

Chapter 217 | Am One Of Your Fans

Loraine enjoyed herself and ended the song, overjoyed. Her eyes shone brightly. Just standing there alone was enough to make the fans go wild even though she wasn't singing anymore.

She thanked the audience and exited the stage with her band members.

Everyone was cheery, and the backstage staff approached them full of praise, asking for autographs.

"Miss Torres, I'm such a huge fan of Alice and Shepherd! Can I get an autograph?"

Loraine patiently signed autographs for her fans.

The other band members were surrounded by enthusiastic fans too.

By the time she was done, Loraine's hands were sore from all the signing, but the fans still swarmed around outside excitedly. If not for the security, they would most likely have squeezed backstage to meet them.

Loraine called the manager of the field service and asked him to send more security guards to help maintain order.

The manager was exasperated. "Miss Torres, the

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police joined to help disperse the fans, yet all efforts
have been futile."

In this situation, it was hard for them to vacate the
venue.

Larry laughed. "I thought we were no longer famous.
I didn't imagine that we would have to worry about
being too famous."

Loraine found the situation funny and was happy that
so many people loved their music, but they needed to
leave the square. "Why don't we dress up as the staff
and leave one by one? That's the only option we have."

Everyone concurred and they left the square
separately with the help of the staff.

Decked in disguise, Loraine squeezed through the
crowd. As soon as she got out of the square, she saw
Marco leaning against his car.

What was he doing here?

Loraine's heart jumped. She looked down at her feet
and pulled down the brim of her hat, pretending not to
see him.

However, that didn't work. The next second, he
grabbed her wrist.

Loraine was nervous, and her fingers trembled.

No way! How did Mario recognize her? She was in
disguise.

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Did he want to ask for help to find something? She was dressed like a member of the staff.

While she was thinking this, Marco laughed and lifted her hat slightly.

"Did you think I wouldn't recognize you?"

Her cheeks warmed from embarrassment at having been caught, and she tried to shake his hand off, annoyed.

When he didn't let her go, she turned to him with a glare. "Why are you here?"

Her glare didn't bother Marco at all.

He smiled at her, tenderness and affection in his gaze.

"I came for your concert. Are you happy now, Loraine?"

Loraine frowned in confusion.

"How does my concert concern you?"

Before she could get a response, she heard her name being called from behind her. She was about to reflexively turn to answer when Marco stilled her by tightening his grip on her arm slightly.

"Don't look back. It's your fans who are looking for you."

Loraine's jaw dropped. She had just left the venue a few minutes ago, yet they had already caught her.

She wanted to hide behind Marco.

Marco looked down at her and smiled. He stepped closer, taking the opportunity to pull her into his arms.

Loraine glared up at him. "It is very bad to take advantage of people when they are in trouble."

Marco raised an eyebrow and pushed her back against the wall gently, leaning down, so his face was close to hers.

Loraine's eyes widened at the sudden movement and she grabbed his shoulder nervously.

To anyone watching, they would have looked like a loving couple kissing in a corner.

Marco's face was so close. Loraine's heart thudded in her chest.

This man was such a cold and indifferent person, but she had to admit that his face was carved by the gods.

Otherwise, she wouldn't have been drawn to marry him, like a moth to the flame, and endured his emotional abuse along with the humiliation from his family.

His face kept getting closer and closer.

Loraine stiffened, thinking that he was going to kiss her.

Just then, she noticed out of the corner of her eye as the fans passed by them hurriedly, obviously thinking

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they were some random couple.

Once the fans were gone, Loraine pushed him away, averting her gaze awkwardly.

Marco sighed, clearly disappointed.

"Loraine, please stop pushing me away. I came here today as a fan."

With that, he produced a bouquet of flowers from somewhere and handed them to her.

Loraine was taken aback. The petals on the flowers he gave her were the same ones that had been raining down during the concert.

"Was that your doing? The rain of flowers during the performance?"

He nodded.

Loraine narrowed her eyes at him suspiciously.

Why was he doing nice things for her? Why was he going so far?

Loraine couldn't help but think of Jennie's suggestion which seemed impossible at the time. Could Marco truly be trying to woo her?

She shook her head, feeling crazy as another thought popped up.

Damn! She'd almost come to the wrong conclusion because of that nonsense Jennie had planted in her

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head. He was most likely doing all this for the sake of
the project.

Loraine didn't want to owe too much to him, so after weighing the pros and cons, she decided to give him something in return. "Thanks for today, Marco. In return, I'll agree to your request."

Marco's eyes went wide. "Wait, what?"

"I said I'll agree to work with Bryant Group to develop the new CBD," Loraine said seriously.

