

A Life Debt Repaid Chapter 21 - 30

Chapter 21

With Fiona gone, Cordy had help from Stephen Lang to select a new secretary, Vince Cartman. He was young and academically qualified, and had not joined either faction in Starstream Group since he was only recently hired.

And as instructed, Noel arrived to present her drafts for the season in the vast conference room. But even as she elaborated on the details, she lost confidence by the minute under Cordy's watchful gaze

She certainly had to admit that she did not have the inspiration to create a design out from scratch—even if she was given another week. Her design was fundamentally stuck to her old ideas, and the minute adjustments she made by borrowing inspiration from others left her designs less than outstanding. “Do you think this is going to fly, Ms. Sachs?” Cordy asked as she took a sip of tea.

It was only natural that Noel came up with an excuse beforehand.

“Personally, I think trends matter, but that does not mean we should lose our brand's individuality. What's wrong in keeping our uniqueness?”

“Individuality? Uniqueness? I don't see what's unique aside from the logo of our company. From where I'm standing, this is just a mashup of various trend templates, and it's only more laughable that it somehow still failed to clear the passing mark.”

While Cordy's words embarrassed Noel, her subordinates—from her deputy and supervisors—were certainly on Noel's side.

Faye Lang, the deputy director of design, promptly snapped, “Our director did all she could. She just couldn't meet your ridiculous demands! Why

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don't you personally instruct us if you're so dissatisfied?"

The differences in specialties were never easily surmounted—even if Cordy had an eye for designs, that did not mean she could make anything herself. And Faye certainly doubted that Cordy would push them around after her remark.

Even so, Cordy did not hesitate in her response. "Alright."

While Faye's face fell, Noel was left gaping at Cordy.

"Since Design is requesting it, I will now take direct control starting today."

Cordy continued, before turning toward Noel. "As for the former director..." Noel's heart raced.

She would not take it lying down if Cordy fired her, even if it meant destroying Starstream Group!

If she could not have it, Cordy would never have it either!

That was when Cordy told her, "I finally understand why our father was eager to promote you. Design isn't your forte—you're appointed as CEO of Starstream Group starting today."

Noel could not believe her ears—nor could everyone else in the conference room.

Cordy was supposed to be harassing Noel every

Even if the reasoning was exceedingly ironic...

In fact, after Cordy finished, she rose from her seat and walked up to Noel, clapping her on the shoulder and appearing perfectly cordial. "Do your best."

Noel was mystified even as she stared at Cordy, feeling as if Cordy was someone else.

Why would Cordy be so nice to her?!

Cordy certainly was not being nice—she had a cunning plan in mind, since Noel would never be grateful and she only ever demanded more.

She was just giving her an eye for an eye—so that Noel had a taste of her

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own medicine!

Still, as she left the conference room and returned to her office, she received a call from Simon.

“What are you playing at?!” he demanded the instant she answered.

“You and Noel have managed Starstream together for years. Aren’t I allowed to appoint her as CEO to assist my management?”

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Chapter 22

Simon was certainly skeptical

Still, considering that Cordy must have had a hard time getting anything going or trying to manage

Starstream Group with various head of departments renegeing, did she smarten up and decided to appoint Noel, so that Noel would keep them in line?

Simon thought then that it was all Cordy amounted to... To think that he believed she could achieve anything for a moment!

Smugness showed on his face as he barked, "Appointing Noel is certainly the best move you can make to rein in Starstream! She's worked there for years, and she's naturally no greenhorn like you!"

"Thank you for your advice." Cordy played along, though she found it ironic herself-appointing Noel was really just a bait for them to come at her!

"Oh, and do you remember Bryson Zimmer-"

"You don't have to worry about my private life."

She hung up, but soon her phone rang again.

Cordy did not answer it, and she then received a text from Kyle. "Noel just called me saying that you appointed her as CEO. I'm glad you can put the past behind, since you're Noel's sister I'd really feel guilty. if I caused a rift between sisters."

Cordy deleted the text immediately.

Some people were really ridiculously thick-skinned!

Over at Levine Ventures, John Levine had just finished a meeting with his executives and returned to his office.

Randy Martin served him black coffee while informing him of his schedule

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for the day.

After Randy finished, he added, “Also, we just received word from Starstream Group—Mrs. Levine has just appointed Noel Sachs as CEO.”

