

# Jojo and Coco's Unexpected Love By Aurora Summers

## Chapter 301

### Chapter 301 You May Leave Now

Joseph leaned back in his seat languidly and superiorly. "It depends on when you're going to cook for me."

"I'm not sure. I've been busy with company affairs recently."

If she had to cook for him, she needed to cook three meals every day. She needed three hours total, and that was excluding the travel time.

"We'll talk about it when you're sure of that."

Chloe knitted her brows. "No, the cooperation with the Graham Group can't be delayed any longer."

"Cook for me for two days. Let's set it up for around the end of this month."

After a brief hesitation, Chloe said, "Deal."

Cooking for him for two days was acceptable in comparison to the number of profits she could gain from the cooperation with the Graham Group.

Joseph lowered his eyes and hid the joy that flashed across his eyes after succeeding. He

behaved like a child who had successfully stolen a sweet. In his satisfaction, he was filled with a tinge of unconscious secret delight.

Chloe had guessed correctly-Joseph disliked Dai food-and she got to eat almost all of the food on the table. Most of the time, Joseph simply watched her eat.

She ate fast but not vulgarly. Her cheeks were stuffed, which made her appear like a hamster. This look of hers was vastly different from her other self-the strong business woman. At the moment, she looked adorable, which made him yearn to poke her cheeks.

After bidding goodbye to Joseph at the restaurant, they went to their separate homes.

Chloe, who was washing up, received a call from Alexander. He told her that he had no command over what happened earlier. After she expressed her understanding, he told her that the cooperation would begin the next day.

It looked like Joseph had called Alexander, and it had proven effective.

For the subsequent week, Chloe was the first who arrived at the office and was the last to clock out every day. She was as busy as a bee.

After the cooperation with the Graham Group was confirmed, she had a meeting with her employees. She informed them that they would be busy for some time to come.

At first, she had decided to raise their salary after this busy period was over. However, she heard the dissatisfaction her employees had toward her while she was getting water.

“Tsk! I’m so tired. We work overtime every day, and she doesn’t even buy us coffee. It was better when Ava was around. At least she bought us desserts from time to time.”

“Okay, okay. Stop complaining. We get paid overtime if we work longer. We didn’t get that in the past. All we got was our monthly salary. We were so poor.”

“We didn’t have overtime in the past, but we didn’t work late much. It was just a few times every month. How relaxing! I can’t stand her telling us how to do our jobs all day.”

“We’re almost of the same age. Can’t we have the same status even if she’s the boss? She behaves like she’s very capable but it’s just her family property.”

“Don’t force yourself to go through all that suffering if you can’t stand it.” Chloe walked over with her cup and stated lightly, “Go and get your salary from Finance. You don’t have to come in starting tomorrow.”

The woman who criticized Chloe was shocked. After she regained her wits, she clicked her tongue. “Okay, I won’t come. What’s the big deal? Do you think I want to work here?”

Chloe crossed her arms in front of her chest and lowered her head to sip her water. She then looked around. "Anyone else want to quit? You may leave now."

Some people stood up and asked slowly, "Will we get this month's salary?"

"Yes."

When they gained an affirmative answer, they went to the finance department in satisfaction. These people just wanted to lay idle and did not want to work overtime every day or lead such an exhausting life.

When Benjamin was around, this company was just ordinary. They did not believe that Chloe would be able to make it big because she was just a woman in her early twenties. If she did not manage the company well, it would close its doors sooner or later. They felt that they might as well resign now and find another job.

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**Score 9.5**

Chapter 302 Continue Hitting Her

Three people wanted to resign, so there would be a shortage of staff from now on. However, it would not be very difficult as long as they worked together.

Chloe stated gently but firmly, "I know that we'll be very busy this month. Thank you very much for

your hard work. I'll raise your salary after this busy period. The number of coffee and dessert breaks you'll get will be the same as in the past. We'll have it four times and have Finance pay for it."

An effective way for the boss to encourage their subordinates was to approve of them, giving them bonuses and raising salaries. As for why Ava wanted to use her money to treat her colleagues, it was because she did not make any valuable contributions. She could only use small favors to win people over and gain a firm foothold in the company.

Benjamin and Karen were convicted of intentional homicide and were sued by the court. Karen was confirmed as the main culprit while Benjamin was her accomplice. They were sentenced to twenty years and fifteen years in prison respectively, so they had to spend the rest of their lives in prison.

Chloe did not go to visit them. She was fine with not seeing them again for the rest of her life. As Benjamin's legal heir, Chloe inherited Benjamin's property. She contacted a real estate company to sell her family's villa and planned to buy a new house.

After learning that Karen had been convicted, Ava continuously called Chloe just to curse at her. Chloe simply ignored her, unaware of what had happened the day before. Ava called her over a hundred times and sent a bunch of text messages, cursing her out. She felt that Ava's fury had reached its peak.

When Chloe went to the company the next day, Icarus came with two sponsors. She asked in bewilderment, "What's going on here?"

"These are my friends. They happen to be looking for projects to invest in. Jake told me that you have suitable developing projects, so I brought them here to check them out. Did we come at a bad time?"

"No, not at all. I have time now." Chloe smiled broadly and led them into her office. She then secretly nudged Icarus with her elbow and whispered, "Thank you. I'll give you a cash reward later."

Of course, she could tell that he was deliberately helping her. He probably had not informed her in advance because he was afraid of being rejected or hurting her dignity.

Icarus was indeed a true gentleman. There was a vast difference between him and Joseph, who just loved to poke at her sore spots.

