

Chapter 899 Sadfishing

Jaden was harsh on himself. After delivering those two slaps, his cheeks swelled up. He appeared remorseful, adopting a meek stance.

The staff at Universe Group's branch office were taken aback by his self-slapping behavior.

Loraine's thoughts drifted to Cayson and the kindness Jaden and his wife had shown her in her youth.

She valued their relationship deeply. Despite her impartiality in business, she couldn't stand to see Jaden embarrassed publicly.

She intervened, "Mr. Benton, if it truly has nothing to do with you, I won't hold it against you."

Jaden appeared to be seeking sympathy, lamenting, "Lorrie, I'm to blame. Despite knowing nepotism is frowned upon here, I followed my wife's suggestion to employ Florrie!"

His tears seemed genuine as he continued, "I failed to spot her misconduct early on. I'm deeply ashamed and apologize for betraying Mr. Torres' trust!"

Yet, his haste to clear his name struck Loraine as odd.

She pondered over prior events, questioning if Jaden was

truly unaware of Florrie's actions.

At that moment, she recalled instructing her subordinate to inform Jaden the previous day that she would send someone to inspect. However, it seemed Jaden hadn't taken it seriously. He hadn't notified his subordinates and appeared rushed when she arrived.

Loraine found it difficult not to wonder if Florrie's disdainful attitude toward the headquarters had been influenced by Jaden.

Without concrete proof, though, these remained suspicions. Jaden was a significant figure in Universe Group and deserved her respect.

Reflecting on this, Loraine's voice softened. "Mr. Benton, I trust your dedication to the Torres family. Please ensure this doesn't recur."

Jaden eagerly agreed and said, "Sure, I'll sort things out and make sure it doesn't happen again!"

However, with a hint of coldness in his eyes, he grumbled inwardly. In front of so many employees, Loraine's accusatory tone truly embarrassed him!

Unaware that her compromise felt like criticism to Jaden, Loraine, upon hearing his response, considered the future duration of her stay in Zodiac with Marco uncertain and said, "I'll be staying in Zodiac for a while. During this time, I'll help reorganize the branch."

Jaden's expression darkened at Loraine's words. He felt she might be stripping him of his authority!

With Aldo's long absence from company inspections, Loraine taking over as CEO seemed like a threat to him!

Though Jaden's heart chilled, he forced a smile. "That's wonderful," he said warmly to Loraine. Then, he added, "Lorrie, where are you staying in Zodiac? Would you like to stay with us? My wife has been eager to see you!"

Loraine graciously declined his offer. "Mr. Benton, thank you, but I've already arranged accommodations. I will come and visit you when I have the time."

Jaden offered a subdued smile, respecting her decision without further insistence.

Advancing a few steps, Loraine paused, recalling the prior day's assistance. She turned back to the receptionist with a smile. "I appreciate your assistance yesterday. Your dedication and courage didn't go unnoticed. Expect a raise for your efforts."

The receptionist, shocked, was soon overwhelmed with gratitude, hastily expressing her thanks with a bow. Loraine acknowledged with a wave, then proceeded to exit the building.

The smile faded from Jaden's face as he watched Loraine drive away.

Jaden gave a brief look at the receptionist and, without a

word, turned and headed for his office.

He decided that an insignificant person like her did not deserve for him to vent his frustration on her.

Once back in his office, Jaden dialed a number, his voice filled with irritation as he questioned, "What's happening? How come I wasn't alerted to Loraine's arrival in Zodiac?"

Frustrated, he flung the documents from his desk onto the floor. Pausing to regain his composure, he sat down, his expression turning cold.

"Instruct your team to act wisely. Eliminate any traces that could lead back to us. We cannot afford for Loraine to discover anything."

Having vented his frustration at his team, Jaden's expression grew more severe as he felt the cheeks he had earlier struck, his resentment palpable.

"Loraine, should your visit to Zodiac be merely casual, then you remain the good girl I cherish. However, should you stir up any issues... I will make you pay for the slaps I endured."