

# Jojo and Coco's Unexpected Love By Aurora Summers

## Chapter 171

### Chapter 171 Xavia's Letter

Chloe slept through the evening and woke up in a daze, finding a nurse attending to her hand.

"Your fever hasn't subsided, so we'll continue with the IV drip. You'll need to stay in the hospital for observation today, so you can't be discharged yet," the nurse informed her.

"What's my temperature?" Chloe asked.

"102.2," Emily replied, tucking in the blanket around Chloe. "You should focus on resting in the upcoming days and avoid exerting yourself."

"But what about work? And Joseph's birthday? Also, the hearing is coming up in another two days..." Chloe voiced her concerns.

"Joseph is the CEO of Fairlight, so why worry about work? Besides, his birthday isn't a one-time event. You'll have an opportunity to make it up to him later. I've already delivered the gift on your behalf. As for the court hearing, it's still some time away. You should be feeling better by then," Emily reassured her.

"You're right... By the way, where's Joseph?"

"He had some business to attend to and just left."

"Oh, does he like the gift I got him?"

The gift was considered low-priced for someone of his status.

'Will he find it cheap?'

Recalling Joseph's expression upon receiving the gift, Emily tilted her head and said, "Outwardly, he appeared unimpressed, but behind closed doors, his smile stretched from ear to

ear.'

Chloe's lips twitched. "It's just a pajama set, nothing rare or valuable. I'm sure you must be mistaken."

"Hehe, I believe Joseph has feelings for you."

Chloe's eyes lit up, but she quickly shook her head. "That's impossible. He doesn't have any romantic feelings for me. At most, he sees me as someone valuable because Mr. Harold holds me dear."

"No, no, no. Trust me, he definitely has a soft spot for you. I don't know to what extent, but do you remember how he acted when he wanted to jump into the reservoir to save you? Did he look anxious or worried?"

"It was too dark inside. I couldn't see clearly. I only heard him say he wanted to jump in to save me," Chloe said.

Emily froze for a moment, then slapped her own thigh in excitement. "That's it! It's proof that he loves you!"

"Oh, come on, Em." Chloe chuckled, finding her friend's enthusiasm amusing. "If he loves me, wouldn't I be able to sense it?"

"The onlooker sees more than the players. Trust me, hold onto him tightly. Become a wealthy madam in the future, bask in endless glory and riches, and then be my sugar mama!" Emily exclaimed.

"All right, all right. I'll be your sugar mommy," Chloe playfully agreed, leaning back and feeling drowsy. "You can go now. No need to worry about me. I want to continue sleeping."

"No rush. I'll stay with you for a while. Sleep. Joseph has arranged a caregiver for there's anything you need in the evening, just let the caregiver know," Emily said.

you. If

"Okay," Chloe replied nonchalantly. After all, it was Joseph's crazy admirer that had caused all of this, so it was only appropriate for him to arrange a caregiver for her.

Perhaps due to her fever, she quickly drifted back to sleep. When she woke up again, it was early morning of the following day. She got out of bed and

headed to the bathroom, where she encountered a nurse who took the opportunity to check her temperature.

The fever had subsided somewhat, although she was still running a mild temperature. Nevertheless, she was cleared for discharge from the hospital.

“Okay, thank you. I’ll arrange for my discharge later,” Chloe replied.

She could feel that her condition had improved significantly. After having breakfast at the hospital cafeteria and tidying up a bit, she took a cab back to the villa.

Joseph, who had returned late last night, was leaving early again today. As he was going downstairs, he coincidentally ran into Chloe coming back.

“Why were you discharged so soon?” he asked, his voice laced with surprise.

He had intended to visit her at the hospital after his morning meeting.

“I’m fine now. The fever has subsided. I just need to rest at home.” Chloe shrugged indifferently before patting his shoulder. “Go to work. I won’t take my health lightly.”

Joseph’s gaze focused on her face. Although her complexion was still pale and her lips lacked color, her eyes had regained their sparkle, and her overall complexion appeared much better than the previous day.

“Okay. I’ll come back early today.”

After bidding Joseph farewell, Chloe took Toto for a walk before diving into preparations for

his birthday. She placed an order for a cake, carefully planned a special meal, and ventured out to the grocery store to gather all the necessary ingredients.

For some unknown reason, she felt compelled to celebrate Joseph’s birthday. Perhaps it was because he told her that day belonged solely to the two of them.

With everything prepared, Chloe waited quietly. In the middle of her anticipation, Toto suddenly erupted into a flurry of barks.

Intrigued, Chloe headed outside to investigate, finding a delivery man awaiting her.

“Good day, miss. Is this the residence of Mr. Joseph Whitman?” the delivery man inquired.

“Yes, it is. Is this a delivery for him?” Chloe asked.

“I have a letter here for him from abroad,” the delivery man replied.

Chloe accepted the letter, her eyes casually drifting over the sender’s address. Initially, she wondered if her vision had deceived her, prompting her to pause and examine it more closely.

To her astonishment, she had read it correctly. The name Xavia Larson, previously mentioned. by Jane, adorned the sender’s label.

## Chapter 172 The Return of His First Love

Chloe could not help but admit that Xavia’s handwriting was beautiful.

She placed the envelope on the table and took a photo of it to send to Joseph.

In the afternoon, Joseph replied, [Got it.]

Chloe felt a bit puzzled. Was he not supposed to be more enthusiastic about Xavia’s return?

Anyway, it did not really matter to Chloe. After all, their contract would eventually end, and their separation was inevitable. Who Xavia was and who Joseph would be with in the future had nothing to do with her.

However, a subtle sadness lingered within her. It was only natural to develop feelings for someone after spending so much time together, just like the bond she shared with Toto.

Joseph arrived home earlier than Chloe expected. However, he was not alone.

Samuel had come by as well.

“Joe, you should’ve been more considerate! How can you secretly celebrate your birthday? Let’s call our friends and let’s have a great time together,” Samuel exclaimed.

“Shut up,” Joseph replied, shooting a cold, disapproving look at Samuel. He clearly was not pleased with his unexpected visit.

Samuel was speechless.

Noticing Samuel, Chloe lamented, “If I had known you were coming, I would’ve prepared more dishes. Now there are only five, and I’m worried it won’t be enough. Should I make a few more?”

Samuel glanced at the dining table. “Indeed, you should prepare more.”

When dining alone at home, it was customary to have at least ten dishes on the table. This way, one could savor each dish with just a few bites, ensuring a satisfying and fulfilling meal. What’s more, Joseph had always been known as one of the pickiest eaters in their group. He was certain that these dishes would not be able to satisfy him.

