## Chapter 129 Her Identity

Loraine's words caused quite the commotion.

"No way!" Marina spat, incredulous. "If

Universe Group was holding a party here, we'd know!"

Keely figured it was just an excuse that Loraine made up. Sneering, she said, "I know you're sad that you weren't invited, but you shouldn't lie in front of so many people. Aren't you worried about the truth being exposed?"

"Enough!" Marco interjected forcefully. His eyes darkened, like a storm brewing over the sea.

Worried that Loraine could get hurt if the current situation escalated, he offered her his hand. "I'll take you out of here."

Loraine dodged his hand gracefully. "No, thanks. I told you; I'm going to attend Universe Group banquet."

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Under the doubtful eyes of the crowd, Loraine walked toward the opposite end of the banquet hall.

When the waiters saw Loraine approaching, they quickly pulled back the thick curtains, revealing the well-decorated hall on the other side.

There really was another banquet!

As soon as the second banquet was exposed, it attracted everyone's attention, causing

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exclamations of surprise and murmurs of admiration.

The celebration banquet thrown by the government was quite plain in theme to avoid extravagance and waste.

On the other hand, the Torres family had spent a lot of money decorating the banquet hall. The look was inspired by ancient Greek legends, with a white and gold color scheme, and made the hall look luxurious without feeling excessive.

Since Universe Group was hosting an anniversary ceremony, there was a very high -status guest list.

Aldo, Cayson, Rowan, and Mr. T were in attendance.

Such a lively and attractive scene immediately stole the attention of the guests of the government banquet, and they found themselves walking over to the other side.

Almost all of the guests were gone. Klein looked around at the empty hall, embarrassed.

"That bitch is stealing our thunder!" Marina stomped her feet angrily, like a petulant child.

Keely was annoyed, too, but she comforted Marina. "Marina, don't be angry. Loraine's arrogance won't last. Now that she's been embroiled in scandals and removed from the smart city project, she can't continue to hold an important position within Universe Group The reason Universe Group is holding an anniversary party is probably to try to amend its reputation after the damage caused by Loraine."

Liza and Keely were thinking along the same lines.

Liza snorted. "I tried to persuade Aldo to fire that tramp, but he wouldn't listen. What can possibly be gained by holding an anniversary ceremony now? They're only delaying the inevitable; it will be harder to get rid of Loraine in the future!"

Liza's and Keely's words made Marina feel better.

Marco, meanwhile, stared fixedly at Loraine,

his body full of nervous energy.

At the other end of the banquet hall, under the gaze of all those present, Aldo walked out onto the stage. He wore a black suit embroidered with elegant gold patterns.

"Thank you for attending today's banquet.

This banquet is not only an anniversary celebration for Universe Group but also a welcome home celebration for the most important treasure of the Torres family, my granddaughter."

The instant he finished speaking, the hall burst into uproar.

"What? Aldo has a granddaughter?"

"What, you didn't know that? She is the only child of Aldo's eldest son. I'd heard that she'd been abroad, but I didn't expect her to come back today."

"Yes, the Torres family cherishes her deeply.

They've kept her extremely well-protected and have never let her appear publicly in any official capacity. No one knows what she looks like."

All eyes were on the stage. The air was electric.

Keely and the Bryant family were captivated; they desperately wanted to see Miss Torres.

This was exactly what Aldo wanted. Seeing that the atmosphere had almost reached its peak, he smiled and stretched out his arm toward the backstage area.

"Come on out, dear."

As everyone collectively held their breath, Marina leant over to Keely and whispered, "Keely, let me tell you something. My grandma found out that Miss Torres is in a relationship with Cayson. Loraine is just a substitute. When Miss Torres shows up, Loraine will be humiliated, like the lowly, unsophisticated seductress she is!"

Marina was so excited that she wished Miss Torres would hurry up and appear so that Loraine would be shamed all the sooner.

Keely beamed. She believed once Miss Torres appeared, Loraine would be nothing more than a joke.

Liza and Keely both scanned the crowd, hoping to catch a glimpse of Loraine's face and watch as she saw her future crumbling before her eyes.

Unfortunately for them, Loraine was nowhere to be found.

"Has Loraine been driven out by Universe Group?" Marina wondered out loud.

"Probably. She certainly doesn't deserve to be here." Keely snickered.

A wave of exclamations erupted suddenly among the crowd.

Keely and Liza looked up. There, on the stage, stood the person they had been looking for.

The spotlights shone down on her, illuminating her beauty.

"Loraine? How dare she sneak up onto the stage?" Keely's jaw dropped.