John was typing on his keyboard and paused at that.

“Should I look into it? Maybe the Sachs threatened her.”

“There’s no rush.” John blinked, and then seemed to realize something.

“Just wait and see.”

“Yes, Mr. Levine.”

Turning back to his computer, he slowly said, “My grandfather’s birthday is on the 17th next month.”

“Yes, he’s already sent out all his invitations too,” Randy replied respectfully. “Do you have any special instructions, sir?”

“Not particularly.” John shook his head.

Randy said nothing and watched as his boss hesitated before drafting a text and sending it as if it took him great courage.

Meanwhile, Cordy was frowning—believing that it was Kyle again, she was going to put her phone on silent when she saw the sender.

[Will you be free on the 17th next month?]

Cordy pursed her lips as she stared quietly at the text.

She replied: [Yeah.]

John had been sending her a highly nutritious dinner every night, and she could not refuse.

She was under the impression that it would just be dinner—she could take the check too.

“That’s a promise.”

Her lips curled into a smile, as she could almost see John celebrating on the other end.

She sighed.

After all, was there a reason she could not believe in him once more?

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Noel was at first convinced that Cordy would not be kind enough to appoint her as CEO out of the goodness of her heart. However, her father explained it to her, and Cordy had actually not harassed her for half a month, leaving her relieved.

Still, in contrast to her time as head of design, she was idling even more now as CEO—there were not that many tasks she needed to deal with.

The most pressing task for Starstream at the moment was this season’s design, which Cordy just took full control of.

Noel naturally already did her homework—she certainly doubted Cordy could produce a satisfying draft within the month by herself.

And once she failed, Noel would make sure she did not keep her job!

Her phone suddenly started ringing.

“Mandy?” Noel answered.

“Are you leaving work yet?”

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Chapter 23

Noel checked the time, but it was only 3 PM. “In another couple hours.”

“Can’t you leave early?” Mandy Jessop was clearly upset. “I’d like you to go shopping with me.”

Noel appeared slightly hesitant.

In the past, she could just leave work without a word since her father would not say a thing.

But now, Cordy had taken control, and Noel was worried she would notice and use it as an excuse to harass her.

Even so, she had even less reason to upset Mandy. If she wanted to marry Kyle without issue, she certainly needed his sister’s favor

After weighing her options, Noel agreed to it anyway. “I’ll be right there.

Where are we going?”

“Radiant Global.”

“Be there in twenty minutes.”

Hanging up, Noel drove to the mall.

Meanwhile, Cordy was drafting a design in her office when her phone rang too.

She gave it a casual glance but eventually put away the draft and answered it. “Mr. Levine.”

“When will you call me something else?” That familiar voice was ever deep and magnetic.

“Why would you like me to call you? Levine? John? Or do you have some nickname I don’t know about?”

John did not expect her to be so agreeable. He spaced out for a moment before he chuckled. “The way you say all that almost makes no difference,

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except...”

“Except what?”

“Darling.”

His tone was calm and mesmerizing.

While Cordy was speechless, he said, “It’s alright. Take your time.”

As if he did not mind.

Cordy was pursing her lips—he was certainly thick-skinned.

Ignoring his flirting, she asked directly, “How can I help you today?”

“Are you free right now?”

“No.”

“Dicky is looking for you.”

“Look, Mr Levine...”

“Have you forgotten about the 17th?”

“It’s just the 15th,” Cordy said, even checking the calendar as she replied.

“The 17th is an important event, and everyone attending should dress grandly for the occasion. If it’s

convenient for you, please help me get Dicky a tuxedo and try have an international teleconference”

He took a pause after saying all that, and added, “Walter would be driving Dicky over to you. They’ll be arriving soon if there are no delays. I’m counting on you.”

Having sent Dicky over without giving her a chance to say no, he hung up after telling her everything.

Cordy took a deep breath and maintained her composure.

She saved her draft, turned off her computer, and picked up her handbag to leave her office.

She had just arrived downstairs when she saw Walter’s car waiting at the front entrance.

Richard Levine’s little face was basically pasted against the car window, his

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round eyes lighting up with excitement when she saw her arrive.

“Mommy!”

The crisp, tender voice was genuinely a remedy for the soul.

Cordy could not resist hurrying to the car

Fine!

