

# Jojo and Coco's Unexpected Love By Aurora Summers

## Chapter 221

### Chapter 221 I Don't Want to Hold Back

Joseph enveloped Chloe in his arms and nestled his face near her neck. He then stated languidly, "I'll know after checking it out."

"Hmm." Chloe found his hug a bit too tight, so she struggled briefly. "Let go. I can't breathe."

"No. I won't let you go unless you kiss me."

Chloe grasped his handsome face, with both hands and gave him a peck on the lips before tilting her head and questioning exasperatingly, "Can you let go of me now?"

Enjoying the moistness on his lips, Joseph's gaze darkened before he bent down and put his lips against hers again, kissing her deeply.

After a while, Chloe pushed Joseph away, looking flushed. "Okay, that's enough. We shouldn't do such things in the office."

Joseph's sharp, bewitching eyes lit up happily and passionately. "Okay, we'll continue when we get home tonight."

Chloe knew what he meant, and her blush deepened. She stared at him bashfully. "We just started -dating. You don't have to be in a rush to..."

"We're dating now, and you expect me to still hold back?"

"Hmph! It's because you've turned me down time and time again."

"Yes, but I'm giving you a chance now, so you should cherish it. You'd better put on that sexy negligee you wore the other day."

Chloe felt so embarrassed that she wanted the ground to open up and swallow her. She put her hands on her waist and glared at him. "Stop bringing that up!"

The look in Joseph's eyes turned mischievous and playful. Even his chuckle had a jolly tone to it. He snorted. "Well, let's see how well you do tonight

After all, she did nothing but talk. In the face of the action-oriented man, it was too weak.

In the afternoon, Chloe wanted to have a small meeting with her colleagues to discuss the recent market trend and to come up with a new strategy together. While she was gathering her colleagues, Ellie, who had been missing for some time, suddenly strode into the office.

It had been a long time since she had last come to the company.

The employees of the personnel department claimed that Ellie had long submitted a resignation letter, but they rejected it. They requested her to hand in her resignation in person or they would expose her bad deed to all the major industries so that no one would ever dare to hire her.

When Ellie noticed that Chloe had taken over her position as team leader, she was full of hatred.

“What is it? Are you here to say sorry?” Chloe remained calm and ignored Ellie’s burning gaze.

Ellie gnashed her teeth. “I’m sorry.”

Chloe picked her ears. “Sorry, I didn’t you. Speak louder.”

Not being the Virgin Mary, Chloe refused to be soft-hearted. If she had not seen through Ellie’s plot, Maurice might have taken liberties with her.

Sometimes, it was cruel to oneself if one was kind to others.

“Ms. Ellie, I didn’t expect you to be such a person. We built the data with much difficulty and effort, but you sold it to Baxon for money. You’re unethical.”

“That’s right. You even tried to slander Chloe. How outrageous!”

“You let us down!”

“Hurry up and apologize before you leave. We don’t want troublemakers like you in our department.”

Ellie’s face turned pale and livid at the same time. Under everyone’s rebuke, she bent down and bowed before she said to Chloe again, “I’m sorry. Are you satisfied now?”

Chloe replied lightly, "Thanks for stopping by."

After Ellie left Fairlight, her hatred intensified. She went downstairs to a convenience store, where her gaze landed on a fruit knife. She stood there and stared at it. After paying for the knife, she hid it behind her back and stood downstairs of the Fairlight building, waiting for Chloe to come out after work.

Chloe finished her meeting with her department colleagues and was back in her seat. She then found a new friend request on her Facebook. When she clicked on it and read through the person's

biodata, she found that it was Xavia.

She frowned but approved of the request nevertheless.

After accepting the request, Xavia soon sent her a message. Its contents were for Chloe to meet her downstairs of the company building in half an hour.

Jojo and Coco's Unexpected Love By Aurora Summers

## **Score 9.5**

### Chapter 222 Maybe Xavia Isn't That Wicked

Chloe asked Xavia what it was about and asked if they could just discuss it over text instead, but Xavia did not reply.

The appointed time Xavia fixed was an hour before Chloe got off work. After dwelling on it for a while, she decided to get up and took the elevator downstairs.

It was just downstairs and was a very short distance. It would not take up much time.

Outside the building, Xavia was silently waiting while holding an umbrella. Her complexion was horrible. She was wearing a sweater so that one could only vaguely see her hospital gown underneath. It was clear she had come straight from the hospital.

Chloe raised her brows. "What can I do for you?"

"I'm sorry to disturb you again."

"Just get to the point."

"I've been undergoing chemo in the hospital recently, so I have no time to take care of Oreo. I'm worried about putting Oreo in boarding long-term, so can you and Joe please take care of my dog

for a while?"

Chloe's first response was to turn Xavia down. If she let Oreo stay in the villa, she would be giving Xavia more chances to see Joseph.

"Don't worry. I'll visit Oreo at most once a week. When the first stage of my chemo is over, I'll take Oreo home. I promise not to step out of the line and disrupt your relationship with Joe."

Staring at Xavia's extremely frank expression, Chloe's desire to turn Xavia down grew for an unknown reason. While having such a thought, she started to say, "I think-

Suddenly, Xavia abruptly pushed Chloe.

Being caught off-guard, Chloe staggered a few steps back as she witnessed Ellie, holding a fruit knife, stabbing Xavia's arm in a crazed frenzy.

Ellie was unwilling to accept her failure. She quickly withdrew the knife from Xavia's arm and pounced on Chloe.

Fortunately, Chloe reacted quickly. Besides, the security guards, who were on patrol, happened to be passing by. They soon subdued Ellie.

"It's all because of you. You ruined my life! If it weren't for you, I'd be the boss of Marketing when Ms. Wendy left. Do you know how long and how hard I worked to pass the interview and get hired? "Now, not only did Fairlight fire me, but other companies are also refusing to hire me. I'm the only one supporting my family. You just want to force me down a desperate end!

"Are you satisfied now?!" Ellie roared desperately and complained about how unfair God was.

'I suffered so much and worked so hard while this b\*tch got here less than half a year ago. How could she be on par with me?'

