

Chapter 1171 Deniz's Evidence

With the assistance of the police, Marco and Loraine were able to locate the leader of the human trafficking ring incarcerated at Zodiac Prison.

The leader, known as Deniz Singh, was involved in a series of human trafficking activities and was notorious around twenty years ago.

A prison guard shared that for a long time, the police couldn't apprehend Deniz, possibly due to his connection. It wasn't until a victim was rescued by two wealthy young men that they finally managed to capture Deniz, thanks to the victim's and the young men's assistance.

The guard, surprised by their interest, asked, "It's unusual for anyone to visit Deniz after all these years. What's your connection to him?"

Given Deniz's reputation, visitors were rare, and the guard could tell from Loraine's and Marco's demeanor that they were unlikely to be linked to a human trafficker.

Loraine responded calmly, "I am a family member of one of his victims."

Taken aback, then filled with a sense of justice, the guard exclaimed, "Human traffickers are the worst! It's fortunate he was caught, or imagine how many more victims there might have been!"

With Loraine's connection to a victim revealed, the guard

became more cooperative and led them to the visiting area. "Please wait here; he'll be brought out shortly."

Loraine nodded, steadying herself for the encounter.

Soon, a gaunt, skinny man in handcuffs and shackles was escorted by the guard. His face was scarred, and his eyes bore a cold, malevolent gaze. As he stumbled and glared at the guard, he bore a resemblance to a venomous snake, waiting to strike at any moment.

Unfazed, the guard struck him with a baton and commanded, "Sit down!"

Deniz spat on the floor disdainfully and slumped into the chair. Upon seeing Loraine's composed expression through the glass, his reaction was stark. His pupils dilated, and he stammered in disbelief, "You... you're still alive?"

His composure shattered, and he became almost frantic, glaring at Loraine as he hissed, "It's all because of you! I was arrested because of you..."

Suddenly, Deniz lunged towards the glass and pressed himself against it. He then started shouting hysterically. "I was just doing a job, taking money to kidnap you. If you're so capable, why not go after the people who hired me? Why target me? You bitch! If it weren't for you, I wouldn't be in this hell!"

The guard quickly restrained Deniz as he continued to hurl vicious curses.

Loraine, her brow furrowed, pondered his outburst.

It was now evident that Deniz had been the one who kidnapped Tessa.

But his mention of "doing a job" suggested that Tessa's abduction might not have been random—someone had paid

Deniz to kidnap her.

The revelation made Loraine's heart race, prompting her to demand, "Who hired you?"

Deniz, still caught in his hysteria, laughed and cursed without providing any coherent answers.

Loraine's anxiety mounted, but Marco, remembering their initial suspicion, leaned in and whispered to Loraine, "Let me handle this."

After Loraine stepped out of Deniz's view, Marco discreetly activated the Qbot program and played a recording.

This recording, synthesized by Qbot, mimicked Jaylah's voice, creating the illusion that she had testified against Deniz during his capture.

Deniz froze upon hearing the recording. Realizing its contents, his fury escalated, and he shouted, "That backstabbing bitch! She was the one who hired me to kidnap that woman!"

He ranted further, "She even guided the woman to a secluded spot to facilitate my kidnapping of her. Now that I'm caught, she won't escape either!"

Glaring at Marco, he fumed, "Are you one of her people? Tell her to get me out, or we both go down! She thinks I don't have a backup plan? I still have recordings and evidence of her paying me!"

Observing this, Marco and Loraine exchanged relieved smiles.

Their trip had indeed paid off.

Marco addressed Deniz firmly. "I'm not associated with Jaylah, and I won't help a criminal like you escape. However, I can offer you a chance to reduce your sentence if you agree to become

a state witness and provide the evidence against Jaylah."

Deniz, now wavering, asked, "How can I trust you?"

Marco then explained their identities, and once Deniz understood that Loraine was the daughter of the woman he had kidnapped, and grasped their influential positions, he agreed to cooperate after some thought.

Shortly afterward, they left the prison with an old, damaged USB drive in hand.

Since the USB drive was severely compromised, Marco immediately had it repaired. Simultaneously, he sent a copy of the damaged files to Vincent, detailing their origin and significance.

