

Jojo and Coco's Unexpected Love By Aurora Summers

Chapter 251

Chapter 251 Filled With Sadness

However, she quickly dismissed the thought. After all, it seemed impossible. Even if Xavia did not like Toto, she raised Oreo herself. Oreo was not only her pet but also her companion.

Chloe returned to the villa with a heavy heart, eager to inquire about any progress they had made. But before she could utter a word, Joseph's icy gaze pierced through her. "How could you be so cruel, Chloe?"

Confused and bewildered, Chloe was unable to comprehend what had transpired.

Lucas rushed over and placed a photo on the table. His voice was filled with disbelief as he said, "Ms. Chloe, this was taken by a passerby."

In the photo, the distinct figures of Toto and Oreo could be seen strolling along the middle of a busy street. Chloe's head spun, finding it unbelievable, "That's impossible. I saw them being sedated with my own eyes."

Joseph looked at her and said, his voice dripping with sarcasm, "You saw it with your own eyes? I can't believe that you'd still refuse to tell us the truth at this moment."

"You...You don't believe me?"

"How can I believe you?" Joseph presented the chat records from their work group, placing them before her. "If you didn't want to take care of them, you could've told us honestly. Why pretend?"

It took several hours for an animal to regain consciousness after being sedated, but it had only been two hours since Toto went missing. If Toto and Oreo were taken away by dog thieves, why would they let them go?

Upon seeing the texts sent by Sophia, a chilling sensation ran through Chloe's body. "I didn't

Say

Joseph interrupted her, “You didn’t say those words? Are you saying that Sophia made it up?”

Her eyelashes trembled, and she felt powerless. “Whether you believe me or not, I never said such things.”

“Joe, let’s not argue. Since someone has seen Toto and Oreo, I believe that if we search. wholeheartedly, we’ll find them,” Xavia said. Then, she turned toward Chloe and continued. disappointingly, “Ms. Chloe, if you have any dissatisfaction, you can just tell me directly. There’s no need to bully the dogs. They haven’t done anything wrong. Do you know how important Oreo and Toto are to Joe and me?”

Faced with the accusations, Chloe instinctively looked toward Joseph, hoping he would stand by her side. When she met his disgusted gaze, it felt like sharp thorns piercing deep into her

heart.

“That’s right. What was I expecting?”

If someone else were standing here today, Joseph might have sided with her. But the person before them was Xavia, Joseph’s first love who had shared joys and sorrows with him. How could she be compared to her?

A bitter expression crept over Chloe’s delicate face, and she wryly curved her lips. In the end, she did not say anything.

Joseph furrowed his brows in annoyance and averted his gaze from her face. He could not understand why she was acting so pitifully in front of everyone when she was the one who did something wrong.

“Stay here and reflect on what you’ve done. Without my permission, you’re not allowed to take a single step outside.”

Chloe’s gaze remained fixed on the sight of Joseph walking alongside the gentle and charming Xavia. They seemed to match together perfectly, their figures harmonizing as they moved side by side. It left Chloe feeling lost as if she had never truly found her place within Joseph’s heart.

Trust was the cornerstone of any relationship, and yet he had never bestowed his trust upon her. Instead, he constantly met her with cold skepticism. If he thought so poorly of her, why

had he chosen to be with her?

Lucas remained by her side, offering words of comfort. “Ms. Chloe, don’t be too disheartened. Toto holds a significant place in Mr. Joseph’s heart. Since a citizen has provided us with leads, we should be able to find Toto soon.”

Having experienced the love and attachment that came with caring for a pet, Chloe

understood the depths of emotions involved. She could not entirely fault Joseph for losing his temper, yet a profound sadness settled within her.

“Thank you, Lucas. I’ll go out to look for Toto and Oreo.”

Knowing that there was strength in numbers, she believed that joining the search efforts would increase the chances of finding them. She was genuinely worried about their well-being.

“But Mr. Joseph said you are not to be allowed outside,” Lucas said hesitantly.

“If he wants to be angry, let him be,” Chloe replied firmly. She could not just sit idle and wait. It was something she could not bring herself to do.

Armed with the photo, Chloe stepped out of the villa and swiftly hailed a cab to the presumed location. Ignoring the ache in her feet, she printed copies of Toto and Oreo’s pictures and tirelessly distributed them to anyone she encountered, inquiring about any sightings of the dogs.

The morning passed without any news, and Chloe found herself unconsciously standing outside Fairlight. Sophia, accompanied by her colleagues, was joyfully coming down the stairs

to buy coffee.

Spotting Chloe, who appeared slightly disheveled and limping, Sophia could not contain her laughter. “Chloe, you’re a white-collar worker. How on earth did you end up like this? If I

didn't know any better, I would've thought you were a disabled person working as a flier distributor."

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Score 9.5

Chapter 252 The Ambiguous Relationship Between Joseph and Chloe

As Chloe laid eyes on Sophia, her anger surged. "Why did you spread false information in the work chat?"

Sophia sneered. "I didn't. How can you prove that I was making things up? Do you have any recordings?"

