## Jojo and Coco's Unexpected Love By Aurora Summers Chapter 61

Chapter 61 You're the Most Shameless Woman I've Ever Met

Joseph would always be there to save Chloe whenever she was in trouble.

If he did not have a bad temper and his tongue was not so sharp, she might actually have fallen for him. Even if he was impotent.

Joseph snorted coldly and haughtily turned his head, refusing to look at Chloe. "I just happen to be passing by. I don't want other people to think my wife is open game."

"What are you talking about? It's not like I wanted to be popular." Chloe pouted, feeling unjustly accused.

'It's not my fault that I'm talented and likable. He's so unreasonable.'

"You're the most shameless woman I've ever met," Joseph commented in a sarcastic

tone

Although what Chloe said was not entirely wrong, he did not like her attitude. Even if someone confessed to her, she could have simply told them that she was married. Was it really necessary to make such a fuss?

Only God knew how angry Joseph was when he saw her fooling around with another man in broad daylight. His temper flared, and his blood pressure rose.

"Don't talk to me like that. I don't want to be angry with you," Chloe said, staring at Joseph seriously.

He might have helped her out of the predicament, but that did not give him the right to insult her.

Casting her a glance, Joseph did not say anything and walked into another private room.

Chloe took a few steps forward to see the number on the door.

'Is he meeting someone here too? It really is a small world.'

Emily came out to look for Chloe as she had been gone for some time. When she saw Chloe staring blankly at the opposite private room, she asked, "What are you doing here?"

"My contractual husband is in there," Chloe replied with a forced smile.

"What a coincidence," Emily said.

"Yeah..." Chloe sighed.

"You two really are destined for one other," Emily added.

"Don't be ridiculous." Chloe rubbed her temples, feeling a headache coming on. "Peter just confessed to me earlier. Can you help me get my coat and tell our coursemates that I have something to attend to and have to leave early?"

"Oh, my God! I knew it!" Emily exclaimed.

She had noticed that the way Peter looked at Chloe was different back during their college days. At the time, they had joked that he would pursue her once she broke up with Jake.

It seemed that fate had indeed played a part.

Chloe did not know what to say and urged Emily to return to the private room to get her coat. She could not stand staying there any longer, so she flagged down a cab and left.

However, the cab broke down midway. Since the remaining distance was only a thirty- minute walk, she asked the driver to let her down and slowly made her way back.

Misfortunes never come singly. And that saying was spot on.

Chloe raised her hand to touch the raindrops on her cheeks. Just as she was about to curse out loud, the raindrops poured on top of her. Her clothes were instantly drenched. She did not have time to complain and had to quicken her pace to get home.

At Four Seasons, the organizers quickly noticed the subtle changes in Joseph's expression as he repeatedly checked his phone. They exchanged

knowing glances with their partners and decided to wrap up the evening's festivities.

"Mr. Joseph, it's raining outside. How about I get my assistant to give you a ride home? "one of the partners offered.

"Do you have an umbrella?" Joseph asked.

"Yes, I do," the partner replied.

With an umbrella in hand, Joseph made his way to the private room where Chloe was. After hesitating at the door for a few moments, the door suddenly opened and Emily

came out.

Months ago,

she had caught a glimpse of Joseph's stunning features back at the bar, which she still remembered vividly to this day. In her opinion, he was far more handsome than Jake's uncle.

Looking at Joseph with a mixture of surprise and delight, Emily asked, "May I know who you're looking for?"

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Chapter 62 So Close

Emily was half a head shorter than Chloe, so Joseph could effortlessly look past her head and into the room.

There were many empty seats, and Chloe was nowhere to be seen. She most likely had gone home already.

Withdrawing his gaze, Joseph said in a low, deep voice, "I'm sorry. I think I made at

mistake."

"It's okay." Emily nodded, unsurprised by his response.

Lucas was already waiting in the driver's seat. When he saw Joseph, he grabbed an umbrella and got out to greet him. As he drew closer, he noticed that Joseph was already holding an umbrella of his own.

Without overthinking it, Lucas assumed that it must have been given to him by one of the business partners who saw that it was raining outside.

After forty minutes, Joseph arrived home and punched in the password to enter the living room. His attention was immediately drawn to a pair of damp women's sports shoes resting in the hallway, causing him to furrow his brows.

'Did she choose to brave the rain rather than wait for me?'

After taking a shower, Joseph passed by Chloe's room. The door was not completely shut, and the room was pitch black. It seemed that she had gone to sleep.

Suddenly, a faint murmur could be heard from inside.

"Don't hit me... I didn't steal anything...

"Dad, please believe me..."

Joseph's eyes narrowed as he pushed open the door to Chloe's bedroom. The light streaming in through the window allowed him to barely make out her figure on the bed. Her eyes were shut tightly as if caught in a nightmare and her forehead glistened with sweat. Her hair clung to her face, and her lips were ashen and parched.

Joseph felt that something was not right. He reached out to touch her forehead and realized that she was burning with a fever.

"Great. This is what you get for not waiting for me."

Joseph placed a glass of water and cold medicine on her bedside table. After that, he nudged the person on the bed. "Get up and take some medicine."

However, except for her murmurs which became more persistent, Chloe did not respond.

