

Jojo and Coco's Unexpected Love By Aurora Summers

Chapter 281

Chapter 281 Tea

Not long after Chloe left, a waiter came to serve tea.

Joseph had given Lucas a holiday to rest, hence Lucas did not have to bother with such trifles.

Chloe's colleagues were having a great time singing their lungs out at the karaoke lounge. The music blared, affecting Chloe who soon got into the mood. She had a great time until nine o'clock at night, almost forgetting about her audition.

After she said hurried goodbyes to her colleague, she returned to her room to pack up her things. When she walked into the elevator, she recalled that she had yet to tell Joseph about her leaving. Hence, she pressed on button for the presidential suite floor and hurried there.

Chloe had the keycard. When she entered the room, it was pitch dark and she could barely see a thing. She thought Joseph was not in the room and was about to leave when suddenly she felt a pair of hot hands coming at her.

After that, the person aimed straight for her lips.

When Chloe smelled the familiar scent, she knew right away that it was Joseph. Hence, she slowly relaxed her tense nerves. In the next second, he seemed to feel that it was not enough. Pressing his burning chest against her body, he started tearing off her clothes in a frenzy.

In three seconds, Chloe lost everything that was protecting her modesty. She gaped in shock. Although Joseph was handsy with her, this was the first time he had been so rough and impatient.

Gaping, Chloe failed to speak. When Joseph touched her tender skin, he was aroused.

After an unknown period, Joseph fell asleep on the bed.

Chloe was left in a pitiful state as she picked up the clothes scattered all over the floor. She felt great exhaustion, and her body ached all over.

She was truly angry this time. Her eyes turned red as she cried aggrievedly. 'Joseph was out of the line. He promised to only do this kind of thing after I come back from the audition, but he broke his promise.'

Enduring the discomfort, Chloe got into the car to head to Docwood. Although she was mentally and physically exhausted, she did not want to miss the audition.

When she arrived at Docwood, she picked a random hotel to stay at. After all, she needed to be in her best form for the audition tomorrow.

The next day, she woke up at first light. Although her physical discomfort had subsided, that

bastard had not called her the entire night. Gloominess engulfed her and her grievance grew.

'Well, men stop appreciating their women after obtaining them. It's only logical.'

While she was fancying wild thoughts, Noah called her. He asked her about her address and told her that someone would pick her up very soon.

As expected, a white Maybach stopped at the entrance of the hotel around twenty minutes later. Noah lowered the car window and exposed half of his gentle face. He appeared quiet innocent and pure.

"Hope in, Ms. Chloe."

Chloe was taken aback. "I didn't expect you to be the one to come pick me up."

"I happen to have something to do and this place was along the way."

Hearing this, Chloe asked no more questions and climbed into the back seat. During their journey, Noah tenderly elaborated to her that it was just a simple audition and she need not worry. All she had to do was strike a few poses as the photographer instructed. Besides, she was the only one auditioning. If everything went on smoothly, she would get the job.

Chloe regarded his words as mere civility and simply nodded in response. However, it was all slightly amusing to her. This man who was a few years

younger than her spoke quite maturely. Both Noah and Adam were about the same age, but they were vastly different.

“I saw the incident where the general manager of Aesper harassed you. He’ll come today to apologize to you face-to-face.”

Chloe was flabbergasted. She had not expected him to think so highly of that incident.

However, it was right and proper for that man to apologize to her. He should be made to pay the price after harassing her. Besides, apologizing was a much lighter punishment than being locked up in prison.

Of course, Chloe accepted it.

The process of the audition was very short and ended in less than an hour. This was also due to the fact that Santiago was around. He set his mind on Chloe, but he did not speak to her. He simply looked Chloe up and down as if he was looking at a product, then told Noah, “Okay, we’ll go with her. She’s very suitable for this. I like her face very much.”

Noah naturally agreed to it as he had a pretty good impression of Chloe. Her face resembled Luciana’s. The only regret he had was that Joseph was her boyfriend.

“I’ll ask Mr. Desmond for a final opinion.”

After the audition, Noah left the scene with Chloe and entered an office-like place.

“Where’s the man?”

“He’s inside. Should I ask him to come out now?”

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Noah nodded.

After that, the man who took liberties with Chloe at Graceville Estate appeared in front of them, looking ashen.

Thud!

When he saw Chloe, he got to his knees. Tears and snot flowed down his face. "I was drunk. that day, and when I saw how pretty you were, I couldn't hold back from trying to get your number. I was a bastard! I was a fool!"

Chapter 282 The Shocking Red on the Bedsheet.

Chloe held that kind of excuse in contempt. "So you're not to blame just because you were drunk?"

'Is someone allowed to behave recklessly just because they were drunk? This man is just an immoral person who has no limits and a bad character.'

Noah was wearing a white suit, making him appear young and lively. Smiling, he glanced at Chloe before he ordered, "Get rid of him.

Chloe averted her gaze. "I'll leave now if there's nothing else."

"Are you going back to Aesper?"

"Yes."

"That Aesper general manager is the son of one of the headquarters's shareholders."

Chloe was enlightened. Turns out strings were pulled in that affair. No wonder that man managed to become the head of a branch given that he appeared like a convict who had just been released from prison.

Noah took out a gift box and chuckled. "Ms. Chloe, this is our new seasonal item. It's for you, as a symbol of apology from Exotic Star."

Chloe glanced at the invaluable necklace in the gift box before she shook her head. "Mr. Noah, you handled this affair well and fast. I'm very satisfied. This necklace is very charming, and I'm flattered, but it's too expensive. I can't accept it."

