

## Chapter 367 Getting Drunk

The airport reconstruction was a massive project even for big companies like Bryant Group and Universe Group.

But since Klein had given the green light, Brady couldn't kick against it. He said, "I'll lend a hand in reporting the situation to the government."

If an official like Brady vouched for them, there'd be no skin off their nose. Klein took the lead in toasting and raising his glass in celebration.

He had thought that he was just there to make up the numbers. However, it was the biggest score for him to curry favor with Hubert.

He didn't expect to strike it lucky and win such a big project. He believed he would move up the ladder soon.

With a big grin on his flushed face, he said happily, "Regardless of the rank tonight, let's party like regular buddies. Cheers! Let's hit the bottle!"

Excited that she could design the airport, Loraine was over the moon and didn't decline the offer.

Klein called the waiter and ordered two bottles of expensive red wine.

After the wine was brought, Klein poured it for everyone.

Loraine's eyes lit up with excitement. She downed it swiftly and poured another glass to toast with him.

Seeing this, Marco frowned and tried to stop her.

Loraine noticed and gave him a charming smile. "Do you want to join in the fun?"

She then held the glass close to Marco. However, she pulled it away with a smile when he reached for it.

Loraine faked a serious face and said, "No! You're still on the medication. You can't drink yet!"

Marco couldn't help but adore the sight of Loraine's smile.

This made Klein, who wanted to toast with Marco, a little embarrassed. He didn't know whether to drink or not.

Loraine took the glass and downed it. "I drank it for him. Is that okay?"

Klein glanced at Marco and nodded. After that, he chuckled and turned to the next person.

Marco's expression darkened. However, when he looked at Loraine's smile, he couldn't help but smile fondly.

Except Marco who was not drinking, the others were relaxed and in good spirits.

Loraine's eyes were bright, and her face was flushed. No one had paid attention to how much she had drunk.

She stood up to get the wine before Marco, since the bottle in front of her was empty.

Her slender body swayed slightly, and she almost stumbled into Marco.

As if seeking support, Loraine leaned on his body. Marco

could feel her warm breath sending a shiver down his spine. She said hoarsely, "Well, I can't reach..."

She was like a tipsy cat.

He bit his lip. His eyes were intense and glowing. His heart started racing rapidly.

He tensed up and relaxed his fingers, trying to restrain the impulse to embrace Loraine. "Loraine?"

However, she mumbled incoherently. Marco sighed and reached out to grab the wine for her.

He unexpectedly touched Loraine's hand on the table.

His palm was against the back of her hand. The warm touch made him slightly startled.

To his amazement, Loraine didn't resist his touch.

Marco's heart raced rapidly. He couldn't help but draw closer to Loraine feeling the urge to hold her.

Loraine raised her head, her eyes damp and dazed, and her cheeks had a crimson hue. She seemed utterly inebriated. "Don't disturb me drinking..."

Marco was taken aback. It turned out that she was drunk.

He thought she could hold her alcohol. That was why he didn't stop her. However, he didn't expect her to be so lightweight.

He had mixed feelings of this situation.

But on second thought, Mr. T was her uncle. With his influence, Loraine learned how to taste and judge wine.

However, she could not handle her drinks well.

Since Loraine couldn't handle too much alcohol, Marco stopped her from drinking anymore. He held her in his arms and said, "I think you've had enough. Stop drinking, okay?"

Hubert, who was drinking with Klein, turned around and saw Marco holding Loraine. Shocked, he stood up and yelled, "Marco, what are you doing? Stop holding her!"

However, Marco didn't let go of her. Instead, he patted her back and said, "She's drunk. I'm stopping her from drinking anymore."

Hubert was doubtful. Suddenly, Loraine raised her hand and muttered, "Wine! Give me wine!"

Her words confirmed to Hubert that Marco was telling the truth.

Embarrassed, Hubert apologized, "I am sorry. I misunderstood."

Marco ignored his apology and said, "Please call a taxi and send Loraine back first."

Hubert immediately nodded his head. On the other hand, Brady and Klein wisely excused themselves and went to pay the bill.

The room was quiet except for Loraine's murmurs and Marco's heavy breathing.

Marco wanted to get up, but the woman he was holding grew restless. She put her hands on him and shouted, "I'm thirsty! I want wine!"

