

Chapter 1147 The Same Trick

Loraine, upon hearing this, was astonished. Glancing at Marco, she found him encouraging her with a smile.

Her smile was involuntary. She recognized Marco's recent efforts to win Kenji's favor.

She couldn't afford to disappoint Marco, nor could she allow any mistakes.

When she was lost in thought, Marco approached and whispered, "I'll leave you alone with Mr. Glyn for your conversation. Reach out if you need anything."

Loraine nodded. As she watched him depart, she took a deep breath, donned a flawless smile, then turned to Kenji and engaged him, naturally steering the conversation towards collaboration.

During their discussion on the amusement park project, Kenji showed interest. He clicked his tongue and remarked, "I'm quite optimistic about this project's future, but..."

Kenji sighed and glanced in a direction. Following his gaze, Loraine spotted members of the Wilson family conversing happily with other businessmen.

She was taken aback, wondering if the Wilson family had once again complicated matters by instructing their business associates not to cooperate with her.

Suddenly, Kenji snorted. He turned to Loraine with a

kind expression and said, "Ms. Torres, I'm eager to collaborate with Universe Group because of your reputation. To be honest, in my past dealings with big companies, I've always been anxious. Despite successful projects, they didn't treat their partners nicely! Whenever a capable employee emerged at my company, they'd poach them away... I fear they might even poach the entire company from me one day!"

His tone softened as he looked at Loraine. "But you, Ms. Torres, are known for honesty and integrity. I am seeking a more harmonious partnership, like with Universe Group."

Feeling Kenji's sincere desire for cooperation, Loraine breathed a sigh of relief and was pleasantly surprised.

Regarding Kenji's glance at the Wilson family members, Loraine didn't dwell on it. She saw it as a case in point, especially since their behavior did match Kenji's mention.

Quickly, she assured him, "You can trust us. Universe Group believes in win-win cooperation. The amusement park project is a prime example of mutual benefit between Universe Group and Solar Company."

Kenji nodded, evidently briefed by Marco on these matters, now feeling somewhat enticed.

Loraine seized the chance to anticipate the future, not overpromising but making reasoned analyses based on data.

Gradually, Kenji grew even more affable towards Loraine.

Glancing at her, he raised his glass and praised. "The younger generation is formidable! Both you and Marco are exceptional businessmen. It's an honor to collaborate with you."

With a smile, Loraine reciprocated the toast. Kenji chuckled, adding, "He spoke highly of you to me. Initially, I was skeptical... but speaking with you confirmed he wasn't exaggerating!"

As they prepared to delve deeper into their collaboration, the microphone suddenly echoed across the banquet hall.

On stage, Francis appeared. He greeted the guests cordially, halting their conversation.

Holding a wine glass, Loraine gazed at Francis, a slight unease creeping over her.

Suddenly, Francis announced significant news, confirming her unease.

"I've gathered you all here today not just to convey my appreciation to the friends of the Wilson family, but also to share some good news concerning the Wilson family."

Loraine's gaze darkened as she recalled how Clifford used to coerce Marco into compromising in Vagow.

Her gaze locked onto Francis. He appeared to catch her eye and offered a smile.

Then Francis continued, "My dad finally located his long-lost granddaughter, who has been missing for

years. Interestingly, she is Loraine, CEO of the Universe Group, who has long been involved with the Wilson family! Loraine is a member of the Wilson family. I hope that you, my friends, will take care of her in the future. As her uncle, I'm here to express gratitude on her behalf."

On stage, Francis took a bow, causing an uproar in the audience.

Loraine's expression darkened. Neither she nor Marco had anticipated that the Wilson family would act as shamelessly as the Cruz family and compel her to return to them.

Suddenly, she recalled Kenji's recent words. She turned sharply to face him and declared firmly, "Mr. Glyn, I won't return to the Wilson family. They will not have any association with the Universe Group!"

But Kenji's expression was grim. He glared at her briefly before stating coldly, "Ms. Torres, I believe we should stop discussing our collaboration."

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Lorraine's heart sank, but she didn't want to give up the opportunity she and Marco had worked hard for.

