

Repaid 51

Chapter 51

Meanwhile, Dandy continued.

“But since Cordy is clearly having a thing with John Levine, it’s high time you go public about your relationship with Noel. You’ve kept it under wraps in fear that Cordy would cause trouble, which was why you had to wait for her to demand an annulment of your engagement.... But now, that doesn’t matter at all, and we’d just be laughed at if we allow things to drag on.”

Kyle nodded. “I’ll talk to Noel, and then we’ll make the announcement.”

“Just put together a respectable, glamorous wedding. Recoup the dignity we lost yesterday,” Dandy told him... though he was barely hiding his fury at the mention of yesterday.

Dandy left with that, while Kyle quickly called Noel.

Noel was lying in bed, googling and skimming through the news after she woke up.

She was impressed, seeing that there was no coverage on anything about the Levines banquet yesterday. They were simply above the rest-the public would know anything they did not want them to know.

That was when Kyle’s call arrived, though she frowned before answering it. “Kyle.”

wake

did you leave last night? I never saw you even as I left

clearly not wanting to mention last

Noel exclaimed,

you mean ‘what’? Don’t

Cordy would cause trouble?

Kyle snapped. “Do you really think

because she did not want to

she did not want said relationship at all-he was suddenly so unappealing, since even Cordy did not want anything to do with

Noel had a

having already come up with an

Kyle already seemed

my sister gets-I don’t think there’s any

but I’m worried about your reputation, since you’re

Chapter 52

Soon, a week had passed, and Cordy had worked overtime twice.

At present, she was in her office, seriously arranging the designs she finished.

She only knew too well that she could not count on anyone from the design department since they were all Noel's cronies.

Picking up her phone, she told Vince Cartman, "Have all heads of department and the design department supervisors gather for a meeting in half an hour. We're discussing the templates for the upcoming season's fashion line-no one is allowed to be absent."

"Yes, Ms. Sachs."

Every executive arrived punctually at the conference room in half an hour at the conference room of Starstream Group headquarters. Naturally, their compliance was skin-deep because they did not want Cordy to fault them.

That was all there was to it too-they naturally would not actually do any actual work. They were just waiting for Starstream to fall and for Cordy to leave.

late nights and long overtime, and we've finally finished

head of department started to murmur among themselves, while

with anything over the last week, but Cordy was now telling them that the template was already finished. They would never be able to catch up to the deadline for the

Cordy started to present the first template... but it already

overturned Starstream's outdated designs, boldly using vibrant colors and traditional floral prints for a perfect blend. It certainly hit the sweet spot of matching international trends, and anyone's eyes would be twinkling

ready to nitpick were left silenced, just as the supervisors from design

for years, but they had never seen such quality

had made those

the design department, along with Ms. Sachs' tireless work. Finance, please remember to give everyone in Design a \$500 dollar bonus this month, and a \$ 3,000 dollar bonus

Noel

did they ever help

obviously disgruntled-they had all agreed to refuse Cordy any help beforehand, did

that they were working with Cordy and had put together

shall put these templates into production while sticking to our old production quotas," Cordy said, before adding, "Noel, see me in my office. Everyone else may

Chapter 53

Noel was clearly excited. "Zoe York?! She's in high demand in both showbiz and endorsements, and especially so in the case of the former. However, our company might not be able to lure her- her endorsement would cost at least seven figures. We'd never afford her."

"You don't have to worry if we can afford her. I just want to know what you think of her."

One must certainly admit that Zoe was the best endorser one could ask for, with some even calling her the queen of brand ambassadors. If she could endorse Starstream Group, their fashion business would definitely rise to the next level.

"You're a good judge of people." Though Noel agreed to the idea, she was convinced that Cordy would never be able to bring Zoe in as brand ambassador.

"Alright," Cordy nodded. "That's all for now. You can get back to work."

Noel studied Cordy just then, finding everything she did today exceedingly weird.

She wanted to ask about it, but ultimately decided against it.

