

Jojo and Coco's Unexpected Love By Aurora Summers

Chapter 81

Chapter 81 Jake Deserves It

Icarus pondered for a moment before saying solemnly, "Not yet, Chloe. Someday, maybe, but not now."

Yesterday, he had learned many things, including how the Johnsons had treated her in the past. He had visited her at the hospital because he did not have the courage to tell her that he was Jake's uncle.

He worried that his relationship with Jake would push Chloe away from him. He had no intention to come to the engagement party today, but while he was at lunch today, he figured that Chloe might come so he came to check on her. To his surprise, she really was here.

Chloe could not quite understand his concern. She shrugged indifferently and said, "It's okay. Whatever relationship I had with the Johnsons and Jake is in the past. You don't have to worry."

Furthermore, Icarus and Chloe were simply friends. Even if Icarus was related to Jake, it would not matter as they simply would not have any further contact in the future. What she was unaware of was that the more she acted indifferent, the more it pained Icarus.

She had clearly suffered so much, yet she brushed off the scars of the past so lightly. If their current circumstances allowed it, Icarus would have loved nothing more than to embrace her and offer her comfort.

In the end, Icarus raised his hand and patted Chloe's shoulder. "If Jake or the Johnsons ever bully you again, tell me. I'll help you get revenge."

"You don't have to help me get revenge. Just don't stop me," she said playfully as she smiled.

Icarus smiled back at her. "Anything you say."

She blinked skeptically. She guessed that Icarus and Jake were probably distant relatives who only saw each other every few years.

"The party's about to begin. Do you want to go in?"

“Of course.”

Chloe had nearly forgotten about the surprise she had prepared for Jake and Ava. With long strides, she headed back into the banquet hall. When she reached the entrance of the hall, she turned back to look at Icarus and grinned, showing a neat row of white

teeth. “I hope you’ll remember your promise and won’t stop me.”

Icarus knew that Chloe was intentionally reminding him of this and was surprised that she had come up with a plan so quickly. Under her seemingly fragile and delicate exterior, she hid a tough and strong heart. She was not like other women who would cry and whimper when being bullied. She was a lot stronger and tougher than them.

He nodded. “Go ahead and do whatever you want.”

After all, Jake deserved it. It would be good for him to have a taste of his own medicine, and he needed to be made aware that Ava was not a good match for him.

On an elevated platform, Benjamin held a microphone and was giving a speech, while Ava stood beside him, eyes red and puffy as if she had just cried. As for Jake, he was holding a tissue in his hand and gently wiping away her tears.

Meanwhile, instead of taking a seat, Chloe walked up to the second floor. Leaning against the railing, she observed the scene below expressionlessly. Other than the Johnsons and Coopers, there were a few important business partners from the Johnsons

side sitting among the attendees.

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Just then, Emily returned from outside and gave Chloe a wink.

“It’s done,” she whispered.

“That was fast.”

“My boyfriend’s a skilled hacker. Breaking into the hotel’s system was a piece of cake,” Emily replied with a smirk.

“After all is said and done, let’s go out for dinner tomorrow. I want to thank your boyfriend properly,” Chloe suggested.

Her best friend had told her before that her boyfriend was a skilled hacker. She had not expected to need his help so soon.

Emily hesitated for a moment before saying, “Our relationship isn’t stable yet. Let’s wait until we’ve been together for a while before I introduce you to him.”

Chloe rolled her eyes and refocused her attention on the large screen below.

The emcee’s booming voice filled the hall, “Next up, let us enjoy a video montage couple’s sweet love story.”

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As soon as the emcee’s voice trailed off, the large screen lit up. Handwritten love letters

appeared one after another. The contents and the cheesy words that Jake had written in the past were clear for all to see.

The attendees were momentarily confused, thinking that the love letters were meant for Ava. They teased the couple.

“Oh, youth. They’re so romantic,” one person commented.

“Who says it’s not? When my wife and I got together, it was all arranged by our parents. We met once and became a family after. But free love is so sweet to watch,” another person added.

“Hey, why isn’t the recipient of these letters Ava? It seems to be addressed to Chloe,” someone pointed out.

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Chapter 82 Love Triangle

All of the guests looked at Ava and Jake in confusion.

The couple’s faces turned bright red in embarrassment.

“Turn it off now!” Benjamin roared at the emcee.

The emcee realized that something was wrong and immediately notified the staff to turn off the big screen.

The next second, a short burst of noise came from the speakers lining the hall, and the sounds of Ava crying started playing, “Coco, I’m sorry. It’s my fault. I love Jake too much. Please don’t blame him.’

“Ava, don’t say such silly things. It’s not your fault. I just couldn’t control myself and wanted you. Now that it’s out in the open, it’s actually better. I wanted to break up with Coco long ago, but she’s been too busy with work and I never had a chance to explain to her. You’re more suitable for me, Ava.”

“Oh, my God...”

The crowd was in an uproar, and chaos ensued.

“Seriously? Chloe and Jake used to be a couple?”

“Holy moly, he’s amazing. He made both Benjamin’s daughters his girlfriends!”

“It’s Ava who snatched away Chloe’s boyfriend. Men’s attention is so weird.”

The whispers grew louder as the playback of the recording progressed.

Karen shouted loudly, claiming that the clarification video and recording were synthesized, and scolded the younger generation for spouting nonsense. A few letters. and a recording could not prove anything.