Joseph did not know what she was dreaming about, but tears glistened at the corners of her eyes and her tightly furrowed brows made her look especially pitiful.

His face sank as he could not help but feel sorry for her. She was actually quite pitiable. Despite living here for so long, her family never once visited her. Their relationship

must be in a terrible state.

Joseph rubbed his temples, feeling a headache coming on. Judging by how high her fever was, she would definitely need to go to the hospital for an IV drip tomorrow if she did not take her medicine now. And he knew that with her complicated family situation, he would have to be the one to handle the task.

After struggling for half an hour, Joseph finally managed to get Chloe to take her medicine. He was planning to leave, but Chloe unconsciously grabbed his hand.

"Please don't go..."

Joseph tried to pry her fingers open, but she had a surprisingly strong grip. Every time he managed to loosen one of her fingers, the others quickly tightened.

"You're like a leech." He sneered.

Left with no other options, Joseph sat on the chair and waited for Chloe to fall asleep before leaving. However, since he had been sleepless the night before and had drunk tonight, he inadvertently fell asleep in the chair.

In the early hours, the sky began to lighten. In her drowsy state, Chloe felt something weighing down her hair and tugged at it several times, but it would not come loose. She groggily opened her eyes and saw a closeup of Joseph's handsome face, along with his muscular chest that was revealed under his disheveled pajamas.

They were so close that they could touch each other, but she had no such thoughts right.

now.

Chloe's pupils suddenly contracted, and her head cleared. She struggled to recall what happened last night. She remembered feeling unwell after getting caught in the rain and going to bed after taking a bath.

But how had she managed to lure Joseph into sleeping with her?

So Che

Then, she saw the cold medicine on the nightstand, and her memory gradually returned to her. She vaguely remembered someone feeding her water last night.

Chloe looked at Joseph with a puzzled expression.

The saying goes that you should not try to guess a woman's thoughts because it is pointless even if you do. However, she felt that Joseph's thoughts were several times more complicated than any woman's.

'Didn't he just reject me a moment ago? So why was he feeding me water and medicine?

As Chloe pondered over these thoughts, Joseph opened his eyes

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Chapter 63 Principles Are Meant to Be Broken

Their eyes met as they lay facing each in the bed.

Joseph furrowed his brows, equally confused as to how he ended up in Chloe's bed. Before he could even begin to explain, she cut in quickly, "It wasn't me! I don't know how you ended up in my bed. And we're both fully clothed, so don't scold me!"

Joseph could not help but sneer at her frantic attempts to diffuse the situation.

"Hah, now you know how to behave like a cultured lady?"

Chloe pouted and replied, "I've always been a cultured lady..."

"Don't push it," Joseph replied.

Determined to defend herself, Chloe insisted, "This is all because of you. When you meet someone you like, you naturally break all your principles." She could not help but commend herself for how skilled she was at flirting and saying sweet nothings.

As the tension between them eased, Joseph languidly buttoned up his shirt, his every gesture oozing with seduction. A blush crept up Chloe's face, and she bent down to search for her shoes.

Perhaps because she had not fully recovered yet, she was suddenly hit with dizziness and her vision momentarily faded to black. She nearly lost her balance, but Joseph caught her just in time. Chloe instinctively wrapped her arms around his waist, and she had to close her eyes for a few seconds before the dizziness subsided.

When she opened her eyes again, she was met with Joseph's mocking gaze. Her lips twitched as she asked, "You didn't think I fell on purpose, did you?"

"Yes, I do."

Chloe took a deep breath and decided to play along with his assumptions. After all, he had not pushed her away.

"Since you already caught on, I won't hide it from you anymore," she said, gazing deeply into his eyes.

Joseph snorted as if he had seen through her. "And was getting caught in the rain last night part of your scheme too?"

'Does he really think I'm that stupid?'

As Chloe thought to herself, her eyes reddened and she put on a pitiful act. "It isn't like

what

you think... The cab I took broke down halfway so I had to walk back. There were no lights on the way, and I even fell down. It hurts so much, Jojo..."

Joseph's eyes narrowed. "Then why didn't you wait for me?"

"Wait for you? For what?"

"To come home together."

Chloe blinked, and she seemed slightly surprised: "Weren't you mad at me?"

Yesterday, she had thought of coming back with him, but he seemed angry, so she thought he would not have agreed.

"Well, you're right."

"So... Are you still angry?"

Joseph lowered his gaze, his black eyes cold as he stared at her. "Do you know what you did wrong?"

She lowered her head and replied obediently, "Yeah."

'I shouldn't have flirted with you.'

"I don't want to see that kind of behavior ever again. If it happens again, you can get out of my house."

Chloe was at a loss for words. How could he talk like that when he was the one who had benefited from the situation? Besides, he had clearly enjoyed himself!

Seeing her admit her mistake and apologize, Joseph did not say anything more and went to wash up. He had a meeting with all the higher executives of the company today. It was the first internal meeting since Fairlight returned to Aesper.

Chloe also got to showering and getting ready for work. When she was almost done, she recalled that Joseph had wanted to give her a ride last night, so she did not rush out. Instead, she waited for him in the hallway.

Chloe opted for a simple attire, consisting of a pair of jeans, a white shortsleeved shirt, and a high ponytail. Her dainty features were pristine and innocent, reminiscent of a college student.

