

Flirtacious 981

Chapter 981 That Man Looks Familiar

Her hair was embellished with a pearl hair band, and her fair neck was exposed. She was wearing a flimsy, black dress that clung tightly to her body. There was a slit in the middle of the dress that showed off her tiny waist.

Although the gown reached her ankles, the slit on one end showed off her long, slim legs as she strutted.

The black silk ribbons of her heels were entwined around the woman's legs, and it created a striking contrast against her fair skin.

One look at her delicate feet, and it made one feel like kissing them.

That tiny face of hers had exquisite features, making her look as though a graceful painting. Her shiny obsidian eyes brought with them an alluring charm.

Everyone held their breaths when they saw the Chanaean lady stroll in elegantly.

There were a number of foreigners at Alston's birthday party that night, but none was as beautiful as that woman.

Johanna's beauty took their breaths away and captured everyone's attention, making people willing to do anything for her.

Zephyr was talking to someone when he noticed the commotion at the door. He cast a glance and he, too, was taken aback when he saw Johanna. Seconds later, he narrowed his eyes.

conservatively,

It felt as

this on

about Johanna. They were all whispering

Zephyr called out, "Everybody!

of assertiveness in his gentle voice,

the head of the Carlo family, Zephyr might not be as

he smiled, the more ruthless

of the mafia. When Zephyr took over the family, he forged ahead to establish several connections. At the present moment, the Carlo family was the

two mafia families were wary of the Carlo family given

Johanna's left arm. They looked warily at her before bowing to show respect and letting

took her hand and planted a kiss on the back of her hand

but she gritted her teeth
thing for this kitty," remarked a
and responded in Irushea, "Of course. It took me a long time

Chapter 982 I Want To Go Back Alive

Seeing that the man said nothing, Johanna assumed that he did not understand Chanaean.

She was about to repeat herself in Ustranasion when he said coldly in Chanaean, "I don't care if you are here with Mr. Zephyr willingly, or you have been forced. The crow tattoo on your arm indicates that you are his property. No one here, including me, will help you."

In fact, Johanna already noticed that after she entered the dance hall.

Everyone present seemingly had high social statuses, and that included Alston. However, all of them were respectful toward Zephyr.

Johanna said in response, "I'm not hoping for you to help me. I'm only asking you if you know my friend."

She was certain that she had seen that man before in Genevieve's phone.

"I don't know her," the man replied.

"Fine." Johanna shrugged and began chatting with him, "My name is Johanna. What's yours?"

The man ignored her and continued to scan the dance hall with his sharp gaze.

Johanna took a sip of her champagne before revealing the truth. "You're right. Osborn has taken me against my will. I want to go back home alive. That's why I put up with him until now. I want to kill him."

The man glanced at Johanna and found her words absurd. "Many others have tried to hurt Osborn, but all of them failed. Instead of hurting him, they all ended up dying a horrible death."

responded to her, Johanna smiled slightly. "Of course, I can't kill him. But, I can destroy everything he has."

The man noticed the immense rage and hatred in Johanna's eyes.

It was as if she would be able to pull it off.

looking at her before she continued, "I just want to ask you a few questions. That's all."

After a moment of silence, the man said, "Ask away."

She enquired about Alston and the current situation of mafia groups in Lostaria. The man told her everything truthfully.

Very soon, Johanna found out that the Chanaean man's name was Frank. He had been Alston's personal bodyguard even before the latter rose up the ranks.

There were three mafia families in Lostaria. The other two families were wary of the Carlo family.

Johanna asked again, "Do you know Evangeline?"

Sheraton family and also the fiancée of Mr. Osborn. He should have

However, Zephyr brought Johanna instead.

aware that the Sheratons was also one of the mafia families. She did not expect Zephyr's fiancée to come from such a powerful background, too.

"If the Carlos and the Sheratons unite in marriage and they go against the Leonardo family..." Johanna paused for a moment before continuing, "In the future, only two mafia families will be left."

If Zephyr got his hands on the Sheraton family's power, he would definitely arrogate the Leonardo

After all, everyone loved to be the big boss.