“Are you a pig?” Joseph snapped back harshly. “We have five dishes, and you think it’s not enough? How many stomachs do you have?”

‘Dumbo cooked for us right after being discharged from the hospital, and this freeloader still has the audacity to be picky.’

“I’m not a pig...” Samuel replied sadly.

“Then keep your mouth shut. If you don’t want to eat, then leave.”

“No, I haven’t had dinner yet. I need to eat.”

Though the selection of dishes is limited, they all smell delicious.’

Chloe found this scene quite amusing. She had encountered Samuel a few times before due to the lawsuit, and he always appeared as a serious and shrewd individual, befitting his title as a professional in the legal field. But now, next to Joseph, he had completely transformed, resembling a mouse in the presence of a cat.

Xavia's letter remained on the table, catching Joseph's attention. He opened the envelope and began reading. He looked down and hid the emotions in his eyes, leaving everyone unaware of his thoughts.

Samuel leaned over and exclaimed in surprise, "Wasn't she missing?"

"I have no idea."

It was Xavia who had disappeared without a word.

"Is this the first time you've received any information about her?"

"Yes."

Joseph's response was brief. Samuel instinctively glanced at the figure busy in the kitchen and lowered his voice. "Is she coming back to find you?"

Joseph did not answer. He simply placed the letter on the coffee table and said, "Let's eat."

Curiosity got the better of Samuel, and he quietly approached the coffee table to take a quick glance at the letter.

In the letter, there were only a few lines of writing.

[Happy Birthday, Joe. I'll be returning to the country in a while. Can we meet? I want to explain everything that happened back then in person.]

Before the meal, Samuel stated the purpose of his visit.

"We have a court hearing tomorrow, and there are some details I need to discuss with you," he said.

Chloe nodded in agreement. "All right, is there anything I need to do?"

Samuel's gaze shifted to the birthday cake on the table as he said with a serious expression, "The matter concerning the case has been temporarily resolved. If I may say so, my timing for coming today seems somewhat inappropriate, considering it appears you two were planning a candlelit dinner."

"It's not a candlelit dinner. It's just a simple celebration," Chloe clarified.

Joseph lifted his head, locking his intense gaze on Chloe. “You returned from the hospital this morning solely to celebrate my birthday?”

“Yes. I made a promise, and I always keep my promises,” she replied casually. She had promised Joseph to celebrate his birthday, and she intended to honor her word. It was not about trying to impress him or anything of the sort.

With her recovery progressing well, being at the hospital with unfamiliar caregivers felt less comforting than being in their home.

Samuel picked up a piece of fish and teased, “The food is delicious. Just be careful not to constantly argue with Chloe. One day, she might genuinely grow tired of you.”

Despite their contractual marriage, he observed that Chloe knew how to make the most out of life, making her a more suitable partner for Joseph compared to Xavia.

Joseph’s eyebrows furrowed slightly, sensing the underlying meaning in Samuel’s words. In a deep voice, he remarked, “She’s a decent cook.”

Chloe pursed her lips, noticing his unease. Rising from her seat, she took the initiative to serve more rice, subtly bringing an end to the conversation.

After finishing their meal, Chloe and Samuel brought out an agreement, its pages slightly yellowed, giving it the appearance of something tucked away for many years.

“What is this...” Chloe asked.

“Take a look for yourself,” Samuel replied.

Chloe glanced at the contents of the agreement, and her eyes welled up with tears. “Is this the original copy of the agreement my mother signed before her passing?”

“Yes. Joseph found it in Miles’ office,” Samuel revealed.

Overwhelmed with emotion, Chloe’s gaze shifted toward the man who was completely absorbed by a financial program on the couch.

## Chapter 173 I Have No Objection

His simple black loungewear outlined his perfect physique, while his face possessed a refined and exquisite charm.

Sensing her gaze, Joseph turned his head and their eyes locked. Enveloped in an enigmatic trance, Chloe felt herself descending into the depths of his alluring, obsidian gaze.

Her eyes flickered, and she awkwardly averted her gaze. "Do you think Miles will resent you?"

"What can he do if he is? Will he dare to challenge me?" Joseph scoffed arrogantly.

Chloe clicked her tongue, but deep down, she knew Miles would not dare say anything. She was just worried he might resort to dirty tricks behind their backs.

"With this agreement and the assets and jewelry records retrieved by Benjamin from the bank, we'll secure victory tomorrow. However, if he tries to play the emotional card with you, just ignore him," Samuel advised.

Finding evidence for this case was not the most difficult part. The true challenge lay in Chloe and Benjamin's father-daughter relationship.

"Don't worry, I won't. Our relationship is beyond repair, and I won't show him any mercy," Chloe responded with unwavering determination.

Seeing her resolution, Samuel could not help but worry about his good friend's choice. He hoped that Joseph would not end up becoming a homeless and pitiful soul in the end.

"However, I noticed in the agreement that my mother left me 300 grand. Are you sure the figure is correct?" Chloe asked.

300 grand was a significant amount of money a decade ago, enough to establish a small-scale

company.

Samuel nodded seriously. "Yes, I suggest you ask Benjamin about your grandfather and grandmother after the case concludes."

Perhaps the 300 grand was a gift from her grandparents to their daughter.

“Okay, I will.”

They continued their conversation for another hour. At ten at night, Samuel left with a stack of documents.

Subconsciously, Chloe glanced at the coffee table, noticing the envelope was no longer there.

‘Did he take the letter back to his room? Is he treasuring the letter from his first love as some sort of priceless memento?’

Chloe snorted disdainfully and took Toto out for a walk.

In the morning, Chloe woke up at eight, and another half hour later, Samuel arrived to pick her up in his car. He leaned out and glanced inside. “Where’s Joseph? Is he not joining us?”

“He’s at his regular morning meeting. He said he’ll come after it’s finished,” Chloe replied.

“Oh, I see. In that case, let’s go,” Samuel said.

The court session was set to start at ten. When they entered, Ava and Benjamin were late. The lawyer sitting beside them turned pale upon seeing Samuel. His hand holding the pen trembled uncontrollably and dropped to the floor multiple times.

Ava had heard of Samuel but did not know what he looked like. She perceived the man as astute and formidable. Piqued by curiosity, she asked, “Mr. Gideon, do you know the opposing lawyer? Is he famous?”

“That’s Samuel Winson! Did you do this on purpose?” Gideon almost wailed in response.

