

Jojo and Coco's Unexpected Love By Aurora Summers

Chapter 91

Chapter 91 I'm His Maid

Chloe blinked her eyes, meeting Lily's curious gaze.

"I cook for him because I'm his maid," she explained.

They lived under the same roof. They were devoid of the love and affection that a

married couple shared, but they shared the mundane chores of daily life. Was that not what a maid did?

If she was not a maid, then what was she?

Lily was stunned. "You're his maid?" she parroted.

"Yeah. Do I not look like one?"

Lily knew that wealthy families would often have strict requirements when hiring maids, but someone as beautiful as Chloe was a rare find. She could not help but feel a little disappointed. A person who could make the CEO of Patterson personally come out to greet them must be extraordinary in some way.

Besides, his height was perfect, his appearance was impeccable, and he had an extraordinary air about him. He was the dream man of every woman in the world.

But unfortunately, he was not Chloe's boyfriend.

"Why did you refuse to give Adam your number? If you could get together with him, you wouldn't have to work during the day and be a maid at night," said David.

David Lane was the oldest member of the team. He had been with Baxon for five years. and had expected to be promoted to team leader, but Chloe had beaten him to it. Therefore, he was always finding fault with her work.

Chloe glanced at him and said, "I don't like Adam. He's not my type."

“His father is the CEO of Patterson. If you marry him, you’ll live a life of luxury and become a wealthy lady for the rest of your days. Isn’t that the ultimate goal for women?” David pressed on.

Lily felt uncomfortable hearing this. “Not all women want to be housewives,” she said.

“Come on, why do you girls try so hard to come to Baxon if you don’t want to marry into a wealthy family?” David sneered.

Everyone knew that there were plenty of eligible men in big companies, and it was not uncommon for women to use work as an excuse to find a partner.

“Then why don’t you shave your head?” Chloe joked.

“Why should I shave my head?” David asked in confusion.

“In ancient times, eunuchs all shaved their heads. Since you know women so well, you could have been an emperor’s favored eunuch.” Chloe chuckled.

David’s face sank.

Upon their return to Baxon, Chloe threw herself into her work, her fingers tapping the keyboard in a steady rhythm, creating a crisp staccato of clicks. She diligently followed Patterson’s advice and made revisions to the document, which was not supposed to be a daunting task. However, the word “feeling” mentioned by the other party posed a challenge.

In a world of infinite possibilities, each person had their own unique perception of feelings. If everyone felt the same way about something, it would not truly be considered a feeling.

To concentrate, Chloe put on her headphones and tuned out the world, immersing herself in soft, gentle music. When David emerged from the restroom, he saw Chloe sitting at her desk, diligently revising the proposal.

A hint of resentment flickered across his face. If it were not for this girl suddenly appearing out of nowhere, the position of team leader would have been his.

At this moment, everyone's phone in the office buzzed. It turned out that Patterson had changed the deadline for submitting the proposal and was now demanding it by

tomorrow.

Lily grumbled in annoyance, "Well, there goes our dinner plans for tonight."

"You guys can go ahead without me. I'm almost done," Chloe said as she removed her headphones.

"We can't let you stay here alone and work overtime," Lily replied.

The others chimed in, but their disappointment was evident.

David's eyes rolled and an idea took shape in his mind.

"You guys go ahead. My wife is working the night shift tonight, and I need to go pick her up. I'll take care of the remaining work," he said.

With that, he went to stand beside Chloe, asking about her progress on the proposal.

Chloe could not resist his enthusiasm, and since there were only some minor details left to adjust, she agreed.

That night, Chloe had a few drinks at the dinner table. Lily took several pictures of her to post on her social media. In the pictures, Chloe's cheeks were tinted with a rosy hue, her eyes appeared dreamy, and her long hair cascaded over her shoulders. She leaned lazily against Lily, revealing a slender and fair-skinned neck that exuded a charming and delicate feminine air. Despite her innocent appearance, there was a subtle hint of coquettishness on her face.

As Harry scrolled through his social media feed, he came across the photo posted by Chloe's friend. It appeared to him that they were at a restaurant near Baxon. Harry quickly took a screenshot and sent it to Icarus along with the address.

"Chloe is having a department dinner tonight, and she seems to be drunk. Do you want to create an accidental encounter?" Harry asked.

Icarus looked at the photos of Chloe and replied with a smile, "I don't want to create an accidental encounter. I just want to be her driver."

The dinner ended at eleven o'clock. Lily's boyfriend came to pick her up and offered to give Chloe a ride. However, Chloe turned down his offer.

"It's okay. I'll just take a cab. Lily has had quite a few drinks, so please take care of her."

"Are you sure? It's not easy to get a cab at this time," he insisted.

Lying drunkenly in the back seat, Lily chimed in, "Ms. Chloe isn't going home. She's going to work as a maid. It's really tough!"

"At this time of night? Working as a maid?" Lily's boyfriend was surprised, and it was apparent that he had misunderstood the situation.

Chloe was speechless.

After sending Lily on her way, Chloe took out her phone and opened up a ride-hailing app. Suddenly, a BMW pulled up and parked in the adjacent parking space.

She looked up and saw Icarus stepping out of the car. With a gentle smile, he personally opened the passenger seat door, his gold-rimmed glasses exuding an air of refinement and elegance. "The ride you called for has arrived, madam. Please, get in."

Chapter 92 Are You That Desperate?

Chloe looked at her phone skeptically and said, "Strange. I haven't even started hailing a ride yet."

"That's because I arrived just in time. Neither too early nor too late," Icarus replied.

Her cherry lips parted in surprise. "You came specifically to pick me up?"

"Mhmm." he nodded.

Seeing the perplexed expression on Chloe's face, Icarus paused for a moment before explaining, "I was having dinner nearby with Harry and saw on his social media that you were also in the area."

“I see...”

“I thought it might be inconvenient for you to hail a ride at this time of night, so I came to offer you a ride home,” Icarus continued.

“It’s already so late, and it’ll be midnight by the time we arrive at my place,” she pointed out.

“It’s fine. I’ve been having trouble sleeping these past few days and usually stay up late,

Icarus said.

At this point, Chloe found no reason to refuse his kind offer.

Joseph took Toto for a walk, but as soon as they left the villa, Toto sat on the ground, panting and refusing to go.

Toto had already been taken out for a walk five times tonight. Any more and it would

die!

However, Joseph showed no mercy and reprimanded, “You eat so much every day. You’ve gained a few pounds, so you have to exercise more to lose the weight.”

It was Chloe’s turn to take Toto for a walk tonight, yet there was no sign of her despite it being already so late.

“What kind of dinner party lasts for five or six hours? Even the Fairlight board meetings never go on this long! Baxon can’t get any work done, but they sure knew how to organize a party,” Joseph muttered.

Toto had no way to express its frustration, feeling like it was being dragged into the human squabbles.

As Joseph and Toto were completing their tenth lap around the neighborhood, a car light shone from the entrance. Soon enough, it stopped at the gate and Chloe stepped

out.

Joseph stood in the shade of the trees, his stern face softening for a moment when he saw her. But that moment was fleeting as his expression turned dark again when he saw that it was not a cab, but a car driven by Icarus.

'So she didn't come home to take care of Toto because she was hanging out with another man? Great. This is just great.'

Chloe thanked Icarus before both of them went their separate ways.

The dark sky loomed over her as she walked toward the neighborhood. However, Toto's fur and Joseph's towering figure made it easy for Chloe to spot them. Her lips curved upwards and her eyes lit up, thinking that Joseph had come to pick her up.

However, as they drew closer, she noticed that his face was as black as the bottom of a burnt pot. She sobered up a little and asked, "Are you in a bad mood?"

"Do you not realize what you've forgotten?" Joseph asked in a deep voice.

She was stunned for a few seconds. Just when she was about to shake her head, Toto barked, as if it was reminding her.

As she turned to look at Toto, she finally remembered. "It was my turn to walk the dog today!"

They had made an agreement to take turns walking Toto at night. Since yesterday was

Joseph's turn, today was hers.

Joseph sneered and sarcastically taunted her, "I thought you enjoyed your ride so much that you'd forgotten about it."

"Thank you very much. I'll walk Toto tomorrow and the day after tomorrow," Chloe

said.

To her, Joseph had always been like this. He would mock her every now and then, so she did not realize that something was wrong. But to Joseph, it appeared that she was feigning ignorance out of a sense of guilt. He smiled

and spoke in his usual low, magnetic voice, but what came out of his mouth was unpleasant.

“I told you not to fool around with men of questionable character during the contract

We You Thi

sperut

period. Are you really that desperate?”

“What nonsense are you talking about?”

“Am I talking nonsense, or are you just too afraid to admit it?”

“I have no idea what you’re talking about. I don’t understand why you have to accuse me like this,” Chloe said.

The branches rustled and a few leaves fell on Joseph’s shoulder. Without moving, he stared straight at Chloe and sneered. “I saw the man who dropped you off earlier. No matter how you try to deny it, you can’t change the fact that he’s not just a normal friend.”

“We are just normal friends!” Chloe protested.

“There’s only one neighborhood here, and he definitely doesn’t live nearby. Would a normal friend’ drive you home so late at night?” Joseph asked.

‘Does she think I’m an idiot? How could she expect me to believe her when she gives such a lame excuse?’

“You don’t want to come and pick me up, so do you expect me to refuse when someone offers me a ride?” Chloe said, throwing caution to the wind.

“Come on. You live a life of luxury and don’t have to take a cab at night. You have no idea how difficult it is to get a ride at this hour, especially in such a remote area. You’re just lying around at home doing nothing, so why can’t I accept it when someone offers to take me home? Why do you keep harping on about it?!”

Chapter 93 It Isn’t Dead Yet

Joseph stared at her intensely, his anger rising as he let out a sarcastic laugh. "Did you ask me to pick you up?"

"Would you have if I had asked?" she shot back.

Joseph fell silent. The answer was no. But if he had known that Chloe could not get a ride and had to be brought home by another man, he would have gone to get her. After all, this woman was so foolish that she would not realize if someone was going to harm

her.

Seeing that he was unresponsive, Chloe had her answer. She forced a bitter smile, turned around, and headed toward the residential area.

Joseph frowned and handed her the leash.

Chloe looked at the leash and asked, "What do you mean by this?"

"I haven't walked the dog yet today," he said.

"You haven't walked the dog this late?!" Chloe exclaimed.

"Well, you should've come back earlier," he replied curtly.

Chloe took a deep breath and suppressed the urge to argue with him. She grabbed the leash and headed toward the garden at the back of the residential area.

Toto yelped in protest, "Please don't do this! I've already walked ten laps!"

As Chloe strolled with Toto in their usual spot, she noticed that it seemed exhausted. It seemed to her that Toto had been walking for a long time as it was panting heavily.

"Is your stomach still upset, Toto?" she asked with concern.

"Woof! Woof! Woof!" Toto barked in response, protesting that it was not the case and that it was just tired from all the walking.

Chloe did not know what to do since Toto refused to take another step. After scanning her surroundings and determining that there was no one in the

vicinity, she decided to release the leash. "Go for a little walk on your own, and then we'll head back home."

