

Jojo and Coco's Unexpected Love By Aurora Summers

Chapter 513

Chapter 513 Hired Murder

Joseph was stunned for a moment before saying, "Hazel's probably talking nonsense. Xavia may not lead an upright personal life, but she doesn't have a strong background. She comes from a rural background, and there's no reason for her to have any connection with Duskfall. If there was even a slight possibility of that, I'd have noticed it five years ago."

Chloe was a little annoyed. "Then come over now and we can listen to the recording together."

"Sure, let me finish up this document and I'll be there in about half an hour."

"Okay, I'll be waiting for you," Chloe replied.

Chloe estimated that it would take Hazel about half an hour to make a round trip. Fifteen minutes later, Hazel called Chloe to let her know she was already back.

"That was quick. Didn't you go back to your house?" Chloe asked.

"Of course not. I wouldn't leave such an important thing at home," Hazel replied.

Chloe thought her reasoning was sound. "Then come up."

"No, you come down. Let's meet in a public place. There's a coffee shop right across the street from your office."

"That's fine," Chloe agreed without hesitation, thinking that the request was not

unreasonable. If Hazel had any tricks up her sleeve, doing them in a public place would not benefit her.

Chloe picked up a blazer from the cloth rack and walked out of the lobby. She spotted Hazel standing nervously across the street, her eyes darting around. Hazel waved at her, and Chloe nodded before crossing the road to meet her at the coffee shop.

Suddenly, a black sedan ran the red light and rushed straight toward Hazel. Upon impact, she flew into the air and landed on the ground with a heavy thud. The driver then ran over her, sealing her fate.

Hazel's body sprawled lifelessly across the ground in a pool of blood. Even though there was no trace of life left in her eyes, there was a haunting shock and fear in them, frozen in time, as they stared right back at Chloe.

The scene was horrifying.

Chloe's whole body stiffened, her throat felt raw, and she struggled to take steps forward to inspect the situation. However, the arriving traffic police stopped her, disallowing any bystanders to approach. After a quick judgment, it was evident that Hazel had died on the spot.

Chloe's scalp tingled. She had seen the black car intentionally hit Hazel. When Joseph arrived, he found Chloe staring blankly at a pool of blood not far away. He sensed that something was

wrong and instinctively hugged her.

"What happened?"

"Hazel is dead. She was hit by a car and killed," Chloe replied.

Joseph froze, then quickly looked toward the blood on the ground that was surrounded by several policemen.

"Did you get the recording?" he asked.

"She didn't get the chance to give it to me," Chloe said with a trembling voice, "I went to the police and asked for it, but they refused. They say it's evidence."

"Wait here for a moment," Joseph said.

He walked over to the officers and exchanged a few words with them. After a moment of contemplation, an officer nodded slightly.

Turning back to Chloe, Joseph said, "We can't take the recording device for now, but we can follow them to the station and listen to the contents of the recording together."

Before Chloe could respond, a Mercedes-Benz stopped nearby, and Edgar and Victor got out. They pointed at Chloe and shouted in anguish, "Officers, that woman killed my daughter. Arrest her!"

In an instant, several police officers turned to Chloe, squinting their eyes.

Startled, she defended herself, "It wasn't me! I was just standing here when the accident happened!"

Edgar immediately retorted, "Hazel and you had an argument at Fairlight earlier today, and many people witnessed it. There was no reason for her to visit your office. You established a false alibi and then hired someone to kill her. The 30 thousand dollars you sent her is clear evidence of your coercion!"

Victor chimed in, "That's right! Officer, please check Hazel's phone. There must be call records between her and Chloe."

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Score 9.5

Chapter 514 Chloe Becomes a Suspect.

Upon hearing these words, an officer glanced at the pale-faced Chloe and gestured to his colleague to look for the evidence. After a few minutes of searching, they found the call records between Chloe and Hazel and a notification of the 30 thousand dollar deposit.

"Ms. Chloe, please come with us to the station and give us your statement," one of the officers requested.

"It wasn't me. I didn't do it!" Chloe explained desperately.

Edgar's voice boomed as he pointed accusingly, "This was you! You were envious of Hazel and feared that she would snatch Mr. Joseph away from you!"

