

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

Chapter 8

Chapter 8 Returned

It's been a week since Lucien hasn't come home, but she was sure he is in the country. Though she wasn't the kind to meddle with his affairs, it's puzzling how he could survive without her for several nights now. Unless something happened to him, which is impossible since she had seen him in the news earlier.

More than six months married to the CEO and she is already not used to being away from him for a long time.

With a confused mind, she followed Trina enter the restaurant. The woman brought her to celebrate her promotion as assistant manager.

Engrossed with her thoughts she didn't notice Trina stopped midway, facing a group of people around the table.

"CEO Wright good evening" Trina's words made her snap from her stupor. She turns in the direction of Trina's eyes and there she met the piercing eyes of the man bothering her mind.

"Good...evening... Mr. Wright..." she stutters but catches herself on time. A polite smile grazed her face despite the surprise she feels.

He just nodded at them with his usual unreadable expression. Timidly, they also greeted the other people around the table. The socialite Livenia Wright, the CEO's mother, and a couple whose daughter is no other than Ellen Johnson who was seated next to the

"Who are they, honey?" Ellen Johnson's sweet voice caught their hearing.

"Employees of the advertising company Wright Pharmaceutical had contracted" he uninterestedly replied.

Her smile never left her face despite her thundering heart and the choking lump in her throat. Indeed, she was just an employee of the contracted party of one of his businesses.

So she was back, Ellen Johnson was back. The reason why he hasn't come home for several nights. It's clear to her now. She need not wonder where he was.

Everything becomes a blur while they occupy their seats. Her head suddenly numb and throbbed painfully. "You okay, Lex?" Trina worriedly asks. Thankfully, she was seated away from the CEO's sight.

"Ahm...yes. I'm fine" she smiles as she responded but was surprised by her quivering voice.

"You look pale" Trina added.

"I'm just famished..." she playfully exclaims, trying to smile.

Trina stares at her for a while, looking unconvinced. But after a while of her not talking again, the woman gave up and gestures for the waiter to have their order.

"I didn't know Miss Ellen Johnson was back..." Trina said softly after she had ordered their food.

"She had left her boyfriend here, so expectedly she will" she casually retorted with a smile. Praying Trina will not hear the banging in her chest. She cannot understand why she is feeling this way but she will have time to ponder later. When she is alone.

She secretly glance at the far end table but immediately regretted it. Seeing the

sweetness of Ellen Johnson towards Lucien Wright is like bitter bile to her mouth, running down to her stomach. She wanted to puke. Her throat seems to have swallowed liquid fire, hurts like hell.

What surprised her more is the hellish pain she felt when their eyes met and only see the coldness in his.

There's no trace of the tenderness and the longingness she would always see every time they were together. She felt like a different person to him. She felt insignificant...like a stranger.

"This is bound to happen, Lexie. Gather yourself. Why are you such a drama queen? As if you become so important in his life just because he enjoys your body" she mentally castigated herself while she tries to focus on Trina.

But no matter how hard she cast away the scene she saw from the other table, it's surprisingly flashing back like a vivid memory inside her head. And it's like a sharp knife slowly piercing her heart.

Her eyes were also mysteriously teary at this time. Tears brimmed her eyes which she tried so hard to stop. She must enjoy Trina's promotion, why is she having allergic rhinitis?

"You sure, you're okay, Lex?" Trina persisted, seeing her bloodshot eyes. She is suspiciously staring at her, which made her self-conscious.

"I'm fine. My head is throbbing but it will be gone once I eat later. This is what I got when I just drink coffee instead of having a snack" she chuckles while explaining.

Though unconvinced, Trina let her out of the hook. Lexie was fine earlier and she just started her unusual behavior after seeing the CEO with his girlfriend.

Their food arrives and they ate in silence. Trina stares at her while she plays with her food and barely eats.

"I thought you are hungry?" Trina asks, her tone taunting.

"Yes, I am..." she snap from her trance and quickly ate.

With great enthusiasm, she stashes everything in her mouth. Everything was bland, even the wine she drank in one go seemed tasteless. Her throat also hurts every time she swallows her food. She has to drink to keep it down.

Shortly, her food was gone. She consumed everything without actually tasting it.

Trina keeps on glancing at her but chooses to keep her silence. She also ate quickly, seeing Lexie's miserable state.

