

Jojo and Coco's Unexpected Love By Aurora Summers

Chapter 51

Chapter 51 I'm Joking Too

Janice stood frozen in her spot, the phrase "You're not pretty enough" echoing in her ears.

She felt the curious gazes of those around her. With anger coursing through her, she quivered and her face twisted in fury as she charged forward, intent on attacking Chloe.

Nonetheless, Chloe effortlessly evaded her and fixed her gaze on Janice with her almond-shaped eyes. "Did you intentionally recommend me for the business department during our interview?"

Having been in Baxon for a month, Chloe now had some understanding of the business department. Besides performing well, everyone there was a beautiful woman. It was obvious what their role was.

Janice had clearly wanted to push her into a trap.

"All right, all right, simmer down. Janice was just joking with you." Maurice stepped forward to mediate the situation. He gestured at the colleagues at the side to pull Janice away.

Chloe's face sank. 'A joke huh?'

A smile slowly spread across her beautiful face as she calmly said, "Yeah, I was just joking too."

"No, wait. Are you serious? You're not done yet?" Maurice was stunned.

Chloe wore a self-assured smile and scanned the spectators. Nobody had stepped in despite Janice's attempted assault, and Maurice even had the audacity to brush it off as a joke.

If they wanted a joke, then she would give them one.

In the afternoon, Janice resigned. Rumor had it that she wept uncontrollably in the CEO's office as if she had been grievously mistreated. She was given a month's worth of compensation.

Chloe ignored the news and continued to focus on her work. If she did not adopt a stronger stance this time, everyone would take her for a pushover next time.

Six o'clock came, and work was out for the day. Chloe entered the elevator, and two HR employees started whispering.

"That's her. She's the one who forced Janice to resign."

"She's kind of attractive, but she shouldn't trample over others' looks. It's one's parents who give one their appearance. There's nothing Janice can do about it..."

"Yeah, physical appearances are inherited from our parents, but not our character."

Chloe spoke up, standing tall and carrying a confident posture. Her voice was clear and loud, in contrast to the hushed whispers of the two people in front of her.

Ding.

The elevator doors opened.

Chloe stepped out of the elevator in lithe, graceful steps, her figure slender and graceful.

Her strategy of beating the dog before the lion proved quite effective. Despite the continued murmurs and whispers, no one dared to intentionally provoke her in the following week.

During a meeting one day, the superiors distributed tasks.

"Chloe, I want you to go to Fairlight this afternoon and discuss our cooperation with Mr. Jack. It'd be best if you can settle everything in one go. If not, at least find out his stance on the matter and what he wants in terms of price or resource exchange."

Fairlight had only recently relocated back to their home country of Asvand this year, and they held significant influence both domestically and internationally. Their resources were even more plentiful than Baxon's, making their assistance crucial for Baxon to have a chance at bidding for a project from a foreign company.

Chloe's mouth turned into a single, firm line. "Are you asking me to entertain him?"

"You can put it that way." The superior patted her shoulder. "You're young, beautiful, and competent. I trust you to handle this. Even if you can't close the deal, you can at least have a meal with Mr. Jack and make friends with him."

"I can't do it, I'm sorry. Please find someone else," she said.

She had no desire to visit Fairlight or socialize with Jack. When she was hired, they only mentioned that she would be involved in coordinating projects with other companies. They never said anything about entertaining clients.

"I'm asking you to go because I believe in you. There's no one better suited for this task than you. Chloe, you wouldn't deny me this favor, would you?"

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Chapter 52 First Date

Chloe fell into momentary silence, unsure of how to reject the task.

Sensing her hesitation, her superior tried to ease her worries by saying, "No worries. Take your time to think about it. Don't put too much pressure on yourself. I've met Mr. Jack a couple of times and he's kind of scared of his wife. Other than exchanging

resources, you won't have to do anything else."

"But does Fairlight agree with this kind of behavior?" Chloe asked, aware of the competitive relationship and differences between Baxon and Fairlight.

"Well, that's precisely why we're sending you," her superior replied.

"I see. I'll think about it," Chloe said.

After work, Chloe got off the bus. As she was lost in thought, she did not notice a car pull up beside her.

“Chloe?” Joseph called out from the driver’s seat.

She turned around, surprised at the sight of him next to her. But her face lit up with a smile the second.

“Are you off work too?” she asked.

“Yeah,” he replied with a raised eyebrow. “Get in.”

“Okay,” Chloe said, thinking that they were heading home. But instead, the car drove past their house.

“Where are we going?” she asked.

“Where do you want to go?” Joseph replied.

“Huh?” Chloe was confused and pointed to herself. “You’re the one who picked me up but you’re asking me where I want to go?”

“Grandpa knows that you’ve been working overtime a lot and told me to take you out shopping,” Joseph replied, helplessness thick in his voice.

Harold had nagged him multiple times now, and it was getting unbearable. If he did not take Chloe out, Harold would definitely kill him.

Chloe paused, remembering the work-related posts she had forgotten to hide from

Harold.

