

Chapter 358 The Investigation Results

The moment Marina departed, Laura texted Ashton, inquiring about the investigation results' release date.

Ashton viewed Laura as nothing more than a plaything, so he refrained from disclosing any work-related information to her. "You'll know when the results are out. What's the hurry? Why do you keep pestering me about it?"

However, Ashton relented eventually, unable to resist Laura's incessant queries. "The government will hold a press conference to announce the investigation results in a couple of days."

Laura's eyes sparkled.

The announcement of the investigation results meant those people would be publicly punished, right?

Lorraine and Rowan were surely done for!

"Congratulations, Ashton. You're undoubtedly the only person deserving of a promotion," Laura said with a flattering smile.

Ashton also felt that Rowan's days in his current position were numbered.

With Rowan out of the way, Ashton's rise to power was imminent, and his mood brightened. Laura's words only served to fuel his satisfaction.

"Since you're my woman now, I won't treat you poorly. If you want to buy anything, just inform my assistant. Oh, and I'll send you some new jewelry later."

Laura's flattery intensified.

"Ashton, trust me. Once you're promoted, Bryant Group will surely back you up. I'll do my best to persuade Marco and secure his full support for you!"

Ashton laughed proudly, vowing to take excellent care of Bryant Group. That way, they could monopolize the enterprises in Vagow.

The pair began envisioning their future filled with happiness and high expectations.

Meanwhile, the news that the government planned to announce the investigation results at a press conference spread quickly.

Marco instructed his people to monitor public opinion online. Should any negative criticism arise that could impact their future plans, they would need to address it immediately.

As a result, the news didn't create a significant stir online.

However, it did make an impact within the circle of the wealthy.

Lorraine and Rowan were far more influential than ordinary individuals. One was the young heir of Universe Group, while the other was a promising commander in the military.

If anything happened to these two, it would undoubtedly cause a commotion in Vagow.

Seizing the opportunity presented by the ongoing discussions, Marina abandoned her low-profile approach and began making ostentatious appearances at cocktail parties and banquets.

It was as though she had triumphed over her rival. Furthermore, her clothes and accessories appeared even more luxurious than before.

The wealthy ladies who had previously distanced themselves from her started reconnecting with her upon seeing her new attire.

Marina and Laura frequently attended events together, basking in their newfound prestige.

On the day of the press conference, Laura and Marina dressed in their finest, most expensive garments and adorned themselves with extravagant jewelry. They arrived at the press conference with an air of grandeur.

Inside the venue, people from all walks of life mingled. The tables at the center of the circular hall remained empty, but the name cards on the meeting table belonged to influential figures.

The more Laura observed, the happier she became. The grander the event, the less likely Loraine could bounce back.

Overhearing someone discussing Loraine, Marina couldn't resist approaching and interjecting after eavesdropping for a moment.

"How can Loraine be wronged? She must have been tempted by Rowan's power and position. It's only natural for her to sleep with him!"

The people in the conversation exchanged awkward glances and chose not to say anything more.

At this moment, Laura walked over and deliberately gave Marina a reproachful look.

"The official results haven't come out yet, Marina. Even if everyone knows what's going on, you can't be so blunt."

It was common knowledge that Laura was the first to expose the matter in public, so when she spoke, people were more inclined to believe her.

If it weren't true, why would Laura say that it was?

Marina snorted. "Anyway, there must be something wrong with Loraine. Otherwise, they wouldn't take her away for investigation!"

Before she could say more, Marco approached them, his face cold and severe.

"Shut up, Marina!"

She turned around and saw Marco coming over with a cold face. Startled, she subconsciously closed her mouth.

The others dispersed immediately. They knew better than to mess with Marco.

"This is a government press conference," Marco reminded them coldly. "Most of the people here are government officials. What's the business of yours?"

"How did you get in, then?" Marina muttered.

"I am with Klein."

Klein walked over behind him and greeted Laura and Marina with a nod.

Marina was still unconvinced. "Well, I'm with Mom!"

Marco squinted at Laura, his eyes full of scrutiny and suspicion.

Laura's heart skipped a beat. She had gotten in because of her relationship with Ashton, and she didn't want Marco to find out. "Forget about how we got in, Marco. The press conference is about to begin. Why don't we find a place to sit first?"

Marco walked past her without another word and took a seat in the front row.

