

## Chapter 1297 Confrontation

The sudden silence enveloped the room as every gaze shifted to Loraine's and Caroline's boxes.

Damon frowned, preparing to rise, but Loraine subtly gestured for him to remain calm. Stepping out of her box, she exposed herself to the scrutiny of everyone present.

Unruffled by the rumors, Loraine maintained her elegant composure. She smiled gracefully and addressed Caroline, "Your Highness, what leads you to make such claims?"

Behind Caroline, Kosha, her face concealed beneath a white headscarf, looked on with visible frustration. She had intended to intervene and restrain the impulsive princess before matters escalated, but she had been too slow.

Caroline ignored Kosha's attempts to stop her and proudly emerged from her box, standing defiantly opposite Loraine. With an air of arrogance, she retorted, "If you don't want others to know, then you shouldn't do it at all. You have the audacity to flirt with a middle-aged man yet lack the courage to own up to it?"

Loraine responded with amusement, "I flirt with a middle-aged man? Your Highness, if you persist with baseless accusations, I reserve the right to pursue legal action for defamation."

Caroline sneered, "Go ahead, sue me then. I'm not alone in this; the internet is abuzz with controversy over you. Only someone as shameless as you could stand here so calmly!"

Loraine smiled faintly, recalling the peculiar atmosphere she had sensed upon her arrival and Marco's abrupt departure.

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She realized Marco must have been aware of the situation then, making it unlikely for the news to still dominate the trending lists now.

Whispers began to murmur from various corners of the audience, seemingly aimed at Loraine's ears. The discussions revolved around the scandalous content circulating online that disparaged Loraine.

The young ladies from wealthy families, who had just been murmuring among themselves, did not bother to hide the malice on their faces.

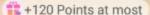
They were envious that Loraine had captured the heart of Marco, the most desirable bachelor.

Among them, a wealthy girl eager for spectacle began livestreaming, leveraging the trending controversy to attract viewers. Despite attempts to suppress the trending topic, public interest remained undiminished. She used Loraine's name to grab attention, instantly garnering a large audience keen to see Loraine's response to the rumors.

Seeing the girl hold up her phone, Loraine understood her intentions and couldn't help but shake her head with a chuckle.

She had no desire for trouble, yet trouble always seemed to find

Loraine maintained her composure, seasoned by her experiences. She turned to the event organizer, who appeared bewildered and uncomfortable with the spectacle and offered a swift apology for the disruption. Then, facing the live-streaming camera directly, she spoke up. "Well, the man you're referring to is my uncle, and he is suffering from an injury to his waist. I was merely assisting him. I cannot comprehend the mindset of those who insulted my uncle and slander me, but I am innocent. I believe most people would choose to help their relatives who require assistance, wouldn't they?"



Caroline sneered derisively, "Just because you say so, should we believe it's true? I suspect he is not your uncle but rather your sugar daddy."

Her laughter echoed mockingly through the silent venue.

Loraine's expression darkened as she spoke in a serious tone. "Your Highness, why do you find this amusing? I am speaking the truth, whereas you are falsely accusing me."

Caroline was taken aback by Loraine's sternness. Loraine continued, her gaze piercing, "Your Highness, I hoped to clarify the rumors. However, if you are determined to escalate this matter, rest assured, I am prepared to see it through to the end."

Sensing the gravity of Loraine's words, the audience fell into an uneasy silence. It was clear that Caroline's words had crossed a line, deeply offending Loraine.

Loraine glanced back at the camera, her lips curling into a sarcastic smile. "I am acquainted with the process of litigation."

As her words streamed across the internet, the sentiments among viewers began to shift. Support for Loraine grew, while a significant portion simply joined to revel in the unfolding drama.

"Ever since Loraine took the helm at Universe Group, rumors have swirled, but time and again, they've been debunked. I'm here to watch her detractors eat their words again," one viewer typed energetically.

Meanwhile, Caroline's expression changed momentarily before she retorted, "I don't believe it. Bring out this so-called uncle if you dare! But I doubt your sugar daddy will dare show up!"

