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It took Cordy and Richard great effort to finally move John to a room.

Just as they put him on the bed, Richard suddenly exclaimed, "Whoops."

"What's wrong?" Cordy asked, seeing the anxiety on his face just then.

"I have to submit the vlog tomorrow, but it's already very late and I haven't edited anything." Richard looked very worried.

"You can go do it now," Cordy told him.

"But Daddy is drunk. Someone needs to take care of him," Richard said, clearly in a dilemma.

However, he was also obviously staring at Cordy, clearly wanting her to help.

Cordy sighed—she had to spoil her own son.

"Yeah, I'll take care of him."

"Thanks, Mommy. You're the best!" Richard exclaimed with visible joy.

But as Cordy watched him leave, she sighed, somehow feeling like she had fallen for a trap.

Still, she got up and helped John out of his jacket and socks, after which she went to the washroom and wet a hot towel for him, wiping his cheek bit by bit while complaining to herself inwardly—who was John to her, and why should she be helping him so much like this?!

Most importantly, she was not the one who got him drunk, and there was also no reason for him to get drunk!

And aside from her complaint, she also remembered Wendy.

Right now, she was not quite sure what Wendy was actually up to.

Was she really messing around with other men?

Cordy stared at John's handsome face and sighed.

To think that the day had come when a young woman had him wrapped around her little finger, even with those good looks that bewitched scores of women in life.

Still, whether it was out of altruism or something else, Cordy was dutiful in her face for John—not only did she wipe his cheeks, but she also took off his shirt and wiped his body.

It was supposed to be perfectly normal care for a drunk person, but Cordy suddenly noticed something unusual as she wiped John's body...

His heart rate seemed to be racing more than usual, and she thought she could hear it pounding loudly.

Ba-dump, ba-dump, ba-dump...

Could it be an allergic reaction to alcohol causing a blockage in his veins?!

Cordy quickly moved closer to his chest and felt his heart pounding even harder from there!

Looking up at John, she shouted at him, "Wake up, John! Are you alright?! Is your heart having issues? Should I get an ambulance?"

John struggled to open his eyes.

His gaze was unfocused, and he appeared incoherent.

Cordy thought that he was in danger and quickly got up to call an ambulance.

However, just as she was about to move, John caught her and suddenly pulled her into his arms.

Cordy yelped and started to flail around in his embrace.

"Let me go, John! I have to get you to the hospital!" she cried.

"But I'm fine..." he mumbled softly, and there seemed to be an indescribable melancholy in his voice.

"You're fine? Your heart is pounding like a race car!" Cordy snapped, skeptical. "Let go of me. I need to get you to a doctor."

"Don't move. I'll be fine after I calm down," John said, clearly panting.

Cordy frowned. "Are you sure you don't need the hospital?"

"Yeah," John replied and tightened his arms around her.

She could feel his warm breath beside her ear, and he seemed to be adjusting his heart rate with each puff of breath.

Cordy gradually felt his heart rate slowing down, and his entire being seemed to be calming down as well.

Eventually, he released her, and she promptly got out of his embrace.

John seemed to become lucid just then as well. "Sorry, I didn't realize I was asleep..."

Cordy pursed her lips—it might have been better to let him pass out on the couch.

Now that he was awake and topless, it only made her a little awkward.

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Cordy's eyes flashed, and John looked down to find himself topless.

He promptly picked up his shirt that was left nearby to cover himself. Cordy frowned—obviously, she wanted John to get dressed, but it irked her seeing him getting agitated as if she was the one taking advantage of him.

Did he have to be so dramatic? It was not like she hadn't seen him naked.

Still, she watched as John quickly put his clothes on and said, "I didn't know when I took it off. I didn't mean to..."

Then, he quickly got to his feet, ready to leave bed—whether he moved too quickly or he was still drunk and dizzy, he wobbled as he got up. He looked like he could fall at any moment, so Cordy reached out by instinct to hold him.

However, the instant she touched him, he flinched and shifted away from her... which led to him dropping to the floor with a dull thud.

It was certainly a horrible fall, and it left the man himself stunned, unable to regain his senses even as he lay sprawled on the floor.

