

Repaid 151

Chapter 151

As Cordy rode the elevator upstairs to her apartment, the doors eventually opened to reveal Zoe leaning against Cordy's door, her face scarlet.

She was clearly drunk.

Cordy quickly strode up to her. "Zoe?"

Zoe was clearly muddled even as she opened her eyes, on the verge of tears when she saw Cordy. "You're finally back."

"What are you doing here?" Cordy asked. "You're really drunk, too."

"Shooting ended early today, so I went drinking with some friends," Zoe replied, her breath stinking of alcohol.

How much did she drink, really?!

"With Quinn?" Cordy asked.

"No, she's too busy and went on a business trip anyway. I went with other friends... Burp! Drinking buddies," Zoe said, and belched.

Quinn was

and helped Zoe inside, asking,

would murder me if I disturbed your date," Zoe said, and

Zoe started to vomit while clutching at the

Cordy kept rubbing her back. "Do you feel better? I can bring a bath,"

do it

"Yeah."

her bathtub and brought Zoe fresh

Cordy passed Zoe the honey

in Cordy's bed and drank the honey drink, beaming, "I knew you'd take care of me once I get was pale from all that vomiting, but she was still beaming somehow. "Don't people I don't want to see

Or

Zoe denied it, but she was not elaborating either, and she simply pulled her blanket

“I’m going to

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The eye-catching title was written large and bold: [Meet Jay Parker, Zoe York’s Rumored Lover!]

Cordy watched as Zoe’s fingers shook, and she quickly took out her phone as well to read the article.

The article gave a simple recap of the scandal on Zoe before, and now confirmed the relationship between Zoe and Jay. They even went out of their way to mention that Mandy Jessop was originally the female lead for *Pomp and Circumstance*, but the role was ultimately given to Zoe.

Fueled by speculation, the relationship was no different from confirmed.

Cordy tapped on the photos attached to the article, where Zoe and Jay were keeping their distance from each other. Even though the photos were taken quite far away, one could tell that they were arguing.

The article simply posited it as them getting upset from getting photographed, causing the scandal before.

Still, it was not surprising that the media would be convinced that Jay was the one from the photos censored with mosaic before. Anyone comparing those photos and the latest one could certainly see the resemblance in their respective silhouettes.

if

Zoe could not help cursing, fuming after reading

snapping from the other end, “Zoe, you don’t have to keep secrets now that things have come to this. Talk to Mr. Parker—decide if you want to go public or explain yourselves... although the latter won’t fly, not after you were photographed at the mansion together. I’m sure fans won’t get upset with celebrities dating these days, not to mention that you and Mr. Parker are quite the couple. I’ll discuss with

nothing between me and Jay Parker!” Zoe growled, breathing every word through

“Zoe...”

later!” Zoe hung up right then, took a deep breath and

the point. “Please announce that there’s nothing between us right now. I’ll also declare that we only have a working relationship—I don’t want to retire my showbiz career early because of

remaining rational as ever. “But we still have to corroborate our stories Why would you show up at my doorstep, after

she could not come

script, could she? It would make things worse, doing that at

about it. I’ll call about it later,” Jay

was shaking even as

to plan ever since she

Cordy could sense

wondered if she was imagining it, but Zoe was definitely being

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Looking up at Cordy just then, Zoe asked, "You must be curious as to how John ended up bringing Dicky home, aren't you?"

Cordy nodded, and Zoe gave her an 'I-knew-it' look. "Of course he doesn't tell you a thing."

In reality, Cordy simply did not ask.

At the same time, Zoe searched her memory and said, "John was twenty-one when Dicky was brought home... and by our grandfather, at that. Actually, John did not even know that he had a kid, but as for how our grandfather knows? Let's just say he's omnipotent and leave it at that. Anyway, I remembered that John was still abroad when our grandfather came home with Dicky, and I overheard him speaking over the phone that the mother abandoned Dicky at the hospital after delivering him, so our grandfather brought him back."

Cordy felt a pain in her chest.

Although John had told her that Richard's mother had abandoned him, she was still stunned to find out that Richard was abandoned at birth.

The very thought left her suffocating, just as she remembered her own child.

wanted to keep it so badly, only

almost jumped in

as her tears gushed. "My chest

time too. How cruel could that woman be to abandon her own son? I'd never forgive her if I

crazy that she'd abandon John and Dicky? Is he not handsome enough for her? Or is he not

woman was too, to leave John without a care after sleeping

this one time when Bob Davis and I got drunk and discussed that woman, and we both agreed that she must be a stranger who met John by chance. She probably doesn't know about John's power

her throat, taken by surprise by

mean, be honest. What other reason would any woman have to dump my brother?!"

was certainly proud of John, a far cry from her

to her senses.

that Zoe could stay unaffected and

eventually. There were rumors before that I've risen through the ranks thanks to my connection with some bigwig, and in this case, if

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Zoe nodded and said earnestly, "Cordy, you're so nice. John's lucky to have met you."

