

Read A Life Debt Repaid Chapter 1251-1260

A Life Debt Repaid Chapter 1251-As Cordy stepped into the mansion and reached the edge, she turned to find countless myriad colored lights turning on in an instant, as if all the stars from the skies were falling down.

She was certainly surprised, because it was a sight more astounding than those lights at the island they stayed at.

She wondered how much time John spent preparing the surprise... and was it really for her and not Wendy?

If she never said yes today, all his preparations would have gone to waste, no?

Cordy looked at John then, and followed his gaze to see the huge LED screen in the garden, which suddenly flashed into life with photos of her... since her childhood.

Cordy was surprised-how did he get those?! She had basically lost them!

John seemed to read the question in her mind and said, "I met your father." .com fast update

Cordy pursed her lips.

"I know you'd never forgive him, which was why I did not invite him to our wedding," John continued. "However, I managed to get a lot of your photos from Sachs Mansion, and I'm sure you wouldn't want them kept there."

Cordy nodded-that was certainly true, since those photos of her childhood were taken by her mother.

Her eyes welled with tears.

If her mother were still around...

"I was going to invite the Cranstons here to North City too, but I was afraid...
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John trailed off, but Cordy could understand that he would be left in an awkward situation if he invited the Cranstons, only for her to reject his proposal.

Moreover, the Crastons's presence would pressure her into saying yes, no?

John had certainly thought of everything.

Even if she lied to herself earlier that she was just sparing John the blushes, that his bride was meant to be Wendy... it would be plain denial if she still maintained that belief.

These photos that she did not even remember she had, John found them all for her.

She watched as the last photo flashed past, thinking that the video was over, only for more to be played.

She gasped in surprise as John explained, 'This is Dicky's present for us.'

Indeed, Richard's handsome little face was now on screen, appearing a little nervous.

He took a deep breath and said, "Mommy, I don't know if you'll ever see this video, but I hope you will... Because I really want you to get back together with Daddy."

Cordy could not stop her tears as she looked at her son on screen, feeling that she owed him so, so much.

"Remember this? I said it's a family VCR for a school project, but there was no project. I just wanted you to get back with Daddy, so I made an opportunity so that you can spend time with Daddy," Richard said, while the footage showed the many moments he captured at Cordy's house that day.

John was in the video, cooking in the kitchen.

'These are all Mommy's favorites, Daddy.'

"Yeah,' John replied.

"Should I wake her up?" "Nope. Let her sleep."

“But you’ll have less time with Mommy...’

A Life Debt Repaid Chapter 1252-“It’s alright.” John smiled. “Just having her near is fine.”

Wendy looked on, watching him smile with such tenderness and contentment...

She could hardly describe how she felt just then.

It turned out that John loved her with all his heart, while she thought he was dating Wendy.

The scene then changed to Richard, John, and Wendy discussing how to take a family photo.

They talked for a while until Cordy arrived, and they took the family with just Cordy, John, and Richard.

She could not help glancing at John, noticing that he was nervously raising his hand and lowering it repeatedly, refraining from putting it on her shoulder.

The scene changed again to the afternoon when John was baking a cake.

Richard was hurrying him, saying, “Mommy’s coming downstairs. Wendy, get clingy with Daddy.”

Then, as Wendy snuggled up against John as he worked, Cordy remembered that it was exactly what she saw when she arrived at the kitchen at the time.

So it was all just an act.

As she watched the video, she watched Richard asking John to teach him how to bake cookies.

She was too preoccupied with the cookies at the time to look at John’s face, though he was behind her anyway so she could not see.

But in the video, she could see the boundless tender love in his eyes...

At the time, she thought he preferred them young and had developed a taste for novelty and excitement.

After that scene, it was now a scene of John drinking himself silly.

Before he did, however, he and Richard were talking about how he could get an excuse to stay the night...

Honestly, these two...

Cordy shot John a look, who pursed his lips and wondered why he let Richard put that in too.

He guessed he trusted his son too much-he would have looked through it if he knew, even if Richard insisted it was a surprise that must only be unwrapped on their wedding night.

