

Repaid 321

Chapter 321

It was not until the next day when Zoe opened her eyes with a head-splitting headache. She quickly remembered having another person landing on top of her and the unbearable agony afterward before blacking out. She wondered how hurt she was and how her stunt double was doing.

At the same time, all she felt was a sense of feebleness.

"You're awake," a familiar man's voice spoke beside her just then.

As Zoe turned to find Jay, she frowned—the one she never wanted to see always seemed to show up! Still, this was a huge deal. So where were her parents? They would be heart-stricken with worry to know that she was hurt.

Could they have gone home exhausted after keeping her company the entire night? She looked around to see that her ward was rather crude, and she wondered why she was arranged to stay at a place like this just then.

"Didn't you tell my parents that I was hurt?" she asked Jay, her feeble and upset.

family to scold him? Could he get even more

don't need your feigned sincerity, Jay. Let me give it to you straight—you can't hide this accident even if you had control over the film set. I won't hide this from

determined—she would never lie for

however, simply changed

hungry? Do you

to get up, intent on calling her parents

and the doctor was

"Don't touch me!"

hard

her then, and Zoe stopped struggling—it was obvious she was

you can sit up,"

did not seem to mind her bad temper, but Zoe

Chapter 322

Nancy was still not reacting at all. She stood before Zoe, looming over her as she said icily, "Don't call me that ever again. You're not my daughter."

Zoe was taken aback.

Even as a kid, no matter what mischief or shenanigans she was up to—no matter how disobedient or what mistakes she made—her mother had never been this harsh to her.

Could she really have upsetted Nancy this time? She reached out to Nancy like a spoiled child, trying to be cute... only for Nancy to shift her hand away, evading her.

There was also undisguised contempt in Nancy's eyes.

Zoe's heart skipped a beat, feeling that something was out of place right then.

No matter what happened, her mother would never be this cold to her.

Even if Nancy was really upset that Zoe had been in danger, Nancy should be weeping happy tears and hugging Zoe because she cheated death.

But this cold reaction...

felt like she was

what's wrong?" Zoe

it again,

Nancy snapped coldly.

daughter. Don't

really scaring her now! 'What are you talking about, Mom? There's no way I'm not your daughter. I mean, I

daughter is Cora Gooding—your stunt double," Nancy said loudly

"That's impossible, Mom. You're just—"

the paternity test

threw the papers

she still

her clearly wobbled. But she seemed unable to feel it as she

did not match, while the

No...

Chapter 323

Zoe had always believed herself to be fortunate.

Aside from a small plight in her love life, everything else was smooth sailing for her.

Never could she have expected her world to fall apart like this. How did a legitimate heiress like her turn into a mistress' daughter?! "We have nothing to do with each other now, Zoe York."

Nancy was being frighteningly cold.

Seeing Zoe being so miserable did make her feel just a tinge of remorse, but the thought that her own daughter had suffered so much because of Zoe only made her feel even more disgusted. She hated Zoe to the bone now for taking everything that was her biological daughter's! "Mom..." Zoe called out to her nonetheless.

"Don't call me that!"* Nancy shrieked with visible disgust.

"I'm sorry," Zoe apologized—because she had stolen someone else's happiness.

your apologies,"

be the best repayment for all

stormed off. She did not want to stay in that room a second longer or look at Zoe for another moment. She felt

but she turned toward the other blurred silhouette before

to stop herself, she called

after

hearing Zoe call out to him, however,

Zoe asked

had always loved and cherished her family. But it turned out

"What is it?"

around, his

before, since he had always been cold to her since she was a

was ending for her. Nonetheless, she did her best to stay calm and speak clearly, "Please tell Cordy that I

Chapter 324

So this was what it felt like to fall from heaven to hell...

And Zoe thought that this stuff only happened in TV dramas. But for some bizarre reason, it happened to her.

"Zoe..." Jay said.

"Leave," she said, finally turning toward him then and finding him looking so worried.

"The Levines would be upset if you stayed here. My mom..."

Zoe paused for a moment then to correct herself, "I mean, Ms. Levine is an individual who makes her feelings very clear. If she hates someone, she couldn't care less about anything and would destroy anything and everyone around them. Stay with me and you'll become an eyesore."

"Even if John will inherit the family estate, their favoritism isn't that obvious. You should also know that since Alan Levine spoiled her ever since she was a child, he would never allow her to be given grief." Zoe was already changing the way she addressed the same people as she worked hard to stay strong and accept everything in the present.

