

Chapter 244 Business Is Business

Loraine turned to see Marco, who was a few feet away from her with a somewhat unhappy expression.

"Is there a problem, Mr. Bryant?"

Loraine rolled her eyes. He had hidden behind an unapproachable expression while she alone faced the reporters just now. What was he coming to her now for?

Marco had a frown on his face as he walked over to the car. "We're partners now, Loraine. Can't we sit and discuss?"

Loraine eyed him.

They had put on a friendly and respectful front for the reporters just now. It would be a bit off for them to turn against each other all of a sudden.

After all, they would have to communicate with each other to cooperate.

With this in mind, Loraine nodded and said, "Alright, what do you want to discuss?"

Marco opened the car door and said with a smile, "I know a good restaurant close by. We can head there to discuss."

Loraine somehow felt he had ulterior motives. However, she could not decline, so she went with him.

They arrived at the restaurant and took their seats. Marco took his time to order drinks for both of them and handed her the menu. With a smile, he said, "They have tasty desserts here. Why don't you try some?"

Loraine frowned. "I'm here to talk about our business cooperation."

She and Marco were not on good enough terms to sit down and have drinks leisurely while chatting about mundane things.

Different emotions whizzed through Marco's eyes, and he said, "Our companies are cooperating now. The issue with the photo is settled. You don't need to worry."

Loraine's voice was soft as she responded, "You don't have to worry. Universe Group has not at all been affected negatively."

Marco was surprised. He then explained, "I'm not concerned about Universe Group. I care about you, I want to make sure you're okay."

Loraine felt uncomfortable hearing this. "You can stop now, Marco."

Marco ignored her words and continued, "You and I have long known each other, Loraine. I'm hoping you won't refuse me this time. We can be friends at least. I only want to be of help to you. If you're met with any

Chapter 244 Business Is Business 🎁 +120 Points at most problems or come to face any asshole, you can call on me for help."

Lorraine's face changed instantly. Her voice was cold as she stood up and responded, "If you're not here to discuss the cooperation, then I'll leave."

She turned around, ready to walk away when Marco stopped her. His large hand grabbed her thin wrist tightly.

His voice was low as he asked, "What about you and that guitarist? You're both just partners as well. Why can he make a private appointment with you and I can't?"

The reporter's question and Lorraine's answer at the press conference remained on Marco's mind. He worried about it and felt jealous even.

Lorraine felt perplexed. How did any of this concern Godwin?

"My bandmates will be leaving soon. Of course, I must take time out to tell them goodbye. Is there a problem with that?"

Lorraine obviously did not know of Godwin's feelings for her. Marco sighed in relief.

Now that he thought of it, Godwin might not get another chance to meet with Lorraine after leaving, but he had lots of opportunities to be with Lorraine in the future.

He had nothing to be jealous of.

Marco felt at ease after that and loosened his grip. "Alright. I was only worried. It's all good as long as it's not a bother for you."

His words confused Loraine. She felt there was no need for him to worry about this.

Immediately he loosened his grip on her wrist, Loraine took off.

However, she could still feel his eyes burning into her skin and got goose bumps all over her body as she walked out of the restaurant. She decided she would call Carl soon and ask him to take his boss to get his brain checked.

Some time passed and soon it was the day of the band members' departure. Nothing could be expected to go on forever.

Loraine took some time off to see them at the airport.

Everyone was down and sad about the separation, so Leon took it upon himself to lighten the mood.

"Come see us when you have the time, Loraine. Let's sing together when that time comes!"

Loraine nodded sincerely. "Alright, I will."

Everyone had come here to actualize their dreams, and then they all ended up making a big fortune by becoming famous again in the end. Their journey had

Chapter 244 Business Is Business 🎁 +120 Points at most
been worthwhile, and they were all returning joyfully.

Loraine suggested they sign a contract with Starlight Entertainment to push the growth of Shepherd further. They all declined, however.

Each of them was aware Loraine was the one holding the band together. It would be difficult for them to keep the band afloat without her.

Rather than having their popularity fizzle away with their fans having poor memories to remember the band by, they chose to take the money they had made and return home to live a good life.

Godwin had money of his own, but he also had to go back to handle the family business. The only thought keeping him here was how difficult it was to let go of Loraine.

Back when they had just started the band, he was a rebellious teenager with a huge crush on Loraine. Now that their paths had crossed again, with Loraine as a successful woman, it was not at all easy to let go.

His bandmates were aware of his affection for her, so they left to give them privacy.

"I'll stay here if you tell me to, Alice. I'll do it."

His eyes were filled with affection as Godwin looked at Loraine, waiting for her to tell him to stay.