Chloe stared at her intently, her voice cold as she interrogated, "What's your motive for doing this? Who offered you benefits, or are you resorting to any means necessary to gain Joseph's attention?"

A hint of panic flickered in Sophia's eyes, but it vanished in an instant. "I was simply speaking the truth. I have no ulterior motives. Moreover, you shouldn't address Mr. Joseph so informally. It's impolite."

"I can say whatever I want. Who are you to say otherwise? Don't forget, I'm your superior. I'm the only one who can reprimand you."

"You...You can't bully me like this!"

Chloe chuckled with frustration. Who was truly the bully in this situation? She could not believe Sophia could tell such blatant lies while maintaining an air of innocence.

A colleague stepped forward, trying to mediate the situation. "Okay, okay. Let's all take a step back. I believe Chloe wouldn't casually accuse someone. Sort out what you discussed this morning privately. However, Chloe, you shouldn't have addressed Mr. Joseph so informally. What's more, he recently rewarded you with a significant amount of cash. He's our provider, and we should show him respect."

Sophia's eyes darted, and she laughed. "Are you jealous because Mr. Joseph accepted my coffee? Is that why you're so mad?"

Chloe's smile turned icy. "Hmph, you don't even hold a place in Joseph's heart. You're not worthy of making me jealous."

Sophia employed the same tactics that Chloe had used to win Joseph's affections, so no one could gauge

gauge their potential effectiveness on Joseph better than Chloe herself. However, she opted to remain silent about it, convinced that a new employee would not pose a threat to their relationship.

Sophia picked up on something and asked eagerly, "So, does this mean there's something between you and Mr. Joseph?"

The colleagues beside them also sensed that the conversation was taking an inappropriate turn. Considering they were standing outside Fairlight, they threw glances at Chloe, silently signaling her to stop talking.

In reality, Joseph's favoritism toward Chloe was evident, but apart from their professional interactions, they did not do anything out of line. So, they would only talk about it privately. Someone like Sophia, who openly brought up such matters, was clearly seeking trouble.

Chloe knew exactly what she wished to hear, but she deliberately refused to say it. With a tilted head and a malicious smirk, she wore an expression that said, "It's none of your concern."

Sometimes silence expressed more than words did, and understanding instantly dawned upon Sophia. She was awash with both excitement and filled with suppressed anger. It seemed that what that woman had said was true. There was an ambiguous relationship between Chloe and Joseph.

But the question lingered in Sophia's mind. She believed she was just as attractive as Chloe. Why would Joseph choose Chloe over her? Who in the world would not want an effortless shortcut?

However, the reality was that Joseph did not even spare her a glance. He did not even give her the chance to deliver him a cup of coffee!

'No, I have to expose her true colors to the entire company,' Sophia thought.

Brimming with excitement, she grabbed her colleague's hand and exclaimed, "Did you hear that? She admitted it. We can't allow someone like her to exist in our office! It'll negatively impact our working environment!"

Her colleague was taken aback by the shocking scandal that had unfolded during a simple meal run. She did not want to have anything to do with it as she just wanted to observe quietly from the sidelines. Besides, she was well aware of Sophia's scheme. If things went wrong, she was certain that Sophia would bring her down with her.

She did not take the bait and forced out a few awkward laughs. "You're thinking too much. Chloe didn't say anything. Don't jump to conclusions."

Chloe was momentarily stunned, then directed a smile toward her colleague.

Sophia gritted her teeth in frustration. Suddenly, she caught a glimpse of a handsome figure. She remembered what the woman had instructed her, and a plan formed in her mind.

Without warning, she lunged at Chloe, who instinctively fought back. Little did she know that Sophia would make like she was without a skeleton, twisting her body and falling right at Chloe's feet.

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Score 9.5

Chapter 253 Apologize to Xavia

"Even if you claim that Mr. Joseph cares for you, you can't bully me like this. I'm just a newcomer who knows nothing. The incident this morning was my fault, but you could've just talked to me about it instead of resorting to violence," Sophia pleaded.

Chloe saw through Sophia's intentions at a glance and made no move to help her up. "What are you up to this time?"

"I don't have any ulterior motives. I just want you to leave me alone!" Sophia cried out, her tears flowing uncontrollably. As she sobbed, she crawled toward the direction where Joseph stood. "Mr. Joseph, you've to help me."

Observing the poised and indifferent woman in front of him, Joseph said in a cold tone, "When a colleague falls in front of you, don't you think you should offer a helping hand?"

Upon hearing his voice, Chloe turned her head abruptly. Then, she saw Joseph instructing Lucas to help Sophia up from the ground. He treated a new employee with such gentleness but remained cold toward her.

Chloe pursed her lips and defiantly exclaimed, "She intentionally threw herself to the ground! If I helped, it would've disrupted her plan!"

Sophia's face turned pale, and she nervously looked up at the man.

Joseph narrowed his dark, piercing eyes in disapproval. "You think that

everyone

who gets

hurt did so intentionally?"

"Don't misinterpret my words."

