

## Chapter 240 Disturbance Of Infringement

Slater left, and Loraine began absentmindedly toying around with the pen in her hand with her fingers.

She found Slater's apology ridiculous, of course. However, what he did brought some memories of the past to mind.

Her greatest desire back then was to be recognized by Marco and his friends. And now they all came when she had lost interest.

A continuous vibrating sound came from her phone on the table. She picked it up and saw Jennie's name on the caller ID.

Was she calling over some tabloids again?

Loraine sighed and put the phone to her ear. Jennie's anxious voice came from the other end of the line. "Lorrie, bad news! You were photographed with Marco, and a photo has been released!"

Loraine was shocked. The first thing that came to mind was the two reporters who almost had a car accident the other day. They must have leaked the photos.

The camera they had on them back then had been wiped clean, though. Did they have a backup?

They still dared to leak the photos after being warned!

Loraine turned on her personal computer and began

searching online as she calmed Jennie down. However, the issue was not that the photos were taken secretly, but Universe Group's new publicity photos on the official website were incorrect.

There were supposed to be photos of Shepherd, but a photo of her and Marco was included.

It was from the time Marco went to the studio to look for her and the photo had been taken accidentally by the photographer.

Loraine and Marco were looking at each other in the photo. Their eyes were shining with emotion.

The aura from it was so perfect, it was as though the picture had not been taken by mistake, and they had purposely posed that way.

A frown formed on Loraine's face. The photo would cause all kinds of speculation now that it was posted on the official website of Universe Group. It was the same as giving someone with ulterior motives an upper hand against her.

How could Universe Group's publicity department make a mistake as stupid as this?

Loraine massaged her temple and told Jennie that she had to deal with this. She then hung up the phone and called the director of the publicity department to her office.

The female CEO sat in her executive seat, exuding poise.

Loraine had already shown the entire company how capable she was, and the director was the one who had made a mistake this time. By the time he arrived, his back was drenched in sweat.

As soon as he stepped in the office, he bowed his head and apologized.

"This is my fault. I will take responsibility for it and bear the losses."

Loraine clicked on the webpage, her voice was cold and dark as she asked, "How? Would you be able to afford it?"

The director's legs felt frail, and he nearly fell to his knees.

"Well, this is not the time to point out faults. How did this happen?" Loraine asked.

The director's face crumpled as he responded, "The photographer sent the photos to us today. A photo of you and Marco Bryant was among them. We assumed you were the one who specially arranged it, so we uploaded all of the photos on the website."

A headache slowly crept up on Loraine.

That day, the photographer had been very excited to take photos of her and Marco. She hadn't expected he would send the unplanned photo of them together, causing a misunderstanding.

Universe Group had taken down the pictures immediately after the incident happened, but it was too late.

The picture had not only been downloaded, but they had also begun to form gossip theories.

"What is happening? What's the meaning behind the photo? Give us an explanation quickly!"

"The photo of Loraine and Marco was posted on

Universe Group's official website. Never have I seen anything like this!"

"This may be a publicity stunt. Universe Group may be in cooperation with Bryant Group, but Marco and Loraine can't be dating again, can they?"

Marina was at home when she saw the news on the internet and her eyes widened. In an instant, she sat upright and began typing crazily on the keyboard with her freshly manicured nails.

"Dating? Impossible! Do you view my family as a trash bin? My brother would never marry a whore like Loraine. Loraine is only trying to feed off Marco's popularity. Shame on her!"

Marina had been eager to put down Loraine for a while, so she snatched this opportunity up quickly.

Despite Marina's bad reputation, she was still Marco's sister and her words still held weight. Adding to that, with no information from Marco yet, people's suspicions doubled.

Laura issued a statement at that time too. "I'm sorry. I have never heard of a cooperation between Bryant Group and Universe Group. Bryant Group will hold Loraine accountable for this behavior, releasing Marco's photo to give her company publicity without permission."

Things had gone worse than Loraine expected as two members of the Bryant family had come out to condemn her.

Bryant Group could truly sue her if they wanted to for violating Marco's portraiture right to make profit. Loraine was very much at a disadvantage with the law and the opinion of the public at the moment.

## Chapter 241 Announce The Partnership

Without wasting time, Loraine called an emergency meeting to deal with the photo crisis.