Cordy simply stared at John, who was obviously averse to her and would rather fall to his death than let her help him.

She took a deep breath and told herself not to get upset—that there was nothing between them, which was why they must keep their distance.

She simply waited for John for a while until he slowly rose to his feet,

looking embarrassed from head to toe.

He rarely embarrassed himself so much, after all.

"It's late. I should head home," he said, not forgetting to add, "I still have to take Wendy home later."

Cordy pursed her lips—she needed so much restraint to stop herself from telling him that Wendy was enjoying herself just then.

She wondered how John would react to that if he found out... a heart attack, perhaps?!

Perhaps.

"I'll ask my chauffeur to drive you," she said.

She had no reason to keep him—now that he was conscious, he certainly should not stay in her house.

Men and women should always maintain a civilized distance between one another, after all.

"Thank you," John said, and they left the room together.

Remembering something else just then, Cordy told him, "Tell Dicky

you're leaving. Don't let him think I chased you away."

"Okay."

John headed to Richard's room, while Cordy waited for him outside. He arrived after a while, saying, "I'm done."

Cordy nodded, and they filed down the stairs.

Still, Cordy had just taken a few steps down and turned to find John wobbling again, and walking very slowly.

Hesitating for a moment, she then moved to his side. "Need help?" John looked at her, looking a little hesitant.

As such, she said, "It's fine if you find it inappropriate. Just take your time—"

"Thanks," he suddenly said and reached out to put a hand over Cordy's shoulder.

Cordy's heart skipped a beat in turn, but that was John alright. He was just full of surprises.

She had the feeling that he was distant since he had a girlfriend now, but it made sense that he would stay away from other women now that he was in a relationship.

And yet, she also felt on occasion that he was not actually that resistant to her presence....

Cordy stopped herself from thinking right then.

All she wanted to do right now was to send John away as soon as she could.

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John put an arm over Cordy's shoulder as she kept him standing, letting him press his entire body weight over her.

They slowly headed downstairs and then out of the mansion, where her chauffeur sent him off.

John did not even say goodbye after getting into the car and left just like that.

Cordy heaved a long sigh in turn.

Men!

After that night, Cordy did not meet John much, although he would occasionally text her out of politeness whenever he would take Richard to Levine Manor.

Aside from that, they basically did not stay in touch.

Still, on a certain weekend and Richard returned from Levine Manor, Richard mentioned offhandedly, "Daddy is going to marry Wendy." Cordy was just taking a sip of water and ended up spitting it all over Richard's face.

As he gave her a wounded look, she quickly wiped him. "Sorry, I was just a little surprised... But they just started dating a while ago, didn't

they?"

"Are you upset, Mommy?" Richard asked quietly.

"Nope."

"Then why did you get so excited?"

"I was just surprised."

"Oh." Richard did not dwell on that and simply told her, "Well, Daddy isn't young and it's time he settled down, although I'm not sure what Wendy

thinks. She's still young, but I don't think she'd say no since she loves Daddy to bits."

Cordy was left melancholic at that and was once again caught in the dilemma of telling John that Wendy did not love him... or that Wendy was not that loyal, at least.

But if John and Richard really found out about Wendy's true nature, Cordy really had a hard time imagining how devastated they would be. On the other hand, Richard saw that Cordy was not speaking for a while, and he asked, "What's wrong, Mommy?"

"Nothing," she replied. "I just think that one should be prudent about marriage, not just deciding on it after a brief relationship and presuming that she's the right person just from that. Marriage is for life, after all..." "I think so too." Richard nodded in agreement. "But I think Daddy felt the urgency, and it's been a while since I saw him being so lively. I actually

think he looks younger thanks to Wendy's company."

Cordy had to agree that there was a difference in John too. She basically never saw John tweet before, but she would occasionally see his tweets recently.

The tweets were nothing special, and there were certainly no photos with Wendy and whatnot, but she could feel that he was reveling in bliss. But the more she felt that way, the more her conscience seemed to gnaw at her.

She really could not just watch and do nothing while John became lost in it...