While she disliked John’s overbearing nature, she missed Richard since it had been half a month since she saw the boy.

They soon arrived at Radiant Globe, the premier mall in North City.

Cordy held Dicky’s little hand and made a beeline for the boutique.

However, they immediately ran into Noel and Mandy the instant they arrived, who were chatting and picking expensive dresses with the store assistant’s introductions

“I thought you didn’t like John Levine. Why would you dress so grandly for his grandfather’s birthday?” Noel teased Mandy on purpose.

“Why would I dress up for him? I’m just dressing up for myself!” Mandy said smugly. “And turn every head at the banquet while I do.”

“You’re beautiful, and your figure is stunning. Everyone would definitely be watching...

Before Noel could finish flattering Mandy, she turned and noticed Cordy holding a little boy’s hand and speaking calmly with a store assistant, as if not noticing their presence.

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Chapter 24

Mandy saw Cordy too. She called out rather loudly, “Cordy?!”

Cordy naturally heard her, but she ignored her

“Who do you think you are, Cordy Sachs?!” Mandy promptly strode toward her.

Noel quickly followed, even as Mandy glared scornfully at Richard and mocked, “You really are eager to become a stepmom, aren’t you? You really are an embarrassment to womenkind, sucking up to a man like this and paying for everything! Every item here would cost at least five figures—you really spared no expenses!”

Richard’s little brows were furrowed.

Why did they have to run into those two witches again? They were really ruining his and his mommy’s happy shopping time.

Beside him, Cordy shot Mandy a look and calmly pressed a button on her phone, replaying all of Mandy’s rambling.

Mandy’s face flushed, surprised that Cordy would record everything so quickly.

“I wonder if your reputation would be affected if this recording goes online, Ms. Jessop? Cordy asked without a care. “Weren’t you just taken off a TV series?”

“Cordy Sachs...” Mandy was fuming.

“Shut your stinking mouth if you don’t want this to go viral,” Cordy said sternly.

Mandy had certainly not been embarrassed by Cordy like this.

When Cordy was still in a relationship with her brother Kyle, she would cater to Mandy’s every whim... But now, Cordy was walking all over her!

“Calm down, Mandy. She’s really capable of anything.” Noel quickly

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stopped the part of a mediator.

“She certainly is, getting knocked

“Stop it, Mandy,” Noel kept saying.

“Well, I’m not bothered to waste my breath with her,” Mandy said loftily and turned to leave.

Noel kept playing an angel regardless. “Don’t mind her, sis. You know Mandy doesn’t mean it, she’s just worried you’d be tricked-”

“If memory serves, Noel Sachs, this is still work hours.” Cordy cut her short right then.

While Noel was left looking awkward and stumped, Cordy flashed an icy smile.

Not wanting to waste time on trivial people,

It was a mini tailcoat tuxedo, and it was tailored with immaculate workmanship.

Cordy certainly must admit that John has good taste.

“Try it on, Dicky”

“Okay”

The boy looked just like a fairytale prince after he put it on, and every store assistant was earnestly admiring it

Mandy and Noel glanced their way just then, and the former snapped in jealousy after seeing the boy’s exceptionally good looks. “So what if he looks good? Some people are born destined to amount to nothing! A firefighter’s son would never get anywhere in life!”

Noel said nothing, but certainly thought so too, as if it granted her solace.

She kept telling herself that she had no reason to get jealous of Cordy—not when the latter had fallen for some poor bum.

Meanwhile, Cordy had her phone out again, taking several photos of Dicky and sending it to John with the caption: [What do you think?]

[What do you think?]

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The response was instantaneous.

Wait, what about the international teleconference?

[He's handsome.]

[Good.]

Cordy frowned.

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Chapter 25

Did ‘good’ mean that it was acceptable, or did it mean something else? Still, Cordy was going to ask a store assistant to pack it up when another store assistant arrived with a breathtaking gown.

Mandy’s eyes lit up, and she promptly intercepted the store assistant as she exclaimed, “I’ll try that one!”

“I’m sorry, Ms. Jessop, but this one is reserved for Ms. Sachs.” The store assistant apologized.

“Why? I saw it first, and that makes it mine! I’ll try it right now!” Mandy snapped bossily, snatching it off the store assistant’s hand before she could agree to it.

Mandy held it over herself, measuring it—they had been shopping for a while, but this was the only gown that suited her taste.

