

Chloe sits across from Eddie, leaning back in a chair, hands folded, her expression unreadable.

CHLOE

(calm, cold)

You've been so focused on getting back on the court... it's admirable. But you don't need the game anymore, Eddie.

Eddie blinks, confused.

EDDIE

(uneasy)

What are you talking about?

Chloe leans forward, voice low, almost seductive in its control.

CHLOE

I don't want you back on the court. I never did.

Eddie recoils slightly.

EDDIE

(angrily)

You... what?

CHLOE

I want you dependent on me. Forever. Every meal, every exercise, every moment--you're mine to guide. Not the world's. Not your mother's. Not Darren's. Just... mine.

Eddie's jaw tightens, fear and rage mixing.

EDDIE

(disbelief)

You're fucking crazy!

Eddie sits on the recliner, knee wrapped. Chloe hovers close. For once, her voice softens.

CHLOE

You want to know why I picked you? Why you?

Eddie looks up, wary.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

(beat, reflective)

When I was your age, I was supposed to be somebody. Full ride, track star, national promise.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

And then - one bad step. (taps her knee) Snap. Career over before it began. She leans in, eyes shining.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

But my father... he never forgave me. He lived for the game. He'd sit up late watching you play, Eddie. In high school. Said you had fire he hadn't seen in years. You were his favorite. His last spark before he died.

Eddie swallows hard, caught off guard.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

So don't you see? This isn't just about you. This is about redemption. For me. For him. You're the one. You owe this comeback.

Eddie's eyes widen as he realizes the apartment feels smaller, his movements controlled.

EDDIE

You're... locking me in? Taking over my life and using your dad as an excuse?!

CHLOE

You're not locked in. You're being guided. Step by step, Eddie. Trust the process.

Eddie sinks back into the chair, fear and frustration mingling.

EDDIE

What are you talking about?! What is this shit?!

CHLOE

This is love. The only love that
(MORE)

CHLOE (CONT'D)
matters. The world only loves you when
you win. I... I love you always.

Eddie stares at her, realization dawning... he's been
trapped, isolated, manipulated, and she's orchestrated it
all.

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