"Your words directly imply that. Once you've done something, you've done it. Stop attempting to evade responsibility," Joseph said, his words cold and piercing through Chloe cruelly. It felt like an invisible mountain pressing down on her, making it hard for her to breathe.

'What does he mean by "once you have done something, you've done it"? Is he referring to now, this morning, or everything?'

Chloe looked at the familiar yet distant face in front of her and let out a bitter laugh. "Fine, if that's what you think, then I can't do anything about it."

The sunlight was blazing, yet everyone standing beside Joseph felt a chill down their spines.

"Come with me," he said, striding forward with long steps and entering the company building.

Sophia eagerly followed behind, secretly reveling in her triumph. When she reached them, she noticed Lucas looking at her with a puzzled expression.

“What are you doing?” he asked.

Lucas’ expression was laced with subtle amusement. “Mr. Joseph was talking to Ms. Chloe.”

Sophia’s face stiffened for a moment. “No way, Mr. Lucas. I’m sure you must have misunderstood.”

Lucas chuckled softly, “I’ve been by Mr. Joseph’s side for many years. I think I understand him better than you do.”

“Don’t do anything stupid,” a colleague interjected, providing Sophia with an escape route.” Lunch break is about to end, and we should get back to work.”

Sophia watched as Chloe limped alongside Lucas into the exclusive elevator and decided not to complain. After all, she was currently working with that woman and had no expectations of capturing Joseph’s attention. Perhaps that woman had feelings for Joseph as well, otherwise, why would she try to sow discord between Chloe and him?

In the office, Chloe frowned the entire time. She had no desire to argue with Joseph and went straight to the point. “In the morning, I printed out pictures of Oreo and Toto and distributed them to passersby. If anyone sees them, they’ll contact me. Do you have any leads on your end?”

Joseph glanced at her coldly. “We already found them.”

Chloe felt a glimmer of joy in her heart, but before she could even breathe a sigh of relief, she was drenched in an icy shower the next second, freezing her from head to toe.

“Go apologize to Xavia,” Joseph said, his voice devoid of mercy.

Chloe’s pupils contracted sharply, her voice trembling slightly, “What did you say?” “She took a stab for you, yet you lost her dog. Shouldn’t you apologize?” he stated.

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Score 9.5

Chapter 254 You Want to Break Up?

Chloe stared at Joseph, her throat so constricted that she could not utter a word.

The more Joseph met her gaze, the more agitated he felt, so he averted his eyes altogether. "Xavia will be here soon. Wait here," he instructed.

Chloe let out a bitter smile and said, "Fine, I'll apologize as you wish."

Upon hearing her words, Joseph's expression improved slightly. However, when his gaze fell upon her swollen and barefoot, his brows furrowed again. Yet, he remained silent. After all, he believed that occasional discipline was necessary for her to understand how to conduct herself in the future.

Ten minutes later, Xavia arrived. She looked at Chloe and said, "Oreo was found near the residential area. Ms. Chloe, you may not be happy with my sudden appearance, but I still believe that no matter the reason, we shouldn't resort to violence against dogs. They're innocent. I'll take Oreo back and take care of him. Thank you for your efforts over these past few days."

"Oreo is your dog, and whether you decide to take him away or not is up to you. However, I still want to apologize. I bear some responsibility for the fact that those two dog thieves took Toto and Oreo away today," Chloe said.

Xavia frowned slightly as she corrected her, "All the evidence shows that you lost them. It's obvious. There wasn't any sign of dog thieves throughout the whole incident. There's no need to shift the blame. While Joe and I may be angry, we never blamed you."

Chloe chuckled. "Is that so? Then I must thank you both."

"Chloe, is this how you apologize?" Joseph asked, his voice stern.

"What else can I say? Admit to something I didn't do?"

The veins on his temple pulsed fiercely.

Xavia shook her head at Joseph. "It's fine, Joe. It's normal for Chloe to struggle when taking care of two dogs alone. I'll leave now. You two can talk things out."

Chloe watched this scene with amusement. 'One's playing the role of good cop and the other bad cop. How interesting.'

Xavia left as if she truly feared disturbing them. However, Chloe wondered if the truth was as it appeared.

It was difficult for Chloe to believe that Sophia, who had joined the company less than a week ago, harbored such animosity toward her. Was Sophia's true motivation solely focused on pursuing Joseph, or was there an underlying motive?

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One thing was certain-Sophia's appearance in Fairlight was far from simple.

The spacious office returned to silence. Joseph raised his gaze and observed Chloe, who stood motionless in her place. Eventually, his heart softened, and he spoke with a slower, gentler tone, "Come here."

"I refuse," Chloe replied firmly and decisively.

"What did you say?" Joseph thought she was being stubborn again.

"I think we should seriously consider whether this relationship is right for both of us," Chloe expressed. She took a deep breath before continuing, "Trust is the cornerstone of any relationship, yet you continuously doubt me. I can't endure such a relationship. It's draining and exhausting."