However, Chloe could not be bothered with Ellie right now. She took off her coat and draped it on

Xavia's bleeding wound. With shaky fingers, she quickly called 911

After the doctor's emergency treatment, Xavia's wound was pronounced non-fatal But she was a leukemia patient. Something might have easily gone wrong. Even a simple surgery took four hours.

After Joseph learned about the news, he came to the surgery room and waited outside with Chloe.

When the doctor came out of the surgery room, the doctor advised Chloe, "The patient's condition is stable now, but you should've taken care of her given that she's a patient with a special case. You should be more attentive toward her. What's more, she took a blow for you. No matter if you're friends or family, you should be grateful to her."

Chloe hung her head in guilt. "Okay, I understand. Thank you, doctor."

Maybe she should not have thought so badly of Xavia.

'If it weren't for Xavia today, the person lying in the surgery room right now would be me'

Joseph noticed Chloe's emotion and hugged her shoulder. "You are not to blame for this."

Chloe sighed, her feelings complicated. "I know that. But if it weren't for me, Xavia wouldn't have gotten hurt..."

Joseph frowned slightly. His dark deep-set eyes blinked as he dwelled on some unknown. thoughts.

Chloe held his hand. "Let's go and buy some food for Xavia. She can then have something to eat when the anesthesia wears off and she wakes up."

"Okay."

While buying the food, Chloe told Joseph that Xavia had asked them for help in taking care of Oreo.

Joseph remained composed. "I'll leave the decision to you."

Chloe chuckled and leaned her head on his shoulder. "I'm glad to have you with me"

They bought some light dishes and nutritious soup for Xavia before returning to the ward.

Xavia was already awake. She smiled weakly at them. "You guys are still here. Aren't you busy with work? You guys can go back to the office now."

"It's fine. I don't know your favorite, so I just randomly bought something." Chloe put the takeout down and paused for a while. "I got you a care worker. I'll also be fully responsible for the

hospitalization fees and the subsequent recuperation fees. I'll pick Oreo up and bring Oreo home until your wound is fully recovered."

Xavia broke into a gentle smile. "That sounds wonderful! Oreo will get to play with Toto again!"

Chloe and Joseph went to pick up Oreo from the boarding house according to the address Xavia

provided

The color of Oreo's fur, as well as its body shape, were similar to Toto's. The only difference was its gaze and weight. Oreo weighed 5 kilograms less than Toto. Moreover, one could tell at a glance

that Oreo was a smart dog just by its gaze.

At night, Chloe walked the dogs and bumped into Icarus in the neighborhood.

Icarus was wearing gold-rimmed glasses and a thin cashmere sweater. He appeared learned and refined, coupled with an elegant aura. Surprise permeated his voice. "I didn't expect to really bump into you here."

Chloe failed to hold in her laughter. “Were you trying to bump into me here on purpose?” Icarus gave her a ride home once, so he knew that she was staying in this neighborhood

## Chapter 223 Leave Joseph and Enjoy Your Life

“Of course not. That would be something a pervert does,” he teased before he explained seriously, “My friend lives here. I just had a meal at his place before coming out to get some fresh air. I also wanted to see if I’d have the chance to bump into you. Well, it’s proved that we’re destined to meet.

Chloe nodded. She found that the dogs had had enough now and decided to head home. Unexpectedly, a stray cat ran out of the bush, exciting both Oreo and Toto. They excitedly pounced on the cat to play with it.

Consequently, Chloe was dragged and, losing her balance, uncontrollably fell forward.

Icarus reacted quickly and grabbed her before asking nervously, “Are you okay?”

“I’m fine.” Chloe patted her chest to calm herself. After some difficulties, she struggled out of his arms. “Thank you. I would’ve fallen flat on my nose.

“You’re welcome.”

After that, Chloe lightly smacked Toto and Oreo’s hips to punish them. Oreo seemed to have understood this. Its ears drooped as it looked at her with its black eyes pitifully. On the contrary, Toto thought that she was playing with it and twirled excitedly.

Helplessly, Chloe slapped her forehead and said to Icarus, “I’m going to head home now. I’m done walking the dogs today.”

Icarus nodded. “Are you the owner of these two dogs, or is Joseph?”

“One’s Joseph’s while the other’s his friend’s.”

“You’re taking care of two big-sized dogs along... What about the helpers at home?”

“We haven’t hired any helpers for the time being ”

Hearing this, Icarus became hesitant. He felt sorry for Chloe. “You owe Joseph 28 million because

of that lawsuit. So why do you stay with him and serve him so attentively?”

Chloe became slightly stunned. “How do you know the exact amount?”

“That incident is spread all throughout the law industry, so it’s not hard for me to know.”

“Oh... It was because of that sum and some other reasons in the past, but that’s not the case anymore. I’m officially dating Joseph now.”

“You don’t have to explain. I know.” Icarus took out a bank card from his wallet and stuffed it into her hands. “I have 28 million here. Leave Joseph and lead the kind of life you want.”

“No, you have it all wrong.” Shock overcame Chloe. She hurriedly wanted to return the card to him.

Although Icarus was richer than ordinary people, that sum of money might be all the money he had. She could neither accept it nor take it.

While they were pushing the card back and forth between them, it fell to the floor. Chloe was holding the leash of the two dogs, so it was rather inconvenient for her to move around. When she bent down to pick it up, Icarus swiftly left.

Holding the card, Chloe helplessly watched him leave. She seemed to have underestimated how important she was to Icarus.

She decided to return it to him the next day

At last, she had no choice but to head home with the two dogs and the hot potato in her hand.

Joseph stepped out of the bath with a white towel wrapped around his lower half, leaving his upper half bare. His slick, short hair was still wet. His well-trained chest was strong, framed by perfect muscles, and exuded a powerful force.



Seeing that, Chloe averted her gaze in slight abashment.

Joseph simply arched his brows and grabbed a towel to wipe his hair languidly. "What took you so long?"

Chloe unconsciously hid the bank card behind her and said nervously, "I let the dogs play for a little longer."

For some unknown reason, Joseph yearned to tease her. "Is that so? I thought you were having a tryst with another man."