Chapter 1172 You're The Only One I Want To Marry

Now that they were so close to the truth, everything became disturbingly clear.

Loraine's mother, Tessa, had not left her home in anger as her family believed. Rather, she had been lured by Jaylah to an isolated spot and subsequently abducted by human traffickers.

Loraine recalled Joseph mentioning that he refrained from using the Wilson family's resources to search for his daughter due to a letter left by Tessa.

The letter had threatened suicide if Joseph attempted to find her.

Because of this, Joseph had limited his search efforts, conducting them secretly and on a small scale. Now, it appeared that even the letter might have been another of Jaylah's manipulations.

What they urgently needed was proof. Once they recovered the data from Deniz, they could unmask Jaylah and bring her long-standing crimes to light.

The weight of these revelations left Loraine reeling with emotion.

She felt a searing anger towards Jaylah's deceitful nature and a profound sorrow for her mother's suffering.

Within the Wilson family, Tessa was still perceived as impulsive and irresponsible.

They believed her recklessness led to her demise, a sentiment echoed by Francis, who blamed her tragedy on her failure to marry a suitable guy.

Overwhelmed, Loraine exclaimed, "I want to confront Jaylah now and demand an explanation!"

Marco responded by holding her gently, offering calm reassurance. "Let's not rush. We should wait until we have the restored data. With solid evidence, she won't be able to deny the truth."

Acting impulsively could tip off Jaylah.

Given her decades of deception within the Wilson family, she likely wielded some influence there.

Premature confrontation could lead her to destroy evidence or fabricate further lies, complicating their pursuit of justice.

Though Loraine understood this rationale, frustration gnawed at her.

Her mother had been maligned for years, and she yearned to clear Tessa's name without delay.

Nestled in Marco's embrace, Loraine expressed her anguish.

Marco, with a gentle chuckle, affectionately patted her head and lightened the mood, teasing, "I've put in a lot of effort today. Don't I deserve a little reward?"

Realizing her own preoccupation with grief had made her neglect Marco, Loraine looked up to meet his gaze.

The warmth in his eyes reassured her, reminding her of his support during these trying times.

Marco had been a constant source of support, silently

accompanying and protecting her throughout their investigation, helping her to stay focused and uncover vital clues. His efforts were immense, yet she had been so engrossed in her emotions that she'd overlooked his feelings.

Feeling a mix of gratitude and guilt, she whispered, "Marco, thank you for standing by me through all of this. I couldn't have done it without you."

Marco responded with a smile and a gentle kiss. He wanted to ease her burden, not add to it with guilt.

Perhaps a break from the investigation would be beneficial?

With a light-hearted suggestion, he said, "Just saying thank you? How about a date as a reward?"

After a moment's thought, Loraine replied, "Let's go to the amusement park. We didn't get a chance to enjoy the beach theme last time."

The memory of their interrupted engagement party still lingered. Marco, feeling an increased tenderness for her, agreed warmly, "Let's go."

At the amusement park, bustling as ever, they managed to skip the long lines. They changed into their beachwear and walked along the sandy paths, feeling a wave of refreshment wash over them.

The park had gone the extra mile, not only using projections to simulate the beach but also bringing in real sea sand, which was soft and pleasant underfoot.

They also tried the water drifting ride, an attraction Loraine had only ever enjoyed during her school days. Experiencing it with Marco added a thrilling new dimension.

Engulfed in the excitement of the games, Loraine found herself

laughing freely, her worries momentarily forgotten.

They embraced the day like any young couple would, eagerly exploring most of the attractions.

By sunset, they were weary but fulfilled, having cast aside their burdens for the day.

As they sat on the beach, watching the sun dip below the horizon, they were bathed in a gentle light of warm orange hues.

Loraine nestled closer to Marco and murmured, "Marco, thank you. When all this is over, I'll get our engagement rings back and tell Joseph that you're the only one I want to marry."

Marco enveloped her in a tender embrace and replied softly, "And you will be the only wife I'll ever have."

Chapter 1173 Jaylah's True Colors

Meanwhile, Joseph and Vincent had made their way back to Zodiac.

Joseph's journey was conducted in secrecy, known only to his trusted confidant and Vincent who accompanied him. Francis and the others were kept in the dark.

