

Chapter 146 Take Over The Company

The storm had finally passed and peace had returned.

Since Aldo had appointed Loraine as the president of Universe Group, she and Cayson attended the shareholders' meeting together.

The conference room was filled with shareholders and senior executives of the group.

Cayson pushed Loraine to the front and introduced her. "Everyone, here's Loraine Torres. She is now the joint president of Universe Group. She will preside over today's meeting."

There were a few applause from the people present. It was quite obvious that the welcome was not a sincere one.

Some of the people who were present at this meeting were those who had been in the company for more than ten years. They were naturally not happy that someone new had come out of nowhere and was going to be on top of them.

As expected, one of them soon raised an objection.

A middle-aged man looked at Loraine contemptuously and said, "Miss Torres, don't you think you are too

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young to be the president?"

Cayson couldn't tolerate someone looking down on Loraine. He retorted immediately, "There is no need to worry. It's obvious to everyone that Loraine has made great contributions to the architectural design department. She is qualified to be the president."

"I don't think so. Miss Torres only worked on project design in the past and doesn't have much experience in managing a company. Since she is already the director of a department, it's better for her to be promoted slowly from her current position."

"Yes, Miss Torres is still young. She should focus on her own work and earn steady promotion," another person echoed.

Soon, the meeting room was filled with all sorts of doubts being expressed about Loraine's abilities.

Loraine glanced at them and said nothing. She knew what they were thinking.

They just wanted to prevent her, the heir, from taking control of the company and dividing their interests. They wanted to keep being the only ones in charge.

Unfortunately for them, it would no longer be business as usual now that she was here.

"Why are you all so excited? Do you really think I'm not qualified for the position, or are you just afraid that I'll do something about your profits?" Loraine had

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hit their nerve straight up, without beating around the bush.

"How could you say that? We're saying this for the company's good. Universe Group was built by all of us here with your grandfather and father at the head of it. It was all a result of our joint efforts. You can't question that!" a half bald shareholder retorted loudly.

Others immediately concurred.

"You built up the company? Let's talk about what you've done for the company." Loraine sneered.

Then she began to list out all the problems of various departments in the company.

She talked about the engineering equipment, building materials, interior decoration, furniture, real estate development, road construction, and mineral resources trade...

With every word Loraine said, the expressions of all the shareholders and executives present changed more and more.

They were all shocked. Though Loraine was only the director of the architectural design department, her understanding of the whole company was beyond everyone's imagination.

Apparently, she was not just a simple designer. From what she was saying, it was clear that she had looked into every nook and cranny of the company's affairs

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and had investigated all the employees in various departments.

She was so frighteningly accurate with her claims and figures!

Calmly, Loraine listed out all the little tricks that they had used to take advantage of the company.

At this point, no one dared to look down on this young and beautiful female heir anymore.

When Loraine finished speaking, the whole room was in absolute silence. She was very satisfied with the effect of her well planned strike.

But Faustino Tice, the director of the research and development department, was still not convinced and muttered in a low voice, "Who knows where all of this information came from? I doubt she investigated any of it by herself."

In the silence, his voice was easily heard. Clearly, he had said it deliberately so everyone would hear.

In response, Loraine asked him, "Mr. Tice, I happen to have some questions for you. What is the reason for your department taking so much money from the company every year? Yet, we are outpaced by Bryant Group every year in research and development. If our technology was good, we would not have needed to partner with Bryant Group on the smart city project at all."

Faustino's face darkened in anger. He felt insulted by such criticism from someone who was younger than he was.

"The research and development of new technology are not done in a short time. It's not my fault that we haven't made any breakthroughs! And Loraine, remember that I'm your senior. Learn to talk politely!"

Looking at Faustino's arrogant and pompous face, Loraine frowned in displeasure.

As a matter of fact, Faustino was actually close to her family.

Due to his friendship with her late father, he was very domineering in the company.