Marina was equally shocked. "Where are the security guards? Why don't they pull her down?"

Everyone watched, enthralled, as Aldo smiled and took Loraine's hand.

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"It is with great honor and pride that I introduce you to the sole heir of Universe Group, my granddaughter, Loraine Torres."

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Keely and Marina were shocked and dumbfounded.

How could Loraine be Aldo's granddaughter? They were all looking at one another with mouths agape.

"Is it true? Is Loraine from the Torres family?" "Isn't she an orphan from the countryside? What on earth is going on?"

"That's not possible!" Marina blurted. She was so overwhelmed by the shocking news that she couldn't control herself anymore. "You must be kidding! How could Loraine have anything to do with the Torres family? There must be some mistake somewhere!"

Laura was equally astonished. "There must be a mistake somewhere, Mr. Torres. When Loraine and Marco were married, the Bryant family looked into her background. She is just a girl who grew up in the countryside on her own. Don't let her fool you, sir!"

Aldo's face darkened in anger. "You think I'm stupid enough to mistake someone else for my granddaughter? Is that how the lot of you think of me and the Torres family? This is outrageous!"

Laura and Marina flinched at the harsh scolding.

Aldo snorted angrily and fixed a disgusted look on them.

"Lorrie has been lost once when she was little. It took a great deal for us to get her back. To protect her, I chose not to expose her identity to the public. But recently, there have been some rumors online about her identity, which made me realize that it was time to reveal her true identity. She is precious to me and the entire Torres family, and I will not let anyone insult her!"

Finally, everyone present now knew who Loraine really was, and they were all shocked.

<sup>&</sup>quot;I see..."

here," he ordered.

"What are you doing? Don't come near me!"

Marina shouted at the guards as they marched towards her. But they just kept coming. She and Laura looked at Liza, expecting her to come to their aid.

Unfortunately, Liza was still in a daze. She was yet to recover from the shock of finding out Loraine's true identity, so there was no way she could help save their asses.

In a matter of seconds, Laura and Marina were kicked out. It was nothing short of a big disgrace to the Bryant family.

Liza, on the other hand, was still staring fixedly at Loraine, who was now the major center of attraction in the place.

After this mind-blowing news, she couldn't help but regret her actions. She now realized that she had missed having a billionaire as a granddaughter-in-law!

In her mind, she pictured a scenario where Loraine and Marco were still a couple. Such a union of two great families, the Bryant family and the Torres family, would be an invincible force. To win the bid for any project would be a piece of cake. But now, all of such opportunities were gone.

She was the very person who had destroyed it all by herself.

Thinking of how she had ruined her own family's prospects, Liza almost felt suffocated.

But people like her would never really admit their mistakes; rather they would eventually find a way to blame others instead.

Suddenly, it occurred to her that it could not have been her fault after all. To be sure, it was all Loraine's fault.

If Loraine hadn't concealed her identity when she married Marco, Liza wouldn't have made life miserable for her in the Bryant family.

If Loraine hadn't returned to her own company to work as a humble employee after the divorce, Liza wouldn't have made any move to deal with her.

It was all Loraine's fault! She had hidden the truth on purpose. How could anyone figure

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out that she was Aldo Torres' granddaughter?

Just then, as if she could read Liza's mind,

Loraine suddenly picked up the microphone

and began to speak.

"I know you all must be very curious about the reason why I concealed my identity. I started from the very bottom of the company as I prepared for my takeover of Universe Group. Now, I've scored a significant achievement to prove myself worthy. Finally, my family thought it was time for me to be fully in charge of the company, so they decided to reveal my true identity to the public."

While Loraine spoke, the projector behind her displayed the variety of projects she had participated in. In particular, the construction of the smart city project stood out conspicuously.

The audience gave round after round of applause, marveling at Loraine's courage to start from scratch when she joined Universe Group while hiding her true identity.

Looking at Klein, who was standing among the crowd, Loraine questioned, "Mr. Moore, what do you think about the smart city project? Are you satisfied with the results?"

For a moment, Klein became the center of attention in the hall.

A chill ran through Klein's spine. He had to take this very seriously. Clearing his throat and adjusting his clothes, he replied, "I can't say any less. Your hard work and dedication to the project are undeniable."

Aldo nodded in satisfaction at his remark.

Klein breathed a deep sigh of relief when he saw that he had received Aldo's approval.

He would have been a doomed man if he had offended Loraine.

Meanwhile, Liza not only failed to kick Universe Group out of the project but also lost Loraine, the heir of the Torres family, as her granddaughter-in-law.

The pain of the tragedy hit her so hard that she almost fainted.