

# Jojo and Coco's Unexpected Love By Aurora Summers

## Chapter 71

### Chapter 71 Benjamin, the Worst Father

Chloe frowned. "What are you talking about? What do you mean by 'marry Peter?' What does this have to do with him?"

"It doesn't matter if you don't understand. All you have to do is enjoy what's coming next."

Ava smirked and called two burly men from outside to forcefully tie Chloe to a chair. Then, they roughly poured a bottle of a bitter-tasting concoction down her throat. The bottle had no label-clearly an unregulated product.

Chloe tried to resist, but her body suddenly went limp and she was unable to even open her

eyes.

Everything happened too quickly. Chloe had been through so much, but she never imagined that Ava would be so vicious and dare to break the law!

She tried to open her mouth, but her stomach rolled violently, and a surge of fear she had never experienced before overwhelmed her.

Looking at Chloe struggle futilely, Ava reached into Chloe's bag and grabbed her phone before viciously smashing it on the floor.

As the phone shattered into fragments, Ava let out a wicked laugh. Gone was her usual gentle and meek demeanor. Her lips, adorned in red lipstick, resembled a carnivorous flower.

"Your happy days are over. From this moment on, the Johnsons will only have me as their daughter and you will be nothing more than a despised rat that everyone wishes to kill.

"You're no match for me. I can easily get everything I want with just a beckon of my finger, including the money your dead mother left for you." She sneered, touching the diamond necklace around her neck and looking at Chloe condescendingly. "Everything is mine now, and Daddy said he wouldn't give you even a single penny."

Chloe stared fixedly at the necklace around Ava's neck, her face ashen. It was only now that she realized this was all part of Benjamin's plan.

She could not comprehend how her father could be so heartless toward her mother. Her mother had suffered greatly under Karen's bullying before she passed away, and now Ava had taken the assets she left behind.

That necklace was the one her mother had loved before she passed away!

Chloe's mother told her that the diamond necklace was a present from Benjamin and she lamented on her deathbed that she had taken the wrong path in life. She should never have severed her relationship with her father for a man.

Benjamin... He was unworthy of being a father. He was worse than an animal!

Chloe was furious. She summoned all her strength and spat fiercely at Ava, her breathing quivering and tears rolling down her eyes. "Sh... Shut up!"

Ava froze in shock, then she slowly lifted her hand to touch her face. As she felt the saliva on her face, her complexion turned livid, and she hurriedly rushed into the bathroom to clean herself.

As soon as she finished, Melody called.

"I've taken care of everything with Peter. As soon as I mentioned Chloe, he immediately took the bait!" Melody exclaimed.

"Good job. I'll come pick you up now."

Ava hung up the phone and went to pick Melody up with her men.

Chloe watched as they left, her vision becoming a blur. She shook her head vigorously, trying to stay conscious. She knew that once she fell unconscious, she would become a lamb on the chopping block waiting to be slaughtered.

But all her efforts were in vain. Her eyelids felt like they weighed a ton, and she struggled to keep them open. The metallic taste of blood filled Chloe's mouth as she clenched her teeth, which served to clear her mind.

She struggled and twisted, trying to break free from the restraints that held her. However, she soon succumbed to the intense dizziness that followed, and before long, her vision went dark, and she lost consciousness.

In the country of Ameria.

Joseph glanced at his phone several times. He had sent a message to Chloe to ask if she had taken Toto to the vet for a checkup. However, two hours had passed, and he still had not received a reply from her.

Lucas craned his neck and peeked over. When he saw the name “Chloe,” he took a deep breath.

‘Are Mr. Joseph and Ms. Chloe seeing each other?!’ After his initial shock, he glanced at Joseph again and fell into thought. ‘Hmm... But it doesn’t look like they’re together...’

He glanced at Joseph’s expression, then looked back at their chat. He then pondered for a while, and cautiously said, “Mr. Joseph, sometimes women just want you to care about them.”

Joseph frowned. “Why should I care about her?”

“Well, I mean... Ms. Chloe is a woman, and Toto is a medium-sized dog. It can be difficult to handle such a dog of such size alone...”

Joseph contemplated for a few seconds and felt that Lucas was right. He paused for a few seconds, considering this point. Chloe might be a bit foolish, but she had been taking good care of Toto, who had visibly gained weight recently.

He remained silent before finally sending a message to Chloe.

[Remember to drink more warm water.]

Lucas was left speechless. ‘Mr. Joseph doesn’t get it at all.’

Joseph did not know what was going through Lucas’s mind, but he felt that he had taken the initiative to show concern for Chloe. Given her personality, she should be thrilled and respond quickly, or even call him back excitedly.

However, the reality was that not only did Joseph not receive a call from Chloe, but he also did not get a reply.