The scene finally quieted down a bit, and Ava bit her lower lip. Tears were gushing out of her eyes as she complained bitterly, “I don’t know where Coco gets these things from. Jake has always treated her as his sister.”

“Yeah, Coco has always had a crush on Jake, but Jake only likes Ava. Because of this, Coco loves playing pranks to get attention. She’s just a young girl experiencing her first love, so everyone should understand,” Karen said, expressing the helplessness of a mother for her daughter. “But today is an important day for Ava, second only to her wedding day. I didn’t expect Coco to be so immature... I saw her go to the control room

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a while ago. Sigh...”

In just a few sentences, she shifted all the blame onto Chloe.

Others nodded as if they vaguely understood the ins and outs of the matter.

So it was a love triangle.

Jake breathed a sigh of relief, and at the same time, he looked at Icarus, who was standing in the distance. Icarus’s eyes were filled with disappointment and felt that Jake had failed to live up to his responsibilities as a man. Jake was embarrassed and his face turned red then white.

The whole thing had happened so long ago, yet he could not fathom why Chloe was still holding onto it. To make matters worse, his uncle was siding with her. Had he gone mad?

The family’s conduct left Emily seething with anger. She stood on the second floor, itching to confront Karen. However, Chloe swiftly covered her mouth and whispered, “This is their turf. They’ve already dispatched people to find us. If we make a sound, we’ll only be walking into a trap.”

Chloe's intention was not to immediately turn the tide in her favor, but rather to plant a seed. This was only the first step.

After this happened at the engagement party, Ava was probably not in a good mood anymore. Chloe's relationship with Jake was not exactly a secret, and anyone who cared to inquire would know.

As they conversed, Benjamin, who had been sulking downstairs, finally spoke up and said a few words to several security guards. They then dispersed to search the area.

Emily was shocked and asked, "He's your father. Is he planning to harm you?"

Chloe forced a bitter smile, "It's not impossible."

Benjamin was seething with rage, and she was certain that he wanted to beat her up right now more than anything else.

The two slipped out of the hotel through the back door and hailed a cab. As they drove away, Emily caught a glimpse of Icarus's figure in the rearview mirror and her heart skipped a beat. "I think I saw Jake's uncle. Is he going to cause trouble for you?"

With his nephew making such a big scene, it was likely that Chloe would face some unpleasant consequences when she returned home.

Chapter 83 We're Married

Chloe was stunned and immediately turned around.

However, she saw no trace of Joseph. Instead, she spotted Icarus. She patted her chest and let out a long sigh of relief. "You must be seeing things. You scared me!"

"I wasn't seeing things," Emily insisted, but in the next second, Icarus vanished before she could point him out. She began to doubt herself. "Could I really be seeing things?"

"Of course. You've been running back and forth between the hospital and the office while also making time for your boyfriend. It's normal to experience

some eye impairment,” Chloe said with a smile. “Once I finish up what I’m working on, I’ll treat you well.”

“Are you sure Jake’s uncle wasn’t here today?” Emily asked, her face stern.

After dropping Chloe off at the hotel, Emily went to meet up with her boyfriend. Upon her return, Emily scanned the table where Jake’s older relatives were sitting but did not spot Icarus.

“Nope. I’m sure he didn’t come today. Today was his grandfather’s check-up day. Otherwise, do you think I would’ve been so blatant?”

“That makes sense. Given the pace of your relationship, there’s no way you could’ve

wrapped things up with him so quickly.”

Chloe felt disheartened when Emily brought this up. Joseph was a tough nut to crack,

and she did not know what to do about it.

“It’d be nice if you hadn’t married him. The other day, I saw an extremely handsome guy. He’s several times better looking than Jake’s uncle. I guarantee you’ll drool when you see him!” Emily exclaimed.

“Is that so? While Jake’s looks are average, his uncle is a work of art. In fact, in all my years of existence, I’ve never seen a man as handsome as him.”

Emily rolled her eyes. “Once you see this guy, you won’t say that anymore.”

Chloe was intrigued by Emily’s confident tone and was about to inquire further when her phone rang. It was an unknown number.

“Hello, who’s this?”

“Didn’t you call me first?” a lazy drawl came from the other end of the line.

Chloe was momentarily stunned, but she quickly regained her composure. “Are you Mr. Samuel Winson? The lawyer?”

Yesterday, she had dialed the number on the business card Joseph had given her, but no one answered. She had then gotten busy with other tasks and had not tried the number again.

“What can I help you with?”

Chloe proceeded to recount how her mother’s money had been secretly transferred away by the Johnsons. Samuel remained indifferent and did not ask any questions.

“You can sue them. It’ll be an easy win,” he declared.

“Really?” Chloe was thrilled. She had expected him to accept the case so readily.

“Yeah. There’s no lawsuit that I, Samuel Winson, can’t win. Your case isn’t complicated and will be easy for me to resolve.”

She clutched her bag tightly and asked eagerly, “Great. What materials do I need to prepare?”

“My assistant will contact you about that. The only thing you need to prepare is the lawyer’s fee.”

Chloe nodded understandingly. “May I ask how much it’ll cost for you to take on this case?”

“Typically, a case of this difficulty level is priced at 1,500,000 dollars. However, since Joseph recommended me to you, I’ll give you a discount of 20% and charge your

1,200,000 dollars. You can transfer the money to my account before the trial.”

