

Chapter 760 Marco's Understanding

Loraine rushed into the scene, her heart pounding with apprehension.

Upon discovering that it was her family's vehicle that had taken Marco away, she sped home with a sense of urgency, almost running a red light in her haste.

While she trusted her grandfather not to harm Marco, she couldn't shake the fear that he might offer Marco a sum of money, mirroring scenes from a movie, or that Marco would heed her grandfather's advice and distance himself from her.

Her confidence in their relationship was unwavering, yet she couldn't help but fear that Marco might feel uncomfortable after hearing those words.

As Loraine approached the simple and unpretentious courtyard of her family's ancestral home, she felt like the path stretched endlessly, despite its brevity.

Breathless and anxious, she opened the door and entered the scene. Marco turned to face her, and a smile of relief graced her face.

Ignoring her unsteady legs, she hurried towards Marco, eager to assist him, but he gently shook his head, indicating she should keep her distance.

Aldo was still present and had expressed numerous concerns about Marco's character. She couldn't disregard Aldo's feelings

and openly show her affection for Marco, which would only exacerbate her grandfather's discomfort.

Understanding Marco's unspoken message, she pouted and turned to Aldo with an expression of grievance. "Grandpa, what are you doing? His leg is still injured. Why did you insist on bringing him here?"

Seeing his granddaughter's arrival, Aldo's spirits lifted. He had begun to see Marco in a more favorable light, but his granddaughter didn't greet him first; instead, she voiced her grievances on Marco's behalf, effectively reprimanding her grandfather.

Aldo, however, couldn't help feeling a pang of jealousy. He had never raised a daughter, and his three sons had found their own ways to anger him.

Finally, he had a thoughtful granddaughter, but as she grew older, she seemed to be more considerate of others.

These feelings of jealousy caused Aldo to immediately adopt a cold demeanor, and he let out an irritated snort. "So what? He has hurt you multiple times. I brought him back to ask him a few questions!"

Without delay, Loraine rushed to Marco's defense as though she was afraid Aldo would devour him. She clung to Marco's side.

Aldo suspected that Loraine had just finished work and gone straight to Marco's place. Did they live together now?

Bristling with annoyance, Aldo directed an indignant glare at Loraine. "If I hadn't brought him here, how long would you have concealed this from me? You've grown up. You got married without telling me in the past. And now, you're secretly living with this man, aren't you?"

Lorraine's conscience weighed heavy on her, and she replied in a hushed voice, "Grandpa, you just had an operation. I was concerned about your health. I wanted to inform you once you were stronger."

Aldo's expression grew even colder as he accused her, "You'll just make me angry when I'm stronger, won't you?"

Lorraine, biting her lip, lowered her head in guilt, understanding that she was in the wrong and therefore refrained from arguing.

Realizing that his words had been too harsh, Aldo sighed and pointed towards Marco. "I just brought him here, and you were so anxious to question me. When I had asked you to return before, you always claimed you didn't have the time. You were more concerned about him than me!"

With her eyes welling up, Lorraine responded softly, "I came to visit you last weekend."

Aldo choked on his own words, remembering the truth behind Lorraine's statement. Still, he persisted in his anger. "It doesn't matter. After all, if this guy can't endure this minor setback, how can he be worthy of you?"

Marco held Lorraine's hand and let out a sigh. "Lorraine, your grandpa isn't being unreasonable. He's right. This is a minor issue compared to what you've endured because of me. I'll be fine."

Lorraine, as if evading a strict schoolteacher, asked in a hushed tone, "Are you really okay?"

Marco also whispered, "I'm fine. Your grandpa loves you and doesn't want to make things difficult for me."

Lorraine nodded with satisfaction.

Although she knew that her grandfather was bad-tempered and tended to be harsh, he did love her a lot.

It was good that Marco agreed with this. He understood that her grandfather didn't mean to give him a hard time.

With their quiet conversation carried out as if no one else was present, Aldo's irritation peaked as he watched their display of affection.

It appeared as though Marco had already captured his precious granddaughter's heart. In the loving gaze that Loraine cast upon Marco, Aldo couldn't help but wonder if all her previous statements, those tearful assurances that she would never be with Marco again, were nothing more than idle words.

Evidently, Loraine had never truly let go of their relationship.

Love remained a mystery to Aldo, even in his old age.

Understanding that separating the couple now would only cause unhappiness for Loraine, the old man relented and grumbled, "Lorrie, this guy has hurt you repeatedly in the past. Do you still want to be with him?"