If she were to forget about their personal matters, Marco was an honest businessman and Bryant Group wasn't a bad partner.

Marco was too stunned to speak. Did she think he had done all that to make her agree to work with Bryant Group?

In his shock, his grip on her hand loosened and he ended up letting go of her.

By the time he came out of his thoughts, Loraine had already walked away.

Chapter 218 Give In

"Universe Group's concert was a big success."

"Shepherd performed again after three years."

"The female CEO of Torres Group is Alice."

"The idol groups failed to outshine Shepherd."

All of these hashtags trended heavily for days.

After the concert, Loraine's popularity reached an unprecedented level on the internet. Almost every content creator and marketing account made posts related to her.

The video of Shepherd's performance became viral and attracted a lot of fans. At the same time, it also made Universe Group's new plan to build a business district very famous.

But compared with the attention Universe Group was getting, Henson Group got practically no attention.

The money they spent on inviting popular idol groups alone far exceeded the cost of the entire performance itself. In the end, their actions only served to help Loraine.

Lily was browsing through latest news with an angry frown.

It got to a point where she could no longer bear it and threw the phone away, gnashing her teeth in anger.

"Lorraine, you bitch! I won't let you go scot-free!"

With her eyes full of resentment, she ran all the way to the study to complain to Liam.

"Dad, look at the trending topics online. Why is that bitch Lorraine so popular? Hire trolls for me. I'm going to slander her!"

She didn't notice that Liam's face had turned dark.

As she reached forward to hug him and persuade him to do her bidding as usual, Liam suddenly stood up and slapped her.


It was like a clap of thunder landing on her face.

Lily's eyes widened in disbelief. "Dad! You slapped me?"

"How dare you come to me? How on earth did I raise such a wasteful daughter?" Liam glared at her with a fierce expression. "You swore that you would defeat Lorraine, so I invested so much money in your concert. And now, what? All the money is gone. And I can't find any buyer who offers a higher price than Lorraine. Now, the directors are very dissatisfied with me. If we don't find a way out, we will be finished."

On the screen of his computer, there was a letter containing an ultimatum from the board of directors. If Liam couldn't find a way to make up for the recent losses, the shareholders would withdraw their

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investment.

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Lily didn't expect that the consequences of their failures would be so serious. When she realized how big the problem was, she began to panic.

"So, what should we do, Dad?"

Liam was helpless. "What else can we do? I can only go to Universe Group to beg Loraine."

The next day, Liam visited Universe Group.

He appeared at the reception in a very humble manner, but they ignored him for more than half an hour before Loraine's assistant finally took him to her office.

Holding back his anger, Liam could only smile and speak ingratiatingly. "Miss Torres, the performances hosted by our companies achieved great success. It also proves that if we cooperate with each other, our companies will reach a much higher level."

Lorraine raised her eyebrows in surprise and suddenly burst into laughter.

This guy was shameless. He even said that they both hosted successful performances.

Unfortunately for him, Loraine now knew that he was Lily's father. He had asked for an exorbitant price for his land, probably because he wanted to get back at her on behalf of Lily.

But he didn't expect that Loraine would disagree. Now that no one was willing to offer more than that amount for the land and he was short of money, he had no choice but to shamelessly beg Loraine for help.

Loraine didn't intend to do him any favor. She simply sneered in response, "Didn't you look down on me before? Why waste your time to seek a partnership with me when you can just go to other companies? With the power and influence of the Fowler family, that should not be a difficult task, should it?"

Though Liam was very angry, he had to hold back his anger and apologize.

"I know I've offended you and I'm sorry. I came here to apologize. I sincerely hope we can restore the partnership between our companies. Universe Group still needs more lands to develop the CBD, doesn't it?"

Then Liam switched to flaunting his superiority. "Look, there are no grudges in the business world. You're still young. If you can't let go of these small grudges in the face of huge interests, how can you achieve great success in the future?"

Loraine sneered. "You're right. Profit comes first in business. So, there is no need for me to waste time talking to you."

Liam's face showed his shock at her unexpected response.

"Now, your company is in a hurry to sell the land. If I want the land, I just need to wait until the bank takes



it back. By then, I'll only need to pay less than half the original price and I'll easily get the land. So, why should I negotiate with you?" Loraine asked with a cold smile.

Drops of cold sweat were already falling down Liam's forehead and his face became deathly pale.

He didn't have time. The board of directors had lost their patience. If the shareholders withdrew their investments, Henson Group would go bankrupt. By then, he would be doomed.

With this in mind, Liam became desperate and went down on his knees.

"I was blind and offended you. Please find it in your heart to forgive me."

