

Chapter 192 Plagiarism

"First of all, this song, *Between the Sky and the Sea*, has great lyrics. It will take a pure and graceful voice to do justice to it, and women are perfectly suited for that," Loraine said confidently.

The audience, including Lily, who was still standing in the middle of the stage, were all stunned.

They thought Loraine knew nothing about classical music, so they had not expected that she could make such a sophisticated comment.

How on Earth did she know so much?

Even Marco was amazed. He did not expect such brilliance from her. Again, she successfully surprised him.

One of the audience who knew about music couldn't help but nod and exclaim in approval. "Exactly! Lily's voice is beautiful and sophisticated, and her performance of this song was perfect. Her talents in composition and singing are marvelous. She's a genius!"

Then, someone asked in confusion, "Miss Torres, since you understand and appreciate the song, why didn't you applaud?"

But before Loraine could say anything, Lily answered

instead.

"You're asking that because you don't know that Miss Torres and I had some personal enmity in the past." With a pitiful look, Lily turned to Loraine. "Miss Torres, I hope you can let go of the past. Don't aim at me just because we used to love the same men."

The moment she said those words, the audience burst into an uproar.

"What? Love the same man?"

"No wonder Loraine is wearing a long face. She likes the music, but she doesn't like Lily!"

"Which man did Loraine and Lily fight over?"

They were all looking at Loraine strangely now. Some of them even began to look at Marco.

Annoyed by the sudden attention, Marco was very close to losing his temper.

But luckily, Loraine decided to speak up. "Miss Fowler, I think you misunderstood me. I'm divorced now, and the past remains in the past. The reason I didn't applaud is because I don't like thieves who steal other people's works."

As soon as she said this, the entire hall fell silent.

But Loraine was not done. Staring straight at Lily, she demanded, "Did you compose this song by yourself?"

Lily's voice seemed to be frozen. A trace of guilt

flashed through her eyes.

Immediately, the audience burst into a noisy debate.

"No way! That's preposterous!" A loyal fan of Lily's turned to Loraine. "You're maliciously targeting Lily for personal reasons! You're falsely accusing her of plagiarism, but you have no proof. If you have proof, show us!"

Loraine responded calmly, "If my memory serves me right, the song that was plagiarized is titled Encounter by an underground band called Shepherd."

Hearing Loraine name both the song and the band that sang it, Lily became flustered. But she tried to act as if she was unbothered.

"Stop talking nonsense! I've never heard of this band or whatever you call it. So, how could I have plagiarized their song?"

"Lily Fowler, enough!" Loraine scolded. "How dare you plagiarize their song just because they are not well known and haven't performed for three years?"

At this point, some members of the audience had already taken out their mobile phones and started to search for the band online.

Before long, someone found it.

"The band exists! There's a band called Shepherd! There's even a video for the song, Encounter!"

The man started to play the video and everyone immediately quieted down and held their breath to listen to the song.

The beautiful and melodious tune resounded through the entire hall. And it was very similar to the one Lily had just sung.

Anyone who knew anything about music could tell that both songs were very similar. The only difference was that Lily's song had a few slight changes here and there.

Encounter was released about three years before, which was much earlier than Lily's song.

It was very clear that Lily had plagiarized it.

While everyone was comparing the melodies of both songs, only Marco was paying serious attention to the voice of the lead singer of the band.

That voice... Why was it so familiar?

Marco turned to look at Loraine.

Meanwhile, Lily's face turned pale the moment the original song was found.

She had thought that Loraine didn't know anything about music, because art was something that couldn't be mastered unless it was cultivated in an individual from an early age.

And to her knowledge at the time, that band had all

but disappeared and no one knew them that much.

Now that the plagiarism had been exposed, she was so embarrassed.

"Lily, did you plagiarize the song of Shepherd?"

"How dare you claim to be a talented composer when you're nothing but a thief?"

"I still regard you as my idol, Lily. Why don't you give us an explanation?"

Standing helplessly before the doubting audience, Lily had nothing to say.

"Refund!" someone suddenly shouted and others picked it up from there.

In less than a minute, the entire hall began to clamor for a refund.

Now that things had gone out of control, Lily's agent had no choice but to come forward and apologize to the irate fans.

"Excuse me, everyone. I'm sorry for what happened today. Lily has to be taken home since she's not feeling well. For now, this concert is over."