“It’s so beautiful.” Noel fawned over it, feeling jealous because she had her eyes on it too.

“I’m sorry, Ms. Jessop, but this is tailored made for Ms. Cordy Sachs—”

“How much is it?! Mandy refused to hear a word of it. “I’ll buy it right now!”

“It’s not about the money—

“I’ll make a complaint, believe it!” Mandy threatened her viciously

Put on an awkward spot, the store assistant turned toward Cordy.

In reality, Cordy was a little surprised since she did not order anything.

Still, she soon realized with a start and felt an indescribable feeling just then.

John was making a habit of surprising her

“Here’s my card!” Mandy snapped, flashing her VIP card loftily at the store assistant.

“It’s tailor made according to Ms. Cordy’s measurements The store

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assistant tried to reason with her again. “It’s especially narrow on the waist. It doesn’t fit you-”

“Are you doubting me?!” Mandy was fuming. “I’ll try it right now!”

As she spoke, she carried the gown to the fitting room.

That was when Cordy recovered from her shock and snapped, “Aren’t you being unreasonable here, Mandy?! How many times does she have to tell you that it’s mine?!”

“It’s in this boutique, and whoever sees it first gets it!” Mandy retorted, stubborn and bent on taking the gown for herself.

“Ms. Jessop-”

Cordy stopped the store assistant then, and she told Mandy. “Why don’t we make a bet?”

“What bet?”

“If you can put it on, Ms. Jessop, you can have it for free.”

“Hah!” Mandy snorted in disdain. “You give yourself too much credit, Cordy Sachs!”

Cordy simply continued to provoke her “If you can’t put it on, you’ll have to pay for it. How about that?”

“We’ll see Mandy certainly thought nothing of Cordy. She would never believe that her waist was not as thin as Cordy’s—not after all those diets and physical regiments she put herself through!

“Then try it, Ms. Jessop.”

Mandy smugly strode to the fitting room with the gown, and then tried to put it on with a store assistant’s help only for the zipper to get stuck around her waist.

Her face fell, and she snapped at the store assistant, “Pull harder!”

“That’s the best I can do. It will snap if I keep pulling!”

Mandy shot the store assistant a glare, convinced that the store assistant

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was sabotaging her.

She called outside, “Noel! Come in for a moment!”

Noel quickly entered, and she saw Mandy’s face flushed even as she tried to squeeze herself into that gown!

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Chapter 26

Noel took the zipper and pulled as hard as she could. Mandy inhaled as much as she could in turn, but the zipper just would not go up whatever they did.

“It’s not going to work, Mandy,” Noel said helplessly and tiredly.

“No way! My waist is so thin!” It was just too much for Mandy.

She could not even imagine the contempt Cordy would show her if she could not put on the gown! She was not about to suffer such ignominy!

“It won’t work. It will break if I keep pulling it.”

“Then break it! Just pull!”

“Cordy will know if it does break! She’ll definitely ask you to pay for it!”

“She’ll make me pay even if I don’t!” Mandy growled through her teeth.

Still, Noel was shrewd enough to think of a way around it. “Hold on just a minute. If you can’t put it on when you’re this slim, Cordy wouldn’t be able to do it either. If neither of you can put it on, she has no right to ask you to pay for it.”

Mandy paused for a moment, but soon realized that Noel was right. “Help me take it off.”

“Yeah.”

Having hatched the plan, both of them left the fitting room.

Cordy was sitting on a couch at the VIP corner and having a snack with Richard.

As she looked up, there was clearly a smile of contempt.

Mandy repressed her anger and challenged her, saying, “I can’t put it on, Cordy Sachs, but that doesn’t mean you can either! Put it on-if it fits, I’ll buy it for you!”

Cordy said nothing but continued to munch on her chips. She then picked

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up her coffee, taking a large sip.

Mandy was scowling

She had tried to inhale as much as she could but still could not wear it. And

yet Cordy was still eating

carefreely?!

Cordy wiped her lips then, and told Richard to be a good boy and wait

outside while she entered the

fitting room.

Meanwhile, Kyle arrived at the boutique.

“Kyle.” Noel quickly walked up to him.

Mandy was surprised. “What are you doing here?”

“I texted him,” Noel quickly said. “You were arguing with my sis, and I being so unreasonable-that’s why I called him.”

