

Chapter 408 Unveiling Betrayal

Reynolds and Duran exchanged nervous glances, indicating their growing unease.

Had Loraine discovered something?

Reynolds remained calmer than Duran. He gave Duran a meaningful look.

After getting the hint, Duran put on a facade of composure as he glanced at Loraine. He asked, "What do you mean by that? You may not be aware of my significant contributions to the company, but Aldo is well aware!"

Loraine sneered upon hearing this. Did he still think he could intimidate her with her grandfather?

Without responding, she turned on the meeting room's projection.

Within seconds, a document appeared on the screen.

Duran's expression changed, Reynolds became breathless, and the other directors began whispering among themselves.

"You must be familiar with this document, correct?" Loraine asked.

"What's the issue?"

"Yes, but it's intriguing that I received this document from Hurley. Only you two and I have this information within the company. Duran, do you believe it's just a coincidence?"

Upon hearing this, Duran was gripped by a sense of panic.

How could Loraine have it?

He had only allowed Hurley to take a glance at it during their conversation. How could Hurley have made a copy?

Duran quickly realized that he had underestimated Hurley.

That upstart was more cunning than he appeared to be.

He clenched his teeth in hatred but still pretended to be oblivious.

"Well... Are you insinuating that Reynolds and I are involved? Your words are disappointing. We have dedicated ourselves to Universe Group alongside your grandfather, yet now you doubt our loyalty to the company. Alas!"

Loraine remained unfazed as she observed him. She smiled and replied, "I am not doubting you, but I must solve this matter. Duran, do you happen to know how the information was leaked?"

Duran nervously clenched his fists and looked at Reynolds.

Reynolds lowered his head and feigned ignorance, pretending to be oblivious to the situation.

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Duran gritted his teeth, feigning guilt. "There must be individuals with treacherous intentions involved. Loraine, rest assured. I will diligently investigate and expose their identities, providing you with a satisfactory explanation."

Loraine sneered coldly and said, "There's no need. Since you wouldn't admit it, I will do it for you."

She played a recording, revealing Hurley's voice.

"Duran Thompson approached me and promised to give me this shop..."

The eruption of voices filled the room as all the directors reacted with a loud commotion while Duran's face paled.

Loraine said seriously, "You handed over the information to Hurley and instructed him to defame Jennie and me. Duran, the evidence is undeniable. Do you still intend to deny it?"

Duran's complexion drained of color as he sank into his seat, casting an imploring gaze at Reynolds, desperately seeking help.

When he noticed Duran's pleading gaze, Reynolds suddenly erupted in anger and shouted, "Duran, Loraine has shown you kindness. How could you repay it with ingratitude and harm the company's interests?"

Fear gripped Reynolds, but he also felt fortunate.

Thankfully, he had kept himself hidden throughout, using Duran as a pawn. With the exposure of the situation, Duran would bear the brunt of the blame.

Duran was shocked. Reynolds turned against him

after using him.

In a fit of anger, he shouted back, "Reynolds, you treacherous..."

However, his words got stuck in his throat.

Reynolds shot him a cold, warning glare, silencing him with just a look.

Suddenly, something clicked in Duran's mind. He immediately turned to face Loraine. Suppressing his anger, he said in a low voice, "Lorrie, I lost control of my actions. I never truly intended to harm the company's interests. I am old, and I have dedicated half my life to this company. For the sake of your grandfather, can you find it in your heart to forgive me this time?"


Observing the interaction between the two, Loraine fell into deep thought.

Why didn't Duran dare to betray Reynolds? Did Reynolds have something on Duran?

She couldn't prove Reynolds' involvement for the moment, but she would never let Duran off easily. This time, Duran dared to leak confidential information of the company. If she let him off lightly, who knew what he might do next?

"I'm sorry, Duran. I am not only my grandfather's granddaughter but also the CEO of Universe Group. I won't tolerate anyone who jeopardizes the company's interests!"

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
 +120 Points at most

Upon hearing this, Duran panicked. He yelled, "Lorraine! Don't be ungrateful!"

Jennie sneered and chimed in, "You're the one being ungrateful! Lorrie won't spare you!"

Duran's eyes grew fierce. He suddenly pulled out a pen from his pocket and attacked Lorraine.



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Duran's actions took everyone by surprise.

He removed the cap of his pen and swiftly advanced towards Loraine with its sharp point. Caught off guard, Loraine couldn't evade the attack in time.

Realizing Duran was about to leap at her, Loraine instinctively shut her eyes and turned her head to dodge.

At this critical moment, a figure hurried to her side, embracing her protectively.

The man whisked her away, eluding Duran's assault.

Time seemed to stretch as Loraine gazed up at Marco, her heart racing.