Chapter 761 Unshakable Determination

Lorraine lifted her gaze to meet Aldo's eyes. The words she longed to say couldn't be expressed with a simple "yes."

In that moment, she realized that her grandpa was growing old.

Regardless of a successful operation, it had taken a toll on him, leaving behind irreversible damage.

He had been able to regale her with stories for hours without tiring, but the brief conversation they'd just had had visibly drained him.

Aldo's eyes were now filled with concern, a stark departure from the stern figure she had always known. She couldn't afford to be willful and focus solely on her own happiness; she had to be considerate of her family's worries.

Lorraine hesitated, then moved towards Aldo and knelt beside him, summoning her most earnest expression. "Grandpa, I know I've caused my family so much concern before. I was reckless and thoughtless, but things are different now."

With unwavering sincerity in her eyes, she continued, "I've made a thoughtful and well-considered decision to be with Marco. I believe he's worthy of my trust for the rest of my life."

The love she felt for Marco was too profound, a sentiment that transcended reason.

She wanted to find a way to persuade Aldo to accept Marco



without causing further rifts in her family.

Aldo's stern expression softened slightly, but he did not give his immediate approval. Instead, he patted Loraine's head and offered a wry smile. "Silly girl, it's because Marco has lost his power and wealth now. He has to rely on you and please you."

Loraine yearned to defend Marco, but before she could, Marco interjected, "Mr. Torres, my attachment to Loraine isn't contingent on my position as the CEO of the Bryant Group. I couldn't live without her for a moment."

Affirming Marco's statement, Loraine gripped Aldo's arm and leaned in closer, continuing to play the part of the doting granddaughter. "Grandpa, don't fret. I have the Universe Group, you, and my uncles who love me. If Marco ever makes me unhappy, you'll stand up for me, right?"

Aldo's mood lightened at her words.

He held great confidence in the might of the Torres family. Even if Marco still held the reins of the Bryant Group, Loraine wouldn't have to fear him with the unwavering support of the Torres family.

Buoyed by this, Loraine added, "Grandpa, you're my source of strength to seek happiness, aren't you?"

Aldo's heart softened when he saw the earnestness in her eyes.

After a lifetime of hard work, what he wanted most was to see Loraine happy. And if she loved Marco, he was willing to give him a chance.

To say the least, even if Marco really didn't treat Loraine well in the future, Loraine still had him and her two uncles to back her up, and the wealth of the Universe Group was her source of confidence.

They should give Loraine the freedom to choose, instead of becoming shackles that limited the possibilities of her future.

Thinking of this, Aldo gently ruffled his granddaughter's hair. When he looked at Marco again, the repulsion in his eyes dissipated a lot.

Honestly speaking, Marco was a humble and polite man. Most importantly, he could love and respect Loraine.

Finally, Aldo smiled and sighed. He said, "I'm old and I don't know how many years I can live. What I want most is to see Lorrie happy. Since Lorrie loves you, I'm willing to give you a chance."

Marco's eyes shone with hope, and Aldo grumbled, "But should you ever make Loraine unhappy in the future, I'll never let you off the hook!"

Marco responded earnestly, "Mr. Torres, rest assured, I'll protect Loraine and ensure her happiness. She is not only the gem of the Torres family, but also my priceless treasure, the true love of my life. I will protect her well and make her happy!"

Loraine, nestled in Aldo's arms, felt a mix of emotions – moved by Marco's unwavering determination and her grandfather's acceptance. She spoke earnestly. "Grandpa, you'll always be with me, and you'll see me happy."

Aldo's face brightened with a warm smile, and he became more affectionate and gentle. While he didn't respond to the promise of accompanying Loraine forever, he waved his hand and said, "Well then, Marco, you can stay in the Torres family's home. Your shabby apartment doesn't match Lorrie."

Marco stifled a cough, feeling slightly embarrassed. If he had known Aldo would inspect his residence, he wouldn't have

bought such a modest apartment.

Loraine blushed, realizing that Aldo was aware that they were living together.

Seeing their discomfort, Aldo chuckled and gestured for them to return to their rooms.

Once they had left, Aldo snorted and issued a final command, "Now, show yourselves!"

At that moment, two men emerged dejectedly from behind the ebony screen. They lowered their heads and dared not speak, for they were Loraine's two uncles.

Aldo rolled his eyes at his sons and remarked, "I had hoped to give Marco a hard time, but you guys made trouble behind my back!"

Chapter 762 Avenging

In the current scene, even the two prominent figures, the rebellious famous artist and the stoic military officer, found themselves chastened and listening like contrite schoolboys.