Mandy did not care for Cordy, but she had no reason to refuse Noel’s concern for herself.

Naturally, Noel did not actually worry about Mandy-she just wanted Kyle to see Cordy fighting with

Mandy, so that he would have even less reason to miss her.

That was when the curtains to the fitting room opened.

As everyone turned toward it, they were all left stunned.

Cordy had put on the white diamond-encrusted gown in its entirety. It fitted her perfectly that not an inch. was loose or too tight, accentuating her voluptuous figure with such grace no one could take their eyes.

off her.

No! Impossible!

Mandy could not believe her eyes-or that Cordy looked so perfect and natural in it.

Noel could not believe it too.

Cordy was usually dressed in business attire. It made her appear serious

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and professional, but it hid her figure too. Noel certainly did not expect her to have those devilish curves!

Kyle was entranced by Cordy too. Having never been intimate with her, he certainly did not know that she was so perfect that no man could possibly resist her.

Noel had to tug on his arm to bring him to his senses, and he did his best to avert his eyes. “Mommy! You’re so beautiful!” Richard exclaimed just then, saying what everyone was thinking.

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Chapter 27

Regardless, none of them would admit it.

“Thank you,” Cordy flashed a tender smile at Richard before turning to Mandy. “Pay up.”

Mandy’s cheeks were alternating in color

Cordy had actually put it on! How?!

“A bet’s a bet. What, going to renege on it already?” Cordy sneered

Mandy’s teeth were gnashing—she just had to make the bet in front of so many people.

She could not afford to humiliate herself by renegeing!

“How much for the gown?” she growled.

“It’s 1.3 million dollars, Ms. Jessop,” a store assistant replied.

“What?!” Mandy thought she was hearing things.

Most designer brands would cost a few hundred grand at most, but that gown cost 1.3 million?!

“The dress was completely handmade in Franconia, and every part of the design was made to specifications. The 500 diamonds encrusted on it were in turn sewn by hand by our best tailor,” the store assistant explained, while showing her the invoice. “The pricing was also charged according to official rates. Please take a look, Ms. Jessop.”

Mandy’s face was green—she would never have bought herself a dress so expensive, let alone buy it for Cordy for free!

Wheeling on Cordy, she demanded, “Where did you get the money for such an expensive gown?!”

Cordy had expected the gown to be expensive, but not cost over

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a million dollars!

Still, she remained composed as she said. “That’s my business. and I’ll pack it up and leave.”

Mandy’s eyes turned red—not even her bank account had that much money!

Even if she did earn a lot from showbiz and her family would always give her more, she never developed the habit of saving up. In fact, she had a little over a hundred grand at best!

But she would rather die than admit that she could not afford something Cordy could.

“Take my card, Kyle suddenly said.

Mandy was left stunned, while Noel was clearly agitated. “Kyle, that’s not a small sum...

“I’ll just consider it damages for our breakup. Cordy, I hope you won’t harass Noel and my sister ever again,” Kyle said righteously.

Cordy simply sneered. “Mandy lost that bet, but if you “You’re despicable!” Mandy snapped.

“I’m just learning from your ilk,” Cordy retorted.

“What?” Mandy was dumbstruck, unable to come up with anything.

Naturally, both Kyle and Noel were glowering as well.

Cordy simply ignored them, and turned to Richard with a gentle smile. “Let’s get changed now, Dicky.”

“Okay” Richard nodded tamely

Kyle had paid for everything by the time they changed out of their clothes, since he could not bring shame to his family!

“Thank you...” Cordy said as she carried her bag of astronomically expensive clothes, while deliberately adding, “Ms.

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Jessop.”

Mandy was shaking with rage, glaring at Cordy as if she could murder her right then!

Not only did she not get any dress that she liked, but she was also body-shamed and lost over a million dollars for nothing!

But she would not take this ignominy lying down!

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Chapter 28

Cordy was holding Richard's hand as they arrived at the main entrance when a figure abruptly intercepted them, stopping them from leaving.

"What, regret paying up now?" Cordy narrowed her eyes at Kyle, who was panting.

"I'm not that petty," he heaved. "I paid, and that's that. My family won't miss it that much."

Cordy smiled—it was ironic since she was the reason his family had that money, and she had worked for it with her life!