The smile in Noah's brown eyes deepened. He repeated himself, "Take it. I'll be troubled by a guilty conscience if you don't. Besides, you're about to endorse Exotic Star's products soon. You have to own some jewelry from the company.

Since he had said as much, Chloe could not turn him down. She accepted the necklace and thanked him seriously.

It was already noon by the time she stepped out of Exotic Star. The teambuilding group planned to return to Aesper at noon, and she needed more than two hours to get back to the estate. Hence she decided it was unnecessary and might as well return to Aesper straight away.

While hailing a cab on an app, Chloe wanted to call Joseph. She then came across a post that Emily had posted to her social media saying that she had checked in at Docwood.

At Graceville Estate.

When Joseph came out from the bath, Xavia was still there. She was wearing his large shirt, smiling at him tenderly. "I'm sorry. I couldn't find my clothes, so I put yours on. Also, I don't

blame you for what happened last night. I'll pretend it didn't happen.

Joseph clutched his forehead, feeling a great headache coming on. He had felt uncomfortable after drinking that cup of tea the day before. His consciousness became blurry, and he seemed to...have slept with a woman.

When he woke up at dawn, he saw Xavia crying beside the bed, naked.

Xavia then adjusted her mood and calmed herself. She told him that she would forget about everything Last night was nice, but he could not behave like such a scumbag. He was with the dumbo, so he could not marry her.

For the time being, Joseph had yet to come up with a solution on how to take responsibility for what happened.

Xavia had a difficult life. After she was diagnosed with leukemia, she returned to her homeland. to cure her illness. Then, she took a blow for Chloe and was now being bullied by him.

Knitting his brows tightly, Joseph's expression was complicated. "Why did you come to my room yesterday?"

"I got a bottle of good wine and wanted to give it to you. When I came, I found the door

unlocked. After I came in..." Xavia found it too embarrassing to describe, so her pale face

turned scarlet.

Hearing this, he looked toward the bottle of red wine on the coffee table out of the corner of

his eye. The crease between his brows deepened.

"Joe, I'm going to head home first. Rest well. I'm very tired, and I want to go home to rest."

Xavia was generally considerate and sensible. It appeared like she did not want them to embarrass themselves even after such an incident had happened.

Joseph was left alone in the room. He seemed to recall something and pushed the blanket aside. He then noticed a dark red spot on the white bedsheet.

It was dazzling like a blooming rose.

At the same time, it reminded him of his action the previous night, snatching a woman's most valuable thing. He narrowed his eyes abruptly and had a hunch that something was amiss.

He dialed Lucas' number. "Get me yesterday's surveillance video from the fifth floor of the

hotel now."

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Score 9.5

Chapter 283 I'm Going to Record This and Study Hard

Lucas was stunned. He did not understand why Joseph was so impatient, but he quickly handled it.

“Right away, sir.”

Lucas arrived half an hour later. He was at a loss for words when he saw the ashtray on the table that was filled with cigarette butts. Joseph would only smoke ceaselessly when he was under high pressure. Was the company in some kind of difficulty? Was it about to go bankrupt?

“Where’s the footage?”

Lucas lowered his head slightly. “I’m sorry, sir. The lobby manager told me that the surveillance system of this floor broke down a month ago and has yet to be fixed.”

After a long period, Joseph took a deep breath and stated, “Get out.”

Chloe learned that Emily was having a business trip near Exotic Star. They discussed the time and decided to have lunch together.

At the dining table, Emily smiled happily and said, “My company just hired a new employee. He’s a fresh graduate and is young and handsome.”

Chloe stuffed a piece of meat in her mouth and chewed it slowly. “Why? Don’t tell me you like younger men now.”

“That’s not true. I like all handsome men. What’s more, this young man is simple-minded. He’s handsome but dumb. It’s fantastic!”

“Pfft!” Chloe spurted out some of her food and laughed hysterically. “What do you mean he’s handsome but dumb? Stop criticizing people like that.”

“Alas, I think this is the influence of that scumbag. I think it’s better to get together with a dumb man. At least he won’t scheme against you,” Emily said seriously.

“Hmm... That’s true if you put it that way.”

Both Chloe and Emily’s ex-boyfriends were scheming but incapable. As long as there were any shortcuts, they would go down that path without any hesitation. If the men were dumb, one could give away if they harbored any bad intentions. Hence, women would easily gain the upper hand in relationships with those kinds of men. O

“Yeah, I can’t suffer the same setback twice. You’d better tell me how to flirt with men.”

“I don’t know how to either. I’d been flirting with Joseph for such a long time, but he remained unmoved. I’m unqualified to teach you.”

“Joseph is a slick man. Of course, he can’t be compared with a young fresh graduate. It’s more than enough to use the tricks you used on Joseph on a young, inexperienced man. What’s more, I can bewitch him until he falls head over heels for me. Teach me!”

Being rendered helpless, Chloe stated, “Okay but I’m unsure if it’ll work. I found my tricks on the Internet.”

“Okay. Oh, hang on. I’m going to record this and study it well at home.”

Chloe was at a loss for words but she let Emily be.

“You must be shameless to pursue a man. Even if you dislike him, you have to show that you admire and love him. You have to do a lot of superficial things.

“Next you have to fit his fancy. For example, Joseph is a very picky eater, so I signed up for a cooking class. Although the effect wasn’t very significant, and he even regarded me as a house helper, it was fine. You need to build things up bit by bit. It’s the same when it comes to pursuing a man.

