

Repaid 731

Chapter 731

As Zoe abruptly opened the door to the inner room panickedly, she found Jay sitting calmly and elegantly on the luxurious couch in his lounge, taking a sip of coffee.

His bearing was certainly a far cry from hers.

Zoe worked hard to calm herself, before asking meekly, 'How long have I been sleeping?'

"A day. It's now 10 PM."

A day-not just a couple hours and certainly not just the entire afternoon.

In other words, she slept for twelve hours... from 10 AM to 10 PM!

What?!

"Why didn't you wake me up?!" Zoe asked in shock.

She forgot to turn on her alarm, and she was the type who always overslept if no one disturbed her. 1

That was how soundly she slept.

to be so foul-tempered if someone woke you,'

Would I even misbehave now? I'd be marching out of bed if you called," Zoe quickly

Jay smiled then.

always been refined, and she had never seen

could not tell if he was just

seemed to be sealed,

was how difficult he was to read, but that might also be how he treated her

I'll wake you

time-there was no way she would sleep so

your shoes,' Jay reminded her just then. "I'm taking

been walking barefooted

However...

at Jay, she asked, "You're taking

or should I work

not.' Zoe quickly shook her head-she would never

like mush, and she had yet

like the day was just
for now," Jay
coming out, asking, "What about the bed sheets? Should I wash
stared at her in

Chapter 732

Nonetheless, Jay stopped her. "Zoe."

Zoe turned and promptly nodded politely. "Thanks for the ride, Mr. Parker."

"You left this," Jay reminded her then.

"Left what?" Zoe patted herself, but her bag and phone were there, and she had nothing else.

"This," Jay said, holding out a box of food.

While Zoe was left surprised, he said, "It's your portion."

Zoe realized with a start then.

Sure, she said she wanted to take the rest of it home, but she did not actually mean it...

And he was the one who bought the chowder in the first place. Why did he have to make up for it?

Still, she did not want to argue and quickly said, Thank you, Mr. Parker. See you tomorrow."

Jay swallowed.

way Zoe

car window and told

the car left before heaving a slight sigh

felt that Jay was a

whatever-the past they shared was

not argue

chowder, worried that she would wake up everyone else in the house since she

she stepped through

"Welcome home, Zoe."

was only a single faint light in the living room, and Zoe did not notice the person on the
you?"

late, and I told you you didn't have to wait for me-I'm going to be very busy for a

slept early since she had to babysit Yelena and basically slept

just wanted to ask if you'll be free in a few days. Yelena will be three years old soon, and she's been telling me repeatedly that she wants to

is almost three now..." Zoe could not help

Time certainly flew by.

so fast I almost can't

not give Zoe in the past were all being showered on

to come home early on that day. We'll eat out—I'll book a place,"

I'll tell her

Chapter 733

Yelena and Clara shared the same room, and Clara woke up with a start when Zoe opened the door.

One was certainly prone to being woken up when they reached a certain age.

"Just checking on Yelena," Zoe whispered.

"Okay."

Clara tossed around in bed and fell asleep again.

Zoe walked up to their bed and stared at Yelena's little cheeks, which were reddened from sleep.

Who would have known that Zoe somehow ended up becoming a mother?

Yelena's arrival certainly surprised Zoe—she never expected that she could get pregnant in one shot.

suggested that she might be when she missed her

previous cases of irregular periods before, when she slimmed down drastically or fattened up for certain roles. In fact, she was so used to it that being pregnant did not cross

for a long time, but she eventually

saying that having a child in

the time either

on nor lost sleep in the later trimesters. Even the delivery was quick, taking just

or eating all the time, never falling sick—almost as if she was one of those

giving Yelena a

would fill Zoe's heart with tenderness and the desire to give Yelena the

the reasons she returned to showbiz was because of Yelena, since she wanted a better life for

life of luxury with the Levines, but also experienced the soul-crushing desperation of being penniless. It in turn fueled her

reluctantly left Yelena's room and returned to her own, took a quick shower, and lay down in to sleep, but unfortunately, she had already slept for too of bed and study her script-she had to make up

Chapter 734

It was already part eleven. Jay usually should be asleep by now, right?

Still, Zoe quickly replied, along with a bowing emoji: [Okay. Thank you, Mr. Parker.]

Jay did not reply, while Zoe tapped on the file to see that it was an analysis on the character she would play.

It dissected the character's personality with far more detail than the original script, and the contents painted a vivid image. Everything was listed elaborately, down to the instance of when the character should show which expression.

She read it silently until the last sentence.

[The character is minor, but she still carries weight. Do your best.]

Zoe smiled for some reason—it was really out of character for Jay to write something so cringeworthy.

Maybe an assistant helped with this?