And now, things got awkward!

The video was soon over, and Richard's face appeared on video as she said, "Mommy, this is my wedding present for you and Daddy. Did you like it? I don't even know if you'll see it... I mean, if you didn't marry Daddy, this video would only be kept for posterity."

Cordy's sight was blurred with tears.

Would she have let Richard down if she had rejected John's proposal today?

She could scarcely imagine how disappointed he would be.

Nonetheless, Richard continued earnestly on the video, "But no matter what happens, Mommy, I love you very, very much. I think I'm the happiest boy ever, ever since Daddy told me who you were. I mean, I was blessed with a mommy who is so kind, so beautiful and so warm. And before I

show you our family photo, I want to say I hope we'll always be together forever, and if it's possible, I want a sibling too."

When Richard was finished, the family photo of Cordy, Richard, and John together at her home appeared on screen.

Wendy took that photo for them, and Cordy had always thought the photo looked awkward.

And yet, Cordy saw that they were all smiling very happily...

She pursed her lips.

Perhaps all her determination before was just stubbornness...

She blinked as the skies overhead suddenly erupted with brilliant fireworks

A Life Debt Repaid Chapter 1253-Cordy stared at the fireworks that seemed to blanket the skies and John's bewitching face beneath, her emotions ruffled...

He really was in love with her and prepared so much for her.

Her eyes welled with tears-she thought she would never feel touched like this ever again.

John was looking at her dewy eyes in turn.

As they held each other gaze lovingly, all the ugliness, misunderstandings and repressed grievances seemed to fade.

In fact, the world seemed to vanish as well, as they only had eyes for each other.

John leaned his face toward her just then while she blinked before closing her eyes.

As he gently kissed her lips, their hearts seemed to be awash with warmth.

Cordy could not help clenching her knuckles as John held her lips, allowing him more.

Hence, while it was a gentle brush at first, tongue was soon involved, and they started panting.

He then scooped her up in his arms, while she wrapped her arms around his neck by instinct.

They were very close, their breathing ragged and their hearts racing.

John carried her through the living room and up to the second floor, opening the door to their large bridal room, which was decorated lavishly.

Cordy was wearing a white evening gown, and her dainty figure was a stark contrast against the huge bed as John carried her over. The blush on her cheek stood out from the crisp white sheets with a tempting charm.

John threw off his suit and took off his necktie then, unbuttoning his shirt as he leaned toward her, his burly form pinning her beneath him.

Cordy's fingers nervously clenched on the sheets.

It had been so many years since they did it, and their son was already ten... but this was the third time they were doing it.

Cordy could even feel the urgency John felt as he leaned close to her face while repressing his libido, showering her cheeks with tiny kisses before moving on to her nose, lips, ears, and neck...

At the same time, he reached beneath her, pulling down the zipper of her gown that extended to her waist.

The chill that ensued sent her heart racing, and she seemed to regain her rationality in that instant.

John was nuzzling around her collarbone, and her lips were just beside his ear as she said, "John... is it too much of a buzzkill if I said I want to take a bath right now?"

John stiffened—he was certainly reluctant to pull away from her body.

As he looked beneath her at her flushed cheeks, he certainly was eager to get going...

Even so, he knew he must not rush things, and he did not expect himself to be that impatient either—especially since taking a bath first was a part of his plan.

He gulped, repressing the fiery libido in him as he said, "No, I got ahead of myself. You should take a bath."

Cordy nodded quietly and crawled out from beneath him, leaving him feeling a little empty as the softness beneath him disappeared.

As Cordy entered the bathroom, John sighed lengthily and headed to the bathroom in the next room.

He should save time and be tactful enough to take a bath while Cordy did the same.

He did so solemnly, cleaning himself although he was doing it a little quickly..

A Life Debt Repaid Chapter 1254-John returned to their room after finishing his bath and saw that Cordy was not done with hers, just as he had expected.

He did not hurry her and sat against the headboard instead, scrolling aimlessly through his phone as he waited for Cordy.

