

Chapter 30 Dismissed

Ever since Loraine announced she was going to compete with Bryant Group for the smart city project, she had been leading her team to work hard and made several versions of the design plans.

Loraine's ability convinced everyone in the architectural design department except Eliza. Eliza was unhappy with Loraine's authority, so she refused to cooperate with her.

Every time she was assigned a task, she would complain about the workload.

Eliza tried her best to postpone the tasks assigned to her.

Everyone knew she was slacking, but the department was in need of people, so they had no choice but to put up with her.

Eliza sensed that and became lazier.

Her behavior lasted until Loraine held a project meeting again.

Eliza came to the conference room twenty

minutes after the meeting commenced.

"Oh, I got a stomach ache. That's why I'm late," she explained without guilt. "I hope you understand, Loraine."

But before Eliza sat down, Loraine looked at her and said calmly, "Eliza, you don't have to attend this meeting."

Eliza, who was planning to make a fuss at the meeting frowned in confusion.

She threw the documents on the table and shouted, "Why?"

"Because I have kicked you out of the team."

"Loraine Torres! How dare you kick me out of the project?" Eliza's eyes widened. "Oh, I see. You probably think I'm a threat to you because I almost became the director. You're deliberately targeting me and using your position to belittle me because of your grudge toward me."

Eliza was confident that was the reason for Loraine's decision.

She cleared her throat and bellowed, "As you all can see, Loraine has been targeting the old staff of the department since she's become

the new director. I worked hard and devoted myself to the project, but Loraine wants to fire me! I guess you all now have an idea about what kind of a person she is."

Loraine didn't bother stopping Eliza. She crossed her arms over her chest and looked at her expressionlessly.

Once Eliza finished speaking, Loraine took out the design sketches Eliza had submitted and pointed out the mistakes in front of everyone.

"Is this what you mean by hard work? This doesn't show that you're devoted to the project. Even a beginner wouldn't make this kind of mistake. You have been constantly making errors. Your focus is clearly elsewhere."

Eliza pouted. "It's just a small mistake. I can modify it. To err is human. I'm sure even you make mistakes. Can you guarantee you've never made a mistake in your life?"

Loraine arched an eyebrow and looked at her. "I, too, make mistakes. After all, nobody is perfect. Unintentional mistakes can be forgiven, but you've purposefully made these

errors."

Eliza's heart leaped to her throat. "What do you mean?"

Lorraine pointed at the monitor that showed the comparison of Eliza's original and revised records.

"Jolie gave this document to you," she said sternly, pointing at the data on the screen.

"The figure was correct in the beginning, but you changed it with the wrong one before submitting. Don't tell me it was a mistake. You have repeated this several times. It's obvious you did it on purpose. Don't deny."

The blood on Eliza's face drained, and her lips trembled. She couldn't utter a word because the evidence was solid.

"Eliza, if you resign and leave without making a fuss, I won't hold you accountable," Lorraine said coldly. "But if you continue to stay in Universe Group, I'll have no choice but to announce what you have done. If that happens, you won't be able to work in any company."

Eliza's licked her dry lips and looked at

Lorraine in horror. She couldn't believe Lorraine would be ruthless enough to ruin her career.

"Fine, you win! I'll quit!" Eliza hissed through her teeth.

Eliza squirmed on the spot with discomfort as everyone eyed her with contempt. She couldn't stay in the company for another second. She quickly packed her things and left the company.

The incident made everyone fear and revere Lorraine.

The workers didn't dare slack off. They worked day and night, finished the design plan, and submitted it before the bidding closed.

A week later

A press conference was held to announce the results of the bidding, and the representatives of all companies attended it.

As soon as Lorraine and Jolie arrived, they saw Marco walk in through the door with his assistant.

Jolie was surprised. "It's Marco Bryant! Why

has he come here in person?"

Lorraine glanced at him indifferently. "It doesn't matter."

"That doesn't seem right. Marco seldom shows up on such occasions. Why is he here today?" Just then, an idea occurred to Jolie, and she was on the verge of breaking down. "Oh my God, Lorraine! Has he come for you?"

Lorraine rolled her eyes and shook her head.

"Jolie, you are overthinking. The press conference is about to begin. Let's hurry in."

Jolie didn't utter another word. She eyed Lorraine with worry. She wanted to say something but stopped on second thought.

Last time, Jolie ran into Marco and saw him holding Lorraine's hand in the bar. Judging from the way he looked at Lorraine, Jolie was certain that he wouldn't give up on her.

