

Chapter 638 Greed

Marco sneered in contempt.

A rural, affluent family—how could they compare with Loraine, the heiress of the distinguished Torres family and the successful CEO of a prominent company?

He had no intention of arguing with this narrow-minded and disgusting woman. If it weren't for Loraine, these individuals wouldn't even register on his radar.

Furthermore, they willfully ignored reality, choosing to believe in warped gossip rather than expanding their horizons.

Even if they stumbled across Loraine's name in the media, they would likely dismiss it as a mere coincidence of namesakes.

Nonchalantly, Loraine responded to Lillie's boast, "Is that so? Can Judie gift you a watch worth two or three hundred thousand dollars?"

Lillie's face became petrified, as if she had swallowed a fly, unable to muster a response.

Regardless of whether Judie actually possessed such luxurious items, it was certain she would

never share them with her.

Judie was only inclined to offer trivial favors to appease her.

A watch worth two to three hundred thousand dollars? Judie was not that charitable.

Frustrated yet refusing to concede defeat, Lillie retorted, "Why are you so interested in Judie?"

Marco shot her a frigid glance, replying, "That's none of your concern."

His stern demeanor intimidated Lillie, who recoiled slightly. However, her covetous desire for the luxurious wristwatch overrode her trepidation. In a bold burst of greed, she found the courage to assert, "Lorraine, you must give me the watch and some cash too! Or else, I'll inform Judie that you're searching for her!"

Lorraine looked at Lillie with a smile that never quite reached her eyes. "Are you attempting to negotiate terms with me?"

Lillie had expected to exploit Lorraine's perceived vulnerability but was taken aback by her imposing demeanor. She blanched and stood stock-still.

In a frosty tone, Lorraine retorted, "I've not forgotten your disparaging words about me. Do you believe someone who can nonchalantly gift a watch worth hundreds of thousands can still be bullied as

before?"

Struck dumb, Lillie stammered, "I, I didn't say anything."

Lorraine narrowed her eyes, smirking derisively, "Do you think your spreading of rumors can be conveniently forgotten? Are you aware that based on the insults you've hurled at me, I could sue you for all you possess?"

As a habitual gossipmonger in their small town, Lillie had a limited grasp of the concept of spreading rumors. Yet, the mention of a lawsuit and the potential loss of her possessions sent a shiver down her spine.

Flustered, she managed to stutter out, "It, it wasn't that severe. Fine. I won't demand money, but you must give me the watch!"

Even though the two to three hundred thousand dollar watch held little significance to Lorraine and Marco, handing over such an item to a person as avaricious and unashamed as Lillie was the last thing Marco intended to do.

He scoffed at Lillie, "Still hankering after the watch? Do you comprehend the ramifications of your lies given Lorraine's current standing? Your deceitful words could cost you more than just money. We can have you incarcerated."

Lillie was thoroughly terrified by Marco's threat. On

the brink of tears, she implored, "Are you actually serious? It can't be that severe, it was only idle chatter. Why would that warrant imprisonment?"

Since it was only a bit of gossip, Lillie failed to grasp why it would precipitate such grave repercussions. Observing Marco's stern countenance, she was uncertain whether he was bluffing or genuinely intending to have her jailed.

Lorraine smirked, "If you believe I'm deceiving you, you're welcome to find out for yourself. Let me place a call to my attorney. If you're unable to afford one, I can assist you in securing legal counsel."

The mere suggestion of involving a lawyer sent Lillie into a panic. She wailed and prostrated herself at Lorraine's feet.

"Lorraine, I beg you. Judie was the one spreading those damaging rumors. I'm not involved. Please, don't have me arrested. I no longer desire the watch or any money!"

Seeing Lillie sobbing uncontrollably, Lorraine toyed with her, "If you kowtow to me and apologize, I might reconsider..."

Her words were merely intended to taunt Lillie, but unexpectedly, Lillie immediately bowed her head to the ground in apology before making a hasty retreat.

