

## Repaid 141

### Chapter 141

While everyone was left gaping at Mandy and Zoe, the crew hurried to Mandy's side, helping her to her feet when they saw her doleful look.

Mandy appeared to have taken a serious fall and could not move her feet, yelping loudly with each step she took.

"Do

you need the hospital, Ms. Jessop?" one of the crew members asked.

"The event is starting—there's no time," Mandy moaned through the pain. "I have to return to my seat, but I can't walk..

"Alright, let's get you up..."

"No, I can't!"

The crew did their best to be careful, but Mandy seemed to be in too much pain, leaving them at a loss.

That was when Mandy pointed at a certain seat nearby. "I think I'll sit there."

was

crew were certainly

ranked at

B-list. What right did she have

crew members said, "Ms. Jessop,

a problem here. She tripped me, and it's only natural I take her seat," Mandy

with other stars, and they were trained well enough to not

Mandy's actress friends—under her payroll, naturally—promptly understood. Mandy's

never throws her weight and treats newcomers fairly? She's now getting upset and retaliating just because she lost her

another echoed. "And now, Mandy has hurt her foot, but

would be far more successful... I wonder how she even gets those roles!" "What do you mean, lucky? Don't you know that she takes the casting couch..." The actress allowed her voice to trail off

stealing roles with

Mandy never said a word! And now, Mandy has to take her spot because she's sick, but she can't

Zoe was glowering.

just loud enough for  
heard it too, and she  
enough to bribe those B-listers and  
humiliate Zoe!

## Chapter 142

Mandy could certainly tell that Zoe was going to hit her, but she did not expect Zoe to do it in public!

However, even as Mandy panicked, someone suddenly pulled her away, while Zoe's stiletto heel abruptly landed on Jay's leg instead.

Zoe certainly knew her strength, and given how sharp her stiletto heel was, she could imagine how much pain Mandy would be in, only to hit Jay instead.

Jay flinched slightly from the pain, but he otherwise bore with it.

Zoe was left staring at him in disbelief.

Mandy was stunned that he came to her rescue too, and her heart began to race as Jay left her dazed and bewitched.

Zoe in turn clenched her fist and watched Jay icily, as he arched his back and scooped Mandy up his arms and left as she watched.

the end, he

the look on

and worked

must not shed tears for Jay—her

had cried enough

returned to her seat, as if nothing ever

seat and started to leave

Mandy caught

want me to

fury, and she was confused as to why he would save her a second ago, but now hate

she released him, and he returned to his seat

themselves what just happened even before the gala

rumors, but Jay Parker is really dating

he's also so kind to Mandy! I mean, that

## Chapter 143

Zoe was attending Jay's university graduation ceremony when she realized that she was in love with him.

She was so jealous when every classmate of his seemed to profess their love to Jay.

Hence, on a dark, windy night, she stood at the main entrance of Levine Manor, waiting for Jay, who was out having dinner with Bob and the rest.

The instant she saw his towering figure alighting from his car, she threw all caution to the wind and leaped into his arms.

Jay stank of alcohol and only that—he never used deodorant or perfume.

But even if he sweated all over after playing basketball, she would find him carrying a sense of freshness from head to toe.

"What is it? Don't tell me it's a nightmare. You're an adult now—Umph." Jay asked her very softly, and his eyes suddenly widened.

Even Zoe could not remember what gave her such courage, but she had wrapped her arms around his neck and stood on her toes to plant a kiss squarely on his lips.

There was even tongue involved—the scent of alcohol in his mouth was strong and it left her dazed.

so, she knew very well what she was doing and

it was when she really kissed Jay that she realized how deeply in love with him she was. It had been going on for so long that she did not even know when

had ever met, but she lost her

inexperienced since it was her first kiss—if anything, it

when she let go of him, and things got awkward soon

Zoe's heart pounded like a drum over her chest,

or Jay

film, and he would meet many

just about to speak when

his kiss was much more tender than hers—to the

weak from the kiss, and she could not tell him

long since

they both made their moves—words were

Jay even had to carry

between them were basically confirmed, and she shared that sweetness with her  
yet, however blissful she felt that night,

#### Chapter 144

Jay did not appear worried at all when he saw Zoe, but instead, he asked flatly, "It's late. Why aren't you sleeping? Don't you have classes tomorrow?"

"What am I to you, Jay?" she asked him then.

She was just seventeen at the time, and she did not understand why she was losing composure like that.

She was very calm, unlike her usual pampered self—she was even willing to believe that Jay just had an accident with that actress.

When she thought about it later on, she decided that she did not throw a tantrum because she did not want Jay to hate her.

But at the time, Jay's answer was nonchalant and carried no hesitation. "My niece."

"But, last night... Zoe murmured.

"Last night?" Jay chuckled, his eyes showing no concern at all. "I was just drunk."

"No, you weren't!" Zoe cried—she knew Jay could not hold his liquor, which was why he always avoided getting drunk!

