

Jojo and Coco's Unexpected Love By Aurora Summers

Chapter 521 Leave the Marriage With Nothing

Preston abruptly shook his head as if wanting to prove himself. "The Whitmans didn't

abandon me. I'm still living in one of the villas belonging to the family, and I still have some shares."

The man was amused. "Shares? It's because Joseph wants to humiliate you. It's boring to lie to yourself."

For ordinary people, one percent of the Whitman Group shares was enough for them to lead a worry-free life. However, for a man like Preston, it was like falling into disfavor and he would have no chance of turning the situation around.

"Don't confuse Joe with the Whitmans. I won't betray my family." Preston turned the man down as he clenched his fists tightly.

He wanted to thrive over Joseph, but he did not want to ruin the Whitman Group.

Whitman Group was his, and Jonathan had a few billion now. Hence, Preston was not

desperate enough to betray his family.

The man remained calm. He handed Preston his business card. "We're not in a rush. I believe you'll need me."

"

After that, he got up and left in a car.

Preston stared at the name-Otto Sinclair-on the business card before he picked it up and stuffed it into a drawer.

Just then, Octavia came in with Harold with fierce momentum.

“Dad, you have to get justice for me. After marrying Pres, I diligently contributed to the family, but he’s keeping a mistress and even wants to divorce me. I’m so miserable!”

After Octavia received the photograph of Preston taking Hazel to a hotel, she grabbed her chance and found that female university student whom Preston had been keeping as his lover for many years. When the woman first became his lover, she was only a freshman in high school.

She was even one year younger than Jonathan. What a bastard Preston was!

Harold’s face became extremely gloomy. “Is what she said true?”

“I want a divorce because Tavia nearly killed me with a cleaver in the middle of the night.”

Preston was so angry that he shuddered. “I, your son, nearly died, Dad. Ignore her. I have to divorce her.”

“Yes, you should get a divorce,” Harold rebuked him.

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“Dad...”

“Dad!”

Both Preston and Octavia spoke up in unison. One of them was confused while the other was horrified. Although Preston claimed that he wanted to divorce Octavia, he could not bear to do so after being married to her for so many years. If Octavia could turn a blind eye to it in the future, he could force himself to forgive her.

It was beyond Octavia’s expectation that Harold would agree to it. She never really wanted a divorce. The Whitmans were the top aristocratic family, and they owned Fairlight. No other family in Docwood could compare to them.

In addition, Octavia was old and no longer charming. She would not find a better man if she left Preston. She decided to compromise as long as he broke up with that slut.

“Ahem...” Harold abruptly coughed heavily a few times. He used a white handkerchief to cover his mouth tightly. After a long while, he finally stopped

coughing. He then raised his walking stick and hit Preston hard. “Go and get the divorce certificate today. You have to leave the marriage without a penny to your name. Leave all your properties to

Tavia and Jon. Don’t even dream of getting a single penny!”

Preston was stunned. “Dad, what are you talking about?”

It was fine when Joseph disrespected Preston. But now, even Harold refused to help him.

“Are you deaf?” Harold trembled. His unclear eyes gleamed with the light of disappointment. He felt that Preston had failed him as his son. “This is what you deserve since you can’t control your basic urges. You’ve humiliated me to no end!”

“I’m your son. You have to side with me,” Preston murmured helplessly but it was not convincing in the slightest.

With eyes closed, Harold made up his mind and ignored Preston. He turned around and got into the car with Patrick’s help.

Sitting in the car, Patrick glanced at Preston before he shook his head in disappointment. Harold was already being soft-hearted by not taking back the villa. Patrick sincerely hoped that Preston would repent.

However, Preston did not think this way. His whole being was swallowed by hatred, and his sinister gaze fell on Otto’s business card in the drawer.

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Score 9.5

Chapter 522 The Smug Smile on His Youthful Face

Chloe woke up naturally and had toast and hot milk for breakfast. She picked up her phone and glanced at it, finding that Joseph had yet to contact her since their fight the previous day.

Disappointment inevitably engulfed her, but she did not blame him. She was the one lying,

after all.

She wondered if she should head to Fairlight and make it up with him humbly. Should she coax him as she did in the past when she tried to gain his heart?

While pondering over it, someone suddenly rang, her doorbell. Her eyes lit up, thinking it was Joseph. She walked toward the door in light steps and opened it.

“Hello, are you Ms. Chloe?” An old energetic man stood at the door.

“Yes, I am. And you are?”

“Mr. Joseph told me to come here to treat you. This is my professional certificate and my ID. Please take a look at them. If there are no problems, we can start right away.”

Chloe became confused. “You’re saying that Joseph hired you to treat me?”

“Yes, and it’s okay. You just need to take some medicine for your menstrual disorder. Don’t fret.”