Loraine was surprised. She then shook her head and smiled. "It's not my place to decide. This is your life."

Chapter 244 Business Is Business 🎁 +120 Points at most

Don't make choices because of me, Godwin."

Godwin let out a helpless sigh.

He was aware Loraine didn't feel the same way he did.

Then suddenly, he noticed something. With a smile, he stepped forward and embraced Loraine tightly.

Loraine tried to wiggle out of his grip, but he sighed. "I'm about to leave. Allow me to hold you for the last time."

With that in mind, Loraine stopped struggling and gave him a comforting pat on the back.

She had no idea that another man was watching this happen.

Marco, who was standing just a few feet away, stared at the two figures in each other's arms, a chilling glare in his eyes.

Chapter 245 Being Jealous

Loraine watched as the band members passed through the security checkpoint one by one.

They turned and waved at her with bright smiles.

Eventually, they all left.

Loraine sighed sadly.

But when she turned around, she was shocked to see Marco standing there and staring at her with his sharp eyes.

"Marco, you startled me. What do you gain from doing this? Don't you have anything else to do than to follow me every day?"

Still sporting a gloomy face, Marco looked at the place where Godwin had touched her, and the look in his eyes became one of jealousy.

"We're in formal partnership now. I have the right to know the spokespeople's situation, don't I? You'd better keep a distance from the spokespeople of your company in public in case of any gossip. People are desperately looking for something to gossip about. You shouldn't feed them with any gossip material. Or is that how you plan to build the new CBD?"

To his surprise, Loraine didn't reject or ignore his

statement. Instead, she looked at him seriously and nodded in agreement. "You have a point. So, please stay away from me from now on. I don't want people to gossip about me being with my ex-husband."

Marco's face froze.

Before he could recover himself, Loraine had walked past him and left.

Marco felt pained and regretful. He had unwittingly set a trap for himself and walked right into it.

At this point, Carl came over to meet him. "The reporters lurking in the airport have been brought under control."

Marco snorted in anger.

"Give them a stern warning. I don't want to see Loraine being rumored to be in a relationship with any man ever again."

Carl understood what his boss meant.

The most controversial photos taken by the reporters were the photos of Loraine and Godwin hugging.

"Don't worry, Mr. Bryant. I'll see to it," he promised confidently.

When the reporters got wind of Marco's displeasure, they began trembling in fear. Even the ones who had published the rumor of Loraine and Godwin being together silently deleted their posts.

The next day, the news of Loraine seeing her band members off at the airport soon came out. But no one mentioned Godwin in all the reports. The headline was only about the story of Marco and Loraine seeing off the spokespeople at the airport and that the partnership between them was expected to be smooth and successful.

Meanwhile, Aldo had been paying attention to the news on the internet since the photo scandal began.

When he saw what Marco did, his face softened and he said to Rowan, "That young man is sensible."

Rowan nodded in approval but said nothing.

Suddenly, Aldo's phone began to ring. He picked it and looked at the caller ID before answering it.

"Reynolds, you're the director of Universe Group and I'm a retired old man. Why are you calling me?" he asked in a teasing tone.

"That's because I missed you." Reynolds chuckled. But he quickly became serious again and went straight to the reason he had called. "Aldo, why did your granddaughter get back with Marco? Lorrie is a simple and innocent girl. Don't let her get deceived again."

What he really meant was that Loraine was just an ignorant young girl who did not have all it took to deal with important business affairs.

Aldo's face darkened when he realized what Reynolds

was trying to tell him. "I believe in my granddaughter's ability and judgment. The Torres family will never let themselves suffer losses while doing business!"

He knew very well what Reynolds wanted to do. He just wanted to compete with Lorrie for power.

Reynolds tried to further explain his point, but Aldo hung up the phone, giving the excuse that he had something important to do.

Loraine, who was sitting opposite him, stuck out her tongue and said, "Grandpa, since you're giving me all your unreserved support, some might say you're being blinded by the fact that I'm your family."


Aldo patted her head affectionately and assured her, "Don't worry. I'm here for you. I won't allow anyone question your ability. Come on, look at what you've done since you joined Universe Group. You've already proven to be very competent! Those who are still not satisfied are either blind or deliberately making trouble!"

After a brief pause, he added in a very confident tone, "Lorrie, since I've handed over the group to you, I will always trust you and will never interfere in your decisions."

"Even if something happens, you'll still have our support. You can be sure of that," Rowan echoed.

Wesley, who was lying lazily on the sofa, quickly sat up and said with a smile, "And if you need anything, just let me know."

Chapter 245 Being Jealous

 +120 Points at most

Seeing that the entire family was solidly behind her, Loraine couldn't help but feel moved.