"Fine, I wasn't. I didn't want to take advantage of you, but I'm 22 and an adult—I have a hard time refusing any woman throwing themselves in my arms."

as she bawled like an idiot without

Forget it?!

not refuse any

crushed, and she groaned in misery, "That was my first

he

she asked, "Don't you love

held so much hope even as she breathed those words, her

mustered all her courage just to

yet, Jay's response was cold and

when I was a child. I'm living under someone else's

child?

been lying to herself ever since she was

her, and all his

her tears, finding

she did

could she ever expect anything

as everyone around her talked about Jay and Mandy, and she nonchalantly sat through the fashion gala.

midnight when the gala ended, and there was

Chapter 145

However, Zoe had no idea what the photos showed.

Moreover, she had not been that close with any men recently, and there was nothing the paparazzi could use for fuel.

To make things worse, she did not have her phone, just as her manager and assistant was not with her.

"I don't know what you're talking about," Zoe said very coolly. "I wouldn't hide anything if I were in a relationship."

With those words, she tried to push her way through the mob of journalists, only for them to keep her tightly encircled.

Zoe clearly scowled—they were refusing to let her go.

But being the showbiz star that she was, there was a need to maintain appearances when she was in front of the camera.

"The photos of you are definitely genuine, Ms. York. Are you trying to hide something?"

"Why don't you just admit it? Tell us who it is and what's the relationship involved!"

"Don't keep us in suspense, Ms. York!"

relentless questioning because she had not the faintest idea what

was about to lose control, her manager, her assistant, and a squad of bodyguards swiftly forced their way through the crowd. In no time at all,

and Linda promptly handed

it, but she suddenly started laughing at the

was actually speechless, while Linda and her assistant Penny

had already proven that she had a

many TV series, movies, variety show appearances, and endorsements, along with

not afraid that

laughing because someone actually tried to make a scandal of  
and her dear cousin.

that whoever it was, they were afraid of John enough to censor his face. But while most could  
because John had snapped at her, telling her  
got dirt on both of

Zoe? Is he really

denied it

Who is

hesitated for a moment just then, but she

her connection to the Levines would be

showbiz and a desk job

with her parents and maternal grandfather before her

Linda snapped, really upset just

Chapter 146

Still in her MPV, Zoe was scrolling through the news on her phone distractedly.

More articles were appearing online, almost snuffing out the scandal between Kyle and Noel.

She eventually reached Levine Manor, and she alighted to find Jay standing by the front door, seemingly  
waiting for her.

Zoe simply strode past him, pretending not to see him.

“Zoe,” he called out, but she ignored that too.

“Zoe,” he called out again, reaching out to grab her wrist.

She promptly raised her hand, avoiding his touch while wheeling on him with a cool look. “Don’t touch  
me. You’ll get your filth on me.”

Jay’s fingers clenched as he lowered his hand, asking, “Have you considered what you’re going to do  
about the scandal?”

it. Don’t worry, it

that photo, right? At

respond even as he continued, “I can talk

happened, he was very close with Jay. And since Jay was also John’s uncle, John would usually

did not need

stay away from  
but he otherwise stayed  
alone take a role in your project. Can't you just  
eyes were welling with tears  
kept trying to forget and restrain herself  
be honest, it  
yet, here he was, flaunting his  
"I'm sorry," he apologized.  
Yet another apology.

#### Chapter 147

Zoe's scandal continued to top search trends the next day.

After all, her management company could not enforce a full media blackout-especially not with Kyle pressuring the press in secret.

Kyle was in a good mood as he watched the news, and after some thought, he decided to call Cordy.

Cordy had seen what was going on in the news as well, and she naturally could tell that it was Kyle.

He was actually smart enough to use another scandal to snuff out his, just to shield Jessop Corp from further harm by his own scandal.

"Oh, Cordy... Do you think John Levine would come forward to help Zoe York?" Kyle asked with contempt when she answered.

Cordy honestly did not want to waste her breath with Kyle, not to mention that he would have an aneurysm if she told him that Zoe was actually a member of the Levine family.

"Do you think John would go public with his relationship with Zoe or try to snuff out the scandal in secret?" Kyle continued to scoff at her. "See? You're just one of his women."

While Cordy was not bothered to say anything, he only became more contemptible. "I'm really curious... How did you manage to seduce John? Like, did you drop your panties and jump him? You used to knock my hand away back then when I tried to take it off, only for you to turn out to be this cheap!"

"Oh, I jumped him and then some," Cordy replied, not bothered to explain anything. "As for why I wouldn't let you touch me before? It's just because you're way beneath me."