Jojo and Coco's Unexpected Love By Aurora Summers

## Score 9.5

### Chapter 224 Uninterested

Chloe's eyes went wide. When she noticed the teasing smile in his, she relaxed and groaned, retorting. "You're the one who had a tryst with another man."

"I have no interest in men "

After that, Joseph recalled the call he got from Lucas earlier, and his voice turned dull. "Calvin and Karen don't know each other."

Chloe pursed her lips. "Then it's impossible that Calvin likes Ava because of Karen Does it mean that he truly likes her?"

Many old people would adopt a child if they had no children. Although Ava was not very outstanding, she was great at acting, and Calvin might have a thing for scheming young women. "This clue ends here but I found another one."

"You found other clues?" Chloe widened her charming eyes and looked at him expectantly.

Joseph answered slowly, enunciating every word he said, keeping her in suspense. "I'll tell you if you do a good job."

She blushed vehemently and choked on her saliva before she started coughing. He patted her back calmly and smiled like a ruffian.

“Tsk! You don’t have to be that excited. I’ll give it to you since I’ve given you my word ”

Chloe started coughing even more violently. After a while, she stated, “I’m going to take a bath,” and ran off to the bathroom

Joseph was in a great mood. He picked up a book and started casually flipping through it.

Before long, Chloe came out after the bath. She walked to Joseph coyly and whispered, “I can’t find that negligee. Can I not put it on...”

Joseph looked up and saw her fair and smooth skin, as well as her curvy figure under the bath towel. The light fragrance of her shower gel lingered in the air and stimulated his nerves.

He smirked before pulling her into his arms, nibbling on her fair and tender earlobe. His cold and indifferent voice was filled with irresistible desire. “Please me.”

Rosiness instantly crept up Chloe’s face. She had never done this before. While responding to him unfamiliarly, she helped him to free the bath towel around his waist.

As they gradually got into the mood and were about to take the leap...

Chloe felt a dull ache in her lower abdomen and felt something hot rushing out of her privates. She abruptly pushed him away and ran toward the bathroom.

After taking a deep breath, Joseph roared angrily, “Chloe! Are you toying with me?!”

After a while, she came out of the bathroom and returned to him with a pitiful look on her face.” I’m sorry. This is such bad timing, but I just got my period.”

Joseph was struck speechless.

She gingerly hugged his arm. “Let’s do it next time, okay?”

She assumed that he would flare up in a rage given his bad temper.

Helplessness interlaced with Joseph's angry tone. "Let's go to bed."

"Are we going to sleep in the same room?"

Don't te

"Don't tell me you want to return to the second bedroom."

"I think it'd be better if I sleep there today. I often wake up in the middle of the night when I'm on my period. I'm afraid of disturbing your rest."

Joseph frowned, no longer in a good mood. Since the dumbo doesn't want to stay, it'll look like I can't bear to part with her if I urge her to stay by my side.'

"Whatever," he said.

Chloe nodded and continued, "You haven't told me what other clues you found."

Joseph sat up and snorted. "Calvin and Karen aren't related but that doesn't mean that Karen doesn't have a relationship with another man. Ava may not be Benjamin's child."

"So, is it possible that Benjamin's been taking care of another man's child for more than twenty years? He has no clue he has been cheated on for so long?"

Jojo and Coco's Unexpected Love By Aurora Summers

**Score 9.5**

Chapter 225 Benjamin the Murderer

Joseph answered, "Pretty much."

Lucas found out that the month Karen gave birth to Ava was also the same month that Luciana got pregnant. Benjamin stayed by Luciana's side almost every day.

The hospital staff recalled that a different man would come to visit Karen from time to time, and they would always argue with each other. Their topic of

argument was quite sensitive, discussing the fact that the man who had impregnated Karen was a married man. Hence, the hospital staff had a deep impression of that incident.

“Wow...” Chloe drew in a cold breath. “Did you find out who that man was?”

“Not yet, but we may get the answer tomorrow.”

After learning about the affair, Chloe had a restless night. She was busy sorting out the current clues she had obtained.

It was no wonder Karen chose to get back together with Benjamin that year. It was very likely that she wanted to find a father for her child. And it must be because of Karen’s example that Ava was so cunning since childhood

Chloe wondered if Benjamin would be driven mad when he learned about this.

The next day.

Lucas proved himself to be very efficient and quickly brought over the nanny who had attended to Karen the year she had given birth.

☰

Her name was Wren, now in her early fifties. The woman in plain clothes elaborated honestly, The man who hooked up with Karen was named Diego Bailey. He seems to be from Docwood and has a family. He got to know Karen during a party. That’s all I know... Can you give me the money now?”

Lucas looked toward Joseph before the latter waved his hand. After that, he took out a stack of cash to give to Wren.

With trembling hands, Wren happily accepted the money. ‘Finally. I’ve secured the money for my son’s surgery.’

Lucas opened the door and was about to see her off when Chloe, who had been silent all this while, suddenly got up and stopped her. She asked in a fierce tone, “Didn’t you also work as a nanny for Mr. Johnson’s family?”

When Chloe mentioned that name, Wren averted her gaze. “No, I didn’t.”

“Didn’t you?” Chloe laughed coldly and found an old family photograph on her phone. She pointed at a blurry figure in the photograph. “Isn’t this you?”

When Chloe left the Johnson family, she took with her the only family photograph there was and took a picture of it so she could look at it when she missed her mother. Although the nanny’s figure was not very clear in the picture, her face could be seen. Hence, Chloe was certain that not

12

only had Wren worked as Karen’s nanny, but she also worked for Chloe’s mother too.

Chloe believed that this was not a coincidence.

Wren screamed and did not dare to look at the photograph as if it had exposed her wrongdoing. She became scared and nervous.

Joseph narrowed his eyes before he took Chloe’s phone to make a comparison between the two. After looking at it carefully, he affirmed that the figure in the corner of the photograph was not that much different from Wren. He exposed deep oppression Although his voice was not harsh, it was full of great momentum.

“You can either explain yourself here or at the police station. I’m sure you know the pros and cons.

