

## Chapter 896 A Second Meeting With Florrie

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When the subordinate heard Loraine's stern tone of voice, he trembled, his voice shaking with fear as he said, "I did notify the branch of your visit, Miss Torres. In fact, Mr. Benton said that he would speak with the people below and tell them to cooperate..."

Loraine snorted derisively and was lost in thought. If Florrie had relied on her connections to join the company, then it was a matter of course that she would spend her work days dolling herself up and bullying her co-workers. She definitely wouldn't address Mr. Benton's request. With that in mind, Loraine didn't think for a second that Florrie actually cared about business matters. And so, she decided not to blame the poor subordinate, and instead instructed him to look into Florrie's contacts within the company.

It wasn't a difficult task, and within a few minutes, he submitted a report detailing Florrie's background information.

According to the file, Florrie had bought a mediocre degree and spent two years traveling abroad. After returning home, she was immediately hired into the management team. To put it bluntly, she was the poster child for the good-for-nothing, second generation children of wealthy families.

But when Loraine read the name of the person who had arranged for Florrie's hiring, her brows instantly furrowed.

It was Jaden Benton, Cayson's father and Aldo's most trusted subordinate, the very "Mr. Benton" Loraine had placed her trust

in.

Loraine pondered the information in silence. She had made excuses for Jaden moments ago, convinced that Florrie had nothing to do with him. But now that she had the truth staring her in the face, she could no longer give him a pass.

Loraine resumed reading, and at some point, she remembered that Cayson's mother's maiden name was Greville.

The Benton family had always been loyal to the Universe Group, and they had been a solid part of the organization for more than a decade. Loraine was reluctant to suspect Jaden, and still harbored a glimmer of hope that she might have misunderstood something.

Perhaps Jaden had simply let Florrie into the company for her connection to his wife. Maybe all this time, he was completely oblivious to her actions.

Loraine didn't sleep well that night. When she returned to the branch the next day, she didn't bother concealing her identity anymore. She wore expensive clothes and wore natural makeup. Instead of looking older, she looked fresh and chic, and overall a stunner.

It was a stark contrast to yesterday's attire, and she looked like a totally different person.

As Loraine strode into the building in her high heels, heads turned in her direction. Even the receptionist, who failed to recognize her, couldn't help but gawk at the dazzling beauty.

Despite being flustered, the receptionist rushed over to greet her. "Ah, good morning, miss. Do you have an appointment? May I ask who you're here to see?"

Loraine gave her a warm smile. "My name is Loraine Torres,

and I'm here to see Mr. Benton."

The receptionist's round eyes widened, and her jaw hung open. "What? You are Loraine Torres?! So... so that person from yesterday wasn't lying!"

The receptionist was in such disbelief that she lost her composure and forgot all about her training. Luckily for her, she quickly snapped back to her senses. "I deeply apologize, Miss Torres. This is the first time I'm seeing you, so I was a little excited. Please excuse me while I inform Mr. Benton of your arrival."

Loraine kept smiling at her. "Oh, don't be so nervous. You were so natural when you talked to me yesterday. I'm here to keep the promise I made you."

She stopped teasing the girl and removed her sunglasses, revealing her eyes.

Sure enough, the receptionist was able to put two and two together, and figured out that the woman before her was the same as the plain-looking worker from the previous day.

She was even more shocked now. "Yesterday... It was you all along!"

The girl pressed her palm against her mouth to stifle her gasp. She couldn't believe that she had chatted with the CEO of the company herself, and for so long, too!

She was at a loss. After a while, she finally calmed down and was about to notify Mr. Benton that the CEO had arrived. As if on cue, a figure strutted into the lobby, all decked out in high fashion clothes and a large, overstated pair of sunglasses. Who else could it be but Florrie?

Florrie was swaying her hips in an exaggerated way, as if she



couldn't show off her outfit enough. As it happened, the color scheme she was wearing was the same as Loraine's clothes. Florrie stopped short when she spotted Loraine. Her instincts told her that this was someone she couldn't even dream to compare herself to.

Florrie's lips curled in disdain, but she hesitated when she looked into Loraine's eyes. She immediately recognized her as the person from yesterday. "What brings you here again?" she demanded in a snarky tone. "I see you've changed your clothes. You look more well-put together today, good for you. I wonder where you bought those fake clothes."

Loraine's smile never faltered, and her voice was calm as she said, "Thank you for your compliment. To answer your question, I'm afraid I didn't buy these. Luxury goods are sent to my home regularly by the brands themselves. I have no reason to wear anything fake."

Florrie's face darkened at that, her eyes flashing. "They're not fake? I see, so they must be from your sponsor, then. Did they send you here to skulk around and gather confidential information about the company? That's it, right? Why else would you even have access to luxury brands?"