"Let's leave now, I'm so tired" Trina exclaims after she had paid, to Lexie's relief.

Passing by the CEO's entourage, they politely waved before walking towards the door.

Trina intertwined their arms together and engage her in a conversation though she can't focus. What she ever did was smile.

The CEO just look at them like they were just one of those insignificant people he was so used to mingling with. Indeed they are, they are irrelevant people for him, including her, now that his girlfriend has returned.

She had served her purpose. Their marriage made Ellen Johnson return to the country. She should be happy for him. It was effective.

She is not even aware, Trina made her sit inside the car and has already taken the wheel while watching her in her daze.

"You can tell me..." Trina's voice rang in her ears, making her turn to her.

"I will...once I'm ready" she smiles. Grateful for her friend's attention.

"Thank you" she added, grasping Trina's hand into hers. She is thankful the woman didn't insist.

"When you are ready, I'm here to listen" Trina assures her while she nodded. They shared a warm smile before Trina drove towards the bus stop, where she always drops her.

Instead of going directly home, she went to the lagoon near her previous apartment. She wanted to clear her mind while she took a stroll.

Unknowingly, tears stream down her face, leaving a cool effect on her skin. Realizing the wetness on her cheeks she hurriedly went to the darker side where a bench is located facing the water. She was ashamed of his tears, not from anyone else but with herself.

Taking a seat, her thoughts wandered. Staring blankly afar, she feels so confused... lost.

Why is she crying? Does she have the right to cry just because he is with his girlfriend? Is crying part of their deal? Is the pain in her heart part of the agreement she signed? Did she expect she will be an important part of his life just because he craves her body? Ellen Johnson has an equally stunning figure, she cannot outshine the beautiful ballerina. Then why the tears? She knows her place the very first time. The agreement never change but maybe she did. She becomes greedy, she wanted more from him. Realizing it all, she becomes more conflicted. Despair fills her heart. Why did she allow herself to be in this predicament?

Grasping her chest, she burst out crying. Her sobs filled the almost empty place. She doesn't know why

she was crying but her heart feels immensely heavy and painful, it's choking her.

"This was not supposed to happen" she whispers painfully, massaging her chest as she hiccups.

The unexpected pain she felt upon seeing the CEO with his girlfriend stunned her.

They've been together for how long? More than six months, but the pain she felt is more than what she felt when Coby dumped her.

"Didn't I deserve to know she was back? Am I that insignificant to him? Will I wait to be slapped in the face?" she bitterly chuckles. She continues mocking herself.

Why did she expect too much? He has no obligation towards her. She was just paid for this marriage to bring his girlfriend back. And now she has returned.

It's her fault why she was hurting now. She allowed herself to be drowned by his charm.

She was overwhelmed by his need for her flesh. She allows herself to live in a dream, forgetting everything was just borrowed. She enjoyed too much being his wife.

Forgetting the fact that no matter what she does, he can never be her husband. Their marriage has no happily ever after. And, someone owns him.

It's her fault she allowed herself to fall. She opens her heart to him, dreaming she will be another Cinderella who found her prince charming. But everything was just a dream and as it turns into a nightmare, she needs to wake up. She has to face reality and be a woman of her word.

Staring blankly at the darkness, time passes by without her realizing. She empties her mind, she was already exhausted. She thought it was just lust...reeling passion... She wasn't prepared for something far more dangerous than the untamed desire had conquered her senses.

"I love him..." she whispers, almost indistinct. Fresh tears brim her eyes. She took the courage to admit to herself what she feel. She mustered all her strength to say the words her lips were afraid to utter. She took courage to acknowledge the feeling her heart kept denying.

"Yes, I love Lucien Wright..." she dazedly whispers in the dark.

"I love my husband... I love him...but someone owns him and it's not me...I doubt if I still cross his mind" her voice quivered until her shoulder shook violently as the searing pain enveloped her whole being.

"Were you doing the same things to her as what you were doing to me?" she bitterly asks.

"I'm jealous with the thought of you and her together right now. Just thinking of you worshipping her body i s so painful, Mr. Wright. I know I have no right but...but it hurts so much" she whimpers, grasping her chest.

She has to pour everything out. She has to cry her pain. This will be the first and last time she will cry for what she lost. She will cry for losing the love she never had.