Out of the corner of her eye, Loraine suddenly noticed Duran approaching them for another attempt.

She shouted, "Watch out!"

Marco's reaction was swift and decisive. He tightened his arms around Loraine, swiftly pivoted, and delivered a powerful kick to Duran's chest.

Duran let out a wretched scream as he collapsed to the floor, writhing in pain.

Only a few seconds had elapsed since these events unfolded, leaving everyone in the office utterly shocked.

The group only regained their composure upon hearing Duran's screams.

Instantly, the meeting room erupted into chaos. Some people shrieked in horror, while others shouted for the police to be called.

Jolie appeared pale but maintained her composure. Once she regained her bearings, she promptly summoned the security guards, who carried away Duran, still groaning in agony.

Amid the tumult, Marco clung tightly to Loraine, refusing to let go. His breathing was labored, and his hands trembled slightly.

He lowered his head to peer at Loraine, who remained in a state of shock, and asked anxiously, "Loraine, are you alright? Are you hurt?"

Loraine was still dazed, but she sensed the hand on her waist tightening. Marco held her firmly, to the point where she felt a twinge of pain on her waist.

The pain jolted Loraine back to reality. She struggled and said, "Marco, please let go of me first."

Marco shook his head, displaying a resolute and unwavering demeanor.

It was as if he would lose something precious if he

released his grip on Loraine.

Loraine was at a loss for words. She turned her head and suddenly noticed that everyone in the room was fixated on them.

Jennie also looked at them wearing an amused expression.

A blush suffused Loraine's face. She extended her hand to push Marco away and said softly, "I'm fine. You're hurting me!"

Marco was taken aback and loosened his hold, but his gaze remained fixed on her.

Loraine felt a mix of emotions, torn between being touched and conflicted. "Take it easy. I'm really fine."

Thanks to Marco's swift action, Duran didn't even come close to touching Loraine or her clothes.

However, Loraine couldn't help but wonder if Marco had been keeping a constant eye on her. How else could he have saved her so quickly?

Her feelings were a mix of gratitude and confusion.

Marco scrutinized her from head to toe. Assured that Loraine had not been harmed, the anxiety in his eyes dissipated. He nodded and stood by her side.

Loraine, on the other hand, turned her attention to the others in the room.

A palpable unease settled among the group as their

hearts trembled. They averted their gaze, pretending to be engrossed in other matters.

Those who had previously supported Duran now felt a sense of nervousness, wishing they could become invisible in Loraine's eyes.

Observing their reactions, Loraine sneered and issued a stern warning. "Ladies and gentlemen, remember that Universe Group will not tolerate anyone jeopardizing the company's interests. Regardless of who they may be, there will be no exceptions when it comes to harsh punishment!"

"Certainly, Miss Torres. We will keep that in mind."

Loraine glanced at Reynolds, who pretended to remain composed, and sneered before making her way out of the meeting room.


Marco trailed behind Loraine as they exited the room. Jennie shot Reynolds a glare before following them.

Reynolds gripped the armrest of his chair tightly, his face reflecting a mix of emotions and conflicting thoughts.

Loraine's glare left him feeling uneasy.

The failure of Duran had served as a wake-up call for Reynolds, making him fully recognize that he could no longer underestimate Loraine's abilities.

He now acknowledged that she possessed a level of cunning and resourcefulness that rivaled even the

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most experienced individuals.

Did Loraine uncover something about him?

The more Reynolds pondered, the more anxious he became. Disregarding his pride, he hastily left the meeting room.

Luckily, Loraine and the others hadn't gone far and were waiting for the elevator.

Reynolds smiled and hastily said, "Lorrie, it's lucky that you discovered Duran's actions. I never expected him to do something like this. I'm shocked and deeply disappointed in him!"

In response to his words, Loraine couldn't help but sneer, her voice dripping with skepticism. "Aren't you and Duran so close, practically inseparable? How could you possibly be oblivious to his actions? Do you truly know nothing about this matter?"

"Of course not! Duran never mentioned any of this to me! I am completely dedicated to Universe Group. If I had known anything, I would have been the first to report him. Lorrie, you have to trust me!"

Loraine narrowed her eyes. She knew what kind of person Reynolds was, but his shamelessness still surprised her.

Unfortunately, she didn't have any evidence to expose his true colors at the moment.

After his statement, Reynolds shifted his gaze to

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Marco and continued with a flattering smile, "Marco, it seems you and Loraine have a good relationship. You even attended the shareholders' meetings of Universe Group. The cooperation between our two companies will surely thrive in the future."

Marco cast a cold glance at Reynolds, ignoring his words. He simply stated indifferently, "Excuse me, you're blocking the elevator."