

Chapter 1053 Being Scolded

Edwin nervously arrived at Star Group, the Wilson family's company.

As soon as he arrived, Francis's assistant, Franklin, rushed to him, wearing a sour expression. "Mr. Wilson, you're finally here!" he said.

Edwin felt a lump in his throat. He knew his father had called him here for the auction. He feared his father might have heard about the situation before the auction ended.

He grabbed Franklin's hand and asked, "How does my father look?"

Unable to speak openly, Franklin looked at him, leaned closer, and whispered, "He doesn't look happy. He's very angry. Be careful."

Hearing this, Edwin's legs felt weak. He took a few deep breaths to calm himself, then gathered the courage to knock on the office door.

"Come in," came Francis's calm voice from inside.

With a forced smile, Edwin entered the office and said nervously, "Dad..."

Francis shot him a cold look, then threw a stack of documents in front of him, saying sternly, "I gave you three days to prepare. It was just a small auction, but you've messed it up like this! How can I trust you to take over the Wilson family in the future?"

Head bowed, Edwin replied cautiously, "I didn't mess up..."

"You bought a few useless pieces of land at high prices. Do you still think you did well?" Francis asked, disappointed and angry. "Don't think I don't know what you've been doing the past three days. I asked you to prepare for the auction, but you were hanging out with Kaley!" Francis said disappointedly.

"If you had consulted Rowan beforehand, you would have known that the government plans to develop new urban areas in the next few years! But the most valuable piece of land was sold at the lowest price! The Wilson family has never made such a bad deal!"

Edwin's face went deathly pale as he realized he had underestimated his opponent.

Over the past two days, Kaley had told him that Loraine was extremely arrogant and relied on connections to advance. This made him believe it wouldn't be difficult to deal with her. But he was wrong.

Despite knowing he was wrong, he was so used to being overconfident that he didn't want to admit defeat. He stubbornly argued, "Even so, the Star Group won't suffer much loss. I've seen those pieces of land, they have great locations!"

Francis gave him a cold look and said, "Pick up the documents from the floor and look at them closely."

With trembling hands, Edwin picked them up. After reading them, his face immediately turned pale.

Francis said quietly, "Let's talk about the most expensive piece of land you bought. The latest government message said an ancient relic has been found near that land. The government has started an archaeological project, so we can't begin construction until it's finished. How much money will we lose during this period?"

Hearing this news, Edwin was completely shocked. After a

moment, he explained in a trembling voice, "At least I made the Universe Group fail to get a land. It also sends a message that the Wilson family can't be messed with!"

Francis laughed angrily and said, "Didn't you check? In the end, the Universe Group got the land, the best piece, at the lowest price!"

"How is that possible?" Edwin exclaimed. He had seen for himself that Loraine hadn't acquired any land!

Francis narrowed his eyes and said, "It was Marco who bought it for Loraine."

He glanced at Edwin and warned, "Marco dislikes Kaley because she doesn't interest him. It's not your place to meddle on Kaley's behalf! You better start from scratch and change your impulsive ways!"

Then he added sternly, "Until then, you're not allowed to see Kaley!"

"Dad..." Edwin wanted to protest, but seeing his father's expression, he knew there was no going back.

Suddenly feeling dejected, he left the office. Franklin seemed to have been waiting for him. He said he would take Edwin to the new department to get familiar with it.

In his office, after scolding his son, Francis felt even worse. Thinking about Edwin, who always messed things up, made him depressed.

But compared to his son's failure, Loraine and Marco's actions made him angrier.

For so many years, nobody dared to challenge the Wilson family like this. The Wilson family couldn't afford to lose face.

After some time, Francis messaged his assistant. "Tell the Wilson family's friends that I dislike the Universe Group."

Two days later, at the Universe Group office.

Loraine was organizing the development plan for the new area when her assistant, Remy, rushed in, saying, "Miss Torres, something's wrong. Those partners suddenly want to back out of the deal and terminate their contracts with the Universe Group!"

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Chapter 1054 Failed Again And Again

"What happened?" Loraine frowned and observed Remy's flustered demeanor, signaling her to calm down. She then asked cautiously, "Which partner is it?"

Remy inhaled deeply, her face quivering as she replied, "Almost all of them..."

Loraine was taken aback, then her expression turned stern. She understood that the partners wouldn't have ended their agreements without a reason, suggesting they must have been influenced by someone.