Chapter 983 Do You Mean It

"I just wanted to have a chat with him since we're from the same country, but..." Johanna pouted. "He just has that grim expression on his face and refused to talk to me."

Johana did all the talking when she tried to strike a conversation with Frank. Moreover, throughout the whole process, they had their backs facing everyone.

That was why everyone present thought they did not talk much to each other.

"He's a Chanaean but grew up in Lostaria," Zephyr responded with a faint smile. He felt a surge of heat in his throat when he stroked Johanna's skin with his fingers.

After putting the glass of champagne on the table, he wrapped his hand around Johanna's waist. "Come on, let's go and have fun elsewhere."

Johanna hummed in acknowledgment. Before leaving, she glanced at Frank and noticed he was standing next to Alston. He still looked indifferent even when he was listening to what his boss was saying.

She could not help but wonder how Genevieve got to know Frank. *How did they get acquainted since Genev had never been to Lostaria and Frank grew up in Lostaria? But if Genev knows these Lostarian mafias...*

Johanna tilted her head to look at Zephyr, hoping he could answer her doubt. However, when she thought of how Genevieve nearly lost her life when Amanda faked her death and the fact that the sly and cruel Zephyr was with the mafia, she decided to keep mum.

She did not want to risk putting Genevieve in danger.

were both seated in the car, Zephyr made Johanna sit on his

way you dressed today has aroused

She responded with a faint smile and said, "I'm a fashion designer, so I know how to dress up well. I have to doll myself up a

retracted his hand from the bra strap, which went loose

with a smirk, "You dressed
but when they were about to lock lips, she pulled herself away. "Do
trying to distance herself. "But
city, gradually passed through a forest, and headed to the castle on the
next day, Zephyr received a call
with his eyes shut, and when he learned that he needed to make a trip to his office to attend to an
emergency, he immediately ended the call and was about to
him sensed his
muttered while tilting her
her body was covered in a blanket, and her black hair spread like
her delicate facial features.
was covering Johanna's face aside with his fingers, gave her a kiss on the lips, and smiled faintly. "I need
to go to the office to do some work. You're free to

Chapter 984 She Is Just His Fiancée

Upon noticing the love bites on her arm, Zephyr lifted his hand and caressed them.
"Stop it." Johanna dodged.
Zephyr felt a little choked on his neck. He lowered his head and saw Johanna keep tightening the knot as
if she had no clue what she was doing.
"Are you sure you know how to tie a necktie?" Zephyr was worried she might strangle him to death.
"Of course. It's a piece of cake. Stop rushing me." Johanna pouted coquettishly.
Zephyr could not help but chuckle as he felt they were a couple of newlyweds.
After tidying the necktie for about a minute, Johanna smiled delightfully. "Perfect!"
Zephyr looked down and noticed his expensive tie had turned into a messy knot.
"Did you just tie a stopper..." Zephyr looked at the woman and tickled her chin. "You decided to torture
the necktie since you didn't dare to kill me, huh?"
Johanna widened her innocent, puppy eyes. "Is that a stopper knot? But I thought that's how you tie a
necktie..."
"I haven't had any experience tying a necktie for someone. I'll
Zephyr
waist, pulled her closer, and bit her

knocked on the door and entered

intimate the couple were, Anne froze right

on the other

didn't call you, do not come into the bedroom. You hear me?" Johanna expressed her dismay, seemingly unhappy that her intimate

Anne remained silent.

and spoke gently to Anne. "She's the boss here. Just do

it," Anne responded softly

castle. After that, Johanna instantly got

her coat, she knelt before the toilet bowl

a glass of

hour in the shower, Johanna

almost eleven in the morning by the time she

greeted. She narrowed her eyes upon seeing the love bites on the other woman's collarbone and

Chapter 985 Her Heart Settled Back Into Her Chest

Anne took the books and flipped through them one by one, but she didn't hand them over to Johanna.

Instead, she first gave Zephyr a call to inform him that Alston sent something over. "He sent Ms. Joule a few novels."

