

## Chapter 127 It's Time

As soon as the invitation list was leaked, Loraine immediately became a laughingstock.

"Loraine isn't on the invitation list for the government banquet!"

"Is she removed from the smart city project?"

News about Loraine became a hot topic on the Internet. People began to slander her again.

"What happened? Isn't Loraine the chief designer in charge of the project? Why isn't she invited?"

"Maybe they found Loraine was being promoted by sleeping with men. Now she's fired!"

"It's all about Loraine again! Is there anyone who can tell me what's going on with Loraine? Why is she always trending?"

Loraine's enemies, Keely, Marina, and Vickie weren't going to let this opportunity slip by. They anonymously discredited Loraine online.

"Loraine is actually a country bumpkin. She dropped out of middle school but claimed that she

graduated from Presal Institute of Art. I guess she bought herself a graduation certificate. Mr. T probably helped her!"

"It hasn't been very long since Loraine became an architect. I still don't understand how she won the smart city project. There's definitely something fishy about it! I heard that she once had an affair with a senior government officer!"

"Also, the only reason Loraine became a director at Universe Group was that she had support from their president, Cayson! I guess he bought those design plans from other designers and let Loraine take all the glory. And then he helped her make up an image of being a young and promising construction designer!"

"Don't forget, her ex-husband is Marco. She used to be a gold digger."

Loraine's scandal and her past were put on full blast. Not only were her talents completely denied, but her achievements were attributed to relying on men. Her reputation had taken a nosedive.

When Marco saw the haters attacking Loraine, he was desperately anxious to get in contact with her.

But she had blacklisted him, and he couldn't get in touch with her at all.

Eventually, he had no choice but to ask Jimmie for Jennie's contact information, who was Loraine's best friend.

"Jennie, this is Marco. Do you know what's going on with Loraine? I'm worried about her. Can you help me contact her?"

But before he could finish speaking, Jennie scolded him harshly.

"Bah! Jerk! Don't pretend to be kind in front of me! I know your family is behind this. You've put in a lot of effort to monopolize this project. How dare you try to contact Lorrie? Get real!"

Marco's words faltered. He couldn't defend himself because he couldn't deny anything she was saying.

He didn't expect his grandmother to be so cruel and ambitious. It was too late by the time he realized it.

Marco was the type of person who had a lot of self-discipline and never shirked his responsibilities. Since everything was his family's



fault, he would find a way to make up for it.

"Jennie, please tell Loraine not to worry. I will handle this. I will return all the honor and respect she deserves. Tell her not to show herself until I find a way to solve it."

Jennie was infuriated on hearing this and snapped at him irritably, "You're finally revealing your scheme! You just want Lorrie to hide so she can't tell her side of the story. You want her bad reputation to be the only reputation she has, don't you? Why should we listen to anything you have to say? Just wait and see, Marco Bryant. Your family will pay for what you've done!"

"No! I'm actually worried about Loraine!"

But Jennie hung up the phone.

She tossed her phone away in frustration and turned to Loraine, who was sitting next to her.

"Lorrie, just now, that jerk Marco called me to ask about you. But don't worry. I've already scolded him for you!"

"Thank you, Jennie."

They were sitting on the sofa in Loraine's home. The men of the family were standing around,

surrounding them, as Loraine hugged Jennie.

Three invitations were placed neatly on the table with Aldo, Rowan, and Wesley's names written on them respectively. But there was no invitation for Loraine.

"They've gone too far!" Aldo was bristling with fury.

"How dare they not invite Lorrie? None of us will go to the damn banquet!"

Rowan nodded in agreement and sent a message to his assistant, instructing him to refuse the invitation immediately.


Wesley's method was less restrained. He tore up the invitations and threw them into the trash can.

The whole family shared the same sentiment. If Loraine wasn't invited, none of them were.

Loraine looked at her family and friends, who had been so kind and supportive of her, and felt a warmth in her heart that made her tear up.

"Grandpa, Uncle Rowan, Uncle Wesley, and Jennie. Thank you for supporting me. Don't worry. I won't be knocked down by these rumors. I will take back what belongs to me. I will never let others take this project from me!"

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 +120 Points at most

Rowan patted Loraine encouragingly on the shoulder. "Good! That's the spirit we should have! Lorrie, no matter what you do, I'll support you."

"Yes, Lorrie. Let me know if you need anything. I'm here, too!" Wesley declared jauntily.

Aldo even jumped up in excitement.

"Lorrie, don't take this anymore. It's time to regain your reputation as a Torres. Let's make those snobbish bastards regret it!"



## Chapter 128 Two Banquets

Two days later, the government held the banquet as scheduled.

At the event, businesspeople, celebrities, and government officials were present. But Universe Group had no representative present.

The guests knew this was a sign. They all congratulated the final winner, Bryant Group.