Chapter 31 Winner Of The Project

Lorraine walked in and saw that almost everyone had arrived.

Marco sat in the seat exclusively allocated for Bryant Group with a grim look on his face.

Nichol Shaw, the project manager, sat beside him, exuding confidence.

"Mr. Bryant, thank you for attending the press conference. Don't worry. We are professional and assure you we won't let you down. Bryant Group will surely win the smart city project this time." He defiantly glanced at the seat allocated for Universe Group. "Look, Universe Group must have given up. A new female designer is taking charge of this project."

Jolie heard his words. Anger surged through her veins. "What are you saying?"

Lorraine stopped her.

"Ignore him. The one offering the best design plan will win the bid. Not the one with a smart mouth. After all, nobody knows who is going to

get this project," Loraine said confidently, not bothering to lower her voice.

"Oh, please!" Nichol snorted with disdain. "Stop pretending!"

Just as the two companies were at loggerheads, Marco abruptly stood up and walked to Loraine. He thrust his hands into his pockets and looked into Loraine's eyes. "Loraine, I mean what I said the other day. If you want this project, you're welcome to join Bryant Group any time you wish."

The workers of the two companies were shocked to hear that, especially Nichol. He had no idea what was going on.

They wondered if Marco was poaching Loraine. But Loraine was his ex-wife. She had joined his rival company. How could Marco be kind to her?

"They're yet to announce the result. Don't you think it's too early for you to say that, Mr. Bryant?" Loraine asked calmly.

"Remember, I'll keep up my promise regardless of what happens." Marco looked deep into her eyes and returned to his seat.

Loraine didn't bother to even look at Marco. However, all the managers in the hall

introduced themselves to Marco and tried handing over their business cards.

Everyone thought Bryant Group had already won the project, and they didn't have much hope. They were all here only to flatter Marco and collaborate with Bryant Group.

No one believed Universe Group could win the project.

Half an hour later, the press conference began. Klein Moore, the person in charge of the government project, stepped on the stage.

He looked at the reporters and the media crew waiting for him to announce their results with bated breath. He cleared his throat.

"The winner of the smart city project is Universe Group!"

The audience broke into an uproar.

"What?"

"Did I hear it wrong? That's unbelievable! Universe Group has won the bid. Shouldn't it be Bryant Group?"

"Universe Group? How come? It seems wrong." Even Jolie couldn't believe the result.

"What? Lo... Loraine... We won the bid!"

Jolie grabbed Loraine's hands. She was at a loss

for words.

Loraine breathed a sigh of relief, and her face broke into a triumphant smile. "Yes, we won."

Meanwhile, the people of Bryant Group looked visibly devastated.

Nichol clutched his chest and stood up.

"Wait! We won't accept this result! Bryant Group's intelligence technology is the best in the country and meets global standards. We have unparalleled technology to build the smart city. Why would you pick Universe Group's plan over ours? Something seems fishy. I feel something is wrong with your decision-making process."

Hearing that, the people present broke into a heated discussion.

Everyone present shared Nichol's doubt. No one believed Universe Group could beat Bryant Group.

Just then, Loraine stood up.

"I admit Bryant Group's technology is superior to the Universe Group's. But when it comes to urban construction, we must not only rely on technology but make sure it's user-friendly as well, especially when it comes to the elderly, who are unfamiliar with modern technology."

Then, she turned to look at Nichol. "Did you ever think about the older population and how they would adapt to your technology when you charted the plan?"

Nichol was rendered speechless.

The auditorium fell silent as everyone unanimously stared at Loraine and Nichol.

Just then, the sound of applause caught everyone's attention.

It was Klein, the person in charge of the project, applauding with pride

"Well, that's right. The purpose of our smart city project is to create a convenient and desirable living environment for all citizens alike. The project plan of Universe Group coincides with our idea of serving the people. This is the smart city we all are striving for. Miss Torres, you are so young, but you seem to have a global approach to the problem. I'm impressed."

A faint smile stretched across Loraine's lips. "I can't take full credit for it. This plan is the joint effort of all the people in the architectural design department of Universe Group. They all have immensely contributed to the project."

"That's good. Miss Torres, you are talented and

modest. A rare talent, I must say." Klein's eyes gleamed with admiration.

Nichol unwillingly sat down.

No one dared to question the potential of Universe Group again.

"I declare that the final winner of this bidding is Universe Group. We will officially sign the contract with the company shortly."

Another round of applause reverberated across the auditorium.

Marco's face darkened as everyone congratulated Loraine. His aura made the people around him tremble with fright. 5