In her hurry, Lillie nearly tripped over herself.

Lorraine laughed lightly, while Marco's brow furrowed. "Aren't you going to follow up?"

He was genuinely prepared to hold Lillie accountable for her transgressions.

Lorraine shook her head, a soft smile on her lips. "There's no need."

Chasing after every gossip peddler in this small village was not a practical endeavor. Furthermore, Lillie was, at best, a secondary participant in the rumor mill.

Marco's gaze hardened as he watched Lillie's fleeing figure, muttering in a low voice, "Allowing that woman to escape without consequence seems too lenient. She was unkind to you before..."

Lorraine detected the iciness in his tone, causing an unexpected flutter in her chest.



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Chapter 639 Getting Rid Of Nightmare

Marco had consistently shown Loraine his obedient and devoted side, presenting himself as a harmless and gentle companion.

Loraine had nearly forgotten that he was also the ruthless and feared CEO known for his cold-hearted dominance in the business world.

Yet, he seemed different when it came to her.

Moved by this realization, Loraine smiled and halted him. "It's alright, don't bother with her. She's nothing more than a clown. Just knowing where Judie is is enough."

Loraine was not a person to forgive and forget, and now that she knew Judie was still in the village, she wouldn't simply pretend nothing had happened and let her go.

She intended to pay Judie back for all the dirty tricks she had played in the past, one by one.

When she saw Marco looking a little unsatisfied, Loraine comforted him in a soft voice, "It's getting dark soon, and we need to hurry to meet Mrs. Harvey. Do you want to waste time on someone insignificant?"

Only then did Marco give up the idea of teaching Lillie a lesson for what she had done, and together they headed to the small supermarket to buy gifts.

Marco had already purchased a wealth of valuable tonics and luxuries for their trip to the countryside, but Loraine suggested that Eloise would scold her for overspending, and so it was better to buy some more ordinary items.

With Loraine's playful and charming demeanor, Marco couldn't help but fall for her all over again.

After acquiring the gifts, they began to walk toward their destination as the muddy and narrow village roads weren't conducive to vehicles.

Fortunately, Marco carried all the items, so it wasn't too burdensome for Loraine.

As they walked, Marco inquired, "Loraine, did that Judie always bully you?"

From their brief encounter with Lillie, Marco had already surmised that Judie was likely the primary instigator behind Loraine's mistreatment.

In Marco's view, Loraine had always been clear about what was right and wrong, and if she wished to settle scores, she would naturally target the main perpetrator. However, he couldn't fathom why Loraine had put up with the harassment from that group for so long.

When Marco asked, Loraine hesitated momentarily as she gazed at the familiar dirt road ahead of her. Memories of the past, when she had endured abuse in the countryside, flooded back.

Having returned to the Torres family, she had the power to retaliate against those who had wronged her, but she chose not to.

Because she had spent her formative years here, amid malicious individuals like Judie and Lillie, but also among kind-hearted people like Eloise and Henna, and friends from the orphanage. It was essential to remember that not everyone associated with Judie was out to harm her. Many were just impressionable children, swayed by rumors and eager to participate in the chaos.

Thus, when she was recognized by the Torres family, her first instinct wasn't revenge, but to distance herself from these painful memories as swiftly as possible.

Yet, she couldn't deny that those experiences had left indelible scars on her heart. Judie and her gang were the reasons she felt frightened and defensive upon her initial return to the Torres family.

"I was too vulnerable back then," Loraine responded with a calmness that belied a flicker of fragility in her eyes. But she swiftly regained her composure. "Later, I became stronger, but I didn't

Chapter 639 Getting Rid Of Nightmar 🎁 +120 Points at most

wish to entangle myself with such vile people. However, now that they've brought trouble to my doorstep, I refuse to endure it any longer."

Marco felt a wave of sympathy wash over him.

