

Repaid 71

Chapter 71

Keeping his temper in check, Simon asked, "What do I have to do for you to accept a private settlement?"

Cordy sneered. "Why are you so eager to settle it privately? I'd be half-dead if John Levine didn't take that blow for me."

"I know you suffered, but I'm doing this for Starstream Group," Simon said, his tone turning soft gradually. "It's going to affect the company negatively if this gets out, and we're still family, right? I naturally feel sentiment for Starstream after working there for so many years-I don't want our scores of employees to get hurt over this."

Cordy sneered again-despite Simon's pretty words, he was just afraid that they would connect the incident to him.

Still, she relented. "Well, since you've put it that way, it's not as if I can't settle it privately."

"Really?" Simon was clearly thrilled.

"But I have several conditions."

"What conditions?"

"Firstly, the culprit must cover for all of John's medical expenses, including the fee for his medication, his hospital stay, his rehabilitation, along with damages for mental trauma. They left him hospitalized, after all."

Simon's face turned ashen right then.

The scion of the Levines would naturally stay at the best hospital and be given the absolute best care. That was going to cost a lot, and since the culprit was not going to afford it, it meant Simon himself was paying for it.

so, he agreed to it

must apologize personally to me and John, and offer assurances that they would not cause trouble for

"Fine," Simon repeated.

did not hesitate this time-it was

as head of

How could you ask for

from Starstream, they were not going to help

would definitely

in return, "Their management is definitely the reason for

It's only reasonable to
keep his temper in check again. "I mean, who would be in charge
putting weight on
you?!" Simon
she continued, "Agree to those three conditions, and I will
that, she prepared to
Simon growled
Cordy manage to
nose before... only to end up
blood pressure skyrocketed from sheer frustration, Cordy reminded him, "Fulfill all three conditions, and
I'll

Chapter 72

Noel had called Simon immediately after she left Cordy's office before driving straight to the hospital
where John was staying.

She had certainly been waiting for this day.

Without any chance to get close to John and worried that she might repulse him, she now had the
perfect excuse to approach him after he was hospitalized.

And when it came to men, she had always bewitched them with relative ease.

She knocked on the bedroom door and entered, a bouquet of flowers in her hand and a bright smile on
her face.

Seeing the man who was ridiculously handsome even as he lay in bed, she greeted him. "Hello, Mr.
Levine."

John, however, was looking at her coolly, so she quickly introduced herself. "I'm Noel Sachs, Cordy's
sister."

"Same father, different mother," John added.

It left Noel feeling a little awkward, but she soon regained her composure. "You see, my sister is busy, so
she sent me here to visit you. Also, allow me to apologize on behalf of Starstream Group after one of the
workers wounded you. What happened was really regrettable..."

was staring at her judgmentally. "Cordy sent you,

and there's a lot of work to do. She can't

she was still confident-she could steal Kyle from Cordy before, and she would do the same with John
with an obviously sarcastic tone, and mercilessly exposed

her fiance. Are you sure

if

face, but Noel quickly explained, "That's not it, Mr. Levine. I think you've misunderstood what's going on between me, my sister, and

in you or Kyle Jessop," John said, cutting her short. "I would like to recover in peace, and since you're of no concern, please

Noel to leave, which left her looking

went out of her way to make herself look especially pretty, but John was showing her the door even you a

pushy when John was still interested in Cordy, and that she should keep things looking

worked on Kyle before-and Noel was

She kept smiling coquettishly as she put the huge bouquet on John's bedside table. "Also, I should apologize for mistaking you for someone else when we first met. Please don't take it

a word, and Cordy stood at the doorway as

she was surprised at how Cordy arrived

Chapter 73

Noel was left frozen stiff for a moment, but she quickly changed her expression, looking miserable and teary-eyed.

"I'm so sorry," she said. "I didn't know you were allergic to lilies-I'll be careful next time."

"I'm not allergic to lilies-I'm allergic to you," John said icily, every word a threat. "Just be careful not to show your face around me."

Noel's face abruptly turned pale.

She could not believe what she was hearing!

No man had insulted her like that ever since she was a child, because they all loved her shy, delicate nature..

It must be Cordy's fault!

John must have said that for her benefit!

