

Chapter 361 Achievements

Rowan was Loraine's uncle?

Klein sat in disbelief as he heard this.

The Torres family had always been shrouded in mystery to the public. After the passing of his eldest son, Aldo entrusted the majority of his industries to the trusted Benton family. It was not until Loraine was brought back into the Torres family and her true identity was revealed to the public that Aldo officially transferred ownership of Universe Group to her.

Even Klein was unaware that Aldo had another son besides the eldest son who had passed away and Wesley who was traveling and pursuing his interests in the arts.

When Wesley had previously announced his identity, he referred to himself as the youngest son. Klein assumed that Wesley was Aldo's only son remained, as Aldo would not have given control of his business to his granddaughter otherwise.

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Yet, unbeknownst to many, another member of the Torres family lurked in the shadows: Rowan, who had concealed his true identity and enlisted in the army.

Indeed, the entire family was rather unpredictable.

No wonder they were so close to Loraine—they were family.

Klein's shock was palpable. Glancing at Marco, who remained composed beside him, he couldn't help but inquire, "Marco, did you know about this before I did?"

Marco cast him a sidelong glance, not denying the claim.

Klein's annoyance grew. Why hadn't Marco told him sooner?

Marco was also distraught. Although he'd learned the truth earlier than the others, it was already too late. He had already offended Rowan!

Ashton's thoughts swirled chaotically.

The revelation that Rowan was a member of the Torres family and Loraine's uncle left him reeling. The allegation of impropriety was now baseless.

But he couldn't accept this outcome after investing so much effort into the accusations.

Ashton's expression darkened. "Even if they're innocent of that charge, we can't overlook the potential collusion, can we? It's all too convenient for a family to abuse power for personal gain!"

Brady gestured for his subordinates to lay out documents on the table.

"These are Universe Group's company tax and

transaction records. We've investigated them and found no issues. Would you like to review them again?"

Ashton stared, dumbfounded.

His shot at a promotion seemed to be slipping away, and fury and anxiety bubbled up within him. Abandoning decorum, he snapped, "Of course you won't catch the criminals if they're adept at hiding!"

Brady's patience wore thin, and he was no longer willing to entertain Ashton's baseless accusations.

"From the beginning, you've cast doubt on the investigation results. Do you think the government's credibility means nothing?"

Ashton found himself at a loss for words. Brady's voice boomed, "If you refuse to accept the results of the investigation, present your own proof. But without substantial evidence, keep your silence. There's no room for baseless accusations here!"

Naturally, Ashton was unable to provide any evidence. His expression turned sour as he suddenly fell silent.

Initially, Laura and Marina had been brimming with enthusiasm and hubris. Yet, now they found themselves utterly flabbergasted, slumping in their chairs with their once-bright eyes dimmed.

Laura, in particular, paled considerably.

Having crossed Marco and now powerless to bring down Rowan, Ashton's promotion was jeopardized.

And if Ashton failed to climb the ranks, would Marco ever forgive her?

The more Laura pondered, the more uneasy she grew, yearning to slip away and find refuge.

Nonetheless, after admonishing Ashton, Brady proceeded to reveal the findings of the investigation.

"Rowan Torres is not only innocent, but he has also participated in numerous front-line operations, making exceptional contributions. His position is well-earned. Furthermore, I must clarify that his return to Vagow for the project inspection is due to his need for recovery and adjustment and bears no relation to the Torres family!"

Each word felt like a slap in Ashton's face. Brady continued, "He left Vagow this time for a mission..."

Hope flickered anew in Ashton's eyes.

Indeed, Rowan had returned injured this time. His mission must have failed!

However, Brady's subsequent statement dashed his renewed hope.

"Rowan has recently recovered from his injury and successfully completed a level-S assignment!"


Thunderous applause erupted from the assembly.

Brady grinned, "He sustained a new injury but made a significant contribution to the mission! As a result, the government has decided to bestow an honorary medal upon him and promote him!"

What? Ashton nearly fainted.