When Chloe thought of Joseph, she felt gloomy. He always fussed over one thing or another when it came to her. She had to repay him even if he only did her a small favor.

Icarus adjusted his glasses. He recently started keeping a beard, so he looked particularly refined and mature. "That's unnecessary, but I'd like to have dinner with you tonight. Is that okay?"

Chloe became stupefied. "I'm getting off from work late tonight..."

“That’s fine. I happen to be free today. I can wait for you.”

“Okay, thank you. How about you take a tour of the company first?”

“All right.”

Chloe had a very enjoyable talk with the two sponsors, and they quickly reached a deal. Since Icarus was waiting for her, she quickened her pace while working in front of the computer.

Night fell, and the sky darkened. Nearing the end of her work, she got up to inform Icarus. When she got to the corridor, she saw no one. She heard him talking on the phone in the washroom nearby, so she turned around to return to her office.

Suddenly, the corridor fell into darkness.

Chloe thought that there was a power cut. But in the next second, she felt a sharp pain on the back of her neck as if someone had injected something into her. She became weak all over, and she fell unconscious within a few seconds.

Same as Chloe, Icarus too thought there was a power cut. He groped his way out of the washroom and heard footsteps that were growing fainter. The footsteps were heavy as if the person was carrying a heavy item. He could tell that it was a man.

Anxiety washed over Icarus as he strode toward Chloe’s office. The moonlight shone in from the window, lighting up the vacant office. He noticed that something was amiss, and as he called Chloe, he ran downstairs and out of the building.

All the employees had clocked by now, so it could only be an outsider.

Icarus spotted two burly men carrying a sack getting into a van at the back door of the office. After that, he heard a phone ringtone. His heartbeat quickened and he quickly retreated into a dark corner. When the ringtone was cut off, the van sped off.

Icarus immediately hopped into his car and pursued the van. He put some distance between him and that van for fear of being noticed. At the same time, he called the police.

The van drove out of Aesper and to a village before it stopped in front of an old house. A man carried Chloe out of the sack and threw her on the ground. He then took out his phone to take a few photographs before giving Ava a video call and positioned his phone in front of Chloe.

Being thrown on the ground, Chloe was woken up by the pain.

“Coco dear, I got you a big gift. Enjoy yourself.”

The person shown on the phone screen was wearing thin silk pajamas, showing a smug expression.

Chloe suppressed the pain that came from all over her body and cursed fiercely, “Fuck off!”

Ava’s voice turned gloomy. “You’re still so stubborn even on the verge of death. Teach her a lesson.”

After that, one of the men slapped Chloe. Being slapped, she felt a burning sensation on her face. Even her lip had split open.

Ava continued, “Continue hitting her. Don’t stop.”

## Chapter 303 One Dollar

The man slapped her repeatedly. Chloe’s limbs were tied up, so she could not resist. Hence, had to suffer brutal torture.

Icarus was hiding in the bush, feeling deeply sorry for her. However, he knew that he could not step up now. He could not defeat four men alone, and he would lose the chance to ask others for help.

Being slapped over and over, Chloe’s face became severely bruised. Her body was kicked several times too. Her internal organs were engulfed with pain.

she

Ava cracked a satisfied smile, looking at Chloe like a winner. “These few slaps are just appetizers. This is all because you’re such a busybody. Why did you go to Jonathan and tell on me?”

Jonathan had been ignoring her these past few days and even wanted to break up with her. After some interrogation, she learned that it was this b\*tch Chloe's scheme. Chloe was the one who told Jonathan that Ava was once engaged to Jake.

Consequently, Ava lost both her family and boyfriend. And if she had to suffer, she would not allow Chloe to lead a good life either.

“Okay, I've had enough fun. I leave it up to you guys now. Record everything. After that, scratch up her face.”

The brutes looked at Chloe, who had fallen into a half-conscious state, with lewd gazes. Her face was swollen, but she had a good figure. Judging by her fair legs, they surmised that she would feel good. One of the men started to caress Chloe's cheek as he pouted his smelly mouth to kiss her.

When Icarus saw this, he became infuriated and anxious. He could no longer stand it and rushed out to beat them up. After a fierce battle, he failed to fend off the men. He slowly fell into a disadvantageous position before they kicked him to the ground.

Suddenly, they heard a police siren from afar.

The brutes became anxious. They knew that they would not get a penny if they did not complete their mission. Hence, the leader made up his mind to take out a dagger and rush toward Chloe.

When Icarus sensed the danger, he threw himself in front of Chloe, shielding her and taking the blows.

After an unknown period, the brutes finally ran away when the police siren got nearer.

It was Tyson who handled the case and he immediately called Joseph.

When Joseph arrived at the hospital, he saw that Chloe had been greatly tortured, her fair skin spotting large bruises. His eyes narrowed and he found it hard to breathe.

He raised his hand to touch her face, but when he touched her, she immediately frowned in fear. His teeth gnashed together and his sharp eyes turned red. He slowly retracted his hand.

Tyson went up to Joseph and asked hesitantly, "Do you know who she offended? My

preliminary judgment is that the culprit is an acquaintance of hers."

Joseph's eyes exuded deep wrath. Even his voice turned cold, filling others with terror. "There's only one person capable of doing this if it is an acquaintance. You can cease your investigation."

A cold chill ran down Tyson's spine. He knew that Joseph was serious now.

Ava was staying in a villa under Calvin's name at some part of Docwood.

She waited for two hours but those brutes did not send her the video. She just assumed that they were too caught up in the moment, enjoying it to the utmost. While imagining the scene of them bullying Chloe, she smiled and dozed off.