Marco couldn't handle it anymore and carefully cradled her head and guided the glass of water to her lips.

Thinking it was wine, Loraine took a sip. After that, she fell into silence for a while.

As soon as Marco thought she had calmed down, she suddenly sat up, held his shoulders, leaned over, and kissed him.

Marco was dumbfounded. Did she know what she was doing?



## Chapter 368 Desire

Marco's eyes widened in surprise as he sat frozen in place.

The soft touch from Loraine's lips was like a dream, causing him to dare not move a muscle. But just as their lips met, she stopped. She pulled away, a wide smile spreading across her face.

Marco remained still, his eyes fixed on Loraine like a dangerous predator, ready to pounce.

With a flushed face, Loraine chuckled and said, "I'd prefer to drink wine, not water. You can have the water yourself!"

She acted like a kid who had successfully pulled off a trick.

Marco's expression darkened. He spoke to Loraine in a low voice, each word pronounced clearly.

"Loraine Torres, do you know who I am?"

Loraine squinted at him, then felt wronged and scolded, "Of course, I know who you are! Marco Bryant! You're just a jerk who likes to bully me!"

Hearing her call out his name, Marco couldn't resist claspng the back of Loraine's neck and kissing her passionately.

Loraine was momentarily shocked. Her eyes widened slightly and her long lashes quivered before she closed them.

Marco was a patient hunter.

He took his time, slowly prying open Loraine's mouth and savoring the sweetness of alcohol mixed with her breath.

His kiss was aggressive, unlike the playful kiss she had initiated.

When Loraine was out of breath, she could only cling to Marco's shoulders, her eyes red and face flushing from the alcohol.

She weakly pushed him away, sobbing, "Don't..."

However, her drunken state made it impossible for her to push Marco away. Instead, the kiss became even more intense.

Marco didn't break away until he heard footsteps coming from outside.

He looked down at the woman in his arms and narrowed his eyes.

Loraine's lips were red and swollen from the rough kiss, her eyes empty and cheeks blushing.

She clutched onto his clothes, gasping for air.

Marco was tempted to continue. But the footsteps outside brought him back to reality.

He took a deep breath and let go of Loraine.

The door suddenly swung open at that moment.

It was Hubert. Upon seeing Loraine leaning against Marco, he was stunned.

Hubert had been single in the army for many years and, like

Rowan, he was self-disciplined and avoided women.

He sensed the odd atmosphere but didn't think much of it, only concerned that Loraine was too drunk to walk and could hardly stand.

"The car is ready," Hubert said seriously. "Let me send Loraine home. Thank you for taking care of her."

Marco, who had been caring for Loraine for some time, wasn't embarrassed at all. In fact, he held her tightly, showing no signs of letting go.

Hubert scratched his head and gently helped Loraine from Marco's arms.

Loraine was too dizzy to respond and was led away obediently.

Marco held her hand tightly, as if reluctant to part with her.

Hubert shot Marco a confused glance as he helped Loraine out the door.

Marco slowly released his lips and loosened his grip.

He knew that the timing was not right, so he could only watch as Loraine was led away.

Klein, who had followed Hubert into the room, stepped aside and observed the scene before sitting down next to Marco and patting his shoulder

"Well done, Marco. You two looked quite intimate just then. Is there any progress between you and Loraine?"

Marco remained silent, his gaze fixed in the direction that Loraine had gone, his eyes appearing distant.



Klein had to wave his hand in front of Marco several times and called out to him before he snapped out of his daze.

"What's wrong?"

Klein had never seen Marco like this before.

He couldn't help but smile and joke, "Marco, you owe me a big favor now. You'll have to build me an excellent new airport as repayment."

If Klein hadn't taken Hubert away, how would Marco have had the opportunity to make headway with Loraine?

Marco remained silent, his eyes lowered and his gaze dark.

He could still feel Loraine's lips on his as he touched them.

Klein asked curiously, "Did you have any alcohol? Why do you look drunk?"

But Marco was not in the mood to answer. Instead, he was pondering whether Loraine would remember what had happened when she sobered up.

What would she do if she did remember what had happened?



## Chapter 369 Retribution

Though the press conference had come to an end, the issue was not over yet.

