

Chapter 131 Things Have Changed

At last, Loraine's true identity was public knowledge.

Aldo was so happy that he took the opportunity to make a second announcement.

"I declare that from now on, my granddaughter, Loraine Torres, will officially take over Universe Group as co-president. She will join the board and work side by side with Cayson."

This action reduced Cayson's power over the board and company, but he was the first one to applaud Loraine's appointment. Smiling warmly while watching her, he appeared more glad than concerned.

Rowan and Wesley followed suit, applauding Loraine to congratulate her on her appointment.

The entire venue was momentarily filled with cheers and applause.

As it turned out, Loraine hadn't seduced any of these men; they were connected by family and honoring her of their own accord.

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Lorraine's identity would be enough to get her any position of power she wanted. She didn't need the support of men.

Despite her solid background, Lorraine had chosen to start her career as a humble employee. Not only had she succeeded, but she had also proven her excellence and independence.

The applause from the crowd intensified as everyone expressed their heartfelt congratulations to Lorraine.

After making his declaration, Aldo led Lorraine off the stage.

Marco and Liza approached him immediately.

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Keely watched from afar, her face darkening. She hated Loraine to the core!

Loraine suddenly became the Torres family's heir. It hurt Keely's pride in her own nobility.

Keely found it hard to swallow such a bitter pill. Following Marco and Liza, she hijacked the conversation and addressed Loraine first.

"Loraine, what a surprise! You're actually a member of the Torres family. Why ever did you lie to Marco and his family?"

With a sorrowful expression, Keely tried her best to stir up trouble.

Aldo couldn't stand Keely's hypocrisy. "What gives you the right to speak here?"

Stunned, Keely turned to face Marco, her eyes full of tears.

Marco ignored her.

Through gritted teeth, Keely said, "Mr. Torres, I'm from the Haywood family. You're being rude. Did Loraine say something bad about me?"

Keely intended to keep up the charade, but Loraine never gave her the chance.

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She called over the guards. "Take this woman away," she ordered, pointing at Keely.

The guards carried out her order without delay.

Foreseeing her unpleasant future, Keely panicked. "What gives you the right to throw me out?"

Amused, Loraine replied, "This is a Torres family event. So you tell me; do I have the right to kick someone out?"

It suddenly dawned on Keely that Loraine was no longer the humble figure she used to bully.

All she could do was appeal to the Bryant family for help.

"Marco, Mrs. Bryant, please, help me!"

But Marco didn't give a shit. He didn't even look at her.

Keely was the one who tried to cause trouble. Why would he clean up her mess?

Since the castle's collapse, Liza had given up on Keely, and was therefore no longer on her side.

Following in the footsteps of Laura and Marina, Keely was thrown out of the banquet hall in disgrace.

Marco's indifference to the Keely episode left Loraine somewhat confused. She cast a curious glance at his face. She had anticipated some pushback, but he hadn't done anything to stop her.

How odd! Since when did Marco harbor such apathy for Keely?

After the departure of the troublemakers, Liza finally began her speech.

"Loraine, you and Marco were married for three years. How could you keep this from us the whole time? Why didn't you tell us that you were from the Torres family? Didn't you trust us?"

Liza was full of remorse, but she wasn't willing to compromise her dignity. Instead, she acted like a victim who had been cheated, complaining about Loraine's dishonesty.

Aldo was shocked. "Trust you? Lorrie suffered far too much over her three years of marriage. You knew that better than anyone, didn't you? And do you think that I know nothing of what is going on online? You should clear the air and apologize to Lorrie!"

Liza was embarrassed but still refused to swallow her pride. "Aldo, that's too much to ask. There weren't any losses on your end, were there? Why

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should I apologize for nothing?"

Loraine sneered. "My ability to survive the cyber-attack is based purely on my identity as a member of the Torres family. But what if I was just a country girl? How could I continue to live after such an attack on my reputation? Did you ever stop to consider that?"

Liza had no response.

Aldo's heart ached as Loraine spoke of her suffering. "Liza, you'd better consider your next move carefully," he threatened. "If you refuse to apologize to Lorrie, I will terminate our cooperation with Bryant Group and cut off all relevant funding. Or are you willing to bear those losses?"

After a moment, Liza finally gave in. "Well, Aldo, I'll ask them to draft a statement on behalf of Bryant Group right away. Don't do anything rash!"

Aldo snorted. He had no intention of helping Liza save face.

The awkwardness of the situation didn't abate, and Liza couldn't stay any longer. She made her excuses and left the dinner early.

"Marco, my chest feels a bit tight. Perhaps it's too noisy here. I think I need to leave."

Loraine looked at her coldly and said in a mocking tone, "You look terrible. You should visit the part of my smart city model that specializes in activities for senior citizens. Perhaps you'll find something to slow down the aging process in your body and mind."

Liza was once again reminded that she almost had Loraine removed from the smart city project.

In the end, she lost not just the project but also a deep-pocketed granddaughter-in-law.