After all, the designs today were far beyond Starstream's usual standard, and Cordy was going to gain considerable prestige if it was known that she had designed those templates.

such, Noel was worried that all of that would go up in smoke if she asked, and it was better

Noel left her office, Cordy suddenly chased after her and called

"Noel, wait."

"What is it?"

keep what I told you a secret. Don't say anything

double take, but she soon came to a realization. "I

and watched

sight, she watched from the corner of her eye as a certain employee made

they were the eyes and ears of certain

attention of the other heads of department-which

she returned to her office, Cordy began to consider

she told Noel that she would like a change in

have a solid brand image as well-she had always had plans to change brand ambassadors, and she definitely had her eyes on Zoe early on as the right

had also done her homework and found out that Zoe had yet to endorse any fashion

to it.

been rational enough to set it aside for the sake
business.

picked up her phone and dialed an unfamiliar

Chapter 54

After all, if that certain someone made a call, Cordy would have Zoe's endorsement without the need of a referral.

"From where I'm standing, you're the best person for the job, Mr. Parker," Cordy said with assurance.

Jay naturally did not turn her down. "I'll check her schedule and text you later."

"Thank you."

"You're welcome."

On the other end, Jay was sitting before a video camera, taking a break in between shooting sessions.

Turning to his assistant, he said, "Bring me Zoe York's schedule for the next week or so."

"Yes, Mr. Parker."

Soon, Jay had it in his hands. However, after taking a close look, he got up and headed to a corner to make a call.

"Johnny," he said once the other person picked up.

"Yeah."

Jay

end, and Jay smiled faintly. "She's asking me to help her arrange a meeting with Zoe, to discuss

"Is that so?"

no surprises, they can

was still relaxed since shooting had just

with her." John's cool voice was clearly being breathed through

meeting by chance," Jay said with a chuckle. "Anyway, I was

hung on him, and Jay chuckled

man was

phone back into his pocket and turned to

the smile on his face, but she remained impassive as she strode to her,

scenes in the afternoon,

“And...?” Zoe asked flatly.

friend who wants to talk to you about an endorsement. You can have

talk to my manager if you want an

Cordy Sachs,” Jay

parents, and brother met and greeted their guests. Naturally, she also noticed the drama involving her brother

personal life like the back of her hand. He never had any women, aside from

Cordy somehow got him to break his

Fine.

to herself that she was just a little interested in

the time and place if there’s no issue,” Jay

you coming with me?” Zoe asked. “To

Chapter 55

At 2 PM, Cordy arrived with Vince at a location in the suburbs, where Jay and Zoe were filming the series.

Since it was a period drama, they built a castle town as a prop.

One of the film crew members led her to Jay, who was sitting behind a large video camera and directing the shooting.

He turned to Cordy and politely nodded for a moment before returning his attention to work.

Cordy did not disturb him and she simply sat nearby to watch them work-at the moment, Zoe and the male lead, Hal Abbott, were in position in preparation for the next scene.

“Scene 3, sequence 1, take 1. Action!”

Zoe was abruptly cornered by Hal against the wall, their eyes fixed upon each other.

It was Cordy’s first time watching professionals film a scene and she was impressed-especially by the expressiveness in Zoe’s eyes.

At the next instant, Hal’s lips started to close in on Zoe’s.

was a struggling look in Zoe’s eyes before

but just as their lips met, Zoe suddenly

“Cut!” Jay barked.

to the crew-there was supposed to be a

take five,” Jay announced nonetheless. “We

left the set, and an assistant promptly came up with a glass of water, asking worriedly, “What’s wrong,

a little out of

you didn’t know. Should I ask Ms. Darling to

“No,” Zoe said.

that the lead characters would shoot their kiss scenes first,

anything to do with her familiarity toward Hal-it was a psychological

back

as she was about to turn and leave, she spotted a familiar

Cordy Sachs?”

her with a handshake. “You’re more beautiful than you

shame you’re not an actress either,” Zoe said

exceedingly ravishing-even Cordy’s facial features were

brother certainly

Chapter 56

Cordy took a deep breath.

