

## Chapter 1097 Fake Information

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Loraine's cheeks blushed slightly. She believed it would not be long before the Solar Company, the Universe Group, or the Cruz family found Aria, which put her at ease.

Considering that Rowan and Wesley were already at Zodiac, it made sense to focus on the engagement party.

Thus, she agreed to Marco's suggestion, and they went to select formal attire.

As Loraine tried on different dresses, Marco waited outside the dressing room. The shop assistants sneaked glances at him, murmuring among themselves about the fortunate woman and her charming, handsome fiancé.

Marco was unaware of their whispers. Despite this, a sense of unease continued to grow within him. He was aware that Aria would only reach out if she was certain he could not find her, prompting him to have his team investigate the mysterious number.

As expected, his team reported back quickly. They were unable to determine the origin of the number, only that it was from within the Zodiac.

Marco was not entirely shocked by this, yet it was still surprising.

The Cruz family must have pondered the same question: how far could an inexperienced girl really get, especially if she wanted to hide? Yet, she remained within Zodiac, the Cruz

family's territory. It was strange, considering their capabilities, that they had not found her after all this time.

Even with the help of Solar Company's renowned technology, Marco could not pinpoint Aria's location. It was known globally for its effectiveness, yet Aria remained unreachable.

Memories flooded back for Marco, recalling the time Marina was kidnapped, and Doris too...

Back then, they were all the same, leaving behind no trace at all.

Marco's expression turned stern, his manner growing cold. With Aria's innocence, she was more vulnerable to getting into trouble.

He promptly instructed his team to strengthen their search efforts. Just as he sent the message, the dressing room door swung open. Marco instantly hid his concern and turned to see Loraine, stunning in her formal dress.

As she adjusted her gown, Loraine laughed at his astonished look. She asked, "Aren't you going to try on yours?"

Marco suddenly grinned and, grabbing the suit that matched her dress, headed to the fitting room to change, as if he had just come out of a dream.

Loraine's lips curled into a smile as she admired herself in the mirror, her face warming with anticipation.

Soon after, Marco reappeared. Her eyes sparkled at the sight of him.

They both wore dark colors, which accentuated Marco's tall, slender figure and complemented his naturally attractive features. He gazed at her lovingly, his handsome face adorned with a soft smile.

Despite their long relationship, Loraine's heart still fluttered every time she saw his familiar face.

Meanwhile, Marco extended his hand to her with a gentle gesture. The surrounding salespeople gasped in awe at the scene.

Loraine took his hand, and they stood together in front of the mirror. His tall figure made her look even smaller. It was clear to anyone that they were perfectly matched.

A sales clerk approached them and complimented them sincerely. "You both look stunning together. These outfits seem as if they were custom-made for you!"

Loraine gently bit her lip and gazed at Marco's reflection. Her face radiated immense joy, while Marco managed a smile, hiding his concern deep within his eyes and heart.

Realizing how happy Loraine was, he decided it was not the right time to bring up Aria.

He was determined to fulfill his promise and bring Aria back for their engagement party. However, he thought it best to let Loraine focus on the preparation of the engagement party.

They continued their shopping spree, unaware that at that very moment, somewhere in Zodiac, a powerful elder was tormented with anxiety over Loraine's true identity.

Eventually, Joseph called his butler and said sternly, "Call Lennox and find out why he has not managed this simple task yet!"

On the other side, Lennox held a bunch of papers, feeling encouraged by Jaylah's supportive look. He took a deep breath and said politely, "Mr. Wilson, the information I collected was pretty tricky, but I have sorted it out now. I'll head over to your place in a moment."

Soon after, Lennox arrived at the Wilson family home. Joseph, who had been waiting anxiously in the living room, greeted him in a serious manner and led him into the study.

Upon entering, Lennox bowed and presented Joseph with a folder.

Joseph quickly opened the folder and started reviewing the contents. However, within moments, his shock caused him to let the folder fall to the floor as he stared at Lennox in disbelief.

"Is all this accurate? Are you certain everything here is true and reliable?"

## Chapter 1098 Successful Scheme

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Lennox had been a steadfast confidant for Joseph for many years, known for his trustworthiness, reliability, and precision. It was no surprise that Joseph entrusted him with crucial investigations.

When Joseph asked him about the source of his information, Lennox was on the verge of explaining that he hadn't gathered the data himself.

