

## Chapter 730 Laura's Solution

After venting her frustrations with Jefferson, Liza returned to the Bryant family villa in a very bad mood. She stormed up the stairs and entered her granddaughter's room. "Marina," she said in a stern voice. "For God's sake, why on earth are you the CEO of Bryant Group? How can a CEO be so completely unaware of such a major issue within the company? I don't think you're fit for this position at all!"

Still startled by Liza's sudden entry into her room, Marina quickly closed the luxury goods webpage she had been browsing through and pretended to be engrossed in her studies.

Before leaving the house, Liza had given her explicit instructions to study diligently. It wouldn't go down well with her if she learned that Marina had flouted her instructions.

"But I've been studying diligently. Why do you think I'm not qualified?" Marina grumbled, fearing that Liza would subsequently accuse her of not studying as hard as she needed to.

As for the major issue within the company that Liza had just mentioned, Marina couldn't care less. After all, Bryant Group had already deteriorated significantly. No matter how serious the issue was, it couldn't be any worse than the current situation. She wouldn't give a damn about anything as long as there was enough money available for her extravagances.

Seeing how nonchalant her granddaughter was, Liza shook her head in frustration. In fact, she was already feeling a bit dizzy.

She placed her hand on her forehead and sat down to recover

her composure. Then she turned to Marina and continued her angry reprimand, "What are you studying for?! It's all pointless now! If not for your incompetence, the employees at the company wouldn't have kept such a major issue secret!"

It was at this point that Marina began to take the issue seriously. "What issue has happened again? Why do you put all the blame on me? I've been trying my best!" she wailed in an aggrieved tone.

Liza gritted her teeth in anger, but she didn't bother wasting her breath by continuing to quarrel with Marina. Instead, she muttered to herself, "The only solution now is to have Marco return to take over Bryant Group."

But Marina was unfazed by this statement. She was already used to hearing such threats from her grandmother. This time, she responded with a retort, "Even if he's capable, he's not your biological grandson. We've already tried contacting him, but he's not even willing to come back!"

Fortunately for Marina, Marco's reluctance to return was to her advantage. It made her feel even more secure. She was now the only one who could inherit Bryant Group.

With her father long dead and with no other child of his that could compete with her, unless a miracle happened, there would be no one to contest Marina's position as the heir of the Bryant family.

Meanwhile, Liza was so infuriated at Marina's nonchalance that she felt like using her cane to strike her, but due to her frail health and heavy wheezing, she reluctantly put the cane down. The only weapon she could use now was her mouth. Through clenched teeth, she scolded her granddaughter, "Marco left because of you two! For the sake of Bryant Group, I have to kick you and your mother out!"

This was neither an empty threat nor a joke; it was a solution that Liza had carefully considered.

After what had happened all these days, coupled with what Jefferson had mentioned earlier, it had dawned on Liza that rather than let Marina's incompetence destroy Bryant Group, it would be better to bring Marco back into the Bryant family. That way, they could at least salvage Bryant Group which would help to keep the family name alive.

When Marina saw how serious Liza was, she became flustered. She said to her anxiously, "Grandma, you can't be serious. You're joking, I'm sure."

But Liza was dead serious. Her face looked somber as she got up with the help of her cane and began to approach Marina menacingly. But just then, a voice interrupted her. "Mom, wait!"

It was Laura. She hurriedly rushed over, begging Liza profusely, "Mom, please calm down. If you want Marco to come back, you don't necessarily have to drive us away. There has to be other ways to solve this!"

"Other ways?" Liza sneered. "I've been thoroughly disgraced and embarrassed because of Marina!"

Even Jefferson had dared to berate her. Right now, she would do anything to get the company moving again. If she had to swallow her pride and beg Marco to come back, she would do it.

At this point, Laura also realized that Liza was dead serious. She, too, grew flustered. Meanwhile, the sobbing and pleading Marina clung to her, unable to articulate any coherent words beyond her cries for Laura to save her.

The noise from the mother and daughter was giving Liza a pounding headache. She couldn't endure it anymore, so she

snapped at them, "I don't believe you have any solutions! Just get out of here, you two! Don't force me to kick you out. It won't be a pretty sight."

Right now, she was convinced that she shouldn't have been lenient with them in the first place. If she had kicked these two nuisances out earlier, Marco wouldn't have left, and there wouldn't be all these troubles today.

