

Chapter 481 Call Doris To Account

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She had vowed to her family not to fall back into old patterns.

Yes, Marco had transformed, but was it worth the gamble once more?

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Marco's return to the Bryant Group was marked by a sudden change in demeanor. His face hardened into a cold mask.

He tossed the Solar Company's anniversary album onto the table in front of Carl, his voice gruff as he demanded, "Who's responsible for this?"

On seeing Marco's dark expression, a sense of dread filled Carl. He hurriedly picked up the album to inspect it.

Marco was the mind behind the Solar Company, a fact known to only a few within the Bryant Group, Carl included. He had been handling the majority of affairs related to the company, and any issue was his to answer for!

As he flipped through the album, Carl couldn't hide his surprise.

"Mr. Bryant, this version of the album isn't like the ones we've seen before."

Marco's brow furrowed at the revelation.

Typically, the album would showcase images centered around the Solar Company's corporate culture. It wasn't supposed to feature a picture of him with Doris.

The memory of that picture brought a grimace to Marco's face. It was taken when the Solar Company

Chapter 481 Call Doris To Account 🎁 +120 Points at most

had just been formed, after they had completed their first project. An exuberant Doris had looped her arm around Marco's neck for a celebratory group photo.

Even though Marco had quickly extricated himself from the situation, the camera had already captured a seemingly intimate moment.

Carl gulped nervously before suggesting, "Mr. Bryant, maybe you should speak with Miss Hoffman about this directly?"

Grasping the photo book, Marco was deep in contemplation.


A man of icy demeanor, he nonetheless displayed warmth to all around him. Doris, his cofounder at Solar Company, received his special attention.

After Doris's confession created a gap between them, he sought to compensate her with status and responsibility, placing her in command of Solar Company's overseas division.

His patience knew limits only when his core values were challenged.

The thought of Loraine coming close to discovering the album today troubled him. After a moment's reflection, he reached out to Doris through her personal line.

The call was promptly answered. Doris queried with surprise, "Marco? Did you dial this line? Have you finally decided to touch base? This makes me so

Chapter 481 Call Doris To Account  +120 Points at most joyful..."

A sigh echoed in Marco's chest. He interrupted, "Doris, why did the album and the ninth-generation robot arrive together?"

Doris had promised to take care of the robot's transportation. But, unexpectedly, a photo album had been slipped in. This seemed like a conscious act from her part.

After a considerable pause, Doris responded with a muted voice, "Marco, are you displeased? It was a call I made on my own. I regret if I overstepped. It's just that the album captures our journey founding Solar Company, something significant for both of us. I wanted you to be the first to revisit that album. I saw an opportunity to send it back with the robot, and I acted on it without seeking your approval."

This left Marco silent.

Doris had been there with him since the start of Solar Company. He found it hard to doubt her intentions.

Sensing the quiet over the line, Doris softly smiled and said, "Marco, did the album catch you off guard?"

Marco found it hard to articulate his feelings. He held those memories dear, but not in the manner Doris seemed to expect.

"Doris, refrain from doing this in the future. I haven't publicly revealed my role as the president of Solar Company. It was inappropriate for you to include my

Chapter 481 Call Doris To Account 🎁 +120 Points at most photos in the album."

Upon hearing this, Doris's gaze hardened, and her bright-red nails dug into her palm.

"No need for concern. The album was a personal project. I intended for you to have a first look. It hasn't gone into mass production. I will revise it to the approved format before..."

Coldly interrupting her, Marco added, "Still, you should not have sent it. It might stir misconceptions if seen by others."

Taking a deep breath, Doris forced a grin and lightly joked, "Misconceptions? Did someone see the photo and misinterpret you? Marco, what's going on with you? Have you fallen for someone? Would you share?"



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Chapter 482 See Keely Again

Marco paused upon hearing this. Emotions were indeed a struggle for him.

His relationship with Loraine was turbulent. They'd make progress, only to end up back in a dead end.

Doris, being a woman herself, could perhaps understand the intricate weave of Loraine's thoughts. He contemplated revealing his problem to her, maybe she could offer some advice?

However, he decided to remain quiet.

He had become wiser from his past experiences. Doris was not just any woman; she had confessed her love for him. With an ongoing misunderstanding with Loraine regarding Keely, any further complications could make things even more convoluted.

Doris had been waiting for Marco to say something. When he remained silent, she couldn't help but push him, "Marco, aren't we friends? Can't you share this with me?"

