

Repaid 431

Chapter 431

Cordy stared at John, speechless.

He remained calm and collected as he added, "I've been taking care of you over the last few days."

So?

"I've wiped your face, your body, and changed your diapers..."

As John went into detail about how he had been helping her over the last few days, she finally had enough. "Could you please stop?"

"Okay." John grinned.

There's that bewitching smile again.

"So? Do you still want to take a shower?" John asked.

"Nope," Cordy refused-ignorance was bliss, but knowledge certainly changed everything.

"Where are we, specifically?" she then asked, just to distract herself from her urge to shower.

private residence in Rocktown," John replied. "We're

there are two servants, five bodyguards, and

been here?" Cordy

since anything could happen between John and

far their relationship

was whether she was in danger—she would have

John could protect

like the

was danger, but he could

be precise,

residence,"

at him until he

she then asked bluntly, "Did you know what would

night?”

“No,” John replied.

so he elaborated, “I’ve been in Rocktown for a while now, helping with Stuart Holdings’ business and assist Jessica in preparing for what their family was scheming or arranging—they’re still very wary of

“Then why would you stop me from

explained. “The two

are to neutralize his brother’s side of the family as a threat

Holdings’ position as a business

can transition into politics, while the latter ensures

And the two key individuals

are Patrick

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Cordy nodded, agreeing with John’s take.

He was still watching her and solemnly giving her his analysis. “In summary, William has two key individuals he needs to deal with before his rise to power: Patrick and myself. However, he has labeled Patrick as a hostile that needs to be eliminated, while using every method at his disposal to attempt luring me to his cause. And for them, the only issue with that is you, which is why there’s no doubt that they would come after you.”

Cordy blinked but did not respond.

John then continued. “When you showed up at that charity ball with Patrick, it meant that they could make one move while gaining twice the rewards. They were never going to let that chance slip.”

“In reality, I’m not that formidable that I can fully read their mind, and everything I’ve mentioned is my supposition along with some after-action observation. I’m not even before something happens, the moment that I realized the Stuarts could just

eliminate you and
John gulped even as he remembered the
Cordy would be
to stop you from coming to Rocktown. If
a move
one ever denies
one stone-especially not the Stuarts, who are shrewd to
Cordy was silent.
had a hunch that things would get dangerous if she
why she had insisted on leaving the charity ball early
Like John had said, none of them were clairvoyant, and they could never
would do to hurt
was
she was not being petty against John when
the dangers. She had certainly made it clear
and she had no way to go except
a shield in Patrick. She therefore had to
business failed,
that their partnership
became worthless.
as it may, she did not explain

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Cordy suddenly asked, "How's Patrick?"
There were many things she did not understand, so she was not going to rack her
brains for nothing.
The only thing she knew for a fact was that right now, she and Patrick were on the
same side.

"He's not dead," John replied without further elaboration.

"Could I borrow your phone to give him a call?" she asked him politely then.

John did not agree to it-it was clear that he was still hostile toward the man.

That only begged the question further: what on earth was the relationship and standpoint between her and him?!

Cordy did not get pushy, however, and calmly said, "Fine. I'm just going to lie down here."

"You knew about his... taste?"

Cordy said, not bothered to compromising photos of himself with first visited her in her

That was why she trusted him more than those photos could cause would be too much for any she decided to him.

absolute sincerity granted her a thorough take too long," John surprised as he held out his idea a moment ago, but he was now so easygoing about man's thought process was truly an enigma, though she chose to not of the time.

As a gesture of respect, John left

Patrick's number to memory,

"Cordy?"

tone on the end was casual, and Patrick somehow knew it was her even this was it's

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Cordy snorted. "Let's get down to business." "Alright," Patrick replied cheerfully, and histone quickly changed. "After we managed to escape by chance the other night, William's side of the family must be fuming- especially Jessica. She must be losing it

too, knowing that you are now with John. That's why you'd better watch out. I'm really worried she'll do something drastic."

"What, wasn't that night drastic enough?" Cordy scoffed.

"Their whole family was in on it. In this case, Jessica would be doing it on her own volition, and it's going to be something insane."

"Yeah," Cordy replied, having anticipated that.

After all, John left Jessica alone at the charity ball, went straight to Cordy's rescue, and stayed with Cordy ever since.

It was far more than what any woman could take.