The more resilient Loraine appeared, the more he cherished her. Unable to resist, he gently embraced her, whispering, "Loraine, you won't face such things again. I won't let anyone bully you."

Surrounded by countless gifts, Loraine laughed as she playfully pushed Marco away.

"No one can bully me now. But if anyone dares to pick on you, don't hold back. Inform me, and I'll handle them for you."

A spark of amusement lit up Marco's eyes as he nodded. "This time, allow me to deal with Judie. I'll ensure justice is served for you."

Loraine shook her head, a sense of relief washing over her. "No need. I'll handle her myself."

Before Marco could protest, she flashed him a cunning smile. "Don't worry, I remember those who've helped me and those who've harmed me. Most of the time, I'm just too lazy to chase after them. But now that the enemy has brazenly paraded themselves in front of me, I won't show them any mercy!"

Chapter 640 Orphanage

Marco's heart pounded like a drum as he watched Loraine's smile light up her face. He was utterly spellbound, reminiscent of a young boy smitten by his first crush.

Perhaps it was their return to the countryside, to this place both familiar and foreign to Loraine, away from the stresses of work and corporate affairs, that seemed to spark a newfound vivacity in her. Compared to their professional encounters in Vagow, her present charm was even more beguiling.

The more Marco discovered about Loraine, the more he saw her as a treasure chest, filled with surprises waiting to be unveiled.

On stage, Loraine was lively and dazzling, emanating a magnetic allure that captivated her audience. In the realm of business, she was firm and composed, exuding a balanced and collected demeanor. But now, as she walked him through her memories, he glimpsed a side of her that was playful and mischievous, tinged with a dash of youthful innocence.

Every aspect of Loraine astonished Marco, further fueling his infatuation with her.

On either side of the road, wildflowers bloomed. As the wind lightly rustled Loraine's skirt, she turned around with a smile to find Marco looking quite taken aback.

Loraine chuckled, feeling a bit impish. She winked at him and feigned a grave expression.

"It's getting dark! Out here in the countryside, the darkness is thick. Look, we're surrounded by farmland. There are snakes, bugs, rats, and ants everywhere. If I get bitten by something later, you're entirely to blame!"

At Loraine's words, Marco snapped out of his reverie, anxiety welling up. Fearing that Loraine might actually be bitten by a bug, he promptly put all the gifts in one hand, took Loraine's hand with the other, and kept a watchful eye on their surroundings.

However, Marco was unfamiliar with the rural environment and had no idea where these creatures might appear. He glanced at the ground beneath his feet and discreetly stomped a few times, hoping to compact the earth and dissuade any venomous critters from emerging.

Just then, Loraine rose onto her tiptoes, planted a quick peck on Marco's forehead, and then slipped out of his grasp, bounding a few steps ahead.

With a gleaming smile on her face, she beamed

with delight, "Sorry, I was only teasing."

Marco stood momentarily stupefied by the kiss, absently touching his forehead. Then, a slow smile spread across his handsome features, as he realized Loraine had merely pulled a prank. He quickly hurried after her.

Soon enough, he caught up with her and reclaimed her hand, which she did not resist this time.

Who could have thought that the tender and affectionate man beside her used to be a cold, unfeeling iceberg?

A warm sensation blossomed within Loraine, and she found herself hoping that their journey could extend just a bit longer.

Regrettably, no matter how winding the rural road was, it inevitably came to an end. In less than half an hour, they had reached its terminus.

The countryside unfolded before them, dotted with modest houses and occasionally interspersed with a few larger structures.

As evening fell, the chirps of insects echoed through the fields, and the post-sunset air mingled with the sweet scent of grass, painting a unique pastoral ambiance.

Hand in hand, Marco walked leisurely with Loraine, murmuring, "Loraine, if you love this place, how

about we construct a villa here? Just the two of us, immersed in this tranquility. What do you say?"

