

Chapter 1065 Unexpected Change In The Contract

As they looked into each other's eyes with deep affection, oblivious to the world around them, the sound of camera shutters filled the air.

Michel snapped several pictures, his face lit up with a wide grin. "That's perfect! Keep it going, keep it up!"

Only then did Loraine snap out of it. She felt embarrassed and wished to step back from Marco's hug, a blush creeping onto her face, which the camera also caught.

In the photo, the tall, handsome man held the timid, beautiful woman, almost as if he were about to kiss her, while she shyly turned away, her cheeks flushed.

The atmosphere became even more charged with desire. With a pleased look, Michel wrapped up the shoot. Seeing the two still lost in their romantic moment, he raised an eyebrow and joked, "If people didn't know we were shooting promotional photos, they'd think you're doing a wedding shoot."

Loraine's cheeks turned an even deeper shade of red. Clad in her fairy-like, moose-themed attire, she looked even more enchanting and adorable.

Marco felt the urge to cover Loraine so that no one else could see the captivating blush on her delicate skin, yet they were still on the job.

He reluctantly looked away from Loraine and said calmly, "When we have our wedding in the future, you'll be our

photographer."

Michel arched an eyebrow and said with a mischievous grin, "Then you'll have to let me off the hook for the wedding gift!"

Marco responded with a resigned smile, and Michel eagerly invited them to review the photos he had taken. As they were looking at the photos, Loraine's phone suddenly rang.

She excused herself and stepped aside to take the call.

The caller, from the Universe Group, sounded very anxious. "Miss Torres, during our handover with the Solar Company, they claimed our budget is three times lower than the contract states! They're refusing to proceed... What should we do?"

"Three times?" Loraine asked in confusion. "How is that possible? We agreed on the price. Could there be a mistake?"

"No, they showed us the contract, and it lists the price as triple the original amount."

Loraine paused, then directed, "I'll be there soon. In the meantime, try to keep the people of the Solar Company calm."

After ending the call, Loraine looked at Marco with a concerned expression.

She didn't suspect Marco, considering he had previously given her the land outright. It was unlikely he would betray her for such a small benefit.

Could it be that someone from the Solar Company, unhappy about sharing a significant portion of the profits with the Universe Group, had secretly tampered with the deal?

Loraine strolled back slowly, watching Marco as he picked out the photos with care, a mix of frustration and concern swirling in her mind.

She had initially felt that the price Marco had agreed upon was quite low, and she worried that the Solar Company might end up at a loss. She had intended to compensate them once the Universe Group began turning a profit. However, not everyone possessed Marco's understanding and patience; they might not be as forgiving or willing to wait for profits.

Was this contract issue merely a mistake, or did it suggest that someone was disloyal to Marco?

She returned with a heavy heart, so absorbed in her thoughts that she didn't even hear Marco call her name twice.

Noticing that something was amiss, Marco furrowed his brow, gently took Loraine by the shoulders, and asked with concern, "Loraine, what's bothering you?"

After a brief pause, Loraine decided to be transparent and shared the details of the phone call she had received.

Upon hearing Loraine's story, Marco's expression turned icy. Yet he didn't rush to assume someone had betrayed him right away.

He had always trusted his employees and didn't believe anyone would betray him. Yet, something was definitely off with the contract...

Marco took Loraine's hand and said firmly, "Let's go check it out together."

They quickly changed and hurried to the site. Upon arrival, they found the Universe Group and Solar Company employees amid a heated argument, their faces red with anger.

Seeing this, they first calmed their respective teams. Then, they pulled them aside to understand the situation.

Both sets of employees, as if they'd discovered a savior, started

airing their complaints and discussing the current issues.

The Solar Company employees glared at the Universe Group staff and voiced their dissatisfaction to Marco, saying, "Mr. Bryant, the Universe Group isn't adhering to the contract's stated price. If they're going to be so tight-fisted, why should we continue this partnership?"

Meanwhile, the Universe Group employees complained to Loraine, "Miss Torres, the original price was never this high. The Solar Company is just trying to inflate the price. Dealing with such a greedy company suggests that their leadership is corrupt, which explains the behavior of their subordinates!"

