

Chapter 294 Sitting Position

The tension in the room was palpable as all eyes were fixed on the two men.

They both had excellent looks and affluence. They briefly glared at each other.

Cayson looked away first. Smiling, he asked Loraine, "Lorrie, did you really buy that?"

With bewilderment in her eyes, Loraine honestly shook her head.

She looked at Marco and asked him, "When did I buy that?"

Marco smiled and replied leisurely, "Have you forgotten? I now possess all the goods you purchased from the mall under Bryant Group, including men's products."

What a piece of big news!

Everyone's attention abruptly shifted to the two. They kept glancing and forth between them, their eyes filled with surprise and curiosity.

Loraine explained hastily, "That's because I just returned the items to you after you paid for them!"

Upon hearing that, Cayson sneered, "Is that so? Mr.

Bryant, you likes to brag, don't you?"

Marco's face froze slightly. He gave Cayson a chilly look and asked, "Loraine bought them, and I covered the bills. Is there a problem?"

Loraine couldn't refute it for a moment.

She did purchase them first. However, she had not expected Marco to reimburse her and cover the costs. Marco claimed to have bought them. And he made sense.

However, others didn't know what exactly happened.

Loraine didn't dispute Marco's claims. His remarks had taken on a whole different meaning when heard by other people.

Employees from both companies were familiar with one another and exchanged knowing glances.

The relationship between the two presidents appeared to have strengthened.

Marco was in a cheerful state of mind. He sat down next to Loraine after glancing at Cayson, who looked grumpy.

Frowning, Cayson glared at Marco and said, "You are in the wrong seat. Please go back to your assigned seat."

Marco, however, didn't budge and closed his eyes for rest.

When Carl noticed that Cayson was about to lose his cool, he intervened and tried to resolve the situation. He smiled and said, "Mr. Benton, you were on a business trip, so you don't know what happened. Due to the partnership between our two companies, the seats are now organized by rank rather than by company, which makes communication easier."

Obviously, Cayson didn't think what he stated was true. Trying to hold back his rage, he looked at Lorraine and asked, "Lorrie, is that true?"

Embarrassed, Lorraine replied, "Yes."

Cayson sneered and asked sarcastically, "Why did Mr. Bryant not take a seat next to me in the meeting yesterday?"

Lorraine looked at Marco in confusion.

She had previously questioned such a seating arrangement. She agreed with them since Bryant Group had assured her that it was part of their company's tradition.

If Lorraine hadn't been staring at him right now, Marco could have ignored Cayson.

He appeared to be carefully weighing his next words as he pursed his thin lips and his face stiffened.

Thankfully, Carl noticed it and made up an excuse. "Mr. Benton, yesterday was your first time attending the our meeting. There were still a lot of things you didn't know. We assigned you to sit among your staff

to help you adjust as quickly as possible."

Cayson, though, didn't believe it. He sneered at Marco and said, "If Bryant Group truly wants to work with us, I advise Mr. Bryant to focus on business and stop playing tricks."

Marco peered at the Cayson, his expression unreadable, and bent forward.

"I am competent enough to outperform you. Why should I play tricks?"

It was both a provocation and a declaration of war.

These two men put Loraine in a tricky situation.

This was only the start. The two men continued their dispute and refused to come to an agreement during the meeting's subsequent hours.

The two companies failed to achieve a consensus throughout the entire meeting. Instead, the newly unified relationship between them became tense again.

Loraine remained there for some time following the meeting. She waited till everyone else had left before speaking to Cayson.

"Cayson, I know you don't like Marco, but now that the two companies are working together, we'd best first ensure the cooperation continues properly."

After a brief silence, Cayson apologized. "I'm sorry,

Lorrie. I went out of line during the meeting."

Just seeing Marco bug Loraine was too much for him to bear.

Looking at his apologetic face, Loraine felt guilty instead. "I should be the one to apologize. You've just returned from a business trip, and I've given you a ton of work to do."

Cayson approached Loraine with a smile after realizing that she cared about him. "Lorrie, on this business trip, I got to meet my parents. They want me to find someone and settle down."