Loraine, picturing such a scenario, felt a stir in her heart but quipped, "Forget it, you can't even farm. How can you live here?"

Marco offered a sheepish smile.

At this moment, a white structure caught their eye—a two-story building with walls of peeling paint. It was quaint and timeworn, yet it maintained a well-kept air.

A small playground adorned the courtyard, buzzing with over a dozen children—each as sprightly as little sprouts—running and playing, their jubilant laughter contagious.


Loraine gazed fondly at the frolicking children, whispering, "When we were young, Mrs. Harvey would personally lead us in games. The children at the orphanage rarely went to kindergarten; all of our education came from her."

Marco tenderly held her hand in his, his eyes filled with warmth as he looked at her.

Suddenly, a basketball rolled to their feet. A child sprinted over to retrieve it, clad in clean, slightly oversized clothes emblazoned with the Universe Group logo—likely donated by the company.

The child cast a brief glance at them before racing

Chapter 640 Orphanage

 +120 Points at most

back to his friends, shouting, "Mrs. Harvey, we have guests!"

A white-haired elderly woman with a cane emerged from the house. She wore reading glasses and bore a kind smile. As she squinted at Loraine and Marco, she suddenly froze, her expression turning to one of disbelief.

Eloise rubbed her eyes and looked at Loraine, still in disbelief. "Are you... Lorrie?"

Loraine's heart swelled with emotion as she rushed over to enfold Eloise in a heartfelt hug.

"Mrs. Harvey, it's me, I've come home!"

Chapter 641 Winning Eloise's Affection

Loraine recollected her childhood years when Eloise seemed much younger, her hair not as white. She would watch the children play with a kind and gentle smile. Even when a child made a mistake, she could barely bring herself to scold them, often releasing a heavy sigh at most.

Despite the passage of time, everything here seemed almost untouched, and this consistency flooded Loraine with a profound sense of familiarity and warmth.

Eloise, trembling slightly, held Loraine by the shoulders, scrutinizing her intently. Once she confirmed it was indeed Loraine standing before her, she was unable to contain her joy and exclaimed repeatedly, "You're back, that's wonderful! You're back!"

She caressed Loraine's arm, taking in her appearance, before sighing warmly, "You look fantastic. Our Lorrie was always a beauty, and now she's grown up to be even more elegant and stunning! Each year, the Torres family sends aid, and I always inquire about your well-being. They tell me that you're doing splendidly, that you've become influential, that you've taken over the Torres family and even become the CEO of the

Chapter 641 Winning Eloise's Affect. 🎁 +120 Points at most

She caressed Loraine's arm, taking in her appearance, before sighing warmly, "You look fantastic. Our Lorrie was always a beauty, and now she's grown up to be even more elegant and stunning! Each year, the Torres family sends aid, and I always inquire about your well-being. They tell me that you're doing splendidly, that you've become influential, that you've taken over the Torres family and even become the CEO of the Universe Group! Oh, at first, I could hardly believe it. Our little girl, so accomplished? Now that I see you in person, I can rest assured. It seems you've thrived these past years!"

Elders often have endless tales to share when they reunite with their beloved younger ones. As Loraine listened to this familiar chatter, her eyes started to well up.

"I'm sorry, Mrs. Harvey. It's been so long since I last visited. I should have returned sooner to repay your kindness."

Eloise, recalling the village rumors about Loraine, gave a light sigh and shook her head. "Silly child, staying away was the right thing to do. This place is steeped in poverty and hardship. There's no benefit here. You've made your way out. It's much better for you to remain out there."

Softly sniffing, Loraine wrapped her arms around Eloise, leaning into her embrace and basking in the familiar warmth.

At this moment, she showed none of the authoritative aura that she wore when making

Chapter 641 Winning Eloise's Affect. 🎁 +120 Points at most decisions at the Universe Group. She was just a little girl, leaning affectionately on her elder.