“And you must have a high tolerance and good acting skills. You need to have a sense of propriety. You must not overdo things in your pursuit.”

Chloe described her messy experience. After Emily heard everything, she felt sorry for Chloe.” You had such a hard time pursuing Joseph. I thought you just said a few romantic words.”

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Score 9.5

Chapter 284 Learning How to Pursue Men From Coco

“Of course, it’s not that simple. Joseph is hard to deal with.”

“I thought it wasn’t a loss for you even if Joseph isn’t Jake’s uncle since he ticks a lot of boxes. I finally understand your pain.”

Chloe drank some water to quench her thirst. “Yeah, I would’ve been frank with him and gotten a divorce back then if I hadn’t signed a labor contract with him.”

Back in those days, she felt as if she had chosen a road to ruin and could not see the end of it. And that bastard tortured her every day. Now, the hard times were over and happiness ensued.

After the meal, they settled the bill and exited the cafe.

Joseph then called Chloe. She snorted and picked up her phone, muttering unhappily, “Finally thought of me?”

Joseph was silent for a moment before he said hoarsely, “I was busy last night. Where are you now?”

Chloe assumed that he was busy with work. “I’m at Docwood and just finished my audition. not long ago. I even had lunch with Emily.”

“Send me the address.”

“Are you coming here?”

“Mm-hmm.”

“Okay, I’ll text you the address.”

After Chloe ended the call, Emily asked, “Is Joseph coming to pick you up?”

Chloe nodded. “Yeah.”

“Come to a social gathering with me then. After all, it’ll take him roughly two hours to get here from Graceville Estate. You’ll be bored all alone. Also, I’m afraid I won’t be able to close the deal with this client of mine today.”

“Sure. If we knew this was going to happen, we didn’t have to come for lunch.”

They had to keep on eating even though they were full now.

Emily winked at Chloe while teasing her. "I didn't expect your man to be so considerate. He's coming from so far away just to pick you up."

A sense of sweetness engulfed Chloe. She decided not to argue with him over what happened. the night before since he was coming to pick her up.

When they arrived at the restaurant, Chloe sent her location to Joseph and asked him to call

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when he arrived.

Unexpectedly, Emily's client enjoyed drinking and insisted on them drinking together before signing the contract. Left with not much choice, Chloe and Emily took turns drinking with the client, and as a result, drank a lot and became tipsy.

At last, the contract was signed.

At three o'clock in the afternoon, Lucas arrived at the destination. "Mr. Joseph, we're here. This is the location that Ms. Chloe sent."

Joseph's handsome but cold face was reflected in the rear-view mirror. He pinched the spot between his brows before he called Chloe. However, no one answered his call. Luckily, she had told him the number of the private room too when she texted him the location, so he simply let himself in.

The private room was filled with the smell of wine. Chloe and Emily both had their heads on the table, the former's face was red with her lips slightly ajar. She was sleeping soundly, looking quite charming.

Emily was holding onto her phone and rambling endlessly. She was half unconscious.

Lucas gaped in shock. "Why are they so drunk in broad daylight..."

Joseph frowned. "Take her friend away."

Lucas nodded and went forward to carefully help Emily up. However, she was reluctant and struggled wildly. Accidentally, she touched her phone screen, and a recording started to play. They heard Chloe's voice coming from the phone.

The recording was pretty long. The more Joseph listened to it, the gloomier his face became. The veins on his forehead bulged as his eyes turned scarlet. Every word in the recording was a head-on blow for him, causing a fatal strike.

He had felt guilty all night, thinking about how the dumbo loved him to the moon and back. If she learned that he accidentally slept with Xavia, she would surely be filled with heart- wrenching pain.

In the end, he was proven the foolish one.

Hearing the recording, Lucas was flabbergasted. 'So, Ms. Chloe's feelings for Mr. Joseph are nothing but an act? She even mistook him for Icarus.

'Well, I can't take her side now.'

After the recording ended, Emily shouted some inarticulate words, "I want to learn. I want to flirt with young men. I want to have it all like Coco!"

After making that statement, she lay on the table again and dozed off.

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Score 9.5

Chapter 285 Joseph Learned the Truth

Joseph snatched Emily's phone and smashed it hard on the floor.

Emily was awakened by the noise. When she opened her eyes and saw Joseph, she smiled foolishly as if in a trance. "Uncle? Why are you here?"

In a fit of rage, Joseph's fury twisted into a scornful smile, unveiling a flawless set of pearly white teeth. "Why are you calling me uncle?" he asked.

"It's because you're Jake's uncle."

"Why does Chloe want to be with the uncle?"

"You silly! She wants to take revenge on that scumbag Jake, of course!"

A tinge of sadness flashed across Joseph's cold eyes before deep wrath engulfed him. It turned out that Chloe's target at the beginning was Icarus. No wonder she treated him differently.

'So, she settled for second best and chose me?'

Joseph could no longer stay there. He was afraid that he would do something extreme if he lost control of himself and proceeded to storm out of the room.

Chloe was not worthy of him touching her. Even the thought of hitting her felt disgusting.

Lucas hurried after Joseph and said with trepidation, "Are we going to leave Ms. Chloe and her friend here? It's a bit dangerous for two drunk girls to be alone."

Joseph stopped in his tracks and said cruelly, "What does her safety have to do with me? Or can you not bear to leave her alone?"

Lucas immediately fell silent and did not dare to say anything anymore.

