

Chapter 1165 Heading Towards The Southern...

Joseph was seething with anger at Vincent's words, but he paused for a moment.

As an elderly man, he deeply desired to have grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Vincent's words were both enticing and menacing. His son certainly knew how to provoke him.

What if Loraine really chose to ignore him and denied him the chance to hold his great-grandchild? How sad would that be?


While Joseph considered this, he looked up to find Vincent smirking irritatingly. His eyebrows furrowed in anger.

He lifted his cane, poised to strike, and growled, "What nonsense! I'll teach you a lesson, you disrespectful child!"

Vincent swiftly sidestepped and said playfully, "Dad, are you feeling nervous? Does that mean you're guilty? I'm making a valid point, aren't I? If you want to hold your great-grandchild, you better think twice!"

Still enraged, Joseph slumped down on the couch, his eyebrows knitted tightly together.

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Chapter 1165 Heading Towards The  +120 Points at most

Still enraged, Joseph slumped down on the couch, his eyebrows knitted tightly together.

Although he was quick to anger, he certainly wasn't foolish. The remarks from Vincent had sparked some thought in him.

He gave Vincent a stern look and said, "Alright, I'll give you a chance! Since you're asking me to trust them, tell me where they've gone and what they're up to."

Vincent, well-connected as he was, simply shrugged and urged Joseph to be patient. Shortly thereafter, he came back, clearly astonished. "They've headed to the southern suburbs. Why would they visit that dilapidated area? Despite the developments, there's still plenty of vacant land. Could they be purchasing land there?"

At that moment, the butler knocked on the door and entered the room. He then whispered something to Joseph.

Joseph's expression turned more serious as he listened. After a moment, he nodded and sent the butler away.

Vincent, curious, watched him closely. Joseph frowned, lost in thought, then said, "Marco sent a message. He and Loraine are looking into Tessa's incident."

Leaning on his cane, Joseph moved towards the window, his gaze lost in the distance. Observing Vincent's relaxed manner, he began to ponder. Could they have been mistaken?

And was this irritating son, Vincent, actually more perceptive than he appeared?

Marco's message suggested that Tessa's departure from the Wilson family was not of her own will, but

Chapter 1165 Heading Towards The. 🎁 +120 Points at most
rather connected to the family itself.

He also warned Joseph to keep the Wilson family's influence in check and ensure no one disrupted their investigation.

Vincent, not privy to these details, eagerly said, "I'll locate them and assist in the investigation!"

Joseph frowned at Vincent's cheerful demeanor, convinced that his extensive life experiences enabled him to perceive things more keenly than Vincent.

Still skeptical of Marco's claims, he had more faith in his own family and sharply replied, "You're not going anywhere. That's inappropriate!"

Vincent lifted an eyebrow playfully and said, "Why is it inappropriate? I am Lorrie's uncle. When I had dinner with Lorrie, she even called me 'uncle.' Dad, did she call you 'grandpa' at the engagement party?"

Joseph's expression turned grim as he absentmindedly stroked his cane, deep in thought.

He remembered how he had caused a scene at the engagement party, and how Francis and Damon had come back, both shocked to find out he knew.

His sons had hidden the news of Tessa's death from him to protect his health. So, what was Jaylah's reason for sharing this with him?

Not wanting to dwell on it further, Joseph exhaled deeply and said, "Get the car ready. I'm coming with you."

Chapter 1165 Heading Towards The. 🎁 +120 Points at most

Vincent looked shocked. "You're going too? Are you sure?"

Observing Joseph's resolute face, Vincent recognized he was not joking.

At the same time, Loraine and Marco had reached the southern suburbs.

The area had undergone some development in the past two years, enhancing its security, yet it still looked quite run-down.

A dispute on the road halted Marco's car before they could enter the village.

There were two groups involved in a heated argument: one group appeared to be construction workers and the other, villagers.