But Laura was still insistent. "Mom, I really have a solution. Just hear me out!" she begged. "Marco might not want to return as your grandson, but as long as he's with us, he can still be considered a legitimate member of the Bryant family!"

Liza was puzzled. "What do you mean?" she asked, frowning in confusion.

Laura swallowed, glad that Liza was willing to listen. "Look, mother, let's arrange a marriage between Marina and Marco. That way, he'll definitely come back to the Bryant family. Plus, having a son-in-law as half an heir means that even if you want Marco to become the CEO of Bryant Group, it would be perfectly legitimate!" she pointed out.

Marina's eyes widened in a mixture of shock and disbelief.

She could hardly believe her ears. She was still struggling to fully comprehend her mother's statement.

What did Laura mean by saying arranging a marriage between her and Marco?



## Chapter 731 An Absurd Idea

Marina felt that if Laura meant what she thought she meant, then the idea was very absurd. Without wasting any more time, she decided to ask for clarification. "Mom, did you just say you want me to get married to Marco?"

Laura nodded in the affirmative.

"Mom!" Marina gasped. "For crying out loud, Marco has been my brother for over twenty years!"

Though they were not related by blood, she had grown up to know Marco as her big brother all her life.

Even till now, she still had an instinctive fear whenever she saw him. So, how could she possibly be married to him? Clearly, her mother was talking nonsense!

But what shocked Marina even more was that Liza had now put down her crutch and was beginning to seriously think about what Laura had said.

After thinking for a while, the old woman nodded and said, "This could be a good solution."

Marina was stunned. "Grandma, are you serious?" she gasped in a trembling voice.

But Liza glared at her and scolded her angrily, "How dare you speak? You would have been married by now if you hadn't ruined your reputation. I watched Marco grow up since he was a child. I know him well and he's an excellent man. You're lucky that you would be his wife."

Marina lowered her head in displeasure. She was well aware of how excellent he was, but the problem was that Liza and Laura were not considering whether Marco would be willing to marry her or not.

Liza, on the other hand, seemed increasingly satisfied with the idea as she ran it through her mind repeatedly. The more she thought about it, the more feasible she felt it would be. "Marco is perfect, but it's a pity that he isn't a member of the Bryant family. If he can marry you, the problem will be solved easily. After the wedding, I'll hand over the company to him. When you have your first child, I'll raise the baby myself. I will definitely be able to cultivate another real outstanding CEO of Bryant Group!"

Liza had always believed that she was the one who had raised Marco to be the man he now was. She felt that the reason Marina was so foolish was simply because she had been raised by Laura.

Meanwhile, both Laura and Marina were still surprised that Liza had easily accepted this suggestion about the marriage.

But Liza suddenly said, "Marina, I'll give you a month. No matter what, you have to bring Marco back to Bryant Group to preside over the entire situation! Otherwise, I'll kick you and Laura out of this family!"

Hearing that, Laura secretly breathed a sigh of relief. She thought she would now have at least a month of peace. But then she was shocked as Liza asked them to leave the house immediately.

"I repeat, don't come back here until you bring Marco!" Liza shouted at them again before going back inside, leaving them at the gate.

Marina burst into tears immediately. "Mom, how can grandma



do this to us? How can she ask me to marry Marco? I hate Marco. I don't want to marry him!" she wailed.

The fact was, Laura herself equally hated Marco.

She and Marina had been suppressed by Marco all along. They were finally rid of him only for a few days, but now they were expected to bring him back again!

And if they didn't bring him back, they would be homeless. They really had no choice but to find a way to get him to come back.

Laura turned around to comfort Marina. "Marco is not bad," she said, partly to comfort her daughter and partly to make herself feel better. "Come on, think about it. At least his face is very handsome. Besides, after you get married, you can entrust him with all the company affairs and let him manage the Group for you. You just need to spend as much money as you want. You'll be rich and influential."

When Marina heard this, she wavered a bit. But then, she suddenly remembered Marco's character. "But he is very nasty to me," she grumbled.

"Look at it this way. If you marry him, it means you've taken away Loraine's lover. Not only will he be considerate towards you, but Loraine will also be heartbroken," Laura pointed out.

Marina's eyes lit up immediately. A smile spread across her face as she began to imagine what Laura had just told her.

Marco was certainly very good to anyone he liked. For instance, he was very gentle towards Loraine. And he never hesitated to buy various expensive luxury items for her.

