Chapter 250 Achievements

Laura gave Loraine a scornful look and refused to take her seriously.

Then she turned her attention to Allen, giving him a disdainful look. The young researcher with blonde hair and a pale complexion was standing there, with his head down. He looked quite like a pretty doll.

All the senior researchers and engineers Laura had seen at Bryant Group were old people with grey hair, and a few were middle-aged and balding.

As far as she was concerned, those were the real geniuses. But this young researcher looked like a boy toy.

Laura didn't see him as a real genius at all.

Since he was the director of the research and development department, could it be that he was Loraine's toy boy?

Allen, on his part, kept his head down for the most part. His long eyelashes covered his eyes. He was very silent and seemed unsociable.

When he heard Loraine talk to him, he raised his head and smiled at her.

This was enough to confirm Laura's suspicions. She

now became even more regretful of the cooperation between Bryant Group and Universe Group.

Clearly, Loraine had been so partial to her boy toy that she let him take such an important position in her company. Surely, Universe Group would fall sooner or later

Liza turned out to be completely wrong this time.

Under Laura's sardonic gaze, Allen sat at the table, connected the smart device in his hand to the laptop, and began to present the holographic projection.

For a moment, reality seemed to merge with virtual reality.

The small office suddenly become like a scene in a science fiction movie. All kinds of high-rise buildings appeared in the office in a lifelike manner.

Laura was stunned.

She had been satisfied with the achievements of Bryant Group and had never thought to pay attention to the scientific progress of the rest of the world. As a result, she was still stuck in the old days when VR headsets were needed for one to see 3D projections.

What Allen had just done was like magic in her eyes.

Due to the powerful effect of the projection, Laura could almost feel the wind blowing in this virtual city.

The whole thing was just marvelous.

The virtual city was running just like any other city. Suddenly, a virtual car started speeding toward Laura.

Even though Laura's reason told her that it was fake and just virtual reality, she still felt very frightened.

Just when the car was about to hit her, Laura swiftly dodged from its path. As a result, she fell awkwardly and sprained her ankle.

At this point, Allen tapped lightly on his system and the entire virtual city slowly faded away and the office remained unchanged.

But Laura was still on the floor gasping for breath. When she looked up, she saw the smiling face of Loraine looking down at her.

With her arms crossed and a cocky smile on her face, Loraine asked her, "What's your opinion? Are we now qualified to partner with Bryant Group?"

Her statement made Laura flush in embarrassment.

"You just wait and see!"

She felt so humiliated that she couldn't stay there any longer. Giving Loraine a ferocious look, she hobbled up to her feet and limped out of the office.

Allen didn't even pay any attention to her. Instead, he turned to Loraine and asked cheerfully. "Loraine, what did you think about the presentation?"

He stared at her unblinking like a loyal dog eagerly

waiting for praise from its owner.

"You did a great job! You are the real genius," Loraine praised him. "By the way, Allen, you've helped me a lot. What do you want in return?"

Allen kept quiet and thought for a moment. Then his eyes lit up.

"I want to visit Bryant Group's technology department and communicate with their research and development team."

Talking about what he loved always made him very happy.

"I heard Marco has made great progress in the research of artificial intelligence. I want to see it for myself."

Loraine's face fell.

She still remembered that Marco wanted to poach Allen. If she agreed with what he wanted to do, it would be a good chance for Marco to coax him to join Bryant Group.

As for Allen, though he had a pretty naive mind, his intuition told him that Loraine would not agree with his request. "Can't I? You're partnering with each other now. Researchers on both sides should be able to communicate with each other, right?"

Seeing the mixture of anxiety and expectation in Allen's eyes, Loraine couldn't bring herself to tell him

the reason why she couldn't grant his request. Instead, she smiled and said with a sigh of defeat, "Okay, I'll take you along when I attend the next meeting."

She would just have to take the risk and send Allen to study the technology of Bryant Group.

Meanwhile, Laura was on her way back to her home. The incident at Loraine's office was still fresh in her mind and the more she thought about it, the angrier she became.

Loraine made a fool of her.