On the other end of the phone, Zephyr chuckled. "Okay. Give them to her, then."

After making the call, Anne walked over to the dining table and placed the books on the table. "These are from Mr. Alston."

Johanna remembered that Alston was the man who had his birthday party last night.

But I only uttered a single remark to him last night since I met him until I left. Why would he send me books?

In the blink of an eye, understanding dawned upon the smart woman.

She calmly grunted in acknowledgment and slowly savored the cup of coffee. After that, she had Anne follow her upstairs with the books and place them in the room.

When Anne had left, she immediately flipped open the books and checked every page meticulously.

As she flipped open the second book, she noticed that the inside of the book cover was bulging slightly. Snagging a letter opener, she slowly cut open the page that stuck to the book cover.

Two small pills fell out from inside. The letter "E" was emblazoned on top of them.

was good for two months. She promptly swallowed one. At long last,

Phew! Fortunately, Frank still lent me a hand!

Subsequently, she hid the other pill in a marker pen to consume after two months. Nonetheless, she fervently hoped that Zephyr

She drew a portrait of Timothy and Asel. After gazing at it for a while, she burned it.

At a little over six o'clock in the evening, Johanna was still drawing in the room when Anne entered with a phone in hand.

a call from Zephyr, saying that he

"Are you really that busy? I was planning to make spaghetti bolognese for you," Johanna lamented sullenly in slight disappointment.

Zephyr loved her docility even if it was merely an act. "Be good. I'm eating with someone else tonight, but I'll be home tomorrow night."

Johanna murmured an acknowledgment before hanging up

As she handed the phone back to Anne, she contemplated whether to snag an ornament from the table and knock her out, then seize the opportunity

what if there's a regional lock, and the call can't go through?

She didn't want Zephyr to intensify the restrictions on her because of a moment of impulsiveness, so she smilingly returned the phone to Anne after a few brief seconds.

paper. "Here. Get me the fabrics and tools listed on this piece of paper."

the piece of paper, Anne glanced at it. Shortly after, she left.

Knowing that the man wasn't coming back, Johanna found even the air extraordinarily fresh. She didn't return to that repulsive room at night but stayed

Chapter 986 Provocation Was Written All Over Her Face

At half past ten, a luxurious car slowly drove into the castle.

The instant Anne spotted the luxurious car, she was over the moon. She went to the parking lot and watched as the driver opened the car door, upon which a blond woman alighted from the car.

"Ms. Evangeline." She bowed at the woman.

The driver held an umbrella over the woman's head to shield her from the sunlight. Meanwhile, the woman whipped off her sunglasses. Her emerald green eyes were exceedingly beautiful, but they were stained with intense displeasure.

She was born into a mafia family, so she had an innate aura of oppression. "You're the housekeeper, yet you're pushed around by such trash?"

Hanging her head, Anne explained in a whisper, "Mr. Osborn likes her a lot and allows her to do as she pleases. He even ordered us to obey her."

Evangeline lifted her head and stared at the huge and magnificent castle. "He's been staying here all this time?"

"Yes," Anne replied.

Sneering, Evangeline strode toward the castle on her high heels with a forbidding air emanating off her. In the house, the housemaids had long since lined up in a row. They all lowered their heads and greeted the woman.

Evangeline sat down on the couch and ordered icily, "Bring her down to me!"

In the past, even while Zephyr had been playing the field, he showed me some regard in the least. Every once in a while, he would take me out for a meal or shopping. But now, he can't even be bothered to answer my calls. On top of that, it was Alston's birthday yesterday, but he didn't bring me with him!

In the room, Johanna was cutting expensive fabrics to make a shirt. When Anne came to seek hickies on her and acted all coquettish while phoning

Well, well, well... It seems that my guess was right. Anne reports everything here to Evangeline.

In truth, she had been waiting for Evangeline to come and seek her out.

to the walk-in closet and changed into a dress that looked costly before putting on some jewelry. Then, she went downstairs unhurriedly.