Still, Noel withstood her distress and picked up the bouquet of lilies before running out of the ward.

she must admit that she

attending school, and Cordy

the scent of hypocrisy not stink

even more stressed when

upset if Kyle had gone for anyone else except Noel, and she even wondered if there were no men in the world who could not resist Noel's charms... Until

what happened from here, Cordy at least felt a thrill from

out to

senses, Cordy entered the room, sat down beside his bed, and got right down to business. "I told you yesterday that I'll get

"And?"

can't let the culprit be punished right now, just as I don't have solid evidence to build a case. Moreover, I am reluctant for Starstream Group to face a crisis when we're already at risk, so the only option is

your

John raised a

but that's the only thing I

but you can do so

ignorant enough

for me until

Chapter 74

Cordy stayed in John's ward, keeping him company while working on her laptop-there was still a lot of work to do.

She was so engrossed on occasion that she did not hear what John was saying.

Still, he did not disturb her, even picking up an apple nearby and starting to peel it.

Randy Martin was just passing by when he happened upon the scene, his jaw dropping right then! Who was the patient there?! To think that his boss was quite the domestic goddess!

Still, he quickly fled, afraid to disturb them just then.

Meanwhile, Cordy was still reviewing several letters asking for instructions. Then, she suddenly spotted the plate of peeled apple slices beside her laptop, and each had a toothpick as a skewer. She picked one up and ate it offhandedly.

It had been a while since she had apples, and she almost forgot that they could be so sweet.

And after the first slice, she took a second, her eyes fixed on the screen... until she realized something unusual while eating.

just her and John in

if she did not

sitting in his bed and
these?"

shrugged. "Who else

the

not missing any

care of him? And was he not just saying yesterday that he

that she basically put chunks of apple yesterday into his mouth, instead of cutting the apple into slices
like these to make it

matter how she thought about it, she was being perfunctory relative to

switching gears just then to explain her lack

nodded, his eyes still fixed on the plate of apples in front of Cordy, where just the two

She tried to come up with another explanation for eating so much

you love..."

did not

Chapter 75

Before Cordy could speak, John added sharply, "And don't tell me you weren't being distant. I have a
heart; I can feel it."

In other words, he was telling her not to lie to him.

Cordy stared at him in silence for a while before asking, "I thought you knew?"

"No, I don't," he replied, not bothered to play around.

"I don't believe in love, and I've rejected you before already," Cordy said, lowering her gaze in fear of
meeting him. "It's just your stubbornness talking."

She did not want to admit that it was because of Zoe York.

There would be no 'other woman' if he never wanted to be with her.

"So you mean to say that my effort was bearing fruit, which was why you're deliberately distancing
yourself?" John asked, as if to confirm it.

Cordy was taken aback, but she admitted it with her silence.

What other reason was there?!

dangerous-she must not get too involved with

said. "I will restrain myself as best as I

give up,” Cordy told him solemnly. “We can still be friends. Dicky loves me, and I won’t lie to you-I love the boy too. From that connection alone,

“Dream on, Ms. Sachs.”

not expect such a definitive rejection from him-it was utterly merciless, and offered

either Dicky’s

Cordy was left wondering if he wanted to say

“Or my wife.”

was speechless-that was the

said, clearly reading her mind and therefore telling

Mr. Levine,” Cordy said, refraining from

already did,” John

“What?”

washroom,” John suddenly

was speechless again. Nature really

he fell asleep

Locke and Dean Longman would hand in their resignations tomorrow. He would also bring

letters arrived the next morning just as John texted her, saying that Simon was at the hospital, and that Simon had paid him a huge sum in

from the internal phone line. “Vince? Ask the CEO to come to my office-there will be a heads of departments meeting

Chapter 76

Noel was left staring fixedly at Cordy, completely unable to read the latter’s mind.

Noel had presumed that Cordy had asked for her to talk about her visit to John’s ward. She doubted that Cordy would not know what she was up to, and she was not even hiding it.

Naturally, Noel could not admit it... but the issue was that Cordy had not mentioned it at all! And Cordy definitely took exception!

Cordy of all people would know that men always hovered around Noel ever since they were children, but now, all she talked about was work.