Considering the complicated internal affairs of the company, Aldo gave Faustino all the powers and privileges he wanted to ensure the proper management of the group.

Therefore, Faustino became more and more presumptuous. He even looked down on the CEO, Cayson. He thought that Cayson was just an outsider and had no right to control him.

But Loraine was determined not to tolerate such kind of rubbish.

"It doesn't matter who you are. You're not welcome here if you're not good at your job. Universe Group will no longer hire idle and incompetent people!"

Chapter 147 Punish As A Warning To Others

"Lorraine, you've gone too far! Just wait and see. I'll tell Aldo to put you in your place!"

Faustino was so angry that his beard was vibrating. Immediately, he placed a call to Aldo and reported the current situation to him.

But when he finished speaking, he was surprised to hear Aldo sounding very happy. "What's wrong? Lorrie did a good job, didn't she?"

Faustino was dumbfounded.

"Mr. Torres, I've been working for our company for many years! Lorraine only recently began to work here, but she is so arrogant and even wants to fire me! I'm an experienced employee in the company. How can this be allowed to happen?"

But Aldo only responded in an indifferent voice, "Lorrie is the heir I selected to run the company, and I support any decision she deems it fit to take."

With that, he hung up.

The phone had been on speaker, so everyone in the conference room had heard the conversation.

It was now known to everyone that Aldo had supported Loraine's decision to fire Faustino.

Standing awkwardly, Faustino remained stunned for a while and didn't know what to do. His face was pale and cold sweat broke out on his forehead.

Without support from Aldo, Faustino had no choice but to change his attitude and looked at Loraine in a fawning manner.

"Miss Torres, it's true that I haven't done well in the past. I'll devote myself wholeheartedly to the company in the future and lead the research and development department to greater heights!"

Faustino thought he could fool her by using sweet words and bogus promises as usual.

But unfortunately for him, Loraine was not interested in giving him another chance.

"You don't have a future in Universe Group. Pack up and leave now."

"Loraine Torres! I've been working in Universe Group for so many years. How can you drive me away just like that?" Faustino was exasperated. "When your father was alive, we were best of friends. Now that your father is no longer with us, you've turned on me immediately after taking charge."

Other executives who had also been working for the company for many years now began to plead on

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Faustino's behalf.

In response, Loraine threw a pile of documents down on the table in front of them.

The documents contained evidence of Faustino's embezzlement of the company's funds.

"For the sake of your relationship with my father, I wanted to show you some mercy. But you're insatiable and wants to continue taking advantage of the company. You can't blame me for being merciless to you! Did you really think I couldn't find out how much money you've embezzled from Universe Group all these years?"

Faustino's face turned pale as he looked at the documents. He quickly tried to defend himself. "I didn't! Miss Torres, please let me explain. I..."

But Loraine raised her hand to stop him. "You can explain it to the police."

"What? You even called the police?" Faustino was so shocked and scared that he staggered and fell on the floor.

Loraine quickly signaled to the bodyguards and they rushed in and took Faustino away. All he could do now was wait for the police to take him to the station.

Loraine fired Faustino as a warning to the others. And everyone got the message.

They all saw how Faustino was dragged away. It was a clear signal that no one should dare to look down on the new president of the group.

Throughout the rest of the meeting, everyone behaved properly and Loraine finished the handover smoothly.

After the meeting, Cayson went over to meet her in private.

"Lorrie, are you okay? Did you get hurt in the car accident?" he asked anxiously.

Loraine shook her head. "No, Cayson. Don't worry, I'm not hurt. Don't tell my family anything about this. I don't want them to worry about me."

"Okay, I won't," Cayson promised. "By the way, what you asked to be arranged has been settled. I promise that we won't let Marina and Keely get away with it."

"Thank you, Cayson," Loraine said sincerely.

But Cayson felt disappointed. What he wanted from her was not gratitude. What he wanted was to develop a much closer relationship with her.