Jay watched her silent. She was just 25, but after a lifetime of being spoiled, she seemed to mature in an instant.

But it hurt to see such sudden growth.

again, and Zoe turned to find a

Zoe's side, throwing herself on Zoe's lap as she cried, "I'm sorry, Zoe...I'm

understanding right then who she

time, she

really did not want to see

rather not have anything or be

straight...Both of you are Ivan's children, so why does Nancy Levine's child get to enjoy a

sobbed, falling apart as she

I switched you with Cora in a moment of impulse, since you two look so alike and both of you were

regretted sometime after she made the switch and tried to switch Zoe back. She just

Even so...

your explanation, and I don't

the woman. "Whatever your reasons were, you were nothing to me

"Zoe..."

you at all! You abandoned me back then—you shouldn't have come back to me, ever!

her emotions bursting

Chapter 325

The atmosphere in the silent ward was suffocating.

Jay and Zoe simply stared at each other, with Zoe's gaze cold to the bone. Her loathing and distaste for him was just too obvious.

She really loathed him—it was as if he could cause every type of tragedy! If he did not get her a stunt double and did not allow that accident to happen on his film set, she would never have been exposed and she would still be a Levine! Jay must be her jinx! She never had it easy ever since she met him! "Rest well,"

Jay said calmly then, trying to offer her comfort as if the gash on her forehead did not hurt.

Even so, Zoe really did not need his sudden goodwill.

No, she could accept anyone's goodwill, but not his.

After Jay left Zoe's ward, he started to teeter backward soon, and John quickly caught him.

"Are you alright?"

spinning, and it took a long while for him to

"I'm fine."

blood did

"Not much," Jay replied.

not

get that

"Yeah."

headed to the clinic, and as the doctor bandaged it, John

my only option is to side with my

hardly approving

among the elders and Zoe is innocent, she's the key to this whole mess," John said, breaking things

would never be able to accept their own daughter suffering out there while someone else's child enjoyed all the riches and pleasures in life. And it had to be the daughter of her father's mistress—a

understood Nancy's thirst for

Chapter 326

Seeing that Jay's cut on the forehead had been bandaged then, John said, "I'm going now. There's still plenty to do for Cordy's trial, so I can't divide that much attention here. Either way, I'll respect whatever your decision may be."

"Johnny," Jay said somberly, "Thank you."

John clapped him on the shoulder.

"We're family, no?"

Jay felt touched—John never said much, but he knew everything and would even offer comfort.

Those who did not know him well would never be able to tell that he offered warmth despite his might.

As John left the hospital in his car, he stared outside the window and heaved a heavy sigh. He suddenly remembered how Zoe would always follow him around when they were children, calling his name.

And that same brat grew to become an adult...His phone suddenly started to ring, and he answered it.

"Mr. Levine? We've found multiple outbound transfers from the personal account of Helen Zalenski."

"Send it to me."

"Yes, sir."

John's eyes narrowed.

priority now was to deal

read through the bank

"I've found something."

asked—she had been staying home to research her

come over to discuss

"Okay."

it immediately before remembering

phone is turned off. what event is it that she had to turn

house felt much emptier

tell you later." John

had this feeling that he was hiding something from

never answered her calls last night, and John called her later

it since things got busy in showbiz

turned her phone off directly

half an hour, John entered her apartment and showed her the ledgers of Helen Zalenski's bank records that he

multiple times, and each sum was considerable,"

know how cutthroat those people get, what with debtors often losing limbs for it, or even their lives.

That's why there's a

Chapter 327

John was not stingy with his praise.

"That's very smart."

Cordy blushed for some reason, feeling as if John was treating her like a kid just then, and she was not used to talking to him like this.

Changing the subject, she said, "You told me over the phone you'd tell me about Zoe. So?"

John scowled slightly, but said, "I didn't want to tell you because you can't even protect yourself right now, but I'd never dare hide it from you."

Cordy bit her lip, a little speechless from the way he used 'never dare'. He really was petty.

"Anyway, Zoe had an accident at the film set last night, and she's at the hospital right now..."

"What?!"