“Wow, your grandpa is so kind to me,” she said, blushing.

This was her first time going on a date with Joseph, and she could not believe how lucky

she was.

Joseph glanced at the woman. With rosy cheeks and sparkling eyes, she was clearly excited about their upcoming plans. He could not help but wonder aloud, “Do all women love shopping this much?”

As soon as the topic of shopping was brought up, her spirits lifted considerably, even more than when she was earning money.

“Hehe, it’s mostly because I get to shop with you. This is our first date, after all!” Chloe said, her eyes shining brightly like flawless glass. A shy expression graced her features like a college girl meeting her crush for the first time.

She was truly enchanting.

Joseph’s lips curved into a pleased smile. While he was annoyed by Harold’s repeated nagging, if it made Chloe this happy, he was willing to take some time out of his busy

schedule to take her.

“We’ll go shopping first, then have some food, see a movie, and play some claw

machines. What do you think?” Chloe said eagerly, smiling up at him for his opinion.

“No, that won’t do,” Joseph refused without hesitation. “There are too many activities.

We’ll have to choose two out of the four.”

Chloe checked the time. It was already half past six in the evening. She searched online and found that there had been no good movies playing recently.

“Then let’s just go shopping and eat. Summer’s here, and I’d like to get some pretty pajamas,” she suggested.

“And you also need some cosmetics, right? I’ll pay for them,” Joseph added.

Chloe usually applied makeup in her bedroom, thus he did not know what brands she used. He had heard that using random cosmetics could cause skin allergies, so he had not bought any for her.

“Okay! Thank you so much, Jojo.” Her eyes turned into crescent moons as she beamed and revealed a neat row of pearly whites.

Joseph drove to a high-end mall and parked his car at the entrance.

Inside the mall, Chloe went to a cosmetics counter and picked out some daily-use makeup and lipstick. When Joseph was paying for the items, the salesgirl could barely hide her envy.

Before they left, the salesgirl even proactively gave Chloe countless samples, almost as many as her formal purchases.

Chloe felt a sense of satisfaction and a little self-pride. It turned out that relying on one's appearance could really make someone a living!

"Wait here for a moment. I need to hit the restroom," Joseph said.

"Hmm, okay." Chloe obediently nodded.

She walked around the nearby clothing stores carrying her newly purchased cosmetics. A sapphire dress then caught her eye and she walked into the store.

The store's saleswoman immediately noticed her gaze.

"Miss, would you like to try it on? Your skin is fair and you have a great figure. This dress will definitely suit you very much."

Chloe looked at the time and figured that Joseph would not be back so soon.

She said, "Sure, I'll try it on."

When Chloe stepped out of the fitting room, the saleswoman could not take her eyes off her as she sincerely complimented, "Miss, you look beautiful in this dress. You're even more beautiful than the biggest celebrities."

Chloe looked at herself in the mirror and was quite satisfied with the dress. It was only when she was about to pay that she realized this store was a luxury goods store and the dress was a couture piece priced at 70,000 dollars.

She promptly decided not to buy it.

The saleswoman tried to persuade her, "Miss, please reconsider. There are only two of these dresses in the entire city, and the brand is very picky about who wears them. You're the first customer who has managed to pull it off."

"She doesn't have the money. No matter how much you try to persuade her, it's useless," a sharp voice said.

Chloe followed the voice and saw Melody and Ava walking in with an air of arrogance.

Chapter 53 Pack These Dresses for Me

Ava was immediately drawn to the sapphire dress that Chloe was wearing at first glance.

She had been fretting over what to wear for her engagement party, and this dress was perfect for such an important occasion.

Ava turned to the salesperson without even looking at Chloe and said, "I want to try on that dress she's wearing."

The salesperson greeted her with a smile and said, "Certainly, I'll go get it for you."

This dress was in limited quantities, only two pieces to be exact, and they might both be sold today. The salesperson would make a lot of commission from selling them.

As soon as the salesperson left, Ava looked at Chloe and said disdainfully, "This dress costs 70,000 dollars. You should take it off before you ruin it. You can't afford to pay for it if it gets damaged."

Although she was initially taken aback by the price, Chloe had enough money to buy the dress.

"If you really want to buy this brand, why don't you look at those clothes instead?"

"They're more suited to you," said Melody, pointing to the area with discounted items while laughing uncontrollably.

Thanks to Ava's intervention, Chloe did not get into Fairlight, which gave Melody an explanation to provide her uncle with at last.

"What's wrong with you?" Chloe shot them an icy glare.

She had been looking for a chance to settle the score with them for falsely accusing her of stealing Jake's family heirloom, and she had not expected them to deliver

themselves to her.

“I’m just concerned for you. How could you speak to me like that?” Ava retorted.

“Keep your concerns to yourself.” Chloe sneered sarcastically. “I can afford the dress, and I’ll buy both of them.”

Ava and Melody looked at each other and burst out laughing as if they had heard a big joke.

“Oh, please stop, Chloe. We’re not playing house right now.”

“Does she think 1,000,000 dollars is 10 dollars? She doesn’t even know what she’s talking about.