Laura was practically burning with anger as she replayed the scene over and over in her mind. She vowed to teach Loraine a bitter lesson.

As soon as she got home, a maid came up to her with a phone in hand. "Ma'am, Mr. Bryant wants to speak to you."

Laura's heart skipped a beat. She took the phone from the maid and put it to her ear in apprehension.

"Marco?"

Marco responded in a cold and harsh tone, "Mom, I've told you not to give Loraine any trouble. Why did you not listen?"

Chapter 251 Mommy

Feeling wronged, Laura said, "I'm doing this for your and Bryant Group's sake! I would never have known Loraine has developed such an amazing technology behind our back if I hadn't stopped by Universe Group today!"

Laura's heart was still racing with fear as she recalled what it was like to be in the virtual scene moments ago.

"Loraine doesn't want to cooperate with us. She wants to compete with Bryant Group! Marco, don't fall for her tricks. Who knows what she'll do throughout the cooperation?"

Marco said impatiently, "That's not the issue you should be concerned about. You're not worried she will be able to defeat Bryant Group. You're worried that Universe Group will be better than us and you can't ridicule Loraine anymore."

His mother repeatedly bullied Loraine during the three years of their marriage under the pretext that she was doing it for his benefit.

He would not hold his mother accountable for what had happened, but he would never allow Laura to hurt Loraine in his name.

When Laura realized she had been exposed, her face

froze, and she yelled angrily, "She no longer respects me. This is your fault! Do you know that she made me fall on the floor and didn't take me seriously?"

Marco said icily, "Mom, if you hadn't provoked her, she wouldn't have treated you that way."

Laura's chest heaved with rage. She cried as she sat on the sofa, wiping her face. "It hurts. Don't you have compassion for your mother?"

Marco, however, paid her no mind and remained silent.

Gritting her teeth, Laura yelled, "Marco, I'm your mother! How could you help an outsider? Whose side are you taking?"

Marco said indifferently, "Loraine's. Because she is right."

"What?"

Laura was clearly irritated because she didn't expect that response from him.

"Mom, I hope this is the last time. You are my mother. Although I have the duty and responsibility to care for you, that does not give you the right to repeatedly threaten me. Stop causing trouble for Bryant Group if you still want more money."

Laura was about to argue when Marco hung up.

"Bastard!" She hurled the phone aside while yelling

angrily, her face turning pale.

Her daughter was right. Given how Marco treated her, she would have a challenging future if he continued to work with Loraine.

Laura's eyes glowed with hatred. She quickly reached for her phone and dialed a number.

As soon as the phone connected, Laura cried and complained, "Marcel, you are the company's founding member. Please help me and Bryant Group. Marco has no respect for me and won't heed my advice because he is fixated on Loraine."

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The cooperation continued as planned despite Laura's adamant protests.

Loraine kept her promise to take Allen to Bryant Group at the second meeting.

Allen, however, was not enthusiastic about the boring meeting. He was deeply contemplative as his chin rested on his hand. When the meeting was finally over, he asked, "Mr. Bryant, how are the research and development of your company's artificial intelligence going?"

Marco didn't take offense at Allen's blunt and impolite question. "Why don't you come and visit our lab with me if you're interested in our research project?"

Allen's eyes lit up, and he exclaimed, "Thank you!"

Looking at Loraine, Marco said, "This way, please."

Masking her surprise, Loraine smiled and nodded.

She wasn't at all prepared for Marco to agree so quickly. Even though they were working together, their relationship was competitive. If she were Marco, she would keep a secret of this information.

Didn't Laura tell him about what happened that day? If she did, this wouldn't be happening.

Loraine had expected that Laura and Marco would fight after she returned because of what had happened the last time. Marco, however, did not take any measures to avoid her.

Reading her thoughts, Marco said calmly, "Technology advancement doesn't take place while keeping things under wraps. We cannot advance technology collectively without open communication and collaboration."

"Bingo!"

Allen was so satisfied with the statement that he could not contain his enthusiasm.

Loraine was alarmed. Was Marco still trying to poach Allen?

She kept a close eye on the two, fearing Marco would steal her genius employee.