However, Toto did not run around and play like it usually did, choosing instead to just lie at Chloe's feet. She could not help but worry that Toto's stomach was acting up

again.

Just when she bent down to check on it, a large dog suddenly leaped out from the greenery and pounced on Toto. Chloe was startled and took several steps back. At first, she thought it was the same Golden Retriever they had encountered before. But when Toto growled, she realized that something was wrong. Upon closer inspection, she discovered that it was a German Shepherd that was attacking Toto!

In an instant, the two dogs were locked in a vicious fight, biting and clawing at each other. Chloe was stunned. Although Toto was intelligent for a Border Collie, it did not stand a chance against a German Shepherd in a fight.

She tried to rush over and grab Toto's collar to separate the two dogs, but every time she touched the collar, she was thrown off and almost got herself injured several times.

As Toto's stamina waned, the German Shepherd took advantage of the opportunity and pounced, viciously tearing into its flesh. She was at a loss for how to handle the situation since she had no experience raising dogs.

She wanted to call Joseph for help, but before she could do so, a middle-aged man sauntered over, lazily calling out the German Shepherd's name.

"Is this your dog?" Chloe asked.

"Yeah," he replied, watching the two dogs fight without any intention of stopping them. He complained, "Why isn't your dog on a leash?"

"Your dog ran over first. Also, don't talk about that right now. Get your dog away," Chloe said.

"Why don't you do it?" he shot back.

“If I could separate them, I wouldn’t have asked you!” Chloe watched helplessly as Toto’s thigh was bitten and blood oozed out. She could not help but yell at the man, “Hurry up, your dog has injured my dog!”

man,

The man reluctantly came over and pulled the German Shepherd away. “It’s not like it killed your dog. Why are you yelling so loudly?”

Chloe’s fingers trembled as she turned on her flashlight to examine Toto’s wounds. Hearing the man’s disdainful remark, she suddenly stood up and lashed out, “I may not have had the leash on, but I made sure there were no people around before letting my dog go.

“What about you? Where were you when your dog ran over? If you can’t keep up with a dog because you’re old, then you shouldn’t have one as a pet!”

The man grew even more upset at her words, glaring at her with a fierce and menacing expression. “Say that again. I dare you!”

Jojo and Coco’s Unexpected Love By Aurora Summers

Chapter 94 Plagiarism

The neighborhood was quiet despite being in a bustling area. There were no people in the surrounding area, especially at night.

To be honest, there was nothing she could do if the middle-aged man in front of her decided to do anything to her.

Chloe’s palms were sweating, but she did not back down. “What are you going to do to me if I say it again? I did nothing wrong. You were the one who failed to keep an eye on your dog, and now you have the audacity to shift the blame on me. The regulations in Aesper prohibit the ownership of German Shepherds. I have the right to report you.”

As soon as Chloe said she was going to report him, the man faltered and did not say anything more. He pulled his dog away and quickly left.

Chloe let out a sigh of relief and called Joseph to come over.

Five minutes later, Joseph arrived. He was wearing a cotton shirt, and his expression was gloomy and terrifying under the night sky.

“You didn’t put Toto on a leash?” he asked.

“I did. I let it go for a few minutes behind the garden,” she replied.

“Are you an idiot? Don’t you know that it’s against the law to walk a dog without a leash?” he scolded.

“I know, but I only let it go for a short while and there was no one around,” Chloe defended herself.

“That means Toto wasn’t on a leash for at least a few minutes. It’s still unacceptable.”

“But there was nobody around us at that time. How was I supposed to know that a German Shepherd would suddenly appear?” Chloe said.

She felt sorry for Toto. Even though Toto was not her dog, she loved the dog.

Joseph’s face sank a little. “Are you still trying to argue with me?”

“Let’s not argue for now,” Chloe said weakly, “Please take a look at Toto’s injuries.”

In truth, Toto did not seem too badly hurt. Despite limping, it was still affectionately nudging them and asking for pets.

Joseph pushed aside Toto’s fur and saw the wound caused by the German Shepherd’s

bite. It was only one wound, but it was deep, and blood was flowing out continuously.

Chloe felt self-reproachful seeing the wound. “I did try to separate the two dogs, but I wasn’t successful.”

Upon hearing this, Joseph’s anger rose again.

‘Is she an idiot? She actually tried to pull apart two large dogs with her bare hands. Moreover, the other dog’s origins were unknown. It could’ve been carrying bacteria that could be dangerous if it bit her.’

“Are you taking Toto to the vet?” she asked.

“Yes.”

Just when Chloe wanted to go back and get some disinfectant wipes to clean the wound, she heard Joseph say, “I’ll take Toto there myself.”

Chloe bit her lip hard, wanting to explain that it was not her intention to let Toto get hurt. She looked up, but upon seeing the stern and cold expression on Joseph’s face, she swallowed her words back and nodded.

At this point, it was more important to take care of Toto’s injuries first. It was better to keep quiet and avoid another argument.

Chloe had a long day and went to bed immediately after washing up.

The following day, the alarm clock jolted her awake. She rubbed her bleary eyes as she stumbled out of the room to check on Toto. She looked around the courtyard but Toto and Joseph were nowhere to be found. She felt a little bit worried about them and sent a message to Joseph to ask about their whereabouts.

After washing up, she grabbed an umbrella and walked along the path in the residential area. Suddenly, she came across a few property staff talking to a man who seemed to be agitated. She did not pay much attention to them until she got closer and realized it was the owner of the German Shepherd from last night.

“According to the contract, it is explicitly stated that you’re not allowed to keep banned dog breeds in the city, which is a violation of public security regulations. If you don’t send the dog back to your village within three days, we’ll have to take compulsory measures,” one of the staff members said.

“I won’t comply. The house and the dog are both mine. If you want to use force, go ahead!” the man retorted.

“Calm down, sir. We’re trying to work something out with you. If the police come, not

only will you be fined, but your dog will also be taken away,” another staff member replied calmly.

The man grew increasingly agitated. “How dare you threaten to take my dog away! Do you know who my daughter is?!”

The staff sneered. “We don’t know who your daughter is, but the person our manager mentioned is definitely not someone your daughter can afford to mess with.”

Chloe lowered her gaze and hurried off to Baxon without stopping. It was likely that this man’s habit of walking his dog without a leash had led to numerous reports from other residents, which ultimately forced the property management to take action.

Such people brought their troubles on themselves. It was not a big deal to raise a German Shepherd, but if they could not manage it properly, that would be a problem.

In the end, dogs fighting with each other was a minor issue, but if they attacked people, especially children or the elderly, that would be a major problem.

Chloe bought herself a cup of coffee and some croissants at a coffee shop below Baxon. She had just placed the breakfast on her desk when her superior slammed a folder onto it, spilling coffee all over her keyboard.

“How could you claim someone else’s ideas as your own?! Do you have no shame?!”

Chapter 95 Go Apologize to Patterson

Chloe’s mind went blank for a few seconds, and when she came around to her senses, her first reaction was that there must have been a misunderstanding.

“I didn’t plagiarize anything. Did you make a mistake, sir?”

“Even if I made a mistake, do you think Patterson would have made the same mistake? They called me this morning to inform me,” her superior retorted.

“That’s impossible, I didn’t plagiarize. The latest version was revised according to their requirements. I didn’t even have the chance to plagiarize,” Chloe said.

“The proposal you submitted to Patterson has a fifty percent similarity to a proposal on the Internet. What do you have to say about that?” her superior said, clearly not believing in her.

“Submitted...” Chloe suddenly remembered something and picked up the folder stained with coffee to examine it. After scanning through it, she could not believe what she saw. “This isn’t the proposal I revised.”

“It wasn’t written by you, so it must be someone else who’s framing you, right?” Her superior sneered.

“It’s not mine. Yesterday, I went out to dinner with everyone, and the proposal was almost complete by then. David offered to handle the final touches as he wasn’t coming with us,” Chloe explained.

Lily nodded in agreement. “Yes, that’s right. I can vouch for her. Ms. Chloe was with us last night.”

“Where’s David?” her superior asked.

David immediately stood up and said, “I swear it has nothing to do with me. I followed Chloe’s instructions and made the revisions before I left to pick up my wife last night.”

“But you were the only one with the opportunity to make the final changes,” Lily refuted softly.

“What are you saying? I was working hard in the office while you all were out having fun. Now, you’re blaming me for everything? Besides, the final copy was sent out from Chloe’s email,” David said, “Sir, it really isn’t me.”

“I didn’t send that email. I was going to send it this morning,” Chloe denied.

“Really? Why don’t you check your email and see for yourself?” David sneered.

Everyone nodded in agreement. Chloe turned on her laptop to let her superior check her email.

After looking through it, her superior’s face turned red with anger.

It was true that Chloe had not sent an email to Patterson last night. Instead, she had set it to send at seven the next morning. However, there was a link to

a website on her desktop. Upon clicking it, the link brought them to an article that was exactly like her proposal.

Chloe stood frozen in place, her pale face now drained of all color.

“It wasn’t me... It really wasn’t me,” she whispered.

Compared to the newly appointed leader who had just joined them a few months ago, her colleagues were more inclined to believe David, who had been working with them for five years. Apart from Lily, no one believed Chloe. Even the skeptical employees who had initially kept an open mind were now convinced that it was her fault.

“I told you. She’s too young to be a team leader. She has no real ability,” one employee scoffed.

“She does have the ability, but not enough to match her current position,” another chimed in.

“I wonder how she got through the interview,” a third said.

“Do you not know? Mr. Maurice said it was all about her looks.”

“Hmm... Looks alone won’t cut it. In some critical moments, you might have to sell your body.”

Chloe clenched her fists tightly by her side, feeling disappointed as she watched her former colleagues tear off their masks of pretense and heap scorn upon her.

“Enough. Instead of wasting time with this gossip, let’s think about how we’re going to explain this to Patterson,” their superior snapped, glaring at them before turning to Chloe and issuing a stern command. “You have half a day to come up with a solution. If

you can’t figure it out, resign on your own accord.”

“I understand. Not only will I solve this problem, but I’ll also expose the person who did this to me,” Chloe vowed.

David’s smile froze on his face. He was so angry that he could feel his teeth grinding

together. He was determined to kick Chloe out, and he would not change his mind now!

After everyone dispersed, Lily nervously asked Chloe, "What should we do? We only have half a day, and our boss clearly wants to kick you out."

Chloe forced a smile and reassured her, "Don't worry, it's just a job. There are plenty of opportunities in Aesper. Right now, the priority is to revise the document and send it to

Patterson."

"But can you finish it in such a short time?" Lily asked with concern.

"I can. I already made some revisions yesterday, and it's all in my head. Don't worry about me," Chloe replied confidently.

Lily nodded profusely, "Yes! I believe in you, Ms. Chloe!"

Chloe then got to work on the revisions at lightning speed. Two hours later, she finished and called the project manager at Patterson, her heart pounding with anxiety. However, before she could even apologize, she was greeted by a cold, mechanical voice.

"Hello, the number you have dialed cannot be reached. Please try again later."