"Mommy," Richard said, seemingly having given the matter serious thought as well. "Why don't you try talking to Daddy? Tell him that marrying so soon isn't actually that good. I mean, I think highly of Wendy, but she's also too playful... I'm worried that she considers her marriage with Daddy to just be a game too."

Cordy was left gaping.

Richard realized that despite being a child?

And John never felt that, even though Richard did?

The man must have been bewitched by Wendy. There was no other way about it.

Even so, Cordy refused. "You should go for it, since it'd be inappropriate if I do it."

Whatever the case may be, her relationship with John was simply awkward, and there was no telling where they should set the line once they started discussing certain matters.

And with that simple exchange, Cordy returned to her room. Richard watched her leave, his little face showing utter disappointment. When would his mommy ever open up?

The next day, Cordy was at work when Zoe suddenly called her, saying excitedly, "Cordy, let's get drunk tonight!"

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Cordy raised a brow. "Tonight? Not the weekend?" "You're the boss," Zoe told her. "You have a say on your own work hours." Cordy sighed, but it had been a while since Zoe asked her out like this. "Why tonight? It seems unprecedented." "Jay left on a business trip," Zoe exclaimed excitedly. Cordy was speechless. "You're not afraid of upsetting him, huh?" "He won't be upset if it's you," Zoe quickly said. "And Quinn missed out on that dinner before, so she can make up for it now." "Fine, but I might be late. I'm taking stock of the share markets in the afternoon, so that might take a while." "It's no issue," Zoe said generously. "We'll wait." "Yeah."

Cordy put down her phone, rubbing her temples wearily just then. She had been burning out a little from work lately, so it was time she relaxed.

Hence, Cordy kept the meetings for the day short and headed straight to the destination Zoe told her about after work.

It was the same old—a private room for just the three of them, and getting drunk was inevitable whenever Zoe was involved.

To make things worse, they were already drunk, but Zoe still insisted on dragging them along to a karaoke bar.

Quinn tried to reason that it was very late, but Zoe was relentless. Quinn turned toward Cordy for help, and Cordy could agree that it was very late for them to stay.

And yet...

Fine, Cordy could admit that she had wanted to vent a little.

"Let's just hang out a little longer," she said.

Quinn was stunned, since she was convinced Cordy would not play along.

And since two of them were going, she had to tag along.

There, they booked yet another private room and started singing while drinking—mostly drinking.

But while they drank themselves silly, Zoe suddenly asked, "Have you been feeling stressed lately, Cordy?"

"What?" Cordy frowned, convinced that she did not let it show.

"Right?" Zoe pressed, a confident look showing on her face.

"Not really. Maybe I've just been feeling a little pressure since my workload is burgeoning."

"Oh, I don't think so." Zoe smiled sinisterly.

Cordy completely ignored her. "I need the washroom."

"Yeah, run away." Zoe snorted, even more confident of her hunch then.

"What, you don't need the washroom after drinking so much?" Cordy snapped in exasperation and turned to leave the private room.
But as she closed the door, she could clearly hear Zoe exclaim, "There's a washroom right here! You're just trying to avoid the issue!"
Cordy shut the door and leaned against it for a moment as she sighed. She was a bad liar, but she was convinced that things were not what Zoe presumed them to be either.

However, she was definitely a little drunk, and she needed a breather. She started heading to the washroom but had barely walked a few steps when she noticed a familiar figure in the hallway.

Said figure was clinging tightly to a man's body, and they were kissing each other fiercely.

While it was natural to run into such sights at the bar and other entertainment centers, Wendy was still supposed to be still in a relationship.

How could she be this carefree? Was she not afraid of getting caught in the act?!

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Cordy simply stood there, watching them kiss for a long while.

Her legs were starting to feel sore when those two finally pulled away, but they were obviously reluctant to stop.

When Wendy finally pulled away from the man's embrace, she took him by the hand and started to pull him along... until she turned and found Cordy standing there.

"Woah!" she exclaimed, clearly shocked to the core while Cordy stared at her calmly. The man with her was startled too and could not help asking, "What's wrong, baby?"

"N-Nothing," Wendy stammered guiltily.