Still, Kyle suddenly ignored her jibe and directly said, "You never answered my calls or texts."

"Did you forget your place-

"We can be friends even if we've broken up."

"That's what you believe," Cordy said as she looked at him coolly.

"You're already gone from my world. because I'd never befriend anyone as corrupt as you."

"You don't have to be like that-"

"What do you want?!" Cordy snapped, cutting him short impatiently.

Kyle took a deep breath, not wanting to fight her. "I just asked the store assistant. She said the boy's tailcoat costs six figures."

Naturally, he was talking about Richard, who was furrowing his little brow at Kyle in turn.

"And?" Cordy raised a brow.

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“Even if you’ve taken control of Starstream Group and the company is worth a lot, you’ll eventually be drained dry if you keep wasting your money! I told you many times—that firefighter is only after your money. Once all your money is gone, you’ll be nothing to him!”

Kyle was getting more agitated the more he spoke, but Cordy could not care less

“I told you, money can’t buy my love!” she snapped icily. “And shove those crocodile tears. I won’t ever be tricked!”

With those words, Cordy turned to leave, still holding Richard’s hand.

“Cordy Sachs!” Kyle suddenly grabbed her wrist, leaving her frowning.

However, Kyle could hardly describe how frustrated he was—she certainly had strutted in his face too much!

He had limits to his patience too!

“Let me go!” Cordy snapped.

Kyle simply tightened his grip. “We used to love each other, and I’m still being nice. How could you not- argh!”

He suddenly yelped, his face falling.

Even Cordy was gaping as Richard suddenly bit Kyle on his hand, and he quickly flinched from the pain, though there were already clear, gruesome teeth marks left on it.

“What are you doing?! Kyle snapped at the boy.

Richard’s face was contorting in babyish anger as he snapped back, “Bully my mommy again, and I’ll roll around on the floor saying you hit me. I’m a kid, I’m not afraid of losing face!”

Kyle glared at Dicky, but he was undoubtedly being threatened by

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a brat in public.

He was almost foaming in the mouth, but he had no way to vent!

“Let’s go, Mommy!” Richard held on tightly to Cordy’s hand, looking just like an adult as he shielded her.

Cordy felt warmth in her chest and she said mildly, “Okay, we have to hurry home now. You’re washing your mouth and cleaning it of germs. Remember, don’t bite anything you see next time, or you might get sick, okay?”

Kyle’s knuckles were creaking from Cordy’s contempt. He yelled viciously at her from behind her, “You’ll regret this, Cordy Sachs! And don’t come looking for me when that happens!”

“Don’t worry,” Cordy retorted without looking back. “It’d never happen.”

Kyle’s glare was utterly sinister—he would see for himself how long her stubborn streak would last!

As they returned to their car, Cordy texted John because she was unsure if he was still in a meeting.

[We just left Radiant Globe. Where do I drop off Dicky?]

Once again, the reply was instantaneous.

[I’m working overtime. Babysit him for me.]

Honestly... How busy was he really?!

For the entire night?!

[I’ll come by later to pick him up.] [Later? When?]

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Chapter 29

There was no reply this time.

Cordy pursed her lips and turned toward Richard. “Your daddy is working overtime tonight. Would you like to come home with me?”

“Okay!” Richard actually appeared excited. “I would like to visit your home, Mommy

Cordy smiled and patted his little head adoringly.

Arriving home, she put on a cartoon for him while wondering what to cook for dinner

Although she had lived abroad for years, she was too busy trying to earn a living to cook for herself. It was beef jerky when she did not have money, and takeout when she did.

And after thinking about it, she decided on takeout—she would not have to worry about the food either when it was from an expensive restaurant

She sat beside Richard, making her orders solemnly

“Can I change the channel, Mommy?” Richard asked just then.

“Sure,” she said, and pointed at the remote lying just ahead.

Richard picked it up and started switching the channels, while Cordy continued to swipe through takeout

menus

It took a while before she finally put away her phone and to a science channel, which was broadcasting a program on astronautics.

“Do you understand that, Dicky?” she could not resist asking.

“Sure,” Richard replied, as if it was only natural.

And that was that.

They had dinner together at 7 PM.

Richard had certainly been taught well at home, being well-behaved

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throughout the meal and even helping Cordy clean up the table afterwards. He then asked Cordy to watch TV with him, picking a variety show channel this time.