“No, I can’t be locked up in prison. My son is still waiting for me at the hospital. I have to go back with the money to save him. Please be kind and show mercy. Let me go. I’m begging you. Please don’t make things difficult for me.”

However, Chloe would not compromise if it was related to her mother. She dialed 911 in front of Wren, her face devoid of emotion.

Wren broke down and screamed, “Okay! I’ll tell you everything!”

It turned out that Wren had worked as a nanny for the Johnsons because Karen had recommended her to Benjamin. Besides that, Karen ordered Wren to monitor all of Luciana’s actions, and if there was a chance, Wren had to sow discord between Benjamin and Luciana However, Luciana fell seriously ill before Wren got the chance.

Wren also witnessed how Benjamin purposely drove Luciana mad until she fell sick. After that, he ignored her and went to Karen for a great time.

While crying, Wren slapped herself. "I was out of options. Benjamin threatened me and prohibited me from caring for your mother. I didn't do it on purpose..."

"I always dream of your mother. She hates me for not saving her and I've never had one night of good sleep for the second half of my life. And now, my son has fallen ill. I've already paid a price for what I did. I'm so sorry... I wronged your mother."

Chloe was struck dumb on the spot. An endless chill engulfed her heart as her body trembled uncontrollably. She then burst into tears. "My mother was driven mad and killed by Benjamin?"

"Mother didn't hesitate to cut off her relationship with her family for the sake of her love, but at last, she died in Benjamin's hands. In the past, I even dreamed of being spoiled by him. Of course, a murderer wouldn't feel anything for me. How ridiculous and pathetic!"

Heartache flashed through Joseph's eyes as he pulled Chloe into his arms. "Benjamin will be punished for what he did. Trust me."

## Chapter 226 Sir, That's My Phone

Chloe's fists clenched tightly, her eyes bloodshot with a burning rage. Hatred consumed her as she uttered the words, "Yes, let Benjamin suffer the consequences!"

She wanted Benjamin to endure the same despair her mother had experienced before her untimely death.

Lucas looked at Wren and asked, "Sir, how should we handle her?"

"Send her back. We may need her as a witness at a crucial moment."

Chloe felt a heaviness in her heart, but to her surprise, Joseph canceled his morning meetings and devoted the entire day to being by her side. She clung to his waist affectionately, crying and finding solace in his presence until

exhaustion overcame her. She unknowingly drifted off to sleep, tears staining her cheeks.

When she woke up, it was already 2 in the afternoon. Her mood had calmed down considerably. Jojo, I'm sorry for disrupting your work this morning."

Joseph interlocked his fingers, leaning back in a relaxed demeanor. "Feeling better now?" Chloe wiped away the remnants of her tears. Her gaze was determined and resolute. "Yes, I'm going to head back to Marketing. See you tonight."

The breakdown of an adult has its limits. Once the storm of emotions subsided, it was time to gather strength and tackle life head-on. Despair and tears never solved any problems.

This time, Chloe was determined to fight back.

In the afternoon, Chloe's newly written marketing copy and project gained traction. It went viral, the copy garnering high praise from major platforms in the finance industry. Bloggers, specializing in finance shared and commented on it, using sharp language and presenting novel perspectives. Instantly, Chloe started gaining popularity within the financial circle.

To add more intrigue, someone discovered her photo and affectionately referred to her as the "Sweetheart of Finance," recognizing her as the most beautiful girl in the industry. As a result, in the following days, her colleagues playfully referred to her as the "beauty icon of the finance world." Even Ms. Wendy, who had recently given birth, called to offer her congratulations.

Chloe modestly replied, "It's all thanks to your guidance, Ms. Wendy. I was a complete newbie when I first joined the department."

"It's not just your extensive work experience, but also your commitment to continuous learning that has contributed to your achievements. You're still at the beginning of your journey, so keep up the good work. I have high expectations for you. I also heard about the incident with Ellie. Considering her challenging family background and occasional extreme behavior, please beware of your safety and promptly report any unusual incidents."

"Yes, I understand."

Lucas prepared a cup of coffee for Joseph and brought it inside. Just as he was about to leave, his phone started beeping. Without thinking, he instinctively reached for his phone to check the notification.

Half of Joseph's daily trivial matters were handled by Lucas, including tasks related to the homeowners' group. The notification was from the property manager who had suddenly tagged him and later sent a photo accompanied by a mischievous emoji.

[Mr. Joseph, may we print this photo for community promotion? Of course, we'd be happy to provide you with the image rights compensation. I accidentally came across it while reviewing the surveillance footage yesterday. The image of you and your wife standing together is so beautiful as if you were destined for each other.]

The photo captured Chloe and Icarus, looking very happy together and two Border Collies obediently by their side. It perfectly depicted the ideal life that most people had in mind-lovers, pets, sunset, and a wonderful atmosphere.

Other homeowners began commenting.

[Both of them have such high levels of attractiveness. Can having a dog enhance marital relationships? I want one too]

[Now that's good looks and talents. Utilizing them for promotion will definitely boost the sales of houses here.]

[I saw this couple passing by yesterday. The dogs misbehaved, and the female owner smacked their butts. Hahaha]

Lucas' hand holding the phone trembled. It was true that Ms. Chloe was the female owner, but Icarus was not the male owner.

Joseph lifted the cup of coffee and took a sip, glancing at the stunned Lucas who was just standing there. "Anything else?"

Trembling, Lucas stammered, "There might be something else..."

"What do you mean 'might be?'" Joseph's tone turned to one of displeasure. "Be efficient in your work."

"Yes, sir."



Joseph pinched his brow, his voice turning icy. “Is there something or isn’t there?”

Lucas did not dare to beat around the bush and handed the phone to Joseph, placing it in front of his eyes. “Sir, please take a look. Can we agree to use it for promotion?”

Joseph lowered his gaze, his eyes gradually turning cold as they fell on the photo. With a loud

bang, the phone shattered into pieces. The screen was completely ruined.

Lucas dared not speak. He simply thought, ‘Sir, that’s my phone!’”

Joseph’s voice was chillingly sharp “Summon Chloe here now.”