Chloe ignored them and said to the salesperson who had just returned, “I want this dress, and I want both of them.”

The salesperson was taken aback and eagerly asked, “Certainly. May I know how you would like to pay for them?”

“Credit card,” Chloe replied.

“Hey, my friend hasn’t even tried it on yet. How could you sell it to someone else?” Melody admonished loudly.

“But this lady over here came first,” the salesperson said.

“Yes, but she didn’t say she wanted to buy both.”

“Well...” The salesperson was in a dilemma and hesitated, clutching the black card Chloe had given her.

Rather than waiting for the person who had not even tried on the dress yet, why not sell it to someone who had already decided to buy them both? After all, who knew if Ava would end up purchasing it?

Standing with her arms crossed, Chloe said calmly, “If she wants to try it, then let her try it.”

Wearing the same outfit as someone else was not the end of the world. It was just that whoever looked worse in it would just have to deal with the embarrassment.

This particular dress had a very narrow waistline, and unfortunately for Ava, her waist was the widest part of her body. Plus, the dress was long and would make her look

shorter than usual.

Chloe had always been confident in her appearance. Aside from her facial features, her height and slim waist had earned her the title of “perfect hourglass” back when she was in college, thus, she had absolute faith in herself.

The salesperson had almost succeeded in selling both dresses to Chloe. A hint of reluctance flashed across her face as she handed the dress to Ava.

After trying it on in the fitting room, Ava emerged a few minutes later. As expected, the dress did not do justice to her figure at all, with the hemline covering her feet and the fabric creating unsightly bulges around her waist.

The elegant dress made her look dowdy.

“Ava, this dress really matches your skin color. You should buy it,” Melody quipped. There was no way she was going to let Chloe, the little sl*t, steal the spotlight.

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Chapter 54 Go See a Doctor

“Hah!” Chloe could not help but laugh.

She gave Ava a meaningful look from head to toe, admiring how the latter’s face. changed from white to red. With a confident stride, she approached the mirror, twirled around, and asked the salesperson, “Does this dress suit me?”

The salesperson excelled in flattery, particularly when in the presence of such a stunning individual. She showered Chloe with a plethora of compliments without hesitation.

“Okay, let’s swipe the card,” Chloe said.

“Do you want one or two?” the salesperson asked.

“I only want to wear the one on me,” Chloe replied, “I don’t like the other one.”

The salesperson hastily turned to ask Ava, “This lady only wants to buy one. Do you still want the dress?”

Ava bit her lip fiercely. Why should she get the things that Chloe did not want?

She glared at the salesperson and stormed back into the fitting room to change. After that, she left the store without another word.

Melody was stunned and shouted, “Ava, where are you going?!”

“Hey, is she not buying it?” Chloe took the shopping bag from the salesperson and said, “Doesn’t seem like it. Hey Melody, since you like this dress so much, why don’t you try it on?”

Melody’s figure was even worse than Ava’s, so she definitely would not look good in the dress. She cursed Chloe under her breath and ran out to catch up with Ava.

Unexpectedly, she bumped into Joseph, who was returning from the restroom, as soon as she stepped out of the door.

Joseph stared at the foundation mark on his shirt and frowned.

However, Melody was slow at reading the atmosphere. The man in front of her had a cold and stern face. His eyes were some of the most beautiful eyes she had ever seen, and there was a regal air about him.

Melody’s eyes glowed and she said bashfully, “I’m sorry.”

Joseph wanted to find Chloe as soon as possible and did not wish to talk to Melody. He withdrew his gaze and walked away.

Melody was reluctant to let him go and caught up with him, saying in an apologetic tone, “Sir, I dirtied your clothes. Leave me your number. I’ll compensate you with a new one.”

“No need.”

“It’s okay. My family is very rich. You don’t have to feel embarrassed.”

“If there’s something wrong with your head, go see a doctor,” Joseph said impatiently and turned his head. “Understand?”

His voice was bereft of emotion, and Melody stood there awkwardly, not knowing what to say.

Joseph did not bother to pay attention to her and strode away, quickly disappearing from her sight.

Chloe did not see Joseph when she came out so she gave him a call. They decided to meet at a restaurant on the fifth floor.

After ordering, Joseph questioned Chloe, “Was it really that difficult to wait for me for a few minutes?”

It had taken him a long time to find her.

Chloe nervously played with her bangs and admitted, “I went to buy a dress and spent 70,000 dollars.”

She carefully observed his expression after she had finished speaking.

When Joseph heard this, he raised an eyebrow and asked, “You bought only one dress?”

“Um...I know it’s a bit...” She hesitated, but he cut her off before she could utter the word “expensive.”

“You should buy more. It’s almost time for a change of season.”

Chloe straightened her posture, blinked several times, and stared at him fixedly.

Joseph’s eyebrows rose even higher. “Do you want me to accompany you to buy more clothes?”

“No, no, no!” She quickly shook her head. It was too much to ask him to accompany her after she had already spent 70,000 dollars.