In the middle of the night, a basin of cold water was poured over her head. She was startled as she woke up from her dream and jolted upright.

"Who the fuck?! Do you have a death wi..."

Mid-curse, Ava saw Joseph, and her eyes contracted in fear. He looked like the god of death. She became so frightened that she retreated.

"W-Why are you here?"

Joseph waved his hand expressionlessly before two tall and sturdy men in black suits, who were standing behind him, slapped Ava twice.

"Ah, help! Help! I'm being harassed!"

Ava screamed in pain. The men stepped forward and slapped her twice again after she had just cried out. Soon, she became scared of the slaps. She begged Joseph, "Stop hitting me. I was wrong. I shouldn't have kidnapped Chloe..."

Although Joseph did not tell her the reason for all this, Ava knew that he must have come for that b\*tch.

Joseph sneered indifferently. "Well, since you've made a mistake, you should be punished."



While talking, the men in black tied Ava up and drove her to a seedy bar. Joseph handed Ava over to the bar owner.

Nathan then walked over and asked, "What's the price?"

"1 dollar."

Nathan became flabbergasted. "Wouldn't everyone have a chance to get her if the price is so low?"

Joseph held a cigarette between his fingers. Through the swirling smoke, wickedness was written all over his face. "Things will be more interesting this way.

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## **Score 9.5**

### Chapter 304 She Missed Him Greatly

Nathan shuddered before he ordered the owner to take Ava away.

They dressed her up in a seductive and revealing costume before they locked her up in a gigantic iron cage. All her limbs were tied up before she was carried onto the stage for an auction as if she were an item.

When the boss announced the price of 1 dollar, the whole scene was thrown into a great frenzy. The first man who got Ava in the auction brought her into a lounge, and her screams followed soon after.

Joseph pressed his temples and was about to leave when Nathan said, "You're here now. Why don't you have some fun for a bit?"

"No, Chloe's still unconscious. I need to go back to her."

"Didn't you guys get a divorce? What's the matter? Can't let her go?"

Joseph's eyes became dull as he replied icily, "I just find her pitiful."

Nathan was rendered speechless. 'You're just stubborn.'

As Joseph drove back to the hospital, the sky was hazy and the sky was just getting dark. When he passed by a hawker selling milk and bread at the entrance of the hospital, he stopped and bought a set. Chloe had not eaten the whole night and must be starving.

In the ward.

Chloe handed a freshly peeled egg to Icarus. Looking at the hideous scar around his chin, her voice turned bitter. "This happened all because of me. I got you into this..."

Icarus patted her hand to comfort her. "It's fine. I'm a man, so I don't care about my

appearance. What's more... I didn't protect you well."

It might be because he was covered in too many injuries the previous day, so he did not notice that his face had been slashed.

Chloe shook her head. "No, you've treated me very well."

She suffered merely physical injuries, while Icarus' face was ruined. Even his leg was broken. She had wronged him.

Staring at them as they felt sorry for each other, Joseph clenched his fists tightly, veins bulging. He then chuckled in self-mockery. He turned around and dumped the milk and bread into the dustbin before he left.

It was as if he had never been there.

Jake arrived at the hospital early the next morning. When he saw the scar on Icarus' chin, he was struck speechless for a long time. Feeling sad, he lowered his head. For a moment, he could not find the appropriate things to say.

His uncle was a few years older than him, but he was much more mature than him. He was a figure that both the Cooper and Baker families were proud of.

Now Icarus' face was ruined. His family would feel very sad when they learned of it.

"Don't tell the family," Icarus ordered, "I'll tell them when the moment's right."

Jake suppressed his bitterness. "How's Chloe doing?"

"She's fine but she got beaten up pretty badly."

"I'll go and see her."

Jake went to the neighboring ward to find Chloe looking out of the window in a trance. When he saw her that way, he was full of self-reproach. He found that he was useless. He had not taken good care of his family and beloved.

Jake's arrival was something that Chloe had anticipated.

"Chloe, are you okay..."

In front of him, Chloe forced a smile. "I wasn't doing very well last night, but I'm much better now. Icarus was more seriously injured than me...to save me."

"He did that willingly." Jake did not blame her but he heaved a long sigh. "Are you still going to reject him? He sincerely cares about you, Coco. Why are you hesitant? Do you still care about Joseph?"

Chloe was slightly stunned but was soon enlightened. She had missed Joseph very much from the moment she woke up until now. She even dreamt of him last night. But when she woke up, she was alone in the vacant ward.

Jake did not know if he was seeking justice for himself or Icarus in the face of Chloe's silence. Joseph is just a little richer than us. Rich people have lots of women. Don't fall into it. If he likes you, the person who saved you last night would have been him instead of Uncle Icarus."

Chloe answered calmly, "It's not because of him. I'm thinking about other stuff."

Jake did not seem to believe it. He reverted to his previous topic. "Do you feel nothing for Uncle Icarus? Even his face is scarred now. He'll scare a lot of women, or...they might even despise him for it."

"I get your point. I'm very grateful to him, and I even wronged him. But in terms of a relationship, I need to think it over properly."

"Chloe, I'm not trying to force you...'

He just felt that his uncle treated Chloe very well, and every woman wanted a man who treated them well.

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## Score 9.5

### Chapter 305 She Didn't Fit the Profile

Chloe took a deep breath. "I understand. Please, I'd like some time alone now.

After Jake left, she lay in bed. Tossing and turning, she could not fall asleep.