Joseph's gaze lingered on her for a moment before remarking, "Trying to pass off as a human, are we?"

"If you don't know how to give a compliment, then keep your mouth shut," Chloe said.

Joseph withdrew his gaze and asked, "What are you doing here instead of going to work?"

She seized the opportunity to hint at him, "Is your office on my way to work? I don't want to take the bus today after getting caught in the rain yesterday..."

Despite living together for so long, other than knowing that he worked in the finance. industry, Chloe knew very little else about him.

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Chapter 64 She Kissed Him

Chloe was not lying. Even with light makeup, it was apparent that her complexion was not too great.

"Let's go," said Joseph calmly.

Chloe was surprised that he agreed so readily. It seemed to her that he had become at little friendlier to her since the day she dropped her towel in an attempt to seduce him.

She got into the car's passenger seat. She pulled out her phone and opened the navigation app to input the destination Baxon.

"No need for GPS. I know the way," Joseph said.

"Oh, okay."

Baxon was a financial company. Since Joseph worked in the financial industry, it was normal for him to know about their location.

After driving for a while, Chloe's boss called her on the phone. She did not put the call on speaker, but the two were close enough for Joseph to hear their conversation.

"Chloe, have you considered the proposal I mentioned about discussing bidding resources with the executive from Fairlight?" he asked.

Joseph glanced at her as she answered.

Chloe did not notice his gaze and replied seriously, "I'm sorry. I don't think I'm capable of handling this task. You should find someone else. Negotiating resources is not my strong suit."

She had been contemplating this matter. If she could seal the deal, she would receive a bonus, but if she failed, she did not know what consequences she would face. In short, the risks outweighed the benefits. She did not want to stand out or take the risk.

There was silence on the other end of the phone for a moment before her superior spoke again. "Fine. If you don't want to go, I won't force you. How about this instead? You've been with the company for a while now, so recommend someone with similar capabilities as you and I'll send her instead."

Chloe was at a loss for what to do. It seemed that her superior wanted to play hardball since the softer approach did not work. After hanging up the phone, a bewildered expression appeared on her face.

"What's the name of the executive your superior mentioned?" Joseph asked.

"I have no idea. I just know that his name is Jack."

'Jack?' Joseph let out a cold sneer.

There was only one Jack who was responsible for bidding at Fairlight, and that was Jack

Reed.

Chloe did not know why Joseph was asking her this and asked, "Do you know him?"

Joseph's expression was inscrutable as he replied in his magnetic voice, "Do you want me to help you?"

"Nope. I was just asking why you're asking me."

After a momentary pause, she tried to please him again and said, "Of course, it'd be great if you're willing to help me, Jojo."

She had heard from Jake that his uncle had a relatively sizable business overseas.

Joseph and Jack were both in the financial circle, so maybe they knew each other.

Joseph sneered. He was not crazy enough to help her steal resources from his own company and give them to someone else. During the journey, he did not speak, and Chloe did not dare to continue asking. In the adult world, not agreeing was the same as refusing.

The car stopped across from Baxon. Chloe got out of the car and grabbed her bag. Joseph stopped her and said, "I can ask Fairlight about it for you."

"You're the best, Jojo!" Chloe's eyes sparkled, and in her excitement, she planted a kiss on his cheek. The moment her lips touched his skin, she froze in shock.

'Oh my god, what have I done?!!

Unable to meet his gaze, Chloe hastily fled the scene.

As Joseph watched her back recede, his black pupils flickered with indiscernible emotions. Unknown to him, a bright red lip print was left on his handsome face.

Joseph had a private elevator that led to his office on a floor shared only with Lucas's office.

From a distance, Lucas spotted the red lip print on Joseph's face, and his jaw nearly dropped in surprise.

"Mr... Mr.. Mr. Joseph, your face..." he stuttered.

Puzzled, Joseph asked, "Hm?"

"Your face is..." Lucas hesitated, struggling to find the right words before he decided to hand Joseph a mirror.

When Joseph saw his reflection in the mirror, his forehead twitched with anger. Lucas shrank back, sensing the danger in Joseph's piercing gaze.

Meanwhile, in a distant location, Chloe suddenly sneezed and grabbed a warm cup of water before taking a dose of cold medicine.

Trembling, Lucas offered a tissue to Joseph. "Mr. Joseph, here's a tissue...

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Chapter 65 We're Just Friends

Joseph grabbed the tissue and vigorously wiped his face. Annoyingly, Chloe's lipstick would not come off no matter how hard he tried to rub it off.

It was Lucas who came up with a smart solution. He ran out to buy a bottle of makeup remover, which finally did the trick.

As a result, Joseph had a dark expression on his face throughout the meeting with the high-level executives. His imposing aura made him look like a demon from the depths of hell, and everyone was so intimidated that they barely said a word.

After the meeting ended, Joseph asked Jack to stay behind.

Ten minutes later, Jack walked out of the meeting room, completely puzzled as to why he had been transferred to a different position for no apparent reason...

In the afternoon, Chloe's superior seemed to be in a foul mood and was snapping at everyone. Her colleagues avoided him like the plague, afraid of getting caught in the

crossfire.

"What's wrong with him?" Chloe asked the secretary as she went to the pantry to get

some water.