Chloe's heart sank. Her number had been blocked.

After thinking for a few minutes, she made a decisive decision. She grabbed her laptop and headed downstairs to hail a cab to Patterson. Being blocked meant the other party was truly angry, and perhaps apologizing in person would show more sincerity.

Chapter 96 They Might Already Be Family

Chloe got into the cab and told the driver where to go.

"Oh, you're going to Patterson. I know that area well," the driver responded.

"Please drive faster. I have an urgent matter to attend to," Chloe requested.

"All right, I promise you'll be there in no time!" the driver replied.

In the next second, another car came around the corner toward them. The driver's pupils contracted, and he quickly hit the brakes. Unfortunately, they were going too fast and could not stop in time.

There was a loud crash as the two cars collided.

Thankfully, both drivers' reactions were quick. Chloe's body flew forward a little, but she did not hit the window.

'I thought this guy said he was a professional...'

"Are you crazy?! Why were you driving so fast?! My employer has a heart condition. Can you afford the consequences if something happens?!" Mateo angrily questioned the driver as he got out of the car.

The cab driver knew it was his fault. Just when he was about to apologize, his face turned pale when he saw the other car. It was a Lincoln worth millions.

"I'm toast," he muttered to himself.

Chloe got out of the car and looked at the person inside the other car. She was surprised and exclaimed, "Grandpa!"

When Harold saw that it was her, he smiled brightly, "Chloe? What are you doing here?"

"I'm going to deliver some documents," she replied, glancing at the cab driver. "I have an urgent matter to attend to, so I told the driver to drive faster. Are you okay, Grandpa?"

"I'm fine. Mateo, don't give the driver a hard time. Car accidents happen all the time," Harold said as he beckoned at Chloe. "Come on up. It's not easy to hail a cab halfway through the journey. Let me give you a ride."

11

She did not have time to waste, so she picked up her document folder and got into the

car.

"Where are you headed?"

“Patterson, Grandpa. It’s hard to find parking there. You can just drop me off somewhere nearby.”

“Why do you have to go out to work at this hour? Hasn’t Joseph assigned you an easier job?”

Chloe paused for a moment and quickly explained, “Grandpa, you misunderstand. I don’t work at his office.”

“Then where are you working?”

“I’m working at Baxon.”

Harold sat up straight. “That scoundrel didn’t give you a job in his office?”

Fairlight was at least a publicly listed company. Why would he let his granddaughter-in-law work at a company with a bad reputation like Baxon?

“No... This isn’t Joseph’s fault.” Chloe struggled to find the right words. “I just don’t want us to be together all the time. After all, women need to have their own careers.”

“Our family can certainly afford to support you,” Harold said, his voice thick with concern. “I should ask that scoundrel to open a store for you and let you be the boss instead. It’s much easier than your current job, and it’s a career path too.”

“But being too comfortable might make me lazy,” replied Chloe.

“If you become lazy, then just focus on having babies. Give birth to obedient grandchildren, and I’ll help you take care of them so you won’t have to worry about anything,” Harold suggested.

At the mention of children, Chloe immediately tensed up and changed the subject. If they continued this topic, she feared she would sink into the wonderful life planned by Harold and be unable to extricate herself when the contract between her and Joseph

ended.

Fortunately, it did not take long to arrive at Patterson. Chloe hastily got out of the car and ran into the building.

Upstairs, Alexander watched everything happen with great clarity.

The number plate of the luxury car under the Whitmans' name was very impressive, and the numbers on the Lincoln Chloe was in were all eights. Those who knew Harold would instantly recognize the car as belonging to the Whitmans.

It was likely that Chloe and Joseph were already family since she was able to ride in Harold's car. They probably had their own reasons for not making their relationship public.

After a moment of thought, Alexander instructed his secretary on what to do next.

"If you find the timeline challenging or the modifications too difficult, you could have told us. But using someone else's work as your own? What do you take us for? Fools?"

The Patterson project manager initially had a good impression of Chloe, but now he was furious and did not bother to hide it.

Chloe nervously placed the folder in front of him and apologized, "I'm sorry. You may not believe me, but that email sent from my email this morning wasn't from me. This one on the desk is the proposal I wanted to submit to Patterson."

"I'm busy, so stop wasting my time. If you came here just to tell me this, you can leave now," the project manager said impatiently. He did not even look at Chloe's proposal and asked her to leave.

Chloe's grip on her phone tightened and her voice became parched. "Sorry to bother. you."

That's right. They were just business partners, and the final result was what mattered. to each other. They did not care about the process.

"Ma'am, please hold on." A secretary walked up to Chloe with a gentle smile. Chloe turned around, hesitation in her voice. "Are you talking to me?"

Chapter 97 She Probably Used Her Body

“Yes, ma’am,” the secretary looked at Chloe and said, “Can you wait for a few minutes?”

Although Chloe did not understand why, she nodded.

The secretary pulled the project manager to the side and whispered something into his ear. He looked shocked and his expression changed, but he nodded repeatedly, indicating that he understood what he needed to do.

After he and the secretary were finished talking, he approached Chloe and his attitude changed drastically.

“I’m so sorry for my attitude earlier, Ms. Chloe. Can you give me another chance to sit down and talk things out?”

Chloe was stunned for a few seconds before exclaiming, “Of course, we can!”

After taking about ten minutes to review the newly revised proposal, the project manager said earnestly, “It’s very good. Let’s go with this version.”

“A-Are you sure?” Chloe asked in disbelief.

“I have faith in your ability,” he replied.

Chloe was overjoyed, feeling incredibly grateful for the manager’s trust in her. “Thank you. I’ll get out of your hair now. Have a pleasant day.”

“Wait. I called your superior this morning to tell him that you plagiarized the proposal. He must have misunderstood,” he said.

“I’m the person in charge of this project. If there’s a problem, it’s my fault,” she replied with a wry smile. She jokingly added, “I didn’t handle this carefully enough and caused

so much trouble.”

She and her colleagues only had a professional relationship and had to prioritize the company’s interests. Furthermore, she had Lily who believed in her.

Remembering what the secretary had said, the project manager suggested, “How about this? This is my fault too. I’ll go back with you to Baxon to explain to your supervisor.”

Chloe was so surprised that her eyes widened. “No, no! It’s okay. I’ll go back and talk to my superior. You don’t have to come with me.”

However, he insisted on accompanying her. Chloe could not understand his change of

heart, but she did not say anything more. He meant well, and rejecting his offer would have been rude.

When Chloe’s superior saw the project manager from Patterson, he greeted him

warmly and led him into the office. Chloe could not hear what they were talking about inside. Lily came over and asked curiously, “So did you get it done?”

“Yeah... But it’s a little weird.”

“At least we got it done. Who cares about the rest?” Lily said, casting a glance at David, who was surreptitiously listening in. “We prioritize doing things correctly and maintaining proper conduct, unlike those who enjoy speaking ill of others behind their backs.”

Chloe followed her gaze and looked at David. Realizing that they knew he was eavesdropping, David cleared his throat guiltily and glared at Lily. “Who are you talking about?”

“Whoever speaks ill of me, I’ll do the same to them,” Lily replied confidently.

Sneering coldly, David mumbled under his breath, “She probably used her body to get ahead. What’s there to be proud of?”

The Patterson project manager accompanied Chloe to Baxon to clarify the situation. during his lunch break. It was clear that something had happened between them as it was unusual for ordinary people to receive such a treatment. Chloe’s department colleagues looked at her contemptuously as if they all knew what had transpired.

She scanned their faces, and her eyebrows furrowed tightly. She had not wanted to have a fallout with them, but it seemed like they all believed in David.

After the project manager left, their superior took the initiative to apologize to Chloe. "I'm sorry, Chloe. I should've believed you. Please don't take it to heart."

"I'm sure that I didn't touch my laptop from seven yesterday until nine this morning. Although the misunderstanding has been cleared up, there's still a chance that some people may have the wrong idea about me."

Her superior thought Chloe was still upset and offered, "I'll give you a few days off to rest. You've been through a lot."

"I don't want to take time off. I want to check the surveillance footage. Whoever touched my laptop after work yesterday is most certainly the culprit."

As soon as she said this, David's expression changed dramatically, and he was the first to object.

"I don't think that's necessary. The matter has already been resolved. Why waste time finding out who the culprit is?"

"It's not a waste of time. Patterson was gracious enough to let this pass, but there may be others who will try to frame me again in the future."

Chloe's superior felt that she was right and promptly contacted the security office.

A USB drive was quickly delivered to their superior, who took it back to his office and plugged it into his computer. He fast-forwarded the footage, and in the end, he saw David sneakily opening Chloe's laptop after everyone had left!

He could not contain his anger and yelled for David to come into his office.

Jojo and Coco's Unexpected Love By Aurora Summers

Chapter 98 Deciding to Resign

At first, David denied everything, claiming that he was only looking for some information. However, after he was pressured by their superior, he eventually confessed.

He was envious of Chloe's promotion to team leader shortly after joining the company and had made a rash decision.

Their superior was furious and scolded, "We need to cooperate with clients from Estre all year round, and with her top-notch Estrenian language skills and experience in leading a team, Chloe is more qualified and capable than you. There's no point in competing with her!"

David was resentful, but there was nothing he could do. The evidence was clear, and the truth was out.

Since David had been working at Baxon for five years, their superior just fired him. He left Baxon with his belongings in hand, his head hanging low and defeated.

Chloe had proven her innocence, and her colleagues quickly gathered around her, showering her with compliments. She responded to them with a fake smile on her face. She had not forgotten the things they had said this morning.

All of them were fair-weathered. They were fickle and only cared about themselves. Joseph was right. The work culture at Baxon was not great-full of scheming and backstabbing.

Chloe sat at her desk, and after a short contemplation, she decided to express her gratitude once again to the Patterson project manager. If it were not for his

intervention, there was a good chance that her superior would not have approved the request to access the surveillance footage.

The project manager responded with a text, saying that Chloe did not need to thank him and that she should thank Alexander instead. Chloe was confused, but before she could ask why, the project manager retracted his message.

[Don't mention it, Ms. Chloe. It was just a small favor. I'm really grateful that you were so kind and didn't blame me for my presumptuous behavior.]

As Chloe read the new message, the look of confusion on her face gradually faded. He must have sent the previous message to the wrong person.

She replied politely and ended the conversation.

Everything should have gone back to normal, but when Chloe went to the restroom in the afternoon, she overheard two women from her department chatting and laughing as they entered the restroom.

“The new team leader is pretty impressive. She managed to deal with that fellow at Patterson. Maybe she sold her body to get ahead,” one of the women snickered.

“Who knows? But she is young and beautiful. It wouldn’t be hard for her to seduce a man,” the other responded.

They then looked at each other and let out a laugh together.

Chloe’s expression darkened as she pushed the door to her cubicle open, startling the two women. They then greeted her awkwardly, “H-Hi, Ms. Chloe.”

Meanwhile, Chloe bent down at one of the sinks, washing her hands as her beautiful face with fair skin and delicate features was reflected in the mirror. Her downcast lashes shielded her emotions from view. She scrubbed her hands vigorously and did not stop even after they turned red.

