

Chapter 1213 Profound Trauma

Jorge's gaze sharpened as a flurry of suspicions raced through his mind.

He knew nothing about Loraine, having only encountered her for the first time at Marco's engagement celebration. He had trusted in Marco's judgment to choose his partner wisely, which led him to see Loraine as a respectable woman.

However, Keely's words, combined with his own prior doubts, led Jorge to a chilling realization.

Loraine was behind Keely's current state!

Shock and disbelief washed over Jorge, but he forced himself to stay composed, prioritizing comforting Keely above all else.

Yet, the moment his hand settled on Keely's shoulder, she shuddered violently, curling into a tight ball.

Tears flowed freely down her cheeks as she whispered repeatedly, "I'll be good. I won't cause any problems, Please, just leave me alone..."

Overwhelmed, Jorge hesitated briefly before deciding to call a reputable psychiatrist for Keely.

At the hospital, after Keely had been sedated, the doctor emerged from her room to talk with Jorge, who was anxiously waiting in the hallway. "The patient must have experienced profound trauma to be in this state. It seems she harbors a

deep-seated fear of certain individuals, which is evident from her distressed mutterings," the doctor explained.

He then inquired, "Was there something you said that might have triggered her fears?"

Jorge was startled by the question. Reflecting on it, he realized that Keely's breakdown had occurred right after he brought up Marco's name, and her frantic words had indeed centered around Marco and Loraine!

It seemed Marco and Loraine had truly deceived him. They had kept the truth hidden. For years, instead of caring for Keely as he had directed, Marco had inflicted severe harm on her!

Jorge paused, his anger building as he reflected on this betrayal.

He had come close to death by shielding harm for Marco, but upon his return, he discovered he had been betrayed by him. Was his final wish less significant than a woman?

What could possibly have driven Marco to such betrayal, to treat Keely with such cruelty?

Trying to contain his rage, Jorge asked the doctor to ensure Keely received proper care, then he sought a secluded spot to call Marco.

Fortunately, Marco's private number was still the same. As he dialed, Jorge managed to steady his nerves slightly. It was crucial not to levy accusations without asking Marco directly. Some accusations were too significant to be left to fester in doubt.

When the call connected, Marco's cold tone filled the air.

Taking a deep breath to steady himself, Jorge didn't mince words. "Marco, what's going on with Keely? What have you done to her?"

Marco's expression darkened, but before he could reply, Jorge clenched his teeth in exasperation.

"Yes, I know you have a new woman in your life, and naturally, you want to make her happy. I'm aware Loraine might not approve of Keely. However, sending her secretly to that dreadful asylum was over the line. That place would drive anyone crazy, even if they weren't initially!"

A dreadful asylum? On the other end of the phone, Marco exchanged a baffled look with Loraine.

"I have no idea what you're talking about," Marco responded, his voice cold. "But what I do know is that Keely brought this on herself."

Jorge was livid. "Brought this on herself? You're the one out of your mind! I should've known better than to think you'd look after her. I never imagined you could be so selfish!"

His voice was thick with fury. "Do you even understand? She shakes with terror at the mere mention of your name. How deeply must you despise her to condemn her to such torment?"

Marco was taken aback by Jorge's fiery words. Given Keely's past actions, he indeed felt a strong desire to teach her a lesson and impress upon her the seriousness of her misdeeds.

However, seeing Keely already driven to madness, and out of respect for Jorge, Marco had restrained himself from further action. He and Loraine had arranged for Keely's stay at a well-regarded asylum, a choice that had come with a hefty price tag. Where, then, did this allegation of suffering stem from?

Marco had a strong feeling that something was off. Before he could delve deeper, Jorge, consumed by anger, had hung up the phone. Marco's expression darkened as he promptly directed his team to dig into the matter.

It wasn't long before they uncovered the shocking truth. Jorge had stumbled upon Keely in a dilapidated, low-cost asylum, not the high-quality institution they had selected.

Marco was taken aback. Loraine grasped the gravity of the situation, and reached out to the middleman involved. A speedy inquiry unveiled the truth.

It appeared that Keely's aunt, Jane, had covertly moved Keely to a cheaper facility to pocket the difference, profiting significantly from the deception!

Loraine couldn't help but laugh in exasperation at the irony of the truth.

What was more ridiculous was that she found herself cast as the villain, having spent the money only to earn Jorge's condemnation.

As a shrewd businesswoman, Loraine was not about to let this slide. Not at all!

Pausing briefly, she made a decision and smirked. "I refuse to take the fall for this. We need to clear our names!"