Blinking, Chloe was soon enlightened. ‘So he thinks I’m the one having irregular periods. instead of Em. Is he assuming that I lied to him because I’m too shy to broach the subject, and that’s why he hired a doctor to come here?’

She found that it was possible, so she quickly waved. “No, there’s no need for any treatment. I’m fine. Go home.”

The doctor would surely find out everything as soon as he checked on her body. And of course, she did not dare to let him do so.

“That won’t do. I’ve already been paid.”

“It’s fine. I’ll tell Joseph about it.”

The old man was doubtful, but since she refused to accept the treatment, he could not force her.

After Chloe sent the doctor off, she called Noah.

Noah seemed to be in class, and she could vaguely hear the lecturer’s talking in the

background. He lowered his voice. "What's wrong, Coco?"

Chloe was slightly stunned. "Are you busy? Should I call you back later?"

"It's fine. Go on. It doesn't affect the class." The youth sounded gentle and refined. If he had not lowered his voice, no one would expect that he dared to answer a call in front of the lecturer.

"It's nothing actually. I just wanted to ask if you called me last night."

"Yeah, Mr. Joseph picked up. I was calling about the custom jewelry. Did he pass on the message to you?"

"No... Did you say anything else to him?"

"No."

"Did you guys get into a fight?"

"There was a bit of a conflict. I'm dealing with it now. It's nothing serious."

"Was it because of me?" Noah sounded careful, and his tone was full of guilt.

"No, it's just a small misunderstanding between him and me. It's irrelevant to you. Don't keep it to heart. I'll leave you to your class now. Bye."

Noah slowly broke into a smile as smugness flashed across his youthful and handsome face. He still sounded tender and harmless. "Okay, call me if you need me. I'll help you if I can."

"Thank you."

After Chloe gained an affirmative answer, she hung up the call and rushed toward Fairlight.

Joseph was having a meeting, so Lucas brought her to the office to wait. Feeling bored, she casually picked up the documents on Joseph's desk and helped him deal with them. Although they were difficult and tiresome, she could handle them.

Twenty minutes later, Lucas informed Joseph that Chloe was there.

Expressionlessly, Joseph quickened his steps. At the same time, his gloominess dissipated a little, appearing youthful and bright.

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Score 9.5

Chapter 523 Xavia Is Involved With Duskfall

Lucas tried his best to keep up with Joseph as the latter walked swiftly. When they were almost at the door, his phone rang.

He found that it was a call from Emily, so he stopped and said respectfully, "Sir, I have to answer a call. Tell me if there's anything I can do for you. I'll be at the door."

Joseph ignored Lucas and pushed open the door, fixing his gaze on Chloe.

She was sitting before the office desk, reading the datasheet seriously with a tight crease between her charming brows. With her pretty cheeks and small but tall nose bridge that formed a perfect arch, she was the perfect example of solemnity.

As he looked downward, he noticed her soft red lips and yearned to kiss her.

Joseph's eyes turned hazy. She seemed to have become prettier though they had only been separated for a few hours. She was not heartless after all and had come to him of her own initiative.

Hearing the noise, Chloe looked up. "Are you done with your work?"

"Mm-hmm."

He was, in fact, not done. It was supposed to be a long day of meetings, and they would take up more than two hours, but he had ended them early.

Displeasure crept up her face. "Is that all you're going to say?"

"Get things straight here. You're the liar, not me."

"Yes, I know." On her way there, she had figured out what she wanted to say. "I admit that the person who's suffering from irregular periods isn't Em but me. I was too embarrassed to tell you about it."

Hearing this, Joseph put away his grudges. He immediately asked, "What about the doctor I hired for you? Didn't he go to you?"

"Yes, he did. I got some medicine at the hospital, so I can't add on too many other medications right now. I didn't let him check me either."

"The old herbalist is very famous. Just listen to his instructions. If it's ineffective, you can go to the hospital."

"I've already started the medications. It's better to finish one full treatment course to see its effects." Chloe did not want to dwell much on the topic. She then said inadvertently,

"What did Noah say to you on the phone last night?"

Joseph sneered. "Didn't I tell you?"

But Noah's words were generally unreliable, and Joseph did not believe that Noah was with the dumbo the day before. He was just upset that they were keeping in touch in private.

Chloe was rendered speechless. She did not know who to trust. After all, both of them did not look as if they would lie to her. Hence, she was engulfed with conflicted feelings.

"You still don't trust me?" Gnashing his teeth, he stared closely at her.

"I want to customize a few pieces of jewelry. He helped me ask the jewelry designer. We haven't contacted each other about anything else except this." Chloe took the initiative to explain helplessly, "What did he say yesterday? Is it possible to customize them?"

"No," Joseph spoke concisely. He did not want to say anything more about Noah.

Chloe did not want to bring contempt upon herself. "Fine, got it. I won't ask you about Noah anymore. Did you find out who killed Hazel?"

