

## Chapter 1108 Important Figure

---

Loraine was momentarily taken aback but responded graciously. She offered a respectful bow to the elderly man who returned a gentle nod.

He introduced himself as Terry Castillo. At the sound of Loraine's voice, the little girl he was cradling looked up.

Her eyes, wide and innocent, met Loraine's, then quickly darted back to her phone. A spark of recognition lit her face, and she exclaimed with glee, "You're the young lady I've been watching who sings so well!"

She wriggled free from Terry's arms, hopped off the chair, and hurried over to Loraine. With small steps, she wrapped her arms around Loraine's legs and gazed up at her, her cheeks flushed with excitement.

Loraine's heart warmed instantly. She gently pinched the girl's rosy cheek and smiled, "It's lovely to meet you."

The girl became shy while playfully rubbing her head against Loraine's hand.

Terry chuckled at the sight. "Shouldn't you introduce yourself first, my dear?"

Still clinging to Loraine, the girl's face turned the shade of a ripe apple. She looked up, biting her lip timidly, and murmured, "Hello. My name is Marie Castillo, but you can call me Mary."

Loraine, moved by her charm, lifted Mary into her arms and

beamed with genuine affection, "You are such a sweetheart, Mary."

How could any child be this cute? Loraine found herself utterly enchanted by Mary's endearing demeanor and was hesitant to let her go.

With Mary's warm welcome, Loraine felt her anxiety dissipate. Following Marco's advice, she treated the encounter as if it were a casual introduction and took a seat.

Mary, eager to stay close, pulled up a chair next to Loraine and sat down beside her, clearly delighted in her new friend's company.

After Terry gave his nod of approval, Loraine filled a bowl of soup for Mary. Mary accepted it graciously and began to sip carefully from her spoon.

As Mary enjoyed her soup, it was time for the adults to talk shop.

Loraine adjusted her posture in her chair, facing the elderly man across from her.

Initially, she assumed he was simply a senior associate of Marco's, given his warm demeanor. Throughout their conversation, she responded to his gentle inquiries with earnestness and clarity.

During their exchange, Loraine discovered that the show she had appeared on was currently airing and had gained notable popularity. Terry mentioned that Mary was a dedicated fan, particularly fond of the segment where Loraine performed on stage.

At the mention of her name, Mary looked up with pride, dabbed at her mouth, and began to sing a snippet of Loraine's song in a clear, tender voice, completely unbothered by any nerves.

Finishing her impromptu performance, she gazed at Loraine, anticipation shining in her eyes.

Loraine couldn't help but be genuinely impressed. "That was wonderful, Mary!" she exclaimed, her praise sincere.

Mary's vocal talent was remarkable for her age. Loraine smiled as she patted Mary on the head. "You have a natural gift for singing."

Terry beamed with pride, his affection evident. "She loves to sing, and I encourage it as much as possible," he explained warmly.

This heartfelt exchange reminded Loraine of her own grandfather, stirring a deep affection within her. She lovingly served more food onto Mary's plate, engaging with the young girl as she posed several challenging questions.

As the pair talked happily, the atmosphere at the dinner grew even more heartwarming.

Terry observed this with a smile, his eyes gleaming with approval and satisfaction. He stroked his chin and nodded slightly, affirming Marco's choice; the woman he had brought along was indeed both talented and virtuous.

Catching Marco's gaze lingering fondly on Loraine, Terry couldn't help but chuckle.

"You really enjoy her company, Marco."

Loraine looked up, catching both Marco's affectionate gaze and Terry's teasing expression, and immediately blushed.

Marco, ever direct, nodded and said earnestly, "We're getting engaged. May I have the honor of inviting you to our engagement party?"

Terry, initially taken aback, quickly smiled warmly, "That's unexpected, especially knowing your dedication to work. Of course, I'd love to attend. I'll even bring a special gift for the both of you!"

Marco expressed his gratitude with a smile. Midway through the meal, Terry suddenly set down his fork and asked with a neutral tone, "You mentioned Damon earlier. How is he doing?"

At this question, Loraine felt a jolt of surprise, now intensely curious about the identity of this elderly man.

Who was he, to speak so familiarly about Damon?