A young couple walked past the door of her ward. The man supported the woman who had just undergone surgery. He muttered endlessly in displeasure, but his tone was full of concern for

her.

Chloe blinked. She suddenly understood why she missed Joseph very much after she woke up. It was because, in the past half a year, Joseph would stay with her every time she got hurt and was hospitalized.

At that moment, Joseph might have just woken up and was on his way out for his morning run. Or, he might be with Xavia. They were having breakfast and chatting about their daily trifles.

Chloe suppressed the deep bitterness in her heart and pulled the blanket over her head. She then snuggled into bed and forced herself to sleep.

It was now morning but the people in the bar were having a frenzy with no concern for the time. Joseph had glasses of wine one after another. However, the strong wine failed to pacify the anger in his heart.

Nathan knitted his brows and pulled the bottle toward himself. "Aren't you going to work today?"

Joseph ignored him, his gaze glued on a woman who was selling wine in the middle of the dance floor. Her figure and face were thin. At that time, she was

dazedly looking at the various men in front of her with her charming eyes. Helplessly and timidly, she was promoting the wine.

Nathan looked over and was stunned. "That young woman looks a little like Chloe."

The bar owner, who was drinking with them, noticed that both of them were looking in the same direction. Hence, he asked flatteringly, "She's new here. I'll call her over and introduce you guys."

The woman followed the boss and came over but did not dare to raise her head.

Joseph said, "Come here."

The owner urged the girl to sit down beside Joseph. She then raised her head fearfully. When she saw his impeccably handsome face, she was dumbstruck and rosiness dawned on her face.

The owner urged her, "Don't just sit there. Hurry up and serve Mr. Joseph wine."

"Oh, okay..." She poured out a glass for him.

"Why do you work here?"

The woman's eyes turned red as if her sore spot had been brought up. "I was cheated when I went looking for a job. I lost my identity card and bank card. I don't have good academic qualifications either, so this place is my only option."

Other men might feel sorry for her or even pity her when they heard this story but Joseph was bored. He parted his thin lips and uttered, "Fuck off."

The woman gasped, not understanding where she had gone wrong. She cried softly in front of him, putting up a charmingly pitiful front. She was reluctant to give up such a rare chance.

The owner was also quite baffled. 'Why is this man so unpredictable?'

Somberness then crept up Joseph's countenance before Nathan stuffed a stack of cash into her hands. "Go. Don't be foolish."

The woman bit her lower lip and reluctantly returned to selling wine after she gained the cash. When she had left, Nathan leaned toward Joseph. "Don't you think she looks a little like Chloe?"

"Only in appearance. Chloe is smarter."

Although he liked to call Chloe a dumbo, she was not foolish. On the contrary, she was an ambitious and strong woman. Of course, her shortcoming was her fickle attitude. She was thinking about other men when she was not single.

Nathan found it hard to understand Joseph's thoughts. "Do you dislike that girl who sells wine just because she's dumb?"

Joseph shot him a sidelong glance. "If she was smart, would she have been cheated when looking for a job? Doesn't she know how to differentiate between right and wrong?"

Speechless overwhelmed Nathan.

'I get it now. It's because she didn't fit the profile. Very well, I'll get him a woman who's like Chloe in terms of appearance, character, and intelligence.'

"Mr. Joseph, that woman has fainted. Should we continue?"

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## **Score 9.5**

Chapter 306 She's Waiting for You Inside

Joseph nonchalantly remarked, "Send her back to her place."

"Right away."

After handling Ava, Joseph took a shower and headed straight to Fairlight.

At the office, Lucas approached him respectfully. "Sir, Ms. Xavia is waiting for you inside." Putting on his usual expressionless demeanor, Joseph pushed

the door open and entered. Upon seeing Joseph, Xavia's face immediately brightened with affection. "You're here. Did you...attend a business gathering last night? I smell alcohol."

"No." His voice was flat and emotionless, his short black hair still slightly damp. He adjusted his tie and took a seat in front of the computer. A sidelong glance revealed his well-defined jawline, reflecting his cold and aloof demeanor.

Xavia's expression froze. "Joe, are you in a bad mood?"

Joseph's dark eyes, black as ink, held a hint of bloodshot. He pressed his temples, displaying a trace of restlessness. "A little."

"Is it because of work or...personal matters?"

"Work"

Xavia's face softened. "It's been years since I dealt with finance stuff. I'm afraid I can't be of much help to you."

"It's fine." Joseph's gaze, difficult to decipher, met hers. "Did you have something to discuss with me?"

"Umm... I'm planning to leave Aesper for a while."

"Why?"

"I want to visit other cities. Being in the hospital all the time feels suffocating."

Joseph reached into a drawer and retrieved a card, handing it to her. "Buy whatever you want. Don't skimp on yourself."

Xavia smiled and pushed the card back. "I have savings that are enough to sustain me for a lifetime. You're busy, so I'd best be leaving now."

Joseph frowned slightly but remained silent.

As Xavia exited Fairlight, the gentle smile on her face vanished without a trace. She entered a sedan, and the man in the driver's seat attentively handed her a bottle of water. She glared at him, her expression darkening. "Don't waste your efforts on these useless gestures. If you can't meet the requirements within a month, don't ever expect to see me again."

That old man refused to let go of her and had even resorted to threats. She had initially intended to take things slow with Joseph, but now she had no choice. It was all because of Harold's coercion.

