

Chapter 1167 The Reconstruction Plan

Lyle was initially stunned, then regarded Loraine and Marco with a hint of suspicion.

Aware that the duo was dressed in expensive luxury brands and exuded an extraordinary demeanor, he momentarily set aside his doubts but still asked cautiously, "What plan are you referring to?"

Loraine pulled up the project plan she had developed for the orphanage on her mobile phone and showed it to Lyle. She explained, "This is a rural tourism plan I designed for a location similar to the southern suburb. It's currently very successful. I'm not suggesting you copy it directly. Instead, consider adapting the resettlement housing to fit the terrain and local customs of the southern suburbs.

Many residents resist moving because the current resettlement options are poorly located and inconvenient. By relocating here, we can resolve these issues. Moreover, we can build a batch of bungalows with family farms alongside the existing villa area, giving residents options. Those who opt for the bungalows would also help develop rural tourism. The fresh agricultural products they produce could be sold to nearby apartment and villa residents, providing a unique selling point for real estate developers..."

As Loraine elaborated on the plan, Lyle found it increasingly plausible. He mentally organized the

ideas she presented and began to see the potential. However, his initial skepticism resurfaced.

"Wait, why offer such a detailed plan out of the blue? What are your requirements?"

It seemed unlikely to him that someone would travel all the way to the remote southern suburbs just to offer a solution without expecting something in return.

Marco responded with a nonchalant tone, "Are you familiar with the theme park project in Zodiac?"

Lyle immediately recognized the reference. "Of course, who isn't? The new project by Universe Group and Solar Company is famous nationwide. I've heard it even incorporates the latest in artificial intelligence technology!"

A look of longing appeared on Lyle's face. In his field, being part of such a renowned project was a dream—engineers involved in Universe Park were seeing their professional value soar.

Marco smiled faintly, a glint of pride in his eyes. He glanced at Loraine and announced, "She designed the park."

Lyle was taken aback, then responded in disbelief, "Are you the CEO of Universe Group, Loraine? And you, are you Marco?"

Marco nodded affirmatively. Overwhelmed with excitement, Lyle spoke in a jumble of words before finally managing to say he needed to discuss the proposal with his boss before giving an answer.

Given Loraine's talent and the fact that she was offering the plan without charge, there was little reason for Lyle's boss to decline, and Loraine urged Lyle to move forward quickly with the cooperation.

The agreement for the reconstruction plan was thus concluded smoothly. Lyle expressed his gratitude profusely as he escorted them out, marveling at his good fortune.

As Loraine and Marco strolled back towards the village, Loraine laughed lightly and remarked, "You played a significant role in the amusement park project too. Why did you credit everything to me?"

Marco held her hand tenderly and replied, "This plan was your creation; I merely added a few touches."

Shortly afterward, they returned to Rita's house. Rita had been eagerly anticipating their return, but seeing them come back so soon, she assumed their efforts had been unsuccessful.

Rita seemed a bit disappointed, yet she was thankful for Loraine's efforts. She comforted her, saying it was alright.

Loraine was amused by Rita's reaction but didn't immediately share the successful outcome. Instead, she asked, "Mrs. Brooks, what do you think about the idea of rural tourism?"

Rita chuckled. "It's a great concept. I've seen folks from other places successfully implement it. They manage to earn a living while preserving their way of life. If only we knew how to do it, I'd be the first to support it!"

Encouraged by Rita's enthusiasm, Loraine smiled softly and, as if by magic, produced the contract she had just signed with the construction team. With a bright expression, she presented it to Rita. "Well, now you can support it. Here's the contract. Take a look."

Rita was taken aback, accepting the contract instinctively. She glanced over the dense text, her expression turning to mild confusion as she admitted, "I don't really understand all these words!"

Loraine responded gently, "No worries, I'll go through it with you."

She took the contract back and was about to read it aloud when Rita, looking at her intently, suddenly murmured, "Wait, now I remember why you look so familiar. About twenty years ago, I saw a woman who looked just like you. She has been kidnapped and brought to this place!"

