

## Repaid 331

### Chapter 331

Zoe silently and somberly walked down the stairs.

So that was how it felt to be scorned by a loved one. She was actually worried that she would break down for a moment.

But halfway down the stairs, a figure suddenly appeared at her side. She did not turn to find out who it was, but she could hear Jay's deep voice.

"Let me see you out." His voice was quiet, as if afraid he would scare her.

was the person she needed the

"Zoe..." he murmured nonetheless.

"Jay."

from the top of

that, Zoe

held out any expectations for him, just like how he left without returning while she was at the

allowed to stay here," Nancy

### Chapter 332

There were three days left until Cordy's trial.

Meanwhile, Sachs Enterprises was celebrating their anniversary.

They were not exactly keeping things quiet —the major media outlets were reporting it, at the very least.

Naturally, the articles online were peppered with titles such as 'Sachs Enterprise celebrates anniversary while disregarding Cordy Sachs' trial'.

Those titles drew controversy as it went online.

Some netizens maintained that the Sachs were too cold, since Cordy was their eldest daughter but none of them showed concern.

Others claimed that since she was on bad terms with the Sachs, and since Cordy had already left them anyway, she should be taking responsibility for her own actions no matter how terrible it was.

There was considerable controversy as both sides held their ground.

On the night of the Sachs Enterprises' anniversary gala, the family was being interviewed by the media, with Plum declaring with righteous indignation before the cameras, "Cordy has nothing to do with us since she was nineteen.

her after she was charged,

insisting on running astray instead of taking a righteous path, and she's just getting her just why did your family disown Cordy when she was nineteen? Was it because she was pregnant without marriage, and affected your family's reputation? But she's a member disrespecting her elders and bullying her siblings ever since a child. She also didn't change after getting pregnant out of wedlock, and has in fact become worse—it's obvious that information, Cordy is exceedingly talented in business and a prodigy in fashion design. Just half a year after she assumed leadership of Starstream Enterprises, the company's performance improved by leaps and bounds—they almost seemed unstoppable, and they were lauded as North City's finest dark horse. Given the way you just put her down and distanced your family from the current state she's in?! We'd never ask a misfit like her for anything! I'm Plum continued to scoff.

live interview, Cordy sat in front of the TV, watching coolly as Plum mocked her to no end. She was always too used to it, and whatever the Sachs would say did not affect her much these days. She simply treated it

gala, the journalists turned toward Noel after they were done interviewing catching a lot of spotlight these days, making her a media favorite regardless if the news your grandmother's opinion of Cordy? You always seemed to get involved can say is that I respect my grandmother wouldn't go that far fault the Sachs were so cold

us how you feel about Kyle Jessop's death?" Noel sighed is better for him, because living would mean more pain. However, please respect the dead and don't speak ill of them. Whatever he had done before in life, it's all

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Noel was clenching her knuckles and restraining her rage inside.

Whatever she did for the Sachs, they would never acknowledge her—in the end, she amounted to nothing more than an ordinary employee for Sonny.

Still, she sneered—she never took anything lying down.

Once she took majority shares of Sachs Enterprises, she would make all of them suffer in every way they can! And it was just three more days now.

Three days until Cordy's trial.

And once she was given her sentence...

The mere thought left Noel delighted! The night before Cordy's trial, she and Quinn sorted out all their documents and evidence prepared for her defense.

But just as Quinn packed up and was about to leave, Cordy suddenly stopped her.

"Quinn..."

working together for a while now, they had

Quinn replied, looking at

you know

could not reach Zoe at all. It was obvious how much this hurt

"What is it?"

though she soon came

though she promised to stay with you all the way until your trial. And yet, she's nowhere

would perhaps contact Quinn given that they had been best

a little

something happen

child," Cordy said

way!" Quinn exclaimed,

so much that

something so ridiculous would happen to Zoe! She always thought that someone so

"It's been half a month

Quinn promptly whipped out her

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Zoe's voice was very quiet.

"But I can't come back."

"Who told you that?!" Quinn snapped.

"You've lost the Levines, but you never lost us—or are we dead to you?! You're not a Levine now, but so what? Is the world ending because of that?!"

Zoe's eyes welled with tears. She did not want to turn on her phone, let alone contact Cordy or Quinn, as she did not want to trouble them.

Cordy had a trial coming up, and things were complicated between her and John.

There were people who were after her as well, and if she had to fight the Levines for Zoe's sake, she would only get uncomfortable.

Zoe did not want to deny Cordy happiness any further too. She actually could see very clearly that John and Cordy were really in love with each other.