Eustace Hubble eagerly nodded in response. Xavia was the goddess he had pursued for many and now he had the opportunity to be in such close proximity to her. It was a chance he was willing to make any sacrifice for.

years,

The mere thought of spending day and night with his goddess for the whole month filled him with undeniable excitement.

In the hospital today, Chloe arrived to pick Icarus up. Her injuries had already healed, and she was ready to take care of him.

Sitting in a wheelchair with a fractured calf, Icarus expressed his apology, saying, "I'm sorry I need you to take care of me, Chloe."

She reassured him. "Don't worry about it. It's only natural for me to be here for you."

"I've already arranged for a caregiver, but they won't be starting until tomorrow. I have an important forum to attend tomorrow, but I have difficulty moving my legs. Can you accompany me?"

Chloe nodded without hesitation, replying, "Of course, I'll be there with you."

In the afternoon, they arrived at the venue right on time. To Chloe's surprise, she noticed several familiar faces among the attendees, all prominent figures in the financial industry. Her heart skipped a beat, fearing that Joseph might be among them. However, after scanning the room, she failed to spot him.

As the forum progressed, the host suddenly announced with an excited expression, "Ladies and gentlemen, today we have an unexpected surprise. Joining us is Mr. Joseph Whitman, the CEO of Fairlight Group. Let's give him a warm round of applause!"

Chloe's mouth twitched. Even before the man took the stage, she hastily found an excuse and slipped away to the restroom. She truly wanted to avoid encountering Joseph in such a setting. If he saw her with Icarus, she knew he would likely make sarcastic remarks once again.



Joseph emerged from backstage, his gaze sharp as it fixed upon Icarus, a disdainful smile playing on his lips.

Sensing Joseph's intent for being there, Icarus' grip on the wheelchair handles tightened but he remained composed and courteous in his demeanor.

Chloe was in the midst of washing her hands in the restroom when a strong grip seized her shoulder, forcefully turning her around. Her almond-shaped eyes widened in shock as she came face to face with Joseph. Before she could react, he pulled her into an embrace.

"Let go of me!" She pushed and struggled desperately. "This is the women's restroom. I'm going to call for help!"

"Go ahead," Joseph responded calmly.

Growing increasingly frustrated, Chloe opened her mouth and began shouting, "Help! There's a pervert in the women's restroom!"

Joseph's eye twitched violently, and he leaned down to silence Chloe's scarlet lips with his. Chloe realized that her previous approach was ineffective. Knowing that a direct confrontation would not work on him, she needed to change her strategy.

She nuzzled into his neck and gently kissed the corner of his lips. Her gaze became seductive and hazy. In a soft and enticing voice, she whispered, "Not here. Let's find somewhere more private."

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**Score 9.5**

Chapter 307 He Wants to Spend More Time With Me?

Joseph's breath was scorching, his large hands cupping her cheeks. He looked deeply into her eyes and whispered, "Tell me, where do you want to go?"

"The car."

Joseph agreed and released his grip on her wrist.

Seizing this opportunity, Chloe swiftly utilized the self-defense techniques she had learned in the past. With precision and speed, she raised her knee and delivered a fierce kick to Joseph's lower body. Caught off guard, he instantly turned pale, his handsome face contorted with a ferocious and grim expression as if he were ready to devour someone whole.

Terrified, Chloe could not bring herself to look back and hastily pushed open the door, fleeing in a state of panic. As the forum reached its conclusion, Icarus noticed Chloe's flushed face and could not help but express his curiosity. "Didn't you go to the restroom? Why are you so sweaty?"

Chloe guiltily replied, "The restroom was crowded."

Icarus nodded, but before he could inquire further, a group of men approached him and engaged him in conversation. Sensing an opportunity, Chloe discreetly moved aside, taking out her phone and using the front camera to adjust her slightly disheveled appearance.

Her wavy hair cascaded over her shoulders, and her petite face bore a hint of anger. The corners of her eyes were red and watery from the intense encounter. There was a vulnerable quality to her appearance, making her look especially pitiful. A discerning observer could easily sense that something out of the ordinary had just occurred.

As Joseph emerged from the restroom, he was confronted with this scene. The smoldering flames that had momentarily subsided now roared back to life within him. Chloe raised her head, and their eyes locked together in a charged gaze.

The pristine state of Joseph's once neatly arranged shirt had been disrupted, bearing witness to certain misdeeds that had taken place. The wrinkles on his shirt served as tangible evidence of their encounter.

Chloe's heart raced with a mixture of fear and uncertainty. It was the first time she had rebelled without fully considering the consequences, unsure of whether the man would go crazy.

Joseph closed the distance between them with firm steps, his presence commanding as ever. "Come with me," he demanded.

"I refuse."

“You made me a promise.”

Chloe paused and quickly glanced at the calendar app on her phone, confirming that today was already the 28th. With only two days remaining until the end of the month, she had no choice but to face the consequences of her delay.

Observing Chloe’s reluctant expression, Joseph’s brows furrowed in clear displeasure. “You want to go back on your word?” he questioned, his voice tinged with frustration.

“Taking advantage and then not being accountable? Is she a hypocrite? Hadn’t she been by Icarus’ side all day long and attending to his every need? Isn’t that enough?”

Chloe felt the weight of Joseph’s gloomy aura pressing down on her, rendering her speechless. Reluctantly, she acquiesced, her voice barely above a whisper. “Fine, I’ll go with you, but I need to drop Icarus off first. He’s still recovering and has difficulty walking.”

Joseph’s gaze turned frigid, a look capable of freezing the air. He suppressed his jealousy and responded curtly, “Leave it to Lucas.”