Not hearing any response, the two female colleagues pursed their lips and left. At the same time, Chloe made a decision. If her superior wanted to dismiss her, then so be it.

The atmosphere at Baxon was toxic and she could feel the stress and negativity weighing down on her. Even though she had already cleared her name, some people still believed the lies that had been spread about her.

She decided to find a new job, but not at the moment. She was well aware of her financial capability and knew that she needed to take her time and explore all options. before making a move. It was time to be patient and search for better opportunities while keeping her current position as a backup plan.

As Chloe emerged from the restroom, she bumped into her superior. He repeated his offer for her to take a few paid days off to make amends for the recent turmoil.

This time, Chloe did not refuse.

She had not heard back from Joseph and wanted to personally check on Toto to make sure it had arrived home safely. However, her already low spirits were dampened further when she discovered she had started her period upon returning to the villa, and

Toto was still nowhere to be found.

Feeling down, she curled up on the sofa and did not want to move.

Just as she was about to drift off, the shrill sound of her phone ringing jolted her awake.

Assuming it was Joseph, she answered without looking at the caller ID.

“Ava told me that she didn’t take the money your mother left for you! Have deliberately trying to sow discord between us the entire time?!”

you been

The sound of Jake’s enraged voice pierced her ears and even caused a sharp pain in her

abdomen.

Chloe wondered if the manipulative behavior of a woman like Ava truly held an

irresistible charm that could cause a person’s intelligence to decline rapidly in just a

few months.

Jojo and Coco’s Unexpected Love By Aurora Summers

Chapter 99 Is a Dog More Worthy Than Me?

“What evidence do you have to prove that I lied to you?”

Jake was silent for a few seconds before he spoke with confidence, “And what evidence do you have to prove that Ava took the money your mother left for you?”

“The diamond necklace on her neck and Miles Upshaw from Sterling Law Associates can prove it!”

She found it ridiculous that she had to prove that something was rightfully hers.

Jake was speechless. It went without saying that he would not go to the law firm to verify whether Ava was lying or not. What he cared about was when he and Ava would make up. His parents had been asking him for the start-up capital for a while now.

Hearing silence from the other end of the line, Chloe hung up the phone.

Jake stared at the disconnected call, his brow furrowed tightly. He took a deep breath, knowing that other than the Johnsons, the only person who could help him now was his uncle. But he was worried about the relationship between Chloe and his uncle.

Jake gritted his teeth and went to Icarus with his last hope.

Sipping on a cup of tea, Icarus looked coolly at him and asked, “What’s the matter?”

“Uncle Icarus, I have no other choice. I need start-up capital. My dad promised me that if I get this money, he’ll let me start my own company and will also give me half of the projects under our family’s name.’

“I won’t give you money. Leave.”

“Uncle Icarus, I’m your nephew. Please don’t treat me like this. You’re the only person I can turn to now. If you don’t help me, my dad will give the company to that b*stard!”

Icarus was aware that Jake’s father was separated from his mother and had started a

relationship with another woman. He even had a son with that woman.

“What about the Johnsons?”

“Ava and I had a fight...”

“She refused to help you just because you two had a fight?” Icarus sneered.

“It was a pretty big fight this time...” Jake said, a hint of resentment crossing his eyes. He blamed everything on Chloe. If she had not appeared at the engagement party and

had not seduced his uncle, Ava and he would not have gotten into a fight, nor would his uncle refuse to help him now.

“Even if you guys had a big fight, you’re engaged. How could she not help you?”

Jake looked at Icarus in confusion and asked, “What do you mean, Uncle Icarus?”

Icarus pushed his gold-rimmed glasses up his nose and said calmly, “If she really loves you and cares about you, she’ll still help you when you’re in a difficult spot even though she’s angry. If Ava agrees to help you with this one time, I’ll put aside my prejudices. against her.”

Jake understood the implication of these words, but he was still skeptical. He thought that Chloe had filled his uncle’s head with lies. But for now, he could not think of a

better way, so he nodded and went to find Ava.

Not long after Jake left, Harry called Icarus and told him the gossip he had heard in the pantry that day.

“Chloe lives in a villa and attends an advanced culinary class. She can also easily call upon people from Patterson to testify for her. She doesn’t look like someone who has been abandoned by her family, but rather someone who has many suitors. If you really like her, I suggest you speed things up,” Harry said seriously.

Icarus placed his cup on the table and fell into thought. After a while, he said, “Okay. Thank you for your advice.”

Something happened to a project overseas, so Joseph went to Fairlight early in the morning to deal with it. By the time he solved the problem, he needed to attend another meeting. He had been so busy the whole day that he did not even take a break to eat.

Night fell.

After Patrick picked Joseph up, they went to pick Toto up from the vet. Toto did not look like it was injured at all as it was jumping and hopping around in high spirits.

By the time they arrived home, it was already nine o'clock.

As Joseph gazed upon the pitch-blackness in front of him, he reached out and pressed a switch on the wall, causing the warm glow of lights to fill the space. As the room brightened, he saw a pair of white canvas shoes placed in the hallway.

Joseph was observant. Even though Chloe had not told him, he knew that she wore canvas shoes for a few fixed days every month before switching to other shoes.

After he switched into his slippers and advanced toward the living room, he caught sight of Chloe sleeping on the couch, her brows furrowed in discontent at the sudden intrusion of the bright lights.

At this moment, Joseph's stomach growled loudly, and the hunger gnawing at his stomach made him urgently crave a hot meal. However, the cold kitchen told him that Chloe had not made any food.

He thought about the pain that women felt when they are on their period, and his heart softened. He did not wake up the sleeping woman to cook.

However, Toto was not aware of all this. It just felt that it had been separated from Chloe for too long, so it bounded on top of the couch and enthusiastically rubbed its furry head against her.

"Ugh..." Chloe was awakened by the noise, and when she saw the dog's head in front of her, she wrapped her arms around it, happy to find out that Toto was all right.

In the next second, she met Joseph's gaze. Remembering the man's irrationality last night, she immediately averted her eyes and focused on petting the dog.

Joseph froze.

'What does that mean? Is a dog more worthy than me of her attention?'

Chapter 100 Simple Dishes Taste Like Heaven.

Joseph's face sank. He stretched out his hand, revealing his prominent knuckles as he pointed at Chloe. "Go cook for me."

Chloe had a stomach ache and did not want to cook, so she said, "Let's order takeout."

"Sure, you pay for it then. I want seafood from Floria," Joseph said, looking at her fixedly as he saw through her intentions with a glance.

Floria was a famous seafood restaurant in Aesper. It carried a variety of fresh and cured seafood dishes, with oysters being its specialty. The prices were high, yet the portions were

small.

Chloe was stunned for a moment and said in disbelief, "How did you know I got paid today?"

"Really?" Joseph raised his eyebrows in surprise. "Then I should order more today."

Chloe opened the takeout app and handed her phone to Joseph. "Order whatever you want."

He casually ordered a few items. Chloe painfully paid for it and ordered a bowl of clam chowder as well. When the takeout arrived, Joseph realized that she had not ordered anything else for herself.

"Why are you so stingy with yourself?" he asked exasperatedly.

"Well, it's because I like you. I'd rather eat plain food than see you suffer," Chloe sarcastically retorted, but her voice was weak due to her stomach ache. Coupled with her innocent and harmless appearance, it aroused a protective instinct in those around her.

Joseph froze and his gaze grew deep. He was taken aback by the fact that she loved him so deeply that she would willingly go without food just to provide him with a satisfying meal. Even someone with a heart of stone would be touched by such affection.

Joseph pushed the oysters he had ordered toward her and said, "Let's eat together."

Chloe declined and pushed the plate away, signaling she had no appetite. Her stomach was aching and she was not in the mood for cold oysters at the moment. Instead, she preferred a warm bowl of soup.

Chloe held the bowl of clam chowder and sipped on it. As the warm soup filled her belly, happiness filled her face.

A furrow appeared on Joseph's forehead.

'Is this what people mean when they say simple dishes taste like heaven when eaten with a loved one?' he wondered.

He could not understand this feeling, but he could not help but be moved by it. An indescribable feeling slowly spread from a certain place in his heart. It was like a tender shoot

sprouting out of dry earth, growing and blossoming silently.

"Cough, cough, cough..."

Chloe accidentally choked on the soup, her face turning bright red as she urgently looked for water to drink.

Joseph snapped out of his thoughts and without hesitation, offered his own water cup to her.

Chloe, struggling to catch her breath, did not even think twice about whose cup it was and took a few sips. It went down smoothly and she felt much better. However, when she looked down at the cup in her hand, she was almost scared out of her wits.

'This is Joseph's cup! He gave me his cup?!'

From the moment she moved in, he had emphasized several times that she was not allowed to touch his personal belongings, so she had always remembered his words and never touched his items, even separating their laundry and using two separate washing machines. But this time, she had used his water cup...

Chloe dared not look at Joseph and quietly put the cup down. She lowered her head and ate silently.

Feeling a sudden thirst, Joseph picked up the glass and took a sip, not realizing that it was the same spot where Chloe had touched. As he finished drinking, he suddenly became aware of his own actions.

‘Why did I give her my cup?’

Despite the intimate gesture, he did not dwell on it and even took a few extra sips of water to quench his thirst.

The two of them ate the rest of their meal in silence, with Toto nudging Chloe’s leg and eyeing her soup hungrily.

Chloe lowered her head and looked at the wound on Toto’s leg. Since the dog’s fur was white, the bloodstain was particularly noticeable as the wound had yet to heal and Toto could not have a bath or the wound would get wet.

She pursed her lips and let out a long sigh. “I shouldn’t have let Toto loose yesterday.”

Joseph was rigid in his opinions, but technically speaking, he was in the right. The mistake he made was that he unfairly criticized her without distinguishing right from wrong at the beginning.

Of course, she did not voice this out loud. She was well aware that if she did, Joseph might start arguing with her again, and that was something she did not want to happen right now.

Joseph did not immediately change into his usual clothes upon returning home tonight. Instead, he undid the buttons on his white shirt and rolled up his sleeves to reveal his strong and powerful wrists. He was born with a noble demeanor, and every move and action he made

Chapter 100 Simple Dishes Taste Like Heaven

was filled with elegance.

His expression did not change, but the corners of his mouth curled up slightly. To show that he was the bigger person between them, he said, not realizing the smugness on his face, “Don’t worry. I won’t hold it against you.”

Chloe rolled her eyes, not believing a word of it.

“I ran into Grandpa today,” she said. She then told him everything that happened this afternoon, including the small accident she and Harold had got into.

To her surprise, Joseph calmly replied, “I know.”

“Huh? Grandpa told you about it?”

“Not only did he mention that he ran into you, but he also said that you were toiling away in the scorching summer heat, unable to take a lunch break as you had to go out for business.” He sneered, his voice chilly.

It seemed to Joseph that Harold was getting old and his mind was not working properly anymore. Harold wanted him to make Chloe the vice president of Fairlight but also expected him to handle all the work.

Such behavior was ridiculous and made Joseph want to laugh out loud.