"No, the car didn't have a license plate, and the driver wore a mask and sunglasses to hide his face."

"His face was hidden..." Chloe murmured before she thought of Vanya's face. "Was it someone from Duskfall?"

“What does Duskfall have to do with Hazel? If she was killed because of a recording, doesn’t it prove that Xavia has some kind of unspeakable secrets with Duskfall?”

Joseph narrowed his eyes. He neither refuted nor echoed this statement.

Chloe stared at him with her clear eyes. “Do you still believe that Xavia is a pure white sheet and that everything that happened has nothing to do with her?”

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Chapter 524 You’re the Liar, Not Me

Joseph fell into a dilemma. “We don’t have any evidence to prove this.”

He had been dating Xavia for so many years, so he was fully aware of her social and friend circles. Previously, he had his underlings investigate her, but there was nothing suspicious about her except those humiliating love affairs she had during her younger days.

“A woman’s instinct is sometimes more accurate than proof.” Chloe flared up in a rage. She felt that Joseph was defending her, so she became stubborn. She had now forgotten why she had come here in the first place.

Knock, knock, knock

Someone’s knocking interrupted their argument.

“Come in.”

Lucas entered the office. He glanced at Chloe before saying to Joseph in slight embarrassment, “Sir, was I interrupting something?”

“Just tell me what’s wrong.”

“Umm... I’d like to ask for the rest of the day off.”

Joseph looked up and scrutinized Lucas with his slender eyes. “Didn’t you just get back from a long vacation a few days ago? What do you plan to do now?”

Chloe pitied Lucas who had been working tirelessly for a few years. “Let him take a day off. I can help you if you’re busy. He’s constantly working long hours, so why can’t he ask for the occasional day off?”

“He’s responsible for some projects. If there’s a problem, he has to be here to solve it.”

“Sir, I-I won’t go far. I’ll be in A-Aesper,” Lucas stammered.

“Just answer my question.”

Joseph felt the need to get to the bottom of it if Lucas was trying to hide it. Lucas’ relatives and friends were not at Aesper, and his only social circle consisted of the employees of Fairlight.

“Emily wants me to pretend to be her boyfriend and go home with her to placate her parents.”

After suppressing himself for a few minutes, Lucas finally exposed the truth in one breath, his tanned face flushing red.

Feeling stunned, Joseph looked into Chloe’s eyes.

After a moment of shock, Chloe became agitated. “When did you and Em start dating?”

She had noticed that their relationship had changed slightly, but it had developed to this point

quicker than she had anticipated.

“No, we’re just putting on an act. Emily ruined her previous blind date, so her parents are unhappy with her.”

Chloe did not believe him and thought it was just an excuse. The act might become real one day.

Although Lucas was merely an assistant, he was exceptionally capable since he had managed to stay under Joseph’s employment for so many years. On top of that, he was good-looking and had tanned skin and a slim body. His facial features were nice, making him look like a witty man.

It would be fine if he and Emily ended up dating, but Chloe recalled that Emily's parents wanted a son-in-law who was from the city. And it was best if he was a civil servant.

Chloe said to Joseph, "I'll go for dinner with Em tonight to ask her about it."

She did not mind it if Emily dated Lucas, but she knew that Emily was a fool when it came to love and might accidentally expose Chloe's pregnancy to Lucas, so Chloe had to take some precautionary steps.

Joseph nodded and pinched Chloe's cheeks. "Okay, I'll find you once I'm done dealing with these documents. Just send me your location."

"Okay."

Chloe contacted Emily, and they agreed to meet at the mall. They arrived there one after another. She was about to ask her best friend what was going on between her and Lucas when she heard a familiar voice coming from inside the maternity and baby products store beside her.

"Please pick out for me a few gender-neutral outfits for newborn babies. Oh, including shoes and caps too." Xavia was wearing a simple, long blue sweater with a beige beret. She supported her waist and stood there gracefully.

Emily shot Xavia a glare. "Come on, Coco. Let's go and get some clothes too."

'She acts like she's the only one with a baby. She has yet to get the amniocentesis, and she's already buying clothes for the baby. She's so sure of her success.'

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Score 9.5

Chapter 525 Fleurette Was Long Gone

Chloe glanced at Xavia coldly but said calmly, "Let's ignore her."

"But I get so mad whenever I see her." Emily rubbed her fists together, eager to beat Xavia up.

“It’s best to avoid trouble. I don’t want to argue with her now. It’s meaningless.”

It was already the final month. She did not have to create trouble for herself and give Xavia a chance to make use of it.

“Fine, I’ll listen to you.” Emily sighed with disappointment.

“Madam, I advise you not to buy too many clothes for the newborn. They grow up pretty fast. The clothes that fit them may no longer fit them after two months,” the salesperson advised Xavia out of responsibility. “For example, these clothes are quite pretty, and they come in blue. and green. You just need to pick one. If you feel conflicted, you can call the baby’s father and ask him about it.”