Chloe gasped, “1,200,000 dollars?”

“Is there a problem?” Samuel asked, not realizing how outrageous his asking price

sounded.

“Can you lower it?” Chloe bit her lip and added embarrassingly, “I don’t have that much money.”

“You don’t even have 1,200,000 dollars?” Samuel was shocked that Joseph would have a friend as poor as Chloe. He spoke with an air of superiority as if being unable to pay 1,200,000 dollars made one a pauper.

Chloe’s face turned red. “I’m sorry. 1,200,000 dollars is too much for me. I probably won’t be able to hire you to handle the case.”

“If you don’t have the money, you can ask Joseph for it. In Aesper, no one other than me can guarantee 100% success in this lawsuit.”

Samuel said one shocking sentence after another, but Chloe rubbed her nose and said, No, I can’t do that. The amount is too large for me.”

“This amount may be a bit high for you, but it’s just chump change for Joseph.”

“But we’re not related...”

“In that case, there’s nothing I can do. Goodbye.”

Samuel hung up the phone. He would not do bad business, and offering a 20% discount was already his limit. He had no idea where Joseph came to know someone as poor as Chloe, let alone a woman.

‘Hold on... A woman?’

Samuel suddenly realized something. All these years, Joseph had been a workaholic. His life revolved around nothing but work. He never had any lady friends, so where did this one come from?

When this thought came to mind, he regretted not asking more about Chloe’s relationship with Joseph from her.

It had been a long time since he had gathered with his buddies, so Samuel decided to call Nathan out for some drinks. Just before hanging up, he quipped, “By the way, do you know a girl named Chloe? Seems like she and Joseph have an unusual relationship.”

“You’re just finding out now?” Nathan replied nonchalantly.

“What? I’m the only one who doesn’t know about it?”

“Actually, I’m not sure. I’m just guessing. How did you find out about Chloe?”

“I’ll tell you when we meet up. Let’s also get Joseph to come out. If he refuses again this time, we’ll just go to his office and confront him.”

“You go ahead. I want to live for a few more years,” Nathan replied, embracing the woman in his arms.

“Well, forget it then,” Samuel said.

Who had the courage to face Joseph’s poker face alone? It was scarier than losing a case.

As Joseph was on his way back to his office after accompanying Harold to his check-up, he ran into Nathan who enthusiastically invited him to have a meal together.

With dinner time approaching, Joseph agreed to the invitation. Seeing the opportunity, Nathan immediately sent a location to Samuel, urging him to come quickly. At the dinner table, Samuel slyly inquired about the situation with Chloe, while Nathan chimed in from time to time.

Their incessant questions annoyed Joseph to the point where he furrowed his brow and asked, “What exactly do you want to know?”

Nathan winked and asked, “What’s your relationship with Chloe? Have you managed to win her over?”

“We’re married,” Joseph replied flatly.

Chapter 84 I’ll Destroy It if I Can’t Have It

Samuel’s eyes widened in shock.

“What?! You should’ve told me earlier! I wouldn’t have asked her to pay me lawyer fees then!” he exclaimed.

“Lawyer fees?” Joseph’s eyes narrowed. “She approached you already?”

He had returned from his overseas business trip earlier than planned and a lot of things were piling up on his plate. He had planned to finish everything and then inform Samuel about Chloe’s situation. He even intended to pay for the legal fees, but he had not expected her to be so impatient and approach Samuel herself.

“She called me yesterday. If I knew she’s your wife, I wouldn’t have asked for the fee,” Samuel explained.

“Help her with the lawsuit. I’ll have my assistant pay you.”

After regaining from his shock, Nathan looked at Joseph and teased him, “One second, you told me you couldn’t stand her, and the next, you married her behind our backs. This isn’t like you at all, Joe.”

It seemed that Chloe’s beauty and her ability to captivate men were exceptional. Otherwise, how could the unapproachable Joseph have fallen for her?

“Of course, this isn’t my style. Our marriage is just a contract.”

“What do

you mean?” Both Samuel and Nathan were stunned.

Calmly sipping his tea, Joseph then proceeded to tell them about his grandfather pressuring him to marry and have children.

“Wow, you went to such lengths just to avoid an arranged marriage,” Samuel commented, impressed by his friend’s determination. “However, you can’t keep up with this forever. Knowing Mr. Harold’s desire for a grandson, you need to consider an

alternative solution.”

As a top-tier lawyer, Samuel soon pinpointed the problem. It was common for people to tell lies to cover up for the previous one, but eventually, their lies would be exposed.

Harold might be old but he was sharp. He would figure it out eventually.

“Then why don’t you just make it real?” Nathan suggested with a grin.

Samuel’s eyes lit up with amusement as he added, “That’s also a solution. Since you’re

willing to pay her legal fees, my guess is that you two get along pretty well, right?”

Joseph tapped his fingers rhythmically on the table, recalling his interactions with Chloe over the past few months.

“She’s always causing trouble. Do you really think that’s possible?” he scoffed.

“Beautiful girls naturally attract more trouble. She helped you out so much, so can’t you help her in return?” Nathan defended Chloe.

“You think I haven’t already helped her?” Joseph retorted.

Nathan and Samuel exchanged a knowing look, sensing an undercurrent of affection between the pair despite Joseph’s words. Despite his cold and indifferent nature toward others, his repeated willingness to assist Chloe suggested that she held a special place in his heart. But since he refused to acknowledge any romantic attraction, they decided

not to risk their lives to reveal it.