Sitting in the car, Joseph uttered "Villa" before falling silent.

When he was back home, he went upstairs to fish out the contract. Without even looking at it, he ferociously tore it apart and threw it into the dustbin.

Chloe was woken up by a waiter.

"Miss, our restaurant is going to close soon. Do you and your friend need help getting a cab?"

Chloe looked at the darkening sky outside, wondering why Joseph had not arrived yet.

"Okay, we'll leave right away." Clutching her dizzy head, she got up from the table. She then woke Emily who was beside her.

However, Emily could not find her phone. She looked down and found her phone on the floor,

smashed into pieces. Great heartache overwhelmed her as she thought of getting a new phone.

They helped each other out of the restaurant. When the cold wind attacked them, Chloe soon sobered up. After helping Emily to settle down, she hailed a cab.

After getting into the car, she texted Joseph. But after she hit the send button, she got back a red exclamation mark. She became dumbfounded. 'Did Joseph block me?'

Unwilling to accept it, she tried to call him. However, a cold mechanical voice greeted her, revealing that he had even blocked her number.

All of this had happened too suddenly, so she could only ask Lucas about it.

Lucas swiftly picked up her call, sounding much more indifferent toward her now. But Chloe did not care about that. She went straight to the point and asked if something had happened with Joseph. Otherwise, why would he block her for no reason?

"Ms. Chloe, Mr. Joseph learned of your purpose in approaching him."

Chloe's heart skipped a beat. Her mind went blank and her lips trembled. "How did it happen?"

"It was because of your friend."

Chloe roughly surmised the cause and effect. Joseph had come to the restaurant but Emily was drunk and had accidentally played the recording. She knew that Joseph would learn about the truth one day but she had not expected it to happen now.

And they had just made their relationship public.

The driver drove with a steady hand and they arrived at the villa half an hour in advance.

Glancing at the brightly-lit villa, Chloe became timid. 'I think Joseph will hate to see me now.'

When the driver saw that she had not gotten out of the car, he inquired, "Miss, is it not the right place?"

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Score 9.5

Chapter 286 The Divorce

Chloe paused for a moment before saying to the driver, "Could you please take me to a nearby hotel?"

The next morning, Chloe woke up in the hotel room. Observing her reflection in the mirror, she noticed dark circles hanging heavily under her eyes, making her look like a panda.

Throughout the night, she pondered her thoughts and gained clarity. There was no denying that she bore responsibility in this situation. If she had made a mistake, she needed to face the consequences. Regardless of how Joseph treated her, she had to explain herself.

After freshening up, Chloe returned to the villa, only to be surprised by Xavia's presence. Caught off guard, Chloe mustered a reluctant greeting toward Xavia. However, Xavia avoided making eye contact and appeared visibly uneasy.

Joseph lifted his gaze, his expression icy cold as he delivered his words. "This afternoon, we'll go to City Hall for a divorce, and I expect you to have your belongings cleared out before tonight."

Chloe's face drained of color, leaving her speechless. Before she could utter a word, Xavia, appearing more flustered than the person directly involved, interjected, "Joe, you don't need to bear any responsibility for me. Don't argue because of me."

Confusion clouded Chloe's mind as she questioned, her voice trembling slightly, "What responsibility are you talking about?"

Xavia, for some inexplicable reason, felt compelled to explain, "Aren't you upset about the intimate rendezvous that happened between Joe and me on Thursday night?"

Chloe's body trembled, her gaze fixed on Joseph in utter disbelief. "Is what she said true?"

For some unfathomable reason, Joseph took pleasure in witnessing her despair. A wicked grin formed on his lips as he casually uttered the most heartless words, "Yes, it's true."

With that confirmation, a searing pain tore through Chloe's entire being, leaving her numb and breathless. She stood there, immobilized, struggling to comprehend the magnitude of the betrayal. "After I left?"

"Yes. Do you want to know all the sordid details? I can enlighten you."

At that moment, Xavia's face flickered with a hint of anxiety before swiftly vanishing, concealing her true emotions.

Chloe gazed at the handsome man before her, her heart pierced with an intense pain that spread through every fiber of her being, even causing her fingers to tremble. But she could not contain it and burst into uncontrollable laughter. Tears streamed down her face as she

laughed, unable to stop the overwhelming emotions.

Joseph's brows furrowed deeply, and his tone turned harsh as he demanded, "What are you laughing at?"

What was she laughing at? She was laughing at her own naivety, at how she had once again bestowed her love upon the wrong person.

That Thursday night, she had surrendered herself to him for the first time, believing it was a moment of intimacy and connection. Little did she know that Joseph would seek solace with Xavia as soon as she departed. It made her question if this betrayal was a recurring pattern, a betrayal that had occurred multiple times before.

In a similar vein, Xavia's uncertainty betrayed her fear, dreading that Chloe would expose the truth. Joseph, despite his intoxicated state, had to have some recollection of the number of women he had touched and been intimate with. She was afraid that all her efforts would be in vain.

Chloe took a deep breath, mustering the strength to hold back the pain raging within her. With tear-filled eyes, she locked her gaze onto his. "I am a liar, and you, you're no better. You're nothing but a scumbag!"

A bitter smile curved Joseph's lips, tainted with a hint of sarcasm at being labeled a "scumbag.

"And what gives you the right to accuse me?" he retorted, his voice laced with condescension.

Chloe averted her gaze. "You're right. I have no right to accuse you," she admitted, her voice laced with resignation. "Let's get a divorce right now, so we don't waste any more of each other's time."