Without further delay, he seized her hand and dragged her outside.

Back at the villa, Toto was the first to emerge, followed closely by Oreo.

Chloe’s heart sank as she noticed their presence. “You’re living together with Xavia?”

Joseph responded with annoyance, “I prefer living alone.”

She could not help but feel a pang of guilt. She had been too quick to judge him, always ready to assume he was a scumbag. She had forgotten that he had only made one mistake and it was not his true nature.

Chloe inexplicably breathed a sigh of relief. “And Oreo…”

“Xavia went on a trip.”

‘A trip?’

“Can her body handle it?”

'A cancer patient undergoing chemotherapy going on a trip? Wouldn't that hinder her treatment?' Chloe pondered to herself.

At Chloe's reminder, Joseph also realized something was amiss. However, he did not see it as a significant issue. Some cancer patients felt a strong desire to explore the world and make the most of their time, seeking to avoid any regrets.

After silently deciding to avoid discussing Xavia any further, it seemed as though both Chloe and Joseph understood the unspoken agreement.

Feeling a sense of responsibility, Chloe headed to the kitchen. However, upon opening the fridge, she was greeted with emptiness. Perplexed, she asked, "Did you not buy groceries this month?"

Joseph lazily responded, "Nope."

"Then what have you been eating?"

He maintained his nonchalant demeanor. "I eat at the company.'

Since Chloe had moved out, Joseph found himself occasionally cooking for himself. The taste of his meals was decent, but he lacked the appetite to fully enjoy them. He could not shake the feeling that eating alone was not how it should be. He preferred the days when he had a partner to share meals with.

"Oh, I'll go out and get some groceries then."

A skilled cook, and even the most talented housewife, were rendered powerless without

essential ingredients.

"I'll go with you."

Chloe pursed her lips, her clear eyes fixed on the man.

Why did she have a nagging feeling that he wanted to spend more time with her? Was it just her imagination playing tricks on her?

Jojo and Coco's Unexpected Love By Aurora Summers

**Score 9.5**

## Chapter 308 A Little Boost for You

Joseph's face showed a hint of unease as he turned his head and reached for a change of clothes. "While you're at it, make some snacks for the two dogs. If you can bring them back everything on your own, I'm too lazy to go with you."

"Snacks for the dogs?" Chloe shook her head, earnestly calculating the items that needed to be purchased. "It'd be better if you came with me. I can't carry everything myself."

Just to cater to the culinary preferences of a certain someone, Chloe had to buy ingredients for two days, ensuring that each meal consisted of at least six different dishes without repeating ingredients. On top of that, there were chicken breasts and big bones required to prepare special snacks for the dogs. The shopping list was extensive, and it was clear that even the use of two large bags would be insufficient to hold everything.

Joseph casually smoothed down the wrinkles on his clothes, his expression displaying a hint of annoyance. "Ugh, you're so troublesome."

Chloe had initially planned to visit the nearby wet market, but Joseph insisted on driving her to Hola Mart instead. The store was known for its exclusive imported products, and the prices reflected their premium quality, with even a small bundle of ten strawberries costing over 30 dollars. Knowing that Joseph would foot the bill, she refrained from commenting.

At Hola Mart, not only did the selection of ingredients change every half day, but the store also had dedicated staff members stationed in front of each shelf. These attentive individuals resembled elevator attendants, poised to assist customers by personally retrieving their desired items and placing them directly into their shopping carts. It was a level of service that left customers feeling pampered and catered to, without absolutely no need to lift a finger. Chloe carefully selected a cart full of ingredients, ensuring they had everything they needed. As they made their way to the checkout counter, the supermarket manager came up and inquired about their satisfaction with the establishment's services. Chloe nodded, inwardly noting that with the high prices they were paying, the least they could expect was excellent service. After all, a business charging premium prices should know how to meet customer expectations.

“I’m glad to hear that. At Hola, we strive to earn the approval of our customers. You two must be a married couple, right? We often have household helpers coming for groceries as customers. You must be very affectionate with each other,” the manager commented.

In affluent households, daily affairs were typically managed by dedicated servants, and the homeowners themselves would frequent establishments like Hola to immerse themselves in a certain ambiance and experience the essence of life.

Joseph, typically a man of few words, unexpectedly retorted, “Our affection has faded. She no longer has feelings for me. We’re having our final dinner together.”

Chloe’s mind raced with confusion. “The f\*ck?’ she thought, ‘He didn’t have enough drama at the cafe last time and is now continuing it here?’

The manager’s expression shifted to one of surprise and confusion. “Oh dear, you two look so good together. You’re practically a match made in heaven.”

A faint smirk played on Joseph’s lips, which was quickly subdued. “Is that so? Unfortunately,

our time together is coming to an end very soon.”

The manager, sensing Joseph’s reluctance, earnestly advised Chloe, “Madam, major decisions in life must be carefully considered. Every relationship that leads to marriage is hard-won.”

“Can I reload my card here?” Chloe asked.

The manager replied, “Certainly, please come this way.”

Chloe proceeded to utilize Joseph’s card to top up 15 thousand dollars. The manager then offered advice against compromising herself for someone she had no affection for and urging her to leave if necessary. Chloe had always been aware of the power of money, but this was the first time she used money that was not her own to slap someone across the face, and it felt oddly satisfying.

On their journey back, Joseph maintained a stoic silence, his countenance stern and unyielding. Chloe, sensing the icy barrier between them, hesitated to break the silence, fearing the frigid response that might await her.