He was clearly distracted, tensing up whenever he sensed movement from the bathroom.

However, it was until after over ten minutes that Cordy finally opened the bathroom door, dressed in a pink bathrobe while having her wet hair wrapped in a towel, clearly having washed it.

The bathrobe was a couple's set with the other being blue. John could not wear it since it was already in the bathroom after Cordy got in, so he wore a white one that was kept next door.

He stared at Cordy, whose cheeks were still flushed after her bath, and her skin crystal fair under the lights.

John could not help licking his dry lips-Cordy looked really appetizing at that very moment.

Still, he did not give in to excitement and jump on her right away-instead, he walked to the bathroom to get the hair dryer.

Cordy could see the look on his face, but she did not say what was on her mind.

He told her, "Dry your hair first or you'll catch a cold."

Heaven knows how much restraint it took him to repress his lust and speak so calmly.

"Yeah." Cordy nodded, and John helped her blow dry it.

Her hair had the scent of fresh shampoo after it was dry, and though it was a normal scent, John felt like it would take his breath away.

He quelled the storm in the night, telling himself that he just had to wait a little longer.

The night was still young after all, and he was in no rush.

After a long while and drying all her hair, he lowered the hair dryer and stared fixedly with a burning gaze.

The fire in his eyes certainly could not be concealed...

Cordy pursed her lips, unable to tell him right then.

That was, until John finally could not stop himself and started to lean his face toward her.

“John, I... I’m on my period,” she said.

John was barely an inch away from her lips as he was left petrified from head to toe, his brain too hot to realize what Cordy had just said.

She said... she was on her period?

In other words...

At that very moment, he felt like he was on a rollercoaster, reaching a peak one moment and plummeting the next.

‘I have to experience this once to actually feel what it is like!’

“So, not tonight,” Cordy added, since he was not responding for a while.

John nodded, while he quietly composed himself.

In fact, he was never confident they would consummate tonight anyway-it was just that he was very hopeful since Cordy was not saying no before.

There was no hiding how much he felt let down, as if he was crumbling. In truth, she did not expect that the time of the month would come tonight, since it was supposed to be in another two days judging from the usual cycle.

Someone up there was probably just messing with her or punishing John...

A Life Debt Repaid Chapter 1255-Cordy actually felt guilty.

She and John were sleeping in the same bed on their wedding night but were doing nothing at all.

She had no intention of shirking her spousal obligation since she decided to marry John.

To her, marriage was no child's play, and it should be treated solemnly.

Even so, what happened tonight was definitely unexpected, and Cordy felt even more guilty when she saw the box of condoms in the bedside drawer.

John had really prepared for everything.

In fact, that was not all—he even prepared underwear and sanitary pads for her, so there was nothing to worry about despite the surprise.

John probably just did not expect that she would need the pads tonight.

In fact, Cordy had trouble sleeping the whole night, tossing and turning in bed, probably because she was not used to sleeping in a new place.

As for the man beside her, he did not sleep at all.

They were still asleep late into the morning because of that until John's phone rang.

He picked it up. "Aunt Nancy..."

"Why aren't you here?!" Nancy snapped from the other end.

John checked the time to see that it was past ten.

Still, he was not in a hurry at all as he quietly replied, "Be back soon."

"The sooner the better. Don't keep us waiting."

"Okay," John said and hung up, having every intention to sleep in until he turned to see Cordy.

She was clearly woken up by the call. "Your aunt?"

"Don't worry. You can sleep a little longer..."

“No, let’s go already. I’d rather not get her stink-eye at Levine Manor,” Cordy said, pushing herself out of bed with considerable difficulty.

She was certainly aware of Nancy’s bad temper, and everything would be fine if it went her way.

If it did not, the look on her face alone would be horrific.

“Don’t worry, she’s not going to get upset with you,” John said, clearly feeling Cordy’s exhaustion. “She’s so worried I’d be celibate that she would never dare upset you.”

Cordy did a double take, though she soon understood what he meant.

Was he saying that he would never marry any other woman beside her?