After being discharged from the army with numerous injuries, Joseph's outings had become rare as he aged. This expedition to locate Loraine and the shocking revelation that his beloved daughter Tessa had been abducted had left him even more withdrawn and somber.

Driven by a resolute will to uncover the full story of Tessa's abduction, Joseph, without pausing for rest, headed directly to the police station upon his return to Zodiac.

Previously, he hadn't considered the possibility that Tessa might be in danger, much less that she could be trafficked, so he hadn't followed police reports closely.

It was only after Rita mentioned that the traffickers had been apprehended did he realize the police might have leads on the case.

As a veteran military commander with substantial influence in both political and business spheres, his arrival at the station commanded immediate attention. The higher-ups were promptly informed, and two of them, Adolf Hayes and Idris, came out to meet Joseph personally.

Joseph, wasting no time, spoke with a firm tone. "I'm revisiting an old case from over twenty years ago. It concerns a trafficking ring in the southern suburbs."

Initially, Adolf had intended to curry favor with Joseph, but upon hearing his request, he found himself slightly embarrassed. "From over twenty years ago? Back then, everything was documented on paper. And as you're aware, the situation in the southern suburbs... There have been countless trafficking cases..."

Joseph sighed. "Please, just look into it. I can wait. You can narrow it down—the trafficked girl was in her twenties."

Idris' demeanor shifted upon hearing Joseph's directive. "We've actually just organized a file that matches those details today..."

Joseph, visibly surprised, turned to Idris as Adolf inquired, "When did this occur?"

Idris responded, "We initiated a proposal for the internet database today. The advocate of the artificial intelligence system is Mr. Bryant, CEO of Solar Company. He, along with Ms. Torres from Universe Group, requested to review the case. It seems to be the one Mr. Wilson is referring to."

Realizing the connection, Joseph exclaimed, "Yes! That's the case! That's exactly what I'm talking about! Retrieve it now!"

Adolf, astonished by the serendipity, was eager to assist. As he directed his team to fetch the files, he remarked, "I'm familiar with the CEOs of Solar Company and Universe Group. They're commendable, upstanding young individuals."

While Joseph was pleased to hear Loraine praised, he couldn't help but react with a hint of disdain at the mention of Marco.

Vincent, understanding Joseph's thoughts, interjected, "Dad, Marco has been incredibly supportive of Lorrie. He owns the

patent yet he's lent it to the government at no charge. He's a businessman; he wouldn't do this if it weren't for Lorrie."

Joseph found himself momentarily at a loss for words. Deep down, he recognized the truth in Vincent's words and his estimation of Marco improved.

However, stubborn pride prevented him from openly agreeing. He grumbled, "We'll compensate him for his losses. Lorrie is my precious granddaughter. It's not just his tech expertise or his wealth that matters—he must genuinely care for her!"

Vincent shrugged but chose not to challenge Joseph's stubbornness.

Soon after, they retrieved the information they sought, the same details Loraine and Marco had uncovered earlier, complete with the surveillance footage.

Joseph eagerly scanned the documents while Vincent received a text message.

Casting a glance at Joseph, Vincent stepped aside to read it, his expression turning grave.

As Joseph finished reviewing the files, he sat bewildered. He clicked on the video, watching intently, yet remained silent for a prolonged period.

The individuals in the video were instantly recognizable to Loraine, and unsurprisingly to him as well—after all, one was his biological daughter, and the other, a girl he had raised as his own for decades.

Lost in thought, Joseph recalled that Jaylah had indeed left the house that day and had returned without mentioning anything about Tessa. Even her reaction to the "letter" supposedly left by Tessa had been one of surprise and sadness.

But the undeniable truth was that Jaylah had been with Tessa and witnessed her abduction by the traffickers!

Struggling with the revelation, Joseph whispered in denial, "It's impossible. That can't be Jaylah in the video... There must be some mistake!"

At that moment, Vincent approached with a stern look. He stared at the monitor and said, "Dad, you've seen it yourself. How can you still not doubt what Jaylah did?"

He then displayed the message he had just received from Marco to the police, his voice firm. "Dad might be in denial, but I see things clearly. I'm Tessa's brother. I have every right to press charges against Jaylah for her involvement in Tessa's trafficking, don't I?"