Xavia touched the little clothes and inadvertently glanced out of the store. “You’re right. Let me ask him about it.”

Hearing this, Chloe stopped as she was just about to leave.

However, Xavia did not make the call in front of the salesperson. While walking to the lounge, she took out her phone and was about to make a call.

Emily pouted. “Chloe, call Joseph too. I don’t think he’ll bother to pick up her call.”

Chloe agreed to Emily’s suggestion. She then dialed Joseph’s number.

“Hello, the person you are calling is busy. Please try again later...”

The mechanical voice hurt Chloe’s heart.

At the same time, Xavia came out of the lounge. She then pointed at the green baby clothes.” I’d like this one. Bag it up for me please.”

“Okay, please wait for a moment.”

Emily gaped in bewilderment. “Damn it! Joseph picked up her call.”

Chloe forced a smile and stuffed her phone back into her bag. “It’s normal for him to answer her call since it’s about the baby.”

Emily gazed upon Chloe with indescribable emotion. She was full of compassion and heartache for her best friend.

In the past, Chloe yearned for a pure love affair and would not tolerate any homewreckers. That was the reason why her heart had not gone easy on Jake and she left resolutely.

Now, the current situation was hard to describe.

As an outsider, Emily knew that there was no absolute right or wrong in this love affair. Both parties had problems, and they all contradict one another. Someone would get hurt no matter which choice they made.

Xavia came out after settling the bill and saw that Chloe and Emily had left. She smiled before. she texted Vanya.

[Did you manage to deal with Noah?]

Vanya's reply came quickly. [He's proving to be very stubborn. I went to find him last Friday.]

[What did he say?]

[I didn't manage to see him. He avoided meeting with me, and the Sullivan estate is strictly guarded.]

[Go to him when he's at university.]

[I found out that he has a class today.]

[So are you going to find him today?]

[Yeah, I'll go after I'm done with my task here.]

After a pause, Xavia's eyes brightened. [Did you find her?]

[No, Fleurette was long gone when we got there. Maybe it was fake news.]

[I thought... Fine, I'll stop asking now.]

Xavia was quite satisfied with this result.

As long as Fleurette was not found, Joseph would not have peace of mind. That way, he would not pay attention to her, and her plan could be carried out smoothly.

As Chloe and Emily sat down at a restaurant, the former went straight to the point. "What's the deal between you and Lucas? Why did you ask him to go home with you?"

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Score 9.5

Chapter 526 Hazel Is a Habitual Offender, Chloe Was Deceived

Emily raised her cup and took a sip of lemon juice, her mind filled with disbelief. "Damn it! That blind date at the resort was an absolute disaster. Rob and the matchmaker exchanged a few words, insinuating that Lucas was my lover. Then, the matchmaker had the audacity to inform my parents.

"They pressured me into inviting Lucas over so that they could scrutinize and assess him. And I figured it'd be wiser to shift the dynamics and just ask Lucas for a favor. That way, I can bid farewell to these dreadful blind dates and steer clear of the ensuing troubles."

Chloe interjected, her voice laced with reason. "But your parents aren't particularly fond of Lucas. They've met him once and were far from impressed."

"Yeah, they didn't like him. But if they keep forcing my hand, I'll just tell them it's a done deal," Emily replied.

Her parents had set their sights on a son-in-law with a hefty salary and a prestigious government job-requirements that were contradictory. Given Emily's average qualifications and ordinary family background, finding a suitable match should have been sufficient. How could she dare to entertain the notion of a prince charming? Only her parents seemed lost in a perpetual daydream.

Chloe blinked her almond-shaped eyes and fixed her gaze on Emily. "Are you certain that's the only reason?"

"Yes!"

Chloe seemed to have further questions, but their conversation was interrupted by Joseph's arrival. Emily shifted her attention to Joseph and teased, "You've had a busy day."

Joseph responded with a cool and bewildered tone. "Excuse me?"

"We saw Xavia calling you," Emily asserted firmly. How typical of a man to not admit anything. Men always had this frustrating flaw of being stubborn until confronted with evidence.

"And when was that?"

"About half an hour ago."

Joseph frowned. "Xavia and I didn't speak on the phone."

Emily wanted to make a snide remark, but she felt intimidated by Joseph. Her lips quivered as she nudged Chloe with her elbow, urging her silently. "Come on, say it! You saw it too. We can't let him off the hook!"

Chloe possessed fair and translucent skin and had a subtle touch of makeup. Since becoming pregnant, she had forsaken her form-fitting clothes and high heels, emanating a pure beauty

untouched by worldly concerns. Beneath her calm exterior, a trace of suppressed jealousy lingered.

"I called you half an hour ago, but you were on another call."