Although she had feelings for him, Chloe refused to keep sacrificing herself over and over. No woman could tolerate being the perpetual second choice while her partner's heart still belonged to his ex. As long as the ex remained present, all blame would be placed on her.

"I'll give you one more chance. Choose your words wisely." Joseph clenched his fists.

A weighty, oppressive atmosphere permeated the air, fueling unease and fear within Chloe. But despite her apprehension, she realized that she no longer desired to be caught in the middle of Joseph and Xavia.

"Let's take a break. Perhaps it'd be easier for both of us to simply remain as contract spouses," she suggested.

Suddenly, Joseph rose from his chair. Consumed by anger, he approached her quickly. His tall and imposing figure cornered Chloe, leaving her no way to retreat.

He grabbed her chin, forcing her to look up at him, his words pronounced with each syllable, " Are you breaking up with me?"

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Score 9.5

Chapter 255 Mixing Wine and Beer? You're Quite Something

The grip on Chloe's chin was painful, but she maintained a bright smile. "What's wrong? Is it not acceptable? After all, your heart belongs to Xavia, not me. I'll step aside and make room for her, and everyone will be happy."

"Why?" Joseph's brows furrowed in anger, and a storm brewed in his icy gaze. "Is offering an apology too much of an inconvenience for you?"

"Yes," she replied.

She had truly dedicated herself to taking care of Oreo and Toto, even going the extra mile to prepare homemade snacks for them. She treated the two dogs as her own and never scolded them, even when they misbehaved. Despite being exhausted after work, she still made it a point to take them for walks. Yet, whenever something went wrong, it was all her fault.

Could he not have given her the benefit of the doubt and waited for the truth to come to light? Must he embarrass her in front of his ex-girlfriend? She had feelings too, and his actions had wounded her deeply.

Joseph's gaze shifted downward, his penetrating eyes scanning Chloe's unwavering

determination. His anger reached its peak, causing his lips to tremble ever so slightly before curling into a derisive smile. "There's no need for us to take a break. If you wish to break up, then let's break up. I have no shortage of women.

"Remember, it was me who dumped you," he added.

Chloe's face turned pale, a profound sense of sorrow engulfing her. At that moment, she realized that she had never truly found her way into his heart.

"Since that's the case, please let go of me, Mr. Joseph. I have work to do," she said.

Without waiting for Joseph to react, she pushed him aside and turned to leave.

Witnessing Chloe's departure from Joseph's office, Lucas assumed that they had reconciled. He picked up a cup of tea and prepared to bring it inside. But just as his right foot entered the office, he saw Joseph punching the wall, blood instantly streaming from between his fingers.

"Get out!" Joseph's voice boomed with anger.

Lucas' hands trembled, and the teacup nearly slipped from his grasp. 'Goodness, gracious!'

It became evident to Lucas that the situation had escalated significantly. Not only had they failed to reconcile, but Joseph's anger had also reached a boiling point.

Lucas suppressed his fear and retreated with the tea, gently closing the door behind him. He stood there, contemplating whether he should seek further information from Chloe. However, before he could make a decision, the sound of more objects being smashed inside the office reached his ears, solidifying his belief that Joseph's anger was truly uncontrollable this time.

Trembling, Lucas quickly made up his mind to find Chloe in the marketing department.

To his surprise, he was informed that Chloe had taken a leave of absence. Lucas realized that the situation was even more serious than he had imagined. Feeling helpless, he suddenly remembered that he had Emily's number. With his habitual efficiency in office matters, he swiftly took out his phone and sent a voice message to Emily.

Right after Emily finished listening to the voice message from Lucas, she received a phone call from Chloe.

“Come out and have a few drinks with me,” Chloe said.

Knowing the importance of friends during difficult times, Emily agreed. She casually threw on a coat and took a cab to the location Chloe gave her.

The bar was closed during daylight hours, so Chloe found a restaurant and started drinking a bottle of strong wine, polishing off half of it alone. By the time Emily arrived, Chloe was already drunk, slumped over the table with a flushed face, continuously muttering curses directed unmistakably at Joseph.

“How are you so drunk after just half a bottle?” Emily could not believe her eyes as she glanced at the half-empty beer bottle next to Chloe.

Chloe reached under the chair and retrieved another bottle. Letting out a burp, she grinned, exposing her row of white teeth and looking silly. “There’s still half a bottle of wine left. I drank the wine first before the beer. The wine was too spicy, and I can’t drink it quickly.”

Emily sighed, “Mixing wine and beer? You’re quite something.”

Helplessly, she helped Chloe up from the chair, settled the bill at the front desk, and stood by the roadside, trying to flag down a cab. Before a car arrived, they unexpectedly ran into Icarus.

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Score 9.5

Chapter 256 No More Interactions

Seeing how drunk Chloe was, Icarus quickly took her from Emily’s arms and gently ushered her into his car.

Emily tried to speak up several times, but she hesitated in the end.

Icarus sensed her concerns and took the initiative to say, “Show me the way. I’ll take you home. I promise I won’t do anything inappropriate.”