Jojo and Coco’s Unexpected Love By Aurora Summers

## **Score 9.5**

### Chapter 227 The Master of Time Management

When Lucas arrived at the marketing department, Chloe was organizing the data and marketing copy for the afternoon meeting. Lucas took her to a secluded spot and whispered, “Ms. Chloe, did you run into Icarus last night?”

She paused, “How did you know?”

“The whole neighborhood is talking about it.”

During the elevator ride, Lucas filled her in on everything that had transpired in the homeowners’ group, emphasizing the gravity of the situation. “Mr. Joseph is extremely angry, so when you go in, it’s important not to confront him directly. Speak softly, explain clearly, and try to soothe his anger with kind words. I believe things can be resolved”

Nervously, Chloe fidgeted with her fingernails, took a deep breath, and mustered the courage to push open the office door.

“Jojo, it’s not what you think. Icarus and I just happened to bump into each other. He has a friend who lives in our neighborhood.”

Seated on the sofa, Joseph nonchalantly stretched out his long legs over the coffee table, his gaze piercing and frigid. “Oh, what a remarkable coincidence. You seem to have a knack for stumbling upon extraordinary situations.”

“I’m not lying to you. I really am—”

Her explanation was cut short by Joseph’s biting sarcasm.

“The master of time management, right?”

Who would have thought that a harmless joke would manifest into reality? Making time for flirtation while taking the dogs for a stroll.

Chloe’s delicate face contorted with hurt as she bit her lip, struggling to find the words.

“Speak up!” Joseph’s impatience transformed into a stern reprimand. “Did you resort to hitting the dogs because they interrupted your flirtatious encounter?”

“I didn’t cheat or harm the dogs. I was simply afraid that you’d misunderstand, so I didn’t mention it. Toto and Oreo unexpectedly pulled me, and I lightly smacked them. Can you please refrain from thinking of me in this way and have some trust in each other? Moreover, in the photo, there was no inappropriate behavior between Icarus and me, right?”

Joseph stood up abruptly. His imposing figure advanced toward her, closing the distance with – each deliberate step. With a sneer on his face, he assumed a dominant position and said, “There may be nothing in the photos, but who knows what the surveillance cameras missed-the unseen angles nobody would know.”

A surge of injustice washed over Chloe as she was backed into a corner. She mustered her courage and asked, “Is this how you truly see me?”

“A person who thrives on lies is concerned about others’ opinions?”

“That’s enough!”

1/3

Lucas prepared a cup of coffee for Joseph and brought it inside. Just as he was about to leave, his phone started beeping. Without thinking, he instinctively reached for his phone to check the notification.

Half of Joseph's daily trivial matters were handled by Lucas, including tasks related to the homeowners' group. The notification was from the property manager who had suddenly tagged him and later sent a photo accompanied by a mischievous emoji.

[Mr. Joseph, may we print this photo for community promotion? Of course, we'd be happy to provide you with the image rights compensation. I accidentally came across it while reviewing the surveillance footage yesterday. The image of you and your wife standing together is so beautiful as if you were destined for each other.]

The photo captured Chloe and Icarus, looking very happy together and two Border Collies obediently by their side. It perfectly depicted the ideal life that most people had in mind-lovers, pets, sunset, and a wonderful atmosphere.

Other homeowners began commenting.

[Both of them have such high levels of attractiveness. Can having a dog enhance marital relationships? I want one too.]

[Now that's good looks and talents. Utilizing them for promotion will definitely boost the sales of houses here.]

[I saw this couple passing by yesterday. The dogs misbehaved, and the female owner smacked their butts. Hahaha]

Lucas' hand holding the phone trembled. It was true that Ms. Chloe was the female owner, but Icarus was not the male owner.

Joseph lifted the cup of coffee and took a sip, glancing at the stunned Lucas who was just standing there. "Anything else?"

Trembling, Lucas stammered, "There might be something else..."

"What do you mean 'might be?'" Joseph's tone turned to one of displeasure. "Be efficient in your work."

"Yes, sir."

Joseph pinched his brow, his voice turning icy. "Is there something or isn't there?"

Lucas did not dare to beat around the bush and handed the phone to Joseph, placing it in front of his eyes. “Sir, please take a look. Can we agree to use it for promotion?”

Joseph lowered his gaze, his eyes gradually turning cold as they fell on the photo. With a loud

bang, the phone shattered into pieces. The screen was completely ruined.

Lucas dared not speak. He simply thought, ‘Sir, that’s my phone!’”

Joseph’s voice was chillingly sharp. “Summon Chloe here now.”

The Master of Time Management

When Lucas arrived at the marketing department, Chloe was organizing the data and marketing copy for the afternoon meeting. Lucas took her to a secluded spot and whispered, “Ms. Chloe, did you run into Icarus last night?”

She paused, “How did you know?”

“The whole neighborhood is talking about it.”

During the elevator ride, Lucas filled her in on everything that had transpired in the homeowners’ group, emphasizing the gravity of the situation. “Mr. Joseph is extremely angry, so when you go in, it’s important not to confront him directly. Speak softly, explain clearly, and try to soothe his anger with kind words. I believe things can be resolved.”

Nervously, Chloe fidgeted with her fingernails, took a deep breath, and mustered the courage to push open the office door.

“Jojo, it’s not what you think. Icarus and I just happened to bump into each other. He has a friend who lives in our neighborhood.”

Seated on the sofa, Joseph nonchalantly stretched out his long legs over the coffee table, his gaze piercing and frigid. “Oh, what a remarkable coincidence. You seem to have a knack for stumbling upon extraordinary situations.”

“I’m not lying to you. I really am—”

Her explanation was cut short by Joseph’s biting sarcasm.

“The master of time management, right?”

Who would have thought that a harmless joke would manifest into reality?  
Making time for flirtation while taking the dogs for a stroll

Chloe’s delicate face contorted with hurt as she bit her lip, struggling to find the words.

“Speak up!” Joseph’s impatience transformed into a stern reprimand. “Did you resort to hitting the dogs because they interrupted your flirtatious encounter?”