She felt a faint warmth on her chest just then-she had no idea if she really accepted that she and John were married, but she definitely accepted her relationship with John now.

As such, she quietly lay down.

But just as she was going to sleep, her phone rang with a call from Zoe.

She picked it up. “Zoe?”

“Are you still sleeping with Johnny?!” Zoe asked a little too loudly.

“Uh...”

How was she supposed to answer that?!

“Anyway, I’m at Levine Manor already, and Ms. Levine here is saying that you and John aren’t even up yet?”

Cordy stayed silent, unable to answer.

Zoe laughed mischievously at her silence. “So, it’s been a long night, huh? Leaving early but still unable to even get up ... Was a box of condoms even enough? Wait, no. You need to get Dicky a sibling, so don’t use protection... Hold on, John would definitely insist on protection, right? I mean, he didn’t see any action for years, so he’d definitely want to enjoy himself for a while first, or he’d suffer a stroke if it’s bulls-eye! So? How was it? Was one box enough?”

Cordy was left speechless as she rambled on. "No, last night we-"

Before she could finish, however, Zoe quickly said, "Hold on, Ms. Levine is calling us again. Get here soon-let's discuss this face to face."

A Life Debt Repaid Chapter 1256-Zoe promptly hung up, while Cordy turned toward John and said, "Zoe and Jay have both returned to Levine Manor. Let's join them-Dicky's there too."

John nodded, since they would not get any sleep in peace.

They got out of bed and started washing up.

John then entered the bathroom first, telling Cordy, "Your clothes are in the closet room."

Cordy headed over, and found the closet room so huge it could match their bedroom.

She opened one of the closets to find rows of women's clothing arranged neatly, outnumbering John's clothes by a ton.

Naturally, every piece of clothing was her size-John certainly made considerable effort preparing this house.

As such, she wondered again how traumatizing it would be if she had rejected his proposal.

Still, she did not mull for too long-the dust had settled, and everything was going to be better now.

She picked a set of rather formal clothes and put on light makeup while John put on a suit.

They got in the car together, with Cordy admiring the scenery outside while he drove.

They were married, and they were no strangers-but for some reason, being in the same room made things a little awkward.

As such, Cordy kept staring outside to kill time, until she blinked and said, "This isn't the way to Levine Manor."

“No. We’re going to the civil registration office.”

While Cordy did a double take, John added, “We haven’t registered our marriage yet.”

Cordy finally remembered then that they only had the wedding ceremony directly after John proposed.

She certainly forgot about the legal formalities.

“I didn’t bring my ID and other documents,” she quickly said.

“I did,” John replied. “Yours are with me too.”

“What?!”

“Dicky brought them for me just two days ago.”

Cordy was speechless.

Still, John was the one who raised Richard since he was a baby, so it was natural that their son showed bias for his daddy.

Soon, they arrived at the civil registration office, and they both alighted to get their marriage registered.

Zoe called them again while they did, saying that they should spare them the daytime since they had plenty of time at night.

She certainly left Cordy at a loss for words, but since Cordy could not say too much at a formal place, she quickly hung up.

They soon received their marriage certificate, and Cordy started feeling an emotion she could not quite describe.

Getting married was really much quicker than she thought.

She turned toward John to find him staring at the marriage certificate too, doing so for a long while as she wondered what he was really staring at...

“Shouldn’t we be going now?” Cordy asked.

“Yeah.” John seemed to come to his senses right then.

And when he did, the smile on his face was all too obvious, and he seemed to shine even though the sun was right above.

Cordy lowered her eyes.

She, too, was clearly smiling without realizing it.

They headed back to the car and returned to Levine Manor, though they could hear Zoe from afar, saying, “Can’t you give it a rest, Ms, Levine? It’s been a literal decade since John and Cordy last consummated. It’s only natural that they’re glued to each other right now!”

A Life Debt Repaid Chapter 1257-Cordy froze outside the front door, left embarrassed by Zoe even before she stepped inside.

Talk about a rock and a hard place...