"Shut up!" Joseph roared as he stared coldly at Edgar.

Startled, Edgar trembled and begrudgingly kept his mouth shut.

“Calm down, Mr. Joseph. There’s no need to get so worked up. Or perhaps you’re feeling guilty?” Victor taunted sarcastically.

Ignoring him, Joseph tightly held Chloe’s hand and said to the police, “We would like to call our lawyer.”

“Go ahead, sir,” the officer replied.

Edgar tensed up upon hearing that they were calling a lawyer.

From inside the police car, Chloe asked worriedly, “Do you believe me?”

Joseph gently stroked her head and said, “Yes, I know there’s a misunderstanding. Once we have the recording, everything will become clear.”

“Yeah...” Chloe nodded. As long as they got the recording, it would prove she was not lying.

Samuel and Tyson arrived at the police station at the same time.

Since the incident with Hazel occurred outside of his jurisdiction, Tyson could not officially take charge of the case and had simply come to provide guidance. After hearing about the situation, he felt it was not too serious. He stood up from his chair and said, “Cooperate with the police and give your statement. I’ll talk to them and see if we can get the recording as soon as possible.”

Although he did not have close connections here, he knew a few people.

Samuel also nodded and chimed in, “Since Hazel showed up, it means she was mostly telling the truth. There’s no need to worry too much.”

Joseph lightly tapped the table, his handsome face dark and unreadable. “Haven’t you noticed something strange?”

“What is it?”

“According to Chloe, Hazel asked her for 100 thousand to start a new life away from the

Cottrells, so how did Edgar and Victor know about that?”

Samuel propped his chin, "You're right. That is suspicious."

After a while, Tyson returned, his face stern. "There's nothing on the recording."

Chloe cooperated with the police and gave a statement but was not immediately released. She had to anxiously wait in the dim interrogation room.

Ten minutes later, an officer walked in, holding a recording pen in his hand, "Does this recording pen found on Hazel have any connection to you?"

"Yes," Chloe replied truthfully.

"What kind of connection?"

Chloe froze. "What's the matter? What happened?"

Looking at her, the police officer replied, "There's nothing on it."

Chloe was stunned. "That's not possible."

"It's true." The officer placed the recording pen in front of her. "You can listen to it yourself."

Samuel, acting as Chloe's lawyer, exited the interrogation room and shook his head at Joseph, "Chloe is being held as a suspect. The police won't release her for now."

Meanwhile, Edgar approached them, his voice dripping with venom as he said, "If the Whitman Group doesn't terminate the contract they have with me, I'll help get her out."

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Score 9.5

Chapter 515 Watch Your Back

As someone who was a notorious money-grubber, even Samuel could not stand Edgar's audacious attitude. He sneered, "Hazel's barely been dead for three hours, and you're already eager to profit from her death. It's a great sorrow to have you as a brother!"

“You don’t understand,” Victor retorted, “Once a person dies, they can’t come back to life. If her death can serve a purpose, she would find it honorable in the afterlife.”

“Tigers never devour their own cubs, and siblings should never deceive each other. Keep in mind that karma has a way of coming back around. Victor, oh, Victor. Your father bestowed you with such a name, hoping you’d always emerge victorious. But the truth is, you’ve never once triumphed over me. Doesn’t the name ‘Victor’ now seem like a cruel jest? Perhaps it’s because your numerous transgressions are catching up with you, and now you’re facing the consequences?”

Victor was left speechless, his face turning red with embarrassment. “Hmph! Do you still have the luxury to argue with us here? I bet you can’t bear to see your beloved wife behind bars, right, Mr. Joseph?”

Joseph stood tall, his chin slightly raised and his gaze cold as ice. “Of course, I’ll never let that happen.”

As he smirked, Edgar started to think of conditions to propose. But in the next instant, Joseph’s voice changed as he said, “I won’t spare anyone who had a hand in this, so watch your back.”

Edgar’s face sank, and he retorted impolitely, “Threatening me won’t benefit you. Is it that hard for you to humble yourself? Or do you think that woman isn’t worth as much as your reputation?”