Nathan urged Joseph, “Chloe is beautiful, kind, and cooks for you every day. It’s not easy to find such a good woman these days. If you have feelings for her, you should let her know before someone else steals her away.”

“But you haven’t even interacted with her. How do you know she has a good personality?”

“If she can live with you for such a long time and hasn’t run away in annoyance, doesn’t that prove her good character?”

“So? There are plenty of women who like me. Besides, I don’t like her. She’s at troublemaker,” Joseph said.

Nathan could not argue with him. In terms of family background, ability, and appearance, Joseph was undoubtedly the dream lover of all the girls in the city. However, his intuition told him that although Chloe might not be the most beautiful or come from the most affluent family, she was definitely the most suitable for Joseph.

After dinner, Samuel immediately contacted Chloe and told her that he could help her with her case for free, but his schedule was fully booked for this month and the next. They would have to wait until July.

After hanging up the phone, Chloe pinched her cheeks as if to confirm that this was not a dream. Just three hours ago, Samuel had hung up on her without hesitation when she could not afford his legal fees. Why was he suddenly willing to help her for free now?

The image of Joseph's handsome face floated into her mind. 'He's the one who recommended Samuel to me. Could he have something to do with this?'

Chloe fell silent for a moment before typing "Samuel Winson" into the search bar on her laptop. As she read over the long list of impressive accolades that popped up on the screen, her eyelids twitched. Suddenly, 1,200,000 dollars seemed like a paltry sum.

The fact that Joseph knew such a capable lawyer only added to Chloe's admiration for him.

After finishing work in the evening, Chloe planned to go to the market to buy ingredients and cook a nice meal for Joseph. As soon as she stepped out of the elevator, Jake came up to her.

"Move aside." Chloe frowned.

Jake was filled with anger, and he widened his eyes. "Why are you so vicious? You ruined the engagement party that was going perfectly. Do you really have to destroy me just because you couldn't have me?"

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Chapter 85 She Adores Men Who Are Upright and Uncompromising

"Oh, please. You think too highly of yourself. You guys are pieces of sh*t," taunted Chloe.

"What exactly do you want?" Jake asked, his eyes becoming bloodshot and his once impeccable suit was now crumpled and disordered. It was evident that his engagement party with Ava had not gone as planned.

"I want the assets that my mother left behind for me."

"Haven't you already gotten it?" Jake sneered.

"When did I take it?"

Jake thought she was lying and jeered, "I saw Ava give you that box with my own eyes."

He thought that Chloe just wanted a share of the Johnsons' fortune. What was she pretending for? He could not think of any other reason for her repeated troublemaking.

Chloe was taken aback for a moment. "Do you think that's the only thing my mother left me?"

"Yes."

"Please use your brain," Chloe replied, "Was Ava really returning my things to me? No, she was humiliating me! And only a fool like you would believe her."

Jake furrowed his brow. "Then what else did Ava not give you?"

"Many things, including the diamond necklace she's wearing around her neck right now. If you really want to know, go ask her yourself."

He hesitated. "If I give you back your things, will you promise not to bother us again?"

"If you can retrieve all the things my mother left me," Chloe replied with a smirk.

"All right, I'll do it. And one more thing, leave my uncle alone," Jake demanded.

"If you have the guts, go tell your uncle that. If he tells me to leave, I'll leave," Chloe said, shooting him a glance.

"Why you!" he fumed.

"Me what? Get back my things from Ava first. If not, you're in no position to talk to me.

After Chloe had finished speaking, she left in large strides.

In the bustling market, many people milled about, picking out ingredients at various stalls. Chloe bought the vegetables for dinner and rushed back home.

At eight o'clock sharp, Joseph returned home. As he stood in the foyer, he caught a whiff of the delicious aroma emanating from the kitchen. Chloe heard the sound and immediately set down her spatula, running over to him. She grabbed a pair of slippers from the shoe cabinet and placed them at his feet with a beaming smile. "Please change your shoes, Jojo."

Joseph noticed her excessive enthusiasm and asked, "Is there something you need?"

"I'm fine. Do you have anything you want to tell me?" Chloe probed, knowing that as Jake's uncle, he must have heard some rumors.

'This fellow is really good at hiding things. How had he not looked for me for the entire afternoon?'

Joseph did not understand her and said, "Are you crazy?"

After that, he headed to the restroom to wash his hands.

Chloe stared at his retreating figure, feeling incredulous.

'Does Joseph really uphold the principle of standing up for what was right, regardless of who was involved?' a wide smile spread across her face at the thought, 'Yes! This is exactly the kind of principled man I adore! Upright and uncompromising!'

Despite escaping danger, Chloe could not shake the feeling that something was off. The way Joseph acted made it seem like he did not have a nephew and was cold-hearted.

As the man emerged from the bathroom after washing his hands, he sniffed and exclaimed, "Something's burning."

Chloe's eyes widened. "Oh no! I forgot to turn off the stove!"

She had been too busy trying to please Joseph. Luckily, only one dish had been slightly overcooked. The rest was delicious with great color and flavor.

It had been a while since Joseph had eaten her cooking as Chloe had been either busy with work or was hospitalized and thus could not help but have a few more mouthfuls.

