

Chapter 1071 Panic

Doris was unaware that her actions had been uncovered; she believed she had been exceedingly discreet.

Unbeknownst to Doris, Qbot, which had been developed domestically and was once part of the Bryant Group, had capabilities far beyond her knowledge, even after its acquisition by the Solar Company.

She felt a secret thrill as her subordinates reported that Solar Company had managed to wrest a third of the smaller projects from the Universe Group. Those they couldn't secure were systematically undermined, which kept a smile firmly on her lips.

However, her satisfaction was tempered by news that a contractual dispute between the Universe Group and the Solar Company, which had escalated tensions, was amicably settled thanks to the joint efforts of Marco and Loraine.

Doris frowned slightly but didn't dwell on it.

She had never counted on the contract to disrupt their partnership; such a feat was unlikely with Marco involved.

Her real aim was to exploit the turmoil to preoccupy Loraine, easing the way for her to usurp the Universe Group's other minor projects. The satisfaction of irritating Loraine was a victory in itself.

Reflecting on her maneuvers, Doris believed them to be impeccable. Even if Marco suspected a senior executive's involvement, he lacked concrete evidence to pinpoint her.



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With this thought, she allowed herself a moment of relaxation and began to ponder her next moves to further hinder Loraine, just as her phone began to flash with an incoming call.

Doris raised an eyebrow, picked up the phone, and answered with her usual playful tone. However, Phil on the other end didn't continue the banter. Instead, he asked in confusion, "Marco called me last night, concerned about some issues at the Solar Company. He's planning to investigate the senior executives individually and even questioned me. What's going on?"

Gripping the phone tightly, Doris's face lost color, and her voice wavered. "What did you say? Investigate the senior executives individually? Has he checked everyone?"

Phil sounded puzzled. "Don't you know how thorough he is? Yes, everyone has been checked. Haven't you been?"

Doris's expression shifted, and she managed a forced smile. "Yes, of course, I'm just surprised he questioned you too. It's really not a big deal. Let's not blow this out of proportion."

Phil continued speaking, but Doris wasn't really listening. She offered a few dismissive replies and hung up. Clutching her phone, she looked visibly shaken.

She had braced for Marco's scrutiny of the senior executives, but his swift actions caught her off guard.

Furthermore, everyone had been questioned except for her?

She couldn't fathom Marco overlooking her by mistake. It was clear he was already suspicious of her, though she couldn't understand why he would suspect her so swiftly.

With her initial calmness dissipating into anxiety, Doris hastily dialed another number, her voice tinged with panic. "Miss Wilson, how reliable is your technology for managing surveillance footage? And can you ensure that all traces of my communications with those suppliers are completely erased?"



Kaley quickly snapped back on the other end, "Are you doubting our capabilities? Rest assured, even the most sophisticated technology won't detect any tampering with the surveillance records! And as for the transfer records, they'll only trace back to the Solar Company, not to you personally."

Doris exhaled deeply, her nerves somewhat eased by the reassurance.

"Why the sudden panic?" Kaley inquired, her tone laced with confusion.

Feeling a twinge of embarrassment, Doris stiffened. "Marco seems to have picked up on something and has initiated investigations."

Hearing the unease in Doris's voice, Kaley couldn't help but sneer.

She had entered into a partnership with Doris, believing her to be a player of significance. Yet, witnessing Doris's current state of disarray was disappointing. How could someone so easily flustered ever hope to win Marco over?

Despite her internal disdain, Kaley maintained a soothing tone. "Don't worry, the Wilson family's capabilities are among the nation's elite. To ensure our security, I've even engaged world-renowned hackers. We won't be exposed."

Doris expressed her gratitude, lavished a few more compliments on the Wilson family, and then ended the call. Although still somewhat anxious, she felt steadier.

As long as Marco found no concrete evidence, he couldn't prosecute her. If she remained firm in her denial, there was nothing Marco could do.

Doris devised numerous excuses in anticipation of Marco's questioning, but two days went by without any word from him.

Her initial calm had eroded, replaced by increasing anxiety.