Rowan directed reproachful eyes at Wesley, sensing that it was Wesley's reckless words that inevitably drew him into this situation.

Wesley, however, responded with an amused roll of his eyes.

Aldo, unlike his earlier interaction with Loraine, had little patience for the two brothers. His once-tolerant expression darkened as he impatiently tapped his crutch on the floor.

The moment the tapping of the crutch resounded, the two brothers instantly straightened their postures, keenly aware of Aldo's discontent.

Wesley, appearing genuinely earnest, addressed his father, "Dad, we just heard Marco out. He's a remarkable man, disciplined, and exceptionally good to Lorrie. I stand by my promise... What do you think?"

The promise Wesley referred to was the one he'd made to Marco while he was in the hospital. Now, he wholeheartedly believed that Marco was worthy of Loraine.

Rowan chimed in, "We've conducted some investigations. Marco was injured while protecting Lorrie in the countryside. Lorrie's stubborn, she didn't want us to worry or divulge the details. Having Marco by her side has put our minds at ease."

Aldo, deep in thought, eventually nodded. "It seems he's deserving, then."

Even though Marco had sustained the injury saving his beloved granddaughter, Aldo had initially blamed Marco for the impairment. Now, he was experiencing a slight tinge of regret. He added, "Arrange for the best doctor to treat Marco's leg. The Torres family owes him this favor."

Rowan nodded, ready to take care of the arrangements. However, Aldo called him back, wearing a quizzical expression. He questioned his two sons. "Did Marco genuinely sever ties with the Bryant family?"

Rowan supplied the information. "Our investigation suggests that Marco indeed distanced himself from the Bryant family a while ago. The Bryant family is on the brink of bankruptcy and no longer poses a threat to Lorrie or Marco."

Rowan, not one to readily offer compliments, took a moment of silence and then continued, "Marco is a competent individual. Without him, the Bryant family is a far cry from its former self."

Marco possessed all the patents of the Bryant Group, and the absence of his expertise was causing the group's imminent demise.

Aldo chuckled, dispelling his earlier concerns about Marco. He now agreed with Rowan on Marco's competence.

Aldo's demeanor softened slightly. Loraine had revealed little about her suffering over the past three years, often blaming the mother and daughter of the Bryant family for her troubles.

Marco, on the other hand, was innocent of any wrongdoing aside from his absence.

The people who had mistreated Loraine would pay the price.

But when Marco was still a part of the Bryant Group, it had been too precarious to act. Loraine had just taken the helm of the Universe Group, and her footing wasn't yet secure.

Now that Marco was going to join the Torres family, Aldo would have the time to address the wrongs done to Loraine.

"Since Marco is becoming a member of the Torres family, the people from the Bryant family who wronged him should receive their just desserts," Aldo declared impassively.

Rowan and Wesley exchanged triumphant smiles. Wesley inquired, "Dad, what's your plan?"

"You don't know my way of doing things? The Bryant Group is an old friend of ours. Isn't it normal to offer a special treat in their time of need?"

Aldo chuckled with a touch of nostalgia. Many had forgotten his influence since his retirement.

His bent form emphasized the stern expression he wore. He tapped his crutch and departed the hall. Wesley nonchalantly lit a cigarette, exhaling a puff of white smoke with a grin. He remarked, "The Bryant family had the audacity to slander Lorrie online even when they were bankrupt. They're in for a rough ride."

The mother and daughter of the Bryant family, lacking resources and influence, were easy targets to investigate. Wesley had refrained from mentioning this earlier, fearing that Aldo would flare up.

However, now that Aldo had given his consent, there was nothing to hold them back.

Meanwhile, Aldo retired to his study, where the butler appeared with a worried expression.

"Mr. Torres, where shall we arrange Mr. Bryant's room? Should it be close to Miss Torres's room?"

Aldo's eyebrows furrowed, and he became irate once more. He waved his hand and declared, "Arrange the room for him as far away from Lorrie's as possible!"



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Chapter 763 Marco's Room

Unbeknownst to Marco and Loraine, Aldo had already made arrangements. After helping Marco upstairs, Loraine instinctively led him toward her own chambers.

This space was her sanctuary, filled with precious memories of her upbringing. It was the place she had called home, each corner steeped in nostalgia.

Now, it bore the added significance of being in the presence of her beloved.

As they strolled together, Loraine eagerly pointed out familiar sights, recounting tales of her childhood and regaling Marco with anecdotes from her life.

During Marco's previous visit, he had been intent on getting to know Loraine better. This time, he was captivated by every word she shared. A profound sense of contentment welled up within him.