As they approached Bryant's lab, Marco said, "The lab

uses an intelligent system to identify and verify identity. I'll register the identity of a temporary visitor for you. After that, you can walk in."

With a nod, Loraine allowed Allen to go inside first.

They all turned in their cell phones as per the lab's regulations.

Loraine walked over when it was her turn to get identified. Suddenly, the entrance guard's light lit up, and a cheerful, childlike voice called out, "Mommy!"

Mommy? Was it referring to her?

Chapter 252 Qbot

The lab was so quiet that one could have heard a pin drop. All the scientific researchers were fully concentrated on their work.

But as soon as they heard the word "Mommy," everyone raised their head and looked in the direction of the door, with their eyes full of surprise.

Confused, Loraine turned to look at Marco. "Won't you explain it?"

Marco lowered his head and coughed to clear his throat. But before he could think of an excuse, the soft voice spoke again.

"Hello, Mommy. My name is Qbot, and I'm the Al system created by Daddy."

Loraine was stunned. "Qbot, are you really an Al system?"

"Yes, I am. This is the first time I'm seeing Mommy. I'm so happy."

Both its tone and manner of answering questions were very much like a human, and it could speak fluently.

If Loraine had not known that Qbot was just an Al system, she would have thought that she was talking

How had Bryant Group attained such a high level of artificial intelligence?

Loraine began to compare Universe Group and Bryant Group, and she soon realized something.

"Well, I'm not your mommy..."

But Qbot retorted, "You're my mommy. You're Daddy's wife, so you are my mommy!"

This was the artificial intelligence system developed by Marco. But how could it have known her?

Was that part set up by Marco? But he had never really mentioned her as his wife before. And since they were divorced, why didn't Qbot know about that?

Loraine cleared her throat and decided to inform the Al about a few things. "Qbot, it's nice to meet you. But your daddy and I are divorced. So, you can't call me your mommy."

The light on the device suddenly went dim and a cute crying emoji appeared on the screen.

Qbot grumbled, "Why did you get divorced? Why didn't you tell me?"

Loraine was speechless. All of a sudden, this Al was making her feel guilty.

She turned to Marco and glared at him. Clearly, this was all done by him.

Marco sighed and said, "Qbot, it's complicated. You won't understand."

The screen lit up again and Qbot said in an aggrieved tone, "Mommy, is it because I'm not good enough? Is that why you're denying me?"

Loraine was shocked. "Of course not. I didn't know about your existence until now."

The light flickered, as if Qbot was sad.

Allen looked at Marco and Loraine with reproach in his eyes as if he was looking at a pair of irresponsible parents.

Loraine frowned at Marco and wait for him to provide an explanation.

Marco smiled and said, "It took us three years to design this AI system. I entered your identity information into Qbot from the beginning; that's why it's so sure that you're its mother."

Loraine was surprised to hear this and she quickly avoided Marco's gaze as emotions swirled inside her head.

Three years?

She was married to Marco for three years.

So, this meant that when they just got married, Marco told Qbot that she was his wife.

Did Marco accept her as his wife since then?

Loraine's eyes twinkled slightly as she tried hard to suppress the emotions in her heart. By the time she looked up at Marco again, she was already calm.

"In that case, you should correct Qbot's knowledge as soon as possible," she told him.

Marco's face fell and a trace of sadness flashed through his eyes.

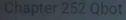
But Allen suddenly cut in, "Loraine, you shouldn't have said that in the presence of Qbot. The kid is three years old now. He can understand. It will break his heart."

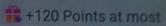
For someone like Allen, Qbot was no different from human children. In fact, he liked Qbot more than those naughty children.

As expected, Qbot understood what they said. The light began to flash rapidly, as if it was nodding in agreement.

Loraine couldn't help wondering which side Allen was on.

Just then, Marcel Crassus, the director of the research and development department of Bryant Group, began to explain proudly, "Qbot is the latest technology with a cost of one billion dollars. Only a precious few have had the chance to get close to it, not to mention interacting with it. It's a great honor for you to be its mother for three years. I don't see why you would





have any reason to dislike it."

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