Still, Zoe turned and saw her right then but appeared completely unabashed as she called out to Cordy loudly, “Oh, Cordy! You finally brought my cousin—I mean, my nephew home!”

John pursed his lips-Zoe was really getting full of herself after she took a promotion in seniority.

And to make things worse, he could not argue-which really felt like a defeat.

“Your dear aunt is getting real impatient. I think she’ll drag you both out of bed if you still drag your feet,” Zoe teased.

“Watch your manners,” Nancy snapped.

“What manners? I’m their aunt too-what I say goes,” Zoe argued.

Nancy was stumped, while Jay quickly smoothed things over. “Why don’t we get things underway? Everyone’s hungry, especially the kids.”

He was certainly concerned that Nancy would start fighting Zoe, especially the latter being so fearless after she got over her past history with Nancy.

Nancy shot Zoe a look and huffed, “Yes, Dicky shouldn’t go hungry especially during puberty, so I’ll refrain from getting into another argument. Wilma, prepare some tea.”

“Yes, Ms. Levine,” the servant promptly said.

Naturally, Nancy took the main seat since she was the eldest member of the Levine family, while Jay and Zoe should offer her tea per tradition as newlyweds.

They took the tea cups the servant brought, with Jay serving her respectfully, “Have some tea, Nancy.”

Nancy glanced at him briefly before taking his cup for a sip and then handing him a gift envelope.

“Thank you,” Jay told her.

It was Zoe’s turn after Jay, and she did so eagerly. “Have some tea, sister.”

Nancy felt like she had a day shaved off her lifespan whenever she heard Zoe say ‘sister’.

She shot Zoe a look, while the tea somehow felt stressful to drink.

She earnestly would rather Jay not end up with Zoe, but unfortunately, harmony in the family came first!

After all, Nancy’s father always wished the family would be peaceful and prosperous.

It was not as if she accepted Zoe— she was just fulfilling her father’s wish so that his soul could rest in peace.

Taking the cup Zoe offered, she strained herself to take a sip.

On the other hand, Zoe did not mind at all since she never held out hope for Nancy-she just had to do her part well, and that was enough.

After Nancy drank the tea, she gave Zoe a gift envelope too.

Zoe somehow could not help finding it a bit thin and touched Jay’s.

She knew it. Nancy was giving preferential treatment!

And as usual, she did not hold her tongue at all. “Come on, sister! Isn’t this too obvious?! You shouldn’t harass me like this even if you hate me! I mean, how

thin is this envelope?! I'm your younger brother's wife-you shouldn't go this far even if it's for appearance's sake!"

She could accept Nancy being nice to Jay, but did she have to be this obvious?! She had her own dignity too!

On the other hand, Nancy rolled her eyes at Zoe and ignored Zoe.

Bristling right then, Zoe snatched opened Jay's gift envelope and found a stack of dollar bills, probably amounting up to one grand!

A Life Debt Repaid Chapter 1258-Zoe turned toward her gift envelope, expecting not even ten percent of Jay's, and opened it right in front of Nancy.

However, Zoe found nothing inside her envelope and could blow up right then.

What the hell...

Nancy really knew how to upset her!

Still, Nancy could tell what Zoe was thinking from the latter's reaction. "Keep looking."

"For what?!" Zoe snapped, speechless. "Lint?!"

She then felt something small inside-could Nancy insult her any further?!

It had been years, but she was still so petty!

"Just take out what's inside already!" Nancy snapped sternly then.

She was not worried that Zoe would misunderstand, but she was really afraid that Zoe would be so pig-headed she would throw the envelope away.

Zoe was certainly reluctant, but she had been obedient to Nancy for years and did as she was told.

And when she did, she was stunned to find that it was not a lint but an emerald ring instead.

It also looked so familiar she had the feeling that she had seen it before...

“Your grandmother...” Nancy blurted but quickly paused to correct herself. “It belonged to my mom. She passed it to me before she died.”

Zoe was shocked. “Why would you give me something so valuable?”

Nancy could die right then.