The secretary shrugged and lowered her voice, "Mr. Jack from Fairlight was transferred today."

Chloe was taken aback. "Does that mean our bid is doomed?"

"That's right."

"Could it be that Fairlight got wind of something?" Chloe wondered aloud.

Her superior had asked her to talk to Jack before this, so he must have known what they were after, and Jack was probably aware of their intentions as well.

The secretary remained silent for a few seconds then said, "It's possible."

Chloe tightened her grip on her glass, not knowing whether to be happy or worried.

Near the end of the workday, Harry came to see her.

"Want to hang out after work? I'll bring my wife and Icarus."

She thought for a moment. "Sure. I don't have much work today. Where do you want to

eat?"

"Up to you. We're not picky."

"Okay!"

Time flew by quickly. Chloe buried herself in work, her ten fingers flying over the keyboard. When the clock struck six, she closed her laptop, picked up her bag, and met up with Harry at the company entrance.

Harry checked the time. "Icarus should be here soon. Let's wait for him."

Just as he said these words, a BMW came to a stop beside them. Icarus was in the driver's seat, and he rolled down the window, snapping his fingers at them. "Get in."

"You're unusually punctual today," Harry joked.

"When am I ever late?" Icarus replied.

"You're especially punctual today," Harry said before turning to Chloe. "You sit in the front. My wife and I will sit in the back."

She nodded, thinking it was no big deal.

Icarus handed Chloe a bottle of water. "What do you feel like eating?"

"Three choices-barbecue, hot pot, and seafood. Which one do you guys want? They're all nearby, and we can pick up my wife on the way."

"Seafood sounds good," Icarus said, turning the steering wheel. "I know a good seafood restaurant nearby."

"Sure. Let's do seafood then."

After picking up Harry's wife, they drove straight to the seafood restaurant. As they were finishing their meal, Chloe got up to pay the bill, but the waiter told her that it had already been paid for.

She was stunned for a moment and asked, "Are you sure? I didn't pay for the meal."

Chloe and her friends had been in the private room the whole time and had not gone

out.

"Mr. Icarus has already paid the bill. He's a regular customer of our restaurant and left us instructions when he came in. He paid the bill with his card," the waiter explained.

Chloe pursed her lips, feeling embarrassed. She thought of transferring the money for her portion of the meal to Icarus when she got back to the room.

"Chloe, if he wants to treat us, just let him. You can always treat him back next time," Harry said.

Icarus pushed his gold-rimmed glasses up his nose and gave a gentle smile, "It's not right for a girl to pay when we're out having a meal."

"But I should be the one paying," Chloe insisted. "Without you, I would never have gotten into Baxon."

"Your success in the interview and being able to join Baxon is your own achievement. I only played a small role," Icarus said modestly.

"That's right. You're so young and yet you can lead a team. It's your own abilities," Harry's wife added.

At this point, Chloe felt that it would be too insistent to decline again.

"Fine, but the next round's on me, all right? Let's make a deal. No one is allowed to pay in advance next time," she said with a smile. "Sure," Icarus replied warmly. Chloe found that he lacked the typical shrewdness of a businessman and instead exuded a welcoming demeanor akin to that of a friendly teacher.

She enjoyed being around him. He was not like that scoundrel who always bullied, exploited, and insulted her!

On the way out of the restaurant, Harry's wife whispered to her, "Mr. Icarus is a rare, good man. He's the dream man of many girls. Are you sure you don't want to consider him?"

Chloe was slightly stunned and explained seriously, "We're just friends."

"Friends can become something more. Do you already have a boyfriend?" Harry's wife asked.

'A boyfriend?'

Chloe smiled bitterly. "No, I don't."

Even if their legal relationship classified her and Joseph as husband and wife, in reality, their relationship was only slightly better than that of strangers. 1

He was not her boyfriend at all.

Upon hearing this, Harry's wife made an "okay" gesture toward Icarus behind Chloe's

back.

After dinner, Icarus had planned to send Chloe home, but she suddenly caught sight of a familiar figure outside the restaurant and declined his offer, dashing off to catch up

with the person.

Icarus watched as she disappeared from view, then slowly looked away and answered his ringing phone. It was Jake.

"Uncle Icarus, we've set a date for the engagement. It's this Sunday at the Imperial Palace Hotel."

"Okay."

"Uncle Icarus, do you know anyone at Patterson Real Estate? Ava and her family want to collaborate with them on a new project-

"I can't help you with that," Icarus interrupted.

"Why not?"

"You're asking me why? Do you really think a giant corporation like Patterson would take notice of a small company like Johnsons? Stop dreaming and don't try to take on everything yourself."

Jake fell silent for a few seconds before finally deciding not to say anything else.

Meanwhile, Chloe had chased after Miles Upshaw for a whole block before catching up to him.

Panting for breath, she called out, "Mr. Miles, wait up!"

Miles turned around and, upon seeing her, a flicker of guilt crossed his face. But he quickly composed himself and asked, "Who are you?"

"Hello, I'm Chloe Johnson. Before my mother passed away, she entrusted you with the assets that she left behind for me. I just wanted to confirm with you that I'll be able to receive it by the end of this month according to our agreement."