She was exhausted. The weariness seeped into every fiber of her being, leaving her drained. All she craved was a good night's sleep, a respite from the endless worries and turmoil that had

consumed her.

Joseph's laughter evaporated, his gaze piercing into her with intensity. "You were the one who persistently pursued me in the beginning. Now, you're the least qualified to talk about divorce.

"Did I suggest a divorce? It was you."

Joseph could not help but feel annoyed. He wanted a divorce, but should she not be begging him for forgiveness with tears in her eyes? Or perhaps she had already found someone else.

Chloe did not try to guess what was on his mind. She turned around and went to her bedroom, taking out the marriage certificate. She then said to Joseph, "Let's go now."

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Score 9.5

Chapter 287 Go After Her if You Like Her

Joseph stared into Chloe's eyes which held a resolute and pure conviction. This was Chloe Johnson, the same person who could tell lies without flinching, express love with a straight face, yet harbor no true feelings in her heart. She was the one who coldly watched him walk into a trap.

As this thought flashed through his mind, a mocking smile tugged at the corners of his

mouth. However, he had never been short of women, and these despicable and vile tactics only disgusted him.

Shifting away his gaze,

gaze, his voice turned cold and distant, difficult to approach. "Find your own way to City Hall. You don't deserve to sit in my car."

Chloe nodded numbly, her steps heavy as she made her way toward the exit.

Xavia's gaze flickered, her voice filled with concern. "Joe, can't the two of you have a proper conversation? Your emotions are running high right now. Give each other some time to cool down. Maybe there's still a chance to reconcile."

"Our matters are not your concern."

Xavia's face stiffened, and she nodded silently and decided not to argue any further. "Then I'll be here waiting for you to come back."

As she watched him walk away, Xavia reached into her bag and pulled out a spare mobile phone. She typed out a string of numbers and sent out a text.

During the halftime break of his golf game with some friends, Icarus' phone emitted a ping, signaling a new message. He instinctively reached for it and glanced at the screen. His eyes paused for a moment as he absorbed the contents. He then turned to his friends and said, "Let's call it a day. I have something important to attend to."

Although he did not recognize the number, the urgency of the message indicated that the sender must know something. If there was any truth to it, Chloe would need support and comfort in this difficult time, and Icarus did not want to miss the opportunity to provide that.

"Come on, stay a little longer. What's the rush?"

"I'm sorry, but this matter requires my immediate attention."

One of his friends could not resist teasing, "Is it a multi-million-dollar deal or something?"

Icarus smiled knowingly and replied, "No, it isn't work-related."

Chloe exited the living room, and Toto eagerly approached her, seeking affection by rubbing

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its furry head against her palm. She gazed at the oblivious dog, her eyes welling up with sadness. "I won't be able to take care of you anymore. Be on your best behavior and avoid eating salty and oily foods."

As Chloe finished speaking, she let out a bittersweet laugh and pat herself on the head. Why was she having this conversation with a dog that could not understand her?

With a farewell gesture to Toto, she made her way to the street to flag down a cab and made her way to City Hall where Joseph awaited. However, just as they were about to enter the building, Icarus arrived in his car and called out to Chloe.

Chloe perceived it as a coincidental encounter and hesitated briefly before making her way toward Icarus. She inquired, "What's the matter?"

Joseph's already somber and icy countenance took on an even more displeased appearance upon seeing Icarus, radiating an exceptionally chilling aura. His suspicions were confirmed. It seemed she could not wait to move on to her next target even before their divorce was finalized.

At that moment, Joseph felt an urge to kill.

Icarus cast a wary glance at Joseph, his expression on high alert. "Is he bullying you?"

Chloe mustered a bitter smile, but her words were cut short as a sudden surge of force gripped her wrist, causing her to flinch in pain. She found herself staring at Joseph's enraged eyes and clenched jaw.

Joseph directed a scornful look toward Icarus and mocked, "We haven't even finalized our divorce, yet you're already eager to be the backup plan."

Chloe furrowed her brow, concerned that another argument might ensue between the two men. She attempted to explain in a calm and composed tone, "We coincidentally bumped into each other here."

In the midst of their exchange, Icarus maintained a steady gaze, unaffected by Joseph's words. He responded with unwavering resolve, "I'm willing to wait for the divorce as long as you stick to your word, Mr. Joseph."

The office employees swiftly processed the divorce certificates, placing them in Chloe's and Joseph's hands.

"I still need to retrieve my belongings from the villa."

Annoyed by the documents, Joseph carelessly discarded them into the trash bin. "Do as you please."

Icarus approached, his voice softer than before. "Chloe, let me accompany you."

"No need. I'll go get them myself."

Icarus understood her state of mind and refrained from insisting. "What are your plans for the future?"

"I don't know yet. I want to take a few days off and then make a decision."

Chloe entered the villa, paying no attention to the man seated on the sofa, and proceeded directly upstairs. She gathered all her belongings, filling an entire suitcase that she brought over when she first came here. Notably, she left behind the jewelry and clothes that Joseph had purchased for her, including the precious Flawless Love ring from Nathan.

Joseph watched as Chloe vanished from his sight, and a surge of frustration propelled him to his feet. He stormed up the stairs, his footsteps heavy and determined. In the guest room, he swiftly rid the space of any trace of her presence. His jaw clenched tightly as he forcefully shut the door, creating a resounding crash that reverberated throughout the room.

