

## Chapter 1105 Escalated Conflict

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The two rows of imposing bodyguards trailed an angry Damon as he left. It took Loraine a moment to regain her composure in her seat. Afterwards, she snorted and began to pack up as if nothing had happened.

She felt a wave of sadness wash over her. She had been under the impression that her mother's family loved her because of the presence of the Tear of the Sea, which was the reason why she had been searching for all kinds of clues on it.

However, as the truth unfolded before her, she realized that reality was drastically different from what she had imagined.

The Wilson family didn't love her mother. It seemed more likely that their attempts to retrieve the necklace were driven by the pride of a rich family that was unwilling to allow anyone to take hold of one of their possessions.

Marco held her hands, stopping her as she mechanically sorted out the documents, and asked with concern, "Are you alright, Loraine?"

Loraine froze, nearly losing all the strength she had mustered up. With a smile, she nodded, trying her best to appear fine. "Of course. Do I have a reason not to be alright? I just feel sorry for my mother. Now I understand why she never talked about the Wilson family... She made the right choice leaving them. That was the best thing she could've done. Who would even want to admit they were part of that family, knowing how they are?"

Marco gently stroked her hair to comfort her, his mind lingering

on the expression Damon wore as he left. As far as he knew, they weren't going to stop there.

After a moment of contemplation, he lowered his head and gave Loraine a kiss. Then, he said gently, "There's something I need to handle. I'll pick you up for dinner tonight. Don't worry too much about what's happened today."

Loraine smiled and nodded, urging him to go ahead with what he had to do.

After he left, she threw herself back into the chair. She stared blankly into space for a while before finally managing to regain her focus.

For the sake of her mother, she was going to show the Wilson family that they were nothing! She would prove to them that she was better than Kaley even without their support!

Back at the office, Damon's expression remained dark with anger.

He managed to control himself outside due to his public image, however, as soon as he stepped into his office, he lost his temper and began cursing violently. "I finally understand why Kaley hates Loraine! She's such a pretentious liar. Does she even have the slightest hint of decency? To think that I had once defended her because I thought she was a good cook!"

He had never felt this emotionally connected to Kaley. Gritting his teeth, he continued, "No wonder Kaley always feels wronged because of Loraine. I summoned Loraine as a government official, yet she acted arrogantly. How bold of her!"

Only a few of Damon's trusted subordinates were with him in the office. One of them was none other than Zach, who had asked Kaley about the Universe Group and secretly given orders against it.

Listening to Damon vehemently denounce Loraine, he realized that he had made a right decision since Damon detested the Universe Group. Without hesitation, he chimed in, "Indeed, Loraine is far too arrogant. We need to teach her a lesson! If we don't put her in her place now, she'll only become more arrogant!"

Despite his anger, Damon was rational enough to respond sharply, "A lesson? Do you think I'm some sort of mob? We're not going to resort to abusing our power and breaking the law to intimidate anyone."

His thoughts then turned to the Universe Group's recent activities, fueling his anger further. "The Universe Group is building momentum. What can we possibly do about it?"

Realizing that he had somewhat contributed to the success of the Universe Group, Damon nearly ran mad.

Upon hearing Damon's words, Zach caught the underlying message. It wasn't that Damon didn't want to do anything, but rather, he couldn't. Zach promptly responded suggestively, "You can leave everything to us. It won't..."

Before he could finish his sentence, someone outside the office reported that the CEO of the Solar Company had arrived.

The CEO of the Solar Company...

Marco?

Damon frowned at the news. After a few moments of contemplation, he decided to let Marco in. He settled into his chair, adopting an air of authority, and leisurely sipped his tea.

He vividly remembered how rude Marco had been to him earlier, so naturally, he wasn't going to be a very pleasant host. If he had his way, he'd even give Marco a piece of his mind.

However, when Marco finally entered, all Damon did was coldly eye the tall young man and snort, "What're you doing here? Are you here to avenge your fiancée?"

Damon then proceeded to click his tongue dismissively. "You're not that smart, after all. Don't tell me you actually believed you could diminish our dominant position with the Cruz family's influence?"

Marco lifted his eyes and glanced at Damon blankly before suddenly taking two steps towards him and gazing at him in a domineering stance. In a hushed tone, he said, "You know Mr. Terry Castillo, don't you?"



## Chapter 1106 Warning Damon

Marco uttered the name in a hushed tone, audible only to Damon and himself. As the words left Marco's lips, Damon's composure shattered.

