his eyes narrow.

“Come on, Zia. Let’s put our son to bed” he calmly mutters, urging her to come to follow them. Lucy was

already drifting to sleep in his arms.

She stares at him but she only got a calm gaze from him.

“Come on, Zia” he added as he continue to walk to the door where two nurses were waiting. They will oversee Lucy round the clock.

Lucien had employed six nurses just to monitor his son. The team of doctors will also be visiting him every day for the monitoring of his recovery.

Composing herself, she took several deep breaths. Her constricted throat is becoming painful from the memories surging through her head. It overwhelmed her.

However, they have to put Lucy to bed. So she has to compose herself before facing her son. Walking towards the bedroom where Lucien enters, she smiles at the two nurses at bay.

She enters a massive room, luxuriously decorated fitting for a prince. She was not aware Lucien had customized the room for their son. The room is obviously new, based on the furniture, a car-designed bed, the kiddie wallpapers, the toys, and a basic playpen. Another bed was at the side, which she assumed was for the nurses.

As he put Lucy to bed, the boy is already half-asleep. Too sleepy to notice his extravagant room.

“He will be ecstatic, seeing all these in the morning” she whispered while they watch their son sleep.

“This will just be temporary. I want to put more play hubs here but it will no longer fit” he mumbles as he looks around.

“This is too much already” she softly retorted.

“There will be no too much for my son. He deserves everything, Zia. Please let me do this. I missed the chance to witness his birth, I missed the chance to hear his first word, to watch as he take his first step. and I missed several chances to comfort him whenever he was hurt...whenever he was crying” he mutters as he stares his anguished eyes to her.

“Don’t be too hard on yourself, Lucien. It’s nobody’s fault. We are somewhat victims of circumstances beyond our control. What’s more important to me now, is your affection towards him. I’m happy about your acceptance. No matter how many times I will say this, I won’t tire to thank you for acknowledging my son and for not breaking his heart. Thank you” she responded while staring straight into his eyes.

“And thank you for giving me the chance to be a father to him” he mutters.

After sharing a gentle smile, they both turn to their son who is now deep asleep. He leans down to arrange the comforter around him before they both place a kiss on his forehead.

Upon going out, they passed by the two nurses who were still standing outside the door.

“Inform us of anything amiss with our son. No matter what time it is” Lucien seriously instructed.

“Yes, Mr. Wright”

“He might wake up in the middle of the night to drink water or he might look for me, please let me know” Lexie smiles at the nurse who readily smiles at her.

“Yes, Mrs. Wright”

Lexie was a little surprised at what they called her but before she could correct them, Lucien pulled her by the waist to walk to the other room.

Walking into the familiarity surrounding her, memories of the past surged like molten lava to her peaceful heart.

She tries to avoid looking at the bed, but despite not seeing it, heat crept through her face at the memories rushing in. Her first experience happened in that same bed. That is where Lucien devoured her and her blood grazed the sheets. Where she lost her innocence and experience her first pleasure from a

man.

This is also where the agreement was laid for her. The table at the side is where she signed the marriage contract before he handed her the divorce paper.

Unaware of the time that passed by, she continue to walk the path of memory lane. Not noticing Lucien has been watching and waiting for her.

“Let’s prepare for bed, Zia” his deep and almost husky voice interrupted her thoughts.

Looking at him, she seemed lost. All the memories were blurring her judgment. She can’t discern what Lucien was trying to say.

“It’s already late...” he added, staring at her dazed state.

“Oh...yes, it’s late. Ahm, where’s my luggage?” she frantically looks around, trying to find it.

“It’s already been arranged to our closet” he patiently responded while walking toward her.

“Relax, Zia...” he whispers after he pulled her to his chest. Silence ruled between them as they continue standing in the middle of the room.

"This is where I first had you. And for four years, I only had that memory with me. I always reminisce it every night as I lay in this bed, Zia. For four years, I slept together with your memories inside this room, especially on that bed" he whispers as he tightens his hold around her.

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

Chapter 37

Chapter 37 Birth Wound

Looking up at him, her eyes were misty from the unshed tears. She just stares at him, unable to ask what he meant by what he said. Her throat is too constricted to talk.

"We may have started on a wrong foot, but I'm hoping we could work this out. I never expected the outcome of the agreement I offered you, it backfired on me" he whispers while caressing her cheek.