Acting all haughty as the "mistress," Johanna swept a disdainful glance over Evangeline

Evangeline was enraged by the provocation, her expression darkening in a flash.

"You're just a pet he rears. How dare you treat me with such arrogance?"

"Even if I'm a pet, I'm his most beloved pet that can make him

Snapping, Evangeline marched up to her and slapped her across the face.

Johanna fell to the ground. A palm

cheek, she shrieked at Evangeline, "How dare you? Osborn loves

She proceeded to roar at Anne, "Quick, give Osborn a call! I want to talk to him!"

Chapter 987 Do Not Test My Patience

Evangeline's patience snapped, and she abruptly slapped Johanna across the face once again.

"You despicable woman!" Evangeline seethed, her entire body quivering with fury.

Suddenly, she pulled a handgun out of her purse. She removed the safety and aimed it at Johanna.

"Ms. Evangeline! Please don't shoot!" Anne was almost on her knees as she pleaded, "Punishing her is enough. If anything happens to her, Mr. Osborn will flip his lid."

Evangeline snapped, "How dare she taunt and insult me! I'm going to kill her!"

Cold sweat beaded on Johanna's back, yet she assumed an air of nonchalance and smiled. "Do you dare to pull the trigger? Go ahead then! I'm still going to be with Osborn even in my next life!"

Her bet paid off. Evangeline suddenly thought she was giving Johanna an easy way out by killing her.

"Tie her up and throw her to the wolves in the forest!" Evangeline yelled her order at the housemaids in the castle. When they did not act immediately, she barked, "What are you all standing around for? Tie her up! I bear full responsibility if anything happens to her. I'm Osborn's fiancée for heaven's sake! He can't possibly get mad at me over this despicable b*tch!"

Alas, Evangeline threatened to shoot the housemaids if they did not tie Johanna up. Left with no choice, they hurriedly restrained Johanna under rounds of thick rope.

Evangeline glanced at Johanna before declaring, "Leave her in Harondell Forest."

Harondell Forest was a neglected forest not far from Zephyr's

A human being would not survive a

Before Anne could plead for mercy, Evangeline slapped her and silenced her.

housemaids threw Johanna into the car and headed for the forest.

Johanna appeared weak and pale in the backseat. Evangeline's slaps seemed to have knocked her out cold, and blood was seeping from the corner of

Meanwhile, in Jadeborough, Genevieve was trying to translate a Frosan news piece to Chanaean at her office desk when loud noises outside disrupted her focus.

She raised her head and looked out the window, shocked to notice that the sky was gray and howling winds

Genevieve hastily shut the window. Then, she stared out the glass panel, wondering if it would rain. The thought had barely crossed her mind when

The air in the

have rain," whined a female

When she spotted Genevieve standing beside the window, she asked, "Have you finished translating the news, Genevieve?"

"Mm-hmm." Genevieve quickly returned to her seat and emailed the translated digital news piece to the editor.

She not only translated but also proofread the document. Because she was proficient in the relevant jargon in both languages, the editor read through her piece once and posted it to the company's news site without further edits.

Soon, Genevieve ended work and began packing her belongings.

she had left the office too late, and all the shared umbrellas in the boxes outside were snapped up by others.

her decision not to drive to work that

Chapter 988 An Inexplicable Urge

Genevieve immediately questioned the propriety of her request once the words left her mouth. *He's my boss. Why am I ordering him around so naturally? In fact, he's the boss of a government institution.*

While she was lost in her thoughts, Armand had already instructed the driver to head to General Hospital. He even turned to look at her and asked, "Would you like to bring dinner for Cooper?"

"Sure," Genevieve replied subconsciously. She was still confused about how she had so readily agreed to share a car with her boss.

While Armand made a call, she chanced a peek at him.

That man had been in her ward when she first woke up in the hospital twenty days ago. He introduced himself as Armand Faulkner and claimed to be Cooper's friend.

From his explanation, she learned that she had been kidnapped by Specter Corporation's nemesis. She later fainted from excessive shock, and Cooper now lay in the hospital recuperating from gunshot wounds he suffered while trying to save her.

