

Chapter 196 Bribing

Loraine was conversing happily with the members of Shepherd while the fans argued angrily online.

They hadn't spoken in a while. The band's group chat now became active.

The first to speak was Larry Watson. "That woman, Lily, doesn't take us seriously at all. Although we last performed three years ago, we are still alive. How could she pretend to be you? She must be seeking death!"

Carlos Morris echoed, "That's true. I've seen the video of that woman singing. She can't sing nearly as well as you can. How dare she pose as you?"

Leon Archer added, "Shame on her! I'll beat her to death!"

Godwin Burke exclaimed, "Me, too!"

When Loraine noticed that her former teammates defended her in the group chat, she was no longer depressed. Instead, she got moved.

She initially created a band solely as a means of expressing her feelings. She found these gifted and competent partners in a bar, and they briefly joined her on stage to sing a song.

They had no idea they would become so famous. As a result, they formed a band called Shepherd, which grew in popularity.

Unfortunately, after she came home, they had gone

their separate ways. They had seldom contacted each other.

Unexpectedly, this incident brought all the members of the Shepherd back together after three years.

Lorraine was overjoyed and replied, "I've read your texts. Stay calm. I'm not going to stand by and let that woman behave like that."

After a brief moment of silence, a flurry of messages started to appear on the screen.

Carlos texted, "Lorraine, you finally sent us a message! Great! I will always support you!"

Larry echoed, "Me, too!"

Leopard added, "If you need us to do anything, just let us know!"

Godwin said, "You are free to act however you want. We'll be there for you no matter what."

The band members were thrilled after receiving the message from Lorraine.

They logged into their accounts and started to expose Lily.

"Lily Fowler, you're a liar! How dare you pretend to be Alice! You can't even come close to Alice's vocal prowess. Go home and practice hard!"

"Lily Fowler, who are you? As members of Shepherd, we don't know you!"

"Lily Fowler, you plagiarized our song and pretended to be Alice. Don't you feel ashamed?"

When the members of Shepherd, who had been absent from the public eye for some time, suddenly posted on the Internet, it drove a lot of fans crazy.

"Ah! Am I seeing it wrong? I cannot believe that the members of Shepherd would jointly release an announcement online this time."

"Have you finally decided to reappear?"

"So you're saying Lily isn't Alice?"

"Stop behaving like a fool! Take a look at what they said. Lily is not Alice! She pretended to be Alice. What a shameless woman!"

At the same time, Godwin, the guitarist, sent Loraine a private message.

"Alice, the person posing as you have contacted other members and me privately. She wants to pay us off. What do you want us to do?"

Loraine smiled. She realized Lily wasn't a dummy because she knew she could buy the members' silence with money.

But was bribing her teammates really that simple?

On the other hand, Lily was constantly urging her agent, Keira.

"How is it going? Have they sent any message?"

Sweat trickled down Keira's forehead. "I haven't received a reply yet. Just be patient."

"For how long do I have to wait? We can't keep waiting any longer. The longer we wait, the more people will see their remarks."

Lily continued to whine in addition to Keira's worries.

"I have made such a generous offer. Why have they not responded yet?" Lily thought for a while. "Increase the price! Give them more money! There's no way those poor men can resist the lure of money!"

Lily dared to act so plainly like Alice simply because it had been long since Shepherd's members had shown up.

They hadn't appeared in public for three years. So she thought that perhaps they were involved in some accidents and passed away long ago. It wouldn't be a big deal even if they were alive. She could buy the entire band.

She believed the members of the underground band were short on cash, whereas she possessed a robust amount of it.

They could have access to what they desired. With that, she could gain fame and admiration while the group got money.

This could only occur if they changed their minds and acknowledged that she was Alice. They could claim that there had previously been miscommunications and strife, so they concealed her identity. After that, no one could doubt that she was the real Alice.


Lily was just beginning to envision a bright future when Keira's face abruptly turned pale.

"Oh, my God... It's all over..."

Lily was confused. "What happened?"

With empty eyes, Keira handed the phone to Lily.

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 +120 Points at most

"All of the screenshots of our private conversations have been published. Now everyone is aware of our lies!"

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The chat records were solid evidence. Now, Lily's lie was completely exposed.

Lily not only committed plagiarism but also tried to impersonate Alice. It was a thick web of deceit and lies, so serious that even her loyal fans could no longer deceive themselves and had to finally reject her.

All of a sudden, "Lily lied," "Lily has been canceled," and similar other search phrases became highly trending online.

"Lily is doomed!"

"It's so humiliating. Even people in other countries know about it now!"

"Cancel Lily! Shame on her!"