"You don't have to thank me." After a brief pause, Cayson added, "Lorrie, your car was damaged, wasn't it? You can use my car from now on. Better still, I'll pick you up to and from work."

"No, thank you, Cayson. I don't want to trouble you," Loraine said with a prim smile. She didn't want to be

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too indebted to Cayson.

But Cayson was not going to give it up so easily. Just when he was about to press her to accept his offer, Loraine's phone rang.

She looked at the screen and saw that it was a call from Jennie.

She quickly signed for Cayson to stay silent before she tapped answer.

"Lorrie! Have you seen the trending topic today? It's so nice to see that Marina has gotten herself arrested!"

Jennie sounded so happy and ecstatic at the other end of the line.

Apparently, Marco had not covered up for his sister, so there was no need for Lorraine to deal with her anymore.

"Good. She deserves it. She has done so many bad things. It's only fair that she pays for it," Lorraine said, nodding in satisfaction.

"Exactly, but it's a pity that Keely is not there too. It would have been a lot nicer if both of them had been arrested together!" Jennie said, anger and disappointment in her voice.

Lorraine smiled knowingly and said, "Jennie, don't worry. It's not over yet. Let's just wait and see."

"Really?" Jennie asked, her voice suddenly peaking up

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in excitement. "Lorrie, tell me, what are you planning
to do?"

Lorraine chuckled. "Marina and Keely are fond of
framing me, aren't they? Then, I'll just let them
experience the feeling of being framed."

Meanwhile, Keely had been sent abroad.

But she never failed to keep abreast of the news back
home.

When she saw the trending news online, she
immediately realized that Marina's plan had failed.

"That idiot! How could she fail? I arranged everything!
Lorraine's whereabouts and the people who would
deal with her were all provided. After all I did, how did
she manage to screw up everything?"

Keely was so angry that she vented her anger on
anything around her. She didn't become calm until she
smashed everything in sight.

All her plans had been ruined! What was left to be
done was nothing but damage control. She had to
cover up the details of the car accident as soon as
possible to avoid getting caught too.

Immediately, she decided to contact the people she
had hired to arrange the car accident and ask them to
cover up the traces.

But unfortunately, no one answered. No matter how

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hard she tried, she couldn't get in touch with them.



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Chapter 148 Both Of Them Were Caught

Since Keely couldn't get in touch with the person that had done the job for her, it was a sign of impending doom. As a result, she was unable to enjoy herself at the party which was being held by her acquaintances studying abroad.

It didn't take long before those at the party noticed that there was something wrong with Keely, and they became very concerned about her.

"Are you alright, Keely?"

"I don't think there's anything wrong with her. She's probably just missing Marco!"

Someone joked about the relationship between Keely and Marco, and everyone burst into laughter.

Apparently, the news that had Keely so worried had not yet gotten abroad.

So, for them, Keely was still the weak and ailing woman loved and cherished by the CEO of Bryant Group. As a result, she continued to enjoy the attention that came with it.

But, still, whenever they talked about Marco, it was impossible for them to avoid mentioning Loraine.

"How is Marco's wife from the countryside nowadays?" someone suddenly asked.

Keely suppressed the uneasiness in her heart and sneered, "Do you mean Loraine? Marco has divorced her. A woman like her doesn't deserve him at all. After the divorce, she has been having affairs with many men and can barely live a normal life."

Since they were not aware of the latest news, Keely could boldly spread false rumors about Loraine.

She was very happy to see the contemptuous look on their faces as she talked about Loraine.

All of a sudden, there was the sound of police sirens outside.

At first, Keely didn't take it seriously until the police entered the venue of the party and shouted at the crowd, "Who here is Keely Haywood?"

All eyes immediately turned to Keely, making it very easy for the police to see where she was in an instant.

One of the policemen took out his handcuffs and marched up to her. "You're Keely Haywood, right? Come with us to the police station."

Keely was dumbfounded. She subconsciously took a step back and said in panic, "You've got the wrong person. I'm a member of the Haywood family. How could I have committed a crime?"