A few lightweight photos fluttered down to the floor, catching his attention. He stooped down, gathering them in his hands. The images captured moments of Chloe and him together, frozen in time. In one, she wore a radiant smile,

playfully flashing a victory sign against the backdrop of a bustling shopping mall.

These were the very photos Joseph had taken while accompanying Chloe on shopping

excursions, naively assuming she would only send them to her grandfather. He never expected her to print them out.

Joseph's gaze lingered on the photos, his expression twisted with a mixture of bitterness and

amusement.

'Did she purposefully leave them behind? Did she want me to witness her departure?' he mused to himself, 'She's such a cunning dumbo, always up to something.'

Despite his disdain, an unexplainable hesitation lingered, keeping his hand from discarding the photos. Instead, he carefully returned them to their original position.

Xavia walked in and saw his actions, giving Joseph a knowing look. She urged him, "Joe, if you can't let her go, go after her."

Chapter 288 Unburdened by Debt

"You're overestimating her."

Joseph paused, his expression complicated.

"Last night's incident was my fault, but there are no feelings left between us. Even if I were to marry you officially, it'd be irresponsible of me and would be a waste of your life. If there's any compensation you desire, feel free to ask."

Xavia bit her lip, forcing a smile. "I don't want any compensation. I just want to stay by your side without any official status, regardless of love. Please don't push me away. You know, you're the only friend I have left here."

Joseph nodded in agreement. "I'll arrange for someone to take care of your daily needs and ensure you receive proper medical treatment."

“Thank you. Can I ask you something?”

“What is it?”

“Are you afraid of wasting my life, or are you unable to let go of Ms. Chloe?”

“Neither.”

Chloe got a hotel room. With some savings in her possession, she could slowly search for a new place to live. However, it was clear that she could not continue working at Fairlight and needed to find a new job. On top of that, there was the matter of the 28 million she owed. Joseph.

Pondering her options, Chloe retrieved the jewelry her mother had left behind. After careful consideration, she chose a few pieces. Her plan was to visit a jewelry store in the next couple of days to inquire about their value. If they held significant worth, she would use them as collateral to gather enough funds to repay a portion of what she owed him.

In a daze, Chloe stayed at the hotel for a few days, gradually regaining her composure. Carrying two gemstone adornments and an imperial topaz ring, she walked into a jewelry store and politely inquired, “Hello, I’d like to know the potential selling price for these items.”

The salesperson carefully examined the pieces from various angles but seemed unsure. Seeking guidance, they called the manager over. Even the manager appeared indecisive, until finally, the owner of the store intervened and swiftly offered a price.

“How about 150 thousand for one piece or 300 thousand for both? Does that sound fair to you?”

”

Chloe stood there, stunned. These two seemingly insignificant trinkets, which she considered

to be of lesser value, were being appraised at 150 thousand each. If these items were worth this much, she wondered about the potential value of the other possessions her mother had left behind. Was her mother truly that wealthy?

After a brief moment of consideration, Chloe placed the imperial topaz ring on the counter and inquired, "And how much is this one worth?"

The owner's eyes sparkled as he examined the ring. "400 thousand."

Chloe maintained her composure. "How about 450 thousand?" she countered as a smile played on her lips.

The owner clenched his teeth. "500 thousand, and that's the highest I can go."

The store's accessible cash was only 800 thousand.

Chloe hesitated for a moment. "I can sell it to you for 450 thousand, but let's consider it

collateral. I'll buy it back when I have the funds."

The owner's expression turned sour. "You can't use all three items as collateral. Sell me at

least two."

After some negotiation, the jewelry was sold, and the ring was used as collateral.

"Sir, may I ask how these items are priced in the market?"

"It depends on the quality, age, and craftsmanship. The items you brought would've been worth several tens of thousands twenty years ago. Now, with rising prices, they have appreciated significantly."

After finishing these matters, Chloe found herself in need of some additional funds, so she approached Benjamin for help. Reluctantly, he agreed to provide her with the money.

"I heard from Ava that you are connected with Adam Graham. Please reach out to him and finalize the collaboration. Our hopes for this quarter's recovery rest on the cooperation with the Graham family."

Chloe declined, stating, "I don't know him."

Benjamin expressed disbelief, saying, “This company will be yours in the future. What harm is there in helping out now?”

Chloe understood his perspective, but she knew that Adam only calls her “sister” because of Joseph’s influence. Now that her ties to him had been severed, the Grahams would no longer pay any attention to her.

In the afternoon, Chloe transferred 30 million to Joseph’s account. Now unburdened by debt,

she felt a profound sense of relief as she carried a lightness in her step. However, on the receiving end, Joseph’s reaction was far from joyous after receiving the money. He picked up the documents from the marketing department on his desk and impatiently scanned through

them.

“What is this? Take it back and revise it,” he exclaimed in frustration.

Lucas shrank back and meekly responded, “Sir, Marketing has already made over twenty revisions.”

“I demand results. If they can’t get it right after over a hundred revisions, it’s clear they lack competence.”

“Well... This proposal was actually handled by Chloe. It might be difficult for others to handle,

Lucas explained.

Joseph’s brows furrowed. “Tell Marketing to call her in and have her deal with it.”

‘Leaving behind a mess, prioritizing personal convenience, and causing trouble for others.’

Chloe swiftly responded to her colleagues’ call for help and arrived at Fairlight in a cab in less than an hour. Upon seeing her, her colleagues were immediately stirred up, bombarding her with questions and expressing their confusion over her abrupt resignation.

“Chloe, what are we going to do now that you’re leaving?”