Upon reaching the villa, Joseph shouldered the burden of the groceries and exited the car. However, halfway to their destination, he abruptly turned his head and locked his gaze with hers. His voice carried a weight of confession as he uttered, "That night with Xavia, I was drugged. She brought me drinks, and under the influence of the substances, I wasn't in control of my actions and had intimate relations with her."

To be honest, that night held no significant meaning for him. In the haze of drug-induced confusion, he faintly recalled engaging in forceful acts with a woman, but the details remained elusive. If ending things amicably was what Chloe desired, he was prepared to be the one to offer an apology.

Chloe's eyes dropped, her tone void of any discernible emotion as she asked, "Have you identified the person who drugged you?"

"No."

With the constant influx of people at Graceville Estate and the broken surveillance equipment, conducting a thorough investigation had proven to be a challenging endeavor.

"Why should I trust you? All cheaters use the same tired excuse. Wouldn't the world be a harmonious place if I just believed you and turned a blind eye?" Chloe retorted, her tone filled with skepticism.

"Is there a need for me to justify cheating?" Joseph had wanted to diffuse the tension between them. But faced with mockery, his eyes immediately darkened, an underlying storm brewing within his gaze.

Chloe unyieldingly met his gaze. "Evidence is necessary for any claim."

"Is this the extent of your trust in me?"

She smiled wryly. "Compared to your baseless suspicions of me and Icarus having an illicit relationship, you and Xavia are the ones with concrete evidence."

The acknowledgment of this fact from both sides lingered in the air, adding to the weight of their confrontation.

Joseph gritted his teeth. "Icarus has ulterior motives toward you!"

"But we haven't slept together." Chloe finished speaking and walked toward the kitchen, deep in thought. She started preparing a tray of oyster shooters for Joseph.

Even though he maintained good health habits, engaging in intimate encounters with two women in a single night was undoubtedly physically demanding, especially considering his age. Certain aspects needed replenishing.

Chloe admitted that she was a bit promiscuous, but the mere thought of Joseph spending the night with her and then going to Xavia's bed made her stomach churn, filling her with a nauseating sensation.

In recent days, she had avoided dwelling on that particular night, pushing it to the recesses of her mind. But now that Joseph had brought it up, his condescending tone and dismissive attitude toward what seemed like a mere misunderstanding infuriated her.

As Chloe worked in the kitchen, her anger simmered, causing her hands to tremble with frustration. She struggled to maintain composure, but her efforts were in vain. Having been through two relationships in which her partners cheated on her, Chloe could not help but see the world as a grand farce that was filled with hypocrisy and deceit.

Joseph's gaze fixed upon the tray of oyster shooters before him. His grip on the tray tightened, causing his knuckles to turn pale. He questioned with intensity, "What's the meaning behind this?"

Chloe maintained her innocent smile, her gaze meeting his with a touch of mischief. "Just a little boost for you."

'Boost?'

Joseph's captivating eyes bore into hers, his smile widening, showcasing his pristine teeth. With a deliberate motion, he raised two shot glasses filled with oysters, tilted his head back, and downed them in one swift gulp.



Chloe's mind raced with a "whoosh", trying to grasp the sudden shift in Joseph's demeanor. When did this insolent man transform into someone so compliant? Her thoughts spun in confusion, struggling to make sense of the situation. Before she could react, her world turned topsy-turvy as Joseph effortlessly hoisted her over his shoulder, striding purposefully toward the bedroom.

## Chapter 309 Satisfaction

"What are you doing?! Put me down!"

"Testing the effectiveness of the oyster shooters."

Chloe was shocked motionless, as if lightning had struck her, unable to move a muscle.

Joseph tossed her onto the bed and pinned his entire body against hers, smothering her with an onslaught of relentless kisses.

Shaking off her initial stupor, Chloe swiftly regained her senses, clutching her clothes protectively, refusing to let him advance any further. "No, don't do this..."

"It's too late."

Chloe turned her face away, nibbling on her rosy lips. "It was my fault. I shouldn't have provoked you. Please, let's not do this... Please?" She reluctantly admitted to having cold feet now, and she regretted ever making him the oyster shooters.

"No... Please don't do this..."

A few hours later, it was finally over.

Chloe retreated to the kitchen, seeking solace in the familiar embrace of cooking. She transformed her anger into a driving force, channeling it into the swift preparation of six

delectable dishes.

Outside the villa, a car came to a halt in the yard, and Gabriel Bennet sauntered in, his attention immediately drawn to Chloe. His eyes held a flicker of amusement as he lowered his head, indulging in a leisurely drag of his cigarette. Unabashedly, his gaze roamed over every inch of her form, from head to toe, as if he was assessing her value like a mere commodity—a possession to be appraised.

Chloe furrowed her brows, expressing her clear displeasure. His penetrating gaze unsettled her, and she found herself instinctively disliking his appearance. With his androgynous features, an unnaturally fair complexion that surpassed most women, and the unsettling intensity in his slender eyes, he emanated an aura of sinister intentions, leaving her with a strong sense that he was not to be trusted.

Jojo and Coco's Unexpected Love By Aurora Summers

## Score 9.5

### Chapter 310 Innocent Flower in Public, Serpent Behind Closed Doors

Gabriel disregarded her displeasure, for in his eyes, Chloe was indeed a commodity. Her pure allure, combined with her good figure, made her unique in the eyes of a man like him, who

was gifted with exceptional talents and had encountered a multitude of beautiful women throughout his life.

This encounter held the promise of surpassing his previous experiences, including those with Xavia.