She reminded herself that one should be content with what they have.

Chloe secretly breathed a sigh of relief and tried to please him with a smile. "Jojo, has there been anything you wanted to eat recently? I'm not busy with work, so I can cook for you."

Joseph's eyes filled with satisfaction and he said, "I'll make a list for you when we get back."

"...Okay," Chloe replied.

She could not help but feel that she had set a trap for herself.

Looking at the food in front of him, Joseph frowned and asked, "What did you order?"

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Chapter 55 Pursuing Chloe

There were chili peppers, meat, tomatoes, and kidney beans in Chloe's dish. It did not look savory at all.

She sat there innocently, her gaze fixed directly on him.

"It's chili con carne," she said.

It was an authentic dish, and she assumed he had never had it before.

Joseph remained unimpressed and did not take a single bite throughout the whole meal.

Chloe, on the other hand, relished the meal and even took a few photos to share on her social media, flaunting her new clothes and the dinner they were having.

Harold was the first to like and comment on her post.

[Coco, are you on a date with that rascal?]

[Yes, Grandpa. We went out for a date today, and I had a great time.]

After she had replied to Harold, she showed Joseph her phone.

“See? I helped you complete your mission,” she said.

“Okay,” he responded curtly before getting up to pay the bill.

After that, they headed home and took Toto for a walk. When they arrived at a spacious field, Joseph released Toto and let it run free.

As they walked, a golden retriever suddenly appeared and charged toward Toto. Chloe’s pupils dilated with fear that the other dog might hurt Toto. She instinctively crouched down, holding Toto close to her chest to protect it.

Joseph saw this and his face sank. He felt that she was such an idiot. Nothing would happen if dogs fought with each other, but she would need to be vaccinated if she was bitten.

He walked over and pulled her up.

“They know each other,” he said, his voice deep and low.

“Huh?” Chloe was stunned. “They know each other?”

“Yeah, they used to play together when they were young. The goldie’s owner should be nearby,” he explained before a man with a leash appeared in the distance.

“Mr. Joseph, I didn’t know you were back,” the man said as he approached them.

“I came back not too long ago.”

The man nodded and turned to look at Chloe. “And who’s this?”

“This is my wife,” Joseph replied.

Chloe’s eyes lit up with joy as she beamed. “Yes, this is my husband!”

This was the first time Joseph was hearing Chloe call him her husband, and he could not quite describe how he felt about it. However, he did not dislike it.

The man was speechless. He did not know how to react, but he was a tactful man and knew not to disturb their romantic stroll. He quickly said a few words in polite greeting before taking his golden retriever and leaving.

Late at night, Icarus opened his phone and checked his social media feed before going to sleep. He stumbled upon a photo Chloe had posted and a slender hand at the corner of the photo caught his attention.

It was clearly a man's hand.

He hesitated for a moment before typing a comment, but then hastily deleted it.

Today was the last day of the first course of their cooking class, which was also a practical lesson.

The assignment was to make meatballs. After Chloe had everything ready, she carefully placed the perfectly molded balls into the frying pan. However, before she could do so, the woman next to her cast a sidelong glance at her and rudely tossed her own meatballs into the pan, causing hot oil to splatter and burn Chloe's hand.

Chloe winced in pain, staring at the blisters rapidly forming on her hand.

Icarus, who was working nearby, immediately put down what he was doing and asked in concern, "Hang on. I'll go get some burn ointment for you."

"This is what happens when you don't pay attention to your surroundings," the woman said.

Chloe was in a lot of pain, and she looked at the woman with a frown. "You did it on purpose."

She clearly saw what the woman had done.

"Getting splattered with oil while cooking is normal. Don't make a big deal out of it. If you can't handle a little pain, maybe you shouldn't be learning to cook." The woman

sneered.

The woman was in her forties and exquisitely dressed. She was well-known in Aesper as a powerful and cunning businesswoman. She looked down on poor people, especially girls who liked to take shortcuts. She was also an investor in this culinary school.

Everyone around them looked over, and the head chef approached with a smile, “Ms. Patricia, it’s normal for young ladies to have delicate skin. Why don’t you sit inside for

a bit? I’ll handle this.

“Ms. Chloe, I’m sorry about that. Ms. Patricia has a bad temper. Let me apologize on her behalf,” the chef said to Chloe.

Chloe kept her head down and said nothing.

Upon returning with the burn ointment, Icarus noticed Chloe hanging her head. Her eyes were concealed by her curled eyelashes, so he could not discern her expression. However, he could sense her unhappiness from the slight pout of her lips. Despite her tantrum-like behavior, she exuded an innate and attractive innocence that captivated

any man.

Icarus was filled with sympathy. He wanted to help apply the ointment, but she refused. “It’s okay. I can handle it.”

“Ms. Patricia is an investor in this school, and the staff can’t do anything about it,” Icarus explained.

“I know.”

Chloe did not intend to make a big deal out of it. She had learned enough cooking skills and had no intention of attending any more classes after this course ended. She just felt that some people were unreasonable.