Chapter 91 I'm His Maid

Chloe blinked her eyes, meeting Lily's curious gaze.

“I cook for him because I'm his maid,” she explained.

They lived under the same roof. They were devoid of the love and affection that a

married couple shared, but they shared the mundane chores of daily life. Was that not what a maid did?

If she was not a maid, then what was she?

Lily was stunned. “You're his maid?” she parroted.

“Yeah. Do I not look like one?”

Lily knew that wealthy families would often have strict requirements when hiring maids, but someone as beautiful as Chloe was a rare find. She could not help but feel a little disappointed. A person who could make the CEO of Patterson personally come out to greet them must be extraordinary in some way.

Besides, his height was perfect, his appearance was impeccable, and he had an extraordinary air about him. He was the dream man of every woman in the world.

But unfortunately, he was not Chloe's boyfriend.

"Why did you refuse to give Adam your number? If you could get together with him, you wouldn't have to work during the day and be a maid at night," said David.

David Lane was the oldest member of the team. He had been with Baxon for five years, and had expected to be promoted to team leader, but Chloe had beaten him to it. Therefore, he was always finding fault with her work.

Chloe glanced at him and said, "I don't like Adam. He's not my type."

"His father is the CEO of Patterson. If you marry him, you'll live a life of luxury and become a wealthy lady for the rest of your days. Isn't that the ultimate goal for women?" David pressed on.

Lily felt uncomfortable hearing this. "Not all women want to be housewives," she said.

"Come on, why do you girls try so hard to come to Baxon if you don't want to marry into a wealthy family?" David sneered.

Everyone knew that there were plenty of eligible men in big companies, and it was not uncommon for women to use work as an excuse to find a partner.

"Then why don't you shave your head?" Chloe joked.

"Why should I shave my head?" David asked in confusion.

"In ancient times, eunuchs all shaved their heads. Since you know women so well, you could have been an emperor's favored eunuch." Chloe chuckled.

David's face sank.

Upon their return to Baxon, Chloe threw herself into her work, her fingers tapping the keyboard in a steady rhythm, creating a crisp staccato of clicks. She diligently followed Patterson's advice and made revisions to the document, which was not supposed to be a daunting task. However, the word "feeling" mentioned by the other party posed a challenge.

In a world of infinite possibilities, each person had their own unique perception of feelings. If everyone felt the same way about something, it would not truly be considered a feeling.

To concentrate, Chloe put on her headphones and tuned out the world, immersing herself in soft, gentle music. When David emerged from the restroom, he saw Chloe sitting at her desk, diligently revising the proposal.

A hint of resentment flickered across his face. If it were not for this girl suddenly appearing out of nowhere, the position of team leader would have been his.

At this moment, everyone's phone in the office buzzed. It turned out that Patterson had changed the deadline for submitting the proposal and was now demanding it by

tomorrow.

Lily grumbled in annoyance, "Well, there goes our dinner plans for tonight."

"You guys can go ahead without me. I'm almost done," Chloe said as she removed her headphones.

"We can't let you stay here alone and work overtime," Lily replied.

The others chimed in, but their disappointment was evident.

David's eyes rolled and an idea took shape in his mind.

"You guys go ahead. My wife is working the night shift tonight, and I need to go pick her up. I'll take care of the remaining work," he said.

With that, he went to stand beside Chloe, asking about her progress on the proposal.

Chloe could not resist his enthusiasm, and since there were only some minor details left to adjust, she agreed.

That night, Chloe had a few drinks at the dinner table. Lily took several pictures of her to post on her social media. In the pictures, Chloe's cheeks were tinted with a rosy hue, her eyes appeared dreamy, and her long hair cascaded over her shoulders. She leaned lazily against Lily, revealing a slender and fair-skinned neck that exuded a charming and delicate feminine

air. Despite her innocent appearance, there was a subtle hint of coquettishness on her face.

As Harry scrolled through his social media feed, he came across the photo posted by Chloe's friend. It appeared to him that they were at a restaurant near Baxon. Harry quickly took a screenshot and sent it to Icarus along with the address.

"Chloe is having a department dinner tonight, and she seems to be drunk. Do you want to create an accidental encounter?" Harry asked.

Icarus looked at the photos of Chloe and replied with a smile, "I don't want to create an accidental encounter. I just want to be her driver."

The dinner ended at eleven o'clock. Lily's boyfriend came to pick her up and offered to give Chloe a ride. However, Chloe turned down his offer.

"It's okay. I'll just take a cab. Lily has had quite a few drinks, so please take care of her."

"Are you sure? It's not easy to get a cab at this time," he insisted.

Lying drunkenly in the back seat, Lily chimed in, "Ms. Chloe isn't going home. She's going to work as a maid. It's really tough!"

"At this time of night? Working as a maid?" Lily's boyfriend was surprised, and it was apparent that he had misunderstood the situation.

Chloe was speechless.

After sending Lily on her way, Chloe took out her phone and opened up a ride-hailing app. Suddenly, a BMW pulled up and parked in the adjacent parking space.

She looked up and saw Icarus stepping out of the car. With a gentle smile, he personally opened the passenger seat door, his gold-rimmed glasses exuding an air of refinement and elegance. "The ride you called for has arrived, madam. Please, get in."

Chapter 92 Are You That Desperate?

Chloe looked at her phone skeptically and said, "Strange. I haven't even started hailing a ride yet."

“That’s because I arrived just in time. Neither too early nor too late,” Icarus replied.

Her cherry lips parted in surprise. “You came specifically to pick me up?”

“Mhmm.” he nodded.

Seeing the perplexed expression on Chloe’s face, Icarus paused for a moment before explaining, “I was having dinner nearby with Harry and saw on his social media that you were also in the area.”

“I see...”

“I thought it might be inconvenient for you to hail a ride at this time of night, so I came to offer you a ride home,” Icarus continued.

“It’s already so late, and it’ll be midnight by the time we arrive at my place,” she pointed out.

“It’s fine. I’ve been having trouble sleeping these past few days and usually stay up late,

Icarus said.

At this point, Chloe found no reason to refuse his kind offer.

Joseph took Toto for a walk, but as soon as they left the villa, Toto sat on the ground, panting and refusing to go.

Toto had already been taken out for a walk five times tonight. Any more and it would

die!

However, Joseph showed no mercy and reprimanded, “You eat so much every day. You’ve gained a few pounds, so you have to exercise more to lose the weight.”

It was Chloe’s turn to take Toto for a walk tonight, yet there was no sign of her despite it being already so late.

“What kind of dinner party lasts for five or six hours? Even the Fairlight board meetings never go on this long! Baxon can’t get any work done, but they sure knew how to organize a party,” Joseph muttered.

Toto had no way to express its frustration, feeling like it was being dragged into the human squabbles.

As Joseph and Toto were completing their tenth lap around the neighborhood, a car light shone from the entrance. Soon enough, it stopped at the gate and Chloe stepped

out.

Joseph stood in the shade of the trees, his stern face softening for a moment when he saw her. But that moment was fleeting as his expression turned dark again when he saw that it was not a cab, but a car driven by Icarus.

‘So she didn’t come home to take care of Toto because she was hanging out with another man? Great. This is just great.’

Chloe thanked Icarus before both of them went their separate ways.

The dark sky loomed over her as she walked toward the neighborhood. However, Toto’s fur and Joseph’s towering figure made it easy for Chloe to spot them. Her lips curved upwards and her eyes lit up, thinking that Joseph had come to pick her up.

However, as they drew closer, she noticed that his face was as black as the bottom of a burnt pot. She sobered up a little and asked, “Are you in a bad mood?”

“Do you not realize what you’ve forgotten?” Joseph asked in a deep voice.

She was stunned for a few seconds. Just when she was about to shake her head, Toto barked, as if it was reminding her.

As she turned to look at Toto, she finally remembered. “It was my turn to walk the dog today!”

They had made an agreement to take turns walking Toto at night. Since yesterday was

Joseph’s turn, today was hers.

Joseph sneered and sarcastically taunted her, "I thought you enjoyed your ride so much that you'd forgotten about it."

"Thank you very much. I'll walk Toto tomorrow and the day after tomorrow," Chloe

said.

To her, Joseph had always been like this. He would mock her every now and then, so she did not realize that something was wrong. But to Joseph, it appeared that she was feigning ignorance out of a sense of guilt. He smiled and spoke in his usual low, magnetic voice, but what came out of his mouth was unpleasant.

"I told you not to fool around with men of questionable character during the contract

We You Thi

sperut

period. Are you really that desperate?"

"What nonsense are you talking about?"

"Am I talking nonsense, or are you just too afraid to admit it?"

"I have no idea what you're talking about. I don't understand why you have to accuse me like this," Chloe said.

The branches rustled and a few leaves fell on Joseph's shoulder. Without moving, he stared straight at Chloe and sneered. "I saw the man who dropped you off earlier. No matter how you try to deny it, you can't change the fact that he's not just a normal friend."

"We are just normal friends!" Chloe protested.

"There's only one neighborhood here, and he definitely doesn't live nearby. Would a normal friend' drive you home so late at night?" Joseph asked.

'Does she think I'm an idiot? How could she expect me to believe her when she gives such a lame excuse?'

“You don’t want to come and pick me up, so do you expect me to refuse when someone offers me a ride?” Chloe said, throwing caution to the wind.

“Come on. You live a life of luxury and don’t have to take a cab at night. You have no idea how difficult it is to get a ride at this hour, especially in such a remote area. You’re just lying around at home doing nothing, so why can’t I accept it when someone offers to take me home? Why do you keep harping on about it?!”

Chapter 93 It Isn’t Dead Yet

Joseph stared at her intensely, his anger rising as he let out a sarcastic laugh. “Did you ask me to pick you up?”

“Would you have if I had asked?” she shot back.

Joseph fell silent. The answer was no. But if he had known that Chloe could not get a ride and had to be brought home by another man, he would have gone to get her. After all, this woman was so foolish that she would not realize if someone was going to harm

her.

Seeing that he was unresponsive, Chloe had her answer. She forced a bitter smile, turned around, and headed toward the residential area.

Joseph frowned and handed her the leash.

Chloe looked at the leash and asked, “What do you mean by this?”

“I haven’t walked the dog yet today,” he said.

“You haven’t walked the dog this late?!” Chloe exclaimed.

“Well, you should’ve come back earlier,” he replied curtly.

Chloe took a deep breath and suppressed the urge to argue with him. She grabbed the leash and headed toward the garden at the back of the residential area.

Toto yelped in protest, “Please don’t do this! I’ve already walked ten laps!”

As Chloe strolled with Toto in their usual spot, she noticed that it seemed exhausted. It seemed to her that Toto had been walking for a long time as it was panting heavily.

“Is your stomach still upset, Toto?” she asked with concern.

“Woof! Woof! Woof!” Toto barked in response, protesting that it was not the case and that it was just tired from all the walking.

Chloe did not know what to do since Toto refused to take another step. After scanning her surroundings and determining that there was no one in the vicinity, she decided to release the leash. “Go for a little walk on your own, and then we’ll head back home.”

