

## Chapter 1267 Taking The Bait

In the cozy living room, Keely sat with her back to Jorge, clutching a doll and lost in her play. But when she heard Jorge's words, her smile faded instantly, and her small frame tensed up.

For just a brief moment, she struggled to maintain her composure. Then, masking her emotions, she turned around with a puzzled expression and said, "Jorge, you were talking too fast. I didn't catch that."

Jorge sighed inwardly. In light of Keely's innocent demeanor, he could not bring himself to believe that it was just an act.

He softened his voice, speaking more slowly. "That night, why did you ask Loraine to take you upstairs to rest?"

Keely wrinkled her nose and puffed out her cheeks, pretending to think hard. Then she replied cheerfully, "That day, Loraine was stunning. That was why I wanted her to be with me!"

Her explanation seemed to fit a child's whimsical logic. Jorge's doubts eased slightly. He was about to probe further when Keely suddenly clutched her head and whimpered, "My head hurts. I don't want to think about it anymore. Jorge, my head hurts so much..."

Jorge immediately forgot his questions. He rushed over, wrapping Keely in his arms and soothing her gently. "It's okay. I won't ask anymore."

It took a while for Keely to calm down. She continued to snuffle in his arms but soon became engrossed in dressing and combing her doll's hair.

Jorge looked down at her with a tender gaze, gently stroking her head. To him, Keely was still the innocent, naive little girl she had always been. How could she be cunning enough to orchestrate something so complex?

Today, he had let Marco's suspicions cloud his judgment, leading him to such dark thoughts. He resolved to be firmer in his discussions with Marco in the future.

Regarding that fateful day, Jorge believed Keely had genuinely forgotten due to her illness. She was still terrified of stairs, clearly a trauma from being pushed by Loraine. How could he ever suspect Keely?

As these thoughts crossed his mind, Keely looked up and asked innocently, "Jorge, where did you go today? Why didn't you take me with you?"

Jorge smiled and replied, "I went to see Marco, but it was for business, so I didn't take you along."

Keely pouted. Continuing smoothly, Jorge shared, "Today, I met Loraine's family. They are just as unpleasant and unreasonable as Loraine herself. Even though she was in the wrong, they acted like they were the victims and even broke off her engagement with Marco."

Keely's eyes widened in surprise and delight, but she quickly masked her excitement, feigning confusion as she probed further, "What does breaking the engagement mean?"

Before Jorge could answer, a servant entered the room, announcing, "Sir, your uncle is looking for you."

Jorge immediately stood up, reassuring Keely with a few words before leaving. As he walked away, Keely watched his retreating back, her grip tightening on the doll, her expression darkening.

Jorge's words echoed in her mind, filling her with both elation

and disbelief. Eager to confirm the news, she retrieved her phone from her personal maid, excused herself to her room under the pretense of playing games, and locked the door behind her. She quickly sent a message to verify Jorge's story.

Given Wesley and Vincent's conspicuous visit to the Cruz family earlier today, it didn't take long for the confirmation to arrive. They had indeed stormed the Cruz residence to break the engagement, leaving in a fit of rage. Clearly, there had been a significant fallout.

Furthermore, there was news that the collaboration between the Cruz family and the Wilson family had been abruptly terminated, hinting at a deep rift between them.

Keely's eyes sparkled with satisfaction as a delighted smile spread across her face. She muttered to herself, "This turned out even better than I expected. What a pleasant surprise."

She cautiously opened her door and peered into the hallway, breathing a sigh of relief when she saw it was empty. Locking the door again, she returned to her room and dialed a number.

When the call connected, Keely spoke with a touch of pride in her voice. "I've already made Marco and Loraine break up."



## Chapter 1268 Their Strategy

Inside the room, Keely was on the phone, boastfully recounting her successes in sowing discord between Marco and Loraine, leading to their breakup.