The receptionist, who had been rooted to the spot and observing the heated exchange in silence, turned pale. She wanted to alert Florrie and tell her to stop speaking, but Florrie noticed her pleading look and snapped, "What's with that look on your face? Don't tell me you're trying to defend an outsider! Or is it that you want to get involved in her dirty business, too? Did the fancy clothes get to you?"

The receptionist pressed her lips into a thin line and lifted her chin, deciding not to say anything.

Some people are simply asking for trouble without heeding

others' advice.

"You keep referring to me as a kept woman," Lorain said slowly, her tone still clam as ever. "Are you projecting your own principles onto me? Do you think the only way a woman can achieve wealth and success is to be someone's sugar baby?"



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## Chapter 897 Jaden Benton

Florrie's eyes flew open wide. It took her a moment, but she finally grasped what Loraine was implying, and it bothered her.

She had always held only her uncle and aunt in high regard, looking down upon everyone else. Florrie was the one accustomed to causing trouble and belittling others. This was a novel experience for her, being on the receiving end of aggravation.

In her irritation, she stamped her foot, jabbed a finger towards Loraine's face, and yelled for all to hear, "She's spying for a competitor. Arrest her!"

However, this time, nobody paid any heed to her.

Loraine had already revealed her identity. The security team at the entrance was aware she was the CEO of the main office, and she wasn't alone; her bodyguards were with her.

As Florrie pointed accusingly at Loraine, two imposing bodyguards stepped forward, swatted Florrie's hand away, and sternly said, "Show some respect!"

Florrie's eyes bulged in shock as she replied, "This is outrageous! No matter how influential your protector is, he can't just do whatever he wants in the Universe Group. Do you have any idea who I am? My uncle is Jaden Benton!"

Loraine's response was a subtle narrowing of her eyes, touched by complexity. She remembered Jaden differently, as someone who used to carry her on his shoulders, playing with her.

Could it be that Jaden was oblivious to Florrie misusing her power in his company? Loraine doubted that was the case.

Should it turn out Jaden was aware yet chose to ignore Florrie's behavior, it would be a huge letdown for Loraine.

Seeing Loraine's reaction, Florrie mistook it for fear. She allowed herself a smug smile and boasted, "So, you've heard of Jaden, haven't you? He's the man in charge here. Surely, you did some homework before coming? Universe Group is renowned in Zodiac. Cross me, and I'll ensure you and your benefactor are ousted from Zodiac!"

Loraine's eyes narrowed further. "This is merely a branch of Universe Group, isn't it? Why speak as if the Benton family owns it all?"

Florrie rolled her eyes, clearly thinking Loraine naive, then haughtily suggested, "If you're scared, just kneel and beg for mercy. Maybe I'll let you off."

Loraine responded with a derisive twist of her lips, "Why are you so convinced I'm a spy sent by rivals? What if I am indeed from the headquarters of Universe Group? Aren't you worried about how your uncle might react?"

Florrie scoffed dismissively, "Even if you truly are from the main office of Universe Group, it doesn't scare me. I wouldn't be frightened even if Loraine herself stood before me right now!"

Upon hearing Florrie's boastful remarks, Loraine's eyebrows shot up in astonishment.

She was secretly amused, wondering if Florrie would maintain her boldness once she realized who the woman in front of her really was.



Yet, Florrie's blatant disregard for the main office of Universe Group caused Loraine's expression to turn stern. She found herself deep in thought.

Was Florrie alone in her opinion, or did others share her dismissive attitude?

Regardless, Florrie continued with undiminished pride, declaring, "Just so you know, this branch has been just as formidable as the main office for years! Thanks to my uncle's influence, when people talk about Universe Group, they're actually thinking of us. Though Loraine is now leading the headquarters, it's only a matter of time before..."

She was abruptly interrupted by a stern rebuke from a man with a deep voice, "Florrie, enough! Stop causing trouble!"

Loraine turned towards the source of the interruption and noticed a middle-aged man in a suit approaching. She instinctively pressed her lips together.

The man was Jaden.

He had aged since the last time Loraine had seen him, now exuding a mature and self-assured demeanor, a clear difference from the more subservient posture he had adopted in his younger years within the Torres family.

Upon seeing Jaden, Florrie's face lit up with delight. She rushed to him and whined, "Uncle, you've come just in time. I've been bullied!"

Jaden, however, barely acknowledged Florrie. He made his way straight to Loraine, greeting her warmly with a smile that was both kind and gentle.

"Lorrie, why didn't you let us know you were in Zodiac? My wife



has missed you terribly over the years! Cayson didn't give me a heads-up either. Why didn't he accompany you? Hasn't he been looking after you?"

Jaden looked like he was about to criticize his own son.

Florrie watched in disbelief as Jaden showed a familiar and affectionate demeanor towards Loraine, even calling her by name.