Chloe noticed this and went out of her way to serve him. She had not removed her apron as she got more soup for Joseph. In the warm glow of the living room, with her lowered

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head and her silky and sleek hair, she gave off the appearance of a devoted and affectionate wife.

Joseph watched her, his eyes deep and inscrutable. At that moment, Chloe looked up and met his gaze.

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Chapter 86 Not a Maid but a Wife

Their gazes met, and Joseph noticed that she had lost some weight after being hospitalized for a few days.

"By the way, Mr. Samuel told me today that I don't have to pay for his service. Did you help me pay for it?"

"Yeah."

A mix of emotions ran through Chloe after she heard the answer. She fidgeted and said embarrassingly, "It's too much. I can't pay you back. Please tell Mr. Samuel not to bother. I'll find a cheaper lawyer myself."

"You don't have to pay me back."

"No. Your money didn't fall from the sky. You've already spent so much money on me, and I can't pay back the 1,200,000 dollars anytime soon. It may take me years, maybe even a lifetime," Chloe said.

Gratitude was the hardest thing to repay. She wanted to become his wife, not an emotionless money-making machine.

Joseph stared at her, and after a moment, his thin lips curved into a small smile. "If you become the director of Baxon within three years and the regional general manager within five, although it may still be a challenge for you to pay me back, it's not impossible."

Her eyes lit up. "Do you have that much confidence in me?"

“I usually offer encouragement to employees who are not particularly exceptional.”

Chloe was rendered speechless.

“Worst case scenario, you can work as my maid until you pay back the debt. I’ll provide you with food and a roof over your head so you won’t have to worry about anything else.

At least her cooking was good.

“I don’t want to be a maid!” Chloe said, pausing for a moment before continuing, “I want to be your wife.”

Joseph froze then slowly turned his head to look at her. Chloe felt a bit flustered under his gaze.

“Wh-What?” she asked nervously.

“It seems to me that you enjoy dreaming a lot.”

Chloe had no idea what she was expecting, knowing full well that nothing good could possibly come out of Joseph’s mouth.

After a satisfying meal and a refreshing cup of tea, Chloe was hanging up laundry on the balcony when Emily called in a panic, urging her to check the college group chat.

She went to look and was puzzled to find that the group chat, which was usually quiet with only a few active members, now had over a hundred messages. As she scrolled to the top, she saw screenshots of the video in which Peter had violated her. Each

screenshot deliberately captured her face.

Chloe’s blood instantly froze in her veins as all the memories of that day flooded her mind and her body trembled with fear.

“Coco, are you listening to me?” Emily’s anxious voice called out, “You need to report this to the police. Ava must’ve been the one who leaked it.”

‘Yeah, I need to call the police.’

Chloe suddenly snapped out of her daze and hung up on Emily before dialing 911 to report the incident.

“Hello, this is the 911 emergency center. How may I assist you?” The moment the other end picked up, Chloe’s pupils contracted abruptly and she realized something.

“Sorry, wrong number,” she said before hanging up abruptly.

‘No. I can’t call the police.’

Ginny’s father was a detective at the police station and if she reported this, it would certainly draw attention to her and could drag Joseph down as well. If Harold found out Chloe did not dare to imagine the consequences. Her mind was in turmoil, unable to think of a solution.

“What are you doing up so late? Why are you just standing there?” Joseph came out with a glass of water and squinted at her.

Chloe’s body shook and she did not know how to answer.

Joseph frowned slightly. He gazed at her fist that was gripping her phone tightly and asked in a deep voice, “What are you looking at?”

“N-Nothing.”

“Give it to me.”

“Really. It’s nothing.” Chloe’s face turned pale as she did not want Joseph to see the photos.

Without another word, Joseph walked over and snatched the phone from her hand. As he looked at the screenshots, his face sank and an icy aura silently emanated from his body, creating a heavy pressure.

That day, only Patrick had seen the scene first-hand. After Chloe was taken to the hospital, she was changed into a hospital gown in the emergency room. He had always thought that Chloe had merely passed out and that Peter had not touched her.

Watching his expression darken, Chloe’s first reaction was that he felt she had brought disgrace to him. She anxiously said, “Please don’t be angry. I’ll handle this myself and won’t bring you any trouble.”

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Chapter 87 I Believe In My Wife

In the bright light, Joseph's deep black eyes looked like bottomless pits as he asked, "Is that how you see me?"

Chloe shrunk back a little and whispered, "No..."

However, it was clear that she was not sincere.

Joseph's forehead twitched as he picked up his phone and called the police.

Chloe panicked and tried to stop him. "No, your uncle will find out!"

Joseph paused for a moment before realizing that she was referring to Tyson.

"So what if he finds out? You're the victim here. Unless you want to be a coward and pretend you didn't see anything."

"Bullsh*t, I'm just worried about you. If Tyson finds out, what will your family think of you?"

She was Joseph's wife. She did not want to drag him down with her problems.

"Take care of your own problems first before worrying about others."

"Huh?" Chloe was taken aback. She was surprised to discover that the man who appeared to lack compassion had a humane side.

Fifteen minutes later, the police arrived. They were the officers that had handled the previous case with Peter.

Chloe's restless heart calmed down a little when she saw them. She heard that Peter was detained for a few days but was released due to lack of evidence. The case was still under investigation, and the police remembered Chloe.