Perhaps she would grow accustomed to Xavia's presence, but her heart would remain unchanged. The numbness did not signify an absence of pain. It simply indicated the threshold had been reached.

"I was on a call."

"Then why are you denying it?" Emily muttered softly, frustration lacing her words. "We saw Xavia calling you."

Joseph settled down beside Chloe, retrieving his phone from his pants pocket and unlocking it. Placing it on the table, he explained, "I did receive a call this afternoon, but it was Victor who called. The conversation took place half an hour ago."

Chloe's eyes widened in bewilderment. Was it merely a coincidence? Had Xavia not actually called him? Or was it a situation similar to hers, where the call was engaged and could not go through?

Emily also froze for a moment before swiftly regaining her composure. She sheepishly

touched her nose, feeling a tinge of embarrassment. "It's a misunderstanding. It's all just a misunderstanding."

"What did you just say about Xavia?" Joseph's tone toward Emily held less forgiveness. compared to his interaction with Chloe.

"Not much. We just saw Xavia purchasing baby clothes at the maternity store on the lower floor of the mall."

His eyes flickered, and his response was swift. "I haven't been in contact with her lately."

Observing his expression and response, Chloe experienced a sense of relief and asked, "Why was Victor looking for you?"

"He discovered numerous recording devices in Hazel's room, and he plans to bring them over shortly."

Chloe was taken aback. "Numerous recording devices?"

"Hazel most likely deceived you. It seems like she's a habitual offender," Joseph said in a serious tone while holding her delicate wrist.

"That's impossible. Could Victor be lying?"

"Edgar is comatose at the moment, and Victor is destined to lose the lawsuit against Samuel, The Cottrells have hit a roadblock. A few recording devices aren't enough to serve as leverage.

Chloe could not believe it. "But Victor was so arrogant... His change in attitude is too sudden."

"Samuel exposed his secrets within the legal community, leading to his termination from the company. His prospects of being hired to handle cases in the future are bleak."

Chloe grasped the situation. 'So Victor is merely attempting to appease and ingratiate himself with Joseph? But I can't bring myself to believe that Hazel had deceived me.'

She possessed the ability to discern right from wrong, and the intense hatred she had witnessed in Hazel's eyes that day felt undeniably genuine and potent.

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Chapter 527 Do You Think So Too?

Joseph's gaze fixed on Chloe with profound intensity, sparing any unnecessary explanations." Victor will be here shortly. By now, he lacks the audacity to fabricate lies."

Ten minutes later, Victor entered, clutching a plastic bag. His face bore wounds, and weariness exuded from him as if he had endured a rough time over the past few days.

"M-Mr. Joseph..." Victor stuttered.

Joseph did not even raise his eyes, calmly slicing through the steak on his plate. "Where are the recorders?"

"Here." Victor emptied the entire contents of the plastic bag onto the table, revealing a minimum of thirty recording devices that closely resembled the one Hazel had brought that day.

Chloe furrowed her brows deeply, selecting one of the recorders to listen to. She pressed the play button, only to be greeted by static noise. She patiently continued listening, but the static persisted for three minutes without any additional content.

Undeterred, she picked up another recorder. Emily joined in the inspection, and together they listened to all the recorders present, yet their efforts failed to yield any useful clues.

Victor spoke up, "Hazel has always taken pleasure in deceiving others. She envies you for marrying Mr. Joseph and holds deep resentment toward you. Her intention was to deceive you. for money, and you fell for her trap."

Chloe expressed her displeasure, dismantling his words mercilessly. "But that's not what you said back at the station."

"I was coerced by my father into saying those things. I made a grave mistake without fully understanding the situation, but I have now come to my senses," Victor explained.

Emily sneered. "Did you come to your senses, or are you just desperate?"

Victor was just like Benjamin. They were cut from the same cloth-sweet-talkers when they required something but would disregard the person once they were no longer needed. They were the epitome of selfishness and self-interest.

Victor failed to recognize Emily as he had never encountered her in Aesper before. Sporting an air of arrogance, he retorted, "What do you know? Our family affairs don't call for meddling."

your

"I wasn't meddling. I was simply mocking you."

"You're utterly ignorant!"

"And you're utterly worthless!"

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Chloe interjected, feeling a growing headache, "How can you be certain that these recorders belonged to Hazel?"

Victor responded with confidence, "They were discovered in her room. If they weren't hers, whose else could they possibly belong to?"

"What if...someone else planted them there?"

"Impossible. No thief has gotten into our house."

“That’s enough.” Joseph, who had remained silent for an extended period, furrowed his brows and said to Chloe, “Since she’s dead, let’s leave it at that.”

“There’s something suspicious about this entire incident. Let’s assume that Hazel did purchase these recorders to deceive me. How do you explain the car accident?”

“What’s so peculiar about multiple car accidents occurring on a daily basis?”

“It’s true that accidents are commonplace, but what’s unusual is that the driver was wearing sunglasses and a mask. He was clearly prepared.”

