

## Chapter 323 The Artificial Intelligence Orion

---

Loraine began to regret agreeing to have Marco as her companion.

The entire evening, all eyes were fixed on them in the banquet hall.

Each move they made was a starter for gossip, and Marco was only making matters worse.

He acted like a loyal knight, guarding her every move closely.

Whenever any man tried talking to her, his handsome face would scrunch up, and he would step forward and chase him off.

Consequently, Loraine seemed to be in a bubble where no men could reach her, not even to exchange pleasantries, all because of Marco.

Sure, it was saving her a lot of trouble in some way, but simultaneously, the rising gossip made her feel completely exhausted.

Loraine picked a glass from a waiter passing by, feeling depressed. Her eyes lifted, and she caught sight of Trevor greeting them from afar, making his way to where they stood.

"Miss Torres, Mr. Bryant!"

Suddenly, Trevor's journey was cut short a couple steps away from Loraine. With his face blank, Marco nodded slightly in greeting and blocked Trevor from Loraine.

Trevor was shocked and gave them an awkward smile. After attempting a few more words, he turned back to find others to talk to.

Loraine had enough of Marco's abnormal behavior.

"What on earth are you doing, Marco?"

Marco looked at her and clutched her hand as though declaring her as his own.

"As your partner, it's my duty to keep those terrible men away from you."

Loraine yanked her hand back and nearly exploded in laughter. Did Marco not realize he was the most terrible man present?

Her gaze turned to Trevor, and she asked, "And Trevor?"

Being the chief of the police, he couldn't be considered as someone bearing bad intentions against her, could he?

Marco lifted his head and said matter-of-factly, "He let Kristy spread the rumor about the plane accident, so he is actually an irresponsible person. We had to be the ones to rectify the situation ourselves in the end. He is not someone we can trust."

Loraine felt choked by Marco's words. She truly regretted attending this party with him more than anything.

What was the man's problem exactly?



It seemed he had grown more and more aberrant after the divorce.

She was shocked by all of this, just as she had been about the flowers.

It was such a large bouquet, she wasn't even able to find somewhere to keep it. She ended up having to request the hotel staff get her a huge vase to keep the flowers in.

Now, she was being isolated from every man at this party.

Although it did indeed save her a bit of stress, Loraine was unable to make small talk with the other attendees, not to mention discuss the prospect of a business cooperation with them.

She stole a peek in Marco's direction, deep in thought.

She had to find a way to get rid of him.

At that moment, a voice came from the microphone. It seemed someone was testing the equipment.

Eaton moved over to the stage and gave the audience a smile. "Ladies and gentlemen, I am here to thank you all for coming to this banquet tonight. Adding to that, I want to give thanks to Mr. Bryant and Miss Torres. They saved all the lives on the plane with their bravery. Let's give them a great show of hands in appreciation!"

Eaton appeared very sincere on the stage. It was as though the earlier conflict they had had never happened at all.

Loraine's eyes narrowed. There was definitely something wrong with him.

Following her observation over the last couple of days,

Eaton was definitely not a benevolent person. He was probably plotting something against them.

However, all the guests turned their eyes in the heroes' direction and began to applaud, so Loraine had to force on a smile and nod her head at them.

Marco, on the other hand, was nonchalant about the entire matter and kept his eyes focused on Loraine.

The instant the applause died down, Eaton changed the subject.

"Aside from celebrating our heroes' achievement, there is another piece of news I have to announce tonight. Johnathan Group's new technology has been successfully developed. Everyone, please turn your eyes to artificial intelligence, Orion, solely developed by Johnathan Group!"

As they heard that, Loraine and Marco frowned in shock.

Their heads turned to each other at the same time, their gazes saying the same thing, before they turned their heads back to the stage in unison again.

There were a few scoffs of doubt from the crowd when Eaton mentioned the new technology.

However, as the curtains were opened, a mini robot popped out onto the stage on its own and the entire crowd gasped in surprise.

The little robot was adorable. It did a few circles on the floor, then took a bow towards the audience.

The crowd burst into applause and cheers at the robot's flexible movements.

A deep frown was etched on Marco's face, and Loraine stared at the stage with a worried look as well.

The most important part of their businesses was Artificial Intelligence. It had been the core of Bryant Group, and it was top secret as well, so it was unlikely it could be stolen.

Could the well-known copycat Johnathan Group really have developed this themselves?



## Chapter 324 Intelligence Demonstration

---

The little robot stood on the stage with a big smiley on its small screen, looking quite like a silly child.

Meanwhile, there was a heated discussion among the guests.

Suddenly, someone decided to ask Eaton a question. "Mr. Johnathan, how far have the AI capabilities of Johnathan Group been developed?"

