

## Chapter 19 Bossy Colleague

Loraine walked into the tea room of the architectural design department.

Jolie approached her with a big smile.

"Loraine, you did a great job!" Jolie praised with a cup of coffee in her hand. "Barry was fond of harassing beautiful young ladies in the department. We were all sick of him. However, no one was bold enough to do anything because he was the director."

Loraine became happier when she found out that she had gotten rid of such a bad guy.

"It's all right now, Jolie. That scumbag has gotten his reward. You don't have to work in fear anymore," she said comfortingly.

The two of them shared a warm smile for a while. They felt like they became closer.

Both women had been talking in excited tones, so they were audible.

One of their female colleagues, who overheard

them, chimed in, "Don't get too excited, especially you, Loraine. You caused trouble in this company only a few days after getting employed. I advise you to keep a low profile if you want to stay on the job."

Jolie turned to look at the female colleague in surprise.

"What do you mean by that, Eliza?"

Disdain was written all over Eliza Welch's face. "Did I speak French? You know exactly what I meant. Arrogant people disgust me. It's ridiculous that a newbie has seen to it that two directors got fired in a short time. Who does she think she is? Is this company her family's property?" 4

Loraine could tell that Eliza disliked her a lot. When Jolie was about to talk back, she stopped her.

"Don't accuse me falsely, Eliza. I didn't make trouble. How could you even say that? I'm the victim here. There is nothing wrong with me fighting back against the bully. Tell me, wouldn't you have done the same if you were in my shoes?"

"Hey! You sharp-tongued shrew!"

Eliza was horrified. She glared at Loraine and left

without another word.

When Loraine and Jolie returned to their cubicles, they met their colleagues discussing about the new director.

"Guys, have you heard? A new director will be chosen from the best of the employees in this department. Who do you think it would be?"

"Of course, it will be Eliza! She is the most experienced among us. If her design plan for the amusement park is accepted by the client, she will be promoted."

"It appears that will happen soon because the client already accepted her plan. Eliza closed such a huge deal. I'm certain that she will be appointed as the new director."

Everyone concurred with this. From then on, they began to treat Eliza more politely.

Eliza was also sure that she had bagged the director position. She put up airs around the department and bossed her colleagues around.

She made it a point of duty to torment Loraine, who had exchanged words with her earlier on.

"Loraine, go and get me a glass of water."

"Loraine, print out this design drawing and bring it to my desk immediately!"

"Sort out these reports and submit them in thirty minutes. Stop slagging off!"

Eliza threw a pile of documents to Loraine and clapped her hands authoritatively.

Loraine boldly refused to do them. "If my memory serves me right, this is not my job. Besides, you are not my boss. You don't have the right to order me around. Why have you been bothering me lately?"

Eliza was stunned. Never did she expect Loraine to retort after the recent discovery.

"How dare you talk back at me, Loraine? You are just a newbie. I was already working in this company long before you came. It's normal for me to assign tasks to you. Besides, I will be made the director soon. I have every right to boss you around. You had better do as I say now. Otherwise, you will regret it in the future!"

Loraine called her bluff. "Okay, show me what you got!"

What a joke! The entire company belonged to her.

How could she get scared over a threat from a mere employee?

Eliza grunted angrily. She badly wanted to tear Loraine's mouth apart with her bare hands.

The other employees didn't weigh in because they were afraid of offending the incoming director.

Just as the two were arguing, a voice came from the door.

"Excuse me, who is the designer in charge of the amusement park project? Our manager wants to see her."

Eliza pushed Loraine out of the way as she rushed to meet the man. She flashed him a smile.

"That's me!"

Another man came in and said, "Oh, it's you? Hello, I'm Nate Dempsey, the manager of the park."

"Hello, Mr. Dempsey. How may I help you? I reckon that you are a busy man. If you wanted any aspect of the plan to be modified, you should have sent the word. You didn't have to come all the way here."

Eliza flattered Nate as she spoke to him. She was quite confident.

Nate smiled back. "Well, it doesn't matter. We are satisfied with your design plan. But a few details need to be discussed in person."

"In that case, please come in."

Eliza excitedly led Nate to the meeting room. On the way, she shot Loraine a searing and mocking glare. 3

Loraine rolled her eyes and got back to work.

In the meeting room, Eliza's received a great shocker just after she settled down.

The design plan Nate picked wasn't hers! 4

It was Loraine's!

## Chapter 20 The Chosen One

"This is not my design," Eliza quipped, her eyebrows knitted.