If he had known it was Samuel he would be up against, he would never have taken this case. Losing a lawsuit was not scary, but having Samuel as the opposing defense lawyer was a nightmare. He was notorious for showing no mercy to fellow attorneys.

“Today is undoubtedly a stroke of ill luck,’ he inwardly lamented.

Ava stood frozen in place. "How could it be Samuel? Samuel charges millions for his services. There's no way Chloe can afford him."

"Don't pretend you don't know. No one dared to take your case. You purposely hid this from me and made me assist you," Gideon retorted.

He would not have fallen for her trap if he had known.

"How was I supposed to know?" Ava grew angry, casting a sidelong glance at him. "Just do your job properly after accepting the money. Don't exhibit your incompetence on your face!"

A flicker of anger flitted across Gideon's face.

Even if it was Samuel who deliberately concealed his identity, Ava also conveyed the wrong information to Gideon. She claimed that Chloe was impoverished and relied solely on older

men for a living.

'There's no way she's poor if she can afford Samuel!'

"That's enough. Our immediate priority is to prepare for the court session. Stop wasting time with these pointless discussions," Benjamin snapped, his gaze darkening as he glared at Gideon. "You've taken money from our family. Regardless of who Samuel is, you must win

this lawsuit."

Gideon chuckled, sensing that both of them remained unaware of the formidable lawyer they

2/3

were up against.

"That's it! If this is what you want, I'll give you what you want."

Chloe observed the crumbling situation on their side. It was evident that things were falling apart even before the court session commenced. Strangely enough, the person she admired at that moment was not Samuel, but Joseph.

It was only when one achieved greatness and strength that they attracted individuals of similar caliber.

Soon, the judge announced the commencement of the court session.

Samuel stood up, confidently presenting the relevant evidence and unveiling the money that Benjamin had offered Chloe during his birthday party to expose his deceit.

After carefully reviewing the evidence, the judge and jury exchanged knowing glances, acknowledging the truth in Samuel's statement. The judge then turned to Benjamin and inquired, "Does the defense have a response?"

Panicked, Benjamin pushed Gideon forward. "Hurry up and speak!"

Gideon rose to his feet, his cold gaze fixed on Benjamin. "I agree with the prosecution. The defense has no objections."

Chloe was taken aback.

'Did Jojo seek out Miles and also bribed the opposing lawyer? Impressive,' she thought to herself.

Samuel shared the same suspicion.

'Does Joe truly lack faith in me? Their lawyer is a mere inconsequential figure. There's absolutely no reason for Joe to resort to such measures,' he wondered.

"Do you know what you're saying?!" Ava clenched her teeth, warning Gideon, "This is at courtroom, not a playground!"

"You're the one who made me say this," Gideon innocently replied, but behind the unseen glances, a wicked smile played on his lips. "I want both money and a good reputation. What are you going to do about it?"

If they had shown a better attitude earlier, he would have gone all out to help. Unfortunately, they had not.<sup>1</sup>

The judge's voice boomed out, "Quiet! Explain the situation clearly."

"Here's what happened. Mr. Benjamin approached me with the intention of contesting his late wife's assets. However, he later changed his mind and

confessed the truth to me. Consumed by guilt, he is now willing to return all the assets left by his wife to Chloe. He also expressed his desire to seek forgiveness from his daughter,” Gideon explained.

## Chapter 174 I'll Help You Protect Her

“I never said that, Your Honor’ Please don’t listen to him!” Ava shouted in desperation.

The judge’s gaze fell upon Ava, his scrutiny piercing “So, are you resolved to fight Ms. Chloe for her late mother’s legacy? From what I understand, you and Chloe are half sisters sharing the same father Since these assets were bequeathed by Chloe’s biological mother, you have no entitlement to lay claim to them.”

The judge’s words cut through the air, leaving Ava pale and flustered She struggled to explain. “That’s not what I meant I merely wanted to speak on behalf of my father

“You’ll have your chance to speak, but for now, please remain quiet,” the judge instructed firmly

Turning his attention to Benjamin, the judge asked, “Defendant, it’s your turn to speak. State your demands.

“I seek to reclaim a portion of these assets, as they are jointly owned by my wife and me, Benjamin stated, sensing a glimmer of hope as he noticed the judge’s contemplative expression

Thankfully, he had held onto this trump card.

Chloe bit her lip, tightly clenching her fist

“I’ve conducted my investigation on the matter, and these funds indeed constitute marital assets,” Samuel interjected.

“Exactly! So, what’s wrong with my desire to retain the right of use Benjamin responded

arrogantly

After a brief pause, Samuel responded with a smile that was more like a smirk, "Under normal circumstances, there would be nothing wrong. However, over the past twenty years, you have utterly failed to fulfill the responsibilities of a father, so you're unworthy of utilizing this

portion of the money

"If I failed to fulfill my duties as a father, then how did she become the person she is today?" Benjamin maintained his composure "Young man, don't go digging up old wounds."

Samuel remained calm and composed. "Your Honor, may I present my evidence?"

"Please proceed," the judge allowed

"I have interviewed several of Chloe's childhood friends, who can provide insight into Benjamin's role as a father," Samuel stated confidently

"Very well," the judge granted.

Immediately, Emily and several of Chloe's university roommates, along with her former

colleagues, entered the courtroom one by one. As Chloe looked at each familiar face, her eyes could not help but well up with tears.

Emily spoke first, addressing the judge, "Your Honor, I'm a close friend of Chloe. We have known each other for seven years. I can testify that Benjamin has treated Chloe poorly to the point of being harshly abused. Throughout the nine years of compulsory education, he never attended a single parent-teacher meeting, yet he was always present at every meeting regarding Ava. How can he claim to have fulfilled his responsibilities as a father by merely providing food?"

Benjamin's face contorted with anger, his agitation mounting. He wanted to refute the accusations, but the judge denied him the opportunity.

"Defendant, please be patient. Let the witnesses speak," the judge commanded.

Next, one of Chloe's roommates took the floor.

“During our college years, Benjamin frequently exploited the excuse of business matters to force Chloe to work late nights at his company. She would return the next day exhausted and still have to attend classes. On one occasion, she even collapsed from fatigue. We contacted Benjamin to inform him, but he displayed no concern for Chloe. Instead, he blamed her for not successfully completing the projects.”

“I used to work with Chloe at the company owned by the Johnsons. Chloe worked the hardest among all the employees but received the same pay as an entry-level staff. I couldn’t bear witness to this injustice and spoke up for her, which led to my dismissal,” another witness. added.