With a big smile, Eaton pointed to Paige and said, "A product in an emerging industry like this should be described by young people. In the future, Paige will take over the research and development of this project, so let her be the one to tell everyone about it."

Paige now became the focus of the crowd again.

She took a deep breath and smoothed her clothes before walking up to the stage. She relished the attention she was getting and she felt relaxed as she began to explain and demonstrate to her attentive audience.

She turned to the little robot and gave it an instruction. "Orion, move forward and turn around."

Orion did exactly as she said.

She gave several more instructions, such as asking it to calculate sums, carry out little tasks on identification and





inspection, and Orion completed all these tasks smoothly. It was now proven that the robot had the ability to think independently.

As they watched the wonderful performances of Orion, the audience couldn't help but cheer and clap excitedly.

Even Davy had his eyes fixed on Orion with a serious look.

When Paige saw this, she felt very satisfied. Then she turned her attention to the quiet duo, Loraine and Marco.

In an attempt to provoke them, she said to them, "Mr. Bryant, Miss. Torres, what do you think of Orion?"

Before they could answer, Paige added proudly, "What I just displayed is only a tiny part of Orion's abilities. After the subsequent development and upgrading process, Orion can even be installed in the aerospace systems, and then we won't need heroes like you two anymore."

The irony in Paige's words made the guests go silent. They were wondering what the reaction of Loraine and Marco would be.

Loraine frowned slightly.

She looked at Orion, who seemed to be in a daze after completing the instructions given to it. Then she said doubtfully, "Orion has just completed your instructions. This only proved that it's indeed intelligent to a certain extent. But I don't think it's enough to qualify it for formal application nor is it enough to enable it independently distinguish between danger and safety. Right?"

Even a highly intelligent robot like Qbot was still being improved. Marco had not yet dared to use it formally, even though it was already very competent at this stage.



But in comparison, Orion only displayed some basic skills. Yet, Paige was very complacent, and this made Loraine quite surprised and confused.

Seeing Loraine's question as nothing but a blatant insult, Paige's face turned red with anger and she retorted angrily, "I think you're jealous of the fact that an advanced AI system like Orion has been developed by Johnathan Group!"

In any field, the first person or group who successfully completed any research and development was of great significance.

In this case, Johnathan Group was the first to launch AI tech in the city. Even if Bryant Group and Universe Group launched Qbot together later on, it wouldn't change anything about the pioneer status of Johnathan Group.

Loraine didn't respond to Paige's retort. She just lowered her head and fell into deep thought. Marco, too, was very quiet.

As a result, Paige became more confident and complacent. She swept her eyes over the audience and said with a smile, "Listen up, everyone. This new AI system will be launched first in the business area of Johnathan Group. Companies that apply to partner with us now will be given priority attention."

When they heard this, they all cheered happily. The prospect of AI was immeasurable. If Orion was really as powerful as Paige said, then partnering with Johnathan Group was a huge privilege.

Even Davy was interested too.

Technological upgrade was the core competitive power of



an enterprise. Davy was a savvy businessman and he had no grudge against the Johnathan family. If he could partner with them, he would open a second branch in the business area of Johnathan Group.

But when he expressed his willingness to partner with Paige, she frowned.

"Mr. Jones, are you still planning to opening your first branch in Vagow?" she asked arrogantly. "If you really want to partner with us, your first branch must be located in our business area. And you can't partner with Universe and Bryant Groups anymore. Otherwise, we have nothing to talk about."

Marco listened quietly and said nothing in response. But Loraine couldn't help but speak up.

"Miss Johnathan, you're going too far."

Paige knew Davy hadn't signed any contract with Loraine yet. Since Orion was very popular already, so she felt confident of winning Davy to her side and making Loraine lose the opportunity to partner with him.

"Well, Miss Torres, strength is the most important thing in business. Even if you're a hero, that won't help you. You wouldn't force Mr. Jones to give up a better choice for you just because you saved his family, right?"

Her goal was to publicly embarrass Loraine. She was sure that Davy wouldn't give up the chance to get involved in advanced AI just because of a little favor.

To her astonishment, Davy shook his head and sighed. "I'm sorry, Miss Johnathan. I've promised Loraine and Marco, and I won't break my promise. Besides, they saved my wife and my daughter."

The smile on Paige's face immediately froze and her eyes went wide in disbelief. "Are you sure? Orion is more valuable than Bryant Group and Universe Group put together."

But Davy still refused. Eaton, who had thought he would cave in, became highly displeased. But when others began rushing up to them to ask how they could partner with Johnathan Group, Eaton finally felt relieved.