Several days after she awoke, Genevieve received a call from a government institution checking in on her recuperation. The caller also instructed her to return to work once she was better.

Genevieve recalled how perplexed she was. *I was always working at Specter Corporation. How did I end up transferring to a government institution?*

On her first day at work at the government institution, Genevieve attended a meeting and learned that Armand was her boss. She rarely saw him after that meeting as her workload became heavier.

She did not think she would bump into him that day after work and even board his car.

Why wasn't I repulsed when he hooked his arm around my waist? He didn't even ask for my permission!

gaze and shot her a sidelong glance as he spoke on the phone.

Under the faint glow of the lights above the backseat, Armand's cold features appeared softer than usual. He stared tenderly at Genevieve with a smile in his eyes.

Genevieve's heart raced as she took in his expression.

noticed his hair was a bit long and curled up near his ears. She found it adorable.

hands, which she had placed on her knees. She was gripping her right wrist tightly as though trying to prevent herself from doing something rash.

Thank goodness I had the foresight to trap my hand, or I would've mussed his hair.

With her head lowered, Genevieve soon grew lost in her thoughts. Meanwhile, the car had arrived in front of Golden Restaurant, and Armand alighted to pick up the dinner he

Ten minutes after he returned to the car, they pulled up to the underground parking lot of General

Armand got out of the car with the packed dinner. Then, he circled to the other side

Genevieve removed her hand from the door handle and got out. "Thank you."

"You're welcome."

Armand sent the driver home, saying he would drive back alone. He and Genevieve took the elevator to the first floor, where they walked through a corridor shortcut and arrived at the inpatient department where Cooper was warded.

Cooper had just finished a round of physical therapy when they

Genevieve quickly filled a bucket with warm water in the restroom. Then, she returned to Cooper's ward and wet a clean towel in the bucket.

"Take off your sweaty clothes, Coop. I'll help you to clean up."

towel and reached out for the button on his hospital gown. She muttered, "Your entire back is soaked. Don't you feel uncomfortable?"

"I'll do it myself," Cooper responded curtly while pulling his hospital gown out of her grasp.

He had not failed to notice the dark expression on Armand's face when Genevieve returned from the restroom with a bucket of water. He probably has a

Genevieve insisted, "You can't reach your back." Then, she tried to remove his clothes again.

Chapter 989 The Bad Guy

Armand grabbed a new outfit from the closet and tossed it to Cooper. The latter took off his wet clothes and asked, "What are you going to do now?"

Armand had already told him the situation with Genevieve.

Cooper genuinely thought that peace would return after Silas and his son died. *Who would've thought that Zephyr would have something up his sleeves and manage to slip away? I didn't expect Genevieve to be in such a bad mental state, either.*

"The important thing is that she's safe," murmured Armand as he walked to the window. The sky had turned dark by then, but it was clear that the rain was pouring.

"My lack of consideration led to this," continued Armand. He massaged his head and sighed. "I should've had Rebecca stop her that day and told her my plan..."

Genevieve wasn't like Zephyr.

She might be Silas' biological daughter, but she took after her mother, both in terms of personality and appearance. Genevieve was born kind.

Charice was Armand's biological mother, and Harry had, in essence, forced Genevieve to kill her lover's mother. It was only natural that she would be burdened with guilt. Her mental health further deteriorated when she thought she lost Amanda.

Cooper buttoned himself up and calmly replied, "You shouldn't blame yourself for this. If anything had gone wrong with your plan, Genev would've been fine, but Amanda would've been in trouble."

That lunatic Harry is capable of anything.

was not until he regained his composure that he said, "I didn't really get to court her in the past, so there is a silver lining here. I have all the time in the world to court her now."

"You may have the time, but what about the kids? Do

Armand murmured an affirmative reply. "The kids are geniuses and know what they should

Cooper suddenly thought of something and asked, "By the way, have you found Johanna?"

to his face. "I've checked every surveillance footage there is, but she's nowhere to be found. It's as though she has vanished into thin air."

then pointed out, "Even if she's mad at Timothy, it's still not like her to go missing for so long..."