Chapter 66 She Had Spent Her Night With Another Man

"It's been so long that I can't remember." Miles let out a few fake smiles, "Let me check my files at the office tomorrow and contact you then."

Chloe was confused, "Didn't you contact my father last month?

So how could he forget so quickly?

Upon hearing her question, Miles's voice turned harsh as he said, "I'm busy with work."

"Then let's exchange numbers so that I can contact you directly if necessary. It's better

to lock in a date for the asset handover."

Miles did not want to exchange his number with Chloe, but she insisted.

On the way home, Chloe kept thinking about Miles. She felt that his reaction was very strange-like he did not want to deal with her.

In the courtyard of her home, Toto rushed up to Chloe the moment she returned, wagging its tail wildly in greeting.

"Are you hungry, Toto? Let me get you some food."

"Woof, woof, woof!

Chloe walked to Toto's doghouse and found that the food bowl was full.

Behind her, Joseph stood with his arms crossed, and his tone was sarcastic as he said, " Toto would've starved to death by the time you got him to feed it."

"I went to dinner with some friends today, so I'm home a little later than usual," Chloe replied helplessly.

"Dinner with friends?" He raised his eyebrows and spoke slowly, "Guy friends, right?"

Nathan texted him just now and told him that he saw Chloe at a seafood restaurant with a man in his thirties. The man even offered to send her home.

Nathan also sent a video in which Icarus's voice could be vaguely heard. It was the man who was on a video call with Chloe a few nights ago.

It turned out that Chloe had not come back to cook for him because she had spent her night with another man.

"It was a guy, but there were a few of us," Chloe replied. However, she paused halfway and her eyes widened coquettishly. "How did you know?"

"I know a lot of things."

"Have you been following me?"

Despite her joking tone, Joseph felt a sudden wave of irritation and her words did not register with him clearly. "You seem to have a high opinion of yourself. I'm not attracted to women who switch partners frequently."

She kissed him in the morning, and at night, she went out to dinner with another man and came back so late. If she was not someone who changed partners frequently, then who was?

"Hey! Don't say such things to me!"

"If you have the guts to do it, be ready to face various types of criticism. If you don't wish to be criticized by others, refrain from doing it altogether."

"You're unreasonable!" Chloe said angrily. She then took Toto out for a walk, not wanting to be with someone who was kicking up a fuss for no reason.

There were all sorts of villas in the residence. Toto sunbathed in the backyard every day and got a walk once a day. It was so excited that it pulled Chloe and ran around.

Chloe could not keep up with Toto and decided to find a place that was deserted to let Toto go so that it could play by itself.

While Toto was having fun, she checked her phone and saw a text message from Ava. The message contained her and Jake's engagement date and a reminder for Chloe to come and witness their beautiful love.

Chloe felt angry and disgusted. She had seen what kind of person Jake truly was, but she could not deny the past between them.

She did not reply to Ava since it was no use retaliating now. She needed to conserve her energy and prepare for that big present!

Upon returning home with Toto, Chloe ignored Joseph, who was sitting on the sofa, as her mind was preoccupied with plotting her revenge against Ava.

Joseph was in absolute disbelief that Chloe would ignore him. His expression turned terrifyingly dark as he watched her wash up and shut the bedroom door with a loud

snap.

Sitting in front of her table, Chloe inserted a USB drive into her laptop and searched for the birthday videos she and Jake had made together in previous years.

The videos were full of sweet nothings and handwritten letters. She printed out the letters one by one. Of course, the real bombshell was the recording of Jake's outrageous comments when he was caught cheating.

At that time, she was so enraged that she accidentally pressed the record function on her phone, capturing every word from beginning to end.

Chloe had originally wanted to delete the recording, but after Ava repeatedly caused trouble for her and almost caused her to be thrown in jail, she could not continue to remain silent. As Chloe focused on planning her revenge, someone knocked on the door. She sprang up and suddenly remembered that Joseph would likely attend Jake's upcoming wedding since he was his uncle.

At that time, would he help her or his scumbag nephew?

Lost in thought, she stood up and opened the door. Joseph looked her straight in the eye and said, "I'm going on a business trip for a few days. Take good care of Toto while I'm away."

She was stunned for a few seconds before asking, "Which days specifically?"

"From Thursday to next Monday."

"You're not going to the engagement party?" Chloe blurted out.

Chapter 67 I Love You Even More Now

"What engagement party?" Joseph asked, his voice thick with confusion.

Chloe blinked, wondering what was going on.

'Has Jake not told him yet? Maybe they just confirmed the date and Ava couldn't wait to

show off to me."

"It's nothing. Just a friend's engagement party this weekend. Will you go with me?" Chloe asked with a sheepish smile.

Joseph responded bluntly, "I have a business trip.

He had no time to attend such a party with her.

"Okay, well, go and come back early. Make sure to eat on time when you're out, and if there's nothing urgent, go to bed early. Goodbye and goodnight."

Joseph stared at her. It seemed to him that she wanted him to leave as soon as possible.

The veins on his forehead began to bulge and he raised his hand to stop the door from closing. He said in a low voice, "I've looked into Fairlight for you. Jack has already been transferred."

Chloe raised her eyebrows and smiled brightly, "I know, but I still want to say thank you."

"And your job..."