At that moment, a deep, authoritative voice cut through the murmurs, startling everyone present. "Who is talking nonsense?"

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## Chapter 1298 Damon's Clarification

The moment the authoritative voice echoed through the room, all eyes swiftly turned in its direction.

A middle-aged man with a formidable presence, radiating the confidence of a seasoned politician, emerged from a box and walked purposefully towards Loraine.

Murmurs filled the air as some attendees recognized him, whispering, "Isn't that the man from those rumors with Loraine?"

Damon's icy stare settled on Caroline, who felt a sudden chill of foreboding.

Without hesitation, Damon declared in a resonant tone, "Loraine is my niece. I will not tolerate anyone spreading malicious rumors about us!"

Loraine, caught off guard, looked at Damon's commanding figure with a surge of mixed emotions.

The Wilsons usually maintained a discreet profile. Aside from Kaley's assertive maneuvers, they seldom leveraged their family's influence overtly. Damon and Vincent had even concealed their true backgrounds to carve out their own successes, only disclosing their lineage when absolutely necessary.

Now, Damon's public defense of her was not only about vindicating her but also a strategic display of the Wilson family's power. Despite her reservations about Damon, Loraine couldn't help but feel grateful for his support.

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The revelation left the crowd stunned, struggling to process the implications. Caroline, in particular, was visibly rattled, her voice piercing the murmurs as she exclaimed, "Impossible!"

She remembered the detailed investigations conducted by Kosha, recalling past instances when men rumored to be romantically linked with Loraine were later revealed as relatives, which had inadvertently enhanced her reputation rather than harmed it.

Once or twice might be plausible, but how could the same instance occur repeatedly?

Damon faced Caroline with an unyielding expression, adopting the stern demeanor he reserved for diplomatic confrontations. "Your Highness, assertions require proof. If you claim it's impossible, where is your evidence? Without it, not even your father could make such unfounded accusations in my presence."

Caroline paled, her earlier bravado fading. Though she was uncertain of the full extent of Damon's influence, his stern rebuke made it clear that he was a formidable figure not to be underestimated, even by a princess.

Damon's gaze swept across the venue and settled on the girl who was live-streaming the event. Recognizing Damon, she nearly dropped her phone, her face turning pale with dread.

The implications of offending the Wilson family could be disastrous for her and her family.

However, Damon did not single her out. Addressing the camera, he began, "I am not well-versed in matters of the internet, but I cannot stand idly by while my niece is subjected to unfounded insults. So, let me set the record straight. I am Damon Wilson, a public servant and a member of the renowned Wilson family. Loraine is my niece by blood. Due to past events, our family owes her a great deal, and it is my responsibility as her uncle to

make amends. This is why I brought her to this event, never anticipating it would lead to such unwarranted speculation. The man in those photos is indeed me. I was injured while on duty, and Loraine, showing her kindness and familial duty, assisted me. How could such an innocent act be misconstrued so negatively?"

The opinions of the viewers in the live-stream chat changed drastically. One viewer noted Damon's role in combating human trafficking and his recent injury during a rescue mission. The chat filled with commendations for his bravery. Comments began to appear supporting Loraine, criticizing the spread of rumors. "The real problem here are the ones spreading these baseless rumors!"

Unaware of the online sentiments, Damon turned his attention back to Caroline, his voice firm. "Now, I believe it's time for those spreading these rumors to apologize. Your Highness, you are a guest in our country, yet you have publicly maligned our official and respected entrepreneur. Should this prompt me to question your nation's commitment to our diplomatic relations?"

His words carried an implicit threat.

Though usually prideful, Caroline understood the gravity of the situation. As a representative of a ceremonial monarchy with limited power, she recognized the potential diplomatic fallout from her actions.

Yet, the thought of apologizing publicly to Loraine was more than her pride could bear.

Caroline's eyes filled with tears of frustration.

Just then, a stern male voice echoed through the venue, addressing the tension. "If Your Highness does not apologize, I shall be forced to raise this issue with Mr. K."

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