The man then glanced between her and Cordy. "Who is she? Friend of yours?"

"Uh, hmm..." Wendy stammered for a while and finally said, "Can you wait for me over there? I'll come back to you later..."

"I thought we're heading straight to a hotel, babe," the man chuckled, even nuzzling against her. "I can't wait already."

Wendy appeared even more embarrassed at that and pushed the man away, "Come on, just go. Be a good boy now."

"Okay, I'll wait." The man had to leave obediently, seeing that Wendy was serious about it.

Cordy watched as the man left before turning toward Wendy, who smiled gingerly. "Small world, huh, Cordy?"

"Small world indeed." Cordy sneered.

"Are you alone?"

"Does that matter?" Cordy asked.

"I mean, I have a few more friends waiting. Why don't you hang out with us?" Wendy offered. "They're all real studs there..."

Cordy's eyes narrowed sharply, and she was suddenly glowering visibly. Wendy clearly noticed that and stopped pretending right then.

"Look, I'm still young, and I can get a little playful sometimes," she admitted. "But this is just a game, and I'm serious about John. Can you not tell him what you just saw?"

"No." Cordy was determined.

"Come on, Cordy," Wendy purred. "We're both women. You don't have to be so cruel, right? I can introduce you to some pretty boys satisfaction guaranteed." "Wendy, don't think everyone's like you..." Cordy retorted, refraining from obscenities.

"You just haven't had a taste yet," Wendy said confidently. "Once you have, you'll understand why."

"I don't need that."

"It'd be a waste even if you lived long."

"I'm talking to you about your relationship with John right now, Wendy." Cordy said sternly.

Wendy took a deep breath and said slowly, "That's between me and John. It has nothing to do with you."

Cordy was actually stumped, and Wendy suddenly seemed to grow a spine and continued confidently, "I mean, you're just John's ex and nothing else. You have no right to meddle in our relationship, let alone interfere with whatever happens between us!"

However, Cordy was equally staunch. "No, I don't have a right to meddle, but it's also my freedom to decide whether I should tell John what I saw you do tonight."

And with that, she had no intention to keep arguing—Wendy obviously had no moral compass, and more words were just a waste of time.

She had barely walked a couple steps when Wendy suddenly jumped in front of her, cutting her off.

While she glared coolly at Wendy, Wendy suddenly seemed to yield and apologized!

"Look, Cordy, I know I made a mistake, but don't tell John, alright?"
Wendy cried miserably. "John and I are serious... I just couldn't resist the temptation, but I swear I won't do this again, okay? Never ever!"
While Cordy pursed her lips, she added, "I promise I'll be eternally loyal to John from now on. Just give me a chance, alright?" Cordy was actually left hesitant.

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In the past, Cordy would not have hesitated to tell John. However, considering that Richard told her that John was going to propose to Wendy, she could guess how much John loved Wendy. Could John really take the blow if she exposed Wendy's true nature? Most importantly, Wendy promised to change. As Cordy remained silent for a while, Wendy quickly said, "Look, Cordy, I'll go straight home right now. No more nightclubs, okay? Just don't tell John, I'm begging you..." Cordy gave in then. "This can only happen once." "Oh! Thank you, Cordy! I'll go home right now!" Wendy's misery turned into a smile right then. "See you!" Cordy watched as Wendy hurried away and sighed heavily, wondering how John fell for her... Nonetheless, she returned to the private room after going to the washroom, where Zoe was still drinking with Quinn. And once Cordy made it back, they promptly dragged her along and made her drink. After a while, Zoe asked a little unhappily, "Why do you look so distracted, Cordy?" Cordy did a double take—was she being that obvious? "Something on your mind?" "No, I just think it's late. We should get going already." "It's not even midnight."

"No, we can always do this again. Jay isn't going to let you out of the house if you really get drunk." Cordy smiled, using Jay as a threat.

Zoe pouted but did not argue despite her displeasure.

On the other hand, Quinn was always rational.

Since Cordy mentioned they were leaving, she promptly gathered herself despite being drunk.

The trio stepped out of the bar and got into the same car home.

Cordy's mansion was further away, so she sent Zoe and Quinn home first.