Most importantly, Cordy did everything she could so that both Fabian and Dean were ousted. That was just to ensure that Cordy herself could take charge of production, was it not? Cordy obviously knew that those men were loyal to Simon and would not really work for her.

And yet, Cordy was delegating all authority on production to Noel, who would unquestionably side

with Simon.

That meant all of Cordy's efforts were wasted, no?

go haywire

quiet, worried that this was Cordy's trap, she still could not understand this move-would it hurt her in

Cordy was just too busy to

yesterday at the hospital. If Noel's

problem, sis. We're family, and I've always

otherwise remained impassive.

"It's fine, sis.

the meeting later too. You may go

"Okay."

started to leave then, deliberately pausing

not mentioning yesterday at

about upsetting Noel, since Noel could stop assisting

it was the

of Starstream Group had always been noisy whenever

Chapter 77

Be that as it may, none of the heads of departments and executives believed that Cordy was stupid after working for her for a while.

But before they could go on wild speculations about Cordy's thought process, she proceeded to the next agenda. "It has been over two months since I've come to Starstream, and thanks to everyone's help-especially my sister Noel-I'm now familiar with the company's operations and management. For that, I thank everyone here."

No one applauded her-not even Noel-even if Cordy was clearly being nice to her.

Even so, Cordy continued nonchalantly. "Having grown to learn about this company, I've also noticed certain glitches, which naturally means that we need to fix it. As such, I'm announcing a complete shuffle of positions-and that includes everyone here."

Her words sent the conference room in an uproar.

Shuffling positions was a huge deal, but Cordy said it as if it meant nothing!

"And now, I will present the list of personnel to be shuffled-of course, if anyone here has an opinion, you may discuss it in private with me or the CEO. For those who aren't on this list, I must ask you to offer

your department's subordinates assurances, while liaising with shuffled personnel to take over any tasks they have on hand, so as to not affect the company's operations."

as she read

human resources, while his deputy takes his place. He will be working as the supervisor

glaring at Cordy in disbelief just as she made the

the perfect man for the job, while Sid Watson, your deputy, is more suited to head

You can't relinquish me as you

or the CEO in private on this matter. We won't argue about it in this meeting." Cordy cut him short, her attitude staunch

his chair furiously, showing Cordy zero respect as

merely proceeded to announce the rest

was no unrest since there were just two

reshuffle, as we may reinstate you to your original positions. Naturally, if you're reluctant to discuss it but are unable to understand the reason for the shuffle. you have my full support if you would like to leave for better work opportunities.

she added, "Please pass this message to Hank as well. The meeting is hereby

Cordy rose to her feet, not forgetting to clap Noel on the shoulder as she

did not wait for Noel to respond before leaving,

was for everyone to see the cordial exchange between her and

Chapter 78

Noel was in shambles.

It took her great difficulty to finally send the disgruntled employees congesting her office away. However, just as she prepared to leave work, Hank intercepted her at the door!

Flinging his cellphone straight at her desk, he bellowed, "Noel Sachs! I've been completely loyal and did everything your father and you asked of me! But now, I'm losing my job just because Cordy Sachs said so?! You better explain yourself, or I'm not letting you out this door!"

Left utterly terrified by Hank's outburst, Noel scrambled to get her phone and ask for help.

However, even though she could unlock her phone, Hank snatched it out of her hands.

"Calm down, Mr. Rogers!" Noel quickly tried to calm him down. "I really didn't know you would be shuffled, and I have no idea why my sister did it. She never told me about it beforehand, and I would've stopped her if I knew--"

it now... It's all a conspiracy by your family!" Hank snarled viciously, completely refusing to listen to Noel. "I've always thought that your family were at odds with Cordy, and that you and Simon were going to topple her... But I was too naive! You're family, and family naturally sides with family! You were all just working together to reform all of Starstream!" "How could you believe that, Mr. Rogers? Cordy basically stole Starstream from us," Noel reasoned. "My father and I really wanted her out. We'd never asked you to keep it a secret after the meeting. It was about the shuffle, no?! And then there's Fabian Locke and Dean Longman-Simon himself forced them to leave, they did not resign