Lily had cause so much public wrath that comments filled with curses against her were spreading all over the internet like wildfire. In an effort to minimize the negative impact of the scandal, her agency worked hard to launder her image with several PR stunts, but none of it had any effect.

At last, Lily had no choice but to come out and issue an apology.

"I'm sorry to have caused so much drama. I feel very guilty and I regret the plagiarism and the lies I told. Since I started my career, I've been manipulated and

controlled by my agency. I've been made to do a lot of things that I didn't want to do. But now, I've truly realized my mistakes. I'll reform myself and return for a fresh start. I've decided to suspend any and all of my activities in the industry and solely focus on public service. I will donate all my income to reputable charity foundations to try and make up for my mistakes. Finally, I want to sincerely apologize to the band, Shepherd, and my fans for what I put them through."

The statement seemed to be sincere. Some people believed it, but some didn't.

Regardless, the band, Shepherd, became much more famous and widely known. They gained a lot of fans across the country and many of their old songs spread throughout the region.

Some curious people even dug into the history of the band, and found to their surprise that all of Shepherd's songs were written and composed by Alice herself. Her talent was astonishing.

Her songs varied in style, but they always focused on the same theme: love.

Alice was a mystery woman, and this earned her countless more fans. Many fans guessed that she had been inspired to write her songs because she had someone she was deeply in love with for a long time.

Unfortunately, the entire band along with Alice, since their disappearance, never showed up again.

In his office, Marco was online, scrolling through comments to see what people were saying.

When he encountered the discussions of the old Shepherd fans, something suddenly occurred to him

and he decided to look for the videos of the band's previous performances.

In the first video, Alice's face was covered with a mask while she sang a song about her secret lover. Somehow, this song reminded Marco of the song Loraine sang in the bar some time ago. Loraine's voice seemed so similar to Alice's voice.

The more he listened, the more he became convinced that Alice was Loraine.

The melodious song echoed throughout his office, captivating and mesmerizing him for what seemed like ages.

The song was talking about a mysterious person with whom she had fallen in love with. Could that person be him?

Were these songs talking about him?

Marco had several questions that he needed answers for, but the mere thought that Loraine might have secretly expressed her love for him to the whole world made his heart beat faster, and he became very restless.

Eventually, he found himself in his car, driving all the way to her apartment.

He stopped near the place and sat in his car, looking at her apartment building.

Marco just waited in the car. But Loraine didn't come back the whole night.

Time passed slowly. At dawn, there were already lots of cigarette butts on the ground near his car.

At this time, a familiar figure finally came over in the slightly bright morning light.

Marco shivered. The feeling of missing her and all the worry that had accumulated in his heart all night made him lose control.

He jumped out of the car and rushed forward to grab her hand.

"Ah!" Loraine screamed in shock and jumped back instinctively.

But Marco held her hand tightly and questioned her, "Where did you go last night?"

Seeing that the man in front of her was none other than Marco, Loraine breathed a sigh of relief. And then she became a little angry.

What was wrong with him again?

She only spent the night with her family. She didn't feel the need to explain herself to him, but when she saw the blood streaks in Marco's eyes, her heart softened.

"You've been waiting for me here all night?"

Marco seemed stunned for a moment, but he eventually answered in the affirmative.

Loraine sighed. "Sorry. So, what's wrong?"

Marco thought for a moment and said in a low voice, "I saw the news that Lily tried to impersonate Alice but failed. I was afraid you would be upset."

Loraine was surprised, but she didn't say anything.

"Don't you like Alice, the lead singer of that band? If you're curious about her, I can help you contact her," Marco offered, staring straight into Loraine's eyes to try to get a feel of her emotions and thoughts.

But Loraine shook her head immediately. "No, thanks. Even if you get in touch with her, she won't be interested in singing."

A trace of disappointment flashed through Marco's eyes. "Why?"

"Alice hasn't released any new song for the last three years. Either she didn't want to, or she was not able to."

Loraine's answer was a hard, head-on blow to Marco.

He knew better than anyone else why Alice hadn't released any song for the last three years. If Loraine was Alice, which he believed she was, then it was their marriage that had trapped her during those three years.

When he realized this fact, Marco let go of her hand with a sad expression.

"I see. You can go home now."

Loraine was surprised. Why was this man so easy to deal with today?

She stared at him to try to understand what he was thinking, but she came up with nothing. So, she simply turned around and went back to her apartment.

It was not until Loraine disappeared from his sight that Marco looked away from her apartment.

He lowered his head, brought out his phone and called his assistant.

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"Carl, help me contact the band, Shepherd. No matter how much they want, invite them to Vagow," he ordered.