As Loraine chatted, she couldn't help but express her astonishment. "Even though I knew Grandpa loved me, I never imagined he would allow you to stay here. I'm so thrilled..."

Loraine couldn't help but feel remorseful about the modest accommodations of Marco's apartment.

Grateful for Aldo's decision, it signified the Torres family's acceptance of him.

Everything was a good thing, which made Loraine very happy. She had a bright smile on her face.

Sharing her sentiments, Marco, with a gentle gaze, confessed, "Yes, I'm elated too."

Aldo's concession was both surprising and heartfelt, evoking a deep sense of gratitude within Marco.

He desired nothing more than to spend additional time with Loraine, eager to listen to her tales of childhood. However, every house had its limits. Despite the extensive layout, they eventually arrived at Loraine's room.

As Loraine swung open the door, she was about to invite Marco in when a breathless butler, Beal, rushed over.

He looked at the two people, inexplicably feeling embarrassed before doing something bad.

"Beal, what's the matter?" Loraine, bemused, inquired. Beal, typically poised and dignified, appeared oddly discomfited.

Beal paused and smiled awkwardly. He said, "I'm here to lead Mr. Bryant to his room. Mr. Torres said that Mr. Bryant's leg was injured and it was inconvenient for him to go upstairs. So I arranged a room on the first floor for him."

That was undoubtedly one of the farthest rooms from Loraine's.

Loraine, glancing at the empty guest rooms on the second floor nearby, couldn't help but voice her concerns.

"Beal, the guest room on the first floor is typically empty, and with its proximity to the main hall, it's frequented by numerous guests. It might not be suitable to house a guest there, right?"

Moreover, it was quite a distance from her room.

Beal, feeling somewhat guilty, explained, "Miss Torres, someone

has been maintaining that room, and it's been prepared for Mr. Bryant's leg."

Loraine, shaking her head, kindly responded, "Thank you for your consideration, Beal. Marco can stay in the room next to mine. We have an elevator in the house, making it convenient for me to care for him."

Beal was left with few options and muttered, "Miss Torres, it was Mr. Torres's request, and the staff can attend to Mr. Bryant. I cannot allow you to personally care for him."

Realizing this had been Aldo's idea, Loraine couldn't help but feel torn between amusement and frustration. She playfully teased, "Beal, it's only natural that I want to look after Marco since he's my boyfriend. Please go back and relay my message to Grandpa."

Beal found himself at a loss and almost choked on his words. Inwardly, he held Aldo responsible for keeping the young couple apart.

Marco, smiling helplessly, noted that the Torres family, even its staff, held Loraine in high regard and were unwilling to impose any burden on her. Beal's earlier statement held merit.

At this stage, Marco had become increasingly self-sufficient and required no special care. He didn't wish for Loraine to worry about him. He gently protested, "It's no trouble, I can stay in the first-floor room."

This was his first night residing in the Torres family's home, and he wanted to make a favorable impression on Aldo.

Loraine reluctantly agreed, and they made their way downstairs.

Although she had initially voiced reservations about the first-floor room, she couldn't deny its merits. There were no

disadvantages except that it was far from her room.

Taking in the scene, Loraine couldn't help but feel a pang of regret for Marco. Her eyes held a touch of concern, and she regarded him with a forlorn expression. Yet, Marco seemed content. He reassured her with a smile, "I'm happy here."

Beal took extra care to ensure Marco's comfort. With a friendly demeanor, he chimed in, "Mr. Bryant, don't hesitate to reach out if you require anything."

After thanking Beal and urging him to retire for the evening, Marco looked at Loraine.

She pouted and, in a hushed tone, commented, "Grandpa must be doing this on purpose."

Marco, amused, kissed her. "Good night. Get some rest."

Loraine playfully complained, "Why don't you ask me to stay over?"

Marco, with candor, replied, "I'd rather have Aldo keep me in his good graces. Even if we sleep separately, I'll miss you. Now, go on."

Loraine, pleased with Marco's response, leaned in for a kiss before dashing away shyly. Marco, watching her departure, let out a heartfelt chuckle.

However, at that very moment, Marco's phone rang. Upon seeing the incoming number, his cheerful demeanor dimmed.

Chapter 764 Securing Aldo's Favor

Marco's furrowed brows relaxed as he reluctantly answered the phone with an icy demeanor. Without awaiting a response on the other end, he curtly stated, "Don't call me if it's not important. If Solar Company has an issue, send me a text."

His counterpart on the line mumbled something before Marco abruptly disconnected. Pondering the events of the day, he found amusement in it.

Aldo's decision to let him stay in the Torres family's residence was merely the first step.