Now, Liza did indeed feel a tightness in her chest. Unable to walk steadily, she required assistance on her way out.

Marco was the last person left in the banquet hall who represented the Bryant family.

However, he didn't intend to leave. Instead, he stepped forward and spoke to Aldo sincerely. "Mr. Torres, may I have a word with Loraine in private?"

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"What else do you want to say?" Though he was highly impatient with Marco, Aldo still looked at Loraine. "Lorrie, if you don't want to see him, just tell me. I'll ask them to throw him out!"

Aldo was very eager to do just that. All he needed was the word from his granddaughter.

After a long silence, Loraine finally made up her mind and let go of Aldo's hand.

"Grandpa, I'd better make certain things clear to him right now. I'll be back soon."

Since this was what his granddaughter wanted, Aldo nodded reluctantly and didn't say anything.

But when he noticed how calm and expressionless Loraine's face was, Aldo knew that his granddaughter had let go of whatever feelings she had for Marco.

"I'll keep an eye on you. Don't play any tricks," he warned Marco before finally letting Loraine go.

Then they walked out to the balcony side by side.

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Marco seemed to have his mind occupied with thoughts, but Loraine was calm and relaxed.

It was night and the balcony was brightly lit. The cool night wind blew on them, bringing a trace of coldness and making them a little sober.

Marco turned around and stared intently at Loraine. Half of his face was hidden in the shadows, so she couldn't see his expression clearly.

"You hid your true identity from me during our three-year marriage. Though you never lacked money, you still agreed to sign the prenuptial agreement and get married to me. Loraine, why did you marry me at that time?"

Since the moment Marco found out about Loraine's true identity, he had been utterly confused.

He had thought that Loraine chose to marry him because of his money or status, so he felt they had had a loveless marriage for three years. But now that he knew that she had never lacked anything, he kept asking himself why she married him.

His mind was in a mess. He could only think of one possibility, but he dared not dig deeper.

All he wanted right now was an answer from Loraine.

Loraine looked up at Marco, the man she once loved with all her heart.

He had not changed at all. He was still handsome, cold, elegant, and noble. He could charm countless women effortlessly.

But she had changed. She was no longer the one whose whole world was built around Marco.

"Marco, do you think I had ulterior motives?" Loraine scoffed. "Don't worry. I had no intention of getting anything from your family. Back then, I was so stupid that I thought you would fall in love with me as long as I gave you all my love. Now, it seems that it was all just wishful thinking."

When Marco heard Loraine admitting that she had loved him, his heart suddenly stopped, and when it resumed beating again, it was pounding heavily and he could practically hear it in his ears.

Loraine had loved him!

She had loved him!

The memories of the past flashed through his mind. Marco tried to find evidence of Loraine's love for him, but he could only recall his indifference and neglect toward her.

At this moment, Marco suddenly realized what he

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had missed in the past three years.

He had missed true love that was more precious than any gem in the world.

A strong sense of panic spread across his heart and he quickly said, "I'm sorry. I was wrong back then. Whatever you want, I'll make it up to—"

Loraine stopped him before he could finish the statement. "You can't. A late apology is nothing but rubbish. After you ignored and hurt me again and again for Keely, I stopped expecting any love from you. Our relationship has been over for a long time and it will always remain so."

"No, the relationship between me and her is not what you think..." Marco was explaining eagerly, but before he could finish speaking, his phone rang.

Without even looking at it, Marco declined the call. But almost immediately, the phone started ringing again. It looked as if the person wouldn't stop calling if he didn't answer it.

"Answer it," Loraine said calmly.

Marco frowned and reluctantly answered the phone.

"Mr. Bryant! Miss Haywood just fainted outside the

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hall!"

Carl's voice was so loud over the phone that even Loraine could hear him clearly.

"Same trick again. Keely doesn't even try to come up with new ones. She is either injured or sick. And it always happens at a peculiar time," she said in a sarcastic tone.

It had been three years since she first started, but the way Keely fought for a man had never changed.

Loraine was fed up with it.

When listening to what Loraine said, Marco was stunned. Keely passed out at such a crucial time.

He was still turning the matter over in his head when Carl exclaimed again, "Oh, no. Mr. Bryant, her doctor said she had a heart attack again and her heart stopped beating!"

Marco's face darkened.

With all these stunts Keely had been pulling, he was totally disappointed in her.

But then, he had promised Jorge to take good care of her. He couldn't just watch her die.

Marco clenched his phone tightly in one hand and said in a hoarse voice, "Loraine, I'm sorry. I have to

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go there..."

Lorraine knew this was what he would do.

She was not surprised at all. She looked at him coldly for a moment and then said, "Get out of here."

With that, she turned around and stormed off without looking back.

But she had hardly taken more than a few steps when a large hand grabbed her tightly and pulled her back with great strength.

He spoke to her in a low voice. "Lorraine, please it's not what you think. I swear, I will explain to you. Just wait for me."