Chapter 1168 The Abducted Girl

Loraine was stunned, the contract slipping from her fingers. She looked up at Rita, her voice trembling with excitement. "You saw someone who looks like me? Where?"

Realizing Rita might be referring to her mother, Loraine was visibly shaken.

Marco quickly steadied her by holding her hand to calm her nerves. He then turned to Rita, asking earnestly, "Could you please recall the details of that time? It's very important to us."

Rita nodded, her memory straining. "It was about twenty years ago. Back then, the south suburbs were rough, surrounded by mountains. It was common for traffickers and other unsavory types to hide out there. In those times, given the poverty in the area, many men found it hard to find wives. Some resorted to desperate measures. That girl, she was kidnapped and brought to this place, but she managed to escape... No one knew where she went afterward."

Rita looked at Loraine, her expression softening, and said with a hint of emotion, "She was just like you, bookish and fair-skinned, clearly from a well-to-do family. Poor girl, it's a mystery how she ended up here. I wanted to help her escape, but my family held me back."

Lorraine's eyes welled up with tears, and she lowered her head to conceal her emotions.

Noticing Lorraine's reaction and making sure they were alone, Rita leaned in closer and whispered, "I think I know where she went after escaping."

Lorraine looked up, her expression one of surprise. Rita continued in a hushed tone, "I couldn't help her openly, but I managed to tell her to run towards the mountain whenever she found a chance. City folks often came to that mountain to sketch; I hoped she could encounter a kind soul who would help her escape. I was cutting grass in the mountain that day and saw two young men aiding her escape."

Lorraine realized those young men were her father and Jaden. This humble act of kindness from Rita had played a crucial role in saving her mother.

Seeing Lorraine's teary eyes, Rita expressed shock and concern. "Was she your family?"

Lorraine nodded, tears streaming down her face, but she managed a grateful smile. "Yes, she was my mom. Thank you, Mrs. Brooks, for what you did for her."

Rita, taken aback by the revelation, then waved off the thanks dismissively. "Oh, it was really nothing. But to meet her daughter like this, it truly feels like fate. How has she been? With a wonderful daughter like you, she must be leading a happy life, right?"

Lorraine, unable to hold back her tears, fibbed. "Yes, she is very happy."

Rita, relieved and pleased, warmly invited them to stay for a meal. "You must tell her when you go back. After all her suffering, good fortune finally came. Those traffickers who abducted her were caught ten years ago and are still in prison!"

Lorraine continued to wipe away tears, nodding emphatically. Marco, holding her close, apologized to Rita, "We have some urgent matters to attend to, so we can't stay for a meal today. Thank you for the invitation. We'll definitely come back to visit."

The typically reserved Marco had grown to show gentleness and politeness. Seeing Lorraine so moved, Rita didn't press them to stay and escorted them to the village entrance.

As Marco comforted Lorraine and sent a text on his phone, they drove away from the village. Shortly after, an old man in plain clothes arrived at Rita's house, panting slightly.

The old man, catching his breath, nudged his son's shoulder and instructed, "Go, ask her if she's seen Lorrie."

Vincent, rubbing his shoulder, approached Rita with a charming smile. "Ma'am, have you seen a young couple around here? The woman is really pretty, and has a pleasant voice."

Rita eyed him warily but then recognized his face, reminiscent of someone from a poster she had, and exclaimed, "What day is it today? Everyone from TV seems to be showing up!"

Despite Vincent's charm, Rita maintained her principles and inquired, "Why do you want to know?"

Sensing she might know something, Vincent became more polite. "I'm her uncle."

Rita relaxed a bit, noting the resemblance between Vincent and Loraine.

She noticed the old man with white hair and surmised that if Loraine had come to investigate her mother's kidnapping, this uncle and the older man must be her family.

Realizing that Loraine had just left and these relatives had arrived shortly after, Rita concluded they must have heard about Loraine's discovery and come to thank her as well.

Rita, ever straightforward, smiled and waved her hand dismissively. "No need to thank me, old man. I just saw your daughter in a pitiful state back then, such a good girl being abducted, so I told her where to escape to. It was the least I could do."