"Guys, I'll never let you down! Don't worry. I'll build Universe Group to become stronger and stronger, and even overshadow Bryant Group. We will dominate the business world one day without needing to partner with anyone!"

Chapter 246 Grandma's Change

Lorraine's family couldn't help but feel amused by what she had just said.

The Bryant family, on the other hand, was in a totally different atmosphere.

In the villa, there were only four people seated in the big dining room while the servants stood around quietly.

The air was cool and the environment was silent and calm. Not even a clash of cutlery could be heard.

Marco found it a little depressing, and he didn't want to stay there any longer. He cleaned his mouth with a serviette and stood up. "I'm done."

"Wait. I have something to say." Liza stopped him.

The wrinkles under her eyebrows were deep, making her face look solemn. Marco sighed silently and sat back in his seat.

"Have you partnered with Lorraine?" Liza asked.

"Yeah," Marco nodded.

Marina, who had been holding back her anger for some time now, suddenly lost it and dropped her



cutlery with a clatter. "Grandma, look at what my brother has done. He's out of his mind. He just fell into the trap that Loraine set for him! We didn't gain anything when we partnered with Universe Group in the past, and now, we're partnering with them again!"

What pained her the most was that Marco had held a press conference to humiliate his family for Loraine's benefit. As a result, Marina had gotten a lot of complaints from her rich friends in the past few days.

Laura also added her voice to her daughter's. "I've tried to persuade him. But he doesn't listen to me."

She guessed that Liza, too, didn't seem to be very satisfied with what Marco had done, and that was why she plucked up the courage to complain. It annoyed her a lot that Marco had refused to listen to her.

Marco said nothing in response. He just kept his eyes on the table.

Raising her head, Liza pounded the table and interrupted the two.

"Universe Group is not a small company. It's big enough for us to partner with. You two are so narrow-minded! You just want to let everyone know that you have a personal grudge against Loraine, eh?"

Laura and Marina were dumbfounded.

They thought Liza was on their side. Why was she suddenly taking Marco's side? She acted as if she didn't look down on Loraine in the past.

"The previous partnership on the government project went smoothly. It is estimated that the project will bring a net profit of two billion dollars. Marco, Loraine is a capable girl. So, what you have done is right. Judging from what's currently going on, we have to continue to partner with them to enable us realize more wins."

Marco finally raised his head and relaxed.

But Laura and Marina were so anxious that their faces turned pale.

"Grandma, what do you mean by that?" Marina exclaimed. "You were the one who used to look down on Loraine the most..."

A warning glare from Liza frightened Marina into silence.

"I don't need to justify my decisions to you!" Liza spat angrily at Marina as she got up to her feet with the aid of a servant. "You better mind your own business and stop getting our family into trouble!"

Seeing Liza leave, Marco quickly stood up and left too.

Marina grabbed Laura's hand in panic. "Mom, what should we do now? Even Grandma is now on the side of that bitch!"

It was too late to regret and make amends. They had offended Loraine way too much for that.

Laura drew Marina closer and caressed her hair to

comfort her. "Don't be afraid. The winner in this partnership can only be us. I won't let Loraine go!"

In the beginning, when Loraine pretended to be from a poor background, everyone disliked her, and it was easy for Laura and Marina to bully her.

But after the divorce, Loraine was declared as the heiress of Universe Group, and they felt that she was now getting back at them.

Marco suddenly became obsessed with her, and even Liza changed her attitude toward her.

If Marco and Lorraine were to get remarried, then Laura and her daughter would lose their position in the family.

Meanwhile, the partnership between Universe Group and Bryant Group was going on smoothly. The two sides had even arranged to have a meeting in the conference room of Bryant Group.

Before long, Loraine arrived with her team.

Carl courteously ushered her into the conference room and pulled out a chair for her to sit down. "Mr. Bryant will be here soon. Please just wait a bit."

Finding that her seat was right next to Marco's, Loraine asked curiously, "Why should I sit next to Marco? Shouldn't we sit separately?"

Carl smiled. "Miss Torres, there's something you don't know. At Bryant Group, we sit according to our

position and rank."

Of course, he couldn't say that the seats were specially arranged by Marco.

Fortunately, Loraine believed him, so she nodded in understanding and sat down without any further complaints.

Carl had other matters to deal with, so he left after giving orders to the junior staff to make sure that they entertained Loraine.

After a while, a young woman came in to serve them coffee. She glanced at Loraine and suddenly said, "Miss Torres, you're the lead representative of Universe Group. Even though you were once married to Mr. Bryant, that doesn't mean you should sit next to him in the conference room. It will set a bad example."