She had always kept business and pleasure separate.

Looking down at the message notification popping on her phone, she decided to ignore it.

John was sitting in the executive office of the Levine Ventures branch over at Los Loco.

He scowled at his phone, which was not jingling at all.

Randy Martin was standing beside him, too afraid to even say a word.

It was not as if things were bad-in fact, the sudden inspection to the branch here revealed that every operation and project was showing more than satisfactory performance.

Even so, his boss was glowering with bloodlust.

“Randy.”

“Sir?”

“Book the earliest flight tomorrow. We’re going back to North City.”

this city?” Randy pointed out-since they were here for the

leave in the evening,” John

he was going back tomorrow one way or

it would be midnight

phone ever since he arrived in Los Loco, and he was occasionally caught staring blankly at

man in love must not be observed from

set at North City, they were reshooting the kiss

had a chat and quickly

“Scene 3, sequence

quickly went

in the first take was usable, they just had to re-do the

pinning Zoe against the

were about to touch,

“Sorry.”

Hal was left hanging awkwardly this

“Cut!”

and strode straight toward Zoe and Hal, saying, “A moment

lips and left, following him to a

Prepare for

Zoe was stunned.

Chapter 57

Hal and Zoe finally kissed, and the camera zoomed down from wide-angle to a close-up... which clearly captured Hal pushing his tongue into Zoe’s mouth.

Zoe did a double take, and her fists were clenching harder.

However, she stayed still until Jay barked, “Cut!”

And with that, Zoe immediately pushed Hal away.

The actor certainly knew why Zoe was upset, but he could not help it-she was beautiful, and her lips were irresistibly soft!

He might even have kept going if the director had not yelled cut and if Zoe did not push him. Nonetheless, Zoe turned and started to stride off without caring if the take was good.

Hal quickly chased after her. "Zoe."

Zoe wheeled on him, her expression icy.

away.

"I'm sorry, I just..." Hal apologized, and growled through his teeth, "The director told me to get into more believable, so that we'd get

smirked and asked, "Jay Parker

that Zoe was in a

was angry just now, but she was spiteful now, with her eyes suddenly

make it more believable," Hal

"Hmmm..." Zoe smirked again.

just said he could cut the kiss for her,

should have been used to his deceit

she led her assistant back to their trailer to have her makeup removed, Cordy was already waiting for her outside

saw the scene just now, as

Jay seemed to be glowering as he

camera.

as she got in her car, having put on a cap, a

fine. I'm free for the day anyway," Cordy said

"Let's go."

drive them to

her disguise after they entered the

about to

"Quinn," Zoe beckoned.

Summer entered and leveled a curious

Chapter 58

As such, Cordy did not drag her feet and went straight to the point. "Since you've been honest, Ms. York, I shall do the same—you may not be aware that Starstream Group was under my father's charge before

this, but I've recently taken over... So, what I'm saying is that while the Starstream Fashion designs were bland before, that won't be the case now or in the future. Here are the templates for our designs next season, please take a look."

Zoe studied Cordy then..

While she did not know much about Cordy, she had heard the rumors about her, and all the drama revolving around her. She had come to believe that Cordy was reliant on men, since she and Kyle were an item when she returned to North City.

But Cordy's words were certainly enough to change Zoe's opinion of her-she was competent, direct, and knew how to stand her ground.

In the end, the rumors were just... rumors.

Zoe took the tablet that Cordy held out to her then, her eyes immediately lighting up when she saw the templates.

Having agreed to have dinner with Cordy, she had looked through Starstream Fashion's online catalogs in her trailer out of boredom. Naturally, nothing in there caught her eye, but she also knew that she could not refuse this endorsement deal-not with her own brother poised to push her into it.

And yet, her opinion of Starstream Fashion took a 180-degree turn when she saw the new designs.