“After class, let me take you to get some dessert. It’s said that eating sweets can lift your mood,” Icarus offered.

Chloe lifted her eyes and looked at Icarus. “No, thank you. I have to go home and cook. Let’s meet tomorrow instead. I’ll ask Mr. Harry along as well. The three of us can go together.”

“Are you cooking for yourself?” he teased her, “Or is it for your boyfriend?”

Chloe sighed silently, “I wish.”

She had no idea when she would finally win over Joseph’s heart.

Icarus had heard the answer he wanted to hear and was now determined to pursue Chloe.

Chapter 56 She Really Wanted to Hit Someone Right Now

After class, Chloe saw that Icarus was still there and asked, "Waiting for someone?"

"I'm waiting for my relatives. We have to attend a forum this afternoon," he replied.

"Okay, goodbye then," she said.

Icarus was dressed in a white casual suit, and his gold-rimmed glasses reflected a gentle light as he called out, "Chloe."

"Yes?" Chloe turned her head.

"What kind of flowers do you like?" he asked sincerely.

"I don't like flowers," she replied.

His smile froze and he fell silent for a moment.

"I see," he said.

Chloe did not understand why he suddenly asked this question, but she was not going to stick around to find out.

However, she unexpectedly ran into Jake.

Holding a new set of car keys in his hand, he looked around. "Does that old lover of yours stay in this area?"

This was the upscale villa area of Aesper.

"You better watch your mouth," Chloe said with disgust in her tone.

As time passed, Jake's true character became increasingly apparent to her, causing her to question what had initially drawn her to him.

"If you're afraid of others talking about what you did, then don't do it."

“It’s none of your business. Don’t be like Ava, biting people like a mad dog when you see them,” Chloe replied.

This reminded Jake of the incident a few days ago where he wrongly accused Chloe of stealing his family heirloom.

“Making mistakes is something everyone does. Ava was just extremely worried when she discovered that my family’s precious heirloom was missing. She didn’t

Intentionally try to implicate you. You should take the higher road and forgive her,’

Jake said, “Ava cried throughout the night after realizing that she had falsely accused you. Besides, didn’t you make it out of the station unharmed?”

“Get the f*ck out of my face!” Chloe’s face trembled with anger.

“Coco, you never used to swear like this. Why have you changed? If it’s because of me and I’ve hurt you too much, I’m willing to apologize. We can’t be husband and wife, but we can still be friends or family. I’ll protect you like a good brother. You should leave that old man and stop angering your father,” Jake advised.

Chloe picked up a stone and weighed it in her palm. Gritting her teeth, she said with a sinister smile, “Not only have I learned how to curse, but I also want to hit you. You’d better disappear or I won’t be able to control myself and will beat you until your skin splits open.”

She was not joking. She really wanted to hit someone right now.

All of this was caused by Jake and Ava. How could they turn around and blame her?

In the past, Chloe thought that as long as she complied and endured, she could earn her father’s care and her family’s harmony. But years had passed, and with each passing day, they just grew bolder and bolder, taking away all that she had held dear.

She had learned the hard way that compliance and endurance were useless. If she wanted what she desired, she had to stop at nothing and use any means necessary.

She was determined to make them all bow down and call her “Aunt Chloe.”

Jake recoiled in fear and called her crazy before quickly running away. From a distance, Icarus saw Jake running away in panic.

“What’s got you running like you’re being chased by a ghost?” he asked, “You’re getting married soon, so it’s high time you matured and stopped behaving so childishly.

Jake laughed awkwardly and suggested, “Uncle Icarus, would you like to come to our house for dinner? My mom hasn’t seen you in ages.”

“I can’t. I have some business to attend to,” Icarus replied, handing him the keys to his seaside villa. “Have a good time with your wife.”

“Thank you, Uncle Icarus.”

Ava had been wanting to spend quality time with Jake in a seaside villa as a post- engagement celebration. Since Jake’s uncle owned one, he was planning to surprise her

with it.

“Oh, by the way, my mom wanted me to tell you that you’re not getting any younger, and it’s time for you to settle down and start a family. She has someone in mind for you, and if you’re interested, she’d like you to meet her,” Jake said.

“I have my sights set on someone already,” Icarus replied, leaving Jake in shock and delight.

“Who?” Jake asked eagerly.

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Chapter 57 Keep Your Aunt Entertained

Chloe’s image appeared in Icarus’s mind and he smiled, “Someone gentle but tough, and smart.”

It was rare for Icarus to rate a woman so highly, and Jake asked out of curiosity, “Is she from Aesper?”

“Maybe.”

Jake became even more confused. He had been living in Aesper for more than twenty years, but he had no impression of a woman like Icarus had mentioned.

“I’ll bring her home to meet the family when the time is right,” Icarus reassured him.

“Okay. I’ll definitely treat her well,” Jake replied.

The towering skyscraper of Fairlight stood tall in the city center, its name looming in the clouds above.

In the afternoon, there was a financial forum at the city center.