Sitting in his office chair, a layer of frost descended upon his handsome features as rage built up inside of him.

In the end, he decided to call Chloe.

## Chapter 72 I Won't Fall For Her Tricks

Before the phone could even ring on the other end, Joseph quickly hung up and his expressionless face instantly returned to normal.

What was the point of him making the call? Whether she was busy or she was intentionally playing hard to get, he would never fall for her tricks.

Just because Chloe did not reply to his messages did not mean he could not find out about Toto's condition.

"Have Patrick check on Toto," he ordered.

Lucas could not fathom Joseph's intentions, so he dared not say anything and simply complied.

An hour later, Patrick called to report that Toto had been vomiting and looked lethargic. He had taken it to the vet where the preliminary diagnosis showed gastrointestinal irritation.

Joseph's temper rose with each passing moment. Had this woman ignored his warnings and let Toto suffer? Not only had she not taken Toto to the vet today, but she also had not even bothered to notify him.

For the entire afternoon, Joseph radiated cold air like a portable air conditioner. Lucas, who was in the same room as him, sneezed several times but could not express his frustrations.

Lucas spoke and acted with utmost caution. He even prepared a cup of tea for Joseph as he was afraid of triggering his anger.

At seven at night, Patrick brought Toto back to the villa, but Chloe still had not returned. He called Chloe to advise her to come home as soon as possible and to avoid a fight. However, all of the calls he made went straight to voicemail.

He assumed that Chloe was in an important meeting and had turned off her phone. For the next hour, he took care of Toto while waiting for her to return.

As the hours went by and the sky grew darker, there was still no sign of Chloe. Patrick patted Toto, who was lying in its bed. Realizing that Toto had not eaten anything yet, he searched the house for dog food. But everything had been rearranged recently and he could not find it anywhere. He left to buy dog food and happened to pass by Baxon on the way.

He decided to stop by and tell Chloe about it.

“Excuse me, can you please find Ms.Chloe for me?” he asked the receptionist.

When the receptionist noticed the keys to a Rolls-Royce in his hand, a strange smile appeared on her face.

“She didn’t come in this afternoon,” she said.

“Did she take the day off?” he asked.

“I’m not sure. She just didn’t come this afternoon,” she replied.

Patrick thanked the receptionist and left. As he stepped out, he immediately pulled out his phone to report to Joseph. Chloe was well-mannered and sensible, so she would not ignore Joseph’s message without a good reason.

The receptionist craned her neck and watched as Patrick got into a Rolls-Royce parked right outside the company, smacking her lips and making a clicking sound with her tongue.

‘Chloe appears innocent on the surface but is secretly engaged in such activities. That man is old enough to be her father. She really has no sense of shame. This is why she was able to bully Janice and get away with it.’

As the receptionist thought about this, a sour expression crossed her face.

At that moment, Maurice stepped out of the elevator. He had a close relationship with the receptionist and she gave him a meaningful look, gesturing toward the outside.

“That Rolls-Royce is here to pick up Chloe. No wonder she refuses to give you the time of day,” she said.

The Rolls-Royce itself was nothing special, but what caught his attention was the consecutive numbers on the number plate.

Disdain crossed Maurice's face as he said, "Just because she rides in a Rolls-Royce doesn't mean it's hers."

He had relied solely on his talent for years, unlike people such as Chloe who relied on their youth and looks to advance the corporate ladder, which he believed would eventually limit their success.

At the seaside villa.

Chloe woke up with a splitting headache. Her hands and feet were untied at some point, and she was lying on a bed. Peter, who was also unconscious, was lying beside her. He was burning with a fever and covered in a bright red rash, his clothes torn and asken.

"Peter, wake up," Chloe said, trying to wake him. She could not think straight, so she instinctively sought help upon seeing a familiar face.

Peter slowly opened his eyes, but as soon as he saw Chloe, he did not try to help her. Instead, he greedily lunged at her.

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Chapter 73 No One Else but Me Will Want You

"What are you doing, Peter?!" Chloe gasped for breath, struggling to push him away.

"Chloe, I feel terrible. Please help me. I'll marry you when we get out of here," Peter pleaded.

"Don't touch me, Peter! Wake up!" Chloe raised her voice, screaming

"You're so beautiful. I can't resist touching you. Just agree to be with me."

"But I don't like you! If you touch me again, I'll call the police!" Chloe warned.

Smack!

Peter slapped Chloe hard across the face, leaving five distinct finger marks on her cheek. He then proceeded to forcefully tear off her clothes as his face contorted with excitement.

"It doesn't matter. Once everything is over, no one else but me will want you."