There was just so much between them that they could not tell each other that, and the path ahead was exceedingly trying so that Cordy could scarcely get distracted for Zoe's sake.

As for Quinn, her family ties were quite complicated too.

were longtime friends, and Sam's mother was Nancy Levine's

even showing her favoritism despite being just a daughter-in-law, Zoe's status as a pariah would still make

want them to go through such trouble for them. It was already enough that she alone had

her so-called mother in a rundown apartment in

up here after she

dilapidated house only had one room and one living room, and it was as small as it was

Zoe's bed so that she

not feel grateful either and simply accepted

were relatively peaceful... until last

was loud banging on the door in the middle of the

Zoe a heart attack before, she

unmoved by anything these

seemed to hear the door open following the

Clara pleading meekly, "Could you please keep it down, Denzel?"

so have her spread her legs and make me some

was growling viciously at Clara

really don't have

Clara kept repeating.

If you don't, I'll make your daughter

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Clara shrieked in agitation, "Don't touch her!"

She picked up the stool nearby and smashed it over Denzel! Denzel was taken aback, surprised that Clara would go that far.

Nonetheless, he recovered and slapped Clara brutally across the face, and Zoe thought for an instant that he had killed her.

Clara dropped to the ground, unable to get up for a long while.

And after knocking her down, Denzel strode toward Zoe again, who said bluntly, "I'll give you the money you want."

"Hah!" he laughed.

"Trying to trick me, you little b\*tch?! You're a sl\*t just like your mom! She got pregnant by riding some dude and had you! Just shut up and come with me, spread your legs a couple nights and I won't ever bother you once I have my money—"

"I said, I can give it to you!"

if she was venting all the grief she had kept inside

was actually a little

and she would be hiding in

now, she was fighting back? He noticed upon a closer look that she looked a little different, but his memory of her

it to you

loudly and clearly

you really think I'd believe you? What if you run away

me! I'd never follow you anyway!"

you'd be a murderer and you'd never get a cent!" Her sudden

through his teeth, "You'd better give me the money tomorrow, or you and your mother are dead! Don't try to run—your mother tried so many times, but did that ever work? I'll kill you if you

the door on his way out while Zoe dropped

really have blacked out

"I'm sorry.I'm so sorry..."

same time, Clara ignored her pain and kept

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As Zoe drank the shrimp soup, she asked coolly, "Who is that man from yesterday?"

She did not care, but still needed information anyway—she certainly did not want to face something like that every night.

Clara worked hard to hold back her tears before saying, "He's my husband."

As Zoe glanced at her, she continued, "After I left the Levines' service, I could not be picky since I already have a child, so I had to marry a good man."

Zoe raised an eyebrow—a good man? "He used to be a good man—a farmer.

I thought that he had been good to me and Cora, and he did not seem to mind that I was a single mother..."

Clara then paused for a moment before continuing.

"So, I told him about the money I had. He seemed to change immediately after that and kept coaxing me to give it to him so he could start a business in the city. He appeared determined, so I didn't stop him, but it turns out that he wasn't built for it. Soon, all our money was gone, our house taken as collateral, and to top it off, he became a drug addict."

as Cordy spoke, her tears could not stop

again after his business went bankrupt, but he would take all the money I had. I lost my job because he went

didn't you divorce

tried, but he

with it, so I didn't test him. I tried to run away with Cora, but he would always find us and beat us up worse than before. I really don't dare

call

he'd just become worse when he's released. What good is that? It'd just give us a couple years

of leaving North City and going somewhere he'd never

what to do if I did. I'm not that well educated, and Cora

miserable the more she spoke, and her

lip but said

come for you if he

worriedly and passed Zoe a

what I have—take it, go to

"I don't have friends."

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Nonetheless, Zoe pulled herself together. She thought about many people who could help her, but as she scrolled through her contacts, she suddenly found herself unable to call them.

There was John, Cordy, Quinn...even Bob and the rest of his gang.

Forty grand was pocket change to them.

But she refused to call them—to let them know her tragic, impoverished state—and certainly did not want to add to their troubles.

Her fingers hovered over her manager's number for a moment, but she eventually called her manager, throwing aside all her dignity to ask for forty grand.

Linda, however, refused—it was not as if she was reluctant to help, but she had been threatened and forbidden from aiding Zoe.

To make things worse, Linda told Zoe that all her endorsement deals and advertisements she was scheduled to shoot had all been called off.

Even the TV series and movies that were already filmed and were in post-production would now be altered, either with a new actress taking her place or having her face altered with AI tech.