The truth was that both Armand and Cooper shared the same theory. They thought that Johanna wasn't missing simply because she was

However, neither man dared to share their theory because they didn't even have a clue as to who might have abducted her.

The worst bit was that Timothy would likely go insane with worry if he ever entertained that idea.

The two of them were still discussing the matter when someone knocked on the door. Genevieve's dissatisfied voice came soon after. "What are the two of

Only then did Armand remember that he had locked Genevieve out of the room. He made his way to the door to unlock

When Genevieve entered the room, she turned her attention to Armand immediately. She looked at Cooper after that and noticed that he

Her gaze shone with suspicion when she shifted

Armand knew what she was hinting at and grew mad instantly. "No!"

"Then why did you chase me out of the place and asked to spend some alone time with Coop?" muttered Genevieve. She waited until Cooper had gotten out of bed

It turned out that the vacuum container was filled with warm mushroom soup.

Genevieve scooped some up and blew on it before placing the spoon right beside Cooper's lips. The glow in Armand's eyes slowly turned less warm, and his tone was rather unpleasant when he spoke. "He can feed himself. It's not as if he lost a limb or something."

Chapter 990 Sacrifice

"I've already picked out the wedding dress," Genevieve went on as she fished her phone out of her pocket to show Cooper everything. "The green dress from the fashion show this year is so beautiful!"

Genevieve was especially fond of green, and she never liked the idea of having a white wedding dress. She had always dreamed of wearing a color she loved and marrying the man of her dreams.

She didn't actually feel much when she said those words to Cooper, though.

It was more of a rational statement than an emotional one. She enjoyed spending time with Cooper, even when she was just a kid, and the two of them had been engaged for so long that it just made sense to marry him.

"Uh, it is beautiful, and if you like that dress, I will buy it for you," replied Cooper. He held her hand and glanced at her before suddenly breaking the news. "But Genev, I can't marry you."

Genevieve was taken aback. "Why not?"

Cooper was about to explain the situation when Genevieve asked in a horrified voice, "Wait, don't tell me... My dad dated someone else before he got married, and you're the son he had with his first love and, therefore, my half-brother. Hence, you can't marry me. Is that it?"

A thought flashed past Cooper's mind. *Actually, the one who had another lover was your mother, and you do have a half-brother, but it's not me.*

"No, that's not it," replied Cooper. He instinctively tried to push his glasses, but there was nothing there for him to push.

everything is fine," said Genevieve as her

Cooper didn't want to die from Armand's wrath, so he had no choice but to lie. "I can't marry you because I'm in love with someone else."

"You're lying," commented Genevieve before she snickered. "Come on, you don't hang out with other women, and I know that all too well. Besides, we grew up together. Our love and history are strong, so there is no way anyone can

you?" challenged Cooper. "We're adults now, and feelings change. Also, I've only ever seen

Genevieve's smile turned upside down immediately. "Have her come here, then. I'd like to meet her."

Cooper was lying to Genevieve earlier. He didn't actually have a girlfriend.

The poor guy was about to signal Armand and get the latter to come up with a solution when someone knocked on the door. Sally entered the room a second later.

had a white formal outfit on and had rolled up her sleeves so her fair skin was exposed. When the light hit her and revealed her stunning face, her incredibly clear eyes

A container of food was in her hands. When she noticed Genevieve and Armand there, as well as the dinner placed on the table, she was surprised.

Ah, I guess I didn't need to get him dinner.

gaze to Sally, and an idea came to his mind a few seconds later. "That is the woman I love. Her into his phone at the time, but he paused when he heard Cooper's words. Man, Cooper is making a a second later and realized what was going on immediately, though. Hence, she nodded at Genevieve and greeted, "Ms. Rachford."

sprung up from her seat and began scanning Sally from head to toe, her lips pursed.

Hmm... this woman is taller than I am and is quite beautiful. She also has a graceful aura and a style that is completely different from mine.