“I didn’t cheat or harm the dogs. I was simply afraid that you’d misunderstand, so I didn’t mention- it. Toto and Oreo unexpectedly pulled me, and I lightly smacked them. Can you please refrain from thinking of me in this way and have some trust in each other? Moreover, in the photo, there was no inappropriate behavior between Icarus and me, right?”

Joseph stood up abruptly. His imposing figure advanced toward her, closing the distance with each deliberate step. With a sneer on his face, he assumed a dominant position and said, “There may be nothing in the photos, but who knows what the surveillance cameras missed-the unseen angles nobody would know.”

A surge of injustice washed over Chloe as she was backed into a corner. She mustered her courage and asked, “Is this how you truly see me?”

“A person who thrives on lies is concerned about others’ opinions?”

“That’s enough!”

She could not bear the weight of Joseph’s baseless accusations any longer and pushed him away. He took a step back, his waist colliding with the corner of a nearby cabinet, causing him to emit a stifled groan of pain.

Filled with concern, Chloe hurried to his side, extending a hand to help. “I’m so sorry. I didn’t realize there was a cabinet there. Are you okay?”

“Just leave me alone!” Joseph’s anger surged, and he impatiently pushed her away.

Chloe’s eyes dimmed with hurt, but she composed herself. “Very well, I’ll leave. I’ll call Lucas to come and check the injury on your waist.”

“Come back!” Joseph forcefully grasped her wrist and questioned, “Feeling guilty now?”

His persistent attitude drained Chloe of both physical and mental strength. She had just managed to regain her composure earlier in the day after learning about what happened to her mother. And now, she felt herself sinking back into the depths of her emotions.

“You’re the one who asked me to leave, and now you’re the one who won’t let me go,” Chloe retorted, her voice tinged with frustration. “I’ve already explained myself, and if you still don’t believe me, what else can I do?”

Her voice trembled with a sense of powerlessness as she continued, “I haven’t finished organizing the data for the afternoon meeting I’m going back to my desk.”

Joseph’s gaze remained fixated on the red mark on Chloe’s wrist, stark against her fair skin. A mixture of irritation and restlessness stirred within him.

Lucas watched as Chloe left, cautiously entering the room. “Sir, there was indeed no evidence of any inappropriate behavior between Ms. Chloe and Icarus in the photos. The angle of the shot may have created a misleading impression. After all, don’t we often see celebrity scandals based on such misunderstandings in the media?”

Joseph coldly lit a cigarette. “Are you trying to defend her?”

“I wouldn’t dare.” Lucas, a complete sycophant, awkwardly smiled. “You’re my boss, Mr. Joseph, not Ms. Chloe. I’m simply analyzing the situation from an outsider’s perspective.”

Joseph maintained a fixed gaze, his silence permeating the room.

Sensing the need to elaborate, Lucas continued, “Moreover, Chloe only learned the truth about her mother’s death this morning. It has undoubtedly impacted her emotionally, and thus her communication with you may not be as composed as before.”

Joseph’s tightly furrowed brows relaxed slightly.

Having said all that needed to be said, Lucas wisely refrained from further rambling. He quietly

exited the room, his mind set on purchasing a new phone at the mall.

As Joseph pondered the situation, he decided to make a video call to Nathan. On the other end of the call, Nathan, amid dim lights and a bustling atmosphere, was holding on to a woman.

Joseph pressed his temple. "It's too noisy."

Nathan gently motioned for the woman in his arms to step back, signaling for silence. He turned on the lights and inquired, "What happened? Did you have another argument with Chloe?"

Joseph succinctly recounted the day's events, then posed the crucial question, "So, whose fault was it?"

## Chapter 228 My Parents Died Too. Does That Warrant Empathy?

Nathan said, "I think both of you are at fault."

Chloe was at fault for hiding the truth, and Joseph was at fault for not trusting her.

Joseph's cold gaze pierced through Nathan, his eyes sharp as a knife.

Sensing the intensity, Nathan quickly adjusted his stance. "Although both of you share some blame, the main issue lies with Chloe. Your fault is minimal."

"Give me a solution."

"Buy her happiness with money," Nathan suggested, pausing for a moment before continuing, "I can empathize with Chloe. It's devastating for a young girl to witness her seemingly perfect family being torn apart by a malicious woman, and now discovering that her biological father caused her mother's death. These are heavy blows to endure.

"However, Chloe lost control of her emotions for a brief period in the morning and managed to regain composure by noon, immersing herself in her work. Whether she's putting on a facade of strength or genuinely possesses inner resilience, you should try to understand and empathize with her more."

Joseph's voice remained devoid of emotion as he responded, "Empathy, you say? My parents died too. Does that warrant empathy?"

Nathan's breath caught, his expression shifting abruptly. The topic of Joseph's parents had always been a taboo one, a subject no one dared to broach for many years.

He held his silence for a few seconds and wisely shifted gears, saying, "But Chloe has a forgiving nature. If you provide her with a generous shopping allowance, she probably won't stay angry for long. No woman can resist the allure of shopping."

The correct course of action would be for Joseph to set aside his pride and offer comfort to Chloe, but given his temperament, he would not bend easily. Handing over money seemed like a more practical approach.

After ending the call, Joseph gave instructions to withdraw all the cash the company used for employee rewards for the meeting.

Twenty minutes later, the department managers began to arrive one by one at the conference room. Chloe selected a seat at the back, filled with concern that Joseph might create a scene. Losing face in front of so many people would be utterly embarrassing.

Sure enough, Joseph strode into the room, donning a black overcoat that accentuated his commanding presence. He paid no heed to Chloe, as if she were invisible, and took his place without sparing her a single glance.

Fury surged within Chloe, and she jabbed at her notebook with her pen, feeling a mix of anger and injustice. She diligently took care of walking the dogs whilst he lounged around at home. It was already painful enough to be doubted and misunderstood, but now he was blatantly disregarding her presence. How could this man lack any trace of conscience?!

During the meeting, one of the senior executives made a pointed remark, stating, "The marketing

copy for the new project which was released by the marketing department last week was exceptional. Within a week, it garnered over three million views. Such talent deserves recognition.



Several voices chimed in, expressing agreement. Then, another participant added, “Indeed, I also noticed that. Was it Chloe who was in charge of the proposal?”

