

Chapter 1315 A Substitute

In the afternoon, a row of bodyguards stood in an orderly fashion in the arrival zone of Eplistan International Airport. Several elegantly attired individuals, clearly of notable status, caught the attention of onlookers who speculated loudly about their identities and who the important person they were waiting for was.

Among them were Eplistani government officials!

One man, particularly handsome and dressed impeccably in a simple black suit, stood out even among these well-dressed officials.

He elegantly checked the time on his wristwatch and said softly, "It's almost time. Prepare to welcome our guest."

The sound of a plane landing overhead indicated the arrival of an international flight.

Passengers from economy class exited, buzzing with conversation and laughter. Yet, the door to the first-class cabin remained closed, with no passengers coming out.

The officials appeared confused. Mr. K, the group's leader, approached a flight attendant on duty and asked, "Excuse me, but where are the first-class passengers from this flight?"

The flight attendant, bowing her head in respect at the sight of Mr. K, responded, "The first-class cabin on this flight was empty today. No one had booked it."

Whispers of surprise circulated among the officials following Mr. K.

Mr. K turned back to them, suggesting they continue to wait, proposing that maybe the guest had opted to travel in economy class.

But Loraine never showed up.

As the crowd from economy class dispersed, Mr. K and the officials had not yet spotted Loraine, whom they were anticipating.

"Perhaps something urgent came up, and Ms. Torres decided against coming," Mr. K sighed. "She manages the entire Universe Group, so it's understandable that she might be busy."

Addressing his group, he said, "I'll reach out to the Universe Group to check Ms. Torres' schedule. For now, let's head back."

The officials left, shaking their heads in disappointment.

Back at his place in Eplistan, Mr. K, feeling quite pleased, sat by the floor-to-ceiling windows, swirling a glass of red wine.

The inviting scent of the wine filled the air as he swirled it, a mysterious smile crossing his face before he sipped it all in one go, looking thoroughly satisfied.

Even though it seemed a bit improper to open a fine bottle of wine in broad daylight, his good mood made it seem justifiable.

A subordinate entered, immediately kneeling as he caught Mr. K's stern look. "Sir, Loraine has been secured by our people. Though we had a few minor issues, we managed to handle her. She's on her way now. Following your instructions, we've kept everything discreet, so the route is a bit roundabout. Kindly wait for a short while."

"Well done. It seems Loraine isn't as tough as we thought." Mr. K nodded, his expression cold despite his smile. "Now, bring in Essie."

The subordinate left and soon came back with a woman.

Mr. K examined her features for a moment, lifting an eyebrow. "Still not quite perfect. You don't look like her enough. But we do not have any other choice."

Sunlight illuminated Essie's face, showcasing her resemblance to Loraine, though her eyes and brows differed slightly.

Upon seeing Mr. K, Essie promptly knelt to greet him.

Mr. K's brief smile disappeared as he shook his head, his expression turning serious. "Loraine would never be this submissive."

Essie trembled, her eyes lifting fearfully to meet Mr. K's cold gaze.

He narrowed his eyes at her, his voice cold and calculating, filled with a sinister sort of amusement.

"This is your last chance. Absorb everything about Loraine. You must convincingly impersonate her."

Essie shuddered deeply but managed to rise, steadying herself as she extended her hand to shake Mr. K's, whispering, "I will obey your commands. From this moment, I am Loraine. I will make you proud."

Pleased, Mr. K nodded, adding, "Remember, you are Keely no more from this point onward. You are now Loraine, the beloved daughter of the Torres family and Wilson family, and the future wife of Marco."

Chapter 1316 Marco's Fury

Mr. K's words made Keely feel a ripple of emotion inside her, but she lowered her head and didn't dare to say a word.

She had always been envious and hateful of Loraine because of her elevated status, her three-year marriage to Marco, and the love Marco had for her.

It never occurred to Keely that she could one day take Loraine's place, have everything she had once envied her for, and even openly be with Marco!

Just the thought of being close to Marco made Keely's heart leap with joy.

But Mr. K, who had been intently watching her, quickly noticed this crack in her cold facade.

He narrowed his eyes and warned pointedly, "Keely, let me remind you that even as you become Loraine, you are still Essie, who works for me. When you and Marco eventually marry, ensure that you do not become so engrossed in your romantic life that you overlook implementing my plans."

This warning quickly snapped Keely back to reality, and she couldn't help but ask nervously, "Sir, will you hurt Marco?"

Mr. K paused for a moment before breaking into a faint smile. "Of course not," he scoffed. "But shouldn't you be getting ready instead of hanging around here? If someone finds out, it won't end well for you!"

Shocked and frightened by this threat, Keely quickly turned and hurried out of the room, leaving Mr. K gazing after her

retreating figure with a mocking look on his face.