Why did she give it to her? Was that not obvious?!

“No way... it’s my dowry?!” Zoe suddenly exclaimed

“Who are you to me? Why should I give you a dowry?!” Nancy denied it right then. “It’s because you’re Jay’s wife, and that more or less makes you family.

And that’s why you’re given a Levine family heirloom.”

Zoe pouted to think she actually felt touched.

Still, she was optimistic as always, and she asked, “Does that mean you’re acknowledging me?”

“Doesn’t matter if I do. The whole world knows that you’re Jay’s wife now.”

Nancy snorted in disdain.

“And you’re really the most stubborn woman in the world.” Zoe beamed.

Nancy was stumped.

She certainly did not expect that a day would come when Zoe left her speechless.

She turned away, not inclined to waste her breath with Zoe-Zoe could think whatever she liked.

Looking at Cordy and John just then, Nancy appeared more friendly as she smiled. “Your turn.”

“Have some tea, Aunt Nancy,” John said respectfully, and Nancy drank it before giving him a gift envelope too.

“Have some tea, Aunt Nancy,” Cordy said after John.

After she finished this time, Nancy took a red pouch she had been keeping behind her.

Cordy appeared surprised, while the others watched Nancy with great interest as she opened the pouch, taking out an emerald bangle.

Johnny

“This is an heirloom from Johnny’s grandmother-it’s a talisman for safety, and she wore it her whole life. It’s also an antique, a collector’s item of inestimable value... anyway, take good care of it.”

With those words, Nancy took Cordy’s hand and slid it onto her fair, slender wrist.

Cordy was left stunned.

Before she could speak, however, Zoe snapped in displeasure, “Playing favorites are we, Ms. Levine? Why do I get a ring while Cordy gets a bangle?!”

A Life Debt Repaid Chapter 1259-“Why not?” Nancy calmly shot back. “Legitimate children take priority!”

Zoe was stunned for a moment, before realizing what Nancy meant.

Turning toward Jay, she told him, “Your sister is calling you a bstrd.”

Jay was speechless-Zoe really took it all in stride, did she not?

Nancy in turn ignored Zoe and helped Cordy with the bangle, satisfied with how it looked on her wrist. “Johnny’s grandmother would definitely be pleased to know that he married such a great wife.”

Cordy was a little embarrassed from the flattery, while Nancy quickly said, “Alright, let’s eat.”

“Thank you, Aunt Nancy,” Cordy said earnestly-being accepted by family was most precious and emotional for her, someone who was denied familial warmth since she was a child.

After the tea ceremony, everyone headed to Levine Manor’s spacious dining hall for lunch.

Zoe was famished, since she hurried to Levine Manor without breakfast, worried that Nancy would scold her for being late.

In fact, she would probably get upset if anything did not go her way at all.

Somehow, even after they rushed to Levine Manor, neither Cordy nor John arrived, even taking their sweet time to come.

Truly, the difference in treatment given to illegitimate children was all too obvious-and as the wife of one, she should be more self-conscious.

“You should eat more, Cordy,” Nancy told Cordy, as if worried her hospitality was lacking.

Zoe did not take exception, since Nancy would not actually be sincerely nice to her anyway.

In fact, she felt lucky that Nancy did not already kick her to the curb.

Still, as Zoe ate, she wondered if she was imagining it, but every dish was her favorite.

She could even swear she tasted her childhood.

Did Levine Manor not change their chef after so many years? The man must be advanced in age.

Zoe savored every bite, since she did not have to take care of Yelena, who was snuggling into Jay’s arms constantly.

Nancy had enough just then, and snapped sternly, “Zoe York, can’t you take care of Yelena a little?! Jay hasn’t taken a bite from the start!”

“But Yelena doesn’t want me to.”

“How could she not?”

Not bothered to explain, Zoe simply turned toward Yelena.” Want me to feed you, Yelena?”

“Nope.” Yelena refused right away. “I want Daddy or Dicky.”

“Not Dicky,” Nancy snapped before Richard could speak. “He has to eat—he’s going through puberty.”