Particularly since this occurred just as the project was about to commence. They wanted her to own the land but not profit from it!

Could it be the Wilson family again?

Considering this, Loraine's heart plummeted. She hadn't anticipated the Wilson family to disregard the honor of a noble clan and oppress the Universe Group so ruthlessly and shamefully.

After composing herself, Loraine thought clearly and instructed calmly, "Go and demand a reason from them. In business, credit is crucial. Since these partners have retracted their commitment just as our project was starting, they owe us an explanation."

Remy nodded, regained her composure, and went to ask. However, she soon returned with a sad look. "Miss Torres, it's

outrageous— they all claim that they find the Universe Group too inexperienced and fear the project will fail financially. For safety, they've chose to partner with a more established company in Zodiac!"

Lorraine clenched her teeth, visibly upset.

The Wilson family was relentlessly targeting her!

Recalling Edwin's aggressive behavior at the auction and the Wilson family's threats due to their financial leverage, Lorraine sneered and clenched her teeth. "Instruct the project team to seek new partners. In such a vast city as Zodiac, it's inconceivable that no one would want to collaborate with the Universe Group!"

Yet she had underestimated the Wilson family's influence in Zodiac. A week later, the Universe Group had failed again and again in finding partners.

Driven by frustration, Lorraine became even more determined not to yield or apologize to the Wilson family.

She set aside her pride and went in person, representing the Universe Group as its CEO.

Her first stop was an old client who had been associated with her branch company for years. They didn't end their relationship; instead, they politely offered her coffee, skillfully shifted the conversation away, and avoided discussing any business collaboration.

After some boring conversations, Lorraine realized she wouldn't gain anything from this seasoned client. She exchanged a few cursory remarks and left.

As she drove to the next appointment, she massaged her forehead and let out a weary sigh.

Seeing her distress, Remy glanced at her sympathetically. Loraine shook her head, adjusted her expression, and reassured her softly. "I'm okay."

However, the subsequent visits proved more challenging. As soon as she mentioned she was from the Universe Group, some made excuses about not being home, while others outright refused to see her, leaving her standing at the door.

Repeated rejections left Loraine exhausted both physically and emotionally. She sighed, glanced at the remaining names on her list, and muttered bitterly, "This is the last one. If this doesn't work, there's nothing more we can do."

The final meeting was with a female entrepreneur who also perceived the fatigue beneath Loraine's polite smile. She felt a pang of sympathy, hesitated for a moment, and then confided in Loraine, "Miss Torres, I genuinely admire the Universe Group project and I'm really interested, but we can't risk offending the Wilson family and Star Group..."

Even though Loraine had suspected the Wilson family's involvement, confirmation still sparked anger. She thanked the entrepreneur and returned to the office with a cold expression.

"Miss Torres, what do we do now?" Remy asked anxiously.

Loraine clenched her teeth and said, "I will personally refine the design plans, and try to cut costs without compromising quality. The Universe Group has the resources to sustain the early stages of the project."

Meanwhile, Kaley realized she couldn't contact Edwin.

Without Edwin, she was out of the loop on Star Group's latest actions against Loraine, and she was missing the chance to witness Loraine's awkward situation.

After a brief hesitation, she approached Francis, with whom

she usually kept her distance.

Despite not being cold to her, Francis' serious demeanor was daunting. Upon hearing her, he looked at Kaley meaningfully and advised, "Edwin has been quite busy. I've always taught him that while the Wilson family shouldn't be bullied by outsiders, they should also not be dependent solely on family when facing challenges."

Chastened and slightly embarrassed by his words, Kaley lowered her head and replied, "Uncle, you're right. I'll remember that and not rely entirely on Edwin."

Noticing her level-headedness, Francis' expression softened slightly as he advised, "When facing someone, don't confront them head-on. Use your strengths wisely. With a company like the Universe Group, if the Wilson family shows any disdain, plenty of supporters will stand up for us."

Kaley's eyes sparkled as she realized Francis was already making moves. She thanked him enthusiastically, as though she had learned an important lesson.

When Kaley returned home, Jaylah informed her that Marco had purchased a plot of land and gifted it to the Universe Group. With Francis's advice still fresh in her mind, Kaley swiftly devised a plan and instructed her subordinate to locate a contact number.

She dialed the number and asked softly, "Is this Miss Hoffman?"