

Chapter 1245 I Had A Baby

After leaving the restaurant, Loraine headed straight home.

As the city lights shimmered outside the car window, the concept of "home" elicited a gentle smile on her face.

Upon marriage, she and Marco could share a home together! Then, her residence in Zodiac would truly become home.

She had informed Marco about her dinner with Edwin, otherwise he would have picked her up from work as usual.

Their usual topic was whether to dine out or cook at home.

If they opted for cooking, Marco handled dishwashing. If he wished to cook, Loraine gladly acquiesced.

Their life was flawless, barring the Cruz family's issues.

Upon reaching her apartment, Loraine dashed inside with Edwin's bouquet and plush toy.

She eagerly video-called her beloved.

Marco promptly answered, as if awaiting her, beaming warmly and ready to say, "Welcome home."

Then his gaze fell upon the flowers and toy in her hands.

His smile wavered, giving way to a pouty, jealous expression. He cast her a reproachful glance.

Loraine burst into laughter, opting not to tease her jealous partner with a fib. "These are from Joseph and Edwin," she clarified.

Joseph was her grandfather and Edwin was her cousin.

Knowing she had been out with Edwin, Marco wasn't entirely surprised but still felt a twinge of jealousy. Eyeing the bouquet, clearly Edwin's style, he muttered, "His taste is still so bad!"

Loraine felt amused, recalling the time Marco had splurged on an airlifted bouquet of roses.

After arranging the flowers in a vase and finding a place for the plush toy, she turned back to him. "Have you eaten?"

The routine of their conversation made Marco sigh, lamenting that he was not at her side at the moment.

Otherwise, he feared he might lose control and turn this lovely evening into something passionate!

But for now, he needed to change the topic.

"I suspect Clifford poisoned Melvin,"

he said, having withheld it earlier to avoid alarming her. They had deduced as much from the cryptic codes.

Loraine gasped in astonishment.

Though they had suspected, the notion still stunned her. Clifford was Melvin's brother. Why would he go to such lengths?

She centered on the crux, calming a bit. "I'll speak to Ariadna first before we decide what to do with Clifford."

Clifford might be ruthless enough to have done harm to his brother, yet he would likely be gentler towards Ariadna.

She perhaps understood his vulnerabilities better.

Moreover, Loraine hoped Ariadna wouldn't be affected by

Clifford's actions.

Marco nodded, silent briefly before saying, "If Melvin doesn't wake soon, we'll have to deal with Clifford. He's not foolish; he will surely prepare for the possible opposition... I need Ariadna's stance promptly."

He paused, whispering, "Regardless, I won't hold it against her."

Loraine felt relieved, ending the call and immediately trying to reach Ariadna.

But Ariadna didn't answer. Just as worry set in, a text arrived from her, conveying her struggle and anxiety.

"Lorrie, I'm sorry, I can't talk right now..."

Loraine, recalling Ariadna's recent unusual demeanor, refrained from pressing further. She responded, "I need to discuss something important about your father. Please find time in the next few days so we can talk."

After sending the message, Loraine reviewed Ariadna's previous texts, increasingly convinced her instincts were correct.

There was undoubtedly something going on with Ariadna, something she had suspected but hesitated to confirm.

Loraine composed another message, aiming for gentleness: "Ariadna, remember I said you could confide in me no matter what? I'm concerned for you. If you have faith in me, please open up. I'll do all I can to assist."

After a prolonged silence, Loraine sighed, assuming Ariadna wasn't willing to talk. Just as she was about to change the topic, a startling message appeared.

"I had a baby."

Chapter 1246 Ariadna's Choice

For a moment, Loraine felt dizzy.

She stared intently at the short sentence, feeling as if she didn't recognize the words.

Such a brief message, yet it contained shocking information!

But soon, she regained her composure, releasing a long sigh.

She had always suspected this result; clues had pointed to it. Now, it was confirmed.

Ariadna's unusual behavior was due to her pregnancy.

Loraine hesitated to ask who the child's father was. She harbored a hunch but found it hard to accept.

In the end, Loraine asked nothing; she merely arranged a meeting with Ariadna.

After setting down her phone, Loraine remained dazed, contemplating how to face Ariadna.

Two days later, she arrived at the restaurant where they had agreed to meet.

Ariadna had selected the venue, carefully evading the Cruz family's search.

Loraine calmed her emotions at the door before knocking and entering.

Inside, she saw Ariadna gently comforting a baby. The once immature girl had developed an unexpected gentleness and patience over the past year.

Lorraine's anxiety melted away. She approached, marveling at the delicate life. "So cute! Is she a girl?"

Ariadna had dressed the baby in pink clothes and a bib.

Ariadna nodded, her smile radiant, her eyes sparkling invitingly as if urging Lorraine to touch the baby.

Lorraine felt tempted and softly asked, "Can I?"

With Ariadna's nod, Lorraine carefully touched the baby's soft, chubby cheek, her heart melting at the contact.

It was like touching creamy pudding, both soft and bouncy.

Had the baby's mother not been there, Lorraine would have wanted to squeeze her cheek, reluctant to let go.

Ariadna's warm smile broadened as the baby sleepily smiled back at Lorraine.

Once the baby had drifted off to sleep, Ariadna gently placed her in a nearby baby carriage, her expression a blend of apology and gratitude.

Lorraine realized the baby was already a few months old. She could hardly fathom Ariadna evading the Cruz family while pregnant and now raising a child.

Even with some assistance, the ordeal must have been daunting.

Observing Ariadna, Lorraine felt a mix of pity and admiration. She had always seen Ariadna as somewhat of a child herself, yet now, Ariadna was managing her own life and that of her

child.

It all seemed surreal, prompting Loraine to ask, "Isn't this a baby you found somewhere?"

Ariadna shook her head, smiling softly.

"Lorrie, I knew you'd help me, but I couldn't come to you then... My father must have kept an eye on you. If I were with you when I gave birth to my baby, it would undoubtedly attract his attention."

Loraine nodded silently. With the baby now born, questioning the past seemed pointless.

Ariadna spoke softly. "The reasons I gave for leaving the Cruz family were excuses. The real reason, which you now know, was that I couldn't hide the pregnancy. I knew my father wouldn't allow me to keep my baby, so I left the Cruz family."

Ariadna's explanation confirmed that her sudden weight gain followed by weight loss was due to her pregnancy.

Loraine sighed, "I wasn't attentive enough to realize what had happened to you and to offer my help."

Ariadna shook her head. "You've helped me more than you know, and for that, I'm grateful."

She then gazed at the baby with immense tenderness.

Loraine observed Ariadna's slender figure and surmised the hardships she had faced. She remembered Ariadna had just recovered from her illness before getting pregnant.

This realization made Loraine frown. "Wait a minute, the timing of your baby's birth doesn't align with..."

Feeling guilty, Ariadna whispered, "I... I gave birth early..."

Loraine gasped, her expression turning stern, "Why didn't you tell him? He's the father!"

Recalling the man she suspected to be the baby's father, a wave of anger washed over Loraine. She had once thought of him as unreliable, but now her impression of him hit rock bottom.

She suddenly remembered Slater's inquiry about the woman in the private room at her engagement banquet, and her expression chilled further.

Ariadna managed a bitter smile. If she mentioned that delivering early was triggered by Slater's harsh words, Loraine might confront him directly.

Without confirming Loraine's speculation about the father of her baby, Ariadna simply said, "That doesn't matter now. What's important is that she's my only treasure. Lorrie... I can't have any more children."