Zoe shrugged nonchalantly, and kept eating.

Nancy inhaled deeply in turn and asked Yelena, “How about I feed you, Yelena?”

Yelena, who was sitting tamely on Jay’s lap, blinked her large round eyes at Nancy for a moment before answering adorably, “Okay.”

Zoe was speechless and stared at Yelena in disbelief.

Her own daughter would not let her touch her but would let Nancy do it?!

She was used to Yelena hating her, but now, she felt a sense of disappointment.

In fact, Nancy was surprised that Yelena would agree, since everyone could see how clingy Yelena was to Jay.

“It’s alright, Nancy. You eat—I’ll feed her,” Jay said just then.

“I’m not hungry,” Nancy said. “I’ve eaten earlier and I’m still full. Don’t worry.”

“Okay. Thank you,” Jay said as he passed Yelena to Nancy.

“Thank you, Grandma,” Yelena echoed, imitating Jay’s good manners right then.

“Not Grandma—it’s Aunt Nancy,” Zoe corrected her.

A Life Debt Repaid Chapter 1260—“But she’s Grandma,” Yelena said seriously.

“I look old, don’t I?” Nancy asked a little grumpily—it would be upsetting whether she was addressed as grandma or otherwise.

“No.” Yelena shook her head and explained seriously, “You are Mommy’s mommy, so that means you’re Grandma.”

Nancy was speechless for a moment, and she snapped, “Eat. It

She was certainly not bothered to waste her breath with a four-year-old brat, and she carried Yelena to another chair, bringing over a child's fork and spoon to feed her.

"I don't like cucumbers, Grandma," Yelena huffed. "I want meat."

"Your hair will turn gray if you don't eat your greens."

"Would that look bad?" Yelena asked.

"Yes."

"But your hair is gray, Grandma," Yelena said, pointing at Nancy's hair.

While Nancy was left speechless, Yelena demanded, "I want meat, Grandma."

Nancy had no choice but to cut a slice of cod and put it on her plate.

After she ate, Yelena said, "I want soup, Grandma. I'm thirsty. It

Nancy brought her a small bowl of soup.

"Grandma, I want—"

"Could you stop for one second?! Can't you eat what I fed you?" Nancy snapped, losing patience right then.

Yelena pouted her little eyes while her eyes quickly welled with tears, looking like she was thoroughly wounded.

She looked just like Zoe as a child-no one could get mad at her.

Nancy quickly sweet-talked Yelena. "Okay, okay. You can have anything you like-just don't cry, alright?"

"But I feel hurt." Yelena stared at Nancy dolefully. "Unless you admit you were wrong."

Nancy glared at her right then, but Yelena's tears welled in her eyes again when she felt Nancy's anger, somehow looking even more hurt.

"Alright, alright, I was wrong-I shouldn't force you to eat anything you don't like. Just don't cry, okay?"

“Then give me a hug.” Yelena spread her hands right then.

Nancy scooped her up in her arms, and Yelena wrapped her little arms around Nancy’s neck, cooing, “I forgive you.”

Nancy felt a flood of emotions she could not describe even as she carried Yelena’s little body.

There’s just such a strong resemblance between the little girl and Zoe.

“Okay. Now let’s eat.” Yelena was beaming as soon as she let go of Nancy.

Nancy put Yelena back on her chair in turn, patiently feeding her this time.

Everyone else around the table could feel their jaws dropping as they watched the little episode between Nancy and Yelena.

Had Nancy ever been that patient with anyone?!

Somehow, Yelena had Nancy wrapped around her little finger!

Jay eventually turned away and placed a shrimp on Zoe’s plate, bringing her back to her senses.

As she did, a teardrop slid out of the corner of her eye, catching her off guard.

She did not want to admit it, but she had to—she really cherished her relationship with Nancy, and she wished they could start over if it were possible.

Even without the so-called blood relation...

“Eat up,” Jay told her just then. “These are all your favorites.”

Zoe did a double-take and turned to see Jay smiling at her.

The meaning behind that smile went without saying.