Marco attended the banquet wearing a customized black suit. His handsome features, tall figure and cold temperament made him the focal point of the whole banquet.

Those who were desperate to grab his attention immediately stepped forward to flatter him.

"Mr. Bryant, I propose a toast to you. You made the biggest contribution to the smart city project!"

"You are wrong. Loraine made the biggest contribution to this project," Marco said in an indifferent tone.

"Well..."

The flatterer was very much embarrassed and didn't know what to say.

Other members of the Bryant family had been enjoying the flattery. When they heard Marco's words, they were a little dissatisfied.

Just then, someone he had not expected to see suddenly appeared.

"Marco, you are being too modest. Bryant Group has more advanced technology and contributed the most to the project. Don't be modest just because Miss Torres is your ex-wife," Keely said with a smile as she sidled up to Marco.

They hadn't seen each other for days. He could see that she had lost a lot of weight. Even the smallest size of the dress looked a little big on her. Even though she wore heavy makeup, it couldn't cover the bags under her eyes. Apparently, she had a rough time recently.

Staring coldly at Keely, Marco didn't even pay attention to what she said. Instead, he asked in disgust, "Why are you here? Am I not clear enough, or are you too crazy to understand my words?"

The forced smile on Keely's face froze all of a



sudden.

Marco's hostility was highly embarrassing for her.

"Marco, Keely came here because she wanted to see you. Please don't..."

Marco frowned and turned to Marina. "You brought her here?" he asked.

Feeling guilty, Marina kept quiet and looked away.

With red eyes, Keely said in a sad voice, "Marco, are you really going to do such a cruel thing to me? Just see it as the last time. Let me stay beside you one last time, and then I'll give up and go abroad. I swear, I'll never come back."

There were already tears in her eyes as she spoke.

Her miserable look successfully attracted the attention and sympathy of people around, but not Marco. Nothing she did could soften him.

He looked at her and warned, "Remember what you said. If you break your promise again, I don't mind taking harsh measures."

Keely couldn't help but shudder. "Don't worry, Marco. I'll keep my promise."

Then she reached out her hand and tried to hold

his arm.

But Marco didn't want to get close to her at all, not to mention allowing her to touch him. Without a word, he left her alone and walked towards Klein without looking back.

Looking at his retreating figure, Keely became angry.

She knew that Marco was already annoyed with her, but if she didn't seize this opportunity to fight for herself, it would be more difficult, if not impossible, to see him in the future.

Just as Keely was thinking about how she could win back Marco's heart, she saw a familiar figure appear at the entrance of the hall.

"Loraine!" Keely gasped in surprise. "Why the hell is she here?"

Liza had been unhappy with the presence of Keely, but when she heard that Loraine had come too, she frowned even more.

"It's really that tramp, Loraine. How dare she come here? Shame on her!"

Liza didn't like Keely, but she hated Loraine more. Immediately, she turned to Laura and Marina, and

ordered, "Drive her away. This is our night. Don't let her ruin this occasion for us."

"Please let me join you!" Keely offered, jumping beside them in an instant.

As one group, with only one motive, the trio stormed towards Loraine.

Loraine was wearing a long light-gold dress with pearls, diamonds, and crystals adorning the hem. From a distance, the dress looked like a glittering golden mermaid's tail.

Her dark brown hair had a crown on it. In the center of the crown was a huge yellow diamond which looked really gorgeous and expensive.

Though Loraine usually dressed up well for banquets, her gorgeous dressing today caught everyone's attention.

Looking at Loraine, Keely was so jealous that her eyes were almost burning.

After they were all attacked on social media, she had lived a pretty miserable life, but Loraine was here, looking like a superstar!

"Loraine, I'm pretty sure you didn't get an invitation to this event, did you?" she demanded, her envy



and spite showing in her eyes.

Marina shouted arrogantly, "Don't be so polite with her, Keely! She's not on the invite list. She has no right to be here. Let's just throw her out!"

With a disgusted look, Laura pointed to the exit and ordered, "Lorraine, get out of here before we call security. Nobody wants you here. We can't have your poverty polluting this banquet!"

"Shut up!" Marco and Klein came over to the scene.

"Lorraine is the major designer of this project. She has more right to attend this banquet than any one of you. No one can drive her away."

Hearing this, the three women went quiet and all they could do was frown in displeasure.

"Why are you still standing here? Please come into the hall," Klein urged.

But Lorraine raised her eyebrows and said in a teasing tone, "Mr. Moore, I'm not on the invite list. Are you sure I can go in?"

Klein glanced at Liza and Marco before turning back to Lorraine.

"I'm really sorry. There must be something wrong with the invitation list, or how could it not have

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+120 Points at most

your name? We know how important you are to this project."

Lorraine didn't seem to care. She only sneered and said, "No, thanks. I'm not here to attend your banquet. I'm here to attend the banquet of Universe Group. It's just that both events are being held side by side."