Everyone in the group must have a thorough breakdown like this too, and it would be difficult if Jay's group did not win with such detailed script.

Holding the script, Zoe stood before her mirror and played her character several times.

soul now that

role was minor, said role was still vital in the plot. If

her lesson the day before, Zoe did not stay up that long even

rehearsal studio, Candice called

was surprised that Candice was

arrived over half an hour early, but most of the other group members

all taking the competition

Candice headed to a corner, when Candice could

wondered how she should answer

imagine tomorrow's headlines if she said she had been sleeping the whole day

asked, seemingly having an idea seeing that

and allow Candice to

showbiz-the less problems

so unfair for you,' Candice huffed, feeling indignant for Zoe's sake. "We were having our own group's rehearsal, but Ms. Zimmerman had to butt in. I

why everyone's early?' Zoe

it, I guess. The other is that there's really a lot

Candice said earnestly. "He knows how everyone should act, and I feel

"Oh," Zoe replied indifferently.

Chapter 735

Once Jay arrived, everyone gathered around him, and he said, "Continue the rehearsals as arranged yesterday. Let's go a few rounds before we dissect the details. Zoe, you missed out yesterday, so try to blend in or practice solo if you can't." 1

"Yes, Mr. Parker." Everyone dispersed and proceeded to start the rehearsals.

Zoe blended in quickly, mostly because the script she was given yesterday proved very useful.

She had rehearsed her role twice at home and quickly found the right mood to play her character.

And with other characters to play off her role now, she got into character even quicker.

By the time the first rehearsal was over, everyone was surprised by Zoe's performance.

Her performance from yesterday was a stark contrast to the one she showed today-while she had been distracted and muddle-headed yesterday, she played her character down to a tee today.

They had thought her character insignificant and uninteresting, but her performance painted it with bright colors. Even if her role was minor, she had charisma and was very memorable, and the lack of lines made it so that the audience would not get tired of her character, even begging for more.

"Not bad."

was the comment Jay gave for their

yesterday, even if he did not throw

made it clear that he was not to be messed with, and it was clear that he was in a

rehearsal just now, but Jay

Yes.

a girl somehow, or why else

everyone was wrapping up and preparing to leave when the director of the production said the chief producer was

such, everyone headed straight to the restaurant straight after, and since the production crew was joining as well,

was very pleased, even preparing presents that would be given randomly by
get anything
too much in fear of getting
she was just waiting for everyone to start
could play a bit with Yelena, or Yelena would be
thought of her little girl, and she felt like she could hold on no matter how tired she got
even as she kept waiting, they were all led to another venue instead of
of the production crew left,

Chapter 736

Suddenly, the director appeared beside her. 'Zoe.'

Zoe promptly rose to her feet, appearing perfectly respectful. "Mr. Rubio."

"It's fine, sit." Arthur Rubio quickly gestured. "No need to be so formal.

You've not been speaking much or drinking... Not used to showbiz now that it's been a while?'

In reality, she did not have to attend social dinners in the past, since she was busy filming commercials-her manager could never arrange for her to attend any.

"Just a little out of practice.' Zoe smiled, quickly poured herself a glass full, and said, "A toast to you, Mr. Rubio."

"Thank you." Arthur did not reject her offer, and they both chugged their drinks.

"You can really stomach your alcohol," Arthur praised.

"No, I don't usually drink," Zoe was certainly aware that there were plenty others who would hide their ability to stomach alcohol, or they would be goaded into drinking more than they would like.

let's have another drink,' Arthur

to keep drinking with the man, and when they were done, Arthur

a long break in a small town.

you suddenly retire?"

in gossip. "Well, I just

"With who?"

you hiding it from me? I had to stave off immense pressure to put you

moment, but she

a force to be reckoned with in showbiz, and she would not

Arthur exclaimed

I'd prefer if you didn't

right now, so

you made a return too, since their influence doesn't extend into showbiz even if

"Yeah." Zoe nodded.

director raised his glass again, and Zoe had to follow

made it three

Chapter 737

Zoe headed into the washroom, every fiber of her being aggravated.

She looked at her reflection in the mirror, which had not much in the way of makeup or jewelry.

She did not like putting on makeup personally since she spent so much time on stage with thick makeup, and she therefore preferred a clear face.

To be honest, she had no idea why Arthur was interested in her—she was neither the prettiest nor the most talkative thespian present.

Could it be because she had no influence?

Zoe splashed her face with cold water then.

She knew all too well that if she spurned Arthur's advances, she would be dismissed by the next stage and had no chance to hope otherwise.

After all, showbiz was a web of influence—one misstep and her career would suffer indefinitely.