“As for me...”

After listening to all the testimonies, the judge and the panel of juries had already made their decision regarding the verdict.

“Hurry up and do something!” Ava forcefully kicked Gideon’s foot under the table.

Gideon remained composed. He dusted off his pants, thoroughly relishing the drama unfolding before him. “I never imagined your family could harbor such malice. It’s quite revealing to witness your guise as a refined lady while concealing a vindictive heart.”

As long as it did not affect his interests, he did not mind sacrificing his client.

Gideon now felt fortunate about the choices he made in the heat of the moment. Luckily, he picked the right side.

“Does the defendant have anything to say?”

Ava locked her gaze on Gideon, placing all her hopes on him.

Gideon cleared his throat theatrically and said, “After recent deliberations, my client has come to a profound realization of his mistakes. He acknowledges the testimonies presented by the

witnesses, and his demands remain unchanged. He only hopes to obtain his daughter’s forgiveness and reunite the family.”

“Bullsh\*t!” Benjamin could not suppress his anger anymore, his face turning crimson. “Your Honor, this man has violated my testament and twisted my demands!”

Ava hurriedly chimed in. “Yes, this lawyer must’ve been bribed by the opposing party. Everyone knows that Samuel is notorious for his domineering behavior in the legal profession. Perhaps he threatened and coerced Gideon into saying such things!”

The courtroom erupted into a frenzy at their words.

“We did no such thing! Stop hurling mud at us!”

Ava sneered, “Hah! Did it not happen just because you say it didn’t”

Samuel recalled the things Joseph told him and grew increasingly convinced of their validity. Chloe had truly suffered at the hands of this family.

‘Don’t worry, brother. I’ll help you protect her!’

Unperturbed by Benjamin and Ava’s barrage of claims, Samuel maintained his composure and asked, “You accuse me of secretly intimidating and threatening your lawyer. So, do you have any evidence? If not, I can sue you for defamation.”

## Chapter 175 Did Joseph Bully You?

As soon as those words were uttered, a heavy silence engulfed the room.

The mere possibility of being sued by Samuel and the looming threat of losing everything cast a palpable unease over

everyone present.

Ava’s body went rigid, her once radiant face now drained of color. She swiftly realized the folly of her words and attempted to rectify the situation.

“I never said such words to Gideon, and our demands were completely different. Therefore, I have a valid reason to harbor suspicions,” she hurriedly explained, seeking to clarify her stance.

“You have the right to be suspicious, but you must provide evidence,” the judge acknowledged her statement with a nod.

“I...I don't have any evidence.”

In a fit of anger, Benjamin pounded his fist on the table and yelled at Chloe, “Do you have to tarnish our family's

reputation just for the sake of money?”

Chloe sneered contemptuously in response, “How could you shift the blame onto me? It has always been you who schemed to seize the assets Mother left behind!”

In the past, Chloe would have been willing to lend a hand if the Johnsons faced hardships. However, as they refused to return what rightfully belonged to her, she saw no reason to show them any mercy. She owed them nothing. Even if Benjamin

played a part in raising her, she had more than repaid him

long ago.

Benjamin's gaze bore into Chloe, his eyes filled with an

intense desire to choke the life out of her right then and there. It had been months since he last punished her, and now she dared to speak to him this way.

Samuel glanced at the Johnsons, savoring the sight of their mounting frustration and impotence. This was the very joy he derived from being a lawyer. Rising to his feet, he gestured to the judge, indicating that the proceedings should resume.

The judge nodded solemnly, his gaze fixed upon Ava.

“Without physical evidence or witnesses to support your claims, your claims are not supported,” he stated firmly.

Following that, the judge pronounced the verdict. Benjamin was ordered to relinquish the assets left by Chloe's mother in full within three months as stipulated in the agreement. Failure to do so would result in a direct deduction from

Benjamin's personal assets.

Ava trembled with rage, her entire body shaking as she gritted her teeth in frustration.

'Just you wait, Chloe! Though you've managed to reclaim the money, I'll never let you find your old folks! I heard they run a small business on Jade Street in the southern part of the city. Very well. I'll arrange for a few individuals to create some 'buzz

for those old fools.'

Benjamin understood the situation and realized that further words would be futile. He stood up and stormed out of the courtroom in anger.

Ava followed closely behind, lowering her voice to speak to him, "Daddy, I want to make a high-quality replica of that diamond necklace..."

Benjamin

ignored her words, raising his head to glare at Jake and Icarus on his way out.

He

frowned at them and said, "I've already returned the money to you. Get out of my sight!"

"Jake, it's impossible between us. Stop clinging to me stubbornly," Ava interjected, "It's just some money. If people didn't know better, they'd think you had given me a lot of money."

"Don't try to whitewash your actions. I gave you a lot of money, but I haven't seen a single dime from your side."

Benjamin's mood worsened, the buzzing in his ears intensifying. He no longer wished to hear anymore, so he forcefully pulled Ava along and made his way out.

Icarus did not even spare a glance at the father-daughter pair. When Chloe and Emily emerged from the courtroom, he immediately approached them.

"Congratulations on reclaiming what rightfully belongs to you,

" he said.

“Thank you. Are you here today just to see me?”

“Yeah, but I got here a little late and wasn’t allowed in. I’m sorry.”

Chloe responded sincerely, “It’s all right.”

She felt grateful for the presence of her friends and former colleagues who had come today. She made up her mind to treat them all to a lavish meal another day.

At this moment, Icarus noticed her pale complexion and signs of fatigue in her eyes. “Chloe, are you feeling unwell? You look pale.”

“No...” Chloe touched her nose and her gaze flickered. “I accidentally fell into the water...”

“You went swimming? But you can’t swim, right?” Jake asked curiously.

“Oh, never mind about that. It’s not important,” Chloe said, dismissing the topic.

Icarus pursed his lips and remained silent for a moment. Then he said, “Chloe, come with me for a moment. Let’s go talk over there.”

Jake lapsed into silence, torn by conflicting emotions. He desired to speak up, but the words eluded him. He felt a mixture of regret and a sense of powerlessness witnessing his own uncle openly pursuing his former girlfriend. But besides regretting his past actions, he understood that he had no authority to intervene or express his thoughts.

Meanwhile, Samuel finally managed to free himself from Gideon’s grip and emerged. As he looked around, her eyes fell on Chloe and Icarus, who were engrossed in their private conversation.

Samuel paused for a moment, then intentionally walked a few steps closer.