Emily touched her nose, feeling a bit awkward. “That’s not what I meant. I just think that Coco and Joseph often have arguments. It’s probably the same this

time. Don't focus all your attention on Coco. You should get to know other girls."

Icarus shrugged and smiled gentlemanly. "This isn't something I can control."

"Well... You're right."

Chloe was in the same situation. Initially, she and Joseph were using each other for their own purposes, but she had now begun to view their relationship in a new light. She invested herself emotionally and developed genuine feelings for Joseph.

However, she was to be blamed as well. If she had not mistook Joseph for Jake's uncle, none of this would have happened.

Emily cast a discreet glance at Icarus, carefully assessing his appearance. He wore a suit that fit him perfectly, exuding an air of refinement and elegance. Among ordinary men, he would undoubtedly be considered an excellent choice. However, when compared to Joseph, he fell noticeably short. It was no wonder that Chloe had been drawn to Joseph's charm and appeal.

Emily had recently moved back into her parent's home, and since her parents had a negative impression of Chloe right now, they brought her to a hotel.

Icarus gently laid Chloe on the bed and made sure she was comfortable before tucking her in with a blanket. Noticing her red and swollen foot, he promptly went out to purchase a cold spray to alleviate the pain.

Returning to the room, he carefully applied the spray to Chloe's foot, ensuring her comfort. With his task complete, Icarus quietly left the room, allowing Chloe to rest.

Emily stayed in the hotel, working on her laptop that she retrieved from her bag while waiting for Chloe to wake up.

At around 7 in the evening, Chloe opened her eyes drowsily and glanced at Emily typing on the keyboard beside her. Subconsciously, she picked up her phone and checked it. There were three unread texts.

As she read them, a wave of dejection washed over her, followed by a sense of amusement at her own naivety. She was the one who broke up with Joseph, so why was she still hoping for

something?

She sat up and quickly replied to the messages from Icarus.

“Hey, you finally awake?” Emily stretched lazily, tossing over the cold spray. “Icarus bought this for you. Spray it three times a day, once now, and again before bedtime. What happened to your ankle? It’s all swollen. Didn’t Joseph take care of you? How did you end up arguing?”

Chloe lowered her head, looking at the spray bottle in her hands, feeling a mix of complex emotions. “He didn’t take care of me. He even made me apologize to Xavia.”

“What?” Emily widened her eyes, her anger rising. “He did such a thing? You were upset too when the dogs went missing. Besides, you didn’t do it on purpose!”

“He and Xavia both believe I did it on purpose.”

Emily frowned, unable to accept it. “In that case, you should definitely argue with him.”

In the eyes of the current partner, the ex was always a forbidden presence, regardless of the circumstances.

How could Joseph make Chloe apologize to Xavia? Could he not have said something himself?

“Well, it wasn’t just a fight. We actually broke up,” Chloe said.

“What?!” Emily exclaimed in surprise, her eyes widening, “Are you serious this time?”

“Yes, I can tolerate his bad temper, but I can’t handle his ex. I can’t be friends with my boyfriend’s ex,” Chloe explained.

“But she took a stab for you. Won’t it make you seem ungrateful?” Emily said. However, she soon realized her words were inappropriate and quickly added, “I’m not implying that you lack gratitude. I mean, others might perceive it that way.”

Chloe had treated Xavia kindly. Although they were not particularly close, they maintained a cordial relationship. After Xavia’s injury, Chloe consistently

prepared nutritious meals for her and visited her at the hospital. She also arranged for a caregiver and covered all the medical expenses. She even took care of Xavia's dog.

Chloe sighed, "I appreciate her kindness. I've already informed the hospital and paid for another year of her chemotherapy fees as a gesture of goodwill, whether she needs it or not."

Most likely, they would not have much interaction in the future.

Emily nodded in understanding. It seemed like a reasonable decision.

They continued chatting for a while when suddenly there was a knock on the door.

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Score 9.5

Chapter 257 She Loves Me to the Point of Obsession

Emily went to answer the door, a perplexed expression on her face as she accepted the takeout delivery.

"Did you order food, Coco?" she asked.

"No, I didn't," replied Chloe.

"Neither did I," Emily said.

At that moment, Icarus called.

"Chloe, I ordered some food for you guys. I'm not sure if it suits your taste, but I heard that indulging in sweets can lift your mood when you're feeling down, so I got some for you," Icarus explained.

Chloe whispered softly, "Thank you..."

"No need to be polite with me. If you need anything, feel free to reach out anytime," Icarus assured her.

“Okay, goodbye,” Chloe said before hanging up.

Emily handed Chloe a cup of ice cream smoothie with a beaming smile.

“Since you’ve ended things with Joseph, why not consider Icarus? I think he’s quite decent.”

“I did break up with Joseph, but we still have a contract. If necessary, I’ll still have to pretend to be his wife,” Chloe replied.

“Hmm, if I recall correctly, you mentioned that you became his wife to deceive his

grandfather. If he were to reignite his relationship with his first love, wouldn’t that grant you your freedom?” Emily asked.

“I don’t know either. Let’s play it by ear,” Chloe replied.