She believed Kenji's concerns about cooperating stemmed from his bias against wealthy and influential families. This led him to refuse collaboration upon discovering she was a member of the Wilson family. She promptly clarified, "Mr. Glyn, I intend to collaborate with you as the CEO of the Universe Group, not as a member of the Wilson family. My previous statements remain unchanged."

Kenji fell silent when he heard that. Had he not had a pleasant conversation with Lorraine earlier, he would have left immediately upon discovering her true identity.

However, when he witnessed Lorraine's sincerity, he took a deep breath and said, "Ms. Torres, I don't want to take the risk. Honestly, the company that collaborated with me and ultimately poached my employees was Francis's company—the Star Group. It's difficult for me to accept the fact that Francis is your uncle. I hope you understand my concern, Ms. Torres."

A frown creased Lorraine's forehead as she comprehended Kenji's concerns. The Star Group was eyeing a takeover of Willtech. Given her connection as Francis's niece, when she approached Kenji this time, he suspected her of having ulterior motives.

Their discussion about the collaboration had gone well. However, after Francis announced that she was part of the Wilson family, all her efforts went to waste.

Lorraine couldn't accept such an outcome. She took a deep breath, preparing to explain herself again.

Yet, after learning Lorraine's identity, individuals seeking favor with the Wilson family began to approach her, and Kenji used the opportunity to leave.

Lorraine felt helpless as she watched the collaboration slip away from her control. Her resentment toward the Wilson family intensified. Francis's behavior of revealing her identity without consulting her first deeply irked her.

She didn't expect him to use such a despicable method to force her to compromise after being silent all this while.

Though silently annoyed, Lorraine refrained from showing coldness to the individuals who approached her. After all, they were all potential partners of the Universe Group. And she didn't want to give the impression of rudeness to others, since she was now representing the Wilson family.

Lorraine suppressed her anger and addressed everyone with a polite smile. Most of them were friendly and wanted to say a few words. However, some noticed that she was alone, without Marco accompanying her, and they persuaded her to have a drink with them.

When Slater approached Lorraine with Trudy in tow, he observed Lorraine surrounded by a group of people

persuading her to have a drink.

A frown creased Slater's forehead. He wanted to help Loraine but Trudy stopped him.

"What's wrong?" he asked, casting a quizzical look at her.

Despite his frustration with Marco and his friends from past events, Slater detested seeing a woman being picked on, especially Loraine, who held a special place in Marco's heart.

Trudy's eyes darted. She lowered her head, not daring to admit that she enjoyed watching Loraine being targeted.

Now she finally got a chance to execute the plan she had discussed with Kaley in the bar the other day and didn't want to miss it.

After a moment's thought, Trudy looked up and smiled. "I don't think it's appropriate for you to stand up for her during such an occasion. What if others misunderstand you? You better find your friend first. Isn't he Loraine's boyfriend? Let me help her."

Although Slater didn't think it was inappropriate, he remembered Marco was a possessive man and felt Trudy was right.

He nodded and looked at Trudy worriedly. "Are you sure you can help her? And you had a spat with her last time..."

Trudy smiled gently. "I can manage that. If you are truly concerned, please bring your friend here as

quickly as possible."

later pondered for a moment and realized she had a point. He looked at her and said, "Trudy, you are a kind woman. I will surely ask Loraine to apologize to you for what happened last time!"

Then, he cautioned Trudy to be cautious, turned around, and hurried off to find Marco and Jimmie.

The smile on Trudy's face vanished the moment he left.

She crossed her arms over her chest and coldly watched the crowd for a while.

The situation was within Loraine's control. The challenge stemmed from the multitude of people eager to share a drink with her, making it difficult for her to decline their offers.

Trudy looked down at her phone and exchanged messages with Kaley. Then she glanced around at the crowd and winked at a man. She deftly maneuvered through the crowd and made her way to Loraine. With concern, she asked, "Are you okay, Loraine?"

Loraine was surprised to see Trudy. Just as she was about to ask what Trudy was doing here, a man abruptly approached her and yelled, "Ms. Torres, why don't you join me for a drink? Are you looking down on me?"


Before Loraine could respond, Trudy intervened on her behalf, pretending to be fearful and angry. "That's enough! Stop pressuring her. I will drink in her place."

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 +120 Points at most

Trudy's eyes welled up as she spoke. She grabbed the glass and emptied it in one big gulp.

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