

Repaid 401

Chapter 401

After John and Jessica left the crowd of reports and entered the hall, Jessica asked him, "You're not angry, are you? That I didn't tell the journalists that Dicky wasn't my son."

"I'm not," John replied, and there was no emotion in his tone.

It was as if John did not care whatever she did, even if she did it right in front of him.

There were times when Jessica felt like a clown, entertaining no one but herself.

Her eyes flashed icily, and she told herself that he would be hers eventually-that was the only way.

Thus, right now, she could bear with anything he threw her way.

Composing herself, she flashed a good-natured smile and explained, "I just didn't want people talking badly about Dicky, especially since his mother was never revealed. I'm worried there'd be a psychological effect. I've already considered him my own son, even when he was a baby."

but his voice made

all.

entered the hall, there weren't many others- there were

disposition to attend a charity ball organized by people

such prestige

business persons or individuals of notable

average Joe, they only get

or

so, John and Jessica's appearance

protagonists for

had insisted that this charity ball was held in

time

Stuart family, and one could see

Jessica-not even James had the honor

Once Jessica arrived with John, the
John led Jessica into the ballroom, and began
every guest present, weaving in and out of the crowd
John was in a tailcoat tuxedo and wore a
facial features in turn
was a sight anyone would be inevitably drawn
On the other hand, Jessica wore
In contrast to the pink gown which accentuated her trait as an open,
passion-it was an absolute declaration that
main star tonight.

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Cordy and John's eyes met.

There seemed to be unspoken emotions in their gazes, yet at the same time, there
seemed to be nothing.

Silence ensued between them until Jessica spoke up, "Patrick, my dear cousin-a
shame that you beat me to a partnership with Cordy!"

"Is that so?" Patrick replied, cordial as ever with Jessica.

"I've been saying that I'd like to partner with her, but never did have the chance,"
Jessica said, appearing genuinely disappointed. "On the other hand, you seemed to
really hit it off with her! It's left me really upset for a while."

"Now, now—you shouldn't overreach, Jessica. Mr. Levine there leads a lot of people
and multiple elite businesses. I'm just a startup, so don't snuff me out so soon now,"
Patrick said, seemingly jokingly as he jibed Jessica's family for their greed.

"Come on. We're family, aren't we? What's mine is yours. You have my best wishes in
partnership with Cordy- Johnny, here.

She had her hand intimately wrapped around John's arm,
was offering a toast, as if
coolly, as John didn't raise his glass or
didn't raise his glass to drink when Jessica told him to

a little
things over. "You might
won't be able to drink for the
John looked sharply at him then, but Patrick pretended not to
this case, we can skip the toast-we're family anyway, so there's no need
main event as well, and there's more guests to mingle
family, after
shall oblige," Jessica smiled. "Please, enjoy
be going now."
"Alright. Scoot."
on John's arm, gesturing
Even so, John's eyes were glued to Cordy, who looked so
at Patrick's side.
"Johnny," Jessica reminded him softly, "your grandfather and mine are right
there."
but ultimately left with her without saying
were gone,
Cordy took a sip of her glass of water, and asked nonchalantly,
with you right
rolled her eyes at him, while Patrick shrugged. "I wanted to provoke him

Chapter 403

Cordy frowned at Patrick, who was grinning nonchalantly.
Ultimately, she didn't leave and stood at his side to watch the rich and important
people filing into the ballroom.
Naturally, she saw Noel-who certainly rode a coattail well to be able to attend such a
prestigious charity ball.
In that sense, the same applied to Cordy, though it was more because of her personal
grudge with the host than other reasons.
That would be more or less the same in Noel's case, since Jessica was really

bringing out her checkbook to buy Noel's complete allegiance.

Suddenly, the lights in the ballroom dimmed while a spotlight illuminated the center of the stage; everyone turned towards it.

The emcee walked up above stage and spoke with succinct intonation, "Good evening, everyone. Welcome to Stuart Holdings' annual charity ball! Thank you everyone for making time to attend this honorable occasion despite your busy schedules."

erupted with raucous clapping. Anyone who could stood amongst the well influence.

"And now, let's invite our host for the speech! Please give her a round of the stage in her red gown up to the emcee who smile was tactful, and every move was as confident as hosting this annual charity ball, and I do apologize beforehand our hospitality proved insufficient. I would also like to and grow independent, and I'm trust."

With that, she nodded and beamed at William below stage before parents and James. "I also would like to thank me gain the strength I need to make something for "Last but not least, I must thank the most times, I would never have the courage to host this he was willing to leave work for an entire month just to here in name, but everyone referring to too.