As far as he knew, Chloe held a significant position in Joseph’s heart, and he would do everything he could to help her.

Victor chimed in, even bursting with confidence as he began to lay out conditions. In the past, the Cottrells would never dare to speak to Joseph in such a manner, but now, the situation was different. It was no longer just about business. Victor did not believe that Joseph was capable of bailing out a murder suspect from jail.

A subtle smirk curved Joseph’s lips, his smile sending shivers down Samuel’s spine. Every time Joseph smiled like that, it meant he was about to take serious action.

Joseph walked to the side and made a phone call. Edgar and Victor exchanged glances, feeling somewhat uneasy. But after some time, nothing happened. They began to feel relieved, thinking it was all just a bluff.

“Sir? Aren’t you on vacation? Why are you here?” A young police officer sitting in a chair

515 Was

gaped at the middle-aged man who entered the hall. The man was dressed casually and appeared to be around forty years old.

Nathaniel Harrison’s face was stern as he ignored the young officer and strode into the interrogation room. After about ten minutes, a barrage of furious cursing could be heard from

inside.

At this point, the Cottrells sensed that something was amiss. Sure enough, the officer in charge of the case hastily rushed out and said to Joseph, “Sir, please wait for a moment. Ms. Chloe just has to sign a few documents and she can be released.”

“What?! Are you kidding me?! Chloe is the prime suspect. How could you release her so quickly?!” Edgar questioned angrily.

“Chloe isn’t the culprit. We’ve already confirmed it,” the officer replied.

“Bullshit! Did you even investigate properly?! Chloe’s motive for the crime is as clear as day!”

“Sir, please trust us.” The officer’s expression turned grim. Without further explanation to Edgar, he turned around and went back to complete the formalities with Chloe.

Edgar and Victor looked at each other, then turned their gaze to Joseph. They smiled at him awkwardly and said, “Mr. Joseph, we were just joking with you.”

Joseph parted his lips and said, “Get out of my sight.”

Edgar and Victor had no other choice but to leave in frustration. Samuel looked at them and asked, “Who did you ask for help?”

He knew that Joseph had a team of his own, but it seemed that it was not deployed in this situation.

“I just informed my grandfather about Chloe’s situation.”

“Huh?”

“Mr. Nathaniel’s father served under Grandpa back in the military,” Joseph replied flatly,

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Score 9.5

Chapter 516 News About Joseph’s Mother

Samuel was momentarily stunned. “I forgot about it.”

Harold had served in the military his entire life and achieved great success. Though he had retired a few years ago and his official position was no longer active, his military rank remained.

Chloe had not committed any wrongdoing, so it was not hard to get her out.

After knowing that she would be released, Chloe’s heart filled with joy, and the lingering anxiety finally subsided.

She followed the officer to sign the necessary documents. During the process, she noticed two other policemen escorting a woman, presumably someone who had just finished giving her

statement.

The woman possessed long, sleek tresses that shimmered with luster, reaching down to her waist. She kept her head down, her hair acting as a veil and concealing her identity. Though not in her youth, her remarkable demeanor gave off an aura of elegance befitting a wealthy

woman.

The officer filled his colleague in on the situation. “Caught stealing in a public place.”

“Isn’t that pretty common? Why do you look so puzzled?”

“Stealing is normal, but what’s abnormal is that she confessed to the victim and urged them. to report it to the police. It’s like she wants to go to jail or something.”

“That’s pretty bold.”

Chloe overheard their conversation and shifted her gaze to the woman, but she was unable to figure out what was going on. After completing the paperwork, she exited the station to reunite with Joseph.

“Are you okay?” he asked.

Chloe shook her head, then nodded. “I’m fine.”

It had been a long day for her today, and her stomach was aching slightly. She was not sure if it was related to the baby.

Thinking that the police had overstepped, Joseph narrowed his eyes and asked, “Did they mistreat you?”

“No. I just feel a little unwell. I’ll be fine after some rest,” Chloe said.

“I’ll have the driver take you home,” Joseph said before coming to a pause. A furrow formed

on his forehead as his expression turned serious. “There’s news about my mother’s whereabouts. I need to go check it out.”