After contemplating for a while, Icarus asked, “Did Joseph bully you?”

Jojo and Coco’s Unexpected Love By Aurora Summers

**Score 9.5**

Chapter 176 Do You Know What I’m Going to Do?

“No,” Chloe replied.

“Okay, let me rephrase the question. Did Joseph have something to do with you falling into the water?” Icarus persisted.

The question threw Chloe for a loop. She was unsure of how **to** respond, so she said, “Please stop asking. He didn’t expect such a thing to happen either. It’s not his fault.

It was Jane who had gone too far. However, Icarus

misunderstood Chloe’s words and thought she was covering up for Joseph. His brow furrowed even deeper as he continued, “Chloe, listen to me. You need to leave him. I’ll help take care of any debts you owe him. I don’t want to see you treated unfairly.”

“No, you listen to me. If you help me, yes, I may no longer owe Joseph, but **I’ll** owe you instead.”

“But you don’t have to pay me back. I just want you to have a better life.”

Chloe hesitated, locking eyes with him as he stared intensely at her. A feeling of discomfort washed over her, causing her to avert her gaze. “Don’t invest your time in me. We can’t be together.”

She had once put in great effort to marry Jake’s uncle as a way to seek revenge, but now she had made her peace with it.

Samuel became increasingly incredulous as he listened. Seriously? This guy’s trying to steal Chloe away despite

knowing **she’s** Joe’s wife? No, **I** can’t allow that to happen. **I** have to do something!

Joseph had not paid him yet, and if the relationship between him and Chloe were to end now, based on what Samuel knew about Joseph’s temperament, he would not receive a single penny. He had to find a way to prevent that.

“Ms. Chloe, could you come with me, please? There’s something I need to discuss with you regarding the case,” Samuel said.

Chloe looked at Samuel and nodded in agreement. “All right, I’ll be right with you.”

Samuel did not bother to hide his scrutinizing gaze as he looked at Icarus. "Sir, you don't have to wait. It's going to be a long conversation."

Icarus sensed Samuel's hostility, but he was unaware of the underlying reason. However, since Chloe had other matters to attend to, he did not want to disrupt their conversation. With a slight nod, he took his leave with Jake.

Just a few minutes after they left, Joseph arrived.

In the lounge, Chloe proceeded to recount the entire court proceedings to Joseph, her eyes brimming with admiration and her voice filled with happiness. "Jojo, thanks to you, I was able to get a skilled lawyer like Samuel. And when did you persuade the lawyer the Johnsons hired?"

Joseph raised an eyebrow, finding the sequence of events somewhat perplexing. Nevertheless, he acknowledged Samuel's considerable contribution to the case. As for the lawyer representing the Johnsons, he had no knowledge of what happened.

"It wasn't Joseph. It was Gideon who chose to go against the Johnsons on the spot," Samuel said.

"Huh? But why?" Chloe asked, puzzled.

Samuel chose not to delve into the details and deftly changed the subject. "Is that bespectacled gentleman also a classmate of yours? But he appears to be a few years older than you."

"No, he's just a friend."

As Chloe concluded her words, she sensed Joseph's gaze fixating on her, and a surge of exasperation flooded through her.

'Oh god, not again...'

"A bespectacled gentleman? Icarus?" Joseph asked.

“Yeah...“

“Why was he here?”

“I don’t know either. Perhaps he came to witness the downfall of the Johnsons . As you know, the Johnsons and the Coopers are no longer on amicable terms.”

Joseph shifted his gaze, directing a cold stare at Samuel. “Tell me what happened.”

Samuel was speechless.

“I suppose he was here to offer his congratulations to Ms. Chloe for winning the case,” Samuel mused. He was not one to interfere in the affairs of others, but when it came to his good friend, he felt it necessary to offer a gentle reminder.

Chloe could sense her impending doom.

“I have another case this afternoon, so I have to go now. You guys take care,” Samuel said. While passing by Lucas, who was waiting by the door, he gave his shoulder a pat and added, Remember to transfer the payment to my account within three days. Thank you.”

\*

With only the two of them left in the lounge, Chloe tugged at Joseph’s sleeve and suggested, “Let’s leave too.”

11

He lowered his gaze, his smile fake. “Are you feeling guilty?”

“No, it’s just that we’re in a courthouse. If we have something to discuss, it’d be more appropriate to do so at home, don’t you think?” Chloe was in a good mood, her tone exceptionally gentle and soothing as if trying to pacify a child.

However, in Joseph’s eyes, it seemed as if she were hiding something from him. She offered no explanation, no defense. Did this not imply that there was something suspicious going on between her and Icarus?

As the thought surfaced in Joseph's mind, his face turned darker and darker with every passing second, and the dark, sinister gleam in his eyes sent shivers down Chloe's spine.

'She's complimenting me while cozying up to other men. Hah, she really knows how to keep herself busy.'

Chloe could feel her hair standing on end under his gaze. What...What's wrong?"

'I...I didn't do or say anything wrong, did I? So why is getting angry at me again?'

"Follow me," Joseph ordered, striding purposefully toward the parking lot.

Chloe cautiously followed behind and got into the car. Just as she was about to explain herself, Joseph suddenly encircled her waist and forcefully made her sit on his lap.

Joseph tugged at his tie, his voice dripping with emotion as he said, "Do you know now what I'm about to do?"

As their bodies pressed closely together, a deep blush spread across Chloe's face.

In her nervousness, she blurted out, "You're not thinking of... that, are you?"

Chapter **177** Do You Take Me **for** a Fool?

Lucas, who was sitting in the front row, spoke up at the opportune moment, "Sir, shall I wait for you downstairs?"

He did not want to be the third wheel and disturb their intimate moment. Besides, if they had a baby, he could take a break from his job!

"Are you sure you want to do it in the car?" Chloe asked hesitantly.

'Is he in the mood for intimacy because spring is here?'

“What kind of dirty thoughts are filling your minds?” Joseph asked, letting out a humorless laugh.

“Huh?”

‘Isn’t he suggesting something intimate?’

“You talked to another man behind my back, and I’m going to punish you for it.”

“We were just having a normal conversation!”

“Don’t argue with me.”

Samuel was clearly trying to warn Joseph earlier. Chloe’s refusal to admit her wrongdoing only fueled Joseph’s anger, and the air inside the car turned chillingly cold despite that the air conditioning was off.

Shivering from the chill, Chloe bit her lip and tried to ignore Lucas’ presence.