Chapter 1214 Visiting The Powell Family

Aware that the issue originated with the Powell family, Loraine didn't want to raise alarms prematurely. After a discussion with Marco, they discreetly moved closer to the Powell family's area to conduct their investigation.

Loraine remembered that the Powell family had once teetered on the edge of bankruptcy. Yet now, there was no sign of financial distress; their expenditure levels had not dropped, and the steady flow of servants in and out of their yard persisted.

What was more striking was their recent move to Zodiac.

Loraine's expression carried a hint of sarcasm as she considered the Powell family's current situation. Elmo and Barr, who had once been the backbone of the Powell family, had fallen into legal troubles due to their involvement in the smart city project instigated by Keely, resulting in their imprisonment.

This situation left the family consisting of only a woman and her daughter, neither of whom possessed any significant business acumen.

It appeared that Jane, however, had managed some clever maneuvers. She had quickly relocated from Vagow to Zodiac after absconding with Loraine's money. What Jane hadn't anticipated was the subsequent arrival of Marco and Loraine in Zodiac as well.

These coincidences left Loraine pondering whether to consider the Powell family fortunate or unfortunate.

After some observation, Loraine turned to Marco, voicing her thoughts. "It looks quite clear that the Powell family diverted funds from Keely's rehabilitation center. Without such a scheme, they couldn't possibly afford their lifestyle in Zodiac. But how can we convince Jorge that the transfer of Keely wasn't a maneuver by us?"

Knowing Marco's respect for Jorge, Loraine was prepared to patiently collect evidence to clarify the situation and preserve their friendship.

However, she realized that merely showing transactions between the Powell family and rehabilitation center might not suffice to convince an emotionally charged Jorge, who might suspect they had manipulated the Powells.

Marco, after a moment's reflection, his expression grave, suggested, "We need to arrange for someone to coax a confession from a Powell."

Loraine nodded and swiftly sent a message on her phone before joining Marco in their car, ready for the next move.

Coincidentally, it was the very day that funds for Keely's rehabilitation center bills were scheduled to be transferred to the Powell family.

Inside their residence, Jane checked their account balance with a self-satisfied smirk. "It's a good thing I'm resourceful. Sending Keely to that budget rehab center saved us a fortune. Without that, how could we afford our lifestyle?"

With her husband and son behind bars, Jane now had only her daughter living with her.

Kallie, draped in designer wear and fully aware of the source of their funds—siphoned from Keely's hospital fees—held onto her mother, lavishing her with praises.

"Mom, you're so clever. We've given so much to Keely; she owes us at least this. Without us, she's nothing!"

Jane laughed, pleased with her daughter's flattery. Kallie, eyes gleaming with ambition, pressed on, "Mom, you've introduced me to those high-society girls, but if I don't dress like them, they won't even talk to me. Can I get one of those trendy new dresses everyone is buying?"

Jane paused, torn. To her, dressing Kallie appropriately was an essential investment to maintain their social status. However, their finances were entirely dependent on misappropriating Keely's funds, and there were no other income streams. Their high living costs made even necessary expenses difficult to manage, let alone luxuries.

She mused, "That rehab center isn't cheap, but the money we could misappropriate from the bills isn't much. Spending on lavish items is really pushing our limits."

Kallie, quick to devise a scheme, eagerly proposed, "We could falsify the numbers on the bills! Just claim that the rehab center raised their fees and ask Loraine for more money. She's wealthy; she won't scrutinize the details too closely."

Jane's eyes sparkled at the idea. However, her enthusiasm was cut short by a sudden message from the financial liaison handling their transfers. She read it, her expression turning to one of shock and fear, and she stood up abruptly.

"Quick! Hide anything valuable. Send the servants home early. Loraine's sending someone to inspect, and we can't afford any slip-ups!"

The servants quickly began to conceal valuables, but Kallie saw this as an opportunity to secure additional funds.

Soon after the Powell family finished their hasty preparations, Remy, Loraine's assistant, arrived.

She entered the unusually sparse Powells' house, her eyes scanning the setting, when Kallie approached her, affecting a look of financial distress.

"Remy, your timing couldn't be better. You might not know this, but the rehab center has just increased their fees significantly. We've been shouldering the extra costs, and it's become quite a strain..."

Remy remained calm, her expression unchanging. "Miss Powell, what are you implying?"

"Well..." Kallie, sensing an opening, replied, "Loraine has always handled Keely's medical expenses. We were hoping she could perhaps increase her contribution."

Remy nodded, seemingly understanding. She reached into his bag and pulled out a document. "That seems fair. As per our protocol, I need you to formally write down this request and submit it for review."