Standing among the villagers was an elderly woman, her hands on her hips, arguing fiercely. "I've been living here for more than forty years. I can recall every damn thing that's happened here. And now, you people from the construction company come here offering so little money? It wouldn't even satisfy a beggar! Why would I agree to move?" she yelled.

Loraine and Marco shared a knowing glance, each aware of the other's thoughts. With her long-term presence in the area, the woman might hold information relevant to their queries.

Chapter 1166 The Stubborn Resident

Marco and Loraine exited the car just as the argument between the two groups was coming to an end, with the elderly woman, Rita Brooks, evidently the victor.

The construction workers looked disheartened, mumbling a few reluctant words before retreating, evidently accustomed to Rita's assertiveness.

Behind her stood a dilapidated house, a symbol of her steadfastness.

Upon noticing Marco and Loraine, Rita paused, taken aback.

Loraine offered a friendly smile and greeted her warmly.

Rita, her eyes narrowing suspiciously, demanded, "Who are you? What do you want? Are you here to convince me to move? Well, let me tell you, that's not happening! I'd rather die here than leave!"

Rita, known for her worldly experience, had encountered numerous construction bosses, but she had never met anyone as distinguished-looking as Marco and Loraine.

Despite her stern words, she felt a twinge of uncertainty. Why would such distinguished individuals come personally to persuade her?

Loraine quickly realized the misunderstanding and responded with an even warmer smile, "You've misunderstood us. We're not here to discuss relocation. Actually, we need your help."

Loraine, with her pleasant demeanor and beauty, managed to disarm Rita. Rita scrutinized her for a moment and asked, "Are you a celebrity or something? You look familiar."

As they conversed, Loraine's demeanor grew more engaging.

She soon learned the woman's name was Rita Brooks.

Once assured they weren't affiliated with the construction team, Rita's demeanor softened. Flattered by the visit of such 'high-class' guests, she invited them into her home.

Despite its outwardly worn appearance, the interior of the house was clean and inviting. Rita offered them water and, with the casual grace typical of rural women, propped her feet up, sparking a nostalgic feeling in Loraine reminiscent of the gatherings back in her home village.

Rita continued, "I've lived here for over forty years! I'm not being unreasonable—I understand the government's desire to develop this area, but their compensation offer is simply too low! Housing prices are insane, especially in Zodiac. With the compensation they're offering, I couldn't even buy a bathroom. How am I supposed to live? Move out and then work myself to death just to pay rent?"

Chapter 1166 The Stubborn Resident 🎁 +120 Points at most

Lorraine listened intently, having encountered similar situations in her work.

After Rita finished, Lorraine asked, "What about the resettlement housing?"

"I'm used to living in a house with a yard. Those small apartments feel like cages, and there's no space to grow vegetables. I don't want that!" Rita responded.

Lorraine nodded, understanding her concerns, and asked about the compensation amount, confirming it was indeed insufficient.

Rita looked at her and sighed, "You're such a pretty and patient girl. If only the relocation team was as understanding as you, things would be much smoother!"

Marco then chimed in, "We can speak with the construction team to see if a compromise can be reached."

Rita's face lit up. "Thank you so much! You're really kind!"

Subsequently, Lorraine and Marco approached the construction crew to discuss Rita's situation.

The foreman, Lyle Ortiz, friendly yet resigned, explained with a wry smile, "It's out of our hands. We can only offer what's budgeted. Rita's resistance is causing delays, and the longer this goes on, the less she will receive her compensation."

Lorraine mulled this over and inquired further about the

Chapter 1166 The Stubborn Resident 🎁 +120 Points at most
resettlement housing, only to learn it hadn't even been
constructed yet.

She quickly devised a plan and quietly shared it with
Marco, who gave a thoughtful nod in agreement. "It
might just work."

Lyle looked on with curiosity as Loraine turned back to
him and proposed, "If modifying the plan could resolve
this, would the construction team consider it?"

Lyle quickly shook his head. "Redesigning would take
too long and involve additional costs for new
architects. It's too expensive. No way!"

Loraine smiled confidently. "No need to wait for new
designs. We already have a plan prepared."