As such, Cordy's line just now- 'that won't be the case now or in the future', was certainly no exaggeration.

"It's good," she nodded in acknowledgement.

to you and you're willing to endorse us, we can discuss your

can you pay me for my endorsement?"

sharp," Cordy

a rebate," Zoe said

Cordy was stunned.

I'd break a

was even more

half that, or my management company would protest.1.5 million- pay me that much

that she would not endorse other brands

Starstream.

as delighted as

was clearly doing her an immense favor-far more than what she

refusal from Zoe, since she had attended Alan Levine's birthday banquet

John defending her, and that alone
tomorrow with your contract. I'll give you a head's
you, Ms. York. Here's to a rewarding partnership for
be friends from now on. Just

Cordy quickly said. "And you can call me

Chapter 59

It was past 11 PM when the three ladies were done drinking and started to leave.

"Let me take you home," Cordy's vision was blurred as well, but she thought that she should give them a ride home considering that she brought them out here.

"Burp..." Zoe belched and she was seeing stars as well. "It's alright. Quinn can take me home since we're going the same way."

With that, Zoe dragged Quinn along and left the room.

Cordy quickly followed them.

Although they were all drunk, they were not at the level they would lose control-Quinn seemed especially sober as well.

Cordy always had self-control, but considering that today was her first meeting with Zoe, she naturally had to play along since Zoe was a real alcoholic. She could not seem to stop after the first glass, but Quinn somehow remained controlled despite Zoe's crazy streak.

Cordy walked with them until they entered a black sedan before returning to Walter's sedan. She reclined over her seat, her stomach a misery.

City and the myriad lights that

Her phone then jingled.

for a look and saw the text that read: [Drink some honey when you get home.] Cordy did not send a reply as she

always text her a couple times everyday since he

into Levine Manor, Zoe had fallen asleep

and bragging how she got Cordy drunk, but

could fall asleep instantly after getting drunk and then wake up with the vigor of a tiger. She certainly

tried to carry Zoe out of the car and back to a

to find Jay alighting from the driver's

he strode toward them and

got drunk," Quinn told

Jay frowned, Quinn said feebly, "Could you carry her inside if you don't mind? I

her..."

headed toward the sedan, arching his back

his arms.

Chapter 60

After Jay put Zoe to bed, he did not leave immediately.

He lowered his gaze, staring at her cheeks that were flushed from excess alcohol, and her red, moist lips.

He suddenly remembered the scene of her filming that kiss...

His Adam's apple bobbed and he placed his long fingers on her lips, gently rubbing it as if wiping filth off it.

He did so solemnly for a long while, until her lips were almost swollen red.

When he lifted his finger, he leaned downward ever so slightly, but straightened himself at the very next instant and left.

He shut the door behind himself, and therefore could not see a trail of tears quietly trickling down the sleeping beauty's face.

Cordy was feeling a slight headache.

Going to work with a hangover was utter misery.

Zoe was too good a drinker, whereas she had thrown up the entire night, the world almost turning upside down for her.

As she drank some black coffee to clear her head, Vince Cartman was politely reporting, "Ms. Sachs? The contract is ready. Zoe York's manager has also called, saying that they're ready to sign it."

rising from her chair despite her splitting headache.

found Zoe's agreement to the endorsement deal a little too smooth. It just felt unreal,

those worries would be relieved once

the official announcement," Cordy told Vince, having said as much to Zoe and

Ms. Sachs." Vince

that she had changed her secretary, or there would be leaks

even as she remembered that most of Starstream Group was

Cordy

ate her takeout, she took a bath and lay
of habit, and spaced out a
did

Well, that was fine.

unnecessary since they never started, and could go their own separate
her phone and fell

soundly, but even as she dreamt, she was jolted awake by

her eyes and saw that it was pitch-black outside, and the city seemed unusually

What time was it?

she glanced at her phone and saw

sleeping too early, she heard the doorbell ringing again outside