However, Toto did not run around and play like it usually did, choosing instead to just lie at Chloe’s feet. She could not help but worry that Toto’s stomach was acting up

again.

Just when she bent down to check on it, a large dog suddenly leaped out from the greenery and pounced on Toto. Chloe was startled and took several steps back. At first, she thought it was the same Golden Retriever they had encountered before. But when Toto growled, she realized that something was wrong. Upon closer inspection, she discovered that it was a German Shepherd that was attacking Toto!

In an instant, the two dogs were locked in a vicious fight, biting and clawing at each other. Chloe was stunned. Although Toto was intelligent for a Border Collie, it did not stand a chance against a German Shepherd in a fight.

She tried to rush over and grab Toto’s collar to separate the two dogs, but every time she touched the collar, she was thrown off and almost got herself injured several times.

As Toto’s stamina waned, the German Shepherd took advantage of the opportunity and pounced, viciously tearing into its flesh. She was at a loss for how to handle the situation since she had no experience raising dogs.

She wanted to call Joseph for help, but before she could do so, a middle-aged man sauntered over, lazily calling out the German Shepherd’s name.

“Is this your dog?” Chloe asked.

“Yeah,” he replied, watching the two dogs fight without any intention of stopping them. He complained, “Why isn’t your dog on a leash?”

“Your dog ran over first. Also, don’t talk about that right now. Get your dog away,” Chloe said.

“Why don’t you do it?” he shot back.

“If I could separate them, I wouldn’t have asked you!” Chloe watched helplessly as Toto’s thigh was bitten and blood oozed out. She could not help but yell at the man, “Hurry up, your dog has injured my dog!”

man,

The man reluctantly came over and pulled the German Shepherd away. “It’s not like it killed your dog. Why are you yelling so loudly?”

Chloe’s fingers trembled as she turned on her flashlight to examine Toto’s wounds. Hearing the man’s disdainful remark, she suddenly stood up and lashed out, “I may not have had the leash on, but I made sure there were no people around before letting my dog go.

“What about you? Where were you when your dog ran over? If you can’t keep up with a dog because you’re old, then you shouldn’t have one as a pet!”

The man grew even more upset at her words, glaring at her with a fierce and menacing expression. “Say that again. I dare you!”

Jojo and Coco’s Unexpected Love By Aurora Summers

Chapter 94 Plagiarism

The neighborhood was quiet despite being in a bustling area. There were no people in the surrounding area, especially at night.

To be honest, there was nothing she could do if the middle-aged man in front of her decided to do anything to her.

Chloe’s palms were sweating, but she did not back down. “What are you going to do to me if I say it again? I did nothing wrong. You were the one who failed to keep an eye on your dog, and now you have the audacity to shift the

blame on me. The regulations in Aesper prohibit the ownership of German Shepherds. I have the right to report you.”

As soon as Chloe said she was going to report him, the man faltered and did not say anything more. He pulled his dog away and quickly left.

Chloe let out a sigh of relief and called Joseph to come over.

Five minutes later, Joseph arrived. He was wearing a cotton shirt, and his expression was gloomy and terrifying under the night sky.

“You didn’t put Toto on a leash?” he asked.

“I did. I let it go for a few minutes behind the garden,” she replied.

“Are you an idiot? Don’t you know that it’s against the law to walk a dog without a leash?” he scolded.

“I know, but I only let it go for a short while and there was no one around,” Chloe defended herself.

“That means Toto wasn’t on a leash for at least a few minutes. It’s still unacceptable.”

“But there was nobody around us at that time. How was I supposed to know that a German Shepherd would suddenly appear?” Chloe said.

She felt sorry for Toto. Even though Toto was not her dog, she loved the dog.

Joseph’s face sank a little. “Are you still trying to argue with me?”

“Let’s not argue for now,” Chloe said weakly, “Please take a look at Toto’s injuries.”

In truth, Toto did not seem too badly hurt. Despite limping, it was still affectionately nudging them and asking for pets.

Joseph pushed aside Toto’s fur and saw the wound caused by the German Shepherd’s

bite. It was only one wound, but it was deep, and blood was flowing out continuously.

Chloe felt self-reproachful seeing the wound. "I did try to separate the two dogs, but I wasn't successful."

Upon hearing this, Joseph's anger rose again.

'Is she an idiot? She actually tried to pull apart two large dogs with her bare hands. Moreover, the other dog's origins were unknown. It could've been carrying bacteria that could be dangerous if it bit her.'

"Are you taking Toto to the vet?" she asked.

"Yes."

Just when Chloe wanted to go back and get some disinfectant wipes to clean the wound, she heard Joseph say, "I'll take Toto there myself."

Chloe bit her lip hard, wanting to explain that it was not her intention to let Toto get hurt. She looked up, but upon seeing the stern and cold expression on Joseph's face, she swallowed her words back and nodded.

At this point, it was more important to take care of Toto's injuries first. It was better to keep quiet and avoid another argument.

Chloe had a long day and went to bed immediately after washing up.

The following day, the alarm clock jolted her awake. She rubbed her bleary eyes as she stumbled out of the room to check on Toto. She looked around the courtyard but Toto and Joseph were nowhere to be found. She felt a little bit worried about them and sent a message to Joseph to ask about their whereabouts.

After washing up, she grabbed an umbrella and walked along the path in the residential area. Suddenly, she came across a few property staff talking to a man who seemed to be agitated. She did not pay much attention to them until she got closer and realized it was the owner of the German Shepherd from last night.

"According to the contract, it is explicitly stated that you're not allowed to keep banned dog breeds in the city, which is a violation of public security regulations. If you don't send the dog back to your village within three days, we'll have to take compulsory measures," one of the staff members said.

“I won’t comply. The house and the dog are both mine. If you want to use force, go ahead!” the man retorted.

“Calm down, sir. We’re trying to work something out with you. If the police come, not

only will you be fined, but your dog will also be taken away,” another staff member replied calmly.

The man grew increasingly agitated. “How dare you threaten to take my dog away! Do you know who my daughter is?!”

The staff sneered. “We don’t know who your daughter is, but the person our manager mentioned is definitely not someone your daughter can afford to mess with.”

Chloe lowered her gaze and hurried off to Baxon without stopping. It was likely that this man’s habit of walking his dog without a leash had led to numerous reports from other residents, which ultimately forced the property management to take action.

Such people brought their troubles on themselves. It was not a big deal to raise a German Shepherd, but if they could not manage it properly, that would be a problem.

In the end, dogs fighting with each other was a minor issue, but if they attacked people, especially children or the elderly, that would be a major problem.

Chloe bought herself a cup of coffee and some croissants at a coffee shop below Baxon. She had just placed the breakfast on her desk when her superior slammed a folder onto it, spilling coffee all over her keyboard.

“How could you claim someone else’s ideas as your own?! Do you have no shame?!”

Chapter 95 Go Apologize to Patterson

Chloe’s mind went blank for a few seconds, and when she came around to her senses, her first reaction was that there must have been a misunderstanding.

“I didn’t plagiarize anything. Did you make a mistake, sir?”

“Even if I made a mistake, do you think Patterson would have made the same mistake? They called me this morning to inform me,” her superior retorted.

“That’s impossible, I didn’t plagiarize. The latest version was revised according to their requirements. I didn’t even have the chance to plagiarize,” Chloe said.

“The proposal you submitted to Patterson has a fifty percent similarity to a proposal on the Internet. What do you have to say about that?” her superior said, clearly not believing in her.

“Submitted...” Chloe suddenly remembered something and picked up the folder stained with coffee to examine it. After scanning through it, she could not believe what she saw. “This isn’t the proposal I revised.”

“It wasn’t written by you, so it must be someone else who’s framing you, right?” Her superior sneered.

“It’s not mine. Yesterday, I went out to dinner with everyone, and the proposal was almost complete by then. David offered to handle the final touches as he wasn’t coming with us,” Chloe explained.

Lily nodded in agreement. “Yes, that’s right. I can vouch for her. Ms. Chloe was with us last night.”

“Where’s David?” her superior asked.

David immediately stood up and said, “I swear it has nothing to do with me. I followed Chloe’s instructions and made the revisions before I left to pick up my wife last night.”

“But you were the only one with the opportunity to make the final changes,” Lily refuted softly.

“What are you saying? I was working hard in the office while you all were out having fun. Now, you’re blaming me for everything? Besides, the final copy was sent out from Chloe’s email,” David said, “Sir, it really isn’t me.”

“I didn’t send that email. I was going to send it this morning,” Chloe denied.

“Really? Why don’t you check your email and see for yourself?” David sneered.

Everyone nodded in agreement. Chloe turned on her laptop to let her superior check her email.

After looking through it, her superior’s face turned red with anger.

It was true that Chloe had not sent an email to Patterson last night. Instead, she had set it to send at seven the next morning. However, there was a link to a website on her desktop. Upon clicking it, the link brought them to an article that was exactly like her proposal.

Chloe stood frozen in place, her pale face now drained of all color.

“It wasn’t me... It really wasn’t me,” she whispered.

Compared to the newly appointed leader who had just joined them a few months ago, her colleagues were more inclined to believe David, who had been working with them for five years. Apart from Lily, no one believed Chloe. Even the skeptical employees who had initially kept an open mind were now convinced that it was her fault.

“I told you. She’s too young to be a team leader. She has no real ability,” one employee scoffed.

“She does have the ability, but not enough to match her current position,” another chimed in.

“I wonder how she got through the interview,” a third said.

“Do you not know? Mr. Maurice said it was all about her looks.”

“Hmm... Looks alone won’t cut it. In some critical moments, you might have to sell your body.”

Chloe clenched her fists tightly by her side, feeling disappointed as she watched her former colleagues tear off their masks of pretense and heap scorn upon her.

“Enough. Instead of wasting time with this gossip, let’s think about how we’re going to explain this to Patterson,” their superior snapped, glaring at them

before turning to Chloe and issuing a stern command. “You have half a day to come up with a solution. If

you can’t figure it out, resign on your own accord.”

“I understand. Not only will I solve this problem, but I’ll also expose the person who did this to me,” Chloe vowed.

David’s smile froze on his face. He was so angry that he could feel his teeth grinding

together. He was determined to kick Chloe out, and he would not change his mind now!

After everyone dispersed, Lily nervously asked Chloe, “What should we do? We only have half a day, and our boss clearly wants to kick you out.”

Chloe forced a smile and reassured her, “Don’t worry, it’s just a job. There are plenty of opportunities in Aesper. Right now, the priority is to revise the document and send it to

Patterson.”

“But can you finish it in such a short time?” Lily asked with concern.

“I can. I already made some revisions yesterday, and it’s all in my head. Don’t worry about me,” Chloe replied confidently.

Lily nodded profusely, “Yes! I believe in you, Ms. Chloe!”

Chloe then got to work on the revisions at lightning speed. Two hours later, she finished and called the project manager at Patterson, her heart pounding with anxiety. However, before she could even apologize, she was greeted by a cold, mechanical voice.

“Hello, the number you have dialed cannot be reached. Please try again later.”

Chloe’s heart sank. Her number had been blocked.