It seemed improbable that Marco's investigations would turn up nothing. His silence felt ominously like the quiet before a

storm, heightening her nervousness.

At the peak of her anxiety, she received a summons to the president's office.



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Chapter 1072 The Last Chance

Carl's assistant approached Doris with a pretext: he needed her to deliver a document to the CEO's office.

Doris's heart raced, and she found herself secretly hoping that perhaps Marco hadn't noticed anything unusual.

It was also possible that he was providing her an opportunity to confess voluntarily, but Doris instinctively dismissed that thought.

Having always been a risk-taker, she had once defied her family to join Marco in a start-up venture abroad, betting on a future with someone who then had nothing.

And as with all bets, she knew the stakes were high—win big or lose it all.

Trying to convince herself of her good fortune, Doris steadied her nerves, approached the CEO's office, and took a deep breath before entering. As she opened the door, she immediately locked eyes with Marco.

His expression was unreadable, his usual stoic demeanor intact.

With a slightly damp palm, Doris forced a casual smile and asked, "Marco, you called me over?"

Marco's gaze dropped briefly, creating a tense silence that stretched between them. Just as Doris's anxiety peaked, he spoke in a cool tone. "Is there something you want to tell me?"

Doris felt a lump in her throat, her hands twitching nervously. She reassured herself that he was merely probing, lacking any concrete evidence.

With a forced smile, she replied, "I've updated you on all necessary work matters, and besides, the Solar Company is thriving. Isn't that a good sign?"

Trying to appear nonchalant, she added, "You never used to ask so many questions."

Marco's gaze was dark and frosty as he stated, "I didn't ask before because I trusted you would neither conceal anything from me nor betray our company."

Doris's face twisted slightly, her tone sharp in response. "Have I betrayed the Solar Company? Marco, haven't I sacrificed enough for this company? Why would you accuse me of such a thing?"

Marco slammed a document on the table, cutting off her outburst. "What is this?"

Doris paused briefly, then stooped to pick up the contract. She glanced at it and feigned confusion. "Is there a problem with this contract?"

The document in question was, of course, the one she had tampered with.

Marco's disappointment deepened as he watched her continue to dodge the truth. He spoke with a detached tone. "How long do you intend to keep this from me? I've discussed it with the other partners but haven't brought it up with you because I was waiting for you to come forward."

Doris's hold on the contract tightened, causing the pages to rustle. Her face paled as panic set in.

However, bolstered by Kaley's promise, she forced herself to remain composed, convinced Marco was merely bluffing. "What am I supposed to be hiding? How is this contract related to me? I've had no involvement in the dealings between the Solar Company and the Universe Group from the beginning."

She faced Marco with a forced smile. "I see, you think there's an issue with the contract price, and you expect me to take the fall. Marco, I never thought you'd change so drastically over a woman."

Marco's expression chilled further when Doris abruptly accused him.

Unfazed, Doris smiled, "Alright, even if I take the blame for you, I see no issue with the pricing in the contract. Though it's slightly above market rate, the Solar Company's stature justifies the premium."

She adopted a stance of advocating for the Solar Company's benefit and shifted the focus back to Marco. "But why this leniency toward the Universe Group? Since when have you prioritized personal feelings over profits?"

Marco replied stoically, "The Doris I knew never questioned my decisions, much less betrayed my trust."

He had provided her an opportunity to come clean by orchestrating this face-to-face meeting and had hoped she would seize it. Yet, she continued to conceal the truth.

His eyes filled with disappointment, Marco said quietly, "Do you think I'm unaware of your motives and machinations?"

Doris's face showed a flicker of emotion as she scrambled to defend herself, but before she could speak, Marco rose and walked to the lounge. He returned holding Loraine's hand, positioning her directly before Doris.

His actions clearly conveyed his awareness of Doris's intentions, which were doomed to fail.

Confronted with Loraine, Doris's face darkened.

Loraine, observing the woman who had been hostile toward her from their first encounter, spoke with a hint of emotion. "We meet again, Miss Hoffman. This time, you've really complicated things for me."