Klein followed right behind him.

Laura's face turned livid with anger.

"Is Marco mad at us because of Loraine again?" Marina pouted.

Laura snorted coldly. She let out a sigh of relief when she saw Ashton, who sat in the front row, looking in her direction.

"Loraine is doomed. Why do you want to know anyway?"

Once Rowan was removed from his position, Ashton would replace him as the commander. Laura believed she and Marina would no longer need to be afraid of Marco.



Chapter 359 Innocent

As everyone took their seat, the press conference on the investigation of Rowan and Loraine commenced.

Brady, the head of the investigation team, strode to the stage and gave a bow to the audience. Clearing his throat, he spoke into the microphone.

"Let me briefly explain the situation..."

After explaining the cause of the matter, Brady's tone grew stern. "Now, I would like to invite those who have been investigated to the stage."

His words caused the audience to hold their breath and nervously gaze at the stage.

Marco shifted uneasily in his seat, worried. He hadn't seen Loraine since she was taken away with Rowan.

The sound of a wheelchair rolling on the wooden floor grew louder and closer, causing Marco's heart to race and his breath to quicken.

Laura and Marina, on the other hand, were full of excitement and anticipation.

They gazed at the curtain, hoping to see Loraine brought out in handcuffs.

But when the curtain was finally drawn back, they were met with a sight they never could have imagined.

To everyone's surprise, Loraine and Rowan made a grand entrance, looking nothing like the prisoners they had expected. Instead, Loraine was dressed in clean and elegant attire.

Rowan, who sat in the wheelchair, sat tall in a crisp military uniform. Despite a hint of paleness on his chiseled face, his piercing gaze exuded his usual air of authority.

The couple appeared poised and confident as if they were there to receive an award rather than undergo questioning.

Marina's eyes widened in disbelief.

Loraine's simple and elegant attire made the two women look like shallow, wealthy upstarts.

What shocked Marina most, however, was the sight of Rowan being escorted to the center of the stage. What was going on?

The people who had just heard Marina mocking Loraine were speechless. They all looked at Marina and Laura with suspicion.

Had these two women spread false rumors, fooling everyone? After all, Loraine and Rowan appeared so calm and confident.

Laura, a little confused, still firmly believed in Ashton's intelligence. She put on a facade of calm and sneered, "What an ignorant fool! Loraine is still trying to maintain her dignity, putting on a show with her decent clothes."

At these words, Marina breathed a sigh of relief and quickly echoed, "Yes, it's true that Loraine and Rowan have been taken away for investigation. Rowan is a commander and

Lorraine is the CEO of a big company. They've colluded with each other and worked together on a major project in Vagow. I assure you, once the results of the investigation are released, they're doomed!"

However, the crowd around them remained skeptical of their claims.

Brady pounded the table and declared, "Silence! I would now like to announce the results of the investigation. The commander of Cheetah Command, Rowan Torres, who was reported..."

Laura's attention was elsewhere.

She was lost in a daydream, imagining a future where Lorraine and Rowan were found guilty and sentenced, allowing Ashton to take over as the commander and elevating her own status.

Marina, on the other hand, couldn't contain her excitement. She jumped up from her seat, interrupting Brady, "Look, I was right! Lorraine and Rowan are guilty!"

Brady was forced to pause, and the only sound in the hall was the hum of the microphone.

Marco turned around, giving Marina a cold, piercing gaze.

Marina shrank back but then remembered what Laura had told her. She straightened up and challenged, "What's the problem? Did I say something wrong?"

Rowan frowned on stage.

Everyone present was lost in their own thoughts.

Ashton was disgusted by Laura and Marina's excitement.

But at the same time, he was also eager to hear the results of the investigation. He prodded impatiently, "Please announce the investigation results as soon as possible."

Brady shot Ashton a glance before turning to Marina and warning, "Miss, please don't disrupt the proceedings. This is an official event, and if you say anything that could harm someone's reputation, you will be held accountable and face legal consequences."

Marina paled. "What? What are you talking about? I'm just telling the truth!"

Laura's heart skipped a beat as she noticed a change in Brady's attitude. Could it be that Loraine and Rowan would be cleared of all charges? It couldn't be possible, she reminded herself. After all, Ashton had promised her.

Ignoring Marina, Brady continued with the announcement in a serious tone.