"I never planned a lifetime with you, Zia, but I was left with a yearning to have you in my arms every single night. I was left with the desire I felt for no one. I was left with the emptiness after you left" he continues.

"I tried to erase you in my life, out of my mind. But it just made me hollow. Despite Ellen's presence, I can't move on with my life without you. I strived to focus on her, recalling my need to have her, I kept on reminding myself I once dreamed to have a family with her, but I failed all the time. Your memory is stronger than what I made myself believe all this time"

Staring at him, she could see how conflicted he was. He has been in a predicament no one could solve but himself.

"Then you came back and I realized I've been a fool. I wasted four years of our lives. All these years, I just appeased myself by collecting every memory you created. I've been a fool preparing for the future with you despite you being out of my reach. I'm stupid for not finding you instead of simply living in your memory"

"I thought it was just great sex...but I'm just fooling myself. It's more than the great sex, Zia. I had dreamed of a life with you more than I did with Ellen. And I thought Ellen was my soulmate. She has been patient with me. She accepted my flaws. But all the dreams I have with her all vanished after you happened"

Listening to him, she remembered something Ellen told her. She has been curious all this time and she wanted to know. But she was reluctant to ask.

"Could we work this out, Zia? Especially for our son. Let's see where we could go from here. I assure you, I will be a devoted father to Lucy and a devoted man to you. Let's

start all over again without the doubt of our agreement haunting us both. Let's start anew" he pleaded, cupping her face.

"Could we be a family, Zia? Let's start our life together, with our son. I will strive harder to be a good man to you" he added, both his thumb caressing her cheeks.

"How about...Ellen? As much as I want all of these, I don't want to hurt another woman. I don't want to be happy at the expense of others" she blatantly stated.

"I have cut ties with her a long time ago. She knew where she stands" he readily responded.

"I don't want trouble with anyone, especially with her, Lucien. Once I agreed to this, make sure to fight for us. Because I will fight for what is due to me and my son. I will protect him no matter what it will cause me, you know that" she seriously announces, looking straight into his eyes.

"Yes, Zia. I fully understand. But I have promised you my world. Only you and Lucy will be there" he fervently assures.

"I don't need your entire world, Lucien. Your affection for my son is enough...treating us well...respecting me are enough" she softly counters. Indeed, she doesn't need his whole world. It would be too much for her and her son.

"And please protect my son. I know people were so curious about your life but we are not used to it. Lucy might be too overwhelmed. Please give us privacy. Take it slow in introducing your world to our son" she

added.

"Of course, Zia. My world is tough and I don't want to bring our son unless he was ready. As much as I want not to hide him, it's still not the time. I will prepare him to claim his birthright. Until you and he was ready, no one will know about him" he fervently nodded while assuring her. All he wanted is the welfare of his family. Hearing him immensely appeased her.

"Thank you. Ahm, I will take a shower now" she softly mumbles while trying to get away from his firm grasp

"We could do it together" he huskily whispers, nuzzling his face to hers.

"Lucien..." trying to evade his seduction is not easy, so she won't even try. She loves his touch, his kisses, and especially the need she would always see in his eyes.

"Your body is my heaven..." He continues to snuggle with her while she enjoys his hot breath and feathery kisses

“As you are to me...” she whispers, pressing her lips behind his ears.

With what she said and did, she was suddenly hoisted up and carried to the bathroom. They won't be waiting to be in bed to enjoy each other's bodies. They have been doing it in the bathroom so it will no longer be any different.

“This will just be a prelude...” he whispers against her skin. While she was positioned above the counter, he had positioned himself between her thighs. His kisses were trailing upwards to the destination they both look forward to.

“I know...Mr. CEO...you're such an insatiable beast. Arghhh...I look forward to your tongue, sir...” she seductively whispers, making her sultry look on him. Seducing him more.

“Fuck...Zia...you are such a tease. I like it, I love what you are saying...” his heavy breaths vehemently fanning her while she opens her legs wider for him.

“I forgot to make your coffee, Mr. CEO...don't punish this damn secretary... I could ride your dick instead,

sir. I'm already so wet for you...” she continued with her seduction.