After thinking for a few minutes, she made a decisive decision. She grabbed her laptop and headed downstairs to hail a cab to Patterson. Being blocked

meant the other party was truly angry, and perhaps apologizing in person would show more sincerity.

Chapter 96 They Might Already Be Family

Chloe got into the cab and told the driver where to go.

“Oh, you’re going to Patterson. I know that area well,” the driver responded.

“Please drive faster. I have an urgent matter to attend to,” Chloe requested.

“All right, I promise you’ll be there in no time!” the driver replied.

In the next second, another car came around the corner toward them. The driver’s pupils contracted, and he quickly hit the brakes. Unfortunately, they were going too fast and could not stop in time.

There was a loud crash as the two cars collided.

Thankfully, both drivers’ reactions were quick. Chloe’s body flew forward a little, but she did not hit the window.

‘I thought this guy said he was a professional...’

“Are you crazy?! Why were you driving so fast?! My employer has a heart condition. Can you afford the consequences if something happens?!” Mateo angrily questioned the driver as he got out of the car.

The cab driver knew it was his fault. Just when he was about to apologize, his face turned pale when he saw the other car. It was a Lincoln worth millions.

“I’m toast,” he muttered to himself.

Chloe got out of the car and looked at the person inside the other car. She was surprised and exclaimed, “Grandpa!”

When Harold saw that it was her, he smiled brightly, “Chloe? What are you doing here?”

“I’m going to deliver some documents,” she replied, glancing at the cab driver. “I have an urgent matter to attend to, so I told the driver to drive faster. Are you okay, Grandpa?”

“I’m fine. Mateo, don’t give the driver a hard time. Car accidents happen all the time,” Harold said as he beckoned at Chloe. “Come on up. It’s not easy to hail a cab halfway through the journey. Let me give you a ride.”

11

She did not have time to waste, so she picked up her document folder and got into the

car.

“Where are you headed?”

“Patterson, Grandpa. It’s hard to find parking there. You can just drop me off somewhere nearby.”

“Why do you have to go out to work at this hour? Hasn’t Joseph assigned you an easier job?”

Chloe paused for a moment and quickly explained, “Grandpa, you misunderstand. I don’t work at his office.”

“Then where are you working?”

“I’m working at Baxon.”

Harold sat up straight. “That scoundrel didn’t give you a job in his office?”

Fairlight was at least a publicly listed company. Why would he let his granddaughter-in-law work at a company with a bad reputation like Baxon?

“No... This isn’t Joseph’s fault.” Chloe struggled to find the right words. “I just don’t want us to be together all the time. After all, women need to have their own careers.”

“Our family can certainly afford to support you,” Harold said, his voice thick with concern. “I should ask that scoundrel to open a store for you and let you be the boss instead. It’s much easier than your current job, and it’s a career path too.”

“But being too comfortable might make me lazy,” replied Chloe.

“If you become lazy, then just focus on having babies. Give birth to obedient grandchildren, and I’ll help you take care of them so you won’t have to worry about anything,” Harold suggested.

At the mention of children, Chloe immediately tensed up and changed the subject. If they continued this topic, she feared she would sink into the wonderful life planned by Harold and be unable to extricate herself when the contract between her and Joseph

ended.

Fortunately, it did not take long to arrive at Patterson. Chloe hastily got out of the car and ran into the building.

Upstairs, Alexander watched everything happen with great clarity.

The number plate of the luxury car under the Whitmans’ name was very impressive, and the numbers on the Lincoln Chloe was in were all eights. Those who knew Harold would instantly recognize the car as belonging to the Whitmans.

It was likely that Chloe and Joseph were already family since she was able to ride in Harold’s car. They probably had their own reasons for not making their relationship public.

After a moment of thought, Alexander instructed his secretary on what to do next.

“If you find the timeline challenging or the modifications too difficult, you could have told us. But using someone else’s work as your own? What do you take us for? Fools?”

The Patterson project manager initially had a good impression of Chloe, but now he was furious and did not bother to hide it.

Chloe nervously placed the folder in front of him and apologized, “I’m sorry. You may not believe me, but that email sent from my email this morning wasn’t from me. This one on the desk is the proposal I wanted to submit to Patterson.”

“I’m busy, so stop wasting my time. If you came here just to tell me this, you can leave now,” the project manager said impatiently. He did not even look at Chloe’s proposal and asked her to leave.

Chloe’s grip on her phone tightened and her voice became parched. “Sorry to bother. you.”

That’s right. They were just business partners, and the final result was what mattered. to each other. They did not care about the process.

“Ma’am, please hold on.” A secretary walked up to Chloe with a gentle smile. Chloe turned around, hesitation in her voice. “Are you talking to me?”

Chapter 97 She Probably Used Her Body

“Yes, ma’am,” the secretary looked at Chloe and said, “Can you wait for a few minutes?”

Although Chloe did not understand why, she nodded.

The secretary pulled the project manager to the side and whispered something into his ear. He looked shocked and his expression changed, but he nodded repeatedly, indicating that he understood what he needed to do.

After he and the secretary were finished talking, he approached Chloe and his attitude changed drastically.

“I’m so sorry for my attitude earlier, Ms. Chloe. Can you give me another chance to sit down and talk things out?”

Chloe was stunned for a few seconds before exclaiming, “Of course, we can!”

After taking about ten minutes to review the newly revised proposal, the project manager said earnestly, “It’s very good. Let’s go with this version.”

“A-Are you sure?” Chloe asked in disbelief.

“I have faith in your ability,” he replied.

Chloe was overjoyed, feeling incredibly grateful for the manager’s trust in her. “Thank you. I’ll get out of your hair now. Have a pleasant day.”

“Wait. I called your superior this morning to tell him that you plagiarized the proposal. He must have misunderstood,” he said.

“I’m the person in charge of this project. If there’s a problem, it’s my fault,” she replied with a wry smile. She jokingly added, “I didn’t handle this carefully enough and caused

so much trouble.”

She and her colleagues only had a professional relationship and had to prioritize the company’s interests. Furthermore, she had Lily who believed in her.

Remembering what the secretary had said, the project manager suggested, “How about this? This is my fault too. I’ll go back with you to Baxon to explain to your supervisor.”

Chloe was so surprised that her eyes widened. “No, no! It’s okay. I’ll go back and talk to my superior. You don’t have to come with me.”

However, he insisted on accompanying her. Chloe could not understand his change of

heart, but she did not say anything more. He meant well, and rejecting his offer would have been rude.

When Chloe’s superior saw the project manager from Patterson, he greeted him

warmly and led him into the office. Chloe could not hear what they were talking about inside. Lily came over and asked curiously, “So did you get it done?”

“Yeah... But it’s a little weird.”

“At least we got it done. Who cares about the rest?” Lily said, casting a glance at David, who was surreptitiously listening in. “We prioritize doing things correctly and maintaining proper conduct, unlike those who enjoy speaking ill of others behind their backs.”

Chloe followed her gaze and looked at David. Realizing that they knew he was eavesdropping, David cleared his throat guiltily and glared at Lily. "Who are you talking about?"

"Whoever speaks ill of me, I'll do the same to them," Lily replied confidently.

Sneering coldly, David mumbled under his breath, "She probably used her body to get ahead. What's there to be proud of?"

The Patterson project manager accompanied Chloe to Baxon to clarify the situation. during his lunch break. It was clear that something had happened between them as it was unusual for ordinary people to receive such a treatment. Chloe's department colleagues looked at her contemptuously as if they all knew what had transpired.

She scanned their faces, and her eyebrows furrowed tightly. She had not wanted to have a fallout with them, but it seemed like they all believed in David.

After the project manager left, their superior took the initiative to apologize to Chloe." I'm sorry, Chloe. I should've believed you. Please don't take it to heart."

"I'm sure that I didn't touch my laptop from seven yesterday until nine this morning. Although the misunderstanding has been cleared up, there's still a chance that some people may have the wrong idea about me."

Her superior thought Chloe was still upset and offered, "I'll give you a few days off to rest. You've been through a lot."

"I don't want to take time off. I want to check the surveillance footage. Whoever touched my laptop after work yesterday is most certainly the culprit."

As soon as she said this, David's expression changed dramatically, and he was the first to object.

"I don't think that's necessary. The matter has already been resolved. Why waste time finding out who the culprit is?"

"It's not a waste of time. Patterson was gracious enough to let this pass, but there may be others who will try to frame me again in the future."

Chloe's superior felt that she was right and promptly contacted the security office.

A USB drive was quickly delivered to their superior, who took it back to his office and plugged it into his computer. He fast-forwarded the footage, and in the end, he saw David sneakily opening Chloe's laptop after everyone had left!

He could not contain his anger and yelled for David to come into his office.

Jojo and Coco's Unexpected Love By Aurora Summers

Chapter 98 Deciding to Resign

At first, David denied everything, claiming that he was only looking for some information. However, after he was pressured by their superior, he eventually confessed.

He was envious of Chloe's promotion to team leader shortly after joining the company and had made a rash decision.

Their superior was furious and scolded, "We need to cooperate with clients from Estre all year round, and with her top-notch Estrenian language skills and experience in leading a team, Chloe is more qualified and capable than you. There's no point in competing with her!"

David was resentful, but there was nothing he could do. The evidence was clear, and the truth was out.

Since David had been working at Baxon for five years, their superior just fired him. He left Baxon with his belongings in hand, his head hanging low and defeated.

Chloe had proven her innocence, and her colleagues quickly gathered around her, showering her with compliments. She responded to them with a fake smile on her face. She had not forgotten the things they had said this morning.

All of them were fair-weathered. They were fickle and only cared about themselves. Joseph was right. The work culture at Baxon was not great-full of scheming and backstabbing.

Chloe sat at her desk, and after a short contemplation, she decided to express her gratitude once again to the Patterson project manager. If it were not for his

intervention, there was a good chance that her superior would not have approved the request to access the surveillance footage.

The project manager responded with a text, saying that Chloe did not need to thank him and that she should thank Alexander instead. Chloe was confused, but before she could ask why, the project manager retracted his message.

[Don't mention it, Ms. Chloe. It was just a small favor. I'm really grateful that you were so kind and didn't blame me for my presumptuous behavior.]

As Chloe read the new message, the look of confusion on her face gradually faded. He must have sent the previous message to the wrong person.

She replied politely and ended the conversation.

Everything should have gone back to normal, but when Chloe went to the restroom in the afternoon, she overheard two women from her department chatting and laughing as they entered the restroom.

"The new team leader is pretty impressive. She managed to deal with that fellow at Patterson. Maybe she sold her body to get ahead," one of the women snickered.

"Who knows? But she is young and beautiful. It wouldn't be hard for her to seduce a man," the other responded.

They then looked at each other and let out a laugh together.

Chloe's expression darkened as she pushed the door to her cubicle open, startling the two women. They then greeted her awkwardly, "H-Hi, Ms. Chloe."

Meanwhile, Chloe bent down at one of the sinks, washing her hands as her beautiful face with fair skin and delicate features was reflected in the mirror. Her downcast lashes shielded her emotions from view. She scrubbed her hands vigorously and did not stop even after they turned red.