After a brief silence, a voice on the other end answered, "Just making them break up isn't enough. I want you to completely sever ties between the Wilson family and the Cruz family. The Cruz family must be left utterly isolated."

The smile faded from Keely's face, and she bit her lip, her brow furrowed.

She understood the implications well. The Cruz family, now synonymous with Marco, being isolated would simplify targeting him.

Yet, her feelings for Marco were complex. Despite her animosity, Marco was someone she had cared for deeply over the years. He had been supportive during the years Jorge was absent. Her resentment was fueled by his choice of Loraine over her.

It was clear that this mysterious person's agenda focused particularly on bringing Marco down, ensuring he couldn't recover.

Keely hesitated, then asked, "Can't we focus on Loraine first?"

She harbored another motive: by dealing with Loraine first, she could then position herself as Marco's savior, appearing noble when she offered him help. The decision as to whether or not to help him out of his predicament would be hers. She just wanted Marco to realize that it was she, not Loraine, who had the power to assist him. She wanted him to regret his choice.

The person on the phone, however, was not indulging her personal vendettas.

With a sneer that seemed to pierce through the phone, the voice retorted, "I arranged for someone to assist you, not to cater to your selfish desires and pursue personal vendettas."

As soon as he finished speaking, there was a knock on the door, reminiscent of a scene from a horror film. The monotonous, flat voice of her personal maid declared, "Miss, it's time for your medication."

Goosebumps sprang up on Keely's arms, and she swallowed hard.

Since meeting the psychologist Jorge had arranged for her, Keely had connected with the mysterious caller. She received medication to stabilize her mental state from them, in exchange for her cooperation against Marco and Loraine. They also provided a maid who, under the guise of assistance, was actually there to monitor her.

After a moment, Keely lowered her voice, masking her reluctance, and responded, "I understand. I'll follow your plans. What's my next step?"

The caller, pleased with her compliance, issued a series of commands. Keely agreed to all the terms and ended the call. She wanted to discard her phone in frustration, but she restrained herself. Opening the door, she accepted the medication from the maid, then gave a command. "Continue to track Loraine's movements. Report back any developments."

The maid, maintaining a veneer of respect, replied, "Sir asked you to focus on Marco."

Keely's expression twisted into a smile. "I am following his instructions faithfully. You don't understand Marco. Even if he breaks up with Loraine, he'll still be preoccupied with her. By



The maid seemed persuaded and nodded her agreement.

Meanwhile, in the Universe Group office, Loraine faced Wesley and Vincent with evident anxiety as she urgently inquired, "How did it go? How did Marco react?"

Wesley raised his eyebrows and smiled. "Marco is pretty clever. He grasped our intention quickly and helped orchestrate a convincing scene."

Loraine's tension eased, and a slight smile formed on her lips. She speculated that Marco's initial reaction upon seeing the ring must have been genuine fright.

Vincent added, "Lorrie, if you're right about Keely, she won't easily be fooled. She's bound to test us again. We have to keep up the pretense until she lets her guard down and exposes her intentions."

Understanding the implications, Loraine nodded slightly. This meant she and Marco would have to limit their interactions and communication until they could expose Keely's deceit. She sighed at the thought.

Catching her expression, Vincent understood her longing for Marco and cleared his throat, saying, "That's why Wesley and I were cautious not to reveal too much. The next steps rely on the unspoken connection between you and Marco. I trust he will respond appropriately. If he misinterprets our cues, I'll arrange to send him a clarifying message through the Wilson family."

Their strategy was designed to convince everyone, especially Keely, that Loraine and Marco had truly parted ways.

Loraine knew Keely well enough to predict that once she



believed they had split, her guard would drop, and her true motives would surface.

At Vincent's words, Loraine nodded, then touched the engagement ring she wore. With a tender look, she removed the ring, threaded it onto a necklace, and draped it around her neck.

Feeling the cool metal against her skin caused her to shiver slightly. Quietly, she murmured, "I believe Marco and I understand each other enough to get through this."