"It's not my concern anymore since he's been transferred. My superior won't bother me and should be able to handle it himself. He won't come looking for me again anytime

soon."

"Good." Joseph paused and looked at her with a scrutinizing gaze. "You look like you're in a good mood."

"Not really. I'm just relieved. Fairlight is my dream company, but Baxon is my bread and butter. I don't want to offend either side. Luckily, everything is settled now."

When Joseph heard the phrase "dream company," his mouth twitched slightly. "If you wanted to work at Fairlight so much, why didn't you try harder in the first place?" "There are many uncontrollable factors, just like how I like you but can't be with you. As long as I can be with you every day and look at you a few more times, I'm satisfied."

Chloe portrayed the role of a devoted woman flawlessly. She was impressed with her own acting skills and thought it was a shame she was not in show business.

Joseph did not believe her sweet talk and was amused. "Drop the act. I know what you are after."

Chloe's heart skipped a beat and she looked nervous. 'Does he really know?'

"You're after my money. Anyway, I gave you a supplementary card, so buy whatever you want and stop playing the emotional card."

Chloe was speechless. 'Am I really that kind of person in your eyes?!!

But when the words were on the tip of her tongue, she quickly changed them, "Okay. Can I buy myself a car?"

"Sure."

"What about a house?"

"Go ahead."

"Can I buy a big villa?" Her eyes shone with excitement as she looked at Joseph

expectantly.

Joseph reached out and ruffled her hair with a mischievous smile. "Behave and please Grandpa, then maybe I'll buy a villa for you."

He had made enough money to last several generations of extravagance. One villa would not make much of a dent.

When this comment reached Chloe's ears, it had a somewhat pretentious ring to it.

The Coopers were only a second-rate family in Aesper. If Joseph was really that good at making money, the Coopers would have risen to prominence a long time ago.

Based on what she knew and what Jake told her, his family company had received some investment funds as a gift from his uncle, but that was about it. So Chloe believed that Joseph was indeed wealthy and could afford to buy a villa, but it would definitely cost him a significant amount of money and not as easy as he made it sound.

However, based on Joseph's personality, when he made a promise, he always kept it. 'Well, I guess I shouldn't bite the hand that feeds me.'

With that thought in mind, Chloe made a heart with her hands and looked at him like a smitten fangirl. "Jojo, you're so rich. I love you even more now."

"Now you know." He sneered, his cold and indifferent eyes twinkling with a hint of amusement. Bathed in light, he was as resplendent as the first blooms of spring, captivating anyone who gazed upon him.

Chloe could not help but gaze at him in admiration, once again marveling at how being good-looking had its advantages. She even felt a slight flutter in her heart!

"Why are you looking at me like that?" Joseph noticed her gaze and looked down at her condescendingly.

"It's nothing." Chloe quickly lowered her head, trying to conceal her embarrassment, and quickly changed the subject. "By the way, where's your company located? I'll come to find you for dinner after work someday."

Actually, she wanted to send him a lovingly prepared dinner. But after some consideration, she realized that some men did not like their wives going to their workplace to deliver food. Even though they were technically married, it would not hurt to increase their chances of meeting each other.

Joseph parted his thin lips and replied, "Dixie Center."

"Oh, your company is next to Fairlight?" Chloe asked.

Dixie Center was mainly a business district with Fairlight as the biggest commercial building there, surrounded by several smaller companies.

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Chapter 68 You're Such an Idiot

Narrowing his eyes, Joseph pinched her cheek.

"You're such an idiot," he remarked.

Chloe believed that he was unfamiliar with the area since he had just returned to the country, so she took it upon herself to explain, "Fairlight is located in Dixie Center. 1 didn't make a mistake."

It was he who was the idiot.

Joseph remained silent, a hint of inscrutability crossing his gaze. Chloe stared into his deep and unfathomable eyes, feeling as though she was peering into an abyss.

Suddenly, something flashed through her mind, but she could not quite grasp it. She thought carefully, but could not catch the passing thought.

It was hot in the afternoon. Chloe joined her coworkers for a quick lunch break. downstairs before returning to her desk. As she pulled out her phone to check her messages, she realized that Miles had not responded to her morning message even after five hours.

While contemplating whether to call him, she scrolled through her Facebook feed and noticed that although he had not responded to her message, he had forwarded a corporate promotional message.

Chloe took a deep breath and tapped the call button.

"Mr. Miles, do you not have time to review the files?" she asked.

"I've been very busy. I've been in court all morning," Miles replied.

"When I went home last night, I reviewed the contract we signed. The date on it was for last Wednesday, and today's already Monday. According to the contract, you should've already contacted me. I don't know if you're too busy to remember work-related matters, but regardless, please make time tomorrow at noon to meet with me face-to- face. Let's meet at your office, I'll come to you."

Chloe did not give Miles a chance to refuse and promptly hung up the phone.

Irritated, Miles lit up a cigarette and called Benjamin.

"Your daughter is causing trouble for me, please deal with it quickly," he demanded.

"I'll contact her this afternoon, but I'll need you to cooperate with me," Benjamin said calmly. He had already come up with a method to deal with Coco a long time

ago.

"I can cooperate with you, but you need to make sure that she doesn't suspect anything. You already have the money, so I trust you won't betray me. My entire family depends on me to provide for them," Miles said.