“Ahh shit, Zia...Yes, you are...so hot, Miss Montes... Let's see how well you ride my dick...you have to be good or I will fire you” with his fervent touch, he seriously mutters like he was angry. Playing along with whatever Zia's game. And honestly, it added to the fervent desire he already have for the gorgeous woman splayed in front of him.

Looking between her flawless thighs, he rubs her jewel still covered by a black lace panty. Her wetness moistened the outside of the skimpy cloth as he plays with it.

“Argh... Touch me more, Mr. Wright... Let me feel your fingers inside me...” she gushes deliriously while her hands were kneading her supple mounds inside her blouse.

“Get naked for me, Miss Montes... show me what you got there. Discard your clothes” he sternly demanded, making her scurry to do his bidding.

“Yes, Mr. Wright...” acting meek, she hurriedly strips all her clothes, leaving her skimpy lace bikini. Almost naked, she plopped on the counter, spreading her legs wide. She was greatly satisfied at the desire reflecting on his face. He even licked his lips while staring at her two mounds down to her wet pearl.

“Argh...” she moans after he pulls the fabric covering her to the side to rub her pinkish bud.

“You are so beautiful, Miss Montes... You smell so great down here, you taste so sweet, and it's healthily pinkish. You don't have much hair too. I can't find a trace of

Lucy's birth. Did you deliver him in the normal procedure?" he mumbles as he somewhat examines her flower, making her appalled at the twist of events. How come he was suddenly curious about his birth wound.

"I gave birth to Lucy through the normal procedure. Lucien...are you trying to assess my pussy at this time? Really?" she incredulously exclaims.

"Sorry, I got curious... You look so beautiful down here despite already having a child" he sheepishly grins while scratching the invisible itch on his head.

"Having given birth doesn't mean a woman is already destroyed. It will still be the same. It was stitched and healed" she patiently explains but Lucien went pale upon hearing she was stitched.

"Stitched? Here? It will fucking hurt!" he exclaims in pure horror. He can't imagine the pain Zia endured for having their son. "There was anesthesia, Lucien. It doesn't hurt that much" she counters, sympathizing with the man who looks ready to faint

"Now, I'm hesitant to pound you hard. Your stitch might break" he mumbles worriedly while trying to find the stitch on her entrance. Scorching her wet walls, he squinted his eyes near her.

"Argh... Lucien, could you please continue. Don't mind my wound, it's been healed a long time ago. Now, suck me hard, I want to come with your expert mouth. Get your tongue to work, Mr. Wright" she raves as she growls at the delicious sensation from his fingers.

Like a clear signal and forgetting his concern, Lucien delved into her wetness after quickly pulling down the remaining fabric in her body. Sucking her to the perfect place of her heavenly desire.

"Argh...please don't punish me, Mr. Wright...it hurts..." she growled like she was in pain, making Lucien immediately stop

"Does it hurt, Zia?" full of worry, he immediately asks her.

"Fuck Lucien, I'm setting a kink..." she opens her eyes and incredulously glares at him.

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Chapter 38

Chapter 38 Insatiable

After several rounds of heavenly euphoria inside the bathroom. They finally finished taking their shower.

Zia is already limping and almost wobbles on her feet before Lucien had been appeased. He has to carry her outside to get dressed.

Inside the closet, he made her sit down on the couch facing the floor-to-ceiling wardrobe cabinets.

“I will just get your change” he whispers while pecking a kiss on her forehead.

Seeing the insides of the cabinet after he opened it, Zia narrowed her eyes. The closet is full of clothes and there’s no way her one small luggage has a massive number of clothes inside to make it this full after unpacking

“You got to be kidding me...” she mutters, making Lucien turn to her.

Looking at her grim face, he was perplexed. She looks angry and he doesn’t know why.

“This insult again? Until now?” she painfully exclaims looking at his confused eyes.

“Zia, what are you talking about?” he was perplexed by his sudden change of mood. They were fine a while ago.

“Will I live in a small suitcase again? Will, I always have no space even in your closet? I’ve endured that insult before, but I don’t think I can, now. I will be staying with my son if that’s the case” she softly asks, almost indistinct. She was exhausted from their lovemaking and the emotional attack surging inside her is too much to endure, her tears fell.

“Zia...” he dashed back to her seeing her cry. He heard her loud and clear despite her almost indistinct voice.