He said indifferently, "I can handle this myself. Don't worry. I'd prefer you not to surprise me like this anymore."

Doris had expected him to at least talk about Loraine. Instead, she was met with a frosty response. Did this

mean he no longer considered her a friend?

Struggling to maintain her composure, she clenched her teeth and mustered a smile. She said, "Understood."

After ending the call, Doris gazed at the blank screen, her mood darkening.

She couldn't help but smirk. At least the photo album she had sent him had made an impact.

Her intentions were clear, she wanted to show Loraine that she, Doris, was the one who could stand by Marco's side, be it in the past, present, or future!

In his office at the Bryant Group, Marco was growing increasingly irritable as he looked at the album. He carelessly shoved it under a stack of papers. After some thought, he called for Carl.

"Keep a close eye on Solar Company. Inform me immediately if something happens."

Although the album was a minor issue, Doris' involvement in his affairs was increasing. He didn't appreciate this change.

He trusted Doris, but he wouldn't let her overstep her boundaries.

"Understood, Mr. Bryant." Carl acknowledged gravely, aware of the implications. As he was about to leave, Marco stopped him.

"Hold on... Arrange for someone to compile a report

on the airport design and bring it to me."

Carl was taken aback. He was puzzled as to why Marco would be interested in such a mundane task. Then it hit him: It must have something to do with Loraine. He smiled, understanding the situation, and reassured, "Mr. Bryant, rest assured. I'll have it prepared immediately!"

Marco, trying to suppress a cough, waved dismissively, signaling Carl to leave.

As the office emptied around him, Marco unveiled his phone, a bittersweet gaze lingering on the photograph of him with Loraine, an aura of adoration and vulnerability surrounding them.

"Loraine, what's the next step that I should take? How can I convince you of my sincerity?"

Regardless of whether it was an architectural design or anything else, as long as Loraine needed it, he was willing to make an effort to learn.

He grew up under the weight of the Bryant family's expectations. While he was a quick learner and hailed as a prodigy by his teachers, when it came to pleasing Loraine, he was like a toddler taking their first steps.

Three days passed quickly.

For the imminent arrival of Leopold, Loraine was thoroughly engrossed in the preparations.

Along with Klein, she headed to the bustling airport to

pick up Leopold.

Shortly after, the plane touched down and a swarm of passengers disembarked. Amid the throng, Loraine quickly identified Leopold.

Exhibiting typical Dukeland features, Leopold was a tall figure, with a prominent skull, profound eyes, and a stern expression. His attire included vintage black rimmed spectacles, and his hair was meticulously styled.

With warm smiles, Klein and Loraine approached Leopold. Klein took his hand, introducing them cheerfully. "Professor Zizka, I am Klein Moore, your contact from the Vagow government regarding the project. Beside me is Loraine Torres, a dynamic young entrepreneur of Vagow and the head of Universe Group. Ms. Torres also boasts impressive architectural skills. She's the mastermind behind our smart city's construction project!"

Loraine offered a smile and a handshake to Leopold.

Just then, a woman dressed in white, luggage in tow, emerged from behind Leopold, her beauty accentuated by her innocent smile.

"Professor Zizka, I have retrieved our luggage."

On seeing the woman, Loraine's grip on Leopold's hand faltered. The warmth of her smile was replaced by a frosty gaze.

"Keely... What are you doing here?"

Keely's eyes shone defiantly upon seeing Loraine, her mouth curving into a victorious grin.

"I'm accompanying my teacher."

Leopold was her teacher?

This revelation took Loraine by surprise. She had a hazy recollection of Keely mentioning that her major was architectural design, yet she knew Keely's competence was limited.

How did Keely manage to secure a place on Leopold's team?

Thoughts whirled in Loraine's mind. She recalled the call Marco had answered. Had Keely joined Leopold's team back then?

So, when Marco expressed his intention to cut ties with Keely, he really meant it? Keely happened to return home at this juncture, but he did not offer her any assistance.



Chapter 483 Leopold's Favor Toward Keely

Klein, who was standing nearby, regarded Loraine with concern. He attempted to discern Keely's identity from Leopold, saying with an uneasy smile, "Professor, may I ask who this lady is?"

Clearly, Leopold was unaware of the tension between them. He introduced Keely cheerfully, "This is Keely Haywood, one of my students. She's extremely gifted in architectural design, so I brought her back this time. Incidentally, she's also from Vagow. I'm sure you young folks have plenty to discuss. Miss Torres, you should converse with her."