Meanwhile, back in Zodiac, Loraine's disappearance had made Marco very furious. All of a sudden, he recalled something Leif had said earlier, and he slammed his fist on the table. With bloodshot eyes, he turned to Carl and ordered, "Get the car ready! We're heading to the Dury family's place!"

Seeing how angry his boss was, the driver didn't dare delay. With his skills as an expert driver, he navigated through traffic and soon arrived at the Dury family estate.

When Marco tried to get in, the servants rushed to stop him, but Carl was quick to overpower them.

Marco barged in, located Leif in his bedroom, seized him by the collar, and slammed him against the wall. "What did you do to Loraine?" he roared into his face.

Leif, who had been asleep, was shocked to find himself pinned to the wall.

At first, he was totally confused, but he quickly realized what was happening when he recognized Marco's furious face. Immediately, his heart leapt in joy. Marco was mad with anger, which meant that Mr. K's plan had worked! Excellent!

Not minding his current situation, Leif couldn't help but gloat, "Marco, didn't I warn you not to cross me? Just imagine if the Wilson family learns that their daughter has been harmed because of you. How do you think they would react, hmm?"

Hearing the word "harmed," Marco trembled involuntarily. He suppressed his wrath, refraining from beating Leif senseless. He had the presence of mind to know that he needed him to be sane so he could question him.

"Was it you?" he asked desperately. "For crying out loud, where have you hidden the love of my life?"

"Marco, you can't just throw accusations around like that! Do you have any proof that it was me?" Leif laughed triumphantly. "Since you've got no evidence, I could sue you for defamation!"

Leif's taunting only fueled Marco's rage further. But just as he was about to snap and beat Leif to a pulp, Carl grabbed his shoulder and admonished, "Boss, please don't lose your temper. The priority is finding Ms. Torres. Her safety is more important than anything right now."

Carl's words touched Marco and dredged up the last bit of his sanity.

For Loraine's sake, he knew he had to stay calm. So he released Leif and turned to leave.

As Marco walked away, Leif, despite being in pain, shouted after him mockingly, "Who told you that you could leave? Breaking into my house in the middle of the night and..."

Immediately, Marco turned around.

Leif instinctively stretched out his arm to touch him, but Marco swiftly grabbed his wrist and brutally twisted it!

Leif fell on the floor, screaming in agony as he clutched his wrist.

The domestic staff, seeing how furious Marco was, didn't dare intervene.

With one last mocking glance at Leif, Carl followed Marco and they both walked out of the villa.

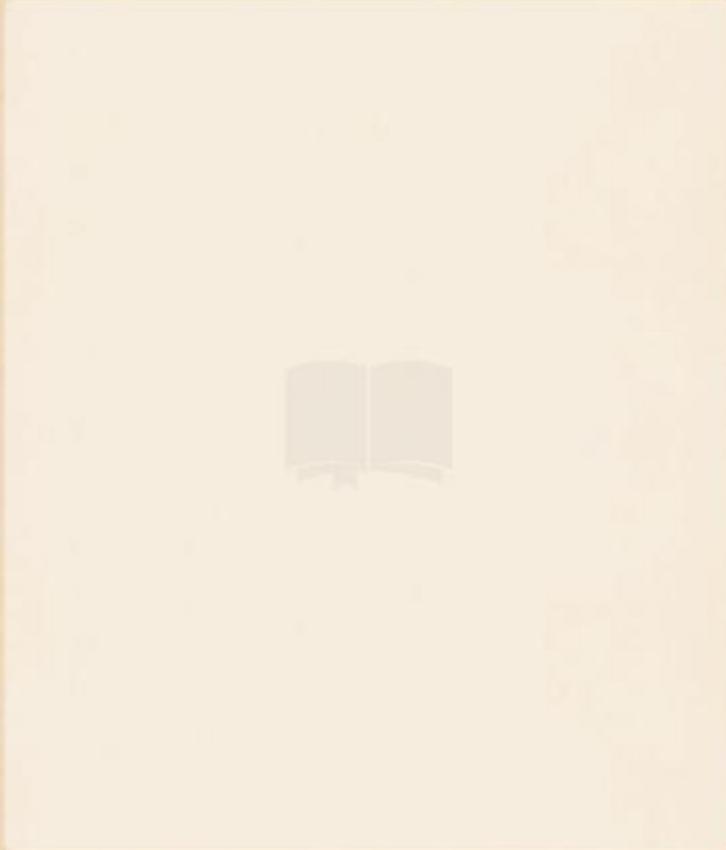
It was only after Marco had gone that the domestic staff dared approach to help Leif. But none of them spoke a word, leaving only Leif to curse in frustration.

"Damn it! Ugh! So what if Marco is tough? Loraine is in danger

because of him. She might even be dead by now!"



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