

## Repaid 531

### Chapter 531

Cordy became nervous right then. "Sean did? But why?"

She was convinced that John liquidated the Levines' family estate to protect themselves and steer clear from more conflicts. She thought that John, like his grandfather, was done with the vicissitudes of life and would rather enjoy whatever they had left instead.

She did not expect that the Cranstons were involved at all!

"You should be able to guess," John reminded her despite seeing her reaction.

Cordy's heart skipped a beat—that was the answer she least wanted.

"Yes," John said slowly and clearly. "He's asking me to work for him, but he needs me to have a more discreet capacity to assist him, and Levine Ventures draws too much attention."

"Assist him?" Cordy asked. "With what? What are his ambitions?"

"Well, the Cranstons have a family dispute just like the Stuarts," John explained. "The Stuarts' disputes are between different branches of the family, whereas the Cranston brothers are in the midst of a power struggle. Sean wants me to help him neutralize his brothers, so that he becomes the undisputed heir to the family estate."

he the heir already?" Cordy

certainly claimed that, since Sean was the

individual excellence and was the right choice

John shrugged. "I'd have to get involved to

asked him worriedly. "Don't get

get free as

he needed to take down the Stuarts, and his trial would not have gone so smoothly without the Cranstons. Sean had to be on hand to compel Judge Rackham so that he kept the trial going, otherwise Judge Rakcham would have ignored all the vital evidence he provided while the Stuarts would later

an even greater influence to win, and he

since Sean was direct about his intention to help, John agreed to

it?" Cordy suddenly asked him

Jessica's proposal, things could stay amicable with the Stuarts even if they were using him like a tool. The arranged marriage would take their alliance to the next level, while William Stuart

them without reasonable cause, they had nothing to worry about from the outside—everything would be smooth sailing for the Stuarts once

gave up on an easy path to success for Cordy's sake and was now caught in yet another

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"More or less."

Cordy did not want to make her happiness obvious, as she was selfishly convinced that only John was allowed to see it.

"Well, I'm afraid I have to be a killjoy," Patrick said, his tone clearly serious just then.

Cordy frowned slightly, but it was enough for John to notice that reaction and stare fixedly at her.

"You see, I have news: Jessica is missing," Patrick said very clearly then.

"Missing?" Cordy's heart skipped a beat, as if something horrible would happen.

"After John exposed Jessica's side of the family at his trial, they, along with my grandfather and myself were brought in to assist with the investigation. James was placed under arrest since there was enough evidence against him, but when William, my grandfather, and myself were released, the authorities informed us that Jessica went missing the instant they moved to arrest her, and was told that she was not in Rocktown."

was where Fred Cranston was, and Jessica might have gone to

just found out that she arrived at North City yesterday,

there," Cordy said confidently, since

my grandfather had tried everything: tripling our efforts in business,

Patrick

you don't mind, would you try asking if he'd like to work for me, now that Levine Ventures is liquidated?"

your savior?"

certainly

have no hope. He's too busy," Cordy

did not press the issue

were extremely rare. If Patrick

that Sean came in as a prosecutor for the trial, many things could be understood

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Cordy's fingers were trembling even as she held her phone.

'No... Please let Dicky be alright!'

Cordy never expected Jessica to target Dicky, since she was still engaged to Fred. Reasonably speaking, the Stuarts' crimes were only exposed hours ago, and they should still be keeping Jessica on a leash instead of letting her go to North City.

It was why Cordy never worried about it, but it was now clear that Jessica had been ready to bring everything down with her just to get back at her and John. In fact, Jessica probably did not expect her own family to be arrested!

That woman was crazy!

Cordy's hands were trembling even as she called Richard's teacher, but perhaps because her phone was on silent or she was in class, the call went unanswered.

her reaction. "It's going to be

already positive that Jessica was seizing the opportunity to

the thought that the crazy b\*tch had her... Cordy

me your phone," John said

of battery

he was soon barking orders. "Randy, contact the principal at Dicky's school right now. Tell him that I'm coming to get Dicky myself soon, and that no one except

"Yes, Mr. Levine."

up, after of which the

phone rang, and everyone in the car tensed

John answered it. "Randy."

left school with Jessica Stuart at 10 AM. She was claiming that

then, and

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Cordy could not calm down even as she imagined that outcome.

"No, she won't," John said confidently nonetheless. "You're more important to Jessica and she knows that."

Cordy's heart skipped a beat as she stared at John fixedly.