Seizing the lead, Chloe enveloped Joseph in her embrace, her

hands gently caressing his back, feigning innocence as she steered the conversation away. “Please don’t be angry anymore. You can punish me however you want. Getting angry is bad for your health, and I’ll feel bad about it.”

Strangely enough, her words managed to assuage his temper to some extent. Joseph’s anger diminished slightly as he gazed at the delicate figure before him, captivated by her dark tresses, fair complexion, sparkling eyes, and rosy plump cheeks that radiated a sense of gentleness and purity.

He gulped hard, and the fierce light in his eyes dimmed.

Feeling a sense of discomfort being seated on his lap, Chloe subtly adjusted her position. As she raised her head, she met Joseph’s scorching gaze and a blush immediately graced her cheeks. “What’s the matter?”

Joseph took a deep breath. He had not initially had such

thoughts, but he could not resist when tempted and enticed by her. ‘I have to admit, this dumbo knows how to play her cards right when it comes to seduction.’

“Get off me.” Joseph’s voice cut through the air with a commanding tone.

“Okay!” Chloe hastily got off his lap, but she felt something was amiss.

In the next second, Joseph removed his suit jacket and draped it over his thigh, his eyes resembled a predator as they locked onto Chloe. “If you dare to misbehave again, I’ll punish you. Consider this a one-time exception.”

Chloe mustered a bold and fearless expression, challenging him, “And how do you plan to punish me?”

“By spanking you,” Joseph replied.

“...Let’s explore other options,” Chloe suggested.

“You don’t get to choose,” Joseph retorted, his tone unwavering.

Chloe wished she could find a hole to crawl into. ‘How could he do this to me? He pinched my buttocks last time, and now he wants to spank me?’

Sitting at the front, Lucas could not help but be entertained by the spectacle playing out before him. Suppressing his

laughter, he seized the opportunity to intervene, speaking up with a composed demeanor, “Sir, I’ve already taken the liberty of notifying Finance to process the payment for Mr. Samuel.”

“Okay.”

“Is it 1 million?” Chloe asked.

“28 million,” Lucas replied.

Chloe’s mouth dropped open, and she exploded with astonishment. “I thought it was only 1 mil!”

‘When did it skyrocket to 28?!’

“Well, you see, Mr. Samuel is different from other lawyers. His base appearance fee alone is

1.5 mil. But considering the complexity of our case, the need for witness testimonies and evidence gathering, along with the expedited court hearing, Mr. Samuel had to decline several other cases, which led to this price,” Lucas explained.

“But 28 mil is a bit too much...”

“Don’t worry. This amount is nothing for Mr. Joseph.”

‘It’s nothing for him, but it’s an astronomical sum for me!’ Chloe’s mind roared, and she felt like burying her head and crying in despair.

Joseph lazily glanced at her and said, “I didn’t ask you to repay me.”

Her body trembled, and she looked at him with pleading eyes, “Really? I don’t have to pay you back?”

“Of course, you do. Do you take me for a fool?” Joseph coldly retorted.

“But you said I don’t have to repay you...”

“What I meant was, you don’t have to repay the money directly. There are other ways.”

“Are you talking about my body?”

Jojo and Coco’s Unexpected Love By Aurora Summers

## **Score 9.5**

### **Chapter 178 Don’t Worry, He’s Looking at Me**

Noticing her anticipation, a faint smile played upon Joseph’s lips. However, he could not allow her to obtain it so easily.

He said, “We shall see...”

Chloe’s eyes widened in astonishment. It seemed that spring had arrived, stirring not only the seasons but also Joseph’s desires. She had previously assumed him to be impotent, but now she was certain he was not. And if he was a normal man, he would have physiological needs.

Yet, she did not want to betray herself for personal gain. Such actions would diminish her self-respect. That being said, she might be able to earn 1 million if she worked harder, but earning 28 million was nothing but a fairy tale.

\*

In the Johnsons' residence, Ava haphazardly threw all the jewelry left behind by Chloe's mother into a suitcase from the jewelry cabinet. As the multitude of ornaments collided, producing crisp sounds, some came dangerously close to breaking. However, Ava paid no attention to their fate. Since they belonged to Chloe, she saw no value in preserving them and continued tossing them inside the suitcase without care.

Karen entered the room and offered her consolation. "These are just trinkets. Let's return them to that destitute woman since she seems so eager to have them."

"Mommy, it's not about returning or not. Since **she** left home, the people she has been associating with have become more and more influential. I'm afraid that she'll surpass me one day.

From the mysterious old man to Adam, and now Samuel. She had a vague feeling that something was not quite right.

Karen fell silent. She too had not expected Chloe to be able to afford Samuel's services.

"And Mommy, are that despicable woman's grandparents truly just running a small business? If they could give their daughter 300 grand, they must have had at least tens of millions in assets back then."

"They're in the jewelry business, and they happened to strike it lucky once and made a fortune," Karen explained.

In reality, they gave Chloe's mother 200 grand, but with the accumulated interest over the years, it became 300. The reason the elderly couple had given Chloe's mother that money was to persuade her to leave Benjamin and return to them. And when she was in the advanced stages of her illness, she did not wish to burden her parents and so deposited the money into the bank for Chloe to use in the future.

Karen knew all the details of these matters. She had even persuaded Benjamin to trick Chloe's mother to obtain the money, but she never expected her to deposit it into the bank so quickly. It was this incident that sparked a heated argument between Benjamin and Chloe's mother, ultimately leading to her untimely demise. However, Chloe, in her innocence, still believed to this day that her mother had passed away due to her illness.

Ava fished out a diamond necklace from under her pillow. Mommy, I plan to make a fake one for Chloe and keep this one for myself."

Karen had always held a disdainful view of Chloe's mother and cast a scornful gaze upon the necklace. 'What good would it do to use this necklace to find those two old folks? They were probably long gone by now,' she pondered. But since her daughter liked it, she allowed her to keep it.

Karen noticed an SD card on the table and asked, "What's that?"

**TI**

"Emily's nude photos." Ava sneered contemptuously. "Her ex-boyfriend sold them to me for a few thousand dollars."

The explicit content was so extensive that anyone unaware of the circumstances might assume it was intentionally produced for sale. Just like Chloe, both of them were worthless

commodities.

Maybe she could use such a transaction to hire Samuel. After all, she definitely could not afford his legal fees.

A glimmer danced in Karen's eyes, and a smile bloomed on her still-beautiful face. "Sweetie, I've thought of a way to help you seek revenge."