Chloe was taken aback. She had not expected to receive news about his mother so quickly.

“Okay, go on then,” she said.

She had been worried about coming up with an excuse to go to the hospital for a check-up alone.

The two separated, and the driver took Chloe back to the house. After changing her clothes, she hailed a cab and went to the hospital.

The doctor looked at the scan and asked, “Hmm, this doesn’t look good. Has there been any bleeding?”

“No,” Chloe replied.

“There are signs of a threatened miscarriage,” the doctor said.

Chloe became anxious, “What should I do?”

“I’ll prescribe you some medication. Make sure to take good care of yourself. When you’re pregnant, try to keep a calm mindset. You should take care of yourself not just for your own sake but also for the sake of the baby.”

Chloe nodded firmly. “Thank you, doctor. I will.”

As she stepped out of the hospital with her prescription in hand, Noah suddenly called her.

“Chloe, I took your sketch to the relevant department, but they didn’t find anything. The jewelry might’ve been altered or refurbished.”

Chloe’s eyes dimmed as a sense of disappointment overwhelmed her.

“Well, thank you for your efforts. Oh, there’s one more thing I’d like to ask you,” she said.

Sensing her low spirits, Noah said gently, “Ask away.”

“Since we can’t retrieve the original piece, I’d like to have a replica made based on the sketch- as a keepsake. Would that be possible?”

“I’ll check with the designer. Exotic Star doesn’t have such a service, but I think it should be doable.”

“Okay, thank you so much.”

“Don’t mention it. I’ll get back to you when I have news.”

As Chloe walked and talked to Noah on the phone, she failed to notice Patrick standing by the pharmacy entrance. He wanted to greet her, but she simply walked past him.

Thinking that Chloe might be ill, Patrick did not hesitate to inform Harold about the

encounter. O

Upon hearing the news, Harold slammed down his cup in anger and immediately called Joseph. "You rascal! Where the hell are you when your wife is at the hospital?!"

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Chapter 517 Busted

"I'm out handling some matters." Joseph gripped his phone tightly, his tone growing stern. "Chloe's at the hospital?"

"What could possibly be more important than my sweet granddaughter-in-law?" Harold questioned.

"Somebody saw my mother at Seawell Plaza."

Harold fell silent. It took him a moment before he asked, "Did you find her?"

"No, it's possible they made a mistake."

"Do you think that the Sinclairs are merely spouting nonsense to trick you?"

"No matter what you think, I'd rather believe that my mother is alive and managed to escape as opposed to that she's long gone."

Harold let out a long, heavy sigh. "That's not what I meant. I just want our family to be safe."

"The safety of our family has nothing to do with whether my mother is alive or not. Back then, we just weren't strong enough."

"All right, I've lived to this age. What do I have to fear? I'm only worried about you, cough, cough..."

Harold began to cough uncontrollably before he could finish his sentence. His coughs came in rapid succession, resembling a heavy burden on his heart, leaving him gasping for breath.

Joseph's face sank and he quickly changed the topic. "How do you know that Chloe went to the hospital?"

“Dr. Spencer said they ran out of medicine at my regular hospital, so Patrick went to another. hospital to fetch it, and he happened to see Chloe there.”

“Did Patrick ask her why she was there?”

“No. She was on the phone, so she probably didn’t hear him.”

“Okay. Don’t wander around with your old comrades for now. Stay home and rest.”

“You mind your own business. Go and check on Chloe, see if she’s feeling unwell.”

“I will.”

On her way home, Chloe received a call from Joseph. She stared at the incoming call on her phone, her face showing hesitation.

“Sir, please pull over to the side,” she instructed.

“Okay, miss.”

She rolled up the car window, shutting out the noise from outside, and lightly tapped the answer button with her fingertip.

“Where are you?” Joseph asked.

“I’m with Em. What’s wrong? Are you done with your business?”

He stayed silent for a few seconds. “Why aren’t you home? Why are you running around outside?”

“It’s nothing. Em’s just feeling down and wants some company,” Chloe replied calmly, ‘ Sitting at home is boring, so I thought I might as well come out for some fresh air.”