But as he began to respond, thoughts of Jaylah interrupted him.

Lennox was certain Jaylah returned his feelings.

Lately, she had shown immense affection and support, utilizing her connections to gather more information on Loraine. This, she did in hopes of aiding Lennox in making a positive impression on Joseph.

He recalled Jaylah handing him the documents with a conflicted expression, saying, "I obtained some information about Loraine, and to be honest, her reputation isn't great... I won't go into details here; I'd rather not speak ill of her behind her back. I'm sorry, Lennox. I couldn't really help you more."

Lennox had been struck by her considerateness; such a kind and thoughtful person surely wouldn't malign someone without cause. He had planned to further investigate Loraine to confirm Jaylah's claims, but Joseph's urgent call for a report forced him to submit the information Jaylah had provided.

Considering that Jaylah didn't personally know Loraine, Lennox

believed she had no reason to fabricate harmful stories about her.

With these thoughts swirling in his mind, Lennox looked down and finally responded to Joseph, "I went to Vagow to verify this information, and the details in these documents are accurate."

Jaylah had cleverly manipulated the truth to serve her purposes. She mixed verifiable facts with embellishments in the documents she gave to Lennox. Her story included the real detail of Loraine's orphan background and her connection to the Torres family—a point Lennox could easily confirm, which solidified his trust in Jaylah.

Upon hearing Lennox's confident affirmation of the document's authenticity, Joseph seemed to visibly age.

His movements were labored as he picked up the papers, his fingers trembling as he flipped through them again. Suddenly, he was overwhelmed by a bout of shortness of breath that nearly caused him to collapse.

Lennox, alarmed by Joseph's reaction, quickly called for the butler, and together they rushed Joseph to the hospital.

The news of Joseph's hospitalization spread quickly among the Wilson family. Jaylah, realizing that her manipulation had triggered these events, felt a secret satisfaction.

However, there was no time to dwell on her success; she quickly took Kaley and went to the hospital to visit Joseph.

As the first of the family to arrive at the hospital, Jaylah donned a mask of worry and anxiety while they waited outside Joseph's ward.

Before entering, she whispered a few strategic words to Kaley.

Inside the ward, Joseph lay on his bed, his complexion pale and

his gaze vacant as he stared at the ceiling.

The document had hit him hard, suggesting that his daughter might have been murdered and that the Tear of the Sea—a precious family heirloom—was now in Loraine's possession.

According to the document, Loraine had been seen seeking a craftsman's help with the jewel.

Joseph closed his eyes, struggling to hold back tears.

For the moment, the origin of how Loraine acquired the Tear of the Sea was irrelevant. The devastating possibility that his daughter might no longer be alive consumed his thoughts.

Joseph had harbored mixed feelings about his daughter over the years. While he had blamed her for various familial strains, his longing for her overshadowed his resentments. He often fantasized about reconciling and making amends if she were ever to return.

Joseph had never entertained the possibility that his youngest daughter might be dead.

Overwhelmed with guilt, he questioned himself in anguish. How did his daughter die? If she was indeed murdered, who was responsible for her death?

As these tormented thoughts swirled in his mind, the door to his hospital room swung open. Jaylah, with tears streaming down her face, rushed to his bedside and exclaimed, "Dad, what happened? I was so worried when I heard you were in the hospital!"

Kaley followed close behind, her expression etched with concern. She took his other hand gently and asked, "Are you alright, Grandpa?"

Feeling a surge of warmth and relief, Joseph stroked Kaley's

head, attempting to find the words to express his tumultuous feelings. However, the recent news of his daughter's tragic fate and Jaylah's sudden appearance mingled in his heart, stirring a complex mix of emotions.

Jaylah had spent nearly her entire life studying him; how could she not understand what he was feeling? Masking her own calculated intentions with a display of care, she spoke through her tears. "Dad, I'll go ask the doctor what you should eat and prepare it for you. Kaley will stay here to keep you company, alright?"

Touched by her apparent thoughtfulness yet troubled by a nagging sense of guilt, Joseph merely nodded. He watched Jaylah leave the room, then pulled out a photograph, his eyes welling up as he gazed at it silently.

Kaley noticed the photo and remembered Jaylah's earlier caution. Her eyes sharpened with curiosity as she leaned over the bed, feigning innocence. "Grandpa, who is this in the photo? I think I've seen this necklace before."