Cayson held Loraine's hand as he looked into her bewildered eyes. "My parents adore you, Lorrie, and Aldo is pleased with me as well. Why don't we get married since this is what they want?"

All of a sudden, the meeting room's door flung open.

The two whirled around and saw Marco standing at the door with a chilly expression.



Chapter 295 You Hurt Me

Marco hadn't left? Why?

Loraine was shocked and for a split second, she subconsciously tried to pull her hand from Cayson's grasp, but he held on tightly.

With his eyes fixed on their connected hands, Marco asked, "Is what he said true, Loraine?"

For a couple of seconds, Loraine's face scrunched up in confusion. Then she realized he was asking about Cayson's mention of marriage.

The whole thing felt silly to her. The talk about her and Cayson's marriage was only a joke.

Cayson butted in just as she was about explaining.

With his head high and proud, Cayson glared at Marco and said, "Our marriage is none of your business."

Marco tightened his fists and his eyes went dark.

He wouldn't have paid this nonsense any attention, but he remembered the rumor that Cayson was the man Loraine's grandfather selected for her.

As it turned out, Liza's information wasn't completely baseless.

The expression in Marco's eyes was cold and deadly.

"I'm Loraine's husband."

Cayson scoffed. "That's all past, Marco. I don't need to remind you that you're divorced, right?"

Marco felt a chill run down his entire body, but he forced himself to find composure and stay calm.

"Well, I'm Universe Group's cooperative partner now. The marriage of Universe Group's president greatly affects our cooperation. I have the right to oppose."

Cayson's eyes flamed.

However, before he could retort, Marco turned to Loraine and spoke hurriedly. It was clear he wasn't thinking before the words came out his mouth. It was a huge contrast to his usually calm manner.

"Use your head, Loraine. Cayson is only using you. He had been the one in charge of Universe Group for a long time. Now that you're the president, he wants the position back. This marriage is a plot to take Universe Group from you!"

Loraine was about to explain, but her eyes narrowed in anger as she heard Marco's words.

"Enough! Marco Bryant! My knowledge of Cayson is deeper than yours. Do you think everyone is as focused on only profit as you are? You hurt me repeatedly, while Cayson has never done so once."

Marco was taken aback, "I..."

However, before he could complete his statement, Loraine grabbed hold of Cayson's hand and walked away.

A sharp pain pierced through Marco's heart.

It was as though every time he managed to get close to Loraine, she would push him away.

Marco's heart fell. Suddenly, he remembered something and took out his phone.

A few minutes later, Qbot's voice sounded. "I've connected to Mommy's phone!"

Outside Bryant Group's building

Loraine tried to suppress the rage boiling in her as she walked out of the building, a deep frown etched on her face. She didn't take a moment to calm down till she reached the car.

She turned to look at Cayson in disappointment.

"What made you say that in front of Marco?"

Cayson didn't waver.

"Marco has approached you multiple times under the guise of cooperation, but he has awful intentions." Cayson scoffed. "He dares to call himself your husband and poke his nose into your affairs. I only said what I did to remind him you're divorced and he has lost his chance for good."

Lorraine didn't say a word.

A long moment of silence went by, then she said, "It's impossible for me to get back together with Marco. However, we know the engagement between us is only a joke Grandpa made. It's not something to take seriously."

Cayson was taken a back for a couple of minutes and silently stared at her. He finally couldn't take it anymore.

"It's not just a joke, Lorrie. Your grandfather and my parents are very serious about us getting married. If not for you going abroad, our marriage would've been settled by now. And now you're divorced and I remain single, how about we give it a try, Lorrie? This will not only stabilize Universe Group but also stop Marco from pestering you."

Cayson's eyes remained on Lorraine, desperate for an answer.

However, just as Lorraine was about to speak, her phone began buzzing crazily, multiple messages pouring in.

"Don't agree to him!"

"Don't agree to him!"

As Marco clutched tightly unto the phone, his heart was in a mess. He desperately wanted to rush over and put an end to the conversation between them.

Chapter 296 A Love Interest

Loraine ignored the vibrating phone and cast a frown at Cayson.

She had always considered Cayson as a brother and confidant since they were kids. Although she recognized his good nature, she held no romantic feelings for him and had no desire to marry him.

