

Chapter 1247 Struggles

Loraine fell silent at Ariadna's words, but she was not surprised.

Ariadna had endured a prolonged illness, rendering her physically frail. Had she not concealed her pregnancy and given birth, Loraine might have advised against the risk.

Childbirth, after all, involves life-and-death considerations.

Following a brief silence, Loraine gently consoled her, "Your baby is as endearing as you are. She'll grow up just as sweet."

Ariadna's gaze softened as she peered at the baby cradled in her arms. The tiny life appeared to ground her.

Loraine's reassuring demeanor today eased Ariadna's inner turmoil.

From the first day they met, Loraine had consistently exuded a gentle and wise aura, capable of flawlessly resolving any issue.

Today was no different. Loraine didn't pose any uncomfortable questions; instead, she showered the baby with love and assured Ariadna, "Fear not. Your decision was right. This precious baby is worth every effort."

Ariadna visibly relaxed, lowering her head to timidly ask, "Lorrie, do you resent my secrecy?"

After all, Loraine had shown her such kindness, and her secrecy might have seemed distrustful.

Loraine's expression softened into a smile as she said, "I understand."

However, her tone turned serious as she asked, "Can you disclose who has been aiding you all this time?"

This individual remained so enigmatic that neither the Cruz family nor Universe Group and Solar Company could trace them, yet they facilitated Ariadna's secure existence under the Cruz family's watchful eye, hinting at formidable power.

But what were their intentions?

Considering Clifford's sudden move to poison Melvin, Loraine felt a weight settle in her heart as she sensed the complexity of the situation.

Ariadna hesitated before softly explaining, "The person who sheltered me warned against revealing their identity, fearing it would jeopardize me and the baby..."

She felt a twinge of embarrassment as she glanced at Loraine. "But Lorrie, you're different. You've always been kind to me. Without you, I wouldn't have survived!"

Loraine smiled warmly, gently prodding, "Who is this person? Since they helped you, it's only fair for Marco and me to express our gratitude in person."

Considering Ariadna might still be under this person's protection to evade detection by the Cruz family, Loraine added, "Universe Group has now established itself in Zodiac. I can shield you from any pursuit. Would you like to return with me?"

At this, Ariadna frowned slightly, lost in thought. Unintentionally, a figure crossed her mind.

Her heart skipped a beat and her cheeks flushed slightly. Fortunately for her, Loraine remained unaware.

That figure not only aided her in her most challenging times but also possessed an aura of mystery and... appeal.

Ariadna didn't know much about her rescuer, only that his subordinates referred to him as Mr. K. He was calm, gentle, and enigmatically powerful.

Shaking herself from her reverie, Ariadna hesitantly shook her head. "I'm alright now. I don't need to worry about my father finding me, so I don't want to trouble you, Lorrie."

She recalled Mr. K's aversion to attention and her lack of knowledge about him.

Loraine narrowed her eyes slightly but refrained from pressing further. After Ariadna mentioned her father, she continued, "Remember I mentioned having something important to discuss? It concerns your father..."

Choosing her words carefully, Loraine detailed the developments involving the Cruz family and the evidence she and Marco had uncovered. She observed Ariadna's expression shift from shock to disbelief.

"That's impossible!" Ariadna's face drained of color as she instinctively protested, "My father wouldn't do such things!"

In Ariadna's mind, Clifford wasn't just a loving father but also a loyal assistant to Melvin. How could he...

Loraine understood. To Ariadna, Clifford embodied a near-perfect paternal figure, making this revelation difficult to accept.

Silently displaying her phone, filled with evidence Marco had gathered, Loraine stated, "Back in Vagow, he defied Melvin's orders and took action against Marco and me."

Stunned by the evidence, Ariadna was speechless, her expression torn. After a prolonged struggle, her eyes welled with tears, and she murmured, "If he truly committed those crimes, I won't forgive him, but... Lorrie, can you and Marco refrain from

harming him? Let him face justice through the legal system. I will visit him in prison..."