"It's true that I've gotten the money, but I didn't forget your shares back then."

Miles felt a little regretful. The benefits he received were insignificant compared to the assets left by Chloe's mother. Since he had decided to break the agreement, he should

have asked for more.

Benjamin placed his phone on the coffee table and Ava immediately hugged his arm, speaking in a gentle tone, "Daddy, why don't we return the assets to Coco? Even if I don't have money, Jake won't look down on me. But Coco is different. She has a bad temper and if she gets married without any money, she'll be bullied by her in-laws."

"She ran away and left this home, so there's no need to worry about her," Benjamin replied.

According to him, Chloe had sunk so low that she was now behaving like a promiscuous woman who shamelessly sought the attention of older men. She was nothing compared to Ava, who was both kind-hearted and knowledgeable.

Since she refused to come home, Ava should get the assets.

Ava's heart swelled with delight as she heard those words. She reached up and brushed her fingers against the diamond necklace adorning her neck, a precious heirloom passed down to Chloe from her late mother.

From the moment Ava laid eyes on the necklace, she was smitten with its beauty. The diamond shimmered with a warm, translucent glow in the sunlight, and one could tell its immense value at just a glance.

Now, in addition to the billions of dollars, the necklace and diamond ring were all rightfully hers.

Suppressing her sense of satisfaction, Ava said, "Daddy, I managed to get in touch with Mr. Alexander's secretary. I have an appointment this afternoon, and if the opportunity arises, I will discuss our business plan with him."

Benjamin nodded in agreement and emphasized the importance of securing the

partnership with Patterson Real Estate as it would determine their family's success In becoming a major corporation.

"Be sure to return early. We need to cooperate with Miles tomorrow," Benjamin.

reminded her.

Ava smiled lightly. "I will, Daddy."

Holding a folder, Chloe got into the company car.

In the afternoon, she joined her colleagues on a visit to a client's company to discuss some plans. They soon arrived at the entrance of Patterson Real Estate, which had a similar simple yet grand style reminiscent of Fairlight. On both sides of the entrance. sat two pots of marigolds.

As the team leader, Chloe got out of the car and had a brief conversation with the security guard, who then nodded and went inside to notify the client after telling her to wait patiently for a moment.

The afternoon sun was scorching, so Chloe went back into the car to wait. At that moment, not far from the entrance of Patterson, Ava was having a conversation with a man in formal attire. Both of them had unpleasant expressions on their faces.

Suddenly, the man spotted something in the distance and gestured to Ava. She followed his gaze and her eyes lit up. Chloe was curious and followed their line of sight too.

She saw a young man in his early twenties, perhaps even younger, step out of a pink Maserati. He had slicked-back hair and he exuded a rebellious nature.

Chloe knew who he was. She had seen him on a celebrity gossip site. Adam Graham, the sole heir to Patterson Real Estate, and a classic example of a privileged young man. Born into wealth and luxury, he had a reputation for getting into brawls, dating famous women, and stirring up controversy. She could not fathom why Ava's expression suddenly changed upon spotting Adam. It was not until Ava pretended to trip and fall in front of him with a pitiful and seductive. look in her eyes, resembling a peacock in heat showing off its feathers, that Chloe's red lips curved into a scornful smile.

'Jake, oh, Jake. Looks like someone is going to cheat on you soon.'

Chapter 69 An Unromantic Man

The security guard was efficient and soon let Chloe in.

From inside the car, she watched as Adam helped Ava up and she leaned into his

embrace.

Chloe deliberately waited for a moment, observing coldly as both of them exchanged numbers. She only came out of her car once Ava had left.

Having previously worked on a similar project abroad, the discussions went smoothly and the plan was quickly settled upon. When she emerged from Patterson, it was already time to clock out.

Since Joseph was away on a business trip, Chloe made some simple tuna sandwiches for dinner. She placed the plates of sandwiches on the table and took a photo before sending it to Joseph.

[Jojo, I don't feel like eating without you around. This is all I'm having for dinner tonight.]

Joseph was attending a meeting overseas and felt his phone sitting on the table vibrate. The presenter paused mid-sentence and looked up at him, silently seeking approval to

continue.

Joseph did not lift his head, keeping his gaze fixed on his laptop. He moved the mouse cursor and said, "Carry on."

"Sure, Mr. Joseph. Our focus for the second half of the year will mainly be on the Southeast region..."

Buzz, buzz, buzz!

Three consecutive vibrations interrupted the presentation once again. Frowning, Joseph shifted his attention to his phone and checked the notifications. All three messages were from Chloe.

The first was a photo of her and Toto out for a walk.

(Jojo, Toto and I are out for a walk.]

The second was a picture of Toto munching on some grass.

(Are you sure Toto is a Border Collie? It always looks a bit slow-witted to me...]

The third was a photo of Chloe and Toto together.

[I'm going to bed after our walk. I've been busy all day and barely had a chance to rest, but I still found time to think of you. You should remember to miss me too. Goodnight.]

In the photograph, Chloe was dressed in a white nightgown, holding Toto's fluffy head in her arms, and flashing a peace sign at the camera. Even without makeup, her complexion was flawless. Her eyes were shining and clear, making her look. breathtakingly beautiful.