Cordy became a little embarrassed from Zoe's words-in reality, she was lucky to have met John too.

"Thank goodness Dicky's mother was blind, or I'd never have such a nice cousin-in-law," Zoe said, continuing her flattery.

"Just sleep," Cordy urged Zoe with a smile, and then hurried off to the bathroom.

Zoe watched as Cordy left, her smile slowly fading.

She wondered just then if women had to meet scumbags before meeting their prince-even Cordy had to run into one like Kyle Jessop.

As for herself, Jay was more than enough.

Zoe was woken by her phone's ringtone early next morning, and seeing who it was, she answered. with a groan. "Linda, didn't I tell you that Jay Parker would handle it? We just have to wait, so don't. bother me already..."

an announcement," Linda said

sat up on

personal connection with Zoe, insisting that they only had a working relationship. He added that he was now in a relationship with Mandy Jessop, and as he did not want to waste the public's time, he

stunned when she read the news too...

against the Jessops, but Mandy was

Linda snapped at Zoe from the other

Zoe came to her senses soon enough, and turned

there really nothing between you and Jay Parker?"

been photographed at Levine Manor if there was nothing between

was pretty clear, wasn't

what's wrong with his eyes, picking Mandy instead

Linda was convinced that Zoe was dating Jay, even getting the company to agree to show Zoe

find out that Jay was

why would Zoe

not hate another without reason,
latter had already put away her phone and gone
mind-she certainly could feign ignorance if Zoe really did not
get to work.

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“Yeah,” Zoe murmured. “The issue is resolved and I can relax in bed.”

“Okay. There’s not much to eat around here, so you’d have to order takeout.”

“Yeah.”

With that, Cordy got out of bed and headed out to work.

On the way there, she thought about it before calling John. “Zoe’s at my house.”

Keep her company for the next

didn’t you?” she asked, but it was definitely the case

she’d never let go even after so many years.” John

could not hide her curiosity. “Does

tell that Zoe loved

toward Zoe the reason

Zoe, why would he scapegoat himself

John explained. “I’m keeping the specifics confidential for Jay since Jay is

John was openly keeping

“It’s not as

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“Yeah,” Cordy replied, though she would not actually mind Zoe staying longer.

Changing the subject, John asked, “Ms. Sachs, wouldn’t you like to go on a trip?”

Cordy was at a loss for words-he was really getting energetic, was he not?

“I’m sorry, I’ll be busy in the immediate future,” she said, rejecting him right then since she had to prepare for the reality show.

John was clearly upset at that, and asked, “How long for?”

“Probably three months.”

lasted until the finals,

down after three months!" he said, his words tender.

skipped a beat, but she

Jay was

the Levines had no reason to help Zoe's showbiz career, they had reason to help Jay, and they naturally had to enforce a media gag on any news that

behind the scenes, the damage to Zoe's reputation was limited-she was even considered to be winning her

even call it a blessing

Jay quickly cooled off Kyle

proceeding to the round of 32 for Solo Show, the reality fashion show she intended to take elimination format until there was only one left standing. The winner's brand

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Even before Noel spoke to Cordy, Mandy arrived, escorted by a handful of assistants, and she immediately scoffed at Cordy. "Oh, the world is so small... To think that we'd run into you here."

Cordy was actually surprised that Mandy was a part of this.

Still, she soon remembered that Solo Show could never get current A-listers. All they had were either former stars whose popularities were fading, or actresses who were at best B-listers. And since the designers were newcomers or even amateurs, there was no popularity to be gained for real stars here.

Naturally, Cordy simply ignored Noel and Mandy, since there was nothing to be said to them.

But just as she was about to leave, Mandy laughed with utter disdain. "Cordy Sachs! Anyone can take pride in themselves, but always beware that it doesn't become conceit. Aren't you afraid of humiliating yourself in front of one billion people across the country?!"

"Shouldn't you be more concerned about yourself, Ms. Jessop?" Cordy retorted. "I know Jay Parker well enough to tell that he doesn't like troublemakers."

right then-how dare Cordy threaten

she just remembered, "By the way, I had a few drinks with Mr. Parker himself during John's birthday. Maybe he'll bring

those words, Cordy turned to leave, leaving Mandy ashen-faced

her? Despite the official announcement, she and

him. If she was willing, he would announce it publicly at daybreak, even admitting that her reputation would drop rock bottom

to it without hesitation-the damage to her reputation was temporary, but Jay was the

Jay arrived at Jessop Villa by 4 AM that same night, taking several intimate photos of them together and then telling her

did.

as it may, Mandy never did

once it was revealed that they

did not pry, however, since

she was with him,

their relationship, the

texted him or called him, he would excuse himself by saying

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Noel certainly could not depend on her own family since they were strictly patriarchal. They could accept paying the media for publicity, but they would refuse immediately if it was more than what they were willing to pay.