"Also, my grandfather is making his move against William following that night," Patrick added bluntly. "William had burned his bridges when he tried to hurt us, and I apologize that you almost lost your life too. I would admit that I'd expected a move from William, but I couldn't say no when you asked to come to Rocktown, considering our partnership. I won't lie to you either... My family has been waiting for William's eagerness to get

"I understand," Cordy

feelings about that, but

came to her partnership with Patrick, she just had

involving

suddenly

"Huh?" Cordy blurted.

night, even

the end."

and do nothing," Cordy said bluntly." "Anyone in

same. Moreover, our fates are bound right

you, things would get

benefited from your altruism," Patrick told her.

owe

her a favor, but

that worked
me more now?" Patrick asked." And aren't
open up to John after
me right now?" Cordy asked
if she was still intent on maintaining their
whether John was friend or foe
of the latter,
John's wit-he kept himself positioned ambiguously between both
neither had reason to attack
said bluntly, "No. In my opinion, you're most
may
virtue of repaying
Cordy smiled faintly-the man knew how
trust you more," Cordy
"Still so rational." Patrick chuckled. "Any

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The sudden change in subject left Cordy taken aback.
"What, you don't want to leave?" Patrick teased her.
"I mean, I would like to, but I'd rather not trouble you," Cordy said bluntly. "I can't even
get out of bed right now."
"I'm just kidding," Patrick said. "I won't be able to take you with me even if I came, not
to mention that I have no idea where you are. I'm sure John would do all he can to
hide you from me, but that's the point-he's keeping you very well hidden, so be at
ease and take your time to rest for a while at his place."
Cordy could not quite describe how she felt after hearing what Patrick said.
That was when another call came in, and she said, "I'm hanging up. Jessica is calling
John's phone."
"Ask the man to buy you a phone, okay? Just stick to your old number so that we can
keep in touch," Patrick did not forget to tell her.

"I know."

Once she hung up, she called out at the direction of the door, "John!"

John opened the door and entered, having been waiting for her all this while.

Still, he did not eavesdrop on her conversation with Patrick.

you," Cordy said,

it, and left again with his phone

later.

Jessica called, nor

certainly chosen to avoid talking about Jessica

a phone

be bringing it

"Thank you,"

"Want to sleep

Yeah."

Cordy lay down again,

could not sleep-she certainly could not do it

days, but she

think about what she

another three days in John's

could get out of

to lean on a crutch

after she left the room John arranged for

the residence was.

In reality, it was a five-story mansion with a garden spanning 18,000 square

equipped with an outdoor

mansion and therefore did not know what the

looked like or where it was from

was that

a bench in the back garden, basking in the

checked her phone.

after a week, the Stuarts' charity ball

hot topic every year. Moreover, there was the

wedding date, along with Cordy's alleged affair

kept the charity ball trending consistently this

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In fact, one might even describe it as water under the bridge.

After all, Jessica had invested a fortune on Noel, so there was no way she would just

let Noel enjoy all the perks for free.

In fact, the moment Noel accepted Jessica's grace was the moment her nightmare

began!

Nonetheless, Cordy felt no sympathy as she lowered her phone.

Suddenly, a dark shadow appeared over my head.

She recognized who it was coupled with that scent-John had been staying with her for

days, staying just next door.

Despite the announcement of his wedding date, the man was staying away from his

fiancee.

Cordy could scarcely imagine how crazy Jessica was right about now.

"It's lunch time," John told her mildly.

Surprisingly, they had been getting along well over the last few days-no

but no

friends, with neither crossing

through the living room and had lunch

Through it all, his

"You should answer that,"

all too obvious that it had been Jessica calling him, as

since Cordy

as she would only call John

was with John, they

it just so that
really wanted to tell Jessica that she
between her and John did not actually affect Cordy that
Still, John got up to answer
was not that far away,
actually interested in eavesdropping on their conversation, since
be a
returned after hanging up, staying silent for
“I’ll be leaving later. I won’t be
“Okay,” Cordy replied.

“I’ll prepare dinner
“You don’t have to. Your cooking isn’t that good
especially since he had been cooking for her for days,
certainly was enthusiastic if
at her, she added flatly,
other chefs
“There are,”

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Cordy only spared it a single glance before putting down her phone, along with her
fork.

“Do you not like the dish, Ms. Sachs?” the chef asked nervously just then.

“No, I just feel a little sick,” Cordy smiled faintly—the food was not bad at all, but the
psychosomatic effect had already kicked in.

“Should I ask the doctor to give you another checkup?” the chef suggested.

“No, it’s fine.”

The doctor had left days ago, since she was healthy aside from her broken leg.

“Then...”

“Just go about your usual work. Don’t mind me,” Cordy said, rising to her feet and
heading out of the mansion on her crutches.

In the end, she was feeling annoyed.

There were times when one could lie to everyone, but not themselves.

Her phone suddenly started to ring just then, and upon seeing who it was, she took a deep breath and forced a smile as she greeted, "Zoe."

"Are you still in Rocktown?" Zoe

Is something

"No, I was just thinking about inviting you and Quinn over to try my
that my cooking is getting better now.

good no matter how I did.

really like to know the true

complaints about Bob, it was not hard to hear the

faintly in turn. "Sorry to disappoint

anytime soon."

are you really dating Patrick? Are you at his home right
even?"

was thrilled, clearly having read the news as well, even texting
ask about it.