This time, the pause on the other end was much longer. After a while, Joseph replied calmly and emotionlessly, “I’m heading home. I want to see you before seven o’clock.”

Chloe’s heart skipped a beat. Just when she was about to test if he knew something, Joseph abruptly ended the call. Upon arriving home, she found

him seated on the couch, still in the same expensive black shirt and perfectly tailored trousers.

His face was dark and stern.

Walking into the living room, Chloe glanced at him and waved. "Hey..."

Joseph sat with his legs crossed and looked at her sternly. "Come here."

'Oh no. He must have found out something. Guess I'll have to play by ear.'

Chloe forced a dry smile, slipped on her fluffy slippers, and walked over to him. Feigning innocence, she asked, "What's wrong? You have such a sour look on your face. Who offended you?"

"You," came Joseph's concise and displeased reply.

Chloe maintained her facade of innocence. "I haven't done anything..."

"Go on. Keep pretending."

"If you have something to say, just say it."

"Why didn't you tell me you went to the hospital? Why did you lie to me?" Joseph coldly questioned her, having no intention of beating around the bush.

Chloe's heart skipped a beat. "How did you know I was at the hospital?"

Joseph clenched his teeth. "You'd better give a reasonable explanation."

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Chapter 518 Have I Spoiled You Too Much?

"Um... I was there with Em. I didn't go alone," Chloe blurted out, throwing all caution to the wind.

After all, given Joseph's sharpness, any slight hesitation on her part would surely give away her deceit.

"You were there with Emily?" he asked, his eyebrows furrowing.

“Yeah. Em’s been experiencing irregular menstruation and asked me to accompany her to the hospital,” she explained, touching her nose as a hint of guilt crept into her voice. “She was right beside me when you called, and you know how girls can be shy when it comes to private matters like this. I couldn’t talk about it with you.’

Joseph frowned. “Irregular menstruation?”

“Yeah...”

‘Sorry, Em. But as my good friend, I’m sure you wouldn’t mind helping me out, right?’ Chloe thought.

A moment of heavy silence enveloped them as the last rays of the evening sun started to vanish, throwing the room into darkness. Joseph seemed to merge with the darkness, emanating a chilling aura that sent shivers down Chloe’s spine. Her heart thumped rapidly like a fluttering bird in a cage.

She avoided his gaze and said, “I’m going to take a shower.” With that, she hastily fled.

Chloe thought that Joseph would not let her go so easily, but this time, he did not say a word. It was highly unusual and left her feeling inexplicably anxious. Halfway through her shower, she suddenly remembered that she had left her phone at the entrance. She hurriedly dried herself and rushed outside.

However, she was one step too late. Joseph was already at the entrance, holding her phone in his hand. Nervously, she snatched it back from him. On the screen was the call log showing a call from Noah five minutes ago, and Joseph had answered it.

‘What bad luck! Why is everything so coincidental?!’

Chloe immediately started to explain, “Noah called me to discuss the details of the customized jewelry. We didn’t talk about anything else.”

“He said he was with you this afternoon,” Joseph interjected coldly.

“That’s impossible. He wouldn’t say that.” Chloe thought of Noah as a gentle and refined man. She could not imagine him doing such a thing. Perhaps Joseph was just trying to deceive her.

“Do you believe in him and not me?”

“No... I just feel that Noah wouldn't say such nonsense,”

“Answer my question. Do you believe in him and not me?” Joseph repeated, his brows furrowing with an air of obsession.

Chloe pressed her lips together. “I believe you.”

“But you

went to the hospital alone and insisted on lying to me. You told me you were with Emily. You claim to believe me, yet you won't even tell me the truth.” Joseph's face turned icy, and he could no longer contain his anger.

Chloe's eyes widened, unable to retort. All her words got stuck in her throat. She had assumed that Joseph only knew she went to the hospital but did not know who she went with.

‘Does he also know that I'm pregnant?’

On one hand, Chloe felt guilty for lying. After all, Joseph was the father of the child, and he had the right to know about the baby's existence. On the other hand, she felt that he was being heartless and did not value her. Which man would not be thrilled and overjoyed to learn that they were having a child? Or perhaps, Joseph was still unaware of her pregnancy?

