

Chapter 175 Don't Meet Him

Many guests saw the secret interaction between Florence and the butler. Florence also appeared to be upset and angry. Loraine could tell at a glance what was going on.

She guessed that Florence and the butler were unaware of the value of the sapphire earrings at first. They only intended to give her some cheap item, but they erred in the end and gave her a valuable gift.

Wesley and Loraine looked at each other. They could see the delight in one another's eyes.

"The Cruz family is so generous!" Wesley said on purpose.

With a straight face, Loraine put the sapphire earrings away and said, "Mrs. Cruz, thank you. I accept this generous gift."

Florence was so furious that she was unable to even fake a smile. However, she could do nothing about it.

Finally, the subject of the reward was over.

The fact that Loraine and Mr. T worked together to trap Florence made Marco envious, who had yet to find an opportunity to impress Loraine.

He kept gazing at Loraine, hoping to get a chance to speak with her privately.

However, someone forestalled him just as he thought his chance had come.

Grady approached Loraine, looking flushed.

"Loraine, thank you for helping me drive away Marina."

Loraine shook her head. "You don't need to thank me. She provoked me first. I just fought back."

But Grady was adamant about thanking her.

"Still, you helped me. I should thank you. Come and meet me in the garden. I have a gift for you." Grady quickly fled before Loraine turned him down. As he ran, he yelled, "You must come!"

Looking at his back, Loraine sighed deeply.

She didn't want to go, but she was worried Grady would keep waiting for her.

She contemplated this for a while before deciding to go to the garden. She informed Wesley and then left.

As she made her way to the banquet hall's exit, she saw Grady holding a gift box by the garden's fountain.

But just as Loraine was about to approach, a large hand grabbed her arm, pulling her aside.

"Why are you meeting Grady in private? What do you want to do?" Marco asked, gritting his teeth.

Marco sensed something wasn't right and followed Grady and Loraine as they left the banquet hall one after the other.

Loraine was startled and immediately shook off his hand. "Leave me alone!"

With a darkened face, Marco blocked her way.

"Loraine, let me remind you for I see you have forgotten! Florence hosted the party today to pick a wife for Grady. Can you provide an explanation if someone sees you and Grady alone? So, I can't allow you to go meet him."

Loraine laughed angrily and asked, "Marco, you're so funny! It's none of your business if I want to go see someone."

"You are right. I can't interfere with you meeting others. However, this case is different. I won't allow you to go meet Grady. After all, I'm doing it for your own good!" Marco said firmly.

Loraine understood why he stopped her after seeing how Marina treated Grady.

Was he attempting to eliminate potential competitors for his sister?

She gave him a mocking glance and said, "Marco, if

"you don't want me to meet Grady for the sake of Marina, you don't have to. I have no desire to be his wife."

Hearing this, Marco was annoyed. "I'm not preventing you for Marina's sake. I'm only doing it because I care about you!"

Loraine was a little taken aback when she saw the man's serious expression.

Instantly, the tense atmosphere became subtle.

Marco felt his heart soften while looking at Loraine's lovely face shining in the moonlight. At this moment, he felt compelled to tell her how he felt about her.

"Loraine, I..."

The romantic ambiance between them was abruptly broken by a harsh female voice.

"Grady, why did you take the Sea Of Light away?"

Loraine was shocked and turned to silently observe them.

Grady was holding the box when Florence, who had a furious expression, went to him and tried to grab it.

Immediately, Grady dodged. "Mom, it's your fault. The necklace was to be given as the prize to the winner. Why did you request that the butler switch it out for sapphire earrings?"

"Are you out of your damn mind?" Hearing her son's words, Florence was so angry that she felt a dull pain in her chest. "The Sea Of Light is a family heirloom. It's a present for your future wife. How on earth can it be given to Loraine? Or are you planning to marry her?"

Loraine could clearly hear the exchange between Grady and Florence.

She took a few steps back in shock as her eyes suddenly widened. She was so panicked that she almost tripped.

The chance presented itself for Marco to wrap his arm around Loraine's waist. He turned around and ducked behind the stone pillar in the hallway. He then lifted his other hand to cover her mouth.

"Shh!" Marco leaned over and motioned for Loraine to keep quiet. "Don't let them see us. Let's wait and hear what they have to say."