"Don't worry. She's safe although it was a little serious, just a little liver rupture causing massive bleeding. She has since regained consciousness, and she'll be discharged in a week."

me?" Cordy exclaimed a little

keep her company at

with all the kindness and affection she could give. How could she do

"I've found something."

asked—she had been staying home to research her own trial, combing

to discuss it." John

it immediately before remembering something

event is it that she had

house felt much emptier without Zoe

later." John said

he was hiding

night, and John called her later saying that Zoe would not make it back because of an event. She did not dwell on it since things got busy in

off directly today, she

under half an hour, John entered her apartment and showed

this account multiple times, and each sum was considerable,"

illegal gambling ring—it was likely that Helen had been gambling and owed a huge debt. I'm sure you also know how cutthroat those people get, what with debtors often losing limbs for it, or even their lives. That's why there's a good chance she made that phony account to incriminate you to pay for

key point now is where the money's coming from. Have you

Chapter 328

Cordy was stubborn.

"That's my own business."

"Yes, but Zoe might not want to see you right now either," John told her.

"She just turned from a swan to an ugly duckling—do you think she'd be able to stay composed and face you or anyone else? She might want some quiet time to herself, so let's just give her some space..."

Cordy scowled.

"John—"

"The point is, Jay will be taking care of her," John said, cutting her short.

Cordy was taken aback and was soon snapping, "Are we really pinning our hopes on Jay now?! He didn't care about her at all when she was still Levine! Do you think he'd take the bullet after what happened to her?! Moreover, your aunt is denying Zoe help.

What can Jay do when he's just adopted? Get chased out of the family like Zoe? Would he really go that far for her?!"

said

right in rejecting

But once he made everything crystal clear to her, she was so stunned that

Jay," John eventually

feel about Zoe and would never interfere with your

phone's been turned off all this while, I know you understand that this means

bit her lip, but she

really prefer

trial for Cordy's

other hand, there was nothing on Zoe being exposed to be not a member of

profile in public and never revealed that she was an

the Levines would never have a scandal like this to come

Zoe was getting

still in the hospital, as she wanted to keep herself

in her own world without seeing

Chapter 329

Suddenly it started to drizzle, with tiny droplets quickly pelting Zoe's body.

When she was discharged, the doctor told her that she was still physically weak—she must take care of her body and not expose herself to the cold or get involved with any strenuous activities.

In fact, the best option was to stay home for a month before resuming work. She ignored all that, feeling right then that her life was pointless, let alone anything else. She trudged along the streets, and for some miraculous reason, no one recognized a top star like her even as she walked along the streets without a disguise.

In fact, any eyes that lingered on her would think she was some sort of nutjob.

Who else would walk so slowly under the rain, not running for cover and not caring at all that she was getting drenched to the bone? She eventually stopped before a billboard, where workers were taking down her poster.

It was raining, but they were working as if they could not afford to wait.

into a truck, as if the workers did not care that it was broken as they got in

the entire city, as if she suddenly disappeared and was

gradually turned

Manor, staring at that familiar

she doing here? She was supposed to be strolling aimlessly without a destination, since she had no reason, she returned

so, she still would not dare to enter. So that was what others meant with the phrase 'so close yet so far'. But she was really tired—spent, even. She simply crouched over the damp

umbrella being held above her, and she saw Lawrence White. He

dare

she did was gingerly follow

as

body was shaking from

Chapter 330

Zoe did not expect that it would still hurt in every way possible.

"We let you in not out of sympathy but to make sure you understand your status now. Don't appear here ever again for your own sake, because our family will never accept you," Alan said, watching her dispassionately just then.

"We wouldn't have been this cold if you weren't Ivan's illegitimate child."

Yes.

Her fault was being an illegitimate child—her birth was impermissible in the first place.

"But is this my fault? Did I get to choose my own birth?" Zoe asked with neither rage nor grief—only confusion.

'Why am I supposed to suffer everything?'

There was a flash of emotion in Alan's eyes, and he said, "You're not at fault, but it happened to you anyway. And that is why you must endure it."

Zoe's years trickled out along the corner of her eye—so this world was really that unfair. She never hurt anyone, but she had to suffer this anyway.

"Is there a reason for our family to accept you? That would be a slap to our faces and letting Ivan lord over us and humiliate us."

every word

we can't afford

richest family in North City would suffer

said, chasing her

further

"Okay." Zoe nodded quietly.

she do other than accept this? She was not a Levine now—in fact, she was a

before Alan, she bowed and said, "Please take

fingers twitched

for the girl he started spoiling since she was

the thick towel, put it neatly

she paused, noticing her stunt double just

was not

had been the double, taking Cora's place for over

was suffering

saw her too, and

was the real heiress of the

Zoe studied her then.

looked just like a blossoming flower kept in a greenhouse, nurtured