"After our investigation, there is no evidence of an illicit relationship between Rowan and Loraine. Nor are there any illegal transactions between Universe Group and any government officials."

The audience erupted in an uproar.

What was happening?

Loraine and Rowan were innocent? How could that be?



Chapter 360 Reveal His Identity

Upon hearing the announced results, Marco exhaled a breath he didn't know he had been holding. He cast a tender glance at Loraine, his heart easing in her presence.

Ashton, however, couldn't contain his outrage. "I object! Something's off with this investigation results!"

Brady regarded Ashton with a serious expression. "On what grounds do you object? Do you question the integrity of the investigation team, or do you possess other evidence?"

Ashton's teeth clenched, and he angrily gestured toward Loraine and Rowan.

"There's a photo of the pair in an intimate embrace. How is that not enough? Yet the investigation team claims they weren't involved. Isn't that a glaring discrepancy?"

Laura, regaining her composure, swiftly stood up to corroborate Ashton's statement. "Yes! I took that photo myself. I witnessed their embrace. It's undeniable! The investigation team can't shield them!"

Brady's brow furrowed at her words.

Marco's visage darkened when he learned Laura was behind the photo, casting an icy stare her way.

Feeling a chill from his gaze, Laura shuddered involuntarily. But Ashton's presence reassured her, and she steadied



herself. If Ashton could topple Rowan, the tide would turn in their favor.

Once Ashton secured the commander position, she would no longer fear Marco.

Bolstered by this thought, Laura straightened her spine and steeled her nerves.

"Am I mistaken? The investigation team ignores blatant evidence and maintains there's no improper relationship. Are they not protecting them?"

The audience began to murmur amongst themselves.

"I think Laura has a point. The photo is genuine. How can they explain a man and woman embracing in private?"

"Moreover, there were rumors about Rowan and Loraine before. Now there's irrefutable proof. It must be true."

As the chatter intensified, Brady intervened, urging the crowd to remain calm.

"Everyone, the investigation team will not harbor anyone!"

Laura scoffed, her face etched with disdain. Marina rolled her eyes, equally skeptical.

Seated in his wheelchair, Rowan observed the commotion, while Loraine stood on the stage, her cold gaze sweeping the place.

She noted the mix of curiosity and malice. When her eyes met Marco's, his concerned expression warmed her heart.

Loraine regained her composure and addressed Laura. "We simply hugged. What of it?"



Her brazen words redirected everyone's attention. Rowan smiled affectionately, allowing Loraine to continue.

Laura sneered. "Loraine, you are truly shameless! How dare you say something like that?"

Marina chimed in, her voice shrill with excitement. "Loraine, why so arrogant? You're under investigation! Did you bribe the entire investigation team?"

Upon hearing Marina's words, Laura chimed in, "Exactly! What else could a man and a woman be doing while embracing? It's clear you're in a relationship! How can you be so brazen? We demand another investigation!"

"Enough! Silence!" A commanding voice cut through the cacophony.

Marco could no longer hold his tongue. He rose to his feet, his frosty gaze fixed on the pair.

Despite their claims of newfound support, Marina and Laura still feared Marco and fell silent.

Loraine guided Rowan's wheelchair to the forefront of the stage, a smile playing on her lips. "Indeed, I embraced him. But is it so wrong to hug my own uncle?"

Marina latched onto the first half of Loraine's statement, exclaiming, "Fine, you admit it! You hugged—"

Her words trailed off as she registered Loraine's meaning. Eyes wide in disbelief, she stammered, "What did you just say?"

Blinking in confusion, she stared at Loraine.

"You said Rowan is...?"

Clearing her throat, Loraine continued, "This is my uncle, Rowan Torres."

A hush fell over the room.

Dumbstruck, Laura muttered, "How can that be?"

Ashton was similarly taken aback. Once the reality of the situation dawned on him, he spat out, "You're lying, Loraine! We won't be deceived by your shared surname. Rowan's file says he's an ordinary man, without a powerful family background!"

Rowan scoffed, "Ashton, my files are classified. Are you certain you've seen everything?"

Ashton faltered.

Brady disregarded Ashton's outburst and announced the verdict. "According to our investigation, Rowan is indeed Loraine's uncle. His accomplishments have been earned through personal efforts, not family influence."

Rowan was Loraine's uncle! The revelation sent shockwaves through the crowd.