Enduring both mental and physical agony, Chloe forced herself to swallow the bloody taste in her throat. Her expression dulled as she watched her clothes disappear one by one. As if she had lost all hope, she stopped struggling and stared at the ceiling as tears of despair streamed down her cheeks.

But she refused to give up. She was in her prime-with youth and beauty on her side.

'I... I refuse to give up!'

When Peter lunged at her again, Chloe seized the opportunity and kicked him hard in the groin.

"Argh!"

While he writhed in pain, she struggled to get up and run.

But before she could even leave the bed, Peter grabbed her hair from behind.

"Trying to run? There's no way out!" Peter's eyes glinted with madness as he viciously threw Chloe back onto the bed. "You used to be the most popular girl in our college, but now you've been kicked out by your family. What are you pretending for?"

Chloe felt as though her internal organs were about to come out of her throat from the force of the impact. She was too weak to argue with him and curled up in pain, almost wishing for death.

As soon as Peter saw that she had stopped struggling, he eagerly climbed on top of her.

Losing all hope, Chloe closed her eyes.

Creak.

The sound of a door opening suddenly echoed through the quiet space.

Patrick and Icarus stood at the door, stunned.

The woman on the messy bed barely had any clothes on her body. She was hunched over, and her shoulder blades looked like a butterfly about to take flight. Apart from her swollen face, there were several injuries on her body. Tears streamed down her face and she looked utterly grief-stricken.

Icarus was the first to react. His eyes blazed with anger as he rushed forward and grabbed Peter by the collar, punching him fiercely in the face until he was unconscious.

After Patrick regained his composure, he tremblingly pulled the covers over Chloe and immediately called 911.

Joseph rushed back to Asvand on a private plane that traveled overnight. When he arrived at the hospital, he saw that Chloe had needles in her hand. Her face was pale and her brows were tightly furrowed despite her being unconscious.

His heart ached at the sight of her and he reached out to check the injuries on her face. But as soon as his fingertips touched her, she seemed to be frightened and her body trembled uncontrollably.

He paused for a moment. His fingers hovered in mid-air before he withdrew them.

“I was gone for only half a day. How did you get yourself into such big trouble?” he said, “How can you not protect yourself?”

Patrick quietly approached Joseph and said, “The perpetrator has woken up. Do you want to see him?”

“No,” Joseph replied harshly, “Just let the police handle it.”

“Understood. Also, the owner of the seaside villa has left.”

“Okay. Let him be.”

Last night, after Joseph had received a call from Patrick, he found out the reason for Chloe’s leave of absence from her superior. Luckily, the boss had asked Chloe where she

was going, and that was how Joseph learned that she had gone to the seaside villa.

There were only a few seaside villas around, and after asking a few security guards, he confirmed which one she had gone to. Interestingly, the owner of the villa had also received news that someone had broken into his home and rushed over.

It was late at night, and Jake was abruptly awakened by a splash of cold water to his face

courtesy of his uncle.

Startled, Jake jumped up, staring at the fuming Icarus in confusion. “Uncle Icarus, why the hell did you do that for?!”

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Chapter 74 Break up With Ava

Icarus sneered and threw the surveillance footage he had retrieved from his home at Jake. “Take a look at what your girlfriend did!”

Jake watched the video on his phone and swallowed nervously. “Uncle Icarus, please let me explain. Ava is kind and innocent. She couldn’t possibly have done something like this. There must be a misunderstanding...”

“The evidence is right in front of your eyes, and yet you still don’t believe it! Are you blind?!”

“Even if Ava did it, it must be because of something Coco did. You don’t know her. You don’t know her well. She’s vengeful and sharp-tongued. Maybe Ava just wanted to scare her.”

The video only showed the scene in the courtyard. Who knew what happened after Chloe entered the room? She could bring herself to cozy up to a wealthy man, so she might have something going on with Peter too. Besides, it was Melody who pushed Peter into the room. What did it have to do with Ava?

Icarus was almost laughing at his foolish nephew. “I truly fail to comprehend how Chloe developed feelings for someone like you.”

Jake paused and sensed something was amiss in Icarus’s words. “Uncle Icarus, do

you know her?”

“Not only do I know her, but she also might become your aunt in the future!” Icarus repressed his anger and warned Jake, “Break up with Ava right now. If you don’t, you won’t see a single penny from the company.”

Icarus owned a third of the company's shares and had a big say in front of his sister and brother-in-law. The main point was that he could not allow a woman like Ava to become his niece-in-law. She was too vicious.

"The woman you've fallen for is Chloe?!" Jake was shocked.

"Of course. Who else would it be?"

"Uncle Icarus, don't be fooled by her appearance. She's not worthy of you!"

"That's a line I should be telling you! If Ava can be so ruthless to her own sister, then someday, when you are no longer useful to her, you'll be next!"

