

Chapter 164 Allen's Doubt

Marco was strongly insistent on giving an entire building to Loraine.

"You're free to gift the building to anyone. The building now belongs to you since I've already handed it over to you."

But Loraine didn't want to take advantage of him. "No, no, no. I can't take the building. We can afford to buy an apartment ourselves."

Then she turned to Allen and said, "Allen, I've chosen a suitable apartment for you according to your requirements. If you believe in me, you can buy it right now."

"Okay, I'll buy the one you chose." Allen nodded in agreement.

"Good," Loraine said with a smile and quickly called in the manager before Marco could react.

She told the manager which apartment she wanted and gave him her bank card.

The manager cleared his throat and scratched his head in hesitation. Marco was staring at him coldly. The manager didn't know if he should take the card.

When the manager didn't take her card, Loraine asked him, "What's the problem? You don't want this deal?"

Of course, the manager wanted to do the business, but he wouldn't dare accept Loraine's money when Marco didn't want him to. Feeling hapless and helpless, he looked to Marco.

Sporting a long face, Marco eventually nodded. The manager breathed a sigh of relief and took the card.

"Miss Torres, please hold on a bit. I'll prepare the contract for you right away," the manager said and hurried out of the room, glad to have gotten out of the dilemma.

Allen, on the other hand, was in a daze.

He could not understand what was going on.

Didn't Marco plan to gift a building to Loraine just now? Why did Loraine refuse and pay for it instead?

Allen was completely lost and confused.

Meanwhile, Marco was very far from happy. Allen could spend Loraine's money at ease, which made Marco very jealous.

"Loraine, it's only been a short while since the last incident. Why haven't you been on guard against people who suddenly appear around you? Aren't you afraid of being cheated of your money and body?"

"Don't worry, Mr. Bryant. Allen will never lie to me. I've known him for a long time, quite as long as I've known you," Loraine retorted.

Marco was stunned.

What exactly did she mean by that?

Marco had recently learned that Loraine and Allen had known each other since five years ago when they studied abroad. Had she known him even before that?

Marco was full of questions and doubts, but before he could ask, the manager came back with the contract.

"Miss Torres, this is your contract. Please sign it," the manager said, his hands shaking as he handed her the papers. The murderous look Marco fixed on him the moment he walked in frightened him to bits.

He was wondering how he had offended the CEO again.

Meanwhile, Loraine took the contract and looked through it. Then she asked Allen to sign it.

Now knowing that Allen was the owner of the apartment, the manager began to inform him of the special features of the apartment.

"Sir, the buildings in the smart city are all equipped with the latest technology, which enables you to record your face, fingerprints and even your iris into the ID system. In this way, it would ensure accurate

identification and maximum safety. Please rest assured, the AI system here is highly intelligent, and it can even judge emotions. If you're being forced to open your apartment, it will call the police."

These latest technologies were exactly what Allen was interested in.

He became very excited. "Great! This kind of technology is the most advanced right now in the world. Who's in charge of your research and development department?"

The manager looked at Marco proudly and said to Allen, "All these are the new changes made under the able leadership of our CEO, Mr. Bryant. You can ask him if you want to know more."

All of a sudden, Allen began to look at Marco in a different way, as if he had finally met someone like himself. He shook Marco's hand heartily and beamed at him.

"Mr. Bryant, your company's technology is awesome! I love it very much," Allen said, his eyes lit up in joy.

Loraine began to fear that her new director of research and development would be poached by Marco, so she rushed up to Allen and quickly pulled him away.

"Allen, you've bought the apartment. There are still a lot of places to see in Vagow. We have to go now!"

"Wait, Loraine..."

Allen was still reluctant to leave. He kept talking to her about how amazing Marco was.

Loraine became a little jealous and couldn't help but complain, "Allen, this is ungrateful. I bought an apartment for you, but you only remember Marco's impact on technological development. Now, I'm beginning to suspect that Marco offered the building for free just to show you how kind he is."

But Allen disagreed immediately, "Loraine, I don't think you're right. Marco wanted to give the building to you, not me. He was showing his affection to you."

Loraine was stunned. But she quickly recovered herself and denied Allen's statement.

"Allen, Marco is not as simple as you think. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been able to develop Bryant Group to such a level."

But Allen didn't agree with her.

Eyes couldn't lie. He could see Marco's love for Loraine shining in his eyes.