As a special guest, Joseph made the final appearance, standing on the high platform with all the lights shining on him, capturing everyone’s attention. He spoke briefly and then went to the lounge to rest.

There were two types of lounges—a regular one and a VIP one. Joseph walked past the regular lounge and went straight to the VIP lounge.

Patricia was an investor from Aesper. She had been waiting there for a long time, hoping to talk to Joseph about an investment. She sat on the sofa with her assistant, loudly discussing the scene where she had bullied Chloe in the cooking class. She even opened the cooking class’s group chat and enlarged Chloe’s photo for her assistant to

see.

“Look at her. She looks like a b*tch. She got only a few blisters on her skin and she was already bawling like a baby. When I was young, I was working even when I was pregnant. I wasn’t as fragile as she is,” Patricia said.

Wanting to flatter her boss, the assistant played along with Patricia but suddenly noticed Joseph standing at the door. She quickly stood up and stammered, “M-Mr. Joseph...”

Patricia turned her head and saw Joseph looking down at her with a frosty expression. Her face filled with a smile as she said, “Mr. Joseph, do you have a moment? I’d like to talk to you about an investment.”

“No.”

“How about we make an appointment for another time then? How about tomorrow?”

Patricia asked.

“It seems like I wasn’t clear enough,” Joseph replied in a stern tone, his gaze cold. ‘ There’s no possibility of cooperation between us.”

Patricia was stunned. She was confused as to why he treated her with such hostility. However, Lucas, who was standing next to Joseph, understood exactly what was going

Joseph was helping Chloe to get her revenge. However, Patricia refused to accept this and continued to plead, “If I’ve done anything to displease you, please let me know so that I can have the opportunity to make amends. Also, please understand that my company is one of the best in Aesper. If we work together, I’m sure we can bring in a lot of profit for Fairlight.”

Joseph did not even spare her a glance and strode into the VIP lounge. Lucas stopped Patricia from following him and said, “I’m sorry, Ms. Patricia, but you can’t go in there.

Patricia looked at the closed door in front of her and could not figure out how she had offended Joseph.

As the sun began to set, Joseph parked his car in the yard and immediately spotted Chloe sitting on the sofa, watching TV. She held a bag of popcorn in one hand and a bag of pet treats in the other, while Toto lay at her feet, wagging its tail eagerly and drooling uncontrollably.

Joseph could not bear to look at Toto. Border Collies were supposed to be the smartest dogs in the world, so why did the one he raised seem so dumb?

“You’re back. What do you want to eat?” Chloe asked.

“You can still cook?” Joseph asked.

‘Didn’t she hurt her hand?’

Chloe was thrown for a loop and looked at him in confusion. Joseph did not answer, but

walked straight to her and said, "Let me see your hand."

Chloe hesitated for a moment but then extended her hand. The back of her hand was covered in several blisters from the earlier oil splatter. The blisters looked painful.

Frowning, Joseph went back to the study and retrieved a burn ointment he had

purchased overseas. Kneeling on one knee, he used his fingertips to delicately apply the ointment to Chloe's blisters. His captivatingly handsome features were even more striking in his silence.

Chloe's heart started hammering. 'Is he worried about me?'

"Does it hurt?"

"A little, but I already put some medicine on it," Chloe replied softly.

"This ointment works better," Joseph said confidently.

Chloe nodded gently, not arguing with him.

As the ointment was applied, a wave of coolness spread over Chloe's hand, easing the pain. It was indeed better than the tube of ointment that Icarus had given her.

Joseph put away the ointment and looked up at her. Their eyes met, and he saw a pair of shining eyes, like glass holding countless stars, that was a feast for the eyes.

Chloe could be a little dramatic sometimes, but she was definitely not pretentious. Feeling a bit shy, she avoided his gaze as her face flushed red. "What are you staring at me for?"

Joseph's Adam's apple bobbed up and down as he felt a sudden heat spread through him. He closed the distance between them until their faces were just inches apart, and their breaths became intermingled in an atmosphere charged with emotions.

'Seriously? Is this really happening?!'

Chloe was excited and nervous. She closed her eyes and puckered her lips, ready for anything!

Chapter 58 Testing and Probing

Joseph noticed her reaction and smirked.

He stretched out his arm and pinched her cheek.

“Hey! Hey! Hey!” Chloe abruptly opened her eyes and swatted his hand away.

She truly thought that he was going to kiss her.

A light smile played on Joseph’s lips as he sat regally on the sofa, his fingers interlocked on his chest as he stared at her playfully.

“Hey’ what?” he teased.

‘D*mn it!’ Chloe cursed inwardly when she realized that Joseph was teasing her again.

Chloe took a few deep breaths, trying to calm her racing heart.

“Nothing,” she said, trying to act nonchalant.

Joseph watched her leave with a disappointed expression. He did not know why but he found her quite cute.

Meanwhile, Chloe returned to her bedroom, flopping onto the bed in frustration. When would she ever be able to win over Joseph? Did he really mean it when he said he was impotent? If not, why would he be impervious to her charms?

After a while, she received a call from Emily who was checking up on her. “How’s it going with your contractual husband?”

