

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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