Patrick turned

Patrick's gaze,
him, "That's the
not good enough for you?"
was completely apathetic while Patrick

Chapter 404

Jessica then added, "Now, before the charity auction, I have prepared a little social session for everyone."

She certainly gained everyone's attention upon that announcement. Every pair of eyes were on her as she continued, "We'll be picking ladies present at random and auctioning her first dance for the night. As with other proceeds, proceeds of this dance auction would be donated to the charity organization under Stuart Holdings."

The ballroom grew a little restless-it was the first time they heard about auctioning a dance!

But come to think of it, this was a charity ball, the more the proceeds, the better it was. In comparison, how said proceeds were obtained was certainly secondary in importance.

Moreover, those who were taking part weren't here for the auctioned items-they were just donating for the sake of glorifying themselves and their businesses.

"Is there any lady who would like to volunteer?" Jessica asked onstage.

ladies below stage were whispering amongst each other. Some were to step up

At the same time, Patrick whispered into Cordy's ears, "Are a limit."

Cordy rolled her eyes

lady was going

to do it

volunteers, I'll pick

pick two so that the ladies won't feel awkward being singled out.

everyone present has their own auction number for the

at random. If your number is called, I would like you
dance would hence
crowd exclaimed in approval,
idea.
then said, "Well then, let's
in the ballroom looked down to check
could be heard
turned towards
stood, looking shy.
her chest gown was baring every part of her that could
calculative getup that was a stark mismatch for her naive, innocent
"Oh, it's Noel!" Jessica exclaimed chipperly, and beckoned at
North City.
to encourage
was blushing as she went on stage and stood at Jessica's
reality, Noel was already raring to go when Jessica announced the dance

Chapter 405

Jessica stood above the stage, asking everyone below, "Is Number 62 present in this hall?"

In reality, the paddle numbers were arranged before the auction-odd numbers were assigned to men, while even numbers were assigned to women.

Cordy Sachs had no idea why that was the case when she received her auction paddle, and simply presumed there would be a lottery or something else. After all, entertainment was necessary to keep things lively at a charity auction, and she realized now that the arrangement was for this mini-event.

Patrick obviously knew Cordy's number and teased, "Oh, this truly is destiny!"

Cordy shot him a sideways glare.

Destiny? She would already disagree when Jessica picked Noel with pinpoint precision for the first number, and had even more reason to after Jessica picked her

as well.

coincidences in the world- Jessica meant to

as the host, she had a million ways to find out the numbers of every person in ballroom.

“Number 62...” Jessica

exclaimed, pointing at Cordy. Jessica

she gasped in turn,

“Yes,” Cordy

and Noel... Oh, this

look of utter

her

noticed her hesitation. “Just say no if you

Cordy, however, didn’t want

Patrick had to challenge Jessica for her sake, he

his side of the family was having a clandestine power struggle against

Moreover, Cordy refused to owe him

stage, and as she walked past

out to grab her

she simply raised her hand and avoided him-but their

each other’s, the

forced to watch as Cordy lifted

calmed walked upstage.

Noel more or less had the men’s attention

and stunning figure.

had been to the eyes of the men

in comparison

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But no matter how impactful it had been to the eyes of the men present, she dimmed

in comparison when Cordy

walked onstage.

If one were to describe her beauty, one could simply say that no one would be able to take their eyes off her wherever she went.

Likewise, no one who stood at her side would match her beauty.

It wasn't just Noel who dulled in comparison either—even Jessica, in her elegant gown, seemed a little less stunning.

Cordy certainly could take the wind out of every woman's sails.

At the same time, Noel's smile faded as soon as Cordy went on stage.

Why did Cordy

Cordy have to steal Noel's thunder all the

focused on herself before had turned

at once, who instantly became the

as Noel repressed her rage, Jessica said,

a great night. I called out two numbers at

I surprised myself too!" She was certainly

alright.

after Jessica had spoken, with

paddle.

had at first been upset since Cordy's speech left her humiliated, but seeing

felt cathartic.

playing up her virtue-it would

no one made a bid for

as Noel was sneering inwardly,

she sent instructions beforehand that no one

humiliate Cordy.

Cordy seemed

a grandiose speech beforehand, so that Cordy wouldn't look so

Chapter 407

A deep, magnetic voice suddenly resounded in the ballroom, and everyone turned in

that direction to see that John had raised his auction paddle.

He even started the bid at five times the price for Noel!

Noel, who was just reveling in glee, was left dumbstruck as she stared at John in disbelief.

He was already with Jessica, yet he was still bidding for Cordy, and in front of so many people? Did he even consider Jessica's feelings?!