Sachs!" Kyle

so have no right to mock my relationship with him! Oh, and don't blame me for not warning you, but Noel has always loved my stuff-it's like she can't bear seeing me possessing anything better than she does. I mean, were you really never worried that Noel would suddenly fall in love

and unable to accept the  
you actually listen,” Cordy said,  
face darkened as he stared at his  
wanted to mock Cordy, only for her to point out how  
remembered Noel’s volatile attitude toward him  
were bulging over his  
up on Kyle, Cordy could not resist  
see the news

[I did.]

reply was quick, but also clearly  
are many who take it  
ask me

though John soon added: [I don’t support her career in showbiz either. It would

[Are you blood related?!]

not stop herself

Zoe’s passion for acting-most importantly, Zoe had natural talent for it, as she really brought to life

Chapter 148

At the very least, Cordy considered Jay to be more reliable at a white-collar job than Zoe.

John’s reply to that was: [My grandfather forbids it.]

While Cordy was left puzzled again, he added:

[Since Jay is adopted, my grandfather doesn’t want him getting involved in Levine Ventures to avoid a  
power struggle that would affect the family.]

Cordy actually understood the reasoning, but she also found it very obviously unfair toward Jay.

Did none of them put Jay’s feelings into consideration?

Still, she quickly realized that John was misdirecting her-something he seemed to have a flair for.

[So, aren’t you going to help Zoe?]

[She’ll handle it on her own, or she’ll come to me if she can’t do it.]

Fine.



Cordy thought then that since Zoe was a member of the Levine family, the Levines would not just sit by and watch while she got harassed.

just as she tapped out of the chat box with John and got prepared to work, another text

[That's it?]

were they supposed to

hours and she still had a lot of work

City Channel (NCC) was about to broadcast a reality fashion show where celebrities wore dresses from

has it been

How long?

had been over a

other

seemed to be sighing with every word, while Cordy pursed her lips-that certainly

case.

teased: [Is this what you meant when you said you'd date me, Ms. Sachs? Online dating, to

had agreed to that, she retorted: [I

then texted back, unreasonable as ever: [There's

put food

for the

been

[Yes. I'm very needy.]

how she looked at that text,

a while since I saw Dicky. Let's have dinner together-I'll try my best to leave work

Chapter 149

At 6 PM, John brought Richard as agreed to give Cordy a ride from work.

"Mommy!"

Richard's crisp, innocent voice melted Cordy's heart every time.

She gave the boy a hug, and she sat with him as they had a jovial chat.

John was scowling from being ignored.

"Aren't you happy to see Mommy?" Richard asked seriously, frowning just then.

"I am," John replied rather coolly.

"But you're frowning like this," Richard said, imitating John by furrowing his little brow.

He had always been a diminutive version of John, and he looked especially identical as he frowned.

Cordy could not help laughing out loud, and even the chauffeur was quite amused.

Richard was further buoyed

mind Daddy. I think

harder at that-John might have educated him

going to was close, and they soon

might get

at the luxurious restaurant, and Cordy

did he feel like

to him just then,

herself. "Do you remember me? I'm Kara Lynd, Jessica Stuart's cousin. We met when you were studying abroad

replied, more or less having an

seem deterred by his aloofness and she actually became more enthusiastic instead." It's such a coincidence!" she exclaimed. "I just came from Rocktown to meet my boyfriend, so I didn't see you here. By

John replied

Jess tell you?" Kara appeared surprised. "You two aren't fighting, are you? When I saw the news that you returned to North City alone,

droning on.

soon."

Kara to leave, and she could tell

won't impose," she said,

left, she slid a peek at Cordy, since Cordy was sitting beside

Kara's gaze too, but when she looked at the other woman, Kara

her table, Kara

into John at a restaurant. He brought his son

## Chapter 150

John thought to himself that Cordy should be sweet-talking him instead of asking about Jessica!

Still, he nodded. "Yeah."

"What's the relationship there?" Cordy asked bluntly-after she had that misunderstanding with John and Zoe, she had decided to ask about everything since.

"Our grandfathers were comrades in the war and close friends, often keeping in touch event though we lived in different cities. My grandfather especially loved to visit them, so he brought me to Stuart Hall in Rocktown on many occasions. As for Jessica Stuart, she's..."

John trailed off as he searched for the right word, and Cordy raised a brow. "Your childhood friend?"

"No." John denied it. "More like the girl next door."

The girl next door?!

That felt way more ambiguous than necessary!

John then continued, "Anyway, when my grandfather sent me abroad for studies, William Stuart- her grandfather-sent her abroad as well. After we graduated from university, I worked on expanding Levine Ventures in foreign markets, while she stayed abroad as well to manage Stuart Holdings. We do take care of each other because of our families' ties."

Take care? How?!

Cordy's judgmental look. "Don't worry. There's

business, and I'm not concerned," Cordy

mood, and he commented, "You're improving,

"Huh?" Cordy was confused.

questions with your mouth," he said. "Unlike before, sentencing

blushed, but she was not ever going to live down suspecting John for having a

headed to Cordy's

Richard having fun in the car, John once again felt like the

that as it may, Cordy's fingers suddenly twitched

the darkness of the car, holding it firmly in

slightly, while John turned to stare outside the window after

hand.

the back

she did not reject him either, because she did not

out to

her senses and continued to chat