And when she was left alone in the car, she could no longer hide her pent-up emotions.

She whipped out her phone, her finger hovering over a certain number for a while before she finally mustered her courage to make a call. She was clearly on the side of justice, but she somehow felt guilt

instead.

"Cordy?"

John's surprised voice could be heard from the speaker. He was probably shocked that she would call her this late at night... or at all, to be precise.

"Yeah. Were you sleeping?"

"I just got in bed. What is it?"

"Well... I just wanted to ask you if Wendy is over there?" Cordy asked. She just wanted to confirm if Wendy actually came good on her promise. "No, she said her father was taken ill, so she's staying home with him for the night," John replied. "You have business with her? I could call her for you and tell her to call you back."

"No, it's nothing," Cordy growled grumpily.

Wendy was really incorrigible—she had just promised to change one second but fell back to her old habits the next!

John was puzzled nonetheless. "Is everything okay?"

"Yeah. Just tell her to call me when you see her tomorrow. I have questions," Cordy growled through her teeth.

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Wendy called Cordy the next morning.

However, after Cordy got home, she kept waking up in her sleep, since all she could think about was Wendy cheating on John with another man...

Naturally, her temper flared as soon as she saw Wendy's call, which was why she snapped a little loudly at Wendy, "Wendy, did you forget your own promise last night?!"

"I can explain, Cordy," Wendy quickly said. "I was just a little tipsy last night, so I was afraid that John would get upset with me if I went to his place. I headed to my parents' home instead, but I really did not do anything wrong. You have to trust me."

"Really? And why should I trust you?" Cordy sneered.

"I..." Wendy tried off, unsure how to explain herself.

However, after a moment of silence, she suddenly asked, "Cordy, are you still in love with Johnny?"

"What?!" Cordy bellowed, clearly incensed by that response. She had always been calm—in fact, she was calm when she caught Wendy being up to something so outrageous just last night. In fact, she consciously decided to resolve the matter rationally instead of telling John immediately.

But now, that single line from Wendy left her flustered. And to make things worse, Wendy pressed the issue. "I hit the nail on the head, didn't I?" "Wendy!!!" "Cordy, I've always had faith in your character," Wendy simply continued with righteous indignation. "I thought since it was over between you and John, it really was over. I even respected your relationship with him, since I know that you can't really keep your distance when you both have a child together. I fully accepted Dicky in my life, but now I think you're venturing out of line."

Cordy was really angered then and snapped, "I'm just a person with virtue and integrity! What's the problem if I take issue with your behavior and stand for justice? It won't be just me—anyone who saw what you did

last night won't be able to pretend nothing happened either!" "That's still my business! You don't get to have a say!" Wendy retorted furiously. "Let me be clear: I don't want you to meddle in my relationship with John!"

"You call this meddling?!" Cordy really thought then that she could not get through to Wendy at all.

"What, am I wrong? Things are going well between me and Johnny now, and your meddling would only affect our relationship. You just want to get Johnny to break up with me so you can get together with him, don't you?"

Cordy pursed her lips, genuinely furious at Wendy.

Wendy, however, only got more conceited with her silence. "Cordy, let me give it to you in no uncertain terms: you don't need to worry about what's going on between me and Johnny. It's all between us and no one else. I hope you won't meddle in our relationship."

"And I've had it with you," Cordy said icily. "I have no misgivings now since you insist on being stubborn."

"What are you talking about?"

"You'll know soon enough," Cordy snapped and hung up.

She took a moment to calm down before calling John.

"Did Wendy call you already?" he asked, nonchalant. "I just called her and told her you were looking for her."

"John, did you know ... "

Cordy suddenly paused.

She had clearly made up her mind, but suddenly could not finish what she was going to say.

She simply could not understand how Wendy could show no qualms, let alone guilt, for what she did... when Cordy herself, a witness, could hardly bring herself to speak about it.

"Did I know... what?" John asked, confused just then.

"About Wendy."

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John sounded even more perplexed. "What about her?" "You're going to propose, right?" Cordy asked, doing her best to stay calm.

"Oh..." John chuckled. "Dicky told you, huh?"