But Loraine responded with an indifferent look, "I'm sorry. You taught me only to think about interests when it comes to business. So, please leave."

Liam's face became ghastly white. Knowing that he was doomed beyond redemption, he collapsed to the floor.



Chapter 219 Loraine And Several Men

All across social media, there were a lot of discussions about Loraine and her concert performance.

During the concert, Loraine had taken off her mask and exposed her identity as Alice, thereby earning her even more fans.

"Oh my God! My favorite female singer is also a CEO and a billionaire!"

"I would never even have dared to wish for such a dream!"

Even the fans of the idol groups that were invited by Henson Group all became Loraine's fans.

"I wonder how I became a fan of such artists. Their stage performance is so poor!"

"Me too! Loraine surprised me. She's both beautiful and talented, and yet, she's so humble. Every artist should follow her example."

Day after day, Loraine kept getting more and more fans and soon became the most popular girl online.

At this point, the situation had gone far beyond the wildest expectations of Loraine herself. Unfortunately,

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At this point, the situation had gone far beyond the wildest expectations of Loraine herself. Unfortunately, she had no intention of making a full comeback.

And she had no choice but to make this clear, so she made a public speech. "First of all, thank you all for liking me. But unfortunately, that was my last performance and also the last performance of the band, Shepherd. I won't be carrying out any more stage performances in the future. I know how disappointing this must be, but please, everyone should act rationally and not cause any problems."

Despite her warning, her many enthusiastic fans didn't take much heed.

Before long, someone had gotten a scene from the video of her last performance and added it to a video of Godwin, the guitarist, making it look like he and Loraine had a secret eye contact.

Though the quality of the edited video was a little blurry, the two of them looked like a perfect match. It was as if the both of them were in the same video, doing what the edited video implied that they did.

Coincidentally, the photo of the two of them taken at an airport surfaced on social media. And this fueled the gossip even further, making it a trending discussion online even ahead of the gossips about an existing relationship between Loraine and Mr. T.

"Loraine is so beautiful. She and Godwin look like a perfect match. Even she and Mr. T look perfect too. Even though I like Mr. T, I feel Loraine would be better off with Godwin. There's nothing more attractive than the lead female singer being with the guitarist."

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"I'll take Cayson and Loraine. They both have strong working ethic. Besides, I heard that the two of them grew up together, and Cayson was the one that had been arranged by her grandfather to marry her!"

Cayson was gentle and handsome, and he had been silently protecting Loraine for a long time, so naturally, there were a lot of people who preferred that he ended up with Loraine as his spouse.

All of this gossip soon began to irritate Mr. T's fans. The possible match between Mr. T and Loraine was the first heavily trending topic before other possible matches sprang up to overwhelm it. So, they felt obligated to make it trending again.

"Mr. T is a rich and famous artist. He even sent Loraine a huge diamond. In comparison, Godwin is nowhere near as good as Mr. T in any way. The only thing between Godwin and Loraine is a normal friendship."

This was the most common argument that Mr. T's fans put out online.

But out of nowhere, someone suddenly said, "I'll take Marco and Loraine. They're both CEOs. The aura around those two is really strong, and they're a perfect match!"

But other people swiftly responded, "No! He's Loraine's ex-husband. He doesn't deserve her!"

This was how the topic of a possible match between Marco and Loraine became the most trending topic on social media.

But many people were shocked.

"Oh my God! Who's spending so much money to make

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a hypothetical match between Loraine and Marco the
most trending topic?"

Meanwhile, in the CEO's office at Bryant Group, the manager of the public relations department was cautiously observing Marco's expression from the corner of his eye.

When he was done with his task, he said tentatively, "Mr. Bryant, everything is done, just as you ordered."

Marco nodded, but said nothing.

Summoning up enormous courage, the manager managed to ask, "Sir, why did you decide to do this?"

Marco looked at him with narrowed eyes and Carl immediately answered the question for his boss.

"Bryant Group is going to partner with Universe Group. So, Mr. Bryant took this move to draw more attention to the partnership between the two companies."

The manager nodded as if light had suddenly dawned on him. "Wow, Mr. Bryant. It's such a brilliant idea. You're so wise!"

But Marco's expression remained the same. He simply said, "Go and contact Universe Group. Send them the plan for the development of the merged business district. I want to have a face-to-face discussion with Loraine."

Carl nodded, and right there, he carried out the instruction. But just as he finished sending the plan,

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he saw Marco standing up.

"Forget it. I'll go straight to Loraine. It will show how sincere I am," Marco muttered.

Carl was speechless.

It was very obvious that Marco had other reasons for wanting to see Loraine other than for business.