It was a homely picture as they nestled on the couch together

“That is Zoe York!” Richard suddenly exclaimed, pointing at the star actress making an appearance on the show

Cordy smiled and asked offhandedly. “Do you like her?”

“Yes!”

“You have a good eye,” Cordy said—Zoe was certainly beautiful, and one of the few natural beauties in showbiz

“Daddy likes her too,” Richard suddenly added.

Is that so?”

“Yeah.” Richard nodded confidently.

With that, they kept watching TV until nine.

As Richard started to yawn, Cordy could not help texting John

[When are you getting off work?]

[He usually sleeps before 9.30 PM. Help him take a bath, and I’ll be there soon to take him home.]

[Okay.]

As Cordy put down her phone, she had this feeling as if she had been ordered around by John without any qualms.

Still, as she took Richard to the bathroom, she noticed his little flushed cheeks and teased, “Are you being shy?”

“I’ve never bathed with girls around,” he said.

Such a simple line, but it left Cordy feeling hurt.

The child had never seen his mother

“You don’t have to be shy, kiddo. Also, you won’t have girls bathing you when you’re older

“Yeah, Richard was still blushing, just as she remembered something.

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“Mommy, am I going to get bigger everywhere?”

“What?”

“Here.” Richard pointed at himself, between his legs.

Cordy could not help chuckling, “Of course.”

“Can’t I stay like this?”

“Of course not,” Cordy said, at once stern and amused.

“Then am I going to become as big as daddy?” Richard asked, even using his tiny hands to gesture his daddy’s size.

Cordy was speechless.

Was she supposed to put that into words?!

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Chapter 30

After Richard made the gesture, he noticed Cordy blushing and he looked at her in adorable confusion.” Mommy? Why is your face red?”

Cordy only blushed harder from his stare, finally understanding that children had no filter

She quickly said, “Wait here. I’ll get my clothes-you can wear them for now.”

“Okay Richard nodded tamely.

Cordy picked up a T-shirt that just reached his knees, dispensing the need for pants.

She carried him to her soft bed and blow-dried his hair, just as he became even sleepier and started nodding off.

By the time Cordy was done, Richard lay sprawled on her bed, asleep.

Cordy’s heart was gushing with warmth at the sight of his adorable face.

She straightened his tiny frame and pulled a blanket over him, and leaned in to kiss him on the forehead.

After dimming the lights, she picked up her phone and texted John. “Dicky’s sleeping. Why don’t you come get him tomorrow instead?”

There was no instantaneous reply this time, and Cordy took no mind after waiting for a while.

She picked up her own bathrobe and went

Cordy hurried to the front door and saw via the monitors that John was outside.

Did he miss her text?

She opened the door and directly said, “Dicky is asleep.”

John’s eyes, however, darted straight to her attire.

Cordy looked down as well and flushed-she was still in her bathrobe, which

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dangled loosely from her body.

And she did not even wear a bra...

Bang!

John pursed his lips as the door abruptly slammed shut in his face, while

Cordy raced to her room and changed into conservative casual wear

Drying her hair a little and then tying it up haphazardly, she quickly rushed to the door again and opened it. "Sorry. Please, come in."

She handed him a pair of male loafers, though John glanced at them before asking. "Do you have shoe covers?"

"I think so," Cordy looked around, and found a pair

John put them on before entering.

"Dicky is asleep. Do you want me to wake him, or you're just going to carry him-"

"I'm hungry" John cut her short right then.

Cordy stared at him, and then at the large clock on the wall.

It was already ten.

They were very close, and suddenly, there was only the sound of the hairdryer and a pounding heart.

Cordy thought that John must be elite when it comes to relationships. So how did he fail to keep Richard's mother?!

Still, they were both silent until John turned off the hairdryer and said, "Done."

"Thank you."

"I'll come by at eight tomorrow to pick up Dicky."

"Okay."

Cordy walked John out the door, when John reached down to pick up the pair of male loafers. "I'll help you throw these away."

Cordy pursed her lips-she had bought those for Kyle, but he barely visited

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her here, only using those loafers once or twice

It was her money anyway, and she was not was not wasteful.

“Mr. Levine,” she said, suddenly stopping him.

“Yes?”

“Are you a member of the Levines, who are a very famous family in this city?” she asked, staring at him.

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