He hadn't anticipated Rowan's elevation to a higher

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 +120 Points at most

rank.

This time, Rowan had him utterly defeated.

Loraine gazed at Rowan, her eyes gleaming with happiness.

Brady announced, "Loraine Torres has also played an invaluable role in this mission's success. She, too, will be awarded a medal and a bonus!"

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When Loraine was invited to receive the award, she bowed down and accepted the medal.

Her light white windbreaker and the gold medal rhymed well. She gave a modest, gentle grin under the spotlight.

Rowan gave her a contented look.

Just like Loraine, he was more delighted to see her win the prize than when he was given a promotion.

His niece was always amazing!

That was not all. Brady cleared his throat again and continued, "This mission has been carried out successfully. We cannot overlook the assistance of others. Let us welcome the other heroes to the stage to accept their awards!"

As he read out the names on the list, the members of the Cheetah Command entered the stage one by one. Their eyes brimmed with self-assurance and pride.

One specific name that Brady called startled everyone.

"Marco Bryant, please come to the stage to receive your prize!"

Marco was astounded as well. He wasn't expecting to be called. However, when he noticed Loraine staring at him, he instantly adjusted himself and moved up to the stage.

Everyone in the Cheetah Command regarded him with respect. They also gave him encouraging looks.

Rowan looked at them and coughed, feeling repulsed and disdain for their action.

Marco purposefully stood near Loraine.

With a worried expression, Rowan exclaimed, "Marco, the stage is large enough. You should keep a personal space from Lorrie!"

Loraine also thought he was too close to her. She could even smell his scent. Thus, she moved a few steps away from him.

Suddenly, Marco hissed. It looked like his wound ached.

Loraine knew that he hadn't recovered yet. She worried that Marco would be pushed and his wound would be pressed by others when she saw this bunch of strong troops, so she went back to Marco.

Marco smiled contentedly.

Brady called for everyone to assemble for a group photo. Loraine and Marco stood beside each other, standing out among a group of troops in combat gear.

Watching them on the stage, Marina felt her blood beginning to boil, her heart rate quickening, and her breathing becoming shallow.

She came to witness Loraine get busted.

She spent a great deal of money dressing for the occasion, but now it appeared that she was a witness to Loraine's award.

The government gave out this award, and it was really valuable.

In addition, Loraine had two notable uncles: Wesley, a well-known artist, and Rowan, a military officer. They were all outstanding. How could she compete with Loraine in the future?

Marina looked at Marco on the stage. Her eyes flashed with anger and resentment.

In comparison to Loraine, she just had a brother who despised her.

He loathed her and also supported Loraine even though she was not their family.

Marina became irritated the more she pondered it. When she turned her head to complain to Laura, she saw that Laura was more furious than her. "Mom, look at Marco..."

But how could Laura hear what Marina said? She had narrowed her eyes, clenched her jaw as she glared at Loraine.

She wouldn't have worked for Ashton if she had foreseen the happenings that were currently taking place.

She now has angered Rowan in addition to upsetting Marco.

Now that Rowan was promoted, it was more challenging to curry favor with him.

Laura felt regretful. She could not help but console herself as she glanced discreetly at Ashton.

Although Ashton failed to triumph over Loraine and Rowan as intended, Rowan was promoted, and his previous position was left vacant. Thus, Ashton still had a chance.

Although he couldn't be compared to Rowan after obtaining Rowan's previous position, he could at least support her and Marina.

Laura exhaled a sigh of ease as she considered this. She forced a smile at Ashton but got no reaction. Instead, Ashton just stared at the stage with a long face and ignored her.

The awards ceremony on stage ended shortly after. The soldiers left following an orderly line-up.

Marco suddenly stopped Brady.

"Since the entire investigation team is present, I want to report an unethical official to you. Can I?"

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Lorraine gave him a startled glance. Brady turned around and said earnestly, "Of course, you can. It's the duty and power of every citizen! May I know who you want to report?"

Marco sneered and turned to the audience.

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