"Yeah."

"Well, I was just planning that, since I'm not exactly young," John admitted. "I've asked Dicky, and he agreed that Wendy suits me, so I plan to go through with it."

Somehow, those words stung Cordy's ears.

"You really love her, don't you?" she asked.

"What?" John asked a little shrilly, probably shocked that Cordy would ask something like that.

Nonetheless, Cordy repeated herself slowly and clearly, "You really love Wendy, don't you?"

"Well, not that much. I just think she's a good fit for me," John explained calmly. "At my age, I just want to find someone to settle down with."

"She's hardly the person for that," Cordy said solemnly.

"Why?" John was confused. "Because she's too young?"

"That's one of the reasons," Cordy said, no longer intending to hide it.

"The other is that she misbehaves."

"Misbehaves?"

"Yes, misbehaves!" Cordy repeated sternly.

"How so?"

"I ran into her last night at a bar."

"Is that so?"

"Yes," Cordy said. "She was with another man..."

Cordy trailed off and did not go into detail, but she knew John would get it.

However, John simply said, "Well, she gets playful from time to time. And she's young—it's normal for her to frequent such places."

"Don't you get it, John? I'm saying that she was hooking up with another man!"

"Don't men and women get a little playful after a little alcohol?" John replied, defending Wendy right then. "She's really sociable, and she already told me before that she enjoys going drinking with her friends.

It's normal for her to get lively at her age."

"What does it take for you to recognize reality, John?" Cordy snapped, earnestly frustrated just then. "Don't you remember that she told you yesterday that she was taking care of her father last night? But I saw her at the bar! What is that if not a lie?"

"Yeah, she told me," John told her calmly. "She told me last night that the friend from before asked her out again. She didn't want to go, but her father mostly recovered, and it was that same friend who was getting depressed over her breakup and threatened to kill herself. Wendy's just worried her friend might really end up doing something drastic, so she went to the bar." Cordy was left biting her lip.

She really underestimated Wendy there, and it was not surprising why Wendy could confidently fight back.

For one, Wendy was dead sure Cordy did not have evidence against her.

Cordy certainly did not take photos since it never crossed her mind. Secondly, Wendy was convinced she had John wrapped around her little finger.

John was her boyfriend, and he would believe anything she said. Cordy sneered.

Wendy was certainly a lot less naive than she thought!

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John asked Cordy just then, "Is there some misunderstanding between you and Wendy? Should we meet up to clear the air?" "No, there's no misunderstanding," Cordy said resolutely. "It's your own issue since you believe you know what Wendy is like. I was just giving you a head's up out of the kindness in my heart." "Okay," John replied and said nothing else. Cordy hung up right then, fuming. He made it sound as if she was trying to drive a wedge in his relationship and took no notice of her kindness. She took a deep breath and told herself that it was their business, and she should not have meddled at all. There was no question that she was embarrassing herself too. That was when Cordy's phone rang. She glanced at the caller, calmed herself down, and answered. "Zoe." "Bad day, huh?" Zoe asked. "Nope." Cordy denied it right away.

"I can tell from your tone right now, y'know," Zoe said confidently. Cordy pursed her lips—in the end, there was just no deceiving besties,

was there?

"What is it?"

"Nothing. Just wanted to ask if you're feeling alright after drinking so much last night," Zoe said.

"I'm fine. Though I might really have been drunk if we kept at it."

"By the way, what are you upset about?" Zoe asked.

She had always been very curious and always insisted on getting to the bottom of the matter.

Cordy was silent in turn, unsure if she should tell Zoe what she knew.

There would be too much pent-up frustration in her if she did not.

But if she did, she felt like she would be prying.

"Cordy, I always tell you everything, but you can't do the same for me?" Zoe snapped, obviously a little angry just then.

Cordy threw caution into the wind right then, deciding that she would be more upset if she held her tongue.

"Did you know that Wendy is hooking up with other men?"

"What?!" Zoe exclaimed in disbelief, her voice twice as loud right then.

"I mean, unless you think I'd spread false rumors about someone,"

Cordy told her.

