

Apex Chapter 523

Chapter 523

The Audacity! The surveillance camera in the cabin, along with the other passengers' smartphones, had saved a digital record of Benedict's harassment. It was natural that he'd end up being removed from the plane, first by the steward and then by the airport police.

His punishment was probably going to be light. Good, cooperative behavior could earn him a reprimand and little else. Even if he continued to be violent, the worst he could suffer was probably detainment. Nonetheless, one thing was certain: Benedict was not going back into the plane. His ticket had gone to waste.

Javier watched Benedict get hauled away with schadenfreude. For a man in his forties, his opponent had been ridiculously easy to trigger-almost as if he had the meltdown point of a ten-year-old. One had to wonder if age really conferred wisdom!

And to think he was the same guy who had claimed he could make Javier crawl out of the airport. Ha! Fat chance!

No longer sparing that man a thought, Javier turned to Jade and said, "I got to check out some beautiful legs during this fiasco and I have to say that no one could even compare to your deliciously lean pair, honey! They must be sooooo jealous of you!" Jade deadpanned, "Are you for real?" Javier was for real. Hell, he thought it was the truest statement ever-especially when his palm began sliding down her long, lean legs with nothing but a thin film of transparent pantyhose between them.

The seduction was real.

Jade noticed Javier's fingers skating about her thighs and blushed a little. She pressed her hand against his, murmuring under her breath, "What are you doing? People are gonna see

us!"

"So what if they see us? They can't touch what's mine!" The possessiveness in his voice was like a breeze warming her ear and moving straight into her heart. She loved it when he asserted dominance and possessiveness, as he made her feel absolutely safe that way.

Still, it was inappropriate of him to fondle her thighs in public. Jade had to beg him to stop and ultimately only managed to do that because she promised she would make him very happy once they returned home...

Two hours later, the plane landed at the Clouston regional airport. It had been smooth sailing from touchdown to the customs check. There had been no incident to write home about, but that streak ended as soon as the couple exited the gate and walked into the airport. While they were looking for Herschel, a mob of about ten-odd people stormed over to them.

None of them had anything particularly dangerous in hand, but their aggressiveness was not hard to detect. They surrounded Jade and Javier like a fence preventing a herd from escaping. Then, a redhead took his glasses off and asked menacingly, "Ever heard of the name Benedict Hiddleston?"

Well, well, well! What a surprise welcome party! Who knew that doofus was stronger than he

had first thought? Their small exchange had happened before the plane had even taken off, and now, as soon as it had touched down, the story continued. No wonder that guy was cocky about making Javier crawl out of the airport. He had friends!

Javier scanned the pack of jerks and snorted scornfully. "Yeah, I know him. What about it?"

The redhead studied him jeeringly. "Oh, the audacity! What about it, you ask? Well, I'm gonna wipe the floor with your *ss for starters. Then, you can zoom-call my bro to apologize. Better crank that sincerity to 120%, man, because anything less than that is a no-no!"

Javier could not believe his ears. Every minute, an idiot was born, were they not? Except there were more of them today, and somehow, they had all decided to form a performing band of bozos at once!

Javier was about to beat these thugs up when suddenly, two silhouettes dashed toward them from afar. It was Herschel and a bald man Javier had not seen in a while – Sam Langdon. The latter was especially quick to state his purpose by decking his hand across the redhead's cheeks without a word.

The resulting wallop sounded like someone was slapping a watermelon. "Sorry for that, Boss. These dumb*sasses are always too stupid for their own good. I hope you don't pay them any mind," Sam said to Javier's confusion. He had thought Sam was only keeping Herschel company as the latter was waiting for them!

"I don't get this," Javier admitted.

Sam flashed his teeth into a coy smile. He was...embarrassed?

"I met Sam on my way to the airport, Boss." Herschel chimed in with an explanation. "Had a little chit-chat with him in his car. He told me his cousin got trolled by some guy on the plane, and now he's detained in the airport. His cousin knew Sam as some powerful figure around here, so he told Sam to avenge his lost dignity. And that's what he's doing right here, Boss! Seeking vengeance!"

Sam instinctively yanked Herschel by the shoulder. "Yo, none of that is true, man! You're gonna divide our group, you snitch!"

Javier finally got it. "Ohhh...So, Benedict Hiddleston's your cousin, Sam?"

Sam rubbed the back of his hairless head bashfully, but he nodded.

Javier let out a loud "ohh" and intoned, "He's got taste, your cousin. He got pretty horny upon seeing my wife."

It was as if every feature on Sam's face had collapsed in a landslide. Steely fury filled the vacuum in his mien. Benedict had dug a grave for him! By dragging Sam into this, Benedict was going to bury him along with himself. Seriously, what kind of madman would dare flirt with Jade right in front of Javier? Did Benedict have a death wish?

Right on cue, Sam's phone rang. He looked at the screen and saw it was his cousin. "So, how did it go? The plane should have landed a while ago," said Benedict's voice. "I can describe those two more if you need more details—"

“No, that’s not necessary. Believe me, I’ve fixed them up. Reeaaaaally well. You should come back to Clouston as soon as possible too. I’ll be receiving you tonight!” Sam interjected.

Benedict’s voice was thick with smug self-satisfaction. “Ha! Now we’re talking! Those two must be scared out of their f*cking wits, I bet. Smart of them to make an enemy out of me. They didn’t even know who my cousin is!” Sam’s lips twitched into a smirk. “Oh, you have no idea how right you are, cuz. Come back soon, Ben. You’re gonna love what I’ve planned for you.” With that bait dangling in the air, Sam hung up. He looked at Javier and promised, “I’ll make it up to you, Boss. There will be a reckoning.”

Javier waved. “Nah, I’m good. It was not a big deal. No reckoning is necessary – I don’t need that.”

He snaked his arm around Jade’s slender waist and climbed into his custom-made Chinese SUV before heading back to the HQ.

Sam got in his own car and followed him. Regardless of what Javier had said, he was determined to make it up to his boss. Javier might deem it unnecessary, but Sam could not possibly let today’s imbroglio slide. His cousin was the one who had started provoking Javier by lusting after his wife! The audacity of it-it was simply intolerable! With the SUV taking the lead, the cars arrived at the headquarters. Javier still had some business to discuss with Herschel, so Jade strode into the building first. Herschel passed a cigarette to Javier and lit it up for him. When the latter began puffing, he began to speak. “I’ve been investigating Suzanne’s incident over the past few days in your absence, Boss. Her identity issue seems to be the only problem to date. I found nothing else that seemed fishy, and honestly? She hasn’t exhibited any weird behavior that’s out of place or anything. There just isn’t anything suspicious to go off.”

Javier nodded. “Found our sleeper agent among the researchers? A mole?” Herschel shook his head. “Nothing for now. Everyone’s normal. Nothing came up during the investigation.” Javier hummed and said nothing else. Just because there was nothing fishy about Suzanne now, it did not automatically mean vigilance was unwarranted. The motive behind her identity theft was still a mystery after all. What could she have wanted? Nevertheless, that was it regarding this topic. Herschel made a long pause before muttering between his teeth, “Uh, so...about, uh, Miss Odell? Um, I kinda-maybe – probably found out

something about her...”. Javier was a little taken aback. “Jade? But she’s been with me this whole time, right? What’s

up?”

“Uh, well...According to my underling, she’s been, uh...she’s kinda been meeting this guy in secret before the two of you left on this trip together...”