“No one had been here, Zia, even Ellen. This has been my sanctuary. I never allowed anyone aside from my family to visit me here. Except for you on that first night, we were together” earnestly, he explains but she continues to silently cry.

“I’m so sorry if I was so stupid not to notice what happened back then in the mansion. I didn’t know, Zia. I swear I didn’t know it was all Ellen’s clothes. That was my mistake” he desperately explains while he cups her wet face to look at him.

“Look at me, Zia. I won’t be repeating that same mistake. As I have said, Ellen has never been in this place. She has no single belonging inside my penthouse nor she had set foot in here” he patiently added, wiping the tears that kept on falling from her eyes.

“I don’t have that many clothes...” she whispers. Pain laced in her voice, making him clench his jaw. He now understand how she felt back then, but he was clueless about the insult she endured for six months.

“Look closer, Zia” he wants her to understand. He doesn’t want to see the pain in her eyes.

Wanting to make her see the inside of the whole wardrobe, she lifted her from the couch and carried her in front of the open doors.

“Look, wasn’t this familiar? Look closer, Zia” he begs as he showed her each piece of the hanging clothes.

Although confused, she stares at the clothes. She scrutinized each one of them until she starts to recognize them.

“These were... I rented these clothes before” she murmurs in disbelief. She quickly checks every piece and she was sure it was all the clothes she had rented.

“How come it was all here? I’ve returned them before I left” she continued to whisper.

“I bought everything you had worn. Even the jewelry and the accessories” he tenderly replies, earning him a confused look from her.

“You left without leaving a trace. You made sure you had removed even your slightest scent inside the master’s bedroom. You left the mansion as if you never existed in it for six months. I was so lost, Zia. Then this shop sent me a discount coupon, intended for you. I discovered what you have been doing. Honestly, I never noticed the clothes inside the cabinet were not yours. You have been wearing different fabulous clothes all the time, how would I know. I’m not that keen on simple details. I have a lot in my head to mind about whose clothes were hung inside the wardrobe cabinet. But it’s my fault I didn’t order my staff to clean and gather Ellen’s stuff before I brought you in” he was looking dejected while he apologized to her.

“The first night I came to the mansion, I saw those clothes still inside and though I fully understand the agreement, it slapped me with reality. I lose interest in making the place home even for a short time. Those clothes always remind me of how I don’t have a place in your life. That everything was indeed a paid agreement. So I left like I didn’t exist” she wistfully stated as she stares at her rented clothes.

“I’m sorry for severely insulting you. Even if the marriage was just on paper, you are still my wife. And I was so heartless for not ensuring your comfort inside my home as my wife” he pulled her by the waist and tucked her under his chin.

“Regardless of the agreement, I should have treated you well. I’m so sorry, Zia” he whispers snuggling on her head.

“You’re forgiven” she whispers as she looks up at him, smiling while receiving his kiss.

“Thank you, Zia” he mumbles against her lips.

As their gazes were locked, smiles lingers on each other's lips.

"Let's get dressed so you could rest..." he mumbles before turning to the closet to pull out one of the lingeries.

"I don't think I had rented lingerie before" staring at the black lacy garment, she was appalled by how skimpy it was.

"Ahm..." with a sheepish grin, he looks at her.

"Ahm...I had business travel and I saw this in one of the shops...I thought it would look great on you..." he awkwardly explains while she was quite appalled.

"Ahm...you are telling me, you bought this for me, though unsure if we could be together again?" she confusedly asks while being thoughtful.

Though with a sheepish grin, he nodded several times.

"Ahm, actually, there are more...ahm I also bought you some underwear, it's all in pairs. The woman in the shop said it's their top seller and mostly celebrities were buying them, so I bought just several dozens in different colors of course" he calmly explains while she remains dumbfounded. She can't imagine CEO Lucien Wright shopping for undergarments and lingerie.

"They recognize who you are?" she dazedly asks. She was curious about how he managed to explain all the sexy lingerie he had purchased.

"Yes, of course. They recognize me. I'm actually with Ben and my best friend when I bought them. But I didn't let any of them touch what I choose for you" he readily responded. Looking so serious about his previous quest.

"What did you tell the attendants when you bought these?" she was more concerned about how people would perceive him knowing he was doing shopping for woman's intimate apparel.