\*

After taking a day off to rest at home, Chloe returned to work at Fairlight. In a display of great compassion, Joseph waived her lunch orders for a week, considering that she was still recovering from her illness and had yet to fully regain her strength.

Chloe accepted this gesture without any qualms, knowing full well how ruthless Jane could be and the extent of the torment she had endured that day. However, the weight of the

substantial legal fees burdened her thoughts, causing her to

feel overwhelmed and frequently distracted during company meetings.

When Wendy needed an assistant for an important meeting, she chose Chloe to accompany her. But something peculiar happened today. Wendy sensed that Joseph, sitting in the front row, had his gaze fixed on her. The realization startled Wendy, causing a thin layer of perspiration to form on her body and triggering a sense of unease.

Chloe snapped back to reality and noticed Wendy's unusual behavior. She leaned in and whispered, inquiring if something was amiss or if Wendy was feeling unwell.

"It's nothing... I just feel like Mr. Joseph is staring at me," Wendy replied softly.

Chloe was stunned for a moment and then lifted her head to look. Sure enough, her gaze met Joseph's. He showed no signs of withdrawing his gaze or any change in expression. He remained aloof and unapproachable, like a rare flower atop a lofty peak, untouchable by mere mortals. His eyes seemed to harbor a warmth that was previously nonexistent. However, it vanished as soon as she blinked, and his chin lifted slightly, revealing a subtle arrogance.

'This dumbo's looking at me again. She's so bold to express her affection in the workplace. It's too ostentatious, but I

didn't hate it.'

Chloe

had no idea what Joseph was thinking. She turned her head toward Wendy and whispered in a hushed tone, "Don't worry, he's looking at me."

Wendy was at a loss for words. 'Girl, do you know what you're talking about?'

The meeting lasted for two hours, and it was lunch break **by** the time it was over.

the

As Chloe followed the crowd out of the meeting room, receptionist called her. "Chloe, please come to the lobby. Someone's here claiming to be your friend, but I have a feeling they might be here to cause trouble..."

Chloe furrowed her brows, thinking it might be Ava or Jake. "I won't be coming down. Can you please help me turn them away?"

"All right. They were quite insistent, and I almost fell for it. By the way, the person said her name is Emily."

Her heart skipped a beat. "The person downstairs is named Emily?"

"That's right."

"Hold on, I'll be right down."

Chapter **179** A Man Who Protects His Own Is Charming

As Chloe descended to the ground floor, she witnessed Emily locked in a fierce dispute with her parents, her face contorted with distress and tears flowing down her cheeks.

Hastening her steps, Chloe approached and asked, "What's going on?"

Nelson Patel immediately redirected his anger toward Chloe, launching a barrage of insults.

"What happened? Emily thinks of you as a friend, but what did you do? You, yourself, are a woman of loose morals, but how could you involve my child in this turmoil alongside you?"

Lina Ressa's eyes were bloodshot as she chimed in, "We've warned you repeatedly about befriending her, and now look at the mess you've made! You've tarnished your prospects for marriage. It's utterly disgraceful!"

TI

"That's not true. I believe Coco has nothing to do with this, Emily's voice trembled, her tear-stained face evoking a pang of sympathy.

Chloe swiftly retrieved a tissue to wipe away Emily's tears, ignoring the hurtful words from her parents. Concerned, she asked, "Em, please tell me what happened."

"Earlier today, Ava said that because she couldn't find your contact address, she sent everything your mother left behind to my house, but there was a memory card..."

Chloe's eyebrows twitched. She had a hunch of what was on that memory card: intimate photos of Emily taken by Emily's

ex-boyfriend.

Emily remained silent, tears were forming in her eyes as she shook her head vigorously, unwilling to disclose the truth in a public setting. Clearly, she understood the situation but could not find a way to explain it to her parents.

Chloe's expression grew grave as she spoke, "Mr. Nelson, Mrs. Lina, let's find a quiet place to sit down and have a proper conversation, shall we?"

"Why? Is it because this is your workplace and you're worried that you'll be affected?"

"No... That's not what I meant..." Chloe's anxiety and

confusion escalated as more onlookers gathered. She was torn between calling for security assistance and fearing the potential harm it could cause Emily's parents.

"You have to give us an explanation today, or else you can forget about coming to work!"

“You dress so elegantly and work in a prestigious corporation. It’s hard to believe that you have such a malicious heart. How is Emily going to get married in the future?!”

The couple yelled at the top of their lungs, their voices strained with sorrow.

Seeing how Chloe’s father showed no favor toward her, they were led to believe that she must be the one who influenced their daughter in a negative way which ultimately led to the existence of those explicit photos.

Just then, a calm and steady set of footsteps approached. Joseph emerged from the elevator, his gaze ice-cold as he looked at Emily’s parents.

“Who gave you permission to shout at my employees in **my** company?” he boomed, clearly indicating his identity.

“Oh my, Mr. Joseph’s way of protecting his employees is so cool!”

“Seriously, he’s so charming. If I were a woman, I’d totally go after him.”

“Oh please. Even if you were a woman, you’re not worthy of him.”

Whispers

filled the air among the surrounding employees, with women admiring Joseph and men filled with awe. The charisma of someone who stood up for their own people was undeniably captivating.

Joseph’s imposing presence made it clear that he was not to be provoked, and Emily’s parents felt a tinge of fear in his presence. Mustering up his courage, Nelson replied in a trembling voice, “This woman ruined my daughter’s future. This is no trivial matter. We came here to seek answers.”

“She ruined your daughter’s future? Do you have any evidence?”

“Ava has already mailed everything to my house. What more evidence do you need?” Nelson retorted.

With one hand in his pocket, Joseph instinctively positioned himself in front of Chloe. There was a disdainful smirk playing on his lips as he said, “Then why don’t you go confront Ava?”

“Because it was Chloe’s belongings. Why should I bother Ava?”

“But those items went through Ava’s hands,” Joseph said, making his point clear.

Emily’s parents were left stunned when they heard what Joseph said, though a hint of suspicion started to form.

Unable to bear witness to the situation any longer, Lucas sought permission from Joseph and escorted the Patels to a meeting room. He meticulously told them the entire story, emphatically assuring them that, apart from Chloe, Ava, and Emily’s unscrupulous ex-boyfriend, no one had ever laid eyes on the explicit photos. He also further reassured them that a report had already been filed with the police.

To their surprise, Emily’s parents, who had just begun to regain their composure, burst into tears upon hearing the word “police.”