Victor, adept at deciphering people’s expressions, detected Joseph’s reluctance to delve further into the issue. Sensing the situation, he cooperatively chimed in, “Perhaps it’s simply a coincidence? Maybe you’re overanalyzing things.”

Chloe shifted her gaze toward Joseph. “Do you think so too?”

“I’ve been preoccupied lately, and I don’t wish for this matter to drain my energy and time.” Joseph sighed helplessly, massaging his temples. “Please try to understand my position, will you?”

Since Otto revealed that his mother was still alive, he had been devoting half of his daily time to searching for her. Furthermore, Chloe’s temper had become increasingly challenging to manage. His claiming not to feel weary would be dishonest.

Chloe tightly clasped her hands beneath the table, lowering her head. “I understand.”

Joseph delicately placed the sliced steak on the plate before her and said in a charming tone, “Good girl.”

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Chapter 528 Can You Really Come Out Unscathed?

After finishing dinner, Chloe made her way back to Oceanic Residence. Upon discovering the close proximity of Noah’s and Chloe’s units, Joseph’s

handsome face clouded over, and he immediately contacted a moving company.

Upon arriving home, Chloe went straight to bed and, in a drowsy state, heard some commotion outside. Too fatigued to open her eyes, she assumed it was Joseph causing a disturbance and chose to disregard it.

While the move was underway, Joseph stumbled upon a collection of herbal blends neatly packaged in heatable, ready-for-consumption bags. The outer packaging lacked labels except for the name "Central Hospital." He squinted his eyes and picked up a bag, giving it a slight shake.

Without delay, he reached out to the herbalist. "My wife received some herbal blends for menstrual regulation from the hospital. Can you have them tested?"

When it came to herbal remedies, Joseph placed his trust solely in the individuals he sought

out.

In a school located in Aesper, the graduate students resided in dorm rooms, typically shared by two occupants. Today, Noah's roommate had left for home after classes, leaving him alone in the room.

Vanya, without her fox mask this time, cleverly disguised herself as a delivery person and managed to infiltrate the premises. With her sharply defined features, an air of malice, and a pair of distinct eagle-like eyes, she possessed a presence that would be etched into the memory of anyone who had encountered her even once.

Noah stared at the woman standing before him, his expression serious. "You've got the wrong person. I didn't order any takeout." With that said, he made a move to close the door.

Vanya's gaze intensified as she used her foot to wedge the door open. "I'm being sincere with you here, and you're still not satisfied?"

Noah crossed his arms. His features were perfect, and his fair skin was flawless. He was undeniably handsome without appearing effeminate. He understood that her version of "sincerity" meant revealing her true face, but he did not give a damn about it.

Vanya's fists tightened, her knuckles audibly cracking as she struggled to maintain her composure. "Could we have a chat?"

"Chat about what?"

"You like Chloe, and I can help you."

Come Out Im

Noah stretched lazily, making no effort to deny it. "There's no need."

A cold smile spread across Vanya's face. "By saying that, are you implying that you're willing to raise Joseph's child?"

"You're overthinking things. I'm not currently involved with Chloe, so I don't consider myself qualified to be a stepfather," Noah responded firmly as he simply would not do so. He would not tolerate Chloe bringing a child from another man into the Sullivan family.

Vanya closed the door behind her and took a seat. Her expression turned eerie. "I'm aware that you have your own thoughts and plans, and I also know that Eustace is still alive and in your hands."

Noah's long eyelashes trembled slightly, a touch of coldness entering his otherwise gentle eyes. "Are you threatening me?"

"No, and why would I? Honestly, I'd prefer to cooperate with you. After all, the enemy of my enemy is my friend.

"I believe you're capable of settling the matter of Chloe's child, but can you really come out unscathed without raising her suspicions? I can assist you with that. Even if the plan fails and we're eventually discovered, I'll shoulder all the blame on your behalf. I'll ensure that you remain the pristine and untarnished heir of Exotic Star."

Upon hearing the words "pristine and untarnished," something stirred in Noah's heart. He raised his gaze to meet Vanya's eyes and asked, "How do you propose we cooperate?"

"It's simple. A few days before Xavia undergoes the amniocentesis, you take Chloe away, preferably out of Aesper-abroad, if you can manage it. And make sure she goes willingly."

“Not a chance. Going abroad means facing Duskfall members in unfamiliar territory. I’d be at a disadvantage and wouldn’t feel at ease.” Noah swiftly rejected the idea. While he was open to cooperation, he needed to prioritize his and Chloe’s safety.

Vanya’s pupils suddenly contracted. “When did you find out about Duskfall?”

Noah’s innocent face now displayed a street-smart cunning that belied his age. “After being kidnapped by you and nearly losing my life, do you think I’d remain indifferent and act as if nothing happened?”