"Do I need to explain why I'm buying woman's stuff?" he also becomes confused.

"They knew you and everyone knows you are a bachelor. And these sizes were not even close to Ellen" she incredulously raves.

"Of course, it's not Ellen's size, it's yours" he snapped.

"Weren't you in the news after you bought this many intimate apparels?" she persisted.

“No, they don’t care about that. Oh, I remember now, I told the attendant to keep it a secret as this will be a surprise for my wife. I don’t want to ruin the surprise” his last words earn him a wide eye from her.

“You lied!” she was appalled.

“Not quite though. Come on wear this. It’s getting late” he gestures for her, which she readily obeys. He even helped her wear them.

Standing under his intense sultry gaze, she becomes self-conscious. She started to fidget off her feet.

The lingerie is a combination of satin and lace. And the satin deep v-neck cut sexily exposes her supple cleavage. It’s a skimpy lace dress, which ends just a few inches below her hips. While the lacey fabric did not even cover her equally skimpy panty inside. All in all, she was almost naked with a little concealment to tickle Lucien’s senses.

“I was never wrong, this will look great on you” he raves as he stares at her like he was about to ravish her again.

“Lucien, please. You had for rounds earlier and I’m already tender. I will have a busy day tomorrow” she pleaded earlier as not to get his hope high. The prominent tent in front of his robe is telling his plans.

Hearing her, he pouted but nodded. Though he is already painfully hard, she was right. They had several rounds in the bathroom and he has been quite rough. She needs to rest. But she was really tempted to bend her and thrust deep. She is gorgeous and immensely alluring.

“Tomorrow night, can you wear the red one. I really want to fuck you in these clothes, Zia. You are ravishing” he whispers against her nape after he pulled and back hugged her. Huddling his erection at her butt.

“Insatiable, Lucien” she raves while he enjoys the hard monster against her back. She was amused at him and at the same time excited for tomorrow night.

Staring at herself in the full-length mirror. She is indeed ravishing and Lucien will be in predicament for the entire night for not having her.

She is exhausted from all of his pounding earlier but she knows she couldn’t resist his seduction if he would try. Simply by looking at his washboard abs and the sinful V-shape leading to his humongous monster, she is wet already.

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Chapter 39

Chapter 39 Wright Taste

Lexie becomes busy as the launching of the spring collection is nearing. She had brought Dom to the office after her proposal of the hand-painted bag was approved.

And as expected, he quite gets along with Jason. But Dom was more of a manly gay and most of the time, serious, unlike Jason who is very vocal and playful. Still, they get along well.

Only a week remained and they were all finalizing the production. Lexie though pressured and tensed, is so excited to see her designs come to life. Samples have already been displayed in mannequins and she can't help looking at them most of the time.

"Private orders for the advance catalog were in!" Eve exclaims as she enters while waving several papers in her hand. Following her is their president.

"Reveal...reveal..." all the designers excitedly chanted while Lexie just remains to watch in silence. Jason had explained it to her the other day. Private orders are from elite clients who were sent catalogs ahead of time for their customized orders. Mostly, well-known designers are the ones who had private orders.

Her designs will still be under the in-house collections of Silhouette Designs. As a newbie, she doesn't own a brand name for her designs but once she becomes successful in the launching, she will be slowly introduced as a brand designer.

Expectedly, all well-known designers have several orders from elite clients, mostly composed of celebrities, politicians, socialites, men, and women in the business sector.

A jovial atmosphere fills the room as designers gush about the list of clients who ordered their collections. The more famous the personality who would wear their design the great chance they have for enormous sales. And large sales would mean a successful collection and an additional lucrative portfolio for their future designs.

Lexie has been watching the chaos inside the room as respected designers act like children. She was genuinely happy for them. It was fun to watch all of them and she bowed to achieve the same kind of success they have right now. She will be applauding them at this time, but she will make sure to create her name as they did. She made the scene in front of her an inspiration for her aspiration to become a renowned designer in the country.

“And last but not least... We have five orders for the new designs, including a hand-painted handbag and sling bag” Eve added, which caught Lexie’s attention. She has a handpainted handbag and sling bag, the ones Dom painted.