Marco and Loraine exchanged knowing looks and shared a wry smile. After settling their employees' emotions, they compared their copies of the contract and confirmed that the figures didn't match.

When the contract from the Solar Company revealed a tripled amount, Marco's expression hardened, and he promptly instructed someone to identify where the process had gone wrong.

But it turned out that only Sullivan had managed this contract!

Chapter 1066 Doubts

Loraine was quite surprised at the result of the investigation. Immediately, she said, "There's no way the problem could lie with Dr. Palmer. He wouldn't do this."

They were both aware that Sullivan was the one in charge of the technical aspects and was not well-versed in business. He was also responsible for the installation and improvement of the Qbot system, which required his signature on the contract. However, it was quite likely that Sullivan hadn't even reviewed the contract, not to mention tampering with the details.

Marco also didn't believe Sullivan was responsible for this. A thoughtful look rested on his face, and he said, "I'll get in touch with Sullivan and ask him what's going on."

A shareholder from the Universe Group approached them with concern written on his face.

At the meeting, Nicol Cullen had been on Loraine's side. He had been the first shareholder to support the amusement park project. However, he was quite anxious now, and it was visible. "Miss Torres, you know how much I supported you back then. I'd really appreciate an honest and definite answer. Can the Universe Group really continue to hang on?"

Loraine smiled and asked, "Why would you ask such a question, Mr. Cullen?"

Nicol forced on a smile and said, "There's been a lot of unrest within the company of late. Let's not beat around the bush. Your words were quite inspiring at the time, and they have been positive feedback, but at the end of the day, the Universe Group is still caught up in an issue without hope of it being resolved."

Lorraine nodded at his words. Many partners had terminated their contracts. The only thing keeping the Universe Group running at present was the project in partnership with the Solar Company. Hence, it was understandable that any issues with the Solar Company would cause panic within the Universe Group.

Nicol continued, "The most pressing issue right now is that not only are there no major projects, but some minor companies have begun to determine their partnership with us. If things go on like this, Miss Torres, it could send the Universe Group into chaos. I worry we might not make it through."

Lorraine knew Nicol was sincerely interested in joining her when he spoke to her, plus the issues he discussed were all quite pressing.

She began to feel a headache. Gently, she massaged her temples, trying to ease the pain. She turned to Marco for some support, but let out a helpless sigh when she saw the expression on his face as he argued with someone over the phone. Turning back to Nicol, she asked, "Who's the last partner to cancel their partnership with us?"

"It's a company that supplies raw materials. They are called Integrity Materials."

Lorraine nodded, turned to Marco, and passed a message to him before leaving with Nicol.

Marco was in a heated argument with Sullivan.

Sullivan had a peculiar temper and lacked the skills necessary for social interaction. An optimist would say he had the personality of a scientist, while a pessimist would describe him as stubborn.

This showed itself in how quickly Sullivan got upset at the mention of the contract.

"What's that supposed to mean? Don't you trust me, Marco? Do you think I changed the contract?"

Marco sighed, feeling the onset of a headache. Calmly, he said, "I didn't say you changed the contract. I trust you. I'm just trying to ask who else had access to the contract."

Sullivan's black mood eased up a bit at this, but he still snorted discontentedly. There was a thoughtful pause, then he said, "I signed the contract and sent it directly to your office. There's no way it could have been switched."

A frown appeared on Marco's face as he recalled the day he had brought Sullivan back. Sullivan had put the contract on his desk. His office was not a place one could easily gain access to.

Sullivan's silence reflected his confusion. However, a childish voice rang out from Marco's phone. "I saw who did it!" the voice said.

Marco was quite taken aback by this. He looked at his phone and saw that he had a notification from Qbot. Before he could take a look at it, a series of anxious-looking emojis popped up on his phone screen.

Qbot appeared quite frantic. "Daddy, forget about that for now. Mommy is in danger!"

Marco immediately grew alert. He turned around, looking for Loraine. He soon realized she was nowhere to be found. In a panic, he asked, "Where's Loraine?"

Qbot reminded him to check his phone and pulled up a map that had a marked route.

Marco immediately began sprinting, following the route that Qbot had marked.