Even though Davy's company was a powerful one, Eaton now had many choices.

He was confident that sooner or later, he would be able to suppress Universe Group and Bryant Group, and even Davy's Cheap and Fine Group too!



## Chapter 325 A Clue

Most of the guests at the banquet gathered around Eaton and his daughter to get more details.

Even those who had planned to partner with Bryant Group and Universe Group now changed their minds all of a sudden.

The only exception was Davy. He was the only one still standing with Loraine and Marco. He couldn't help but sigh.

"It seems the Johnathan family is going to be prosperous from now on. Our business is mainly in the overseas market, so it won't affect us very much. But I'm afraid the Johnathan family will target your companies."

Marco didn't show any worry. Instead, he tried to comfort Davy.

"Don't worry. You won't regret the choice you've made, I promise."

Davy found this confusing. Of course, he knew Marco to be a calm and indifferent person, but how could the man be so cool after what had just happened?

Loraine, on her part, also remained cool-headed since she was aware of Marco's secret weapon.

But still, she was curious about one thing. Paige had previously ruined a tech exposition, so how on earth could she and her team develop an AI program by themselves?

Qbot and Obot all looked very similar to human beings, and their personalities were very different.

Orion, however, didn't seem to be very active at all.

Out of curiosity, Loraine turned to the little robot and asked, "Orion, Miss Johnathan said that she would have you upgraded. Would you like to serve the guests in the digital business district or do you prefer to monitor the security system of the airline?"

Surprisingly, the robot became stuck and couldn't provide an answer to such a simple question. Random lines appeared on the screen as the poor machine struggled to operate. Then it generated a sharp alarm.

The loud sound immediately drew everyone's attention.

"What's going on? What happened?"

Loraine asked Paige, "Are you sure your company's AI program is good enough to enter the market? I just asked it a simple question, yet the robot couldn't answer it and even crashed."

When people heard this, they all stared at Paige with suspicion clearly written on their faces.

Paige's face darkened in anger and she shouted at Loraine, "It's all your fault! I'm sure you broke it!"

Loraine was shocked at this sudden accusation. She pointed out the distance between herself and the robot, and said, "I didn't even touch your robot. I just asked it a question, and it suddenly ended up like this."

But Paige wouldn't listen. She gritted her teeth in fury and

shouted, "That's not possible! You must have used some dirty tricks to disrupt the system! You've done this before. Last time, you ruined our exposition, and now, Orion is out of order. Who else can it be except you?"

Loraine raised her eyebrows and chuckled. "Oh, that exposition? I'm rather surprised that you still remember that. Are you not ashamed to mention it?"

When others heard them talking about the exposition, they were instantly reminded of that embarrassing display the Johnathan family had put up at the science and technology expo. They started to exchange looks with one another.

Eaton coughed to grab everyone's attention and quickly stepped forward to mediate.

"Well, it's not a big deal. No need to quarrel with one other." Then he turned to Loraine and said with a smile, "Miss Torres, just admit it. I understand that Universe Group hasn't had any real achievement in this field. Since you're unfamiliar with something like this, I'm sure you did what you did out of ignorance, right?"

Loraine's gaze darkened.

What a cunning man he was! With a smile, he was carefully setting her up and trying to make believe that she had done something to compromise the robot.

Before Loraine could respond to him, Eaton went ahead to address everyone. "As you can see, there are still some loopholes in our robot, but it's still highly intelligent. After the repair, you're welcome to ask it any questions and it will provide you with answers."

The way he put it and the confidence with which he said it made the crowd feel convinced.



After all, it was a new field, so flaws were inevitable.

Eaton quickly signaled for his men to take down the robot from the stage.

At this moment, Marco asked the robot another question.

Immediately, the robot answered it.

Everyone present watched in surprise as Marco threw out question after question and the robot kept answering them without any hesitation.

But the more questions Marco asked, the more suspicious the other guests felt.

One of them asked, "Something is wrong. Are these the same questions Paige Johnathan asked before?"

When Paige heard this, her face turned pale and she quickly interrupted Marco.

"That's enough. What's the point of asking the same questions that I asked? Stop. No more questions!"

Her anxiety made the guests very suspicious.

It was at this point that light suddenly dawned on Loraine and she finally understood what Marco had been trying to do. Immediately, she picked one of the questions and asked it in a different way.

There was nothing but silence. The robot crashed again.

Everyone now understood what was going on.

The robot had nothing to do with artificial intelligence. It was a complete fraud.



It was just a basic program, not even qualified to be regarded as the preliminary level of artificial intelligence.

The Question and Answer session that Paige conducted was merely a pre-arranged performance.