But if she did not reject him...

hard

thought she would have to assume this path since she started

and she gained confidence from

confidence did she

convinced that

have stayed alone in the washroom for half an hour and might have taken up residence there if

opened the door, pausing

started to stride

to her with

Zoe rejected him right away.

happened the day after you got
worry, I know what
to leave again, but Jay
him. "I
made up her mind to
just might be able to get him so drunk he could
not have the
yourself," Jay said a

Chapter 738

Zoe cut Jay short right then. "Forget it—none of that actually matters now. It's the distant past and I couldn't care less. But understand this: I didn't come back to make you feel guilty or win your sympathy. In fact, I would've rather not shown up around you at all, because all I want is to properly live my life. So, please stay away from me."

Zoe shook his hand off as hard as she could.

Jay had to stand while leaning on a cane, and her shove left him stumbling a couple steps backward.

By the next second, she already stormed off without so much as looking back.

Jay's fingers clenched, but he stayed silent.

When Zoe returned to the couch, Arthur was clearly getting a little impatient.

Other thespians were sitting next to him, having come to toast him, so Zoe sat near the edge.

After Arthur was done socializing with them, she finally returned to her seat.

"What took you so long?" he growled.

we had a little chat.' Zoe casually came up with

you?" Arthur scoffed. "Well, what's not to like? He's handsome and talented... while men like me hardly catch

reputation in

at Zoe amorously as

course,' Zoe replied, pouring

took the glass for

Zoe smiled, humoring him.

going to pull away and goad

promptly released her and greeted Jay. "Please, sit Arthur and Zoe, with Zoe shifting aside since Jay's leg was interrupting?"

of course not! Come on, join us," Arthur quickly said. "Zoe? Do pour Mr. Parker a rising to her feet and pouring both Arthur and Jay her, "Oh, drink with us too, Zoe. Aren't you going to toast Mr. Parker said, "Here's to she drink. She really is marvelous, isn't she?" Arthur praised her as he chugged his glass as

Chapter 739

Zoe stayed silent, though she was already cursing Jay in her head.

She was planning to get Arthur completely drunk, but what he said cut off his escape.

Nonetheless, Jay suddenly said, "Mr. Rubio, you don't mind me leaving with Zoe, right?"

Both Zoe and Arthur were left taken aback, while Jay explained, "Our group still has rehearsals tomorrow, and Zoe's performance would be affected if she gets drunk. In fact, every member of my group would be leaving with me... I'm sure there's no issue with that?"

Zoe quietly composed herself, since she was getting agitated.

It was fortunate that Jay was taking everyone with him instead of her alone -there would be a lot of explaining to do otherwise.

"But isn't this too early? It's not even ten," Arthur quickly said. 'Young people normally sleep at midnight these days.'

"They will be in bad shape when they wake up the next day. Unlike other professions, thespians easily get swollen faces, and that would affect their performance on stage.'

rehearsal, not the respect."

the argument, Arthur tried to compromise. "Alright, you can leave with your group, and remember to give alone?"

annoyed. "Mr. Parker, every person has their hold myself responsible for every thespian in my group," Jay said firmly. "I'll protect them from all injustices, and

extensively about your attitude, but if you insist on going down that path, I have no choice but to give up as well. I've always been fair, and I refuse to accept

left Zoe embarrassed, but even as she bit her lip in turn, she was

Arthur could feel Jay's

in the first

say because she's such a good drinker, and I wanted her with me to entertain the executives. Most of them are gone anyway, and since you value your group so much, I shan't

as if she was reluctant

she was an actress-it was necessary for her to feign any

disappoint Mr. Parker now,"

noded tamely and left with Jay along with the

Chapter 740

It was Zoe's own fault that her apartment was furthest from the city.

And with the two other thespians gone, the car was exceedingly silent.

"Wipe it," Jay suddenly said and handed her a wet towel.

Zoe took it and wiped her lips by instinct, unsure if she had something on it.

"Your arm," Jay prompted her then.

Zoe paused, but soon remembered that Arthur had touched every inch of her arm.

Jay was still a clean freak, huh?

Still, she wiped her arm without a word, while Jay said, "I don't know what will happen in the future, but as long as I'm involved in this variety show, I can protect you from the casting couch."

"Thank you," she replied.

be coming on to her after tonight, since Jay had assumed all responsibility. Naturally, she also had

"What happened in the

cutting him short. "Just forget all that unpleasant stuff. I mean, I did."

Jay swallowed.

that unpleasant stuff... was that what

outside Draxton Apartments, and Zoe

watched as she left and then glanced at

was true-it was

Group, Cordy had recovered from her cold and was holding an executive meeting for a distribution phone

the caller, but put it

WhatsApp message

[Urgent. Please answer.]

frowned-Sean rarely contacted her

said, ' Discuss the marketing plans for the upcoming season. I'm taking this

the conference room, she called Sean