In fact, Jessica actually reacted to John's bid, despite her immaculate ability in keeping up appearances.

never once resisting Jessica's

of their

Thus, she never expected him to humiliate

turned towards John with a look of

let alone any ounce

he was

"600 grand!"

Another man's voice

turned in that direction, and found Patrick raising

Patrick had actually been waiting for John's bid, knowing the

Cordy leave in

as Patrick himself thought

John continued the bid, even though it

for Noel's

about rubbing it

wasn't backing

Chapter 408

Jessica was extending an olive branch to John, but he didn't accept it.

There was nary a flutter in his apathetic gaze, and his auction paddle was still in the air.

Jessica scowled-she had already prostrated herself this far! Was John really not going

to spare her any dignity at all?!

Even as she was crumbling inside, Cordy suddenly exclaimed loudly and clearly, "Two million."

John's bid was left stuck in his throat, while everyone turned towards Cordy, not sure why she would bid for herself. '

Maybe she thought herself worth that much?! Wasn't she giving herself too much credit?

Nonetheless, Cordy continued loudly and clearly, "I'm bidding two million for my first dance."

crowd was left rowdy, stunned

She ignored their stares, however, and asked Jessica, "It's not for myself, right?"

her senses right then, since she was self-bid.

never played to anyone's tune,

have the faintest idea what Cordy

to Stuarts Holdings

put in a contribution, even if it might not be much. I

agree with my sentiment," Cordy was

was rejecting both John

course," Jessica

Jessica was simply worried that John would

turn would leave

Walking up and offering a handshake, Jessica said, "I

dance tonight shall be your own.

Stuart Holdings'

Cordy accepted Jessica's handshake out of politeness, and strode away

with an elegant

ballroom erupted in thunderous

left staring

she was as beautiful as she was smart,

of wit first hand only goes to show that the rumors gave her less credit

she deserved.

to adapt was almost educational-helping Jessica save face with

Chapter 409

Cordy headed outside to the back garden for a breather.

She was in a bad mood, and was reluctant to stay in the ballroom.

Worst of all, her ankle hurts.

She didn't feel that much pain when she sprained it on the red carpet before, but standing for so long and walking on stage, and then getting off pushed her past her limit of tolerance.

She sat on the bench in the back garden, taking off her high heels and hunching over to rub her ankles...when a towering shadow suddenly appeared before her.

She blinked, but ultimately looked up to see John, looking down from above.

She couldn't quite see his face against the lights to his rear, but his dark eyes were plainly visible.

Cordy turned away, and kept rubbing her ankles.

As she did so, a pair of clean, long hands gently raised her foot.

go," she said with a

ignored her

Cordy frowned as she withstood the pain, but couldn't stop herself from

"John Levine!"

It already hurt so much-was he so intent

didn't even upset him tonight, aside from going against

this charity ball.

obey him or allow him to force her to stay in

own house.

pet canary, and that thought only

John suddenly warned her, having found
respond, John firmly twisted her
inadvertently-it hurt so much she
you want, John?!" she bellowed furiously, her patience for his
reached
up. See if you're better," John said,
rising to his feet, as if he
so he repeated, "Try standing up. See if
better now."
but eventually
pain in her ankles, and was therefore
she stood up.

on one foot, and the shoes she wore
a really high heel, so she
her, and her body brushed against
Chapter 410

"She might really die if you don't let go, you know.'

Patrick's voice could suddenly be heard.

He sounded neutral, with a hint of glee at Cordy's misfortunate.

So he was just here to enjoy the show, was he?

Nonetheless, John released Cordy just as she thought she would black out.

She coughed repeatedly as soon as he let go, and started to inhale deeply.

She almost died!

"It's cold outside. Come on," Patrick said after watching Cordy compose herself,
offering her a hand and ready to take her back inside.

Just as he did, John quickly took her hand in his.

Patrick was left staring at John, but he didn't appear the slightest bit upset.

Cordy, however, shook John off viciously.

John's knuckles clenched, and he reached out to grab her again at the next instant.

That was just how much he hated her being with another man.

he was to see Patrick sticking

it took him

hugged her just now, he had

slipping further and further away... That

let go, and wanted nothing

Yet once again, Cordy avoided

He narrowed his eyes, staring fixedly at her with

“Watch yourself, Mr. Levine,”

seemed to stab him in

knuckles until they turned white, while growling coolly,

go with him.”

do you have to

while I’m just an invited

companion.”

and clear, and

wait for me?”

mean I can’t hang out with

in

flaunting your affection with Jessica right now, even

wedding day.”

as she started to

curled up in amusement; he was clearly enjoying

Cordy was still lecturing John. “No one gets to be

go both

word, she started to