His gaze shot up, locking onto Marco with a tumult of emotions swirling in his eyes. It seemed as though he sought to penetrate the facade of confidence that Marco wore, searching for any indication that he truly possessed the cards he claimed to hold.

After a prolonged silence, Damon exhaled deeply, feigning indifference as he spoke with disdain. "Although you are the young heir of the Cruz family, you have no right to invoke that name. While it's true the Cruz family may rival the Wilsons, suggesting your family holds such connections is an overstatement."

Marco arched an eyebrow, maintaining eye contact with Damon. With a thin smile, he retorted, "I've noticed a misconception of yours since we first met. While you may be the heir to your family, I am not. Please refrain from addressing me as the young heir of the Cruz family."

Damon seethed with anger.

In Zodiac, being associated with either the Cruz or Wilson families was a matter of immense honor. Damon had intended to convey his high regard for Marco by referring to him as "the young heir of the Cruz family," yet Marco's response left him dumbfounded.

Before Damon could formulate a response, Marco delivered a devastating blow.

With a casual smile, Marco remarked as though discussing the weather, "You claim the Cruz family isn't worthy of such connections, but what about the Solar Company?"

Damon's expression shifted abruptly. Describing Terry as remarkably distinguished would be an understatement.

He had made significant contributions in scientific research, academic studies, and even in political circles. That alone was enough to revere him, yet he was also a respectable elder of virtue, with students spread across the globe.

People from all walks of life, from high officials to wealthy businesspersons, knew Terry as a kind benefactor. Damon himself climbed to his current position under his guidance. Needless to say, Damon held Terry in the highest regard.

Marco's words reminded Damon that Marco was also the CEO of the Solar Company.

While the Solar Company might not carry as much weight locally, its global achievements demanded Damon's attention and prompted him to reconsider Marco's potential influence.

With a plethora of cutting-edge technology under its belt, the Solar Company had pioneered groundbreaking advancements, most notably the revolutionary artificial intelligence program, Qbot, which garnered global acclaim for its unparalleled cognitive capabilities. Additionally, the company's ninth-generation medical robot had made waves in the field of medical technology, earning accolades from experts worldwide.

Rumors even suggested Terry's involvement in the development of these innovations, hinting at a possible connection between him and Marco.

After considering the pros and cons, Damon looked at Marco, feeling a mix of humility and bottled-up grievance.



Yet he still held onto his pride and answered coldly, "Why mention Mr. Castillo? Are you hoping to leverage his influence because of your position at the Solar Company? But he's not one to abuse his power."

Marco's satisfaction grew as he observed Damon's reaction. He realized that his mention of Terry had struck a nerve and punctured Damon's facade of arrogance. It was fortunate that Damon had his scruples regarding Terry; it saved Marco the trouble of being more radical. He would not reveal this to Damon, though.

With a leisurely chuckle, Marco addressed Damon. "As long as you refrain from stirring up trouble, there will be no need for concern. But should you attempt to abuse your power to oppress the Universe Group... I believe Mr. Castillo would be more than willing to have a conversation with you."

Damon flushed, knowing he was being threatened but unable to argue. Because of the help Terry had offered him in his career and life, he had to be cautious.

Concluding their meeting on this ominous note, Marco bid Damon farewell and departed. Left alone with his simmering anger, Damon returned to the Wilson family estate.

Upon his arrival, he encountered Kaley in the living room, who promptly approached him. After only a few words of concern, she started inquiring about the result of his meeting.

Damon couldn't help but curse Marco and Loraine's hypocrisy at the mention of them.

Damon's anger boiled over as he unleashed a tirade of insults, directing his frustration towards Kaley. "Think twice before marrying Marco. You won't be able to handle his temper! I'll find someone better for you!" he warned her harshly.

Kaley responded calmly, "It's your decision, Uncle. Honestly, I've

lost interest in him anyway."

Despite her outward agreement, Kaley was more determined than ever to win Marco over.

Observing Damon's fury, Kaley offered him words of consolation before swiftly reaching out to Zach via text message. "My uncle is incredibly angry, Zach. I've never seen him this furious before. What exactly has the Universe Group done? Can you please help him?"

Zach readily agreed to assist her, prompting a satisfied smile from Kaley. She muttered, "No matter what accomplishments the Universe Group may have stumbled upon, Loraine, as long as the government remains vigilant, you'll never gain a foothold!"