What lay ahead was securing Aldo's favor and gaining his acceptance.

Meanwhile, in Aldo's study, the light still glowed.

Bent over his work, he took great satisfaction in the words he had penned. His lips curved into a contented smile. He chuckled, his joy akin to that of a pampered child. "Lorrie hasn't come to see me, so she must've approved of my arrangement. It seems she holds me in high regard, even as she loves Marco."

Beal harbored thoughts of uttering a counterargument but wisely chose to remain silent. He surmised that Loraine's absence was likely due to Marco's coaxing. If he conveyed this suspicion to Aldo, it would undoubtedly spark jealousy in him.

With a flourish of his brush, Aldo concluded his work with a confident stroke. He proudly exclaimed, "Marco may have

passed the first hurdle, but without my approval, he won't be able to approach Lorrie freely!"

Breaking stereotypes wasn't an overnight accomplishment. Aldo's dissatisfaction with Marco had lingered for some time. While he'd reluctantly accepted him, he continued to hold reservations and sought an advantage over him.

Beal, feeling helpless, shared his thoughts. "Mr. Torres, I believe Mr. Bryant is a decent man. He's no playboy, he's well-mannered, and he's shown kindness to Miss Torres..."

Aldo shot him a withering glare, inquiring, "Have you been swayed by him? Go and see if the two of them are in their respective rooms. Lorrie might have sneaked downstairs to see him."

Following Aldo's orders, Beal confirmed that each was in their own room. "The light in Mr. Bryant's room is off, and Miss Torres is using the computer. She said that she had some work to do, and I urged her to go to bed early."

Aldo appeared content. He nodded and took pride in Marco's forthrightness. "It appears that Marco is honest."

Marco had successfully passed the Torres family's first test.

On the following morning, Aldo awoke in high spirits. Delighted that his granddaughter had spent the previous night at home, he instructed a servant, "Prepare Lorrie's favorite breakfast since we have guests today. Make it a lavish spread."

However, just as he was about to rouse Loraine, a servant approached him, forestalling his actions. The servant reported, "Mr. Torres, Miss Torres has already had her breakfast and has left for the company."

Glancing at his watch, Aldo let out a sigh. He hadn't considered

the early hour and headed instead for the first-floor guest room. With less formality, he called out, "Marco, come out!"

Upon hearing the knock, Marco emerged, impeccably dressed in a crisp white shirt, tall, composed, and effortlessly commanding attention.

Aldo squinted at Marco, a smile tugging at his lips. He remained silent, finding satisfaction in his heart. Marco was shaping up to be an ideal grandson-in-law.

"Marco, as my future grandson-in-law, you should learn to get along with your family. Your uncles are swamped with work, but I'm free," Aldo remarked.

Marco smiled and couldn't help but marvel that Loraine's pride and duplicity likely stemmed from her grandfather.

Aldo might have initially appeared hostile, yet he had warmly greeted Marco and provided breakfast.

It was clear that Aldo sought companionship, which was understandable given his age.

Rowan, Wesley, and Loraine were very busy. Aldo must be lonely and bored at ordinary times, so he often urged Loraine to come back.

Realizing this, Marco amicably suggested, "Sure thing, how about we play a game of Go?"

Aldo's eyes lit up, and he looked at Marco with affection and admiration.

Marco wondered if he had inadvertently stumbled upon Aldo's pastime.

"Go is an excellent choice. It's good for your spiritual retreat

and will help curb some bad habits you might have picked up from the Bryant family. You aren't here for leisure!" Aldo quipped.

Observing Aldo's mischievous expression, Marco couldn't help but be entertained. Aldo clearly enjoyed Go, yet he insisted on downplaying it. Patiently, Marco took a seat and conversed with Aldo.

Aldo, with a mysterious expression, positioned the first stone at the center of the board.

Marco was momentarily taken aback, wondering if Aldo was a Go master. Quickly, he braced himself for the challenge.

As the game progressed, Marco realized Aldo was a poor player. He contemplated ways to throw the game while making Aldo believe himself to be a worthy opponent.

Aldo, with a grin on his face, confidently placed his final stone and regarded Marco with growing admiration.

Marco was the first person who had been patient with him for such a long time. He didn't expect that such a proud man like Marco could be so calm.

Marco, drenched in perspiration, offered his heartfelt acknowledgment, "Mr. Torres, you're an exceptional Go player. You have my utmost respect."

Aldo beamed with pride. "You have room for improvement, Marco, but I still have a lot to teach you."

Little did Aldo know that Marco had resorted to all his acting skills to let him win.