Being suddenly called out, Chloe rose from her seat, feeling a mix of reluctance and humility. In a polite and modest tone, she responded, “While I was responsible for drafting the proposal, the collection of data and information was a collaborative effort of the entire department. I merely organized everyone’s hard work. On behalf of Marketing, I express our gratitude for the recognition, esteemed seniors.”

The senior executive nodded with satisfaction, adding a half-joking, half-serious remark directed at Joseph, “Mr. Joseph, it seems fitting to reward this talented young woman with a generous reward.”

Chloe shook her head vehemently, her voice resolute. “Oh no, this is my responsibility, and the company compensates me through my salary. There’s no need for any additional rewards. If there is to be any recognition, it should be for our entire department.”

She dared not ask for any reward, feeling grateful enough if her phone had not been shattered during the outburst of that infuriating man. She could not fathom how Lucas had endured and remained by Joseph’s side all these years.

Lucas thought to himself, “What else could it be? It’s all about money and ability.”

Joseph sat in the front seat, twirling an expensive pen between his fingers. His handsome face tilted slightly, accentuating his sleek jawline, radiating an aura of elegance and refinement.

“Lucas.”

In the next moment, Lucas wheeled in a small cart typically used for deliveries, laden with bundles of banknotes.

Jojo and Coco’s Unexpected Love By Aurora Summers

**Score 9.5**

## Chapter 229 You Won't Find a Better Man Than Joseph

Everyone was left in a state of shock, their jaws hanging wide open in astonishment, wondering what was going on. All eyes were fixed on Chloe, and a surprising notion began to take hold. Was this money intended as a reward for her?

Lucas leaned closer to Joseph and spoke in a hushed tone, "Sir, Finance only has 300 thousand in cash remaining. If it's insufficient, I can go to the bank right now and withdraw more."

"Just give it to her," Joseph replied.

'She would surely save every penny she can get her hands on. What a chore.'

Lucas pulled the small trolley until it was in front of Chloe, his smile beaming with warmth as he said, "This is a reward from Mr. Joseph to you."

A big question mark slowly appeared on Chloe's face, her mind struggling to process the unexpected gesture. She remained momentarily lost for words.

Sensing her confusion, Lucas leaned in and whispered in a hushed tone that only they could hear, "Mr. Joseph is making an effort to win you over."

Chloe's eyes glistened with tears, her emotions welling up inside her. Despite Joseph's seemingly arrogant demeanor, there was a flicker of affection in the tilt of his chin, softening his otherwise cold facade. Her heart was enveloped in a warmth and sweetness akin to savoring a comforting bowl of hot soup.

Lucas continued, "Ms. Chloe, Mr. Joseph genuinely cares for you. His actions may be driven by jealousy, but it's not a deliberate attempt to cause strife. Please don't be angry anymore."

'Because it's me who suffers when you two argue and go through conflicts,' he added silently.

Chloe lowered her face, concealing the teardrops that welled up in her eyes. At that moment, she realized that there was someone in this world who cared about her deeply. Although she had not received the love she longed for from her parents, she had found love.

A radiant smile spread across Chloe's face, causing her petite nose to turn slightly red. With a playful yet earnest tone, she expressed her gratitude, "Thank you, Mr. Joseph. From this day forward, I belong to Mr. Joseph. I'm Mr. Joseph's person in life. Even in death, I'll be Mr. Joseph's ghost. I'll never leave Fairlight."

One sentence, two meanings.

Joseph's lips curled up imperceptibly, amused by the money-loving little fool.

Rather than keeping all the money to herself, Chloe displayed her selflessness by dividing it equally among her colleagues in the marketing department. Each person received a share of 1.5 thousand dollars. While they appreciated the unexpected bonus, they were well aware that it was intended as a reward for Chloe, not themselves. They did not want to take advantage of the situation and were content to bask in the warmth of the moment without pushing their luck.

However, when Ellie received a significant bonus in the past, Chloe received an even more enormous sum. It was hard to ignore the pattern of clear and open favoritism that Mr. Joseph showed toward Chloe.

Chloe deposited the remaining 250 thousand into the bank. As she handled the transaction, her gaze fell upon the card Icarus had given her the night before. It was best to return it to him sooner to avoid any further complications. Lying always led to more lies, and the fact that she had not done anything to harm Joseph made the situation even more frustrating. It gave her a headache. After depositing the money, Chloe walked out of the bank. Today, Joseph had given Lucas half the day off, and he was sitting in the driver's seat with the car window partially open, his mesmerizing eyes on display. Her heart raced as she approached, excitement evident in her stride. Taking her seat beside him, she couldn't contain her enthusiasm. "Jojo, I'm ready. Let's go."

"Okay. What would you like to eat tonight?"

"Whatever you want. I'll cook."

Lately, with everyone in the department occupied with preparations for the new project launch, Chloe had not been cooking as of late. In fact, it had been three days since she last prepared a meal for Joseph.

"Hot dogs, foie gras with red wine, mushroom soup, and steak."

Chloe playfully tapped her ear. "Mixing street food with French cuisine, are we?"

"It's been a while since I've had French cuisine, and besides, you're not a fan of it."

Chloe paused for a moment, considering her suggestion "How about we go out and have some today?"

Joseph raised an eyebrow. "Right now?"

"Yeah," she replied, quickly opening the navigation app on her phone, feeling an overwhelming sense of urgency that they needed to go.

Joseph slammed on the brakes, his expression stern as he confronted her. "Are you deliberately refusing to cook for me?"

"No, of course not! I just thought that we always go to restaurants that I prefer. This time, to make things fair, I want to accompany you to a place you enjoy," she explained earnestly.

Joseph let out a cold snort, his skepticism apparent. "I shall reluctantly believe you then."

However, he ignored Chloe's navigation and veered away from the cheap steak place she was about to suggest. He did not want to eat cheap steak that cost less than 20 dollars. Instead, he drove to a familiar French restaurant they had visited in the past.

Tucked away in the heart of the city, the restaurant offered a serene ambiance amid its bustling surroundings. Housed in a charming villa, each floor featured private rooms, ensuring an intimate dining experience without any glimpse of other patrons.