As she turns to look at Eve, the woman is already staring at her. Suddenly, a drum seems to loudly roll inside her chest. If she heard Eve right, she will be delighted if the bags will have an elite client order. It would be great for her and Dom.

“The two handpainted bags designed by Miss Alexzia Montes and Dominic Lint have three orders of different colors” Eve announced with a proud smile.

Hearing the announcement, Lexie was stunned. She gapes at Eve with wide eyes, unable to believe her.

“You are not making fun of me, right?” she whispers, almost indistinct. The beating of her heart is too loud, she’s afraid she hasn’t heard her correctly.

Even the other designers, especially Jason and Emily become quiet as they anticipate Eve’s further announcement. Only Lexie is new to the team and by having an elite client order, she is doing great. For some designers, it took them several seasons before being noticed by elite clients. Even having their own brand name takes time.

“You heard it right, Miss Montes. We have orders for the handpainted bags. It was a marvelous design. I will also be placing my order for the sling bag for my sister, she loves it” Arvin was the one to confirm. Not only does Lexie gapes in pure surprise that she is almost teary, but also Jason and Emily who guided her through the entire process.

Unable to say anything, she continues to gape at the president before her gaze darted to Eve, to Emily, and lastly to Jason.

“Proud of you Lexie...” Jason exclaims in full enthusiasm. He too was teary.

“I know it’s a great idea...” Emily raves, clasping her hands in glee.

“Thank you...” were the only words she could utter at the moment. She is so overwhelmed, she can’t believe it.

“We are not yet finished. The same elite clients ordered three of the new designs from Miss Alexzia Montes” Eve added, making Lexie cup her mouth when she gaped wide. 1

She submitted four designs of different outfits, a long dress, a sleeveless and with sleeves jumpsuit, and a romper.

“For a new designer, Miss Montes has exhibited great potential in this field” Eve proudly added.

“And as we all know, we don’t influence these clients. They were just given the catalog of the entire collection and they are free to choose. Miss Montes’s designs bear no brand under her name. Her collection has been tagged as the new collection of Silhouettes Designs. As a new member of our team, I’m greatly gratified by her ability. Congratulations, Miss Montes. Silhouettes Designs will soar high with all of you, talented and hardworking designers” the president faces all of them with a proud smile.

Loud applause fills the room as they all cheer for their success. Especially Lexie who still can’t believe the outcome of her designs. Emily and Jason rushed to her side to congratulate her. Hugging her, Jason slowly whirled her around, making her giggle. Other designers have also approached her to congratulate her. Some of those who doesn’t know her welcomed her to the team.

“All of you deserves this success” Arvin added while watching the merry interactions from everyone.

“By the way, Eve. Who are the clients who placed the orders for Lexie’s designs?” Jason remembered after she put Lexie down. For everyone, it is important to know the clients who will wear their designs, but for Lexie, she was already satisfied some clients took notice.

Eve looks at Jason before she darted her gaze to Lexie, who is waiting together with everyone.

“Madame Levinia and Samantha Wright” she announced before gasps erupted.

Everyone raves and gushes at Lexie who for the nth time, was stunned on her feet. Jason and she gape at each other, unmoving.

“They are top clients...” one of the designers exclaims while looking at Lexie’s stunned face.

“Both have a strict sense of design” Jason softly added. He too can’t believe, Lexie got their top clients.

“Apart from the great design, Madame Levinia had strictly inquired about the fabric and all the materials used. We’ve sent her the samples, Miss Montes had chosen and she was immensely satisfied” Eve explains.

“Wow, for a newbie, you are starting to create a name” another designer exclaims. Disbelief is written on her face.

“She is great... Getting Samantha Wright’s attention is already an accomplishment. She prefers other leading brands from other countries, but she had taken interest in our design this time” looking at Lexie, a designer exclaims in bewilderment. Nobody had expected the new one will excel.

“You will be having your own brand, earlier than expected” Emily whispered as she rushed to their side.

“That’s for sure” Jason added excitedly. The three of them hug each other but Lexie remains speechless. A part of her could not believe she really made it. She was suspicious but thought, on the other hand, nobody knows about her designs outside the company. Even Lucien doesn’t exactly know, what to tell his mother and sister.

“Aren’t you happy, Lexie?” Emily asks upon seeing her thoughtful expression.