"Look, just trust me on this, but Jessica wants you more than she wants Dicky," John said. "She's never been a parent and wouldn't know how much a child matters-especially since she grew up in a detached family like the Stuarts, where even family connections were weighted in personal gain. Sentiment doesn't exist there, and she'd be convinced that we would just have more children even if we lose Dicky and the pain of losing him would just be temporary. On the other hand, I'd be hurting for the rest of my life if I lost you! That's why she'll use you if he wants revenge, not Dicky."

John spoke quickly with considerable urgency, and there was no telling if he was trying to persuade Cordy or himself.

Cordy bit her lip and forced herself to stay calm and work hard to believe John.

Once she did, she asked John, "What do we do now? Do we wait for her to contact us?"

distressed the more she waits, and she'll

"Yeah." Cordy nodded.

he made more calls with Cordy's phone, barking instructions as he did. "I need security footage, this car license plate,

I need you to locate this

the parking lot beneath Cordy's

the cops that Richard had been abducted, insisting was done, they

sent to them, and Cordy promptly brought out her

to the point

teacher taking him out, and the boy was immediately resistant when he saw Jessica, clearly refusing to follow her. Jessica simply strode

that something was wrong as she watched them,

about to happen to

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After Cordy sent the photos to Patrick, he asked a few questions, to which she told him everything.

Patrick quickly sent the photos without asking more questions.

For one, he was not able to help much when he was so far away, but he promised to tell her immediately if he found any helpful clues.

In addition, he would rather avoid stressing her unnecessarily since she was already on the verge of a nervous breakdown.

Once they had the high definition mugshots of the bodyguards, John sent copies to his people and started a search, reminding them to report in if they find those men without alerting them.

Just then, a call arrived from Randy as well. "Sir, we found Jessica's car. It's left in a parking lot in the industrial district. The footage we obtained showed that only the driver got out, and no one else was inside. The driver is definitely one among the three mugshots you sent, and he left the car without coming back so far."

"Did you manage to track where he went?"

“No, sir. It’s an isolated location, and the next closest camera is some distance away. I had to search thoroughly until I found him boarding a bus, so I got the footage from the bus. Turns out that the driver got out at the south entrance, where the largest agricultural market of North City is. He soon disappeared among the crowd, and we couldn’t find him since.”

cameras at

are blindspots in the layout and it’s too crowded. I had over ten people assisting me

footage,” John

of Jesscia’s phone number, but

“Okay.”

up and quickly opened the other

sat beside him and helped him

market was low, and the coverage was low with many blind spots. If the driver had stayed in those blind spots, no one

exits were covered. The cameras would definitely

the footage for a while, John made a call. “Randy, get someone to

need to dismiss that possibility if he was not there as

there, they just needed to

“Yes, Mr. Levine.”

bring three computers over to Cordy’s apartment, and call Sam over

dinner

I need to check some footage

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“Good.”

John put the phone away and turned back to the security footage, and his eyes suddenly narrowed as he exclaimed, “Could he have disguised himself?!”

“It’s possible.” Sam agreed.

However, if the driver had really put on a disguise, he would be harder to find.

Still, John calmed down and said, “Let’s analyze what we know for now.”

The way they were going, they were being half as effective and would never find Jessica and Richard at this rate.

As Sam, Bob, and Cordy all turned to John, he said, "Stuart came all the way from Rocktown to North City to kidnap Dicky. She couldn't have been fully prepared since this city isn't her family's turf, and that means the driver slash bodyguard would not have prepared a change of clothes at the market. He wasn't bringing a bag of any sort in the footage, so he had to buy something at the market and got changed."

When he was finished, John picked up his phone without pausing a beat and called Randy again. "Question every stall at the market that sells clothes. Ask if they saw that man, what clothes he bought, and the direction from which he left."

"Yes, sir."

the others. "Keep a close eye on

"Okay."

check the footage again with a new objective, and in under half an hour, Bob suddenly called

look at his footage, and Bob pointed at a certain

identifying the

a child and would remember anything clearly if he

faces of the three bodyguards who aided Jessica in abducting Richard were ingrained

dark gray jacket and a black cap, dressing himself like an

studied the clothes in turn while he

hurried back to his computer and fast-forwarded the footage, and he soon found the man. "Got him. He left from

Cordy turned toward John.

she was clueless and on the verge

him, just as Bob and Sam joined

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The apartment was so quiet everyone could hear their own breathing.

At the same time, they heard nothing amid the suffocating silence as they were thoroughly focused.

The phone suddenly rang, jolting everyone.

The slightest commotion seemed to make everyone nervous now!

They watched as John answered the phone, saying calmly, "Randy."