Loraine regarded Ariadna, her heart softening at her tearful and distraught expression, and whispered, "Alright, Ariadna. Thank you for making that choice."



Chapter 1248 The Truth Unveiled

After easing Ariadna's worries, Loraine left the restaurant, her backward glance carrying a whirlwind of emotions.

She eventually abandoned the idea of pursuing the mysterious supporter behind Ariadna, knowing Marco had tried and failed at the same task.

And Ariadna's ease with meeting in public hinted that her supporter had expertly covered their tracks.

Once home, Loraine summarized her conversation with Ariadna in a message to Marco, including the delicate matter of Ariadna's pregnancy.

She had confirmed with Ariadna that it was okay to share this information, and Ariadna even hoped for Marco's blessing.

Given Clifford's likely disapproval of the situation, Marco represented Ariadna's only chance at familial acceptance.

Upon receiving the message, Marco was quiet for a moment. The news caught him off-guard as he had missed the earlier subtle cues.

While he bore no animosity towards his cousin Ariadna, forming a deep emotional bond was challenging for him.

He reflected for a while, then instructed Loraine to send a message back to Ariadna: "Once the dust settles, you're welcome to return to the Cruz family. I won't meddle in your affairs. As your cousin, I promise to offer all the support and

As he dispatched the message, an animated icon of Qbot appeared on his screen. Listening to Qbot's latest discovery, Marco's expression grew intense.

"Dad, while repairing that surveillance footage, I breached the Cruz family's residence network and discovered a hidden camera in Melvin's study! It's secured, but I've managed to bypass it!"

Marco inhaled sharply, though the revelation didn't shock him.

He had long suspected that Melvin, always strategic, would protect his private spaces thoroughly.

Indeed, a covert camera had been installed in the study, unknown to Clifford.

Qbot inquired, "Dad, should I play the footage?"

Marco exhaled deeply and responded firmly, "Play it."

Qbot then smartly navigated to the key segment of the footage that captured the critical moments around the incident.

The video captured Melvin ending a phone call and turning toward the door, coinciding with the conclusion of his conversation with Marco.

At that moment, Clifford entered, a cup of tea in hand, greeting his brother with a cheerful demeanor.

Marco tensed, pondering that if he hadn't ended the call abruptly, or if he had maintained his vigilance when he heard Melvin calling out to Clifford on the phone, he might have been able to prevent the events that followed.

Dismissing the thought, he refocused on the footage.

Melvin, taken aback by Clifford's sudden appearance, paused before addressing him, "Clifford, I'll increase the team searching for Ariadna. Try not to act hastily."

Marco analyzed their interaction, noting the tension. It appeared they had recently argued, possibly over Clifford's suspicions that Melvin was delaying efforts to locate Ariadna.

Despite the underlying friction, Clifford responded with a chuckle, seemingly brushing aside any ill feelings.

He then offered the tea to Melvin, expressing a change of heart. "Melvin, I've been impulsive. You bear the Cruz family's burdens. But remember, Ariadna is my only daughter. I hope you can empathize with my concern."

As Melvin accepted the tea, reassured by Clifford's words, he replied, "I appreciate your understanding."

However, as Melvin sipped the tea, Clifford's demeanor shifted, his eyes narrowing. "Yet, you must not sideline my daughter for your son's advancement!"

Melvin, startled, retorted, "What are you implying? How could you think that? You..."

Abruptly, Melvin choked, clutching his throat as pain contorted his face, and the tea cup crashed to the floor. Desperately gazing at Clifford, he gasped, "This... tea..."

Clifford observed Melvin's collapse with icy detachment, his tone venomous. "Melvin, I learned this from you! But even I can't match your cold-heartedness."

Then, feigning panic, Clifford dashed to the door, crying out, "Help! My brother has collapsed!"

The video concluded, leaving Marco with a grim expression, his hands clenched in silent fury.

Qbot inquired, "Dad, should I call the police?"

Marco briefly closed his eyes, steeling himself. He summoned Carl and issued several commands.

In a measured tone, he ordered, "Inform the police. It's time to serve justice."

