

Based on Chapter 3 of *TURN THE PAGE* by Johnny Fontaine, here is a summary of the character dynamics between **Alexander (Alex) Page** and **Corissa (Cori) Wild**, as well as Alex and **Maximus Hart**.

Alex Page and Cori Wild (Corissa Selvaggia)

Alex and Cori are recently married, but their relationship is heavily strained by a dark, complicated past and the lingering trauma of a dangerous mission in Malta.

- **Tension and Distance:** Following a "deadly turn of events" in Malta involving the assassination of a courier, Cori lapses into a protracted silence. Back at their estate, their conversations are described as "stilted" and "tense". Alex recognizes her deep emotional trouble and deliberately gives her space.
- **The "Adventure" Conflict:** Alex harbors some internal resentment regarding her trauma, thinking to himself that Cori wanted an adventure and insisted on coming with him "no matter what". He worries that the aftermath of the Malta "shitstorm" might send her spiraling emotionally against him or herself.
- **Secrets and Protection:** Their relationship is built on a "dual and duplicitous life". Alex intentionally hides the fact that he has moved and stored a Moroccan antiquity box and four mysterious journals in upstate New York. Maximus advises Alex to keep Cori completely in the dark, noting that "what she doesn't need to know just may end up saving both your lives."
- **The Shadow of Xander Kane:** While Cori is away on business in Los Angeles, it is revealed that she is secretly harboring a connection to a man named Xander Kane. Xander previously acted as her "guardian of grace" when escaping a dangerous Mexican cartel entanglement, but he also deeply betrayed her. Cori is torn between her new marriage to Alex and the unresolved ghosts of her past with Xander.

Alex Page and Maximus Hart

Maximus Hart is Alex's older mentor, a former intelligence operative, and a trusted compatriot. Their dynamic is defined by a deep history of shared survival, mutual respect, and a distinct undercurrent of professional detachment.

- **Mentorship and "Measured Antagonism":** Maximus views Alex as his protégé. When visiting Alex's wealthy estate, Maximus needles him with a "measured antagonism" regarding his riches and survival. Alex laughs it off, openly admitting to Maximus that Cori is actually the wealthier of the two.

- **Lethal Detachment vs. Trust:** Maximus is an intensely hardened operative who reacts to the death of their courier with zero mercy or sense of loss, pragmatically stating, "He knew the risks." Despite Maximus's dark nature—or perhaps because of it—Alex trusts him deeply. When Alex hands over a blood-spattered ciphertext key for Maximus to decode, Alex notes that it is a ritual for them to shake hands because he never knows if it will be the last time he sees "the man who knew crooked lines that perhaps God himself couldn't write straight with." Alex explicitly tells him, "I trust you. Don't give me a reason not to, alright?"
- **Shared Past and Angelica Uno:** The two share a history with an intelligence ally named Angelica Uno. When Alex reveals that Angelica was spotted at the Malta airport after the courier hit, Maximus becomes uncharacteristically uneasy. They debate her motives; Alex believes Angelica was sending a message (wondering why she missed if she was the shooter), while Maximus ultimately agrees to decode the manuscript himself within 72 hours to help Alex get answers.
- **A Father Figure Echo:** As Maximus drives away, Alex is reminded of his own late father, Sinclair Page. Maximus uses the exact phrase—telling Alex not to lose sleep because if Angelica wants to contact him, "she'll find a way"—that Alex's father used to say when talking about the concept of hope. This highlights that Maximus occupies a complex, pseudo-paternal space of authority and protection in Alex's life.

Contextual Note: Later in the chapter, a confrontation between Maximus and Angelica reveals a darker truth about the trio's history. Maximus confesses to himself that during a past mission, he willingly betrayed Alex's trust and sacrificed Angelica to the Albanians to ensure the mission's success and save their own lives—a brutal secret that directly impacts the safety Maximus is currently trying to provide for Alex.