Jake knew that Icarus would follow through on his words. He gritted his teeth and said,

"Uncle Icarus, are you asking me to break up with Ava so that you can smoothly marry Chloe in the future?"

After all, people might laugh at them if Ava married him and Chloe married his uncle.

Icarus did not respond to this. Suppressing his rage, he said instead, "You should be grateful that I didn't expose Ava. I don't mind helping you cut the ties of affection when

the time comes."

With that, Icarus left. As soon as he left, Jake's parents rushed over and asked Jake what had happened.

Jake thought of what Icarus had said and came up with an excuse to fool them. He did not tell them the truth. He was afraid that if he told the truth, his parents would force him to break up with Ava.

Ava had recently received a hefty amount of money and they were about to get engaged, so he had to make sure everything went according to plan. After sending his parents away, he rushed out and went to Ava's house. When he arrived, the maid told him that

Ava had yet to return since she left earlier this afternoon.

Jake stood there thinking, wondering if she was afraid of being scolded by her parents after causing trouble and thus did not dare to come home. It was highly likely that Chloe had complained to Icarus. The more he thought about it, the more likely it seemed. Ava was timid and was probably hiding like a frightened bird. As he pondered this, his disgust for Chloe grew stronger.

Little did he know, Ava was not as panicked as he thought, and was enjoying red wine and delicacies in a private location with Adam.

“Mr. Adam, have you talked to your father about the cooperation we discussed?” Ava asked.

“I did,” Adam replied with a smirk, seeing through her intentions. “How do you plan to repay me?”

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Chapter 75 Are You Stupid?

Ava’s face flushed with shyness as she pretended not to understand.

“Our company will definitely bring great profit to Petterson,” she replied.

“You know that’s not what I’m talking about,” Adam replied impatiently as he pulled Ava into his arms.

At first, Ava hesitated and tried to resist, but after Adam promised that he would arrange for her to meet with his father the next day to discuss the project, she wrapped her arms around his neck and shyly said, “You promised. Take me to meet your father tomorrow.”

Adam agreed without hesitation and pushed her onto the sofa.

After doing the deed, Adam went to a bar for another party, while Ava, although unhappy, did not show it and instead went home after cleaning up.

Jake searched for Ava but could not find her, so he anxiously returned to the Johnson residence to wait. When he saw her, he immediately rushed over to hug her tightly and asked if she had gone into hiding because she was worried about Chloe’s retaliation.

Ava was shocked and had not expected there to be cameras in the courtyard of the

seaside villa. She had not expected Icarus to get there so quickly either.

Her expression stiffened for a few seconds, but the next moment, she threw herself into Jake's arms and cried loudly, "You're right. I just wanted to scare Coco. I didn't have any other intentions. Melody and Peter just happened to meet each other, and Melody saw that Peter was drunk, so she took him over to rest for a while.

"Please believe me, Jake. I would never do anything to harm Coco... I just want our family to be together. I only scolded her for a while..."

"I believe you. I know what kind of person Coco is, and I don't blame you," Jake comforted Ava gently. Suddenly, he noticed the sexy dress that she was wearing.

Ava laughed nervously, acting coquettish as she said, "I went out with Melody in the morning to buy clothes, and she insisted that I wear this one because it looks good. If you mind it, I won't wear it again."

"Why would I? You do look great in it," Jake said.

Ava always dressed conservatively, so this was the first time he had seen such a sexy dress on her. Although it was quite unusual, he did not think too much about it.

In the VIP ward of a private hospital in the city center, the glaring sunlight outside the window shone onto Chloe's eyes, waking her up from a nightmare. She gasped for air and her breathing was labored.

"Another nightmare?" Joseph handed her a wet towel, a hint of concern in his cold and calm voice.

Chloe accepted the towel and asked in confusion, "How did I get here?"

Joseph briefly explained what had happened to her while she was unconscious.

"You had the police take Peter away?" Chloe struggled to sit up and accidentally touched her wound, causing her to grimace in pain.

“Of course.”

“I think he was framed like me. Normally, he wouldn’t do such a thing to me. Can you ask the police to investigate thoroughly? Peter works for a state-owned enterprise. If he has a criminal record, his life will be ruined.”

“Are you stupid?” Joseph asked exasperatingly.

‘I saved her life, and instead of thanking me, she’s asking me to help the man who hurt her?’

“Don’t be angry, I’m just suggesting. I don’t mean anything else by it.” Chloe weakly pulled at his sleeve. “If you don’t want to, then forget it.”

She already knew that the true masterminds behind this were Ava and Melody.