After learning the situation, they had the technicians delete the screenshots uploaded online. The person who posted the article had clearly come prepared and had tweaked their privacy settings, making it difficult to investigate their IP address, which would take several hours.

The police promised to work overtime and provide results by the following day. They also comforted Chloe and told her to rest assured that they would do their best to bring the culprits to justice.

Afterward, they brought Joseph to the side and spoke to him earnestly, “After the on-site investigation last time, we determined that your wife didn’t do it willingly. She’s a

victim. As a husband, it’s natural to feel uncomfortable in this situation, but your wife is in even more pain. She needs your comfort and companionship at this time.”

Joseph reacted quickly and understood what they meant. He nodded. “I believe in my wife. I feel more heartache than anyone else to see her suffering. Please resolve this as soon as possible and bring the culprit to justice.”

Joseph and the police were in the living room, so Chloe heard everything clearly. She blinked and sighed, realizing that he was even better at telling lies than she was.

After the police departed, she felt drained and went to her bedroom to try to get an early night’s rest. However, sleep just would not come. She turned and tossed in bed as the screenshots lingered in her mind, causing her to feel overwhelmed by a wave of emotions including shame, anger, grief, confusion, and more.

She could keep her emotions in check in front of Joseph, but when she was alone and it was all quiet, she felt aggrieved as she stared at the dark ceiling. She knew that the culprit behind this had to be Ava, but she had no evidence to prove it.

In the end, she let out a long sigh and swallowed all the grievances. She clutched her teddy bear tightly and closed her eyes.

No matter what, life must go on, and she had to wake up early tomorrow to go to work

and earn money.

The sun was shining brightly and the sky was a flawless blue. As Chloe gazed up at the vast sky, her mood lifted just a little. She had barely arrived at the office when she received a call from the police.

The

person who posted the article had been traced to an IP address overseas. Unfortunately, this did not help much as it was common for internet criminals to use foreign IPs to avoid detection. Despite feeling a twinge of disappointment, Chloe's gratitude remained sincere as she thanked the officers for their efforts.

"Thank you, officers."

Determined to focus solely on her work, she threw herself into her tasks for the rest of the day, forcing herself not to dwell on the troubling events that had transpired.

Early in the morning, Jake went to the mall to buy many gifts for the Johnsons as an apology. When he got to the house, Ava greeted him at the door and playfully scolded him, "You don't have to bring all these gifts when you're coming here."

"Yesterday was all my fault. If I had stopped Coco with the security guards, none of that would have happened," Jake said apologetically.

"Don't blame yourself. I'm also at fault. I was too eager to make up with Coco and invited her. I didn't expect my good intentions to end up causing trouble..." Ava hooked her arm around his and said, "Come in and talk. Daddy's in the living room. By the way, what did your uncle say? Can he help connect us with Patterson?"

As soon as she mentioned Icarus, Jake's head began to ache. He said, "He says he doesn't know anyone from Patterson. We'll have to think of another way."

Ava's expression changed, but she suppressed her annoyance and asked, "What should we do then?"

'You still have the nerves to show up here when you can't even solve such a trivial matter?'

If Adam had not been avoiding her for several days, they would not have had to rely on Icarus in the first place.

Jake was not in the mood to talk about this. "Let's put that aside for now. There's something I need to ask you. You have to answer me seriously because it'll affect our future."

"What is it?"

"Did you take the money Coco's mother left for her?"

Chapter 88 You've Always Had Coco in Your Heart

A flicker of shock crossed Ava's beautiful face as she asked, "Who told you that? Was it

Coco?"

"Just answer my question," Jake slowed down and spoke gently, "I'm doing this for our

future."

"If you were doing this for our future, then you wouldn't be asking me such a question!" Ava said, her eyes filled with tears.

Seeing her cry, Jake immediately found a tissue to wipe her tears and asked, "What's wrong?"

"Did Coco tell you that I took the money her mother left behind?" Ava asked, her voice choking up.

Jake was silent for a moment before answering, "Yes, she said that as long as you return the money-

"You'd believe her over me?" Ava interrupted him with a trembling voice, "Am I a greedy person who would covet other people's inheritance in your eyes?"

"That's not what I'm trying to say. You're misunderstanding me. I didn't mean-" Jake tried to explain, but Ava cut him off.

"Stop talking. I thought two people should trust one another when they're engaged. I had no idea you would go behind my back to see Coco without

taking my feelings into consideration,” Ava said with a sorrowful smile, tears still rolling down her cheeks.

“Please don’t cry, Ava. I can explain. I went to see Coco yesterday to warn her not to disturb us,” Jake explained.

“Warn her?” Ava smiled bitterly through her tears. “If that’s the case, then why are you questioning me first thing in the morning?”

Jake was at a loss for words. He tousled his hair anxiously and said, “You always talk about trusting each other, but you don’t seem to trust me much either. I was already annoyed by yesterday’s engagement party. Can’t you try to understand me a little?”

Before he could say anything further, a loud crash came as if something had fallen to the ground.

Benjamin kicked the broken pieces away and walked over, staring at Jake with displeasure. “The engagement party was for both families. You’re not the only one who

was annoyed. If you came here to argue, then get the hell out of here.

“Ava, show him out.”

Ava looked at Jake with disappointment. “I know you’ve always had Coco in your heart. If you want to go back to her, I won’t stop you. Let’s both just take a break and cool off for a while.”