However, he lacked Joseph’s speed, and it was only recently that he had stumbled upon some clues.

Jojo and Coco’s Unexpected Love By Aurora Summers

Score 9.5

Chapter 529 Disrespecting Chloe

Vanya refused to back down, saying, “Going abroad is convenient. You have to trust Duskfall’s influence.”

“Duskfall has nothing to do with me. As I mentioned before, my decisions are based solely on my own interests.” Noah smirked, dismissing her suggestion. “Besides, you haven’t proven yourself worthy of my trust.”

Vanya stared at him, her expression masking her true thoughts. “You’ve surprised me,” she said. She had initially pegged Noah as just another pampered rich kid, but she now realized he possessed cunning and a hidden depth for manipulation.

She had attempted to ascertain if Eustace was truly in Noah’s possession, but her efforts proved inconclusive. Not only that, Noah appeared to be well-informed about Xavia’s actions toward Eustace. He had gathered a wealth of information and orchestrated everything from the shadows. Upon reflection, it became evident that dealing with this young man was no less challenging than dealing with Joseph.

“All right, you can choose the location. Xavia’s amniocentesis is scheduled for the 10th of next month, so we have more than twenty days left.”

Noah's eyes sparkled with determination as he nodded, his gaze shifting toward the door." Goodbye then."

Joseph waited for the herbalist's assistant to collect the medicine before showering. As he prepared to retire to the bedroom, his phone rang.

"Mr. Joseph, Mr. Nathan is drunk and is at the cemetery. Could you please come and pick him up?"

Joseph instantly remembered that it was the anniversary of Daphne's passing and replied without hesitation, "I'll be there."

An hour later, he reached the cemetery and found Nathan in a state of heavy intoxication, clutching onto a tombstone. His eyes were bloodshot, and he alternated between bouts of laughter and tears, muttering incoherent words. It was challenging to decipher his speech.

"Mr. Nathan arrived early this morning and has been here the whole day," the security guard at the cemetery said with a sigh, his gaze fixed on the photo of a girl on the tombstone. "Mr. Nathan is a truly devoted lover."

It had been three years, and Nathan had come to visit every year on this day without fail.

Joseph arched an eyebrow. 'A devoted lover? He doesn't strike me as one. He didn't cherish her when she was alive, only to regret it deeply after losing her. This woman had treated him like

the world.'

"Let's go." Joseph assisted Nathan to his feet and guided him toward the car and drove the latter back to his house.

After the whole ordeal was over, it was already four o'clock in the morning. Joseph did not want to disturb Chloe's rest by returning to Oceanic Residence at such a late hour and instead opted to head straight to Fairlight and endure the few hours before the morning meeting.

Chloe woke up and felt the emptiness beside her. It was cold. Confused, she wondered how early Joseph had left. Rubbing her sleepy eyes, she ventured out of the bedroom and was greeted by an empty living room.

She froze on the spot and after a brief moment of confusion, she hurriedly called Joseph. “Someone broke into my house! They’ve stolen everything in the living room!”

“...I had someone take your belongings to the villa.”

“What?” Chloe’s voice suddenly grew louder. “Why? Why did you make that decision without consulting me?!”

“I don’t want you living in the same neighborhood as Noah.”

Chloe seethed with fury, her teeth grinding together. “Joseph, you have no respect for me. What do you think you’re doing? I’m not your possession. I have the right to make my own decisions in life. Even if you’re jealous, it doesn’t give you the right to not inform me.”

Did he have any idea what it felt like to wake up to an empty home after a night’s sleep?

Her erupting anger surged uncontrollably, and her fair little face flushed, adding a touch of allure to her appearance.

“If I had informed you, would you have agreed?” Joseph’s tone remained calm as he twirled his pen between his fingers. Just by listening to his voice, one could sense his superiority, akin to a high-ranking individual who controlled everything.

“No, I wouldn’t have.”

“Then why should I tell you?” He paused, then continued, “I didn’t tell you about it to avoid unnecessary arguments. In the future, I’ll arrange a dedicated car and driver to take you to and from work.”

Chloe felt a surge of frustration as she roared into the phone, “Even with a driver, I’ll still waste a significant amount of time on the road! It takes me an hour and a half to get from Fairlight to the Johnson Group. That’s three times longer than the journey from Oceanic Residence! I could practically walk to work from my residence. You always expect me to understand you, but can’t you try to understand me?”

“Then I’ll purchase a house near the Johnson Group’s office for you.”

“That’s not the point.”

What she wanted was respect, not money. Buying a new house might address the current issue, but what about future conflicts? Similar situations would arise again.

“Am I wrong to buy you a house?” Joseph’s handsome face took on a slight seriousness. “Have you been deliberately picking fights with me lately?”

Chloe was incredibly frustrated. How did the situation suddenly shift to becoming her fault?