Followed by curses and boos, Lily and her agent ran off the stage in shame.



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The concert ended in chaos and rowdiness. Loraine stood up and left.

Marco was very concerned about her, so he followed her all the way outside.

But when he saw that she was about to get into her car, he stepped forward to stop her. "Loraine, it seems you're very familiar with that band, Shepherd. Is it one of your favorite bands?"

"Sort of." Loraine shrugged and looked away.

"Well, since you like them so much, I can invite them to perform for you," Marco offered.

Loraine's lips curled up in a faint smile. "Shepherd hasn't performed in a long time. You won't be able to find them."

But before Marco could reply, Loraine continued impatiently, "Marco, now that the concert is over, I think it's time for us to go our separate ways."

"Wait a minute," Marco said resolutely and began to drag her over to his car. "Look, I'll drive you back. It's not safe for you to go alone."

Before Loraine could refuse, she heard the car horn.

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Looking behind her, she saw a blue Porsche parked not far away.

Her eyes lit up immediately. It was Cayson's car.

"Look," she said to Marco, "someone is here to pick me up. So, let go of my hand."

But to her surprise, Marco still held her hand tightly and stared at the blue Porsche with eyes that looked far from happy.

Just then, Cayson got out of the car and walked over to meet them.

"Let her go!" Cayson shouted, pushing Marco away from Loraine. "Didn't I warn you to stay away from her?"

Marco didn't want to hurt Loraine, so he let go of her hand.

But he was very mad at Cayson.

"Fuck off, you bastard! I've tolerated your nonsense for a long time already. Don't interfere in whatever happens between Loraine and me!"

But Cayson didn't seem the least fazed. Instead, he sneered. "Marco, you are the bastard who needs to fuck off right now. Don't you think the trouble you've brought for Lorrie so far is enough?"

Marco's jaw went slack.

He began to feel a dull ache in his chest and he just

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didn't know what to do or say.

After the divorce, it became clear to everyone, including himself, that he had failed Loraine and she would live a far better life without him.

What could he do? He just couldn't afford to let her go.

He had given her up once. He would not give her up again.

"Shut up!" Marco screamed all of a sudden like a madman. Grabbing Cayson by the collar, he lifted his other hand with the intent of landing a sucker punch in his face.

"Stop!" Loraine shouted and pushed Marco away from Cayson just in time.

Like a lioness protecting its baby from a predator, she stood her ground in front of Cayson and glared at her ex-husband.

"Marco, it's obvious that you haven't changed. You're still the same, always hurting others."

Marco could see the disappointment in her eyes as she stared at him.

"Loraine, I..." Marco stuttered in an effort to explain himself as he realized his fault.

He didn't know what came over him. All he knew was that he lost his mind for a moment. But he could swear on his life that he never thought of hurting her.

"No excuses! I don't want to hear any more word from you. I'm leaving here right now!"

Loraine was so disappointed that she didn't want to listen to any explanation that Marco might have to give. Fuming silently, she pulled Cayson with her and they got into the blue Porsche.

Marco became weak. He had no courage or the willpower to go after them.

Meanwhile, even in the car, Loraine was still fuming.

But she tried her best to suppress her anger and turned to ask Cayson, "By the way, Cayson, why are you here?"

Cayson broke into a smile and shrugged. "Well, I heard from my secretary that you were here at the concert, so I came to pick you up."

Loraine was moved. "Wow. Thank you. I appreciate it."

"It's nothing," he said dismissively. "But are you okay, Lorrie? Did Marco do anything to you?"

Loraine shook her head in the negative.

Her mind was still occupied by the incident that had just happened.

Why was Marco so mad at Cayson?

Did he come to the concert for Lily or her?

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Noticing the expression on Loraine's face, Cayson felt quite disappointed. He believed she was thinking about Marco.

"Lorrie, you must be careful with Marco. He's been getting close to you a lot nowadays. I'm sure he has ulterior motives," he warned in a solemn tone.

This statement promptly seized Loraine's attention and she couldn't help but remember Marco's plan to develop a new business center.

"Don't worry, Cayson. I know. I won't drop my guard against Bryant Group just because of Marco," she assured him.

Cayson breathed a sigh of relief. "I'm glad to hear that. I'll be away on a business trip in the following days. Call me if anything happens."