“Yeah, we can’t manage without you. Ms. Wendy still hasn’t returned, and there’s no one to handle the important meetings.”

“Are you going back to take care of Mr. Joseph’s family and children?”

The mention of Joseph pained Chloe, but she kept her composure. “Let’s not discuss him anymore.”

The others were taken aback, struggling to fully comprehend the situation.

Meanwhile, Chloe took charge of the documents and began diligently making revisions, determined to address her neglected responsibilities. If she was going to leave, she wanted to ensure a smooth transition for the person who took over her job.

After two hours of focused work, Chloe finished modifying the documents and delegated the remaining tasks to her colleagues before preparing to depart.

“Chloe, could you please deliver the documents to Mr. Joseph? We’re all too afraid... One of our colleagues went earlier today and was absolutely terrified. She returned in tears and wouldn’t stop crying the whole day...”

Chloe did not desire any interaction with Joseph, but witnessing the distress of her former colleagues was difficult to bear. Letting out a determined sigh, she reluctantly agreed.

Chapter 289 If I’m Heartless, How Did You Deceive Me?

Lucas displayed little surprise upon seeing Chloe as he had anticipated the hesitancy of the marketing department colleagues who had been tormented in recent days.

“Mr. Joseph is currently available. You may enter.”

“Thank you.”

Chloe raised her hand and lightly knocked on the door. A displeased voice responded from within. “Enter.”

She silently pushed the door open and placed the documents on Joseph's desk. Her tone was respectful yet distant as she spoke, "Mr. Joseph, the documents have been processed. Please. review them."

Joseph's gaze remained fixed on his computer screen and his lips remained motionless, treating her as if she were mere air.

Undeterred, Chloe persisted, "Mr. Joseph, the documents have been processed."

"Why the rush? Is my time not as valuable as yours?"

Chloe pressed her lips together, her frustration evident. "That's why I'm waiting for you. Do let me know how much longer it will take."

Joseph smirked slightly, his response dripping with sarcasm. "Almost done."

And so, the so-called "almost done" dragged on for another two hours, leaving Chloe's legs numb from standing. She knew the man was doing it on purpose. But choosing to avoid unnecessary complications, she refrained from urging him again.

Finally, Joseph's gaze shifted away from the screen and landed on Chloe. She was dressed in a pale-yellow camisole paired with suspenders trousers, revealing her fair skin. Despite the divorce, she exuded youth and vitality, her beauty seemingly enhanced by the experience.

Joseph's eyes gradually turned cold, his voice icy. "Rewrite it."

Chloe frowned, taken aback by his immediate judgment. "You haven't even reviewed it."

"There's no need to review it. Your lack of focus on work is apparent, and I can already tell the document won't meet the required standards."

"Joseph, don't pick a fight with me."

"You have quite an inflated opinion of yourself."

Chloe fixed her gaze on the man's face and softened her tone. "The past is behind us now. The divorce didn't just hurt you, Joseph." She, a young and beautiful girl, had lost her innocence and now found herself having to marry a second time. She had nowhere to vent her grievances.

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Joseph arched an eyebrow, his expression cold and his eyes piercing like knives. "So I should apologize to you?"

With innocence in her eyes, Chloe responded, "If you can bring yourself to do it, I can accept it.

After all, she had only deceived someone and was now exposed. But this despicable man had. engaged in infidelity, sleeping with two different women in one night. He was even worse than Jake!

Joseph let out a humorless chuckle. "You truly have no shame."

Chloe muttered under her breath, feeling a surge of indignation. "And neither do you..."

"What did you say?"

"Nothing. So, tell me, how should I revise it?"

His slender and attractive fingers tapped rhythmically on the desktop, creating a nonchalant yet oppressive sound. Joseph opened his mouth to speak, but before he could utter a word, the office door was forcefully kicked open.

"You brat! We had an agreement to bring Chloe back to the family home for dinner yesterday and meet my comrades. You stood us up without a single word. Today, I'll teach you a lesson!" Harold stormed into the room, his anger blazing. He lifted his mahogany cane, poised to strike Joseph.

Chloe's pupils contracted and her reflexes were quicker than her thoughts. She swiftly stepped forward and grabbed his arm. "Grandpa, please don't act impulsively. We had something important last night that prevented us from going!"

Joseph observed her actions and narrowed his eyes. Was she genuinely concerned about him?

In the next instant, he could not help but mock himself. She had always been skilled at acting, and now that the old man was here, she must want to put on a show to please him.

Harold's expression underwent a dramatic change upon seeing Chloe. Instantly, his old eyes narrowed into slits. "Ah, Chloe. You're here as well."

Chloe touched her nose. "Yes, I came to deliver some documents to Joseph."

'Joseph? Doesn't she usually call the brat Jojo?'"

Harold's expression turned serious. "Chloe, tell me. Did you two have a fight since you two didn't come back to the family home last night?"

Chloe was suddenly agitated, instinctively looking toward Joseph for help. The latter pretended not to understand her intention and lowered his head, leisurely sipping his coffee.

Her mind raced, filled with nervousness. She realized that if she did not speak up now, she

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would have to continue pretending in the future. Since they had chosen to separate, it was important to be clear about their intentions. Indecision would only lead to further chaos.