Joseph tapped on the photo, zooming in to get a closer look. After about ten seconds, he returned to the chat box and typed out a message, which made Chloe very happy upon receiving it.

Holding onto the leash while unlocking her phone, Chloe read the message.

[Toto is eating grass because it isn't feeling well. Can you take Toto to the vet tomorrow when you have the time?]

She was speechless for a moment. She had said so much, which had all failed to capture. Joseph's attention, except for the part about Toto. That had caught his attention?

What an unromantic man!

Late at night, in the Johnsons' residence, Benjamin shared his plan with Ava.

"Tomorrow, Miles and I will lure Coco to the seaside house Jake rented. There aren't many people there, so we can lock her up temporarily and let her out after the agreed- upon time.

"Standing her up is one thing, but I think we should still get a voluntary agreement from her to give up her assets. Otherwise, if she goes to the bank, I'm afraid things will get complicated."

"Just come up with an excuse. She doesn't understand that much," Miles interjected. He had done this kind of thing before and had plenty of tricks up his sleeve to deal with the bank.

Ava's eyes flickered, and she suddenly had a good idea. "Daddy, let me handle this. I can make Coco voluntarily give up the money and sign the agreement. You just need to lure her to the seaside house."

Benjamin smiled and said, "Okay, you're the clever one here. I'm getting old, and my brain isn't as sharp as it used to be. The company will rely on you in the future."

"Daddy, you're not old at all. In my heart, you're still the most formidable and strategic

person," Ava replied affectionately.

After chatting with Benjamin for a while, Ava went upstairs. She contacted Melody and shared the latest gossip she had heard.

"Is it true that the CEO of Fairlight is really young? Is he on the same level as A-list male celebrities?" Melody asked, thrilled and skeptical at the same time.

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Chapter 70 Marrying Peter

"Of course."

"Goodness me. He's young, rich, and handsome. The female employees at Fairlight are so lucky to see him from time to time. Who knows. They might even get a chance to get up close and personal with him." "Those female employees are nothing compared to you. Your uncle is a manager at Fairlight, and there's a chance he might be able to transfer you to his department. You're beautiful, and with a little effort, you could easily captivate him... Oh, wait, I forgot. Your uncle was fired because of Chloe's scheming.

"When I think about it, you're the one who got the short end of the stick. You missed out on a good match..."

Melody was so angry that she could barely contain herself. "I don't know what's so good about that b\*tch. Why are there people standing up for her?"

"It's not just someone standing up for her. There are plenty of people who like her. Do you still remember Peter? He was Chloe's college coursemate, and he confessed his love to her a few days ago."

Melody was filled with rage, feeling that the world was so unfair. People like her who truly needed love did not receive any, while that little sl\*t Chloe had men swarming around her every day.

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As she seethed with jealousy, Ava said slowly, "I have a way to make Chloe's behind-the -scenes benefactor abandon her. This way, she'll never be able to hold her head up Aesper again."

"What's the plan? I won't be a part of it if there's any risk involved."

Melody had learned her lesson and did not immediately agree.

"There's zero risk. I want you to help me contact Peter. He knew Chloe in college and must be aware that we don't get along. Get him to come, and I'll 'create' an opportunity for them...'

The next morning at nine o'clock, Miles contacted Chloe and agreed to meet her at noon. When she saw the address he sent her, she frowned.

"Didn't we agree to meet at your company? Why did you send me the address of a house by the seaside?"

"I have a client here and can't leave."

"Why a house by the seaside though?"

"Well, where else are we supposed to talk? In the middle of the street? Besides, your father will be there. Are you afraid I'll bully you?"

Chloe furrowed her brow. She did not want to create any unnecessary trouble and agreed to meet him there.

In the afternoon, she hailed a cab and headed to her destination after finishing up her morning tasks. Arriving at the seaside villa, she found the front door ajar and no one inside.

Miles had yet to arrive.

She wandered around the yard, and after about ten minutes, Benjamin arrived. Her face was devoid of expression and her eyes lacked the respect and anticipation that had once been there, replaced now by an overwhelming sense of disappointment.

Benjamin had received Chloe's late mother's money the previous month, so he had been in good spirits. He ignored her, humming a tune as he strolled about.

Five minutes later, both Benjamin and Chloe received a text message from Miles, informing them of a last-minute change of address. Benjamin's message arrived slightly faster, and he was the first to step out the door.

Chloe followed closely behind, but as she took her final step, the door slammed shut with a resounding "thud." Her eyes widened, and she pushed hard against it.

"Don't waste your energy. You're not going anywhere."

Ava emerged from an adjoining room. Holding a glass of red wine in her hand, she looked relaxed as if she were in her own home.

Chloe tensed up as she stared at Ava warily. "What are you doing here?"

"Why can't I be here?" Ava retorted, pausing for a moment before smiling. "Also, there's someone I want to introduce you to."

Chloe remained silent, scanning her surroundings for a way to escape. Ava was confident that she could not get out and chatted with her as if they were old friends catching up.

"Peter's family lives in a village two thousand kilometers away. There's no electricity or signal there. After marrying him, you'll probably have to take care of his parents. It's

fine for you to stay In Aesper for now, but if he loses his job one day and takes you back

to his hometown, I wonder if you'll be able to adapt to life in the countryside."

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