Her thoughts seemed to embark on a never-ending and convoluted journey, circling back on themselves repeatedly. She could not tell how much Joseph knew at this moment, so she was unsure of what to say..

Joseph waited for a long while, yet Chloe offered no explanation. He laughed bitterly. “Are you figuring out how to continue your evasions?”

“It's not like that...” she tried to explain.

“Chloe, have I spoiled you too much? There are limits to lying, and how many times have you done it already? When will this end?” Joseph's frustration grew evident. “If you don't want me to care about you, just tell me. There's no need for all these twists and turns.”

Chloe felt wronged and could not bear such injustice. Why should Xavia's pregnancy be openly accepted while hers had to be kept a secret? She was

the one who always felt disgusted, and she did not want to live in secrecy anymore.

Overwhelmed by emotions, she started to say, "I'm preg-"

"Stop. Enough with your lies. Take some time to reflect on yourself." Joseph grabbed his car keys and stormed out, slamming the door behind him.

With Joseph gone, the villa fell silent.

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Chapter 519 Hand Over Hazel's Recorder and I'll Spare You

Chloe remained motionless, her extended eyelashes hiding the glint in her eyes as she let out a self-deprecating chuckle. She knew that this was her own decision and that she would have to face the consequences.

The day had been long and draining, leaving her utterly fatigued and unwilling to utter a word. She felt tired. If she was asleep, she would not have to think about anything.

Fortunately, this was the final month. Soon, there would be a resolution. Yet, amid a fleeting moment of relief, an even heavier burden settled upon Chloe's heart.

Meanwhile, Joseph drove to the Whitman Group. His secretary gave him the enterprise project plans for the latter half of the year. To his surprise, he saw Edgar's office among the applications. He found it hard to believe that Edgar still had the nerve to apply for a project. with the Whitman Group.

Joseph's anger surged, and he grabbed a pen, forcefully crossing out Edgar's name and inadvertently tearing the paper in the process.

"Notify everyone that the Whitman Group will no longer engage in any business with Edgar Cottrell," he ordered, "Any companies currently collaborating with him will no longer have any opportunities with us as well."

The secretary was taken aback. It was evident that Joseph was determined to cut off all ties with Edgar. From this moment on, nobody in Docwood would help or work with the Cottrells any longer.

Joseph looked at the secretary and said, "Understand?"

"Yes, Mr. Joseph. I'll take care of it right away," the secretary hurriedly replied.

Within just a few hours, Edgar's company received numerous contract cancellations. All of its employees were now facing unemployment, and the company was forced to dissolve.

As Edgar witnessed the chaotic scene in his company, he trembled and collapsed to the floor. He could not fathom how Joseph could be so merciless. Making him lose billions was not enough. Joseph wanted to push him to the brink of destruction.

Refusing to accept this dire outcome, Edgar resolved to go to the Whitman Group and demand an explanation. However, fate had other plans for him. On his way there, he collided with an oncoming truck. Though he did not die instantly, the ambulance crew issued a critical condition notice.

Joseph received this news while he was at Gabriel's villa.

As Samuel enjoyed his salmon, he chuckled. "Well, karma is truly a bitch."

Over Hazels Recorder and I Spare You

As a lawyer, he had taken on many morally ambiguous cases. He felt the need to visit the church, confess his sins, and seek forgiveness. He dreaded meeting a fate similar to Edgar's.

"Is it just a coincidence or is there something more?" Nathan asked, finding it eerie. "Two car accidents involving the same family within one day. It's too strange."

Swirling his highball, Joseph replied calmly, "It's a coincidence."

Perhaps it was merely the result of their own actions catching up with them.

"Damn it. That shameless Victor is calling me," Samuel cursed.

Just as he was about to hang up, Joseph interrupted, "Answer it."

Samuel hesitated for a moment before answering.

“Tell Joseph that he’s maliciously monopolizing the market and that my father got into a car accident while on his way to confront him. Moreover, concerning Hazel’s death, he has to provide us with proper compensation. Otherwise, we’ll escalate the matter and ensure he loses the projects that Docwood City Council will grant at the end of the year!”