It took Marco a while to calm himself after the passionate kiss with Loraine. Now, his expression was completely different as he sent an instant message to Carl:

"Keep an eye on what people are saying about the news conference. If there are any adverse comments about Loraine and Rowan, make sure you get rid of them immediately."

The next day

As expected, the results of the investigation which were released at the press conference soon went viral, and it caused a great uproar in the society.

People were shocked by it.

"Are you kidding me? Rowan is Loraine's uncle?"

"Oh my God! Though I've always known that they have the same surname, I still find this shocking. I never thought that they were actually related to each other!"

"It's ridiculous, but somehow, it seems reasonable and understandable."

Now that the truth had come out, people now realized that the previous rumors about the duo had all been fabricated. It even gave them greater insight which led to even more

discoveries.

"I've always felt that it's ridiculous to judge the relationship between Loraine and Rowan by a single photo of the two. Even if they were not related by blood, is it abnormal for two people to embrace each other and wish each other goodnight?"

"A wonderful ending indeed. Fortunately, the investigation proved that Rowan is innocent and he has even been promoted. So wonderful!"

"Rowan is probably the youngest commander in the history of our country, isn't he? He's so awesome. I've been hearing a lot about his deeds for a long time now. He's truly a self-made man and he has achieved everything a man can hope to achieve."

All across the internet, the most discussed topic was how awesome Rowan was.

His past achievements were soon dug out by some social media users and it soon became viral too.

Those who didn't know him much were amazed by how much he had achieved throughout his life.

"He joined the army at the age of 18 and he took down the leader of a kidnapping gang all by himself on his first mission? That's awesome!"

"Wow. He even led his troops through the rainforest for half a month and successfully captured twenty gang members under such tough conditions. For crying out loud, being in a rainforest for so long... I can't imagine how they survived!"

Left and right, people were praising Rowan's bravery and

toughness as they struggled to imagine how difficult his missions in the military were.

No one even thought of questioning whether Rowan had reached his position in the military with the support of the Torres family.

Judging from the dangerous and difficult tasks he had completed, it was clear that he was absolutely qualified to attain the rank he attained.

But Rowan was not the only one who had achieved a lot of great things. Wesley, too, was a famous artist under the name, Mr. T. Apart from that, when Loraine first started working at Universe Group, she was an ordinary clerk.

"This family is really something. Look at all these outstanding individuals. They already have such a powerful family behind them, but they chose to rely on themselves."

"You can say that again! Loraine and her uncles are all famous in their own chosen fields. Isn't that fantastic? I just love how Aldo has been so good at raising his children and grandchildren."

As the social media spotlight turned to Aldo and his excellent parenting skills, some old stories about the Torres family began to come to the surface.

"If Loraine's father was still alive, I'm sure he would have been very outstanding too."

"My family has been in this industry for many years. I heard from my parents that Loraine's father was a very excellent person when he was alive."

Everyone knew that Loraine's father had passed away over a decade ago, and people only had good things to say about



him. But soon, the attention finally shifted to the Bryant family, and people started mocking them for losing Loraine.

"I always wonder how the Bryant family feels. It's so hilarious, you know. Just imagine how they forced her out."

Usually, whenever such a topic was being discussed online, Marco was always blamed. But this time, people were speaking up for him.

"It's not Marco's fault. It's all the fault of his family. Marco has been good to Loraine nowadays. Both of them have achieved quite a lot together."

"The two of them seem to be really close recently. Marco is acting so clingy. Maybe they'll get back together soon."

"I'm afraid that will be a bit difficult. Marco's wicked mother and sister are still there. I'm sure they'll not be happy to see Loraine and Marco back together."

Speaking of Laura, the woman was currently being investigated and interrogated.

"Laura Bryant, are you by any means involved in the crimes that Ashton committed?" Brady asked her.

Laura quickly shook her head in denial with a blank expression on her messy face.

"No? Then how do you explain these transfer records?" Brady asked and slammed the bank records down on the table. "Didn't you receive these from Ashton? If you're honest with us, you might get a lesser sentence. But if you refuse to cooperate with us, the consequences will be severe."

When Laura saw the irrefutable evidence, she trembled.



But still, she refused to admit it. "No, no, that's not me! Yes, it's Ashton. He has been pursuing and harassing me. But I have nothing to do with him!"