After saying this, she closed the door, ignoring Jake’s knocking from outside.

In the end, the gifts were given, but Jake did not have the chance to step into the house. He was left with a burning anger in his heart and kicked a nearby tree trunk in frustration. 1

On the second floor, Ava stood by the window and pursed her lips as Jake drove away. She wiped away her tears and spent another half an hour touching up her makeup in front of the mirror.

‘Looks like I can’t rely on Jake anymore. I’ll have to rely on myself.’

She picked up her phone and video-called Adam. The phone rang a few times before being hung up.

Ava clenched her phone and gritted her teeth in frustration. She decided to call him back every single time he hung up on her. She did not believe that he would keep hanging up on her indefinitely.

As May drew to a close, Chloe handed in her monthly report to her superior, but her superior just put it to the side without looking at it.

“This afternoon, take some time to head over to Patterson and finalize the project documentation. Better early than late,” her superior instructed brusquely.

With overseas bidding thrown into disarray by Fairlight’s sudden reassignment, there was little urgency for him to prepare the monthly report.

Chloe nodded and said, “Sure. I’ll get a few team members to accompany me there later.

||

Upon arriving at Patterson, the client was in the middle of a meeting, so Chloe was instructed to wait in the conference room. Soon after, someone brought in tea and snacks.

Chloe smiled and said, “Thank you.”

“You’re welcome,” The administrator nodded in response before leaving with the tray.

As soon as she opened the door, she bumped into Adam. The administrator winced in pain and said, “Mr. Adam, there are people inside. Please don’t go in.”

However, Adam simply pushed past her carelessly and said, “I just need to grab a charger.”

Upon entering the room, Chloe, who was sitting on the first row, caught his attention. She was wearing a button-up shirt and a short skirt, with her hair tied up in a ponytail. Her facial features were finely chiseled, and her skin had a glossy sheen that glistened brilliantly in the light.

Compared to those hookers with overdone makeup at the nightclubs, her natural beauty was a million times more captivating.

Adam unplugged the charger and was momentarily stunned, unable to move his feet.

Chloe was organizing her documents when she instinctively looked up and caught his gaze. She was slightly surprised to see him there.

‘Isn’t he the playboy who was hooking up with Ava?’

Adam noticed that she was looking at him too and struck a pose, thinking he looked cool. He then handed over his phone and said, “Beautiful, can I have your number?”

Jojo and Coco’s Unexpected Love By Aurora Summers

Chapter 89 Ava Hits on a Younger Man

Chloe could not help but chuckle. “Judging by our age, you should be calling me ‘big

sister.’”

Adam had changed his hairstyle to dreadlocks since she last saw him a few days ago, giving him a rougher appearance that resembled that of a hooligan. However, there was a certain youthful and delicate quality to his finely chiseled features that hinted he was about nineteen to twenty-one years old.

He was certainly younger than Ava, and Chloe did not know if he was aware of Ava’s age, or if he just preferred women older than him.

“Will you give me your number if I call you ‘big sister?’”

“I’m not in the habit of calling random people my brother,” Chloe replied coolly before returning her attention to her work, dismissing him as if he were a kid. “You should go now. We have work to do. If your father sees you here, he’ll probably scold you.”

It had been a long time since someone dared to dismiss him like this. The corner of Adam’s lips twitched as he said, “My dad doesn’t care about me. I’m an adult. Just give me your number, and maybe I’ll buy you a car if I’m in a good mood.”

Chloe could not help but roll her eyes at Adam's presumptuousness. Giving out her number was out of the question. For one thing, she was not interested in dating someone so much younger than herself, and on another, if Adam could land Ava, he probably was not the most trustworthy person.

Adam was accustomed to being the center of the world and was annoyed when Chloe did not treat him as such. However, as he watched her sitting quietly at the desk, he noticed her delicate, long eyelashes and straight, pretty nose.

Upon closer inspection, he could even make out the fine, soft hairs on her face. Who could resist such a natural beauty? Adam's anger instantly dissipated as he pondered how to win Chloe's favor.

At that moment, the administrative assistant outside whispered, "Mr. Adam, Mr. Alexander has arrived. Please come out."

Startled, Adam scampered away like a mouse fleeing from a cat. The Baxon employees laughed at the sight of this.

Chloe also found it amusing but reminded everyone to keep quiet since they were not at Baxon. Soon, the supervisor responsible for negotiations with Baxon arrived. Chloe and

Chapter

her team sprang into action, discussing the project with enthusiasm.

"In general, I find the proposal acceptable, but I do have some concerns about the first and last three articles as they don't quite align with our style. To be more precise, we need to infuse the content with a futuristic touch while preserving a sense of warmth that's suitable for our real estate specialization. Ultimately, our goal is to ensure that our customers feel at home with our brand."

"Could you be more specific about your modifications?" asked Chloe.

"In short, it just doesn't feel quite right," the supervisor replied.

Chloe listened politely but scolded him under her breath afterward. All clients were the same. They just never get straight to the point.

After taking a deep breath, she maintained her smile and asked, "When do you need

this?"

"No rush," he replied, glancing at the date. "It's only the 15th today. You can submit the revision to us by the 17th."

"Okay..."

Chloe packed up her stuff and prepared to leave Patterson. From behind her, Lily muttered, "He said a bunch of things but didn't actually say anything. How are we supposed to make changes?"