Leopold was renowned for nurturing talent in his industry. Upon hearing Klein's introduction, he took a liking to Loraine.

However, he soon noticed the oddity between Loraine and Keely. Observing their fixed stares, Leopold inquired, "Do you two know each other?"

Gracefully, Keely approached Loraine and answered with a smile, "Yes, Professor. I didn't expect to bump into an old acquaintance here."

Adjusting her demeanor, Loraine scoffed, "Indeed, quite a coincidence."

Though they hadn't seen each other in some time,

Chapter 483 Leopold's Favor Toward 🎁 +120 Points at most
Keely's deceitful air still agitated Loraine.

Keely haughtily held her head high, as if triumphantly returned. She taunted and sneered, "Loraine, are you shocked?"

Maintaining a faux smile, Loraine feigned surprise and retorted, "I'm genuinely shocked that someone who can't even distinguish building materials could join Professor Zizka's team."

A slight frown appeared on Leopold's face. Although his architectural prowess wasn't geared towards social interaction, even he could sense the animosity between his adored student and Loraine.

"Miss Torres, what do you imply?" he asked.

Maintaining her smile, Loraine answered, "Oh, nothing. It's just that Miss Haywood once advised me against using a new type of foam concrete in my design. It appeared she wasn't aware of the incredible utility of the new concrete."

Keely's smile hardened, her eyes pleading towards Leopold.

Leopold, predisposed to his student, began to frown upon hearing Loraine's opposition to Keely. He interpreted Loraine as an arrogant individual belittling others. He regarded Loraine sternly.

"Miss Torres, it's true that Keely lacks experience. Not being familiar with all construction materials is understandable. However, she has a remarkable

Chapter 483 Leopold's Favor Toward 🎁 +120 Points at most
talent for design," he defended.

Upon hearing this, Keely stated confidently, "Also, Professor Zizka accepted me as a student because he acknowledged my talent, not because of my knowledge about specialized materials."

Lorraine's expression darkened.

Observing this, Keely became increasingly smug. She snorted, "Naturally, I can't compete with you. After all, you can leverage your family resources to advance construction projects. Regardless of project quality, your family's wealth makes everyone consider you a construction genius!"


Maintaining a frigid demeanor, Lorraine shot back, "I'm not as skilled as you. You managed to evade punishment even with a criminal record. And you've won over an esteemed professor. You're quite impressive!"

Keely stiffened, anger flashing in her eyes at Lorraine.

Turning to Leopold, Lorraine asked, in what seemed to be a gentle reminder, "Professor Zizka, were you aware of this when you accepted her as your student?"

Nonetheless, Leopold stepped in, "Miss Torres, I am aware of Keely's past prison sentence. But my stance differs from others. I value talent. While she made a mistake, I hope we can offer her a chance to start anew."

Keely breathed a sigh of relief, her head held high in

Chapter 483 Leopold's Favor Toward  +120 Points at most pride and satisfaction.

Upon seeing this, Loraine's brow furrowed. She hadn't planned to disclose Keely's wrongdoings against her. Besides, her acquaintance with Leopold was recent. Presumably, their paths wouldn't cross beyond this collaboration, so she felt it inappropriate to say much more.

Hence, Loraine ceased her argument. Composing her emotions, she replied with a smile, "I understand. Professor Zizka, since you trust your student, I won't dwell on it. You must be fatigued from your journey. I've reserved a private dining room. Please, let's move on to rest and have a meal."

Leopold finally softened, nodding in agreement. They boarded the car and soon reached a private riverside restaurant.

Exiting the car, Klein expressed surprise upon seeing the sign.

"The Bliss Restaurant? This is the finest private restaurant in Vagow. Loraine, your generosity is appreciated!"

The Bliss Restaurant sat alongside the river. It was quaint and modest but renowned for its exceptional cuisine.

Loraine merely smiled in response, just about to invite Leopold inside when she heard Keely's sarcastic remark.

Chapter 483 Leopold's Favor Toward 🎁 +120 Points at most

"Loraine, treating my professor here is quite insincere of you. You know he's from Dukeland, yet you chose a local restaurant without considering his palate at all!"

Everyone halted simultaneously, and Klein looked visibly awkward.

Keely turned towards Loraine, radiating satisfaction as she recommended, "You should probably reconsider the restaurant choice!"