Despite Brady's best efforts, Laura refused to budge in any way.

According to her, she had only known Ashton for a few days and had no idea what he had been up to.

Since the evidence was clear, Brady declared her guilty of libel and she was charged a heavy fine.

After posting bail, Laura was finally released from custody.

When she came home, she felt completely exhausted. She slumped down on the sofa and called for a maid to attend to her.

But she had hardly settled down on the sofa when she was slapped hard.

Laura screamed in pain and anger. "Who's that? Who dared to hit me?"



## Chapter 370 The Secret

Laura lifted her head with a confrontational expression, only to be met with Liza's somber countenance.

Feeling taken aback, Laura lowered her head with a guilty conscience.

Liza maintained a serious demeanor and asked coldly, "Laura, how do you have the nerve to return?"

A newspaper suddenly struck Laura's face, causing a small cut from its sharp edge.

Though Laura felt enraged, she refrained from speaking out. Instead, she picked up the newspaper and saw that the front-page headline was about Rowan's promotion.

"You promised that Rowan would be brought down. But what happened? He not only got promoted but also revealed to be Loraine's uncle, causing Universe Group's stocks to skyrocket!"

As Liza spoke, her anger grew, causing her to repeatedly strike her cane on the floor.

"And all of this is because of you, you fool! Bryant Group didn't gain anything and even suffered losses!"

Laura's face paled, and she quickly defended herself. "How can you blame me? I didn't know Rowan was Loraine's uncle. I did everything intending to benefit our family!"

Liza let out a snort and remained silent.



Laura pressed on, attempting to justify herself. "Furthermore, it's not our fault that the Torres family keeps their true identities hidden. They're all crazy! Who would've guessed that Loraine and Rowan were actually uncle and nephew?"

However, Laura's statement only worsened Liza's already furious expression. Liza lifted her cane and tried to hit her.

"Shame on you! You're a curse to Bryant Group!"

Laura yelled and dodged the attack. "Please calm down. After all, isn't Marco on good terms with Loraine? They were even awarded together with Rowan. Even if Bryant Group suffers a bit, it's not that big of a deal!"

Liza's anger intensified. "How dare you say that? It's challenging for Marco to maintain his relationship with Loraine, and you nearly ruined it!"

Laura cowered behind the sofa, protesting, "Don't put all the blame on me. It was you who told Marco to terminate their relationship!"

Liza's rage heightened.

She swung her cane once more, striking Laura with accuracy and force.

Deep down, the elderly woman was frightened and filled with guilt.

She had supported the divorce between Loraine and Marco, causing her to regret her actions.

Later, she believed Laura's words and intervened, pressuring Marco to end the relationship.



Fortunately, Marco was wise and continued with the partnership. Liza glared at Laura, relentlessly chasing her with the cane in hand.

Laura had endured a grueling interrogation for an entire day without food or water, leaving her weak and drained.

Despite her exhaustion, Laura tried to evade the old lady's pursuit, but she eventually grew too tired to run any longer.

Liza showed no mercy, relentlessly hitting Laura as the latter cried out for leniency.

Liza wore a stern expression as she struck Laura even harder.

"You brought this upon yourself! You need to remember to put the family first and prioritize the interests of Bryant Group. If you ever betray us, you now know what will happen!"

Laura was frightened by Liza's words, and she quickly crawled to the old woman's feet to prove her loyalty.

"As a member of the Bryant family, I would never be a traitor!"

Liza narrowed her eyes coldly and asked, "I heard you have some connection with Ashton, the one who was arrested. Is that true?"

Fear radiated Laura's entire body.

"That's just because he came to me for help to take down his opponent, Rowan. I've been cleared by the investigation team. Would they have let me go if I had something to do with him?"

Liza glared at her and scoffed, "I don't think you have the guts to do that!"

Just as Laura breathed a sigh of relief, Liza said slowly, "Remember, Marco isn't your flesh and blood. If you keep doing this, I'll spill the beans. Let's see how long he'll put up with you!"

Laura's blood ran cold.

She couldn't even look Marco in the eye now. He would show her no mercy if he found out she wasn't his real mother!

Suddenly, a loud thud echoed from the door.

It caused both women to jump out of their skins and stare at the door in apprehension.