But with the Jessops joining in, she could easily reach over her original budget.

That was why she went to Kyle and competed as the chief fashion designer of Sachs Enterprises.

Even if she felt nothing toward Kyle now, she still had uses for him before she achieved the success she wanted.

Moreover, Kyle would only be too eager to accept her proposals, not to mention that the money spent would basically clear both their names!

And if she could win the grand prize as Jessop Corp's representative, she would strengthen their reputation as well.

Noel's eyes narrowed right then.

she worked at Starstream Fashion-not even when Cordy was pushing her to design a template for their autumn collection. After all, she refused to work for

once Noel got serious, she would definitely leave everyone

they took their

their agenda for the day was to introduce themselves to the audience before the celebrities

some looks of contempt shot at Cordy when it was her turn even though she was contesting as Starstream Fashion's chief designer. Everyone was sure that she had taken the spot. for herself out of

the blue, not to mention that she must have cleared the pre-audition by using the public's recent interest in her. After all, how entertaining would it be for the Sachs sisters to have

may, none of the celebrities picked Cordy after she

was business-they were certainly worried that they would be disqualified alongside Cordy. After all, it was the rule at Solo

delicate matter.

design competition, second place

she introduced herself, half of the thirty-two celebrities picked her. The rest only refrained because they were self-conscious enough to

not bothered to get

humbly thanked

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The pilot episode of this season's Solo Show was received with widespread acclaim, gaining plenty of public reaction and viewership.

It was only then that John realized what Cordy meant when she said she would be busy for three months.

He kept looping the scenes where Cordy was featured, watching it for over half an hour even though it was supposed to last minutes.

Randy Martin was actually left speechless as he looked on.

He understood that Cordy was beautiful and she would eclipse even star celebrities if she stood beside them... but John could get cross-eyed if he kept watching the same video over and again!

Randy could not help chuckling as he imagined the sight!

Still, he quickly turned silent at the next instant as a murderous, terrifying glare was shot his way.

"Do you find this funny?" John asked.

"Nope," Randy replied, and added. "Mrs. Levine is beautiful."

That only made John scowl harder, leaving Randy on the verge of tears.

praising

"Out!" John barked

immediately, relieved

picked up his

who the caller was, she used the quick response to text

notifications of WhatsApp messages

same video John had been watching for a

excitement was palpable even

is saying how

did not reply, Bob tagged Jay Parker

is taking part too. She placed first,

'husbands' were talking, Sam Saunders joined in the festivities as a bystander instead, typing: [Cordy Sachs, Noel Sachs, and Mandy Jessop? This is going to be

goad either. [If Zoe York was there

live TV. Now

John nor Jay replied at all, just as John's phone began

glanced at the caller

you call me?" Cordy

to stick to texting-a call might

I wouldn't have known that my girlfriend was exposing herself to the public," he

Cordy was speechless.

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Still, Cordy retorted, "Don't underestimate your girlfriend's abilities now."

"Even so," John said, "you should remember that your boyfriend owns a mountain of gold bars. It's hard, reliable, and dazzling."

Cordy could not help laughing at how vividly John was describing himself.

Changing the subject just then, John asked, "Are you free tonight?"

"...Yeah." She had been neglecting him for almost two weeks, and decided she should see him even if she was not done with work tonight.

John made the arrangements. "I'll pick you up after work. We'll eat at your place."

Cordy did a double take, and asked to confirm since she believed that she misheard. "There's nothing to eat at my place."

"You can make pasta, right?" he asked.

"That's it?" Cordy asked.

"Yeah," he replied happily.

Cordy did not say no.

Cartman came in to give her a report just then, and

“Yeah.”

oher

Cordy remembered she had a date with John, and she

thought you’d forgotten about me, Ms. Sachs,” the melodiously magnetic voice

“Where are you?”

“Look downstairs,” John replied.

wall and peered downward to find that exceedingly conspicuous black Maybach and the man

but he looked cool

said, quickly sliding her phone into her bag and leaving work, all while wondering how

the front entrance, John was still leaning against his Maybach as Cordy hurried to him.

long as you can remember it

that unreliable-she was just

the door for her, he said, “Get

did so, and they both headed to her

after heading inside, and she promptly put

cooking.

felt someone wrapping

behind.

figure easily pulled her to him into his

murmured as he