Joseph descended the stairs, fresh from his shower. The partially open bathrobe around him revealed water droplets sliding down his chiseled physique. His composed and distant countenance exuded a lingering satisfaction, arousing endless reverie.

Witnessing this, Gabriel swiftly grasped the situation and smiled, remarking, "Indulging in a lavish feast, I see?" He added to his subtle implication with a deliberate glance in Chloe's direction.

Chloe averted her gaze, unwilling to confront such a look, and promptly retreated to the kitchen. Joseph raised an eyebrow, neither confirming nor denying, and simply asked, "Just arrived?"

"I arrived yesterday. I was bombarded by several developers who kept me occupied all day."

Joseph gestured toward the sofa with a subtle lift of his chin. "Sit."

Gabriel settled into the seat with an air of great swagger and touched his face, asking, "So, what's going on between you and Xavia?"

"An accident."

"Just an accident?"

"What else could it be?"

"Haha, not bad," Gabriel responded with a hint of significance. "That woman is exactly as your grandfather described-unfit to step foot into the Whitman family."

Acting like an innocent flower in public but truly a serpent behind closed doors. Donning a mask of innocence would never erase one's sins.

The night Gabriel and Xavia engaged in a one-night stand, she had not gotten to know Joseph yet. Later, she became a famous violinist, meticulously cleaning up her past and skillfully concealing her secrets.

Regrettably, Mr. Harold was not one to accept such promiscuity. He was well aware of that fateful night with Gabriel, and armed with that knowledge, Xavia chose to vanish, consumed by the fear of her meticulously hidden truth being exposed.

Joseph possessed a haughty disposition, and given the strained relationship he had with his family at the time, even if the truth were laid bare before him, he might not have believed it. Furthermore, this revelation would undoubtedly have some impact on him, prompting both Gabriel and Harold to opt for secrecy. However, to their astonishment, the matter unexpectedly resurfaced five years later. How audacious.

Joseph's brow furrowed slightly. "Watch your words. She has leukemia."

Gabriel hesitated briefly, then let out a laugh that echoed with the arrogance of a playboy." Well, that's rather pitiful."

As the food was served on the table, Gabriel showed no intention of leaving. He extended his hand and calmly requested utensils from Chloe, remarking, "You won't give them to me unless I ask, huh?"

Chloe rolled her eyes and returned to the kitchen to fetch another pair for him.

Joseph said in a detached tone, "Consider this meal a welcome banquet for you. Finish quickly and buzz off."

Gabriel responded, "...We just met, and you already want to kick me out?"

"We didn't buy enough ingredients. It's not enough for three people."

"I'll just take a couple of bites. I'm not really hungry, to be honest."

"No." Joseph firmly refused, offering no room for negotiation.

Gabriel's eyes widened as if he had seen a ghost. 'When did my buddy become so possessive over food?'

Ignoring Gabriel's bewildered gaze, Joseph carried on eating with elegance. He turned to Chloe and calmly instructed, "Bring the soup over."

Gabriel's gaze shifted between Chloe and Joseph. He nudged the latter playfully, saying, Women are just for fun. No need to take them seriously. They're all the same once you turn off the lights."

Joseph shot him a sidelong glance and countered, "She's just a maid who cooks. Nothing more."

His voice carried enough volume for Chloe in the kitchen to hear every word. Her lashes drooped, revealing a hint of hurt in her eyes.

Gabriel did not stick around for too long. He went back and delved into a thorough investigation of Chloe's personal information. When he stumbled upon the fact that she and her half-sister had been entangled with the same man, a scornful smirk adorned his lips.

In his eyes, Chloe, much like Xavia, fell short of being a virtuous individual. To him, a wife was a strategic alliance, requiring a pristine family background and an untainted reputation. In his perspective, mutual benefits and shared interests took precedence.

Chloe finished washing the dishes and prepared some snacks for Toto and Oreo. She settled onto the sofa, taking a moment to relax. Just then, a call from Noah came in to confirm the shooting schedule, which was slated for the day after tomorrow. He wanted to ensure Chloe was okay with the arrangement.

“No problem. Should I head to Docwood for the shoot?”

“Yes, I’ll arrange for a car to pick you up in Aesper.”

“Sounds good to me.”

After completing dinner preparations that evening, Chloe did not linger and promptly returned to her own home. The following day, she arrived at the villa punctually.

Today, Joseph had gone to Fairlight and specifically requested that Chloe personally deliver three meals to the company. Although Chloe found it a tad inconvenient, she decided to fulfill the task. After all, it was the last day.

Joseph was engrossed in his work and had no intention of causing any trouble for Chloe. Dinner proceeded without any hiccups. Pushing the empty container aside, he turned to Lucas and gave him a directive, “Accompany her home.”

Chloe shook her head, declining the offer. “That’s not necessary.”

Raising an eyebrow, Joseph asked curiously, “Has Ava come looking for you lately?”

“No.”

The investigation into the previous kidnapping incident had hit a dead end. The police showed no interest in pursuing it, and Chloe lacked any evidence to link Ava to the crime. It seemed like this matter would remain unresolved.

Joseph believed that after Ava's "One Dollar Auction," she would not dare to trouble Chloe for at least half a year.

"In the coming days, you'll accompany me at Docwood. I'll call you to let you know the exact timing."

"Will Grandpa be joining us?"

"No, he won't."

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Chloe stood her ground and spoke with determination, "If Grandpa won't be there, then I

won't go. If it's all just an act for his sake and he's not even accompanying us, why should I go with you?"

Joseph's expression contorted into a deep frown. "How dare you!"