After much hesitation, Loraine said, "Cayson, marrying you won't solve these problems. I've been married before and experienced the pain of marriage. I don't think I can go through that again."

Most importantly, she didn't believe she had the courage to take that risk again.

She wouldn't marry Cayson.

Cayson's heart ached at her decision. His eyes quivered as he said softly, "Lorrie, I understand your fears, but I'm not Marco. My parents are different from the Bryant family. They would never hurt you."

Loraine shook her head, her tone serious. "That's not the issue."

She had married Marco because she loved him. Now, she couldn't marry Cayson just for Universe Group's interests.

Upon hearing her firm refusal, Cayson felt disappointed.

Feeling awkward, Loraine fell silent for a moment before asking hesitantly, "Cayson, why the sudden desire to marry me?"

If Cayson were to say that he loved her, Loraine would certainly distance herself from him.

Cayson was well aware of how Loraine had rejected and distanced herself from several suitors. Just hearing her question made him nervous.

He realized he had been too hasty, but he couldn't help being on guard.

Cayson carefully avoided the answer Lorrie dreaded and regained his usual composure. He said with a hint of distress, "It's all because of my parents. They're eager for me to marry someone. Lorrie, you're my only close female friend. After much thought, I felt I had no choice but to ask for your help."

Loraine breathed an imperceptible sigh of relief and joked, "It's my fault. I've been away from the company for so long that you've been consumed by mundane group matters, leaving you no time to find a girlfriend."

The tense atmosphere dissipated gradually. Cayson smiled but remained silent.

Loraine cleared her throat and said, "You just won the project. How about this? I'll give you a holiday as a reward for your return from your business trip. Take a

good rest and enjoy yourself."

Cayson's face momentarily froze. He struggled to restrain himself from asking, "Are you giving me a holiday so I won't interfere in the cooperation with Bryant Group?" Fortunately, he managed to hold his tongue.

He put on a smile and said, "Okay. Thank you, Lorrie."

After they separated, Loraine checked her phone.

She was taken aback by the messages on the screen.

Thinking that it was Qbot, she called out tentatively.

The screen flashed, and a new message appeared. "I'm glad you refused him."

Loraine chuckled at the words, realizing it was still Obot.

"You don't love the man you were just talking to, do you?" Obot asked.

It was strange that neither Obot nor Qbot seemed to like Cayson. Loraine shook her head and said, "You're only three years old. Do you even understand what love means? Anyway, I've always seen Cayson as my brother."

"What about Rowan?" Obot inquired excitedly.

Narrowing her eyes at the phone, Loraine asked, "Rowan? When he approached me, my phone was turned off. How do you know about him?"

Obot hesitated before explaining, "People are curious who you're dating, and they've been discussing it on the Internet. There are Cayson, Rowan, Wesley, Grady, and Godwin."

With an incredulous expression, Loraine replied, "Really? But people are more curious about who Marco is dating, right? Keely, Lily, Colette... Why don't you interrogate him instead?"

Obot was taken aback and didn't know how to respond.

Seeing this, Loraine put her phone away with a smile.

From that day on, she didn't discuss the events of that day with Cayson and instead focused on her work.

An important piece of news happened to capture Loraine's attention.

An international exposition was being held in Bluhm. Rumors said that the CEO of Cheap and Fine Group, one of the world's top 500, would attend personally, seemingly intending to expand domestically.

Cheap and Fine Group led the overseas market in retail, travel, technology, and other industries. Hearing the news, Loraine promptly inquired whether Universe Group had received an invitation to the exposition.

If they could collaborate with Cheap and Fine Group to establish the first domestic branch in their new CBD, it would be a significant achievement.

After confirming they had an invitation, Loraine decided to attend the event in Bluhm personally and find an opportunity to speak with Cheap and Fine Group's CEO. She asked her assistant to book the ticket.

"Miss Torres, the exposition is incredibly popular, making it difficult to book a flight to Bluhm at the moment."

As Loraine pondered this issue, her assistant rushed in again. "Miss Torres, the Bryant Group has arranged a first-class ticket for you. You can depart tonight."