"I think everyone must have heard about this by now," Loraine said as she raised her head from her iPad and looked around at everyone in the conference room.

They all nodded.

Loraine continued, "The photos contain one that has nothing to do with the activity, but no one reported it. It was not until after the photos were released that we found out about this. This is a problem of the publicity department and it has to be fixed at all costs. I don't want to see the same mistake happen again."

All the staff of the publicity department lowered their heads in shame, and their director's face went dark.

Though he knew it was his department's fault, he still felt embarrassed to hear it being talked about in public. After all, he had been working for the company for so many years.

"After this matter is settled, a month's pay will be deducted for all employees of the publicity department and they are required to do a self-critique," Loraine ordered in a tone of finality, and the atmosphere in the conference room instantly became a sad and frozen one.

Just then, someone knocked on the door. It was Loraine's assistant. "Miss Torres, Bryant Group just

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called us."

Loraine was stunned to hear this. But she quickly recovered her composure, grabbed the phone, and put it on speaker so the entire room would hear.

"Loraine..." Marco's voice called over the phone.

Loraine quickly interrupted him. "Mr. Bryant, it's our fault, we admit that. Universe Group will pay you the necessary compensation. If I may ask, what's your price?"

Marco kept quiet and said nothing.

Hearing no response from him, Loraine continued, "If you refuse to reconcile with us and insist on pressing charges, I'll take responsibility for everything."

Everyone in the conference room stared at one another with wide eyes.

Usually, when something like this happened, the president would single out the director in charge of the erring department and make him take all the blame.

But Loraine had just said that she would take all the responsibility.

Those who were saddened by the punishment Loraine had meted on them now felt a load of guilt in their hearts.

After staying silent for a long while, Marco finally said, "Loraine, I'm not looking for compensation."

Loraine was shocked and confused to hear this.

Marco continued, "Don't worry. Neither my mother nor

Marina represent Bryant Group. I'll ask them to delete those comments right away."

Lorraine's heart skipped a beat.

She had not expected that Marco would stand on her side instead of protecting his company's interests.

She couldn't help but break into a smile. "You don't have to delete them. We can use this opportunity to hold a press conference to clarify the issue and then announce our partnership. What do you think about that?"

Marco was surprised. The only thing that had occupied his mind was how he would deal with this whole negative publicity.

He didn't expect that Lorraine would think so quickly and come up with a way to take advantage of it.

"Okay then." Marco conceded.

The atmosphere in the conference room changed instantly. Everyone became active and began to discuss about how to push forward the partnership between the two companies.

Meanwhile, Laura invited several ladies for coffee.

All the ladies present were wealthy and influential women in Vagow. They were well-informed about the latest gossip in town, and as far as they were concerned, the best way to enjoy their get-together was to make fun of others.

One of them smiled at Laura and said, "I heard that Bryant Group is going to partner with Universe Group. I mean, that's a good thing. You and your former daughter-in-law can finally reconcile with each other."

Laura sipped some coffee through pursed lips and snorted in displeasure. "What partnership? Nonsense."

Since she and Marina made their declarations, there had still been no news from Loraine. Not even a single statement had been released.

This made Laura feel very complacent. She thought that she had finally gotten something on Loraine. She didn't want to even hear anything concerning Loraine.

The lady looked at her and shook her head. "Come on, Laura. Can't we be honest with one another? Why are you treating us as outsiders from whom you're hiding secrets?"

Laura was confused. "What are you talking about? I would never do that!"

The lady responded by bringing out her phone and showing it to her. "Stop your acting. Look, the photo on your company's website has been changed."

Laura took a look and found that the publicity photo of Bryant Group had been replaced with a photo of Loraine and Marco.

It meant that Bryant Group and Universe Group had forged a partnership with each other. As a result, neither side could attack the other!

Laura's face darkened in an instant.

"What the hell is going on?" she demanded in fury.

Seeing that she was unaware of the latest development, the lady was surprised. And she immediately said in a mocking tone, "As Marco's mother, you seem to be far less important than his ex



Chapter 241 Announce The ... is 🎁 +120 Points at most  
-wife. You don't even know about this. That's  
surprising."

## Chapter 242 A Successful Publication

Laura was so full of rage, she could no longer continue the get-together. She came up with an excuse and ended it early.