“I’m happy, Miss Emz. I was just... surprised. I can’t believe this is happening” she mumbles, giving them a timid smile.

“We know you are good and you proved us right” Jason exclaims proudly.

“Keep it up, Miss Montes. You will go places with your gift” Arvin smiles at her, to which she responded with a nod.

“Thank you, sir Arvin” she smiles, grateful for the chance she was given.

“Pizza party, Mr. President?” the designers rave as they would usually do after knowing their advanced orders from their clients.

“Of course. Eve, you know what to do” Arvin chuckles at his team. Pizza party has been the company’s way of celebrating its success.

“Yehey!! Pizza party...pizza party” like children, everyone cheered while Eve is already calling the pizza parlor.

Watching her colleagues, Lexie is all smiles. She can’t believe these are the people she saw to be tremendously serious and strict during the preparation of the designs for almost three weeks she has been in the company. She was even intimidated by some of them but looking at them now, she realized they also know to have fun.

After the grueling three weeks, they made it. She made it. And she cannot believe she will do it with flying colors. She felt so fulfilled. But she knows it’s just a start. She could do more. She could achieve more. She is just starting

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Chapter 40

Chapter 40 Jealous

As Silhouettes Designs launches its spring collection, Lexie met her previous colleagues from C&J Advertising who happens to handle the company’s promotion.

Trina is now the manager after Cathy was promoted as the COO of C&J Advertising. Seeing Trina and Chris has been a boisterous meeting for the three of them.

"I hate you! You never visited us" Trina confronted despite it being playful. While Chris remains quiet beside them, contentedly watching Lexie.

"I'm so sorry, it was already in my plan but things got arduous, with all the deadlines I got stuck here" she apologized while holding Trina's hands.

"You look more stunning, right Chris?" Trina teased knowing Chris's previous crush on her.

"Lexie is always stunning..." he responded with an admiring smile.

"How are you, Chris? How are you all?" she excitedly asks.

"We are fine, the same except the company has become more successful after handling the account of Wright Pharma. And we also got Silhouettes and Designs last two years ago" Trina boasted with a proud smile.

"Everyone has been working hard. You all deserve it" she exclaims. Proud of her precious company and her friends.

They continue to catch up until the two were called to the president's office and Lexie has to leave for the production site.

"We will be seeing each other again"

They have promised before they got separated. But both become busy with the full blast launching.

The promotion team was busy collecting footage and photos of famous and influential personalities seen wearing the collection.

Lexie and the whole team have also become busy coping with the production. Additional orders surge from shops and boutiques all over the city.

Lexie's designs have relatively competed in the market among the top-of-line designs of their senior designers. The sales even boosted after the socialite Levinia Wright was spotted wearing her sleeved jumpsuit and hand-painted handbag.

And in separate occasions, Samantha Wright was also spotted wearing the long dress, which she matched with the hand-painted sling bag.

She was so overwhelmed by all the attention despite no one knowing it was her designs. Seeing it worn by affluent people was enough validation that she was doing right in her craft.

The previous night, she discreetly asked Lucien about his family knowing she was working at Silhouettes Designs. And to her relief, he hasn't mentioned anything regarding her new work to anyone as he promised.

And today, seeing all the positive reviews about her designs fuels her passion to become better. She was almost teary as she watch her design being worn by the two important people in Lucien's life. She has the photo which was included in the report of the promotion and she plans to keep it on her desk.

It would be a clear reminder of her hard work and perseverance. She has been dreaming of this and it's starting to come alight.

Their day ended with a cheerful atmosphere and everyone had agreed after the busy days, they will all party to celebrate another success of Silhouettes Designs. But all Lexie was looking forward to is to be home with her son and waiting for Lucien to come home.

Entering the hotel, she easily spotted a familiar figure who also noticed her presence. The person didn't even try to hide the disdain on her face. Ellen Johnson look at her like she was a despicable person.

She wanted to avoid her but she was already walking towards her.

"In a hurry, Miss Montes?" Ellen blocked her way.

"Good evening, Miss Johnson" she politely greeted instead, though she face her with a serious expression.

"I thought you had left by now? What made you stay? Did your scheme fail? Haven't you got any money yet?" she disparages, raising a brow to her.

"It's none of your business, Miss Johnson. And please excuse me, I'm tired" despite the woman's mockery she remains calm.