Eloise's affectionate smile suggested that she was used to this behavior. She gently patted Loraine on the back, comforting her with patience and warmth.

"It's good that you're back, no need to cry. You're such a beautiful girl. Tears don't become you, my dear. I am perfectly well. The Torres family sends so many provisions every year. It's all due to Lorrie, isn't it? Your help has enabled the orphanage to survive until today and to help so many children. How can you say that you haven't repaid me yet? You've repaid me long ago!"

Seeing Loraine's tears, Marco felt a wave of helplessness wash over him. He yearned to hold her, to offer comfort. But she was already nestled in Eloise's arms, leaving him standing awkwardly under the curious eyes of the young children.

Marco had rarely seen Loraine cry before. Even when she weathered a storm of ill-treatment after marrying into the Bryant family, and when her marriage finally ended in divorce, not a single tear had fallen from her eyes.

In his memories, Loraine was always a figure of strength and resilience, so why was she shedding tears now?

His heart constricted, believing that Loraine must have been harboring a great deal of pain, only feeling safe to express her emotions in the company of her cherished elder.

Chapter 641 Winning Eloise's Affect. 🎁 +120 Points at most

If only he had recognized his feelings earlier and treated her better, perhaps she would not be so tearful at this moment.

As Eloise consoled Loraine, she also cast a glance at Marco, who appeared filled with remorse and despondency. Although she was uncertain of what troubled this young man, she keenly felt that it was somehow linked to Loraine.

While comforting Loraine with gentle pats, she chuckled and coaxed, "Dry your tears, my dear, or the gentleman might tease you."

Loraine paused for a moment before remembering that Marco had been standing beside her all along.

How could she have forgotten that Marco was there, witnessing her emotional display!

Her face turned pink with embarrassment, feeling mortified for revealing such a raw, childlike vulnerability. Yet, she managed to extricate herself from Eloise's comforting embrace, wiped her tears, and retorted with a touch of pride, "He wouldn't dare laugh at me!"

Quick to reassure her, Marco swiftly agreed, "No, I wouldn't dare. I'll always respect your feelings."

A knowing smile spread across Eloise's face.

Loraine had always presented a tough exterior,

Chapter 641 Winning Eloise's Affect. 🎁 +120 Points at most

but she held a tender heart within. The fact that she brought this man to the orphanage suggested that their relationship was far from ordinary.

As Eloise observed Marco more attentively, she began to perceive him as a potential son-in-law. The more she assessed him, the more approving she became.

Under Eloise's scrutiny, Marco stood tall, as if under inspection, and respectfully presented the gifts he'd brought.

"Hello, Mrs. Harvey. I'm Marco Bryant, Loraine's boyfriend."

He had a concealed motive, hoping to affirm his position in the elder's eyes. After an expectant pause without any objection from Loraine, a deeper smile surfaced on his face.

"Mrs. Harvey, I've been swamped with work recently, which has kept Loraine from visiting you. But now that we finally have some spare time, we made sure to come and see you!"

As Marco took responsibility for their delayed visit, Loraine appeared momentarily taken aback. Eloise's eyes flicked between the two, her grin growing more teasing.

This young man possessed a good heart. Not only did he show care for Loraine, but he also shouldered responsibility for her, speaking on her

Chapter 641 Winning Eloise's Affect. 🎁 +120 Points at most behalf. No wonder Loraine had brought him back. It seemed she had indeed found a considerate and caring boyfriend!

"Young man, you are quite handsome, an excellent match for our Lorrie!"

Eloise was delighted and gratefully accepted the gifts from Marco.

Suddenly, several children dashed over, their faces marked by distress.

"Something's wrong, Mrs. Harvey! Those people have returned!"

Chapter 642 Angel Sister

Upon hearing the children's cries, Eloise's brows instantly knitted together, anger flickering in her eyes. However, in front of the children, she mastered her emotions, providing them with gentle and loving comfort.