At the same time, everything else that had already been aired or airing would be taken off the shelves.

She was being canceled to the last.

the one who groomed Zoe and made her career, but she was

end,

was unforgivably pragmatic, and anyone could be knocked off their perch in an instant, while the audience would simply forget about

had no way of helping her, nor did she have

a while and called another

It was answered too.

"Zoe?"

Zoe greeted the man—he had no idea why she would call him when they were clearly not that

Levines and mingled, they

and it was just some friendly chat

was that since the Stuarts were above the Levines, James Stuart

unreasonable that she would go to war against the Stuarts, and she would give them leeway, bearing with it even

tone was

"What is it?"

straight to the point, "Could you

it's not

have no reason to lend

disappointment seized Zoe's heart right

a mild elder brother,

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Why was Zoe suddenly thinking about Clara? The way she aged unnaturally quickly under stress, her hands that were filled with calluses, and how she always cooked her good food when she was already penniless...Her tears began to trickle out the corner of her eyes and streamed down her cheeks. She thought she would never forgive Clara for the rest of her life or be soft on her, let alone acknowledge her.

But in just two weeks, she was already worried about Clara.

She had no idea how long she had been crying, but her tears could not stop flowing.

Zoe received a text from Linda in the afternoon.

Before she received it, she actually did not know if she would force herself and ask others for help, or really wait to die.

Nonetheless, the text arrived, and Zoe stayed silent for a long while after that.

understand too many A-listers getting caught in various scandals, and were forced to sell themselves, body and soul. But just think

doubted that Linda was trying to humiliate by sending her to film

was just used to the comings and goings of stars and artists

she was doing all she could, out of kindness, to help

even

was, and therefore she was squeezed down to only fifty grand for one

with the only condition being for her

and arranged for an

at a public bath, already

from the faucet would be hot and cold, there was hair and garbage all around the floor, and all she could out, she dried

you leaving?" Clara

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Zoe said over the phone, "I want to try making it on my own, Quinn."

Quinn swallowed the words she was about to say, tears welling in her eyes.



Meanwhile, Zoe continued, "I know you two care about me, but no one can get me out of this situation except myself.

We've been friends for years and you know how much I loved the Levines and how happy I was to be born into their family, but that's all in pieces now...

And I don't mean the money, it's my heart.

Even if you choose to help me and shelter me, things will stay the same if I can't do this myself."

"No, it's different," Quinn argued.

"I'd at least feel safer seeing you, and I understand your need to grow up as a person, but you can't do the same alongside us, and it would be the same. We won't ask questions if you're worried we dote on you too much—you can do what you want!"

"I have my pride. I can't accept your alms without qualms—"

"You think our bond is alms?!"

Quinn was actually angry and accusing.

it that I

"Zoo—"

to tell you that I'm doing my best to live. If the day comes when I'm overwhelmed,

"Zoe!"

are my back

words,

call her again, but Zoe

were they supposed to find Zoe when she refused to tell

we do, Cordy?"

head—she had no idea

Zoe's wish, or drag her back, kicking and screaming? "Zoe hasn't suffered much in life ever

worried she won't survive out there...How could she fend for

to grow or face this by herself —she doesn't want to trouble us too," Cordy said, pointing out Zoe's true motives

in Quinn's eyes became even more

her own good. She must've known that we would both upset the Levines if we helped her,

she be

tears on the verge

about us?! I'd never give up on her, even if it meant I would

exactly what she's worried about," Cordy

## Chapter 340

The evening traffic in North City was heavy.

Zoe only turned on her phone again when she arrived at the studio, since she was unable to find the director and had to call the man.

Nonetheless, his excitement was irrepressible when he saw Zoe...

Her showing up on his film set was just like having a pot of gold drop on his lap.

What was more, she was doing it for a bargain price! If she could make her show her face, he would make a killing.

Still, he understood that he must not rush her—he could just wait until she got used to it before slowly coaxing her into showing her face.

In a good mood just then, he was naturally very cordial to her.

just going to be two cameramen and myself here. The rest of the crew will be outside. Noticing her puffy eyes, he assured her, "It's natural to feel embarrassed and uncomfortable the first time, so just go with my suggestions. Relax—you don't

"Alright," Zoe nodded stiffly.

was not crying because she had to do this, however, but because of that call

in shambles, and she almost told

the director had a female assistant lead Zoe to the changing room, who was in awe even as she stared

an A-lister! Why was she doing this just like that?! Most importantly, it had just been days since

and draped only a single

long while to

that she would fall to such

to take

it under

her lip, thinking that she was probably the only actress