“Don’t even ask. It’s terrible. I feel terrible,” Chloe replied.

“What happened? Tell me about it.”

Chloe confessed that she had tried to seduce Joseph in her sexy negligee but had failed miserably.

Emily was shocked. “What?! Is he a saint or something?!”

She found it hard to believe that Joseph was able to resist Chloe’s attractive appearance and physique.

This reminded Emily of Jake’s infidelity. Perhaps all men were fundamentally terrible and unappreciative once they got what they wanted. But then again, neither of them got Chloe.

Ping!

A notification alerted Chloe to a new email in her inbox. She sat up, dejectedly opening her laptop.

“Honestly, I’m starting to think that what he said to me before was true. And there be another reason-he doesn’t like women.”

“It’s possible. Why don’t you test him?” Emily suggested.

“How?”

may

“Go take a shower but pretend that you forgot your towel. Then, ask him to bring you one...”

“That’s so embarrassing!”

“What’s there to be embarrassed about? No one else has to know except for us. And if I may offer some advice, perhaps your negligee wasn’t sexy enough. Joseph is already in his late twenties and has seen and experienced a lot. He’s not an innocent young boy who doesn’t know anything. You need to up the ante a bit.”

“Okay... I’ll give it a try.”

“Oh, and can you send me the link to the negligee you bought? I want to buy one too!” “Fine, fine. I will!” Chloe said enviously and with a tinge of jealousy.

Emily had recently started dating a new guy and they were in the honeymoon stage of their relationship, while Chloe was struggling to win over Joseph.

Opening up an online shopping website, she sent Emily the link before turning her attention to her work emails. After a spot of work and finishing her dinner, she reluctantly made her way to the bathroom.

Applying a fragrant body lotion, Chloe caught a glimpse of herself in the mirror. Admiring her naked form, her cheeks flush with warmth. According to Emily, if she could not win Joseph's heart with this, it was likely that he was not lying about his impotence.

While she was not overly concerned about that, she did worry that if their contract expired before she could establish herself as his rightful spouse, all the time and

energy she had invested would have been for nothing and she would miss out on the prospect of a possible real marriage.

Summoning her courage, Chloe wrapped a towel around herself and timidly called out,

"Jojo, we're out of shampoo. Can you get me a bottle from the cupboard please?"

"Hang on," he said, then came the sound of footsteps getting closer. Chloe clutched at her chest, her breathing became labored with nervousness.

"Here you go."

A large hand appeared, offering her the shampoo in a gentlemanly fashion without any inappropriate gestures. Chloe felt disappointed and deliberately pushed the door open to grab the bottle.

"Thank you," she said, looking up at Joseph, who was now only a foot away. Her soaked hair flowed down her shoulders, and her skin glistened with a subtle sheen. Her makeup-free face appeared pristine and innocent, akin to a white lily. Her eyes sparkled like polished jewels.

As Joseph lowered his gaze, Chloe accidentally dropped the towel. At that moment, time seemed to stand still, and Joseph's pupils dilated as he felt a rush of warmth surge through his body.

Chloe's heart raced as her eyelashes trembled uncontrollably, too afraid to look at his reaction.

The next second, Joseph removed his woolen sweater.

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Chapter 59 This Is Her First Time

Chloe caught a glimpse of his actions and tightened her fists nervously.

She was afraid of both how he would respond and how he would not respond. After all, this was her first time doing such a thing. She was scared. Her cheeks were flushed with a rosy hue, almost as if she could boil a pot of water with the warmth she felt.

Just when she was lost in her anxious thoughts, Joseph threw his woolen shirt right over her head!

Chloe was stunned and the world around her turned black.

"If you do this again, you'll have to bear the consequences."

His voice echoed in her ears, devoid of any warmth or emotion. It sounded exactly like what Joseph would say-unyielding as a rock and cold as ice.

Chloe was ashamed, but after a few seconds, the heat in her body dissipated, leaving her trembling as if she had gone through an ordeal of fire and ice.

She pulled the woolen shirt off her head and hastily put on her clothes before running into the bedroom. She called Emily and vented her frustration at the terrible idea Emily had given her. Not only had she failed to seduce him, but she had also made him

Emily was silent for a long time before concluding, "It's time to cut your losses."

angry.

Meanwhile, in the master bedroom, Joseph wiped away the blood trickling from his

nose.

Luckily, he had blocked Chloe's view before the nosebleed started. However, his mind was utterly restless, filled with thoughts of her. Especially the scene

of her dropping the towel, which had enchanted him and refused to leave his head.

“D*mn it,” he cursed softly. He lay in bed and was unable to sleep until the early morning hours. The last time he had stayed up all night like this was when he first took over Fairlight.

When dawn broke, Joseph got up and headed to the company. His assistant, Lucas, was startled upon seeing the two dark circles under his eyes.

“Are you unwell, Mr. Joseph?”

Joseph’s complexion was even worse than Owen’s when his wife kicked him out of the

house after a fight.

“I couldn’t sleep,” Joseph replied.