The flavors of the dishes they ordered were truly exquisite. After savoring their meal for about forty minutes, they finished eating and prepared to settle the bill and depart. Just as they were about to leave, Chloe's phone buzzed with a Facebook message from Xavia. It was a lengthy message filled with greetings.

Skimming through the message, Chloe gathered that Xavia was inquiring whether she found it

tiring to take care of two dogs at once. If Chloe felt overwhelmed, Xavia suggested the option of returning Oreo to the boarding house.

Chloe, feeling a bit puzzled by Xavia's message, decided to call Xavia.

"I'm managing Toto and Oreo just fine. It's not tiring at all. How are you feeling?"

"The doctor says I'm recovering well. In a few more days, I'll be able to have meals on my own."

"Great. I'll come visit you this weekend."

There was a hint of hesitation in Xavia's voice before she continued, "Are you really not finding it troublesome to take care of two dogs? If you think it's too much of an inconvenience, I can take Oreo back anytime. Don't inconvenience yourself or the dogs."

The first half of the sentence seemed normal, but the second half took a sudden shift in tone. Since Xavia could now be considered a mutual friend of Chloe and Joseph, she put the call on loudspeaker, though their relationship was somewhat peculiar.

At that moment, Joseph's steps came to a halt, and his profound gaze fixed on Chloe.

Speechless, Chloe spoke into her phone, "If you have something to say, say it directly. No need to beat around the bush."

There was a moment of silence on the other end. Despite the hint of anger in Xavia's tone, the voice remained gentle. "I saw the video of you walking Toto and Oreo online. Why did you hit them? And who was the man beside you? Why did he give you his bank card? You're already with Joe now. Don't you dare do anything to betray him! Joe is an exceptional man, and you won't find a better man than him in your lifetime."

## Chapter 230 Embrace Your Role and I'll Grant You Wealth

The flurry of damning questions left Chloe speechless on the spot. The only person besides Joseph who had given her a bank card was Icarus. She

quickly reached a conclusion-the surveillance footage from the neighborhood had been leaked online.

The room seemed to grow colder, the atmosphere thick with Joseph's unspoken anger that hung heavy in the air. Chloe could sense a raging flame manifesting without even lifting her head.

"Jojo, wait, please let me explain..."

"

Joseph remained expressionless as he demanded, "Hand over your purse."

Instinctively, Chloe protected her bag behind her and spoke in a soft tone. "I can explain everything, or we can call Icarus and ask him about what happened..."

Joseph observed her defensive actions, his eyebrows furrowing and his eyes narrowing. Without uttering a word, he forcefully snatched her bag and began rummaging through it until his hand seized hold of an unfamiliar bank card. His sharp eyes lowered, masking his emotions. His voice, now tinged with hoarseness, emanated an icy coldness as he asked, "How much money did Icarus give you?"

"I didn't ask for it. He forced it on me. By the time I wanted to return it, he had already disappeared. "Chloe's voice trembled as she spoke.

"How much money is on this card?" Joseph repeated the question, his anger bubbling to the

surface.

"28 million..."

"Hmm..." Joseph sneered, abruptly gripping her chin tightly. "So 28 million is enough for you to follow him?"

"No, he never said anything like that," Chloe's voice quivered as Joseph's grip on her chin caused her pain. Yet, she dared not resist.

Joseph's bottomless black eyes seemed to penetrate her very soul. His icy voice, devoid of any emotion, pierced through the air. "So, 28 million is enough to make you leave me?"

Chloe's back stiffened, her lips trembling. "Icarus had no malicious intentions, and I never betrayed you..."

Joseph's anger consumed him, his blood boiling. "Do you think I'm a fool, Chloe Johnson?!"

It was just a bank card. She could have easily returned it if she did not want it. In the worst-case scenario, she could have simply discarded it. There were numerous ways to handle the situation and he could have reimbursed her. However, she deliberately chose to keep it in her bag.

Chloe had no idea how to explain herself anymore, feeling utterly drained. They had just established their relationship recently, yet it seemed plagued by constant arguments. This was not the kind of relationship she had envisioned or desired.

Seeing her silence, Joseph's fury intensified. He roughly picked her up and threw her into the car. Chloe cried out in pain as the impact rattled her, feeling as if her internal organs were about to be jolted loose.

Joseph slammed his foot on the accelerator, speeding back to the villa at an alarming pace.

Chloe desperately wanted to get out of the car on her own, but he gripped onto her wrist tightly, forcing her to stumble along in his hurried strides.

"Please slow down," she pleaded.

Joseph remained silent, showing no signs of slowing down as he brought Chloe directly into the bedroom and firmly shut the door. From outside the closed door, his voice took on a sinister tone. "From now on, you'll be confined to this villa for eternity!"

Fear and panic gripped Chloe as she frantically twisted the doorknob but to no avail. "Joseph, please let me out!" she pleaded, her voice filled with desperation.

Joseph sneered, his voice laced with contempt. "Let you out so that you can continue your seduction games with other men?"

Chloe's voice trembled with desperation. "I haven't done anything wrong. Please don't do this... Let

me out...”

“Every time you have the opportunity to interact with other men, you prove your inability to remain faithful. That’s why I’m imprisoning you here. You can forget about leaving for the rest of your life.” Joseph’s tone grew colder and more accusatory. “Money is all you want, right? Embrace your role as a caged canary and I’ll grant you wealth and splendor.”

Chloe’s pleas turned bitter as she desperately implored Joseph to release her. But in response, all she heard was the fading sound of his retreating footsteps.

Joseph spent the entire night in the study, barely getting any sleep.

Morning arrived, and the ashtray was overflowing with cigarette butts.

When Lucas arrived that morning, he noticed that neither Joseph nor Chloe stirred. He made his way upstairs and found Joseph alone without Chloe by his side.

“Sir, we should leave,” Lucas said.

Standing by the window, his back turned to Lucas, Joseph said in a hoarse voice, “Get me the property manager of the villa.”

Jojo and Coco’s Unexpected Love By Aurora Summers

**Score 9.5**