The projects granted by Docwood’s city council adhered to strict requirements, and companies entangled in public controversies were strictly forbidden from participation. It had to be admitted that Victor was a little smarter than his father.

“Send over Hazel’s voice recorder, and I may consider sparing your family,” Joseph responded coldly.

“The voice recorder is with the police, so why are you asking me for it? Besides, there’s

nothing on it,” Victor retorted impatiently, and his tone made it clear that he was not lying.

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Chapter 520 Chloe Is Mine

Joseph squinted slightly and said to Samuel, “Hang up.”

“Sure.” Without hesitation, Samuel ended the call and tossed his phone onto the couch.

“You think someone swapped out the recorder?” Gabriel asked curiously. They were all aware of what happened with Hazel earlier today, and they all felt it somewhat mysterious.

“She’s dead. There’s no way for me to find out, so I’m not sure,” Joseph replied, pinching his brow in frustration. He glanced at his dark phone and felt annoyed.

‘She’s pretty audacious. Not a word from her all night. I might have been too lenient with her lately.’

Sensing Joseph's sour mood, Nathan sat next to him with a drink in hand. "Come on. We don't meet up often, so let's enjoy ourselves."

Joseph's mind was filled with Chloe. He had no interest in light-hearted banter and snapped coldly, "Shut up."

"Is a woman worth all this trouble?" Gabriel was puzzled, his delicate and effeminate face showing bewilderment.

He could not understand how his good brother had changed so drastically, and he did not see any charm in Chloe. She was just slightly prettier and had a better temperament. Was it not an acknowledged philosophy that women were like clothes while brothers were like limbs?

Joseph dropped his proud demeanor and earnestly said in a low voice, "You don't understand. When you get married, you'll understand that there should always be a woman in the family."

"I'll never marry anyway, right, Sam?" Gabriel raised an eyebrow at the man who was throwing darts. "We can keep each other company when the need arises."

"Get lost. I'm not into dudes," Samuel retorted.

"If you're thinking about Chloe, just call her," Nathan advised helplessly, "Most problems can be resolved if you just humble yourself a little."

Something flickered across Joseph's eyes. "Tomorrow, I'll have someone investigate why she went to the hospital."

"You're going to monitor her?"

The word "monitor" sounded harsh, and Joseph frowned. "No, that's not it. I just want to

know."

"Then don't do that. If she's unwilling to tell you and resorted to lying, it means she really doesn't want to share whatever it is. Everyone has the right to privacy. Don't make her feel oppressed."

Joseph's eyes narrowed with possessiveness. "She's my woman, and I should know everything about her. There can be no secrets between us."

“You’ll only push her further away by being like this, just like I did... In the end, it cost me dearly,” Nathan said, his eyes welling up with tears as he reminisced about his past mistakes.

Joseph was taken aback when he thought of something. His jaw clenched as he said, “You should also settle down soon. Your father is getting old, and sooner or later, you’ll take over the company.”

Nathan smiled nonchalantly, but his eyes betrayed a glimmer of sorrow. “I know. The dead can’t be brought back to life.”

Samuel and Gabriel exchanged glances, understanding each other without saying a word.

In the end, Joseph let go of looking into the reason Chloe went to the hospital.

After that, Nathan said that when most people were talking about what a friend had said, they were usually talking about themselves. This fueled Joseph’s discontent, and he arranged for a renowned herbalist to visit Chloe the next day. He heard that irregular menstruation could affect future childbearing, and he wanted her to have a healthy body so that they could have a child together.

At an estate in Docwood, Preston stared at the man before him. Beads of cold sweat formed on

his forehead as if he were making a crucial decision.

“If you can make a copy of the confidential documents from the Whitman Group’s safe and give them to me, I’ll help you establish a new office. It’s a foolproof deal, and you won’t incur any losses. This is an opportunity you can’t afford to miss,” the man urged.

Preston gritted his teeth and firmly refused, “I no longer have a security pass. I can’t get in.

Seeing through his hesitation, the man skillfully persuaded, “I believe you have other ways to get in. The Whitmans have already cast you aside, so you need not feel guilty.”

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