As their crying began to subside, she called over a few of the older children. She affectionately patted their heads, instructing, "Take your younger siblings inside to watch TV. Leave the rest to me."

The children of the orphanage, though visibly upset, were no strangers to such abrupt situations. They managed to curb their anger, wisely deciding not to cause additional stress for Eloise. They obediently followed her directives and retreated into the house.

Puzzled and anxious, Loraine turned to Eloise, seeking answers. "What's going on? Those people have returned? Who are they?"

Eloise was a highly esteemed figure in the village, having built a strong rapport with the locals. It seemed unlikely that anyone would want to upset the children or seek a confrontation. Could it be some troublemakers?

Despite Loraine's apprehension, Eloise offered her

a calming smile and gently patted her hand. "It's nothing severe, Lorrie. I need you to look after the children inside, and I'll deal with this. I'll return shortly."

Before Loraine could voice her concerns, Eloise was already leaning on her cane, making her way towards the entrance.

Loraine couldn't shake off her worry. Despite Eloise's attempts to downplay the situation, something felt off.

Still, she couldn't ignore the request to look after the children – it was a long-standing tradition for the older kids to take care of the younger ones in times of need. While she had performed this duty numerous times before, the safety of Eloise weighed heavily on her mind.

With Loraine caught between her concerns and her duties, Marco gently took her hand and reassured her. "Go inside and take care of the children. I'll accompany Mrs. Harvey to the entrance. That way, you won't need to worry."

With Marco's assurance that he would stand by Eloise, Loraine's worries subsided. She gave him a grateful glance before nodding in agreement.

Once Loraine saw Marco accompanying Eloise, she retreated to the common room.

The room, used for the children's classes and

group activities, exuded an old-world charm. It was furnished with love and care. Compared to Loraine's memories from her own childhood, it had significantly improved, appearing far more welcoming and comfortable.

Loraine found herself awash in nostalgia.

Upon stepping into the room, she saw a group of older children offering comfort to the younger ones, who had been frightened and were crying softly.

Most of the children at the orphanage had been forced to grow up faster than their peers. Even in their crying there was a restraint, a quiet sobbing that was heartbreaking to witness.

Recalling the sweets she had purchased earlier, Loraine fished them out from her backpack, intending to console the children.

Having previously cared for younger children at the orphanage, she was well-versed in the task. She waved the candies in the air, and the children's attention was instantaneously attracted.

One child, his cheeks streaked with tears, followed the motion of the candies with his eyes before looking up at Loraine in a blend of curiosity and confusion, his tears abruptly ceasing.

Assuming his hesitation was due to shyness, Loraine offered him a warm smile. To her surprise,

the little boy sprang from his bed and wrapped his arms around her leg, exclaiming cheerfully, "Angel Sister, you've come to visit us!"

Loraine was momentarily caught off guard. The children at the orphanage were all quite young, and the majority of them had not been there when she left. How did they recognize her?

Had Eloise been telling stories about her?

Or, did they know of her due to the donations made by the Torres family?

Handing the child a piece of candy, with the wrapper carefully opened, Loraine asked him with a smile, "What's your name? And why do you call me Angel Sister?"


The boy, in his innocent way, could not take his eyes off the candy he now held in his hand. After giving it a tentative lick, his face lit up in delight. "I'm Giovanni," he answered, "Because Devil Sister doesn't like you, you must be Angel Sister!"

Devil Sister?

Loraine was stumped. But from the straightforward honesty of the child's words, she inferred that this Devil Sister was likely not a friendly figure. Perhaps she had something to do with the earlier disturbance.

Although Eloise didn't want her to worry, it didn't

Chapter 642 Angel Sister

 +120 Points at most

mean Loraine was going to turn a blind eye.

With this in mind, she pulled out more candies from her bag. Seeing the children's eyes gleam in anticipation, she put on a playful smile.

"If you want some candy, you'll have to answer a few questions for me, alright?"