Joseph gazed at Chloe, who was wearing loose hospital clothes. Her pretty face was pale, and her eyes were watery. Although there was a red welt on her cheek, the swelling had subsided somewhat. She looked pitiful, making one feel like protecting her.

He looked away, feeling irritated, but seeing her in such a miserable state, he held back and did not snap at her again. “I’ll find a caretaker to look after you, or you can call a friend over.”

“No need. I can manage alone. If you’re busy, go ahead and take care of your business.”

“Don’t be stubborn. You’ll need to stay on the drip for three days. Even going to the bathroom will be a problem. I have work to attend to and have no time to take care of you.”

75 Are Yes

After hearing this, Chloe suddenly remembered that Joseph should still be abroad.

“Did you come back early because of me?”

Joseph looked up and glanced at her coolly. “Yes.”

Chloe's eyes lit up with joy. Finally, after enduring so much suffering, she finally had his attention.

But his next sentence extinguished her joy like a bucket of cold water.

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Chapter 76 Joseph Is Efficient

"I came back to clean up your mess, you idiot."

Chloe was speechless.

"I feel terrible right now. Why can't you say something nice to comfort me?"  
Chloe said.

Seated gracefully on the chair beside the bed, Joseph crossed his legs and leaned in, placing his large hand gently on top of Chloe's head. Although his touch was as soft as if he were stroking a cat, his tone was arrogant as he spoke, "I won't offer you comfort, but I do have the ability to save you."

Both of their gazes met. Chloe inexplicably felt that his words made perfect sense. A true man never spoke in a flowery language but takes direct action and is decisive.

In that instant, she was awash by a surge of gratefulness and said solemnly, "Thank you."

"You should solve your problems as soon as possible. That would be the real gratitude toward me," he replied.

Every now and then, she found herself in trouble. Though she could handle it, her body was no longer able to bear the strain.

When Chloe heard what Joseph said, she thought he implied she was a burden. Or perhaps he had received some news and knew about her relationship with Jake.

'That's right, we have no blood or family ties. Even our marriage is fake. There's no need for him to care about me at all.'

Chloe pursed her lips and spoke with determination, "I will."

Since the Johnsons did not treat her like a human being and they even went to the extent of claiming the assets her mother left for her as theirs, she felt that she did not need to be soft-hearted anymore.

As for Joseph, she would try her best and leave the rest to fate.

Joseph looked at the time and asked, “Have you decided? Do you want a caregiver or are you asking a friend for help?”

“I’ll call my friend.”

It was awkward to ask a stranger for help with something as private as going to the toilet.

“Okay.”

“By the way, do you know any lawyers? I want to sue someone,” Chloe asked Joseph

before he left.

He paused but did not turn around. “I’ll have Lucas send you the contact information.”

“Okay, thank you.”

After Joseph left, Chloe lay on the bed motionless, staring blankly at the drip bag in the upper right corner.

In the afternoon, Emily received Chloe’s text and rushed over anxiously. Upon seeing Chloe’s pale and tired appearance, her eyes welled up with tears.

“Why did you only tell me now?”

“I told you as soon as I woke up. Wasn’t that fast enough?”

“How could Peter do this to you? How could he team up with Ava to bully you?”

Chloe shook her head. “Peter is probably a victim too.”

“I don’t care. Nothing happens for no reason. He’s at fault, as your contractual husband said. Let the police lock him away for a few years. It’d be best to also

throw Ava in jail to prevent her from doing anything immoral!" Emily said exasperatingly.

Karen and Ava had been bullying Chloe since she was a kid, and now they wanted to take away the assets that Chloe's mother had left for her.

They were just shameless!

Chloe fell silent for a moment and asked, "You know why Ava brought Melody and

Peter into this?"

Emily paused and said, her voice thick with disbelief, "Are you saying she's looking for a scapegoat?"

"Yeah..."

Like Karen, Ava was also a selfish person. Judging from what Ava did to her in the past, Chloe surmised that she had always intended to make Melody her scapegoat.

"She's so scary," Emily said with a frown, "It's unlucky to be her friend."

"Birds of the same feather flock together. Melody isn't a good person either."

"Of course not," Chloe said, her face cold and resolute. "Ava and Jake's engagement party will be held in a few more days. That's the time when I'll fight back."

Joseph came almost every day to visit Chloe for the three days she was hospitalized.

After she regained her strength and could take care of herself, she did not need Emily's help anymore and asked Emily to return to work. They made plans to meet up again. when she was discharged.

Time flew by, and it was already the day of Ava and Jake's engagement. In the early morning, Chloe kept glancing at Joseph, sitting on a chair, debating whether or not to reveal her true identity to him.

After all, he would be present at the engagement party later that day, and it would be better to give him a heads up and prepare him for the truth.