"No... I don't think you're lying, but I'm just surprised," Zoe said, not quite understanding what she was being told. "Wendy usually looks naive and she's definitely a good girl, so why would she... Forget it. The point here is John is a good man. What is she even thinking, cheating on him?!"

Cordy could not understand it either—she presumed that Wendy would get her act together after she started dating John.

However, it only seemed to make her behavior escalate, as if it took a toll on her.

"Did you tell John?" Zoe asked just then.

"I did. He didn't believe me."

"That's why you're upset?"

Cordy said nothing but did not deny it either. Even so, she was just miffed.

"Honestly, what is John thinking?" Zoe ranted right then. "How could he believe Wendy instead of you? I mean, how long has he met her, compared to you? Honestly, he's being stupid. Serves him right that he's being deceived by a woman."

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"Yeah." Cordy agreed. "Serves him right."

"And that means you can just leave him be." Zoe gave her verdict then. Cordy was naturally taken aback. "What?!"

"I said, just leave him be," Zoe said very calmly. "It's his own business if he's being deceived by a woman, and he refused to listen when you told him. What more can you do?"

However, that did not sit right with Cordy at all! It was fine if Cordy herself did not keep trying to reason with John, since he refused to listen when she did. Moreover, it was inappropriate considering the complicated relationship between them.

But Zoe was different—she was supposed to be John's relative, and she was just going to do nothing while John was being deceived by a woman?

"Shouldn't you at least tell him?" Cordy could not help asking. "Why should I? It's everything I ever dreamed of," Zoe said very calmly before going on a rant with rising indignation. "It's his own fault for changing heart so quickly, falling for another woman at the drop of a hat. I thought he would be coming after you with everything he had after Patrick left you at the altar, only for him to get it on with another woman! Men really are pigs!"

Cordy was actually left speechless, while Zoe only spiraled further out of control. "Oh, forget him—it pisses me off to even talk about him. Let them marry, and he'd get cucked to kingdom come after that. It feels cathartic to even think about it."

"Jokes aside, he's still your cousin. You really should talk to him," Cordy remained rational.

"Why do you care? He certainly doesn't care about you! Aren't you being too kind for your own good, Cordy?!" Zoe exclaimed.

"I'm just virtuous." Cordy excused herself.

"Wait, are you sure you're not..." Zoe suddenly trailed off.

"No!" Cordy knew what she was suggesting, however, and denied it right away.

"Then why would you care so much?"

"Like I said, I'm just virtuous," Cordy told Zoe. "I just can't stand seeing something like that happen under my watch. It would have been fine if I never witnessed it, since I don't have time or effort to spare to find out—

but I saw it, and therefore I can't do anything."

"Alright, I believe you, but..." Zoe trailed off, before adding determinedly, "I won't be happy with anyone else ending up together with John except you. And I won't ever change that opinion."

"Then I'm going to disappoint you, I'm afraid," Cordy said resolutely. Zoe sighed. "Fair enough. I'm hanging up now—I need to sleep off my hangover."

"Yeah," Cordy replied and put down her phone.

She had to admit that her emotions were ruffled just then, and it was not as if she did not know why...

Still, she could pretend she was just miffed that she was being doubted!

Throughout the next month, Cordy spent most of her time at work, having no mood to care about anything else.

She never saw John again or heard anything from them.

In fact, John did not even come over to take Richard over to Levine Manor, and she had no idea what he was busy with.

That was until one night when Cordy got home to have dinner with Richard read only on ninjanovel.com, and he casually mentioned that his

daddy was going to marry Wendy.

Cordy stared at Richard, stunned.

Nonetheless, the boy said seriously, "They already decided on a day next month, so they're very busy since they are preparing for the wedding right now. Grandaunt Nancy said Daddy's pulling all the stops for the wedding as well, so it's not surprising that he did not take me to Levine Manor lately."

There was a slight disappointment in his little voice, though Cordy was a little annoyed to hear it as well.

She really did not expect John to marry Wendy so quickly, after all. She thought that even if he refused to take her advice, he would at least

have been wary, even thoughtful, when he made his decision.

Did he have that much faith in Wendy?!