

Chapter 1051 Marco's Protection

The bidding at the auction had escalated into a matter of personal pride.

At this moment, everyone's attention was fixed on Loraine and Edwin, anticipating a heated showdown.

Loraine suddenly flashed a defiant smile and lifted her chin.

It wasn't that she couldn't afford the land; she simply didn't believe it was worth the current bid.

Nonetheless, her expression suggested she was ready to spend freely to outdo the man for prestige.

As expected, Loraine smoothly raised her hand and casually increased her bid by ten percent.

The man sat up and enthusiastically waved his hand to increase his offer. Yet, Loraine kept her composure, making only minimal increases each time.

The room buzzed with excitement, all eyes were fixed on the event as the piece of land was auctioned for a surprisingly high price.

Edwin smirked, though inwardly he scoffed, thinking the woman was reckless for throwing away money just to appear competent.

He kept a close watch on Loraine's face, ready to back down on his bid at the first sign she was in trouble, which would leave

her with a significant financial hit.

Then, Loraine shrugged casually, smiled, and said, "I give up."

The look of anticipation on Edwin's face turned to dismay. Reevaluating the bid, he realized he was now committed to a losing deal.

He slammed his hand on the table in frustration as he stood. Loraine, masking her satisfaction with a tone of regret, commented, "Jesse really went all out today, securing such a vast piece of land. He's the clear winner. As for me, it seems my trip here was in vain. Such a shame!"

Edwin's face changed expressions numerous times before settling on a tense smile as he leaned back in his chair and said with an arrogant tone, "If spending this amount of money teaches you a lesson, then it's well spent! Miss Torres, my advice to you is to be careful not to offend the wrong people. Otherwise, the Universe Group will find none of its projects successful!"

Loraine's eyes narrowed slightly. While she was unsure how she had offended this wealthy man, it was evident she was now his target.

She responded with a sly smile.

Just then, the auctioneer approached Edwin with a cheerful smile and a stack of documents.

"Mr. Wilson, congratulations! These plots of land are now property of the Wilson family. Here are the papers..."

Upon hearing the mention of the "Wilson family," Loraine's face grew cold and unimpressed, showing not the slightest hint of surprise.

After all, only the Wilson family, known for their vast wealth and

hostility towards her, could have outbid her with such animosity.

But... was it really worth spending a fortune just to get back at her for Kaley?

That truly wasn't worth the cost. Loraine's smile turned into an almost mocking smirk.

The plots of land the Wilson family acquired today were bought at a price well above their potential value. While Loraine felt a tinge of regret for not securing any land, she wasn't upset; actually, she felt a sense of satisfaction.

So Loraine smiled and remarked, "Congratulations, Mr. Wilson. Only the Wilson family could afford to pay such a high price for these plots of land."

Upon hearing her words, Edwin was visibly displeased yet maintained a facade of calm, scoffing, "Are you upset about not securing any land?"

He boastfully added, "The Wilson family isn't short on money, and what I said is true. However, if you apologize, I might just let you off and sell you a plot at the price it went for."

Loraine couldn't help but chuckle, "No need, I can't match the Wilson family's spending. I don't want to throw away my money like that. Have a good day, Mr. Wilson. I'll be on my way now."

Even though Loraine didn't win the land, outsmarting a member of the Wilson family left her in high spirits. She stood up quickly, ready to leave.

Edwin, seething with anger and on the brink of losing his composure, realized that he had messed up the first assignment given to him by his father upon his return to the country. He could almost hear the harsh criticism he was going to face from his father.

So as Edwin watched Loraine smile with satisfaction and get ready to leave, he lost his temper and lunged at her with a raised fist.

Just as he threw his punch, Loraine was swiftly pulled to safety, and immediately, a pair of hands strong as iron stopped him, gripping him tightly.

Edwin's face twisted in pain as he cried out. Struggling, he managed to free his hand, growling fiercely, "Who the hell is this bastard?"

The tall, stern man in front of him slightly raised his eyes and cast a contemptuous glance at Edwin.

Feeling humiliated, Edwin's face reddened. As he was about to react further, the man beside him quickly restrained him, saying, "This is the son of the head of the Cruz family. Mr. Wilson, please be careful!"