However, she was worried that he might try to stop her since Jake was his nephew.

Joseph put down his phone and rubbed his temples. "Just tell me what's on your mind. Don't give me that look."

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Chapter 77 The Uncertainty in One's Mind

"Nothing... I just wanted to ask if you have any plans today. I want to treat you to a meal," Chloe said.

"Sorry, I can't today," replied Joseph.

Chloe's heart sank a little. Although she already knew the answer, she still asked, "Why not?"

"I have to accompany Grandpa for his check-up," he explained.

She was stunned for a moment and asked nervously, "Is everything all right with Grandpa?"

"He has a heart condition, so he goes for regular check-ups. Nothing to worry about," he reassured her.

"I'll go see him after I'm discharged from the hospital. I haven't visited him in two weeks," she said.

While the engagement party was important, it paled in comparison to the importance of Harold's well-being. Therefore, it was understandable that Joseph chose to

accompany his grandfather for his medical check-up.

Joseph lifted his gaze and smirked. "Grandpa didn't spoil you for nothing."

"Well, he treats me kindly, so of course, I have to treat him back with the same level of kindness," Chloe said as she nodded vigorously.

Harold treated her well, and she also liked him very much. He was approachable and had a good personality. Most importantly, he did not look down on her for her humble background.

Suddenly, Joseph looked up and surveyed her face.

“So what’s the thing that you want to tell me? You can tell me now,” he asked firmly.

Chloe was consumed with guilt for lying to him, and as he interrogated her, her eyes flickered nervously and she couldn’t muster the courage to look directly at him. She waved her hand anxiously.

He frowned. “Hurry. Don’t waste my time. I don’t have that much patience.”

“1…”

Joseph cupped her face with both hands, forcing her to look at him. His magnetic voice carried a hint of command as he said, “Speak.”

His hands were large. One of them could wrap around Chloe’s entire face, let alone both hands together, making his grip even tighter.

At this moment, the scent of soap tickled Chloe’s nostrils. She felt the warmth of his palms and her heart raced into a gallop.

“If I were to have a conflict with your relatives, would you blame me?” she blurted out.

Joseph furrowed his brows, not expecting her to ask such a strange question. He did not want to answer, but upon meeting her eager and hopeful gaze, he paused and replied, “I’ll support what’s right, not just because they’re my family.”

He could not say he liked his relatives, nor could he say he disliked them. Therefore, he would not show favoritism toward anyone.

“Really?!” Chloe’s eyes shimmered with excitement.

If that was the case, she could confidently proceed with her plan!

“Yeah.”

“Okay!”

“Okay?”

“Oh, nothing. Will you go straight back to the office after accompanying Grandfather for the check-up this afternoon, or will you go somewhere else?”

“What are you up to now?”

“Nothing. I was just asking so that I can prepare your dinner in advance.”  
Chloe blinked innocently.

‘And go to Jake’s engagement party and give him a big surprise.’

Joseph glanced at her. He noticed the sly glint in her eyes but did not bother asking further.

“I’ll be going back to the office. Grandpa might ask you out for dinner tonight, but I’ll give the excuse of you being busy with work and refuse. Don’t give anything away,” he

said.

“Don’t worry.”

After having lunch at the hospital cafeteria, Chloe went through the discharge procedures when she returned to the ward. While she was preparing to be discharged, Emily came and helped her.

Patrick, who was waiting outside the hospital, reached out to help carry their things. Emily was startled and dodged to the side, mistaking him for a man trying to pick her

“I have a boyfriend. I don’t need a ride,” she said.

Even if he was driving a Rolls-Royce, he was too old for her.

Patrick awkwardly pulled his hand back, “You’ve misunderstood...”

“Okay, okay. I know that when men get rejected they always say it’s a misunderstanding. I understand.”

Chloe laughed, and her pale face became slightly flushed. “Hahaha, what are you thinking? Mr. Patrick is my husband’s driver!”

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### Chapter 78 This Was Your Mother's

Emily stood there stunned, looking at Patrick and then at the Rolls-Royce parked beside him. The awkwardness was evident.

She forced a smile, suppressing the urge to dig a hole and bury herself in it. "Well, from this perspective, your husband's not too bad. At least he knows to find someone to pick you up."

Chloe smiled wryly. "He's unpredictable."

She just could not read Joseph's mind.

Emily patted Chloe on the shoulder. "I think you still have a chance. You should keep trying."

"Don't console me. Last time, I almost got kicked out because I listened to your advice!" Chloe blushed and spoke in a low voice that only Emily could hear. "When I undressed in front of that man, he didn't even bat an eyelid. He's either too experienced or impotent."

No matter the case, he was someone she could not handle.