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The policeman frowned at her, "No, ma'am, we are sure it's you, Keely Haywood. Someone has accused you of murder by contract."

Clearly, Loraine had found out that she had something to do with the accident. What would she do now?

Seeing that the issue had already been exposed, Keely felt like there was no way out. She was scared out of her wits, and in a last gasp attempt at declaring her innocence, she shouted, "No, I didn't do it! That bitch, Loraine, must be the one framing me!"

The policeman's eyes narrowed and he said, "We haven't even told you anything about the accuser or the victim yet. How did you know it has something to do with Loraine Torres?"

"I... Well, I..." Keely stuttered helplessly. "She has a grudge against me. Loraine hates me very much. If anyone is framing me for murder by contract, it has to be her!"

The policeman looked at her coldly and said, "Marco Bryant provided us with the relevant evidence and accused you of contracting a killer to murder Loraine Torres. You thought you could get away with it, eh?"

What? How could it be Marco?

Keely was so shocked that she nearly fainted.

She now realized that Marco would no longer be kind to her again. He had warned her that he wouldn't

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tolerate her anymore. And the moment Marco stopped caring about her, she was dead sure that Loraine would deal with her ruthlessly.

Keely was so scared that she was practically shivering. She could not dare to imagine what would happen to her in the future.

"Really? She wanted to kill Loraine?"

"Oh my God! You can't judge a person by their appearance or their words!"

"Wait a minute. The police said that it was Marco who provided the evidence. In other words, Keely has been lying to us all this while. Marco doesn't love her at all!"

Hearing people in the crowd talking about her in this manner, Keely couldn't help but hang her head in shame as she was handcuffed by the police and taken away.

But the moment they stepped out of the venue, a group of journalists appeared all of a sudden and began taking photos of Keely.

The lights were flashing so brightly and endlessly that Keely found it difficult to keep her eyes open. She hurriedly raised her hands to cover her face, but this action only exposed the handcuffs on her wrists.

The news that both Marina and Keely had been locked up soon spread far and wide.

Keely was Marco's rumored girlfriend, and Marina was Marco's sister. The news was beginning to look like a huge blow to Bryant Group.

In just a few days, the stock price of Bryant Group had fallen sharply, forcing Marco to hold a meeting to discuss ways to stabilize the situation.

At the meeting, amidst the doubts and questions on the faces of the stockholders, Marco set out a proposal which he termed A Complete Reorganization of Bryant Group.

According to his proposal, in the next year, Bryant Group would work heavily on the upgrading of existing technology and the development of new ones. Once it succeeded, the group would be several steps ahead of other companies in the industry and the potential benefits of this were beyond imagination.

It was a proposal with sound data, clear planning and reliable analyses. At the end, what convinced all the shareholders was the enormous estimated profit.

After the meeting, Marco was the first to leave the conference room.

Throughout the meeting, he had maintained absolute calm and straightforwardness. Even though there were many questions, he addressed them calmly and outlined solutions for every problem raised.

When he was gone, the shareholders gathered together to talk about the just concluded meeting.

"It's a great honor to have such a young and excellent leader. The future of Bryant Group is very bright!"

"No one can deny it. Marco is so excellent. If it weren't for him, this business empire would have gone bankrupt."

"It's a pity that he was bothered so much by the Bryant family. He married a wife whose fortune is worth billions of dollars, but his family pushed him to divorce her."

Marco had since gone far out of earshot, so he had not the least idea what was being said about him.

At the moment, he was listening to a report from Carl.

"Mr. Bryant, your family has been calling. Your mother was crying on the phone and begging for you to save your sister. Otherwise, she would kill herself." Carl cleared his throat. "Also, the Haywood family called and pleaded that you should let Keely Haywood go. What do you want us to do about them?"

"Ignore all of them," Marco scoffed. "They created the trouble themselves and now, they want me to save them. They're just wasting their time."