"It's my business. You are a nuisance to my sight. If you want to stay in the capital then find another hotel. Or you could sleep in the sewer or on the street for all I care" with the crazy glint in her eyes, Ellen angrily raves at her. The hotel staff has already been glancing in their direction while the guards were about to approach them.

"It's not you who could dictate to me where to stay more so sleep. I will stay here as long as I want. Now, get out of my way or I will make you" despite her calm facade, she

was clenching her jaw to contain her rising anger. She was tired and all she wanted is to be with her son, not to be insulted in the middle of the hotel lobby

“Can we help you, Miss Johnson?” one of the guards who approached, asks. His eyes were gauging and it narrows upon recognizing Lexie.

“I want this woman out of the hotel at this instance! Call the manager! Or I will make sure you will all be fired!” Ellen angrily demanded. Her loud voice has made other guests look at them.

Appalled and stunned by Ellen’s sudden outburst, Lexie stepped back. She had seen her contemptuous expression but never did she expect she was capable of such erratic behavior. She has been sweet and nice to the public but she seems to forget the image she was trying to portray at this time,

“Please calm down, Miss Johnson. Miss Montes is a guest” the floor manager who happens to be nearby, hurriedly approaches the commotion. Guests were starting to be alarmed and it won’t be good for the hotel.

“You don’t have the right to tell me what to do! You don’t know who I am?! I can make Lucien Wright fire all of you!” Ellen becomes uncontrollable as she would push securities who were trying to pacify her.

Lexie stepped aside to make way for the hotel staff to deal with the enraged woman. By then she realized, Ellen was somewhat intoxicated.

“Please, Miss Johnson. You are scaring other guests” the manager pleaded but the woman glares at her.

“So what? They could find another hotel, for all I care” she snaps before turning in Lexie’s direction.

“You! Leave or I will throw you out!” with her index, pointing to Lexie, she furiously demanded.

“What’s this commotion?” a calm yet chilling cold voice interrupted.

Turning to the entrance, CEO Lucien Wright steps inside with Ben and other securities.

“Good evening CEO Wright” everyone greeted except for Lexie who remained quiet on her spot. She looks at Lucien but the man was not looking at her. While Ellen immediately plastered a sweet smile on her

face like she was not creating a scene earlier.

“Lucien, honey...the staff here were all impertinent and rude” she charmingly exclaims as she sways her way to the CEO. Upon reaching his spot, she links her arm to his and rested her head on his chest.

Lexie watches as the shameless woman clings to Lucien in front of the people who have already gathered near them. And although fleeting, she saw him cast his gaze to her before he subtly made a distance between him and Ellen. Immediately, Ben holds Ellen and did not allow her to come near the CEO again.

“I will be going now” she just mumble to the floor manager who apologizes to her.

“Please pardon us for the inconvenience caused by this commotion, Miss Montes”

“I understand, Mr. Cliff. Miss Johnson is quite tipsy. She may not know what she was doing” she assures the manager who looks so nervous.

“Thank you for your understanding, Miss Montes. As my apology, please accept a free dinner in your room later” the man added but Lexie fervently shook her head.

“You don’t need to do that, Mr. Cliff. I have other plans for tonight and I’m truly fine. I will be heading to my room now” she calmly explains as she declines his offer.

Everyone in the hotel knows she has booked a room for several months but no one knows she was staying at the penthouse. She has been using the service elevator to go up to her reserved room. And she will only use the penthouse elevator once she made sure no one was around. 1

Turning away, she calmly walks towards the elevator. She has too much drama for tonight and she doesn’t want to linger any longer.

Entering the empty elevator, she faces the entrance of the hotel where Lucien was standing while looking at her. He looks very imposing in the middle of the crowd. His eyes are somewhat talking to her but she chooses to ignore them. She is too. Consumed of the unusual feeling rising inside her.

Though he was ignoring Ellen who was at the side being held by Ben, the uncomfortable pinch inside her chest is troubling her.

Looking at Lucien, she maintains her calm facade before she pins her floor. Until the elevator closes, their gazes were locked.

As much as she don’t want to take interest in knowing what he will do to his ex-girlfriend, she was immensely curious. The nagging feeling of jealousy is waving at her face and she doesn’t like how it makes her feel.