Chloe organized her thoughts and apologized sincerely to Harold "Grandpa, in reality, Joseph and I have gotten a divorce I'm grateful for the kindness you've shown me during this time, but relationships can be unpredictable, with separations and reconciliations

Harold's expression underwent a drastic transformation, resembling that of someone who could not accept the truth. "You're telling me it wasn't just a fight, but a divorce"

"Yes"

Harold's eyes snapped shut as he clutched his chest, and moments later, he collapsed, fainting

abruptly

In the hospital's emergency room, Chloe paced back and forth in the corridor, consumed by anxiety and guilt. She berated herself for being too direct with Harold. The old man was fragile, and she had subjected him to such a sudden

shock. It was all her fault What if something terrible happened? She immediately scolded herself for uttering such unlucky

words

Meanwhile, Joseph sat on a nearby bench, observing Chloe's worried and teary eyed expression. He could not help but find it somewhat amusing Adopting a magnanimous tone, he reassured her, "Don't look so despondent. He won't die "

This type of scene had unfolded countless times, if not innumerable times, within the Whitman family. The scene in the office earlier was clearly staged

Chloe's eyes welled up with tears as she exclaimed in a loud voice. "Must someone die for it to be a serious matter? Grandpa is fragile at his age even the slightest bump or scrape could have serious consequences for his health. Don't you have a heart You re just standing here and making these sarcastic remarks!"

Joseph's eyelid twitched, his gaze turning icy and deep like a frozen pool. "If I'm heartless, how did you deceive me?"

Chapter 290 A Promise for a Great-Grandchild

Chloe instantly froze in place, her face flushing slightly. It felt as if she were a high-level bitch.

This statement seemed to trigger something within Joseph. His towering figure advanced toward Chloe, his eyes gleaming with sinister intensity. "Your methods have always been. deplorable, and if I'm being honest, quite foolish. Your intentions were written all over your face, and yet I fell for them. At the very moment you successfully manipulated me, were you secretly mocking me as a fool in your heart?"

very

After several days of tranquility, he reflected on their past encounters. From the beginning, she had audaciously seduced him, with the only noteworthy element being the sincerity in her eyes.

Chloe found herself backed into a corner, her hands pushing against Joseph's chest as she frowned. "Don't paint yourself as the victim here. Dig deep into your heart and ask if I haven't treated

you well. Do you truly believe that I never genuinely cared?

"I've never had the audacity to treat you the way you treated me. I'd never utter all those hurtful words. I was afraid you'd become angry and give me the cold shoulder.

"You prefer plain food, so I have to accompany you in eating such dishes every day. And when we occasionally have something spicy, I'm expected to be grateful and thankful to you for giving me the opportunity to taste it."

The more Chloe spoke, the more aggrieved she felt. Tears streamed down her face. uncontrollably, falling to the ground with a soft pitter-patter. Her once-beautiful face was now adorned with tear stains, resembling a flower bud cloaked in rain and mist.

Upon retrospection, she regretted ever crossing paths with him. If only they had never met, she would not be engulfed in such misery.

Joseph observed her disheveled state, crying without concern for her appearance, and an indescribable irritation welled up inside him. He twirled his fingers, feeling the urge to wipe away her tears. However, he resisted the impulse.

Stepping back, creating a distance between them, he spoke in a frigid tone, "Enough with the pretending. If you want to put on a show, wait until the old man wakes up and perform in

front of him instead."

Chloe maintained her silence, lowering her head as she discreetly wiped away her tears with her sleeve. The past few days had been arduous, and shedding tears had offered a brief respite.. Yet, an unexplainable sorrow still weighed heavily on her heart.

Certain things were irreversible.

"The patient has regained consciousness. Family members may now enter," the nurse announced, opening the door.

Chloe and Joseph exchanged a glance before proceeding together toward the emergency room.

Harold lay frail on the hospital bed, and Chloe's guilt intensified as she gazed at him. Her lips quivered, and she fought to find her voice. "Grandpa..."

Harold offered her a gentle smile and said, "I'm okay. You and the brat haven't really gotten divorced, have you? You're just teasing me, right?"

Chloe anxiously picked at her fingernails, unable to bring herself to reveal the truth this time.

The doctor approached them and advised, "Please avoid causing stress to the elderly. Don't you youngsters know that your grandfather has a heart condition?"

"We're aware..."

"If you are, then why did you subject your grandfather to stress?"

"I'm sorry..."

"Don't apologize to me. Heart disease, to be frank, worsens with each episode. Each occurrence carries greater risks. You youngsters should discuss important matters privately before bringing them to light."

Chloe's eyelashes quivered as she took a deep breath. It appeared that she had no choice but to resort to a less favorable option now.

Grandpa. Jojo and I haven't divorced. We just had a small argument, and my words were spoken in anger. We've already reconciled. I'm sorry for worrying you," she explained.

Joseph arched an eyebrow and gazed at her intently with his cold, penetrating eyes. There was an inexplicable emotion on his otherwise indifferent face that even he could not decipher.

Upon hearing her words, Harold let out a relieved sigh. He playfully raised his hand and lightly slapped the man standing beside the bed. Then, he kindly said to Chloe, "That's the spirit. Husbands and wives have their

disagreements, but they always find a way to make up. Don't forget the promise you made me."

Chloe paused, her face slightly flushed as she recalled what he was referring to.

Joseph narrowed his eyes and questioned, "What did she promise you?"

"Chloe said that if I agreed to let her film the brand endorsement advertisement for Exotic Star, she'd do her best to bless me with a great-grandchild as soon as possible."

Harold earnestly instructed Chloe, "You mustn't break your word. You and that brat should pick up the pace.

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Jojo and Coco's Unexpected Love By Aurora Summers

Score 9.5