“I see.” Lucas did not dare to ask any more questions. He silently replaced Joseph’s usual coffee with wolfberry tea and kindly reminded him, “We have a dinner party tonight. If you’re not feeling well, we could cancel it.”

“No need for that,” Joseph replied.

He did not want to see Chloe, because every time he saw her, he would recall that indescribable scene from last night.

Of course, Chloe had not slept well either.

Last night was one of the most shameful and humiliating experiences of her life, one that made her want to dig a hole and disappear into it forever. Even in her dreams, Joseph was mocking and belittling her.

The day passed quickly, and she forgot to reply to messages in the group chat with her ex-college classmates.

As evening approached, the rush hour hit Aesper, with pedestrians dashing about and traffic moving in an orderly fashion. Chloe was standing at a bus stop when a Mercedes pulled up next to her.

“Chloe, aren’t you going to the reunion?” asked Peter Franklin, her ex-classmate, as he rolled down his car window.

Chloe was caught off guard by his question, and it was only then she remembered the gathering that her classmates had organized a few days earlier. She was not in the mood to socialize and had intended to decline, but she had forgotten to reply.

“I have some things to take care of at home... You go ahead, have fun!” Chloe laughed politely.

Seeing through her façade, Peter got out of his car and pulled her into the passenger

seat.

“We haven’t seen each other in two years. You were the most promising of us all back then, and you went abroad even before graduating. You must be a director-level executive by now, right?” Peter teased.

Feeling uneasy, Chloe tucked a strand of hair behind her ear. “No, I’m not.”

Peter chuckled, thinking she was being modest.

At Four Seasons, over thirty classmates from their course had gathered, chatting and laughing together. Amid the banter, someone asked Chloe, “How are you and Jake doing? Are you married yet?”

“Married? You should be asking if they have kids already,” another joked.

“That’s right! You should be asking how many kids they have now.”

As everyone laughed, Chloe’s smile froze, and she bit her lip. “We broke up.”

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Chapter 60 Don’t Ever Bother Her Again

“I can’t believe it. You guys were the model couple.”

“Are you for real? You’re kidding, right?”

“Jake is so handsome and devoted. Why did you guys break up?”

The group could not believe it. At that moment, Emily's sarcastic response cut through the air. "Yeah, your seemingly devoted Jake cheated, and the person he cheated with is

Chloe's half-sister."

The group looked at each other in disbelief, until the ex-class monitor, Peter, changed the subject, urging everyone to focus on the food. The topic was ultimately dropped, but

several classmates came over to console Chloe.

After drinking quite a bit of water, Chloe got up to go to the restroom. Peter noticed and followed her. When she emerged from the restroom, she saw Peter waiting in the hallway and casually asked, "Are you going to the restroom too, Peter?"

"No, I'm waiting for you."

"Waiting for me?"

Peter had had a few too many drinks, and his speech was slurred as he said, "Chloe, there's something I want to tell you."

"Sure, go ahead."

"I like you. I've always liked you. I knew I wasn't as good as Jake when you were together, but now that you've broken up, could you give me a chance? I've just bought a house and a car. Although I have to pay off the loans every month, please trust me when I say I'll give you a better life in the future."

Chloe's head was spinning. "Peter, you're drunk."

"I'm not drunk. I'm serious about you," Peter insisted.

"Don't be like this. We're not suited for each other."

"You won't know until you try." Peter suddenly grabbed her hand and passionately declared, "Chloe, look at me. I know you're very talented, but I'm doing well now. I'm in charge of over twenty people, and the company will surely give me a promotion next year. Then, you won't have to work anymore. You can just be a housewife and take care of the house. I'll take care of you."

Chloe quickly pulled her hand back, resisting with both hands held up in front of her chest as she retreated. “No, no. We can’t be together. I have something to do. I need to go.”

With that, she turned her head to leave the hallway. However, Peter grabbed onto her clothes and refused to let her go. He was absolutely hammered.

Panicked, Chloe struggled to break free and accidentally bumped into someone behind her. As she opened her mouth to apologize, a clear and cool voice interrupted her thoughts.

“Let go of her.”

It could have been the frigid chill emanating from Joseph’s demeanor, or perhaps it was just the unfortunate timing of his arrival, but Peter instantly came to his senses. Upon locking eyes with Joseph’s piercing gaze, he promptly let go of Chloe’s clothes.

Joseph shielded Chloe behind him, his hands in his pocket as he stood tall and imposing.

“Don’t ever bother her again,” he warned.

“Who are you?”

Peter tried to maintain his composure before Chloe, but before he could say anything, she interjected boldly, “He’s my husband.”

This was the second time she had called him that in front of others. Joseph raised his eyebrows. It seemed to him that Chloe was becoming more familiar with addressing him as her husband.

In just a few seconds, several emotions flitted across Peter’s face—embarrassment, sadness, disbelief—before he ultimately said nothing and walked away dejectedly.

As Chloe watched him leave, she breathed a sigh of relief and looked at Joseph. “Thanks for getting me out of that situation.”

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