Cordy's trap. She

"If it is so, why would she appoint you as CEO and let you take control over production? She knows how important production is at this stage-do you think she'd let you take charge

either!" Noel cried, absolutely

misunderstandings that she and Noel were cordial when she appointed Noel as CEO, even lying that Noel was the one who came up with Starstream's fashion designs for the next season. And now, just after forcing Simon to

had been

had yet to pick up on Cordy's true intentions: to drive a rift between Simon and the company's heads

shuffling him out of his position, everyone would feel the pressure

could even predict now that no one would even listen to her or her father

Chapter 79

Randy Martin was reporting on the recent situation at Starstream Group, and he could not help giving an earnest praise when he was done. "Mrs. Levine's moves were perfect... I was so worried that she'd be ousted when she charged into Starstream all by herself, but she took complete control of them in under four months instead!"

John listened to him, his delight hardly hidden from his calm expression.

"We have insider information that Hank Rogers was running everywhere and bad-mouthing Simon Sachs, calling him an ingrate and a snake. Fabian Locke and Dean Longman are reconsidering their allegiances as well-in short, Simon's pedestal is crumbling, and his company's stock prices are dropping slightly because of that. Most importantly, no one in Starstream trusts him now. All they want is to keep their jobs and stay in Starstream, so they have to be loyal to Mrs. Levine." John took a slow sip of his tea, seemingly enjoying the worshipful tone in Randy's words.

"Mrs. Levine's only issue now is Noel Sachs, since the latter could still cause trouble for her within Starstream Group. However, there was no doubt that Noel would never win against Mrs. Levine, and if they ever get into a dispute, Mrs. Levine would not be the one losing.

Randy was now quite confident in Cordy. "Also, Mrs. Levine would be taking charge of production for next season's fashion line personally, so she has a tight schedule to follow and can't afford any mistakes.

She mentioned not being able to make it for the next few days, but she promised to come when you're getting discharged."

while Randy

all, his boss was so clingy, and Randy suddenly thought that John had

can I get

to five days if nothing else happens," Randy

bluntly. "I must get

Mr. Levine,"

all, anyone who got in John's way of meeting Cordy must

looked up at the clock in her office to see that it

show-it was only natural

Chapter 80

Cordy had just sent her text when a reply came almost instantly.

[Nope.]

Cordy could not help smiling.

It was as if John had been waiting for her text, and she could almost imagine the look on his face.

While her heart was not sent fluttering, her lips were still curling upward from habit.

She replied: [It's late, and you're a patient. Sleep early, wake up early.]

Once she was done, she called Walter to take her to the hospital.

She had no idea when it started, but she was not that stiff toward him now.

In the car, she was staring at the phone which never jingled.

He could really be petty sometimes.

After she arrived at the hospital, Cordy tried to be as quiet as she could as she entered John's ward.

If he was obedient enough and fell asleep, she would rather not disturb him.

However, there was no one in the hospital bed within that dark bedroom.

Cordy was frowning when she suddenly heard movement from the bathroom, and she turned toward it just as the door suddenly swung open.

She was left staring at the man who was dripping wet stepping outside.

He was topless, his hair was drenched, and he only had a white towel around his waist that barely covered anything.

Cordy's whole body stiffened.

She never expected to see John like this...

deny that he was easier on the

was surprised by her sudden arrival

the impression that she was not coming after receiving her text, so he did not wait for her, taking a bath and

fixedly at his perfect figure, he smiled alluringly. "See anything you like,

her senses right then, her

actually staring so much at his

back on him, though

of the bathroom

of his posture, but

that she must stop

to her that John would be too heavy-that she could not help him regain his balance

very next instant, both of them

his fall by positioning herself beneath John, because she was really afraid that he would get hurt again, but she did not expect him to shield her

"Mr. Levine?!"

were startled as Randy suddenly opened the door

for a couple seconds, stiffening,

had actually jumped

he certainly must admit that after seeing both of them skirting around each other for so long, even an onlooker like

to business had always been

worst as he cried, "Mr. Levine,

added,

dark-his

could be really dense at times. Still, it was fortunate that Randy came

of steel, and she almost

replied, slowly getting off her

or less left them hyperventilating and the very air around
that his towel was on the floor, along with his... John felt the breeziness as well, just as he
and dashed
and it actually left John doubting
was after a long while
did not want to do it, but
hand, John was already in bed, having put on
felt how tight it was even as she