Not hearing any response, the two female colleagues pursed their lips and left. At the same time, Chloe made a decision. If her superior wanted to dismiss her, then so be it.

The atmosphere at Baxon was toxic and she could feel the stress and negativity weighing down on her. Even though she had already cleared her name, some people still believed the lies that had been spread about her.

She decided to find a new job, but not at the moment. She was well aware of her financial capability and knew that she needed to take her time and explore all options before making a move. It was time to be patient and search for better opportunities while keeping her current position as a backup plan.

As Chloe emerged from the restroom, she bumped into her superior. He repeated his offer for her to take a few paid days off to make amends for the recent turmoil.

This time, Chloe did not refuse.

She had not heard back from Joseph and wanted to personally check on Toto to make sure it had arrived home safely. However, her already low spirits were dampened further when she discovered she had started her period upon returning to the villa, and

Toto was still nowhere to be found.

Feeling down, she curled up on the sofa and did not want to move.

Just as she was about to drift off, the shrill sound of her phone ringing jolted her awake.

Assuming it was Joseph, she answered without looking at the caller ID.

“Ava told me that she didn’t take the money your mother left for you! Have deliberately trying to sow discord between us the entire time?!”

you been

The sound of Jake’s enraged voice pierced her ears and even caused a sharp pain in her

abdomen.

Chloe wondered if the manipulative behavior of a woman like Ava truly held an

irresistible charm that could cause a person's intelligence to decline rapidly in just a

few months.

Jojo and Coco's Unexpected Love By Aurora Summers

Chapter 99 Is a Dog More Worthy Than Me?

"What evidence do you have to prove that I lied to you?"

Jake was silent for a few seconds before he spoke with confidence, "And what evidence do you have to prove that Ava took the money your mother left for you?"

"The diamond necklace on her neck and Miles Upshaw from Sterling Law Associates can prove it!"

She found it ridiculous that she had to prove that something was rightfully hers.

Jake was speechless. It went without saying that he would not go to the law firm to verify whether Ava was lying or not. What he cared about was when he and Ava would make up. His parents had been asking him for the start-up capital for a while now.

Hearing silence from the other end of the line, Chloe hung up the phone.

Jake stared at the disconnected call, his brow furrowed tightly. He took a deep breath, knowing that other than the Johnsons, the only person who could help him now was his uncle. But he was worried about the relationship between Chloe and his uncle.

Jake gritted his teeth and went to Icarus with his last hope.

Sipping on a cup of tea, Icarus looked coolly at him and asked, "What's the matter?"

“Uncle Icarus, I have no other choice. I need start-up capital. My dad promised me that if I get this money, he’ll let me start my own company and will also give me half of the projects under our family’s name.’

“I won’t give you money. Leave.”

“Uncle Icarus, I’m your nephew. Please don’t treat me like this. You’re the only person I can turn to now. If you don’t help me, my dad will give the company to that b*stard!”

Icarus was aware that Jake’s father was separated from his mother and had started a

relationship with another woman. He even had a son with that woman.

“What about the Johnsons?”

“Ava and I had a fight...”

“She refused to help you just because you two had a fight?” Icarus sneered.

“It was a pretty big fight this time...” Jake said, a hint of resentment crossing his eyes. He blamed everything on Chloe. If she had not appeared at the engagement party and

had not seduced his uncle, Ava and he would not have gotten into a fight, nor would his uncle refuse to help him now.

“Even if you guys had a big fight, you’re engaged. How could she not help you?”

Jake looked at Icarus in confusion and asked, “What do you mean, Uncle Icarus?”

Icarus pushed his gold-rimmed glasses up his nose and said calmly, “If she really loves you and cares about you, she’ll still help you when you’re in a difficult spot even though she’s angry. If Ava agrees to help you with this one time, I’ll put aside my prejudices. against her.”

Jake understood the implication of these words, but he was still skeptical. He thought that Chloe had filled his uncle’s head with lies. But for now, he could not think of a

better way, so he nodded and went to find Ava.

Not long after Jake left, Harry called Icarus and told him the gossip he had heard in the pantry that day.

“Chloe lives in a villa and attends an advanced culinary class. She can also easily call upon people from Patterson to testify for her. She doesn’t look like someone who has been abandoned by her family, but rather someone who has many suitors. If you really like her, I suggest you speed things up,” Harry said seriously.

Icarus placed his cup on the table and fell into thought. After a while, he said, “Okay. Thank you for your advice.”

Something happened to a project overseas, so Joseph went to Fairlight early in the morning to deal with it. By the time he solved the problem, he needed to attend another meeting. He had been so busy the whole day that he did not even take a break to eat.

Night fell.

After Patrick picked Joseph up, they went to pick Toto up from the vet. Toto did not look like it was injured at all as it was jumping and hopping around in high spirits.

By the time they arrived home, it was already nine o’clock.

As Joseph gazed upon the pitch-blackness in front of him, he reached out and pressed a switch on the wall, causing the warm glow of lights to fill the space. As the room brightened, he saw a pair of white canvas shoes placed in the hallway.

Joseph was observant. Even though Chloe had not told him, he knew that she wore canvas shoes for a few fixed days every month before switching to other shoes.

After he switched into his slippers and advanced toward the living room, he caught sight of Chloe sleeping on the couch, her brows furrowed in discontent at the sudden intrusion of the bright lights.

At this moment, Joseph's stomach growled loudly, and the hunger gnawing at his stomach made him urgently crave a hot meal. However, the cold kitchen told him that Chloe had not made any food.

He thought about the pain that women felt when they are on their period, and his heart softened. He did not wake up the sleeping woman to cook.

However, Toto was not aware of all this. It just felt that it had been separated from Chloe for too long, so it bounded on top of the couch and enthusiastically rubbed its furry head against her.

"Ugh..." Chloe was awakened by the noise, and when she saw the dog's head in front of her, she wrapped her arms around it, happy to find out that Toto was all right.

In the next second, she met Joseph's gaze. Remembering the man's irrationality last night, she immediately averted her eyes and focused on petting the dog.

Joseph froze.

'What does that mean? Is a dog more worthy than me of her attention?'

Chapter 100 Simple Dishes Taste Like Heaven.

Joseph's face sank. He stretched out his hand, revealing his prominent knuckles as he pointed at Chloe. "Go cook for me."

Chloe had a stomach ache and did not want to cook, so she said, "Let's order takeout."

"Sure, you pay for it then. I want seafood from Floria," Joseph said, looking at her fixedly as he saw through her intentions with a glance.

Floria was a famous seafood restaurant in Aesper. It carried a variety of fresh and cured seafood dishes, with oysters being its specialty. The prices were high, yet the portions were

small.

Chloe was stunned for a moment and said in disbelief, "How did you know I got paid today?"

“Really?” Joseph raised his eyebrows in surprise. “Then I should order more today.”

Chloe opened the takeout app and handed her phone to Joseph. “Order whatever you want.”

He casually ordered a few items. Chloe painfully paid for it and ordered a bowl of clam chowder as well. When the takeout arrived, Joseph realized that she had not ordered anything else for herself.

“Why are you so stingy with yourself?” he asked exasperatedly.

“Well, it’s because I like you. I’d rather eat plain food than see you suffer,” Chloe sarcastically retorted, but her voice was weak due to her stomach ache. Coupled with her innocent and harmless appearance, it aroused a protective instinct in those around her.

Joseph froze and his gaze grew deep. He was taken aback by the fact that she loved him so deeply that she would willingly go without food just to provide him with a satisfying meal. Even someone with a heart of stone would be touched by such affection.

Joseph pushed the oysters he had ordered toward her and said, “Let’s eat together.”

Chloe declined and pushed the plate away, signaling she had no appetite. Her stomach was aching and she was not in the mood for cold oysters at the moment. Instead, she preferred a warm bowl of soup.

Chloe held the bowl of clam chowder and sipped on it. As the warm soup filled her belly, happiness filled her face.

A furrow appeared on Joseph’s forehead.

‘Is this what people mean when they say simple dishes taste like heaven when eaten with a loved one?’ he wondered.

He could not understand this feeling, but he could not help but be moved by it. An indescribable feeling slowly spread from a certain place in his heart. It was like a tender shoot

sprouting out of dry earth, growing and blossoming silently.

“Cough, cough, cough...”

Chloe accidentally choked on the soup, her face turning bright red as she urgently looked for water to drink.

Joseph snapped out of his thoughts and without hesitation, offered his own water cup to her.

Chloe, struggling to catch her breath, did not even think twice about whose cup it was and took a few sips. It went down smoothly and she felt much better. However, when she looked down at the cup in her hand, she was almost scared out of her wits.

‘This is Joseph’s cup! He gave me his cup?!’

From the moment she moved in, he had emphasized several times that she was not allowed to touch his personal belongings, so she had always remembered his words and never touched his items, even separating their laundry and using two separate washing machines. But this time, she had used his water cup...

Chloe dared not look at Joseph and quietly put the cup down. She lowered her head and ate silently.

Feeling a sudden thirst, Joseph picked up the glass and took a sip, not realizing that it was the same spot where Chloe had touched. As he finished drinking, he suddenly became aware of his own actions.

‘Why did I give her my cup?’

Despite the intimate gesture, he did not dwell on it and even took a few extra sips of water to quench his thirst.

The two of them ate the rest of their meal in silence, with Toto nudging Chloe’s leg and eyeing her soup hungrily.

Chloe lowered her head and looked at the wound on Toto’s leg. Since the dog’s fur was white, the bloodstain was particularly noticeable as the wound had yet to heal and Toto could not have a bath or the wound would get wet.

She pursed her lips and let out a long sigh. “I shouldn’t have let Toto loose yesterday.”

Joseph was rigid in his opinions, but technically speaking, he was in the right. The mistake he made was that he unfairly criticized her without distinguishing right from wrong at the beginning.

Of course, she did not voice this out loud. She was well aware that if she did, Joseph might start arguing with her again, and that was something she did not want to happen right now.

Joseph did not immediately change into his usual clothes upon returning home tonight. Instead, he undid the buttons on his white shirt and rolled up his sleeves to reveal his strong and powerful wrists. He was born with a noble demeanor, and every move and action he made

Chapter 100 Simple Dishes Taste Like Heaven

was filled with elegance.

His expression did not change, but the corners of his mouth curled up slightly. To show that he was the bigger person between them, he said, not realizing the smugness on his face, "Don't worry. I won't hold it against you."

Chloe rolled her eyes, not believing a word of it.

"I ran into Grandpa today," she said. She then told him everything that happened this afternoon, including the small accident she and Harold had got into.

To her surprise, Joseph calmly replied, "I know."

"Huh? Grandpa told you about it?"

"Not only did he mention that he ran into you, but he also said that you were toiling away in the scorching summer heat, unable to take a lunch break as you had to go out for business." He sneered, his voice chilly.

It seemed to Joseph that Harold was getting old and his mind was not working properly anymore. Harold wanted him to make Chloe the vice president of Fairlight but also expected him to handle all the work.

Such behavior was ridiculous and made Joseph want to laugh out loud.