However, Emily did not share the same view as Chloe. Taking practical action was always more convincing than sweet talk. Chloe might not have won Joseph's heart, but she had at least won his favor.

After Patrick dropped them off at the villa and drove away. As soon as Chloe walked into her house, Toto rushed up to her, whining incessantly and expressing how much it had missed her.

Chloe played with Toto for a while before going upstairs to grab the USB and photos. Standing in front of the dressing table, she picked a vibrant, bright red lipstick from her row of lipsticks. But as soon as she applied it, she changed her mind and wiped it off with a tissue.

The midday heat was intense.

She hailed a taxi and headed straight to the Imperial Palace Hotel. Despite the heavy traffic, it only took her twenty minutes to arrive. As she arrived at the entrance, she was met by Ava and Jake.

Ava wore an elegant beige dress, while Jake was dressed in a crisp white suit. Both of them were standing side by side, welcoming their guests. However, the moment Jake

Chapter 75 This Was Your Mother's

saw Chloe, his demeanor shifted abruptly.

"What are you doing here?"

Chloe shook her phone and replied, "You invited me, and it would be impolite of me not to show up, wouldn't it?"

"Who invited you? Don't make things up," he retorted.

Annoyed, Emily stepped in, "Coco, show him the text."

Ava came over to stop them and said, "Jake, I was the one who invited Coco. Daddy said he wants us to reconcile."

"I see," Jake said as he glanced at Chloe. "Uncle Benjamin wants you to be here, so you may come in. But let me warn you, you better behave yourself. Otherwise, I'll kick you out of here straight away. Even if you're my ex-girlfriend."

Today was the most important day of his life, second only to his wedding day. Once he and Ava were engaged, his father would hand over half of the family's assets to him to manage. He could not afford to have any blemishes at this engagement party because of Chloe.

"Don't worry, I will," Chloe replied, offering him a cold smirk.

'I'm just here to give you a little surprise.'

Chloe and Emily were late, and the hall was nearly filled with guests. When Benjamin noticed Chloe, his face turned pale. He wanted to rush up to Chloe, but Ava stopped him. She whispered something into his ear, and he sat back down.

“I’m sure she’s up to no good for showing up here. You better be careful,” Benjamin said.

After what happened the other days, he was certain that Chloe already knew he had gotten the money her mother left for her, so he needed to put up his guard against her.

“Daddy, I have a plan,” Chloe said.

After that, she pulled out a box from her purse and walked over to Chloe with a condescending smile. “This was your Mother’s. Do you want it?”

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Chapter 79 Don’t How You Got Him Like You

The box was half opened, and at the center of the box sat the finely-crafted diamond ring—a possession Chloe’s mother had brought with her from her family’s home.

Chloe smiled but said nothing, unsurprised by Ava’s actions.

‘Does she really think she’ll get me to let her go just by returning this one item to me? How absurd.’

When her mother passed away, Chloe had been young. She could not remember how much her mother had bequeathed her in the will. The exact amount had not been specified in the contract, and she had always felt that something was amiss.

But being young at the time, she could not fully grasp the significance of the situation. Now, however, she was aware that her money had been completely taken from her, and she was convinced that it was worth much more than what Ava was offering her.

“What? You want more?” Ava sneered, feeling disgusted by Chloe’s insatiable greed.

Chloe’s expression darkened as she spoke her next words clearly, “Of course, I want more. All of this is rightfully mine, and I’ll take it all back. Don’t even think about touching any of it.”

“What do you mean? Our family worked hard to raise you. My mother took care of your daily needs, and my father provided you with food, drink, and clothes. Why don't you know how to show respect for your elders?”

“Showing respect and stealing are two different things.”

Ava bit her lip hard, her eyes reddening as tears threatened to fall.

Chloe ignored her and snatched the box from her hands before getting up to leave.

Jake had been observing the situation the entire time from the side. Seeing that things were not going well, Ava subconsciously reached out to take back the box. However, she caught sight of Jake's caring gaze and redirected her hand to grab a napkin on the table to wipe her tears.

Upset by the acne of his beloved wife crying, Jake stopped Chloe and sternly commanded her, “Apologize to Ava.”

Chloe rolled her eyes. “I didn't do anything wrong.”

“You snatched her belongings, and that's not wrong?”

“Has it ever crossed your mind that this item was originally mine?”

‘This guy's an idiot!’

Jake paused and quickly denied her claim, “That's impossible. Ava is crying so pitifully. It must be your fault.”

Chloe smiles, but it did not reach her eyes. “Have you ever heard the saying...”

“What saying?”

“Gentle people are frank and straightforward, while villains are deceitful and scheming.

People like Ava liked to play the victim. They wanted to pose themselves as pure and innocent, but in reality, they were the ones with malicious intent. There were so many articles online that explained how to identify such people.