Cordy did not answer, since things were too complicated to be
words, and this situation was unavoidable

you really giving up on

and you're still speaking up for

teasing.

given his situation. He had

kind as

being considerate toward others. "The Levines value family above all

there's no stopping family

She certainly

she was soon asking agitatedly, "Hold on-we

Or are you compelled

harass you?"

the usual rumor and speculationneither of us can explain ourselves either, since it'd be

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Cordy was actually supportive of Zoe's relationship with Bob, though she also held out a little hope on Jay in a corner of her heart.

Maybe, just maybe...

Even then, Cordy found that part of her conflicting.

"You mean we should be doing it already?" Zoe asked.

"I actually thought that you two were hitting it off," Cordy replied. "I'm actually surprised that you're that conservative."

"Not really, it's just that things hadn't really gotten that far... but he caught me watching an adult video a while ago," Zoe confessed awkwardly.

"You were watching what?" Cordy laughed.

"Don't start. I was just checking it out since Quinn asked for help, but Bob somehow stumbled upon me browsing! To be honest, we almost did it right then... if Bob didn't suddenly have to leave for some thingamajig."

then? Was there no other opportunities?" Cordy asked." I never knew that shy."

woman," Zoe snapped. "I can't exactly just take the

but he's actually extremely

should be a bit more proactive? It feels like

something if we

and really have

it...

encourage you to do so," Cordy gave her support

it would be ridiculous if Zoe

chipper after

I get

"Sure." Cordy smiled.

coming back?" Zoe

Jessica grew up. Don't you think the air there is that?"

Cordy chuckled, earnestly appreciative of Zoe's earnestness would certainly have been beautiful if not back once I'm done with things recovered.

I'll personally cook for you once you're "Sure."

children might be able to spell ABC before come back, at this a while longer before hanging

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As Cordy turned around, John wrapped his arms around her from behind.

A pungent alcoholic scent filled her nostrils right then-he had definitely been drinking too much.

"Don't go," he whispered, holding her fast while his lips inched closer to her nape, greedily inhaling her distinctly fresh scent.

It really made him lose his mind.

His arms tightened around her, and his lips pressed flirtatiously against her nape.

"Two-timing feels really good, huh?" Cordy suddenly asked, unusually cold toward his affection.

John tensed up, while Cordy continued to scoff, "Between Jessica and I, which of us feels better to hug?"

John clearly stiffened right then.

Cordy then added, "I'm sorry, but I really hate jasmine-scented perfume."

She clearly picked up the scent of Jessica's perfume on his body, after all.

clearly eased around her, and she just had to shrug a little to

as if shutting her heart from him

Cordy returned to
thirsty, but not getting a drink left her whole
tossed and turned in bed, unable to
the scent of jasmine seemed to swirl around
starting to lose it, she got out of bed and went to
had been able to do ever
told her that she just had to make sure she was not infected or
there would be no issues
time as well, avoiding
cuts and bruises all
took her a long time
inconvenient for her.
changed into a clean
she saw
bed and found a
was kept in a thermos cup as
degrees.
pursed
habit of getting out of bed during
know what she
up late the next day, since she slept very
she had a lot of free time, and when she woke up did not matter
had issued instructions

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As they ate, one of the servants walked up to John and asked respectfully, "Mr. Levine, you were saying to throw away that set of formal wear last night?"
He was probably uncertain since John's clothing was worth a fortune, and they would never afford to pay the compensation if they were to throw it away by mistake.
"Yeah." John nodded.

The servant certainly had more to say, but considering that they did not know what it was like to be rich, he replied politely, "Yes, Mr. Levine."

With that, he left.

Cordy watched as he left before glancing at John.

"Actually, you could just send me back to North City," Cordy suddenly said, since she did not believe that he was happier with her around.

Being sandwiched between two women would only make one infuriated.

Nonetheless, John refused her immediately. "I'd be more at ease with you beside me."

"And how long do you intend to keep me here?"

"Well see." John refused to give a definitive answer.

Cordy bit her lip but ultimately refrained from asking.

convinced that he would at least

arrived in the next

North City, Zoe was dressed in a

to buy it, picking the skimpiest

long while.

as she checked

cold, but

She had no idea what she was nervous about either, since

everything as an

This time, she was just going to celebrate Bob's birthday, and then present

his gift.

could be easier, just as there was nothing to

was convinced that Bob would probably be unable

up

rang, and Zoe's heart skipped

smile grew wider

was 5 PM, and he previously

it was his birthday, he still had

insisted on not holding a formal celebration. There would be a
relatives and friends, and

Or that was what he

been enthusiastic as far as she was

would come early, and therefore prepared everything

was apologizing over the phone.

be late tonight. Sam is refusing to let me go and

tried to turn him down, but he's just being stubborn, saying that

otherwise. But honestly, I don't want him disturbing

come over once I get