Cordy bit her lip-so it was not Jessica.

She was now on the verge of falling apart.

She would rather Jessica contact them, and she was willing to do everything Jessica asked.

She had had enough of this endless searching and waiting. She needed to know that Dicky was fine!

“Found him?” John’s voice turned quiet as he sought confirmation.

and she turned in anticipation toward John and saw that his hand was shaking even as he

Randy reported. “We tracked him through security cameras using a photo of his disguised appearance. We calculated that he’s now in an abandoned warehouse in the southern district, but we don’t dare to

right over,” John said right then and hung

coming with you,’

stared at her for

he eventually said, and he turned toward Bob and Sam. “Wait for me

once,

and there were three black cars and over ten bodyguards

for them to be there, nor did

was to see

in one of the cars,

silence was suffocating, until John could not help stifling a cough just

saw that his face was pale, while his hand was pressed firmly

then-John had just gotten out of jail and was

and weather whatever troubles that came at

relationship would end

was unable to bring herself to show John any concern because Richard was all

as long as

arrived at

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John was ready to storm the storehouse with his men when Cordy caught his hand.

“John,” she murmured, even as he felt how skinny his fingers were.

If she could, she really wanted to hold on tightly to that hand and to stop him from facing any danger.

But now, she had to let him go and tell him, “You have to keep Dicky safe.”

“I will.” John agreed to it right away, able to read between her lines.

He knew that she was telling him that he must keep Richard safe even at the cost of his life, but he agreed to it without hesitation.

John had never once accused her of failing to keep Richard safe and allowing Richard to be exposed to such danger although he entrusted Richard to her.

John's hand just then, and he gave her an assuring look

afraid of going loud and therefore moved carefully toward

gave his bodyguards a pointed look since he

cue, the bodyguard took out a pair of giant pliers, cutting the door lock

all they saw was darkness

outside where there was still a small

ahead, and John followed, with another bodyguard tasked with protecting

warehouse warily, they were breathing in the musty smell of dust everywhere.

and the two bodyguards headed inside,

they turned to find a dark silhouette walking

so one of John's bodyguards gave chase by

left, John suddenly sensed someone behind him, and

the man who tried to attack John, and it turned into a

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The man replied stubbornly, "I don't know."

Pow!

John punched the man squarely in the face right then, turning the already bruised face bloody.

"I'll ask again. Where did Jessica take my son?! I'll kill you, believe it!" John threatened, his veins bulging viciously right then.

"In this line of work, you live or you die. Kill me if you want, I'll never betray my employer-Argh!"

John punched him viciously in the face again, leaving him with teeth- gritting agony.

"Where is she?!" he bellowed, strangling him just then.

Being taller than the average man, he had the height advantage even though he was skinny now.

He looked down at the other man loftily, his sharp glare bursting with bloodlust. "Where's Jessica?! Tell me!"

"I'd rather die than talk," the man grunted with much difficulty as John started to strangle him!



and the man was  
he was not giving in  
“John!”  
to see John  
outside, but there was just no way to  
Randy stopped her before she could  
could not stop herself from following them after they  
phone did not shine on John, she would never have  
did not  
so, her call did not bring him to his senses—his fingers were  
in turn  
of him!” Cordy cried, throwing her trembling form against his as she hugged him from  
would happen to me if you  
rationality restored from  
to regain focus, and he saw that he almost killed the  
out that he was not that calm, and he had just vented all his  
fingers relaxed, and he finally

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Cordy quietly shook her head and held on tightly to John’s hand as she led him out of the dilapidated warehouse.

They returned to the car and sat together in silence.

When he turned toward her, he saw that her whole body was still shaking, just as she had when she hugged him in the warehouse.

He had no idea if she was shaking because his savagery scared her or if she was still worried about Richard.

“Jessica did this on purpose,” he said, attempting to break the deathly silence.

Cordy looked up at him and nodded.

When she could not find Richard in the warehouse, she knew Jessica had tricked them.

Jessica was never stupid, and having followed John around for years, she would more or less know how he operated.

Jessica had done today was a purposeful

get back, see if we find

Cordy nodded quietly.

returned to Cordy's

ask questions since they could tell

of attention she had, trying to pinpoint where Jessica got

spots, and trying

kept telling herself not to give up-Jessica would not be familiar with North City's traffic layout, let alone pinpoint security blind spots. There was

voice spoke

that his eyes were bloodshot-he definitely did not

she could not bring

said, passing her a

an appetite,' she

the entire day, let

her mildly nonetheless. "There's no telling how long this would take, and your