Chloe just could not understand why there were still so many like Jake who could not see through this.

“Your sister is crying, and all you can do is make sarcastic remarks. Don’t you have any sense of empathy?” Jake gritted his teeth, utterly disappointed in Chloe.

“Whatever. Stop bothering me. I don’t have time for your lectures.”

Chloe scanned the surroundings, searching for Emily. She wondered if Emily had prepared everything since the engagement party was about to start.

“Is all your time spent trying to seduce men?” Jake sneered.

Chloe halted, then chuckled without anger. “That remark is better suited for Ava.”

Chloe was convinced that given the opportunity, Ava would leave Jake for Adam. However, she had no interest in knowing the current status of Ava and Adam’s relationship or whether Adam would eventually lose interest in her. The only thing that mattered to her was whether Jake would end things with Ava or compromise his principles and continue their relationship after discovering her infidelity, all for the sake of their mutual interests.

Regardless of the outcome, Chloe felt quite pleased.

Jake frowned and continued, “Don’t change the subject. I know about you and my uncle. I don’t how you got him like you, but please remember that integrity is the most fundamental moral principle.”

Jake did not understand the hidden meaning behind Chloe’s words. All he felt was that

she was beyond redemption as she would resort to any means to bully Ava.

While he could protect Ava, he could not control his uncle. But at the very least, he had to try to prevent Chloe from bringing disaster upon them.

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Chapter 80 How Could You Be So Shameless, Chloe?

Chloe stared at Jake's furious face, her eyelids twitching with a tremendous sense of pleasure.

Instead of answering immediately, she casually tucked the strands of hair falling on her forehead behind her ear and grinned arrogantly. "You already know, huh?"

As she had suspected, Joseph must have learned about her past relationship with Jake when he saved her from miles away that day. She just could not understand why he had not mentioned it.

Chloe felt an indescribable itch in her heart. The result was much better than she had anticipated.

"How shameless can you be?!" Jake's chest hurt with anger. Unable to control his emotions, his voice was loud, and the guests around them gave him strange looks.

"Why are you shouting at me for no reason?" Chloe said, looking innocent like a harmless little rabbit.

The crowd did not understand the situation, but some recognized her..

"Hey, isn't that Benjamin's youngest?"

"Benjamin has two daughters? I always thought Ava was his only daughter."

"But this one is much prettier than Ava..."

As they spoke, everyone unconsciously nodded in agreement.

Ava had spent a lot of time on her makeup today, and she could be called beautiful. However, she paled in comparison to Chloe, who was a natural beauty and innocent-looking without makeup.

The difference between them was huge.

Hearing the crowd's discussion, Ava's face turned livid. She haughtily pushed through the crowd and grabbed Jake's hand. "Don't be impulsive. There are a lot of people watching."

"Do you know what she did behind our backs?" Jake gritted his teeth, pointing at Chloe.

Ava was confused by his anger. Just when she was about to ask him what happened, Benjamin appeared. His face was dark as he asked, "What are you guys doing in front of so many people?"

After the incident a few days ago, Chloe did not even want to look at him. She had given up on Benjamin, and once she got her money back, she did not want to have any contact with the Johnsons anymore.

Jake lost his composure and approached Benjamin, looking like a kid seeking help from a teacher after being bullied.

"Uncle Benjamin, Coco and my uncle"

Before he could finish his sentence, he was interrupted by the sound of steady footsteps, Icarus pushed the crowd aside and hurriedly rushed over with rapid footsteps.

As his eyes fell on Jake, his gaze was filled with rage and his gold-rimmed glasses glinted with a cold light. He was always a mild-mannered man, never hasty or impatient, even in business dealings. Many of his business partners had teased him for it, remarking that he did not seem like a businessman at all.

But now, he was clearly infuriated because of Chloe.

Jake's words caught in his throat as he felt the weight of Icarus's intimidation. His face turned red, and he found himself unable to say anything.

Icarus glanced at him disdainfully, then took Chloe by the hand and walked away, leaving the others staring in astonishment. Even Chloe was stunned.

'What just happened? Why is Icarus here?'

"Wait!" Chloe said to him, completely bewildered. "Do you know the Johnsons or the Coopers?"

Icarus's eyes glittered. "The Coopers."

"What's your relationship with the Coopers?" she pressed.

"Chloe, I'd rather not say right now," he replied.

"Why not?" she demanded, her eyes wide with curiosity.

“I know you don’t like Jake, and I don’t want to risk losing your friendship because of him.”

“It’s okay. You can tell me.”

After all, she was already married to Jake’s uncle. No degree of closeness in familial relations could compare to that of an uncle.

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