“I-

“Chloe, I didn’t get any sleep last night, and I have an important meeting to attend soon. Can we not argue right now? Let’s talk in the evening when I’m done with my busy schedule,” Joseph interjected, his tone softening.

Hearing the weariness in his voice, Chloe pressed her lips together. While feeling empathetic for him, she also felt a bit aggrieved. “Okay, I’ll wait for you to get home.”

Continuing the argument at this point would only come across as unreasonable and childish.

Not long after ending the call, the assistant rushed to the clinic and presented the herbalist with the bag of medicine Joseph had provided. “Sir, Mr. Joseph requested that you examine the ingredients.”

Chapter 530 Self-Deception and Wishful Thinking

The old herbalist, busy examining a patient, glanced at his assistant and replied, “We’ll handle it when we’re less busy in the afternoon.”

Having previously worked at the herb store in Central Hospital during his younger days, the doctor knew that the hospital prescribed only a limited number of medications for regulating menstrual disorders. The prescriptions were likely the same ones that he had left behind and had not changed much since then. There was no need to rush the examination.

Upon hearing this, the assistant moved on to other tasks.

After tidying up, Chloe opened the wardrobe and found that Joseph had not completely emptied it. He had left behind her daily necessities and a few articles of clothing.

The weather outside matched the somber atmosphere, with fallen leaves scattered around the neighborhood, creating a sense of desolation and loneliness. A chilly gust of wind seeped into the room, causing Chloe to shiver involuntarily. She reached out to close the window and decided to change into warmer clothes.

She was now in her second trimester, with her belly showing noticeable signs of protrusion. Thankfully, her limbs had not gained much weight, and she carefully chose loose-fitting clothes every day to conceal her growing bump. However, as she approached the midway point of her pregnancy, the baby's growth would accelerate, and it would be difficult to hide the fact that she was pregnant in another month or so.

After hastily completing her preparations, Chloe was about to leave when a nagging feeling gnawed at her. She came to a sudden halt, furrowing her brow as she tried to recall what she had forgotten.

Then, it hit her like a slap on the forehead. She had yet to take her maternity herbal blends today. She retraced her steps, rushing back to retrieve the herbal blends, only to discover that one packet was missing. Panic seized her mind as a thought crossed her, 'Could Joseph have taken it?'

With trembling fingers, she hastily dialed his number, pressing the buttons repeatedly in her anxious state before the call finally connected.

Joseph was in a meeting, but when he saw it was Chloe calling, he answered without hesitation. The employees around him exchanged glances, holding their breath, aware of Joseph's usual seriousness and dedication to his work. Answering calls during meetings was a rarity for him. Curiosity sparked within them as they silently speculated about the identity of the caller who held such influence to capture Mr. Joseph's attention during a meeting.

A trace of tenderness softened his handsome face as he answered the call. "What's wrong?"

'She just hung up a moment ago, and now she's calling again. Has she already started missing me after just one night apart?'

“Did...Did you take the herbal blends from the cabinet?”

“Yes, I sent it to the herbalist to examine them. If they prove to be effective, you’ll continue taking them. If not, we’ll visit his clinic for further evaluation.”

Chloe gasped, her voice trembling with nervousness as she asked, “Did you already send the medicine? How long until we receive the results?”

“Yes, I have. We’ll probably hear back tomorrow.”

Chloe fought back tears, her emotions threatening to overwhelm her. She struggled to maintain her composure, but her legs felt weak beneath her. She had endured so much, keeping her pain and frustrations hidden for far too long. They were on the verge of reaching the crucial stage of Xavia’s amniocentesis, and now something had gone wrong. Why did it have to happen at this very moment?

Joseph noticed something was amiss when he did not hear Chloe’s response. Concerned, he asked, “What’s wrong?”

“It’s nothing. You go on with your work. I’m heading to work too.”

Before Joseph could say anything else, he heard the call drop tone, indicating that the call had been cut off. His expression instantly shifted from concern to frustration. This woman is growing bolder by the day. How dare she hang up on me.”

Frustrated, he tossed his phone aside and commanded in a displeased tone, “Continue with the meeting.”

The employees exchanged glances, silently acknowledging their shared sentiment. They were nothing more than punching bags for Joseph’s frustration.

Chloe’s mind was in turmoil, leaving her unsure of what to do. With a sense of confusion and helplessness, she walked out of the building. After much internal struggle, she made the difficult decision to let go. It appeared that no matter what actions she took, it would all be futile. Joseph would undoubtedly discover her pregnancy by tomorrow at the latest. Surrendering to fate seemed to be her only option. Whatever was meant to happen would happen.

'Perhaps the child in Xavia's womb isn't Joseph's...' Chloe desperately clung to a glimmer of hope, resorting to self-deception and wishful thinking as her only means of solace.

Lost in her thoughts, she failed to notice Noah approaching her, and the two collided head-on.

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Score 9.5