## Chapter 1107 Introduction

Loraine was unaware of Marco's covert warning to Damon about her, which had occurred without her knowledge. Damon's visit didn't change her firm stance in defending her mother.

In the modern CEO office of the Universe Group branch, Loraine was deeply focused on her work when her phone's chime broke the silence. She looked at the display, her eyebrows raising slightly.

The message was from Aziel, who sounded regretful. He updated her that the long-anticipated drama was set to start, and he had used her scenes.

Yet, in the drama, the future of the female CEO, having faced dangers, was left uncertain.

Loraine had mixed feelings. Just then, Remy knocked softly on the door and came in, her expression filled with worry. Loraine quickly hid her emotions and faced her concerned assistant with a comforting smile. "What's the issue?"

Remy looked rather distraught as she managed a faint smile and explained, "Miss Torres, our application for expanding the amusement park has been denied again by the government. They argue that since the park is already up and running, expanding it isn't necessary and might disturb the local residents."

The Universe Group's theme park became extremely popular recently, especially during the holiday season, aimed at drawing larger crowds. The company was keen to finish expanding the park as quickly as possible.

Loraine laughed out loud, mocking the government's weak justification.

Everyone was aware that the new urban district was still early in its development. Although there were residential buildings, the formaldehyde hadn't yet dissipated from them. No one actually lived in those buildings, so who would be disturbed by the noise? Perhaps a ghost?

"This is just a flimsy excuse from the government!" Loraine declared, visibly upset.

She thought about Damon's motives. Was he trying to pressure her into making a concession?

The Wilson family was indeed self-serving!

However, she had stood firm against similar pressure before and she was determined not to yield now.

After taking a moment to calm down, Loraine regained her poise and gave Remy a comforting smile. "It's okay, Remy. We've faced this kind of obstacle before and we've always managed to find a solution. We'll overcome it this time too."

Noticing the fatigue on Loraine's face, Remy felt her concern but chose not to express it. She nodded, left the office, but paused briefly outside.

Alone, Remy thought over the situation. Her mind wandered to a past discussion with Marco following the Victoria incident. He had confidentially told her that if Loraine ever faced any threat or difficulty, she should contact him for help.

Knowing the strong connection between Marco and Loraine, Remy hesitated but ultimately decided it was best to inform Marco about the day's events. She sent him a detailed message about the government's rejection.

That evening, as usual, Marco came to pick up Loraine. He noticed her strained smile and the tiredness in her eyes, which caused his expression to grow serious.

He didn't probe further; instead, he chose to lift her spirits with a carefully timed joke. Loraine looked at him, taken aback by his effort to be humorous.

As she listened to his joke and observed his sincere yet clumsy manner, Loraine realized he was just trying to cheer her up. Her mood brightened, and she burst into laughter.

Seeing her cheer up, Marco felt relieved and took her hand, smiling warmly.

When the car pulled up outside a formal-looking restaurant, Loraine noted its upscale facade.

While Marco usually took her to a variety of cozy, romantic spots, this place had a distinctly more official tone.

Confused, Loraine turned to Marco, who averted his eyes softly. "I've arranged a meeting with an old man. I'd like you to meet him," he explained.

A meeting?

Loraine was surprised. She looked down at her office clothes, feeling slightly embarrassed and unhappy. "Why didn't you tell me beforehand? I'm not dressed appropriately to meet him!" she protested.

She was not only in casual work attire but had also skipped reapplying any makeup. She worried that the older gentleman might view her appearance as disrespectful.

A flush of embarrassment colored her cheeks. Marco reached out, gently stroked her head, and reassured her with a smile. "Don't worry, it's just a casual get-together. He's a very

understanding man, and there's no need to be nervous."

Despite Marco's comforting words, Loraine understood that the elderly gentleman Marco was introducing her to was no ordinary person.

She looked at him with a sense of helplessness, adjusted her clothes, and followed him into the restaurant.

As they neared the door of the private room, Loraine heard the cheerful laughter of a young girl and the gentle voice of an older man.

Inside, she observed an elderly gentleman with silver hair and a refined presence holding a little girl in his arms. He was using one hand to hold a phone, pointing at something on the screen with the other, and speaking affectionately.

A video of Loraine singing was playing on the phone!

Loraine was startled. Marco had already guided her to a seat. The elderly gentleman looked up and greeted them with a warm smile. "Ah, you've made it! Marco, listen to this. She has a wonderful voice."

Marco responded with a smile and a nod, "Yes, she's right here with me."