But people usually told him that he was not sensitive to other people's feelings. So, maybe he was reading the situation wrongly.

With this in mind, Allen became quiet and didn't try to insist any further on Marco's affection for Loraine.

Chapter 165 First Meet

It was night.

Marco was drinking sulkily, seated in his usual seat at the bar.

Not minding the excited crowd around him, Marco only could think about what Loraine had said earlier.

She said she knew Allen long ago, almost as long as she had known him.

That meant Loraine had known him even before they got married.

But how did they know each other in the first place?

Marco tried his best to rack his brains and recall the past, but he still couldn't find any clue about Loraine.

He couldn't help but turn to his friends who were drinking with him.

"Did you know Loraine before I got married to her?"

Jimmie and Slater took a look at each other and shook their heads in the negative.

"How could we have known Loraine before you guys got married?" Slater scoffed.

But Jimmie was more alert and immediately realized that something might be bothering Marco. "Hey, what's wrong? You had issues with Loraine before you married her?"

Marco frowned. "She said she knew me a long time ago. But I have no memory of that at all."

"No way! How can that be?" Slater said excitedly, putting down his glass. "But then, Loraine studied abroad, right? I remember you happened to start a business abroad at that time. Maybe that was when you met her?"

Marco shook his head firmly. "We were not in the same country. How could we have met each other?"

Jimmie shrugged and fell into deep thought again. After a while, he murmured, "You can't be too sure, Marco. Maybe you met each other during an overseas project. Doris is helping you manage your business abroad, right? If you want to know more, maybe you should ask her to investigate."

Doris Hoffman...

Marco shook the wine in his glass and closed his eyes. He didn't bother to continue the topic anymore.

Already, the atmosphere in the room dropped sharply.

Slater felt this was a bad sign. He nudged Jimmie with his elbow and whispered, "Don't mention her again! Don't you see Marco hasn't mentioned her

since he came back? There must be something. We put so much effort into send Keely away. Don't bring up another trouble!"

Jimmie gasped. How could he forget this? And it turned out that Slater, of all people, was the one who reminded him.

For a moment, he was speechless and didn't know what to say or do.

Slater narrowed his eyes and looked Jimmie up and down. Suddenly, he blurted, "There's something going on with you. Something has been wrong somewhere recently."

Jimmie felt guilty and quickly became defensive to avoid discussing the topic.

"What's wrong with me? You're just thinking too much and reading into things that don't exist."

At this point, Slater was feeling like Sherlock Holmes. He began to outline his deductions to his friend.

"I've noticed that you've been absent-minded about everything recently. How have you managed not to notice what even I could notice? Come on, tell me. What the hell is going on?"

"Stop reading too much into things!" Jimmie scolded, still refusing to admit it.

"Fine! You're forcing me to use my trump card!"

Driven by curiosity, the nosy Slater refused to let Jimmie be and kept trying to force him to tell the truth.

This was the first time that Jimmie was being bothered by Slater in this manner.

Seeing his friends arguing, Marco ignored them and sat in silence. His mind was still focused purely on Loraine, and he could not think of anything else.

After drinking a few more glasses, Marco bid farewell to his two friends and went home alone.

The moment he stepped into the house, Laura came up to him, fawning over him and even trying to help him take off his coat.

But Marco dodged her.

Laura sighed. She had no choice but to come clean. "Marco, please do me a favor."

Marco was not surprised at all. He asked indifferently, "What happened to Marina this time?"

Since he was a child, every time his mother was nice to him, it was either because of money or Marina. He had become used to it over the years.

Laura looked at him ingratiatingly and said, "The Cruz family is going to hold a banquet very soon. I want you to take your sister with you."

Marco knew that his mother was doing this because

she wanted Marina to marry Grady, but he didn't want to get involved in it.

"I'm not interested. Let her go there by herself."

Red with embarrassment, Laura said, "Marina doesn't have a good reputation nowadays. She needs someone to back her up. Marco, you are her brother. You should help her."

Marco scoffed. "Who is to blame for her bad reputation? Marina created this mess herself."

With that, he went straight to his study, ignoring Laura's response.

"Wait, Marco!" Laura was very annoyed, but she needed Marco's help, so she had to keep pushing. Thinking quickly, she decided to play her trump card. "Are you not going to attend? Loraine is now the heir of a rich family. The Cruz family will certainly invite her."

Marco came to a halt immediately.