Startled, Edwin hesitated. Was this the man Kaley had often mentioned, the one snatched by Loraine?

He couldn't help but take another look at Marco. Seeing that Marco was holding Loraine's hand, he felt a surge of anger once again and cursed. "So what? He's just a fool with poor taste, to reject a wonderful girl like Kaley for a short-sighted woman!"

Marco's lips curled into a faint smile, and he responded with a subtle insult, "True, Loraine is not like Kaley. She doesn't have a foolish cousin."

Chapter 1052 You Have Me

Edwin followed Marco's gaze to the pile of contracts beside him, realizing Marco was mocking him for being gullible.

He felt a surge of anger and shook off the man who was trying to hold him back. Pointing at Marco, he exclaimed, "Don't think you can act arrogantly just because you're from the Cruz family! I am the next heir of the Wilson family. I am your equal. What gives you the right to be so proud?"

Marco's gaze shifted to Edwin's finger, his expression suggesting he was contemplating breaking it.

Edwin felt a chill, instinctively curling his finger back. His face was flushed with shame and anger.

Seeing Edwin's retreat, Marco nodded in satisfaction. He then took Loraine's hand and turned to leave. With a voice full of sarcasm, he said, "Talk to me when you can stop using your family to intimidate others."

Edwin took a deep breath, trying to calm his anger.

His hands, still shaking with fury, fumbled for his phone as it rang. It was Kaley's sweet voice on the line, inquiring about the auction.

Determined not to show weakness in front of his cousin, Edwin forced a smile and boasted, "I didn't let Loraine get any land at the auction today."

"Really?" Kaley exclaimed, impressed. "You're amazing, Edwin!"

Her praise momentarily lifted Edwin's spirits, but the weight of

his actions quickly dampened his mood. After concluding the call with Kaley, he received another from his assistant.

"Mr. Edwin Wilson, Mr. Francis Wilson wants you back at the company immediately!"

Edwin took a moment to compose himself. Despite the higher prices paid for the lands at the auction, the locations secured were prime spots. Putting aside the costs, the deals were still successful.

He would surely be praised for it, right?

Meanwhile, Loraine and Marco left the auction feeling dejected.

Loraine had arrived with great confidence, even prepared with detailed plans for several projects, expecting to secure lands. However, due to Edwin's interference, she didn't manage to buy a single piece.

Just then, a contract was handed to her, and upon inspection, she was surprised. "Isn't this the land in the suburbs? It may be the largest in area, but the conditions aren't as favorable as the other plots. Why did you end up bidding for it?"

Furthermore, because no one else was interested in bidding on the piece of land, Marco was able to secure it at the starting price.

He had been at the auction, witnessing the trouble Edwin caused for Loraine. Just as he was about to step in, he saw Loraine cleverly handle Edwin on her own.

Impressed, he decided not to intervene and instead executed his own well-prepared plan, successfully acquiring the unpopular piece of land.

As they were leaving, Marco noticed that Loraine seemed to be holding back her unhappiness and was too preoccupied to

notice the surprise he had prepared for her. With no other choice, he presented the surprise himself.

In response to Loraine's question about the land, he explained with a gentle smile, "This piece of land is located near the industrial city closest to Zodiac. I believe that in the next few years, the government will begin construction on a subway and develop a new urban area nearby. This area will undoubtedly become a development hub. If you use this land for commercial purposes, future customer traffic will definitely increase, making it a surefire profitable investment."

Marco's ability to predict and seize business opportunities was well-known in the business circle for its terrifying precision. It was this skill that had repeatedly allowed him to seize opportunities, propelling the Bryant Group's business unexpectedly and establishing the Solar Company as an industry leader.

His estimations were not taken lightly by anyone in the business world.

Loraine was shocked, then looked at Marco, saying in a daze, "But the Solar Company could also profit greatly from this. Are you sure you're okay with giving it to me?"

Marco couldn't resist pinching her cheek, smiling at her adorable expression, before replying, "The Solar Company can have it, but the Universe Group needs it more. We are partners, and I believe that once the Universe Group flourishes, it will also benefit me." Loraine chuckled softly, lowering her head.

Marco's tone became more serious as he continued, "Besides, you deserve what others have and even better. Others have cousins to stand up for them. You have me."