She had taken three days off from work. Firstly, her twisted ankle made it difficult for her to walk, and secondly, she did not want to see Joseph right now. Not having to take care of the dog or cater to his needs significantly improved her mood.

During these three days, aside from Icarus visiting her every day, Joseph did not call her or send a single text. Such behavior aligned with his usual temperament.

In the afternoon, Icarus brought some desserts to visit Chloe. After examining her ankle, he remarked, “The swelling has gone down. You should be able to walk now.”

“Yes, I don’t feel any pain anymore. Thank you for the medicine you brought,” Chloe expressed her gratitude.

“You’re welcome,” Icarus said as he adjusted the gold-rimmed glasses on his nose bridge. “Do

you want to go to the beach?”

Chloe shook her head. “I just want to be a couch potato for now.”

It had been a while since she had the chance to relax. She was willing to go to the beach, but she did not want to go with Icarus. Since she had no intention of being with him, she should not give him any hope.

Icarus expressed understanding. “You can’t refuse to come with me tomorrow night. It’s my birthday, after all.”

Chloe was momentarily stunned, and she slapped her forehead in frustration. “I’m sorry, I forgot. Send me the address.”

“I’ll pick you up tomorrow, don’t worry. I have a gathering in the afternoon, but I’ll swing by after,” Icarus said.

“Okay.”

After Icarus left, Chloe went to the mall. It would be inappropriate to attend a birthday celebration empty-handed. She was not sure what to buy, but she noticed that Icarus seemed to enjoy wearing suits, so she bought him a tailored suit jacket.

This scene was observed by Samuel, who came out to discuss matters with a client. He had not expected to encounter Chloe buying clothes for Joseph. However, that brand of suit jacket would cost at most a few thousand dollars, while Joseph’s clothes were all custom-made. Would he even wear something like that?

A trace of amusement flickered in Samuel’s eyes. He found an angle and took a photo of Chloe paying for the suit jacket, then sent it to Joseph.

[Look, she’s buying clothes for you. Although, I think that’s not a brand you like, right?]

At Fairlight, the hundred-square-meter conference room was filled with people, yet not a sound could be heard. Just moments ago, the submitted project had been rejected, and Joseph flew into a rage. The senior executives from various departments trembled in fear, holding their breath.

Over the past three days, Joseph had been exploding with anger at the slightest provocation. As his assistant, Lucas was the one who received the brunt of his anger. He was subjected to constant scoldings from morning till night, living in a state of constant pressure.

Everyone in the entire company tiptoed around Joseph, afraid of angering him.

The air in the conference room felt like it had frozen over when a short beep suddenly broke the silence. Joseph's gaze locked onto the illuminated screen of his phone, his brows furrowing. He picked it up and started flipping through its contents.

The crowd sighed in sympathy, wondering who the unlucky person was.

Only the side profile of the person in the photo had been captured. Her complexion was rosy, with long, curly eyelashes. In her hand, she held a men's suit jacket, clearly bought for someone else.

In an instant, Joseph's brows relaxed, and his slender and handsome fingers casually tapped on the table. 'Tsk, this dumbo finally can't resist anymore and is coming back to me.'

It was not surprising. She had always loved him with unwavering passion. How could she resort to such childish behavior and abruptly end their relationship?

Since she took the initiative to make amends, even though he did not like this particular suit jacket, he would still wear it a few times to preserve her dignity.

After a while, he replied to Samuel, condensing his thought into five words: [It's none of your beeswax.]

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Score 9.5

Chapter 258 Come Up With Something More Innovative

"We shall end today's meeting here. The proposal was rejected, and I expect you to come up with something more innovative," Joseph announced firmly. With that, he rose from his seat and made his way back to his office, instructing Lucas to prepare a cup of coffee. However, he had a sudden change of heart and amended his request.

"Actually, make it tea instead," he corrected himself.

Lucas discreetly stole a glance at Joseph, observing that his composed and icy demeanor remained largely unchanged. Nevertheless, there was a slight

reduction in the intensity of anger in his eyes, suggesting that Joseph might have been in contact with Chloe.

Lucas could hardly contain his excitement, feeling a surge of joy that made him want to burst out shouting that his good days were coming.

As the evening progressed and the clock approached eight o'clock, Joseph grew increasingly puzzled by Chloe's absence. Furrowing his brow, he decided to call her in search of answers. However, after a few rings, the call was disconnected.

Joseph's handsome face darkened with a shadow of gloom, his brow creasing tightly. The frown was so deep that it could crush a fly. He slammed down his phone onto the genuine leather sofa with a resounding "thud."

"Foolish woman. Since she has missed this opportunity, she'll have to face the consequences herself."

After stepping out of the shower, Chloe turned on the television and began eating her takeout meal while watching whatever was playing. Later, as she prepared to go to bed, she picked up her phone and glanced at it, catching sight of a familiar number.

Her heart skipped a beat. Joseph had called her. She had left her phone in the room as she went to take a shower, causing her to miss the call. However, he had only made one call, so she concluded that it might have been an accident.