“How can we face our relatives with the police involved? How will you ever get married in the future? Who would be willing to marry you?” Lina lamented, her voice filled with despair.

“Mom, can you please give me a moment to myself?” Emily, now aware of the truth, experienced a mix of emotions. On one hand, she was grateful for Chloe’s help, and on the other, she harbored an intense hatred for her ex-boyfriend.

“You’ve made such a grave mistake, and you expect us to leave you in peace?!” Lina shouted as she glared at Emily

exasperatingly. She then turned her piercing gaze toward Chloe and continued, “This is all your fault! If it weren’t for you, none of this would have happened! You’re going to take responsibility for this!”

Chapter **180** Since When Do You **Eat** Leftover Pasta?

Emily could not comprehend the absurdity of her mother’s demand for Chloe to take responsibility. It seemed like a shameless ploy.

“Mom, Dad, I’m begging you. Please don’t make things worse for me. It was my mistake. I shouldn’t have trusted that jerk.”

“Shut up!” Lina retorted in a low voice, “Can’t you see how fiercely Chloe’s boss is protecting her? There must be some hidden connection between them, which means we should demand proper compensation for the harm they’ve caused us.

Despite Lucas’ thorough explanation, Lina remained unwavering in her belief that Chloe was to blame for her daughter’s situation. She insisted on seeking compensation from Chloe, and if monetary compensation was not given, she hoped at least for her daughter to be offered a job in their company as reparation. In Lina’s eyes, this office appeared larger and more prestigious than Emily’s current workplace.

“You’re just embarrassing me further!” Emily shouted. She was overwhelmed with a sense of shame and guilt. Fueled by her fury, she left her parents behind and stormed out of the meeting room. Without her presence, Chloe could now handle the situation without having to take her feelings into consideration.

Joseph turned to Chloe and said, “Let’s leave as well.”

Chloe hesitated for a moment, but she decided to ignore Emily’s parents.

To their surprise, Lina stepped forward and tightly grasped

||

Chloe’s sleeve, declaring fiercely, “You’re not going anywhere! You have to give us a proper explanation, or else, I won’t let you leave!”

Joseph turned around, his gaze icy and piercing, sending a shiver down Lina’s spine. Her hand trembled, and she released her grip on Chloe. Swallowing nervously, she said, “I… As parents, is it wrong for us to seek justice for our daughter?”

“Seeking justice isn’t wrong, but you’re placing all the blame on my people, and that’s something you should never do,” Joseph responded firmly.

“If it weren’t for Chloe, those photos wouldn’t have ended up in Ava’s hands,” Nelson argued defiantly.

“Yes, they wouldn’t have ended up with Ava, but they would’ve spread throughout Aesper,” Joseph calmly stated, emphasizing each word. “If it were n’t for Chloe’s quick action to report and prevent the photos from circulating, you

wouldn’t have learned about this through Ava. She chose not to argue with you because you’re Emily’s parents. Chloe didn’t want to hurt you, yet you still have the audacity to try to take advantage of her.”

Lina and Nelson were left feeling utterly ashamed and

embarrassed, their faces flushed crimson. They could not find a single word to retort.

Chloe gazed blankly at Joseph, her eyes briefly filled with intense sorrow. She **felt** both sympathy and guilt toward Emily, but the way Emily’s parents spoke to her broke her heart.

Joseph saw through her unhappiness and was willing to protect her and even stand up for her. Apart from being

touched, she truly had a fleeting moment of wanting to commit to this man and spend her whole life with him.

Lucas looked at the peculiar parents and promptly gave them the order to leave. They slinked away with their heads hung low before the security could arrive.

“Next time, don’t show mercy to anyone and boldly fight back,” Joseph reached out and pinched Chloe’s cheek. “Do you hear me, dumbo?!”

Chloe pressed her lips together. “But they’re Emily’s parents. I don’t want...”

Emily was her best friend. She had done more than just accompany her.

Joseph furrowed his brows. “Then when encountering such situations in the future, just let Lucas handle it.”

“Okay.” Chloe softly nodded, her bright almond eyes shimmering with a peculiar glint. She felt that Joseph was except

ionally handsome. Normally, she was quick-witted with a sharp tongue, but when it came to expressing genuine emotions, she was tongue-tied.

Meanwhile, Lucas was speechless. 'Seriously? You're leaving all the mess for me to handle while you enjoy yourself?'

In the afternoon, Chloe texted Emily and learned that she had taken a temporary leave from her work and was staying at a hotel. This brought some relief to her.

[Chloe, the things Ava sent over, I'll give them to you another day. They're still with my parents.]

[Okay. No rush.]

\*

Feeling a bit hungry since she had not eaten anything at noon, Chloe went downstairs to buy some food. She thought that Joseph might also be hungry, so she bought an extra portion to bring to him.

Upon reaching Joseph's office, Chloe spotted a man casually dressed in sportswear waiting by the entrance. He seemed to be around Joseph's age. He possessed captivating eyes,

accompanied by faint dark circles, exuding an air of a carefree playboy.

After politely acknowledging him with a nod, Chloe proceeded directly into Joseph's office, leaving Nathan astonished in her

wake.

'What's the meaning of this? Why do I have to wait on Joe while she can just walk in there?' Nathan protested internally, feeling aggrieved. 'Isn't this pure favoritism based on gender?'

Unwilling to accept it, Nathan followed Chloe into the office. At that moment, Joseph had just finished a video conference.

“I bought some food and brought you some,” said Chloe as she placed the takeout box on the coffee table.

Nathan cast an incredulous glance at the offering, expressing his skepticism. “Pasta Frittata? Isn’t this made from leftover pasta?”

‘Joe holds high standards when it came to food. Why would he ever eat something like that?’

Chloe blinked. “Yeah, you’re right.”

Nathan looked at her sympathetically. It seemed to her that this poor girl was going to get a scolding from Joseph **soon**.

“Leave it there. I’ll eat it later,” Joseph responded to Chloe while flipping through the documents on his desk. He was indeed feeling a bit hungry now since he had not eaten lunch.

“Since when did you start eating leftover pasta, Joe?” Nathan could not help but express his confusion, wearing a bewildered expression on his face.

“You’re being quite noisy, you know?” Joseph retorted.

Observing Nathan’s interaction with Joseph, Chloe realized that he was Joseph’s friend. Sporting a warm smile, she explained, “Jojo is accustomed to the food I cook. I didn’t cook today, but there’s a restaurant downstairs that makes Pasta Frittata similar in taste to the one I make.”