"It's not yours?" Nate was confused. "Didn't you say that you are the designer in charge of the design plan?"

Eliza nodded and explained in a hurry, "I did draft a plan for the amusement park, but that's not what you are holding. You must have taken the wrong one."

A deep frown appeared on Nate's face. "Are you accusing me of causing the mix-up? What do you take me for? I didn't make any mistakes. This is the plan that we've chosen!"

Sensing that Nate was offended by her choice of words, Eliza immediately adjusted her tone and put on a polite smile.

"Sir, I didn't mean that. Please don't get me wrong! It's just that the plan you have was designed by a newcomer named Loraine Torres. It was never

approved by the director. Mine was the one that got approved. That's why I'm surprised. It's against the company's rules for Loraine to submit her own plan to you behind our back. You shouldn't settle for hers."

Eliza accused Loraine in order to make sure her plan was chosen instead.

Nate glanced at her and explained, "We got the previous plan. But we weren't satisfied with it. The project was placed on hold because the design plan was revised too many times. The construction team has been on their toes for far too long. We asked that your department send all the design plans to us. After taking close looks at all of them, we settled for this one. It's the best!"

Eliza sprang to her feet and shook her head vigorously. "That's not possible! How can a newbie's design plan that was drafted in just two weeks be better than mine?"

Nate slapped the table impatiently.

"Mind your words. The design you drafted is not creative and unique enough. You practically copied ideas from amusement parks that are



already in existence. On the other hand, Miss Torres' design plan was so unique and interesting. It appeals to all ages and social groups. More so, she took into account potential safety problems and advised us on how they can be dealt with. Not only that, she stated how the equipment can be installed. None of these were in your work!"

Every word he said made Eliza's face turn pale. She couldn't think straight or speak.

At this moment, Nate dismissed her coldly. "You should improve your ability instead of badmouthing others. Please leave and bring Miss Torres here." 4

Eliza had no choice but to leave dejectedly.

She didn't have the courage to speak to Loraine. To avoid embarrassment, she passed the message through one of the workers.

The fact that Loraine went into the meeting room after Eliza left dejectedly raised the eyebrows of the employees. 3

Not long after, they found out that Loraine had closed the huge deal instead of Eliza.

All the employees, including those that didn't like

Loraine, flocked around her to congratulate her.

Eliza was left in the shadows. It was as if she wasn't the same woman who was worshipped a while back.

From a secluded corner, Eliza watched as everyone flattered Loraine endlessly. A sharp pain tugged at her heartstrings. Her eyes were bloodshot at this time.

Why did a newbie become a worthy contender overnight?

She couldn't accept this!

Eliza vowed to do everything within her power to teach Loraine a lesson once she became the director.

A few days later, all the employees in the design department received the promotion email from the HR department.

Some of them rushed to Eliza's cubicle and fawned at her before checking the email.

"Eliza, your time is now. Everyone will start addressing you as the director from today. Don't forget us after you get promoted!"

A radiant smile sat on Eliza's face at this moment. She had been depressed after her design plan was written off. But her sadness dissipated now that there was good news.

She flipped her hair back and said proudly, "Of course, I will remember my loyal colleagues. I'll be the best director you guys have ever had. Under my leadership, this department will flourish. I'm not like someone in this office who won just by pure luck. She's too much of a maverick to hold such a high office. She shouldn't blame others when she lands into trouble in the future. Humph!"

It was obvious that Eliza was mocking Loraine.

The others agreed with her shamelessly. 3

"Yes, you are the most capable in this department. Only someone who's a down-to-earth team player deserves to be picked by the management. And that person is you!"

"Eliza, you have a lot of experience. You can manage the department well. On the other hand, the newbie is just someone who thinks too highly of herself because she won a deal. She doesn't even take us seriously."

"Exactly!"

While most of the designers were around Eliza, Jolie was still in her cubicle. She was unhappy to hear them slandering Loraine.

"How shameless! She hasn't become director yet, but she's already putting up airs."

Their words didn't get to Loraine one bit.

"Just ignore them, Jolie. Let's just concentrate on our work."

Loraine was busy with the amusement park project, so she didn't have the time to exchange words with her backbiting colleagues.

"Gosh! You're just too forgiving," Jolie commented, suppressing her anger. She then opened the new email.

The next second, her eyes widened in shock.

"Oh my God! Loraine! It's you! Look! It's you!" she exclaimed, pointing at her computer screen.