If there was something important, he would continue calling.

Despite the circumstances, Chloe made the decision to respond to him nonetheless. There was still a possibility that Harold might visit their house and uncover the truth, which could

potentially lead to a favorable outcome for them.

She dialed back, but all she received was a cold, mechanical voice on the other end.

"Hello, the number you have dialed is currently switched off."

Chloe's

gaze dimmed with disappointment. She put her phone aside and decided to go to turn in early. When asleep, she would not have to think about anything.

The following evening, Icarus arrived at the hotel as planned to pick up Chloe. She handed him the brand-new suit, saying, “Happy birthday! I’m not sure if it’s your taste though.”

“I’m sure it’ll be just fine. I trust your taste,” Icarus replied. He took off his own jacket and put on the suit Chloe had bought for him. The well-crafted linen suit fit him impeccably, accentuating his tall and refined stature.

“Look, it’s fantastic!” He smiled warmly, his tone sincere. “Thank you for the gift, Chloe. I really love it.”

Chloe blushed slightly and touched her nose awkwardly. “I’m glad you like it.”

In truth, she had not put much thought into the selection. The entire process, from entering the mall to making the payment, had not taken more than half an hour. Yet, he appreciated the gift so much and generously praised it. Being friends with someone like him was truly a delightful experience, unlike someone else who wore a gloomy expression all day like he was the king of the underworld.

Chloe accompanied Icarus to his birthday party. Perhaps to prevent her from feeling uncomfortable, there were many people in attendance, including several of her ex-colleagues from Baxon. She relaxed and soon engaged in lively conversations with them.

One of Icarus’s friends recorded a short video of the gathering and shared it on social media to celebrate Icarus’ birthday.

On the other hand, Samuel, who had just left the law firm, glanced at his social media feed while waiting for the traffic light. When he saw the familiar figure in the video, and noticed Chloe’s gift to his good brother being worn by another man, his face filled with astonishment.

He parked his car by the roadside and immediately sent the video to Joseph. [What’s going on, Joe? Is your wife cheating on you?]

Jojo and Coco’s Unexpected Love By Aurora Summers

Score 9.5

Chapter 259 Imbalanced Contract

Samuel stared at his phone. Five minutes passed, yet there was no response from Joseph. He decided to text Joseph again.

[Are you busy working?]

[Seriously? Do people lose their wives because they're too busy with work?]

[No wonder your wife wants to cheat on you,] he commented.

Icarus' birthday party took place in a secluded villa.

Joseph stepped on the brake, his gaze accurately locked onto Chloe through the nearby floor- to-ceiling windows. She held a glass of red wine, her face adorned with a charming smile as she conversed with Icarus. She did not look like a girl who had just broken up boyfriend.

with her

He felt himself a fool. He actually thought that she had bought the suit for him.

Joseph's anger turned into a twisted smirk, revealing a row of gleaming white teeth. He dialed a string of numbers on his phone and punched the call button. "You have one minute to come

out."

Inside the room, Chloe trembled at the voice coming from her phone. "Where are you?"

"Look outside the window."

Their eyes met, Joseph's gaze was cold and menacing, his features grim.

Chloe averted her eyes in embarrassment. "How did you know to come here?"

"Come out. Don't make me say it a third time, or should I go in and find you?"

“Don’t. I’ll come out.”

She did not know what Joseph was capable of when he got angry and she did not want to ruin someone else’s birthday party.

“I’m sorry, I have something to attend to. I’m going to step out for a moment.”

Icarus looked at her worriedly. “Are you feeling unwell?”

“No, don’t worry about me. Enjoy your party.” Chloe did not say much. She simply pushed open the door and left.

Icarus’s gaze followed her all the way until he spotted Joseph, and his brows furrowed deeply.

“How did you find this place?” Chloe looked at the man before her, her tone filled with

confusion. She had not disclosed her plans for the day to anyone. Besides, she had just got here not long ago.

“Am I not allowed to come?” Joseph’s eyes held a mocking glint. “Are you afraid I’ll spoil your good time?”

Chloe furrowed her brows. Just when she was about to explain, she realized that they had already broken up. Deciding to ignore his cold and sarcastic remarks, she calmly asked, “Is there something you want from me?”

Chloe’s nonchalant attitude was like a raging fire, burning away the last shreds of rationality in Joseph. He seized her wrist forcefully, yanking her toward the car, his actions brimming with aggression and devoid of any hint of gentleness.

“Come home with me.”

Chloe winced from the pain of his grip, and her temper flared up. “I won’t. We’ve already broken up, so you have no say in my life!”

Joseph sneered with disdain. “Are you planning to violate our contract? If you breach it, you’ll have to compensate me with billions. Are you sure you can afford that?”

Chloe's face paled. "No... This is unreasonable. It's an imbalanced contract! Moreover, your grandfather isn't here right now. I don't have to go along with your act."

"I hold the power of explanation, or would you like me to hire a lawyer and take this to court?" Samuel was the most renowned figure in the legal field. Setting aside exorbitant fees, given Joseph's relationship with Samuel, it was impossible for him to help her fight the lawsuit.