They were so close to each other. Loraine felt uncomfortable staring at Marco's attractive face and instinctively reached out to push him away.

However, she was shocked to hear Marco take a deep breath when her hands touched his back.

Immediately, she stopped what she intended to do.

She remembered that he hadn't recovered from his injuries.

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Lorraine finally came to a stop when she considered this. All she could do was glare at Marco angrily.

Sensing her concession, Marco smiled. He then squeezed his arms around Lorraine, holding her firmly.



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Beside the fountain, the confrontation between the mother and son continued.

Florence could not understand why her son was being so rebellious.

"Are you crazy, Grady? I invited so many ladies here. Why did you choose Loraine of all people?"

Grady fired back immediately. "Mom, why can't Loraine be the one? She's the best. You used to dislike her due to her family background, but now she's the heir of the Torres family and she's no longer inferior to us. Why do you still object?"

Florence didn't know what to say.

Given the fact that the Torres family was a rich and powerful one, a union with it would be beneficial for the Cruz family.

It was evident that Loraine was excellent in both knowledge and ability. She was a good choice for Grady's wife.

But Loraine was sharp-tongued, and there were many rumors about her with different men. This was what made Florence very hesitant.

Lorraine had been married and divorced, and now, she was dealing with all kinds of men. Florence was worried that her son would not be able to control a woman like her.

Florence sighed helplessly and asked in a resigned tone, "Grady, don't you want to marry anyone other than Lorraine?"

With a firm look, Grady shook his head. "I only want her."

Florence had no choice but to compromise. "Okay. But I have to observe Lorraine for some time. We can't just allow her into the family just like that."

She seemed to regard Lorraine as a commodity to be bought, without considering Lorraine's own will on the matter.


In Florence's eyes, as long as she accepted Lorraine as her daughter-in-law, the young woman would agree without any hesitation.

But little did she know that her conversation with her son was heard by Marco and Lorraine as they hid behind the stone pillars nearby.

Lorraine didn't display any particular reaction, but Marco looked very angry.

"What makes you think you can choose Lorraine like a commodity?" he sneered in displeasure.

Marco didn't try to lower his voice, so the mother and

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son saw both Marco and Loraine.

"Why are you here?" Grady asked in shock as he turned to see them.

Seeing how close together Loraine and Marco were standing, he frowned deeply. But Loraine was quick to move aside to keep some distance between herself and Marco.

Marco had no choice but to let her go.

"Mrs. Cruz, what did you mean by your words?" Loraine demanded.

Thinking of what she had just said, Florence felt a little embarrassed.

In an attempt to defend herself, she said, "Loraine, don't blame me. I'm Grady's mother. When he falls in love with someone, I have to help him the best way I can. You have many experiences with men while Grady hasn't. I'm worried about him. I hope you can understand."

Loraine sneered inwardly and said aloud, "Don't waste your time, Mrs. Cruz. I've already suffered enough from marriage, and I have no intention to remarry in the future. You can exclude me from any plans to choose a wife for your son."

Loraine's refusal felt like a death sentence for Grady. He became sad and looked dejected.

Marco, on the other hand, knew that he was the one

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who made Loraine suffer so much and he couldn't help but feel ashamed.

Meanwhile, Florence was taken aback. This was the first time she had been refused so rudely.

She felt humiliated and said sarcastically, "Well, I didn't mean to choose you. But since you have said no, please don't get close to Grady in the future, so you don't mislead him."

Florence's statement made Grady frown.

Even Marco's face darkened in displeasure and he warned her coldly, "Mrs. Cruz, behave yourself. It was Grady who invited Loraine. You'd better keep an eye on your own son before blaming others."

"Yes, I invited Loraine," Grady readily concurred.

"Why do I have such a disobedient son?" Florence murmured under her breath, her hands trembling in anger. But she could not refute what had just been said. She could only shout at the butler behind her, "Why are you still standing there? Take the necklace back immediately!"

"Yes, madam."

The butler hurried forward to take the box from Grady, and Grady didn't resist this time.

Since Loraine had refused him, he had no reason to give her the necklace.

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But before the butler could leave, Florence stopped her. "Wait. Take out the necklace and wipe it carefully, just in case it has been stained with someone's bad luck!"

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