The rich ladies were displeased as well. While leaving the villa, they did not forget to "kindly" remind Laura.

"Marco is your son, Laura. You should be more attentive to him. It's not right for you to be finding out about his marriage through others, is it?"

Laura's fake smile almost fell and she quietly gnashed her teeth.

After sending the mocking ladies away, Laura thought about the photo and became angrier.

What made Marco post this photo on the website? He did it just to embarrass her and Marina.

Laura couldn't contain her rage anymore, so she got ready and headed to the company.

She walked into Marco's office, ignoring Carl, who was reporting something. "Marco, what the hell are you thinking? Why didn't you talk to me before doing something?"

Marco told Carl to head out to get some coffee for his mother, then turned to stare at her.

"What are you talking about?"

Laura gritted her teeth. "Don't act like you don't know

what I'm talking about! What did you do with the photo on the website? It's Universe Group's fault, Marco. We have the right to sue them for infringement. Your actions now would let Loraine take advantage of us!"

Marco responded calmly, "Loraine didn't do anything wrong. We have been discussing a cooperation."

"Cooperation? Have you lost your mind?" Laura's voice was shrill and her eyebrows were lifted to the highest points of her face. "Loraine is a jinx! Have you forgotten she egged her father on dealing with our family? Adding to that, she also destroyed Lily's family, didn't she? How can you join hands with her?"

Marco's face went dark and he responded harshly, "All you said has nothing to do with Loraine. They caused trouble for her first, didn't they? A counterattack is a normal defense anyone would take."

Laura did not pay attention to a single word he said and paced the room anxiously.

"Concerning the publicity photo, Loraine was the one at fault. This was such a good opportunity to make profit for our family. How could you so easily let it go? Bryant Group is the fruit of your father's painstaking efforts, don't forget. How could you ruin it for the sake of a woman, having no regard for our family's interests?"

Marco's breath caught in his throat and his face went dark.

Laura had rarely cared about him since he was a child. She would only come to him in times of trouble and cause him to compromise with the mention of his father. He did his best for the family and Bryant Group; he didn't deserve her faulting him.

A knock sounded at the door at that moment.

"The director of the marketing department asked to see you, Mr. Bryant." Carl's voice came from outside.

Marco frowned and glanced at Laura. "Let him in."

The director came in with a big smile. He didn't catch wind of the atmosphere in the office and said, "The new publicity photo has a great effect from what we can see on social media. A lot of enterprises have come to cooperate with us."

Marco nodded slightly. He had anticipated the union of Universe Group and Bryant Group would cause heat in the business district.

The director added, "With the successful government project, everyone wants a piece since the new CBD is a cash cow. It's a wonderful opportunity for Bryant Group!"

Laura, who was standing aside, raged quietly.

She had threatened Marco with the interests of Bryant Group, but it turned out that his choice was the best way to maximize profits.

At this moment, the director's phone rang.

He answered the call after Marco nodded. He smiled after a few words and said, "Do you mean you want to settle in and open a chain store in the new CBD?"

"Alright, no problem. We'll reach out to you later..."

The director could barely contain himself after hanging up the phone and said, "Mr. Westley wants to build a furniture center with the entire third floor in our mall. What do you think?"

His phone rang again before he could even finish speaking.

Marco said calmly, "Note down all the interested companies first, then have a discussion with the marketing department of Universe Group about it."

He glanced at Laura, knowing Mrs. Westley was a friend of hers.

Laura turned away in embarrassment. She realized then that Mrs. Westley had come to the get-together for information and an opportunity for cooperation.

Bryant Group and Universe Group's cooperation was extremely valuable. Sharp-witted businessmen had caught wind of the business opportunity already and wanted in on it. And she, who wanted an end to the cooperation, looked like a total fool.

Laura was filled with shame. She waited until the director left before speaking.

"Even if you're cooperating with Universe Group, you have to be cautious of Loraine, Marco. Do not allow her to take advantage of the cooperation!"

Marco responded in a relaxed tone, "I'm Bryant Group's CEO. I should worry about the company's management, not you. Just behave yourself and keep an eye on Marina. I won't be helping you clean up your messes again."

Laura froze and couldn't utter a word.

Noticing the cold and stern expression on Marco's face, she didn't say anything more. She left the company dejectedly.