Lily had just graduated from college and joined Baxon around the same time as Chloe. When Janice accused Chloe of getting into Baxon through the backdoor, she was the one

who stood up for her.

"It's okay. I'll make the changes myself. You guys focus on your own tasks," Chloe

assured her.

"Thank you so much, Ms. Chloe. I heard there's a department dinner tonight, but I don't know where it is..." Lily said, but she trailed off mid-sentence. She tugged on Chloe's sleeve and continued, "Ms. Chloe, look over there."

Following Lily's gaze, Chloe saw Adam leaning against a blue Lamborghini, whistling

at them.

Chloe was speechless. She wanted to pretend that she did not see Adam, but Adam was faster than her and stopped her from leaving.

"Are you sure you won't consider me?" Adam asked impatiently, "Just think of it as making a new friend. Have dinner with me and we'll just chat. I won't do anything to

you. If you keep me company for three days. I'll give you 40,000 dollars. How about it?"

Before Chloe could respond, he continued, "At your age, if you want to find someone better than me, you can only look for one in a bunch of old men.'

Having been born with a silver spoon in his mouth, Adam had seen too many women

age willing to marry men several times their age for money because most men their had mediocre financial status. Very few could become wealthy at a very young age.

"No, I've met plenty of young, handsome, and rich men," Chloe rebutted.

She was referring to Joseph, who was top-notch in all aspects-except for his temper, which made people hesitant to approach him.

Adam did not believe her. "Who?"

As soon as he spoke, a cold voice like a cool breeze on a hot summer day that sent chills. down one's spine, suddenly spoke up.

"Me."

Chapter 90 Challenging the Unchallengeable

Samuel was completely taken aback.

The Joseph he knew had no interest in women, let alone stepping forward in public and acting as a hero to save a damsel in distress. So why would he take the initiative to help this girl?

'Hold on a moment! He didn't just rescue her. He also admitted to being the young, handsome, and wealthy man this girl was talking about! It's absurd how he's willing to sacrifice his pride just to save her. That's some extreme level of narcissism.

'But hang on... Something's not quite right here. Is this girl Chloe?'

Samuel's suspicions were confirmed as he observed Joseph and Chloe.

Chloe and Adam turned their heads simultaneously. The man before them was clad in an expensive black suit. He was tall and slim with eyebrows that curved like crescents. The high position of his nose bridge and tightly pursed

lips gave him a distant, almost unapproachable air. His deep-set eyes were dark and emotionless, yet his gaze was icy and cold as he stared at Adam.

The latter trembled visibly. His haughty demeanor disappeared the moment he saw the

man.

“M-Mr. Joseph, what brings you here?” he stammered.

Chloe was slightly taken aback. “You know him?”

Before Adam could answer, Alexander, the CEO of Patterson, emerged from the building and pushed him aside to warmly welcome Joseph.

Joseph gave a slight nod in acknowledgment, but his gaze remained fixed on Adam. It seemed to him that Adam had a lot of nerves to flirt with his woman when he was barely out of diapers.

“Mr. Samuel? What brought you here today too?” Alexander was surprised to see Samuel.

“I had some time today, so I came to discuss the case with you,” Samuel answered with

a smile.

Remembering the legal troubles his company had been facing lately, Alexander said, “Oh, in that case, I won’t be of much help. I’ll have our legal department come out and talk to you.”

Despite having spent a considerable amount of money on multiple lawyers to resolve the issue, none had been able to come up with a solution. Alexander was left with no choice but to turn to Samuel, even though he knew Samuel’s services came with a high price tag.

As he spoke, his secretary gestured for Samuel to follow her into the building.

Turning to Joseph, Alexander said, “Mr. Joseph, shall we go in as well?”

Joseph did not immediately respond, slowly retracting his gaze while replying noncommittally, “Okay.”

Alexander observed this subtle movement and threw Adam a glance, wondering how his son managed to get on Joseph's bad side.

As Joseph walked past her, Chloe furrowed her brows, a hint of suspicion crossing her face.

'Could he really be doing business on such a large scale? He even has business with Patterson. But how is this possible? If memory serves me right, Jake's uncle isn't that influential at all.'

"I want to have chicken cordon bleu tonight," Joseph said, stopping next to Chloe.

Chloe had been cooking for him for so long that she instinctively agreed, "Okay, I'll go to the market after work to buy some ingredients."

But then she remembered the department dinner party tonight and slapped her forehead in frustration. "Oh gosh, I forgot that my department is having a dinner party tonight. You'll have to take care of dinner yourself."

Joseph's eyebrows knitted ever so slightly but did not say anything.

In the meantime, Alexander perceived the bond between the two and a realization struck him. He cast a disapproving glare at Adam, admonishing him for daring to provoke someone as influential as Joseph, all the while lamenting his misfortune for having an inept son.

With a heavy heart, Adam hung his head low. He never expected Chloe to have ties to someone as prominent as Joseph. He did not know why his father was blaming him.

After they had walked into the building, Lily snapped herself out of her trance and asked excitedly, "Ms. Chloe, is that your boyfriend?"

"Nope," Chloe replied.

"But you're married!"

"Umm... Our relationship isn't like what you think, Lily."

Lily did not believe her and continued, “If you’re not in that kind of relationship, then what kind of relationship is it? Why else would you cook for him? You two must be

living together. You’re just too embarrassed to admit it, right?”

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