Chloe took a deep breath, deciding not to confront him head-on. "Fine, I'll go back with you, but I want to inform Icarus first."

Joseph's eyes took on a sinister glint. "Shall we go in together and tell him?"

"...No, there's no need. Let's just go now."

"Mr. Joseph, Chloe has clearly expressed her desire not to go with you. Please release her," Icarus interjected, rushing out of the room and gripping Chloe's hand firmly.

Joseph's eyes fixated on Icarus' hand as a cold and menacing glimmer flickered through his chilling gaze. Suddenly, laughter escaped his lips. In the next moment, he viciously lifted his foot and delivered a powerful kick to Icarus' lower abdomen.

Jojo and Coco's Unexpected Love By Aurora Summers

Score 9.5

Chapter 260 She Ran Away, How Could I've Bullied Her?

Caught off guard, Icarus was thrown to the ground but quickly got back on his feet, refusing to stay at a disadvantage. He swiftly retaliated, engaging in a fierce fight with Joseph.

Amid the chaos, Joseph landed a rapid and forceful punch on Icarus' face. Startled and panicked, Chloe let out a scream and rushed forward to intervene, attempting to break fight.

up

the

The disturbance drew the attention of the people inside the room. They hurriedly separated the two men, with Icarus already bearing the marks of bruising on his face. However, as this was Icarus' place, everyone present was on his side. Chloe anxiously apologized to Icarus and swiftly pulled Joseph into the car.

She could not drive, so she repeatedly urged Joseph to leave.

Joseph, calm and composed, glanced disdainfully at Icarus through the car window, his thin lips curling into a malicious smile.

On the highway, he gripped the steering wheel tightly, accelerating to a staggering speed of 192 kilometers per hour. Chloe tightened her seatbelt and pleaded, "Slow down... I get motion sickness easily."

Joseph glanced at her through the corner of his eye and noticed that her face was pale. He was unsure if she was telling the truth or just lying to him, but he eventually lowered the speed.

As they reached their residence without incident, Chloe's frazzled nerves gradually eased. But soon, anger overwhelmed her, and she confronted the man sitting beside her. "Why did you hit Icarus?!"

"Because I don't like him," Joseph replied, narrowing his eyes, "Are you going to defend him?"

Chloe was left speechless, finding his actions completely unreasonable. She lowered her head, unbuckled her seatbelt, and made her way back to her room.

"What's going on here? Did this brat make you angry?" an aged yet powerful voice echoed.

Harold stood at the entrance of the living room, looking at the two with a mix of surprise and suspicion.

Chloe's body tensed, and she looked at Harold, mustering up a dry smile. "Grandpa, why are you here?"

two

“It’s been a while since I last visited. I had some free time today, so I thought I’d pay a visit.” Harold’s aged eyes remained sharp, his gaze shifting between Chloe and Joseph. “Did you have a fight?”

Observing his grandson’s enraged expression, it was evident that they had indeed fought.

Chloe’s eyes darted nervously as she desperately tried to come up with an excuse. “No... Grandpa, we didn’t fight. Have you eaten? Let me cook for you.”

“I’ve already eaten. Have you two?”

“We have.”

“We haven’t.”

Chloe and Joseph replied simultaneously, with Chloe wrinkling her pale face as she subtly gestured to Joseph with her eyes. ‘Come on, let’s get our stories straight! Do you want your grandpa to find out something?’

Ignoring her silent plea, Joseph let out a cold snort. “Not only have we not eaten tonight, but we haven’t eaten this morning or afternoon either.”

Harold raised an eyebrow. “Why are you two fighting? Did you bully Chloe, Joseph?”

Judging from what Joseph said, whatever it was seemed pretty serious to him.

“How am I supposed to bully her when she hasn’t been home in three days?” Joseph’s voice turned icy, laced with a hint of grievance, leaving Chloe at a loss for words.

“Ah!” Harold’s face displayed a grave expression, and he sternly said to Chloe, “Why did you run away from home after having a fight? If you’re angry, just scold him, spend his money, or kick the brat out. There’s no need for you to leave. It’s not safe for a woman to be out and about alone.”

Chloe was initially anxious, thinking she would be reprimanded. However, upon hearing Harold's words, she felt guilt and gratitude at the same time. She could not bring herself to tell him that she and Joseph had already broken up and that Xavia might become his granddaughter-in-law in the future.

However, as long as the contract was in effect, she had to maintain her composure. With a gentle smile, she assured him, "Don't worry, Grandpa. I won't do it again."

"That's good. I'll have someone prepare a meal for you. Go upstairs and rest. You've had a long day at work, and you must be tired." As he spoke, Harold used his cane to lightly strike Joseph, scolding him with a raised eyebrow, "You should be more considerate of your wife. You're such a grown man, yet you lack common sense."

Joseph scoffed. "I called her, but she didn't answer. And tonight, she went to a party alone."

Jojo and Coco's Unexpected Love By Aurora Summers

Score 9.5