Frankly, Marina had long hated Marco, but if she decided to seduce him, she was sure that he would not be able to resist!

Already, she was beginning to fantasize about his gentle and considerate demeanor after falling in love with her. She could even imagine how she would feel being the envy of countless women who were in love with Marco's handsome face and considerate, gentlemanly behavior. By all means, this was something she was eagerly looking forward to experiencing!

Now that she thought of it, Marina realized that Marco was indeed a good, if not an outstanding, man.





## Chapter 732 Unwanted Visitors

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Now that Marina had agreed, Laura immediately began to prepare their plan of action.

But the first step in the whole thing was to find out where Marco was.

Mother and daughter exchanged glances. They knew just how challenging this part of the task was.

Now that they had practically been kicked out of the Bryant family, they had neither connections nor means. Marco might have even blocked their lines. Clearly, it would be difficult to find him in this big city.

But Laura didn't lose hope. She said, "Let's try calling him first. What if he needs money and has decided to remove us from his blacklist?"

Marina found this reasonable and quickly brought out her phone to call Marco. But unfortunately, it couldn't connect, just as they had earlier anticipated.

"Mom, why did you offend him so badly back then?" she grumbled accusingly.

Laura also regretted her actions, but all she could do was sigh.

Since their calls couldn't get through, they both felt very helpless. But suddenly, they remembered that the last time they contacted Marco, it was a janitor's phone they used. So,

they decided to lend a stranger's phone and try Marco's number again.

It rang this time, but it was not answered.

After several unsuccessful attempts, Marina's spirit was crushed and she began to get angry. "Look, Mom, I don't care anymore," she said to Laura. "Who does Marco think he is? Does he want us to look for him like he is gold?"

But Laura quickly calmed her down and asked her to exercise patience. She then proceeded to spend some of her money making inquiries about Marco's whereabouts.

Thanks to Cayson intentionally spreading information about Marco's whereabouts, they soon learned that he was in the hospital with a leg injury.

"I thought he was living the high life after leaving the Bryant family, but it turns out he's in such a pathetic state. He's even lying in a hospital!" Marina gloated.

Laura was also happy to hear this news. She breathed a sigh of relief and said confidently, "If he's not doing well, then that makes things easier for us. If we show up now and act like we don't mind his current situation, and then we offer him a chance to marry into the Bryant family, he'll be touched, won't he? It should be easy to capture him then."

"He has fallen so low that he's now staying in a hospital. Maybe Loraine has abandoned him because she loves wealth and despises poverty!" Marina laughed mockingly.

Laura nodded in concurrence. "Yeah. That's why we need to take advantage of his vulnerability right now so we can be sure to hit bull's-eye."

Marina was thrilled to hear this. "Mom, I don't think it will even



take us up to a month. We might be able to return to the Bryant family tomorrow!"

After thinking for a moment, she added, "You know, initially, Grandma's condition was simply adoption, which meant that she didn't consider him as a real member of the family. But now, we can offer him the chance to marry into the family. In other words, his offspring would be able to inherit the Bryant family wealth. Marco would be crazy not to agree!"

Mother and daughter didn't think anyone would be foolish enough to reject such an offer.

So, with renewed determination, they set off on their mission.

Meanwhile, at the hospital, Marco felt that he had recovered well enough, but Loraine had refused to let him leave. She was watching over him diligently, insisting that he complete his rehabilitation before getting discharged.

But since Loraine was always with him, Marco didn't mind the process at all.

Right now, she was supporting Marco as they slowly walked down the hall. She had all her attention on him.

Though he could stand up slowly now, he still relied on external support most of the time. But Loraine had strictly prohibited him from practicing alone if she was not around.

As they strolled together, Marco suddenly burst into laughter. "What's so funny?" Loraine asked in surprise.

"I was thinking, when we grow old, bent with age, will we be supporting each other like this while strolling through the park?" Marco chuckled.

Loraine contemplated such a scenario for a moment and she

couldn't help but break into a smile. "When that time comes, it'll be your turn to support me," she said to him.

"Alright," Marco nodded without any hesitation.

And then the two of them exchanged smiles in silent understanding.

After a while, Marco said, "Loraine, your company really needs you. You don't need to accompany me like this. I think I can manage on my own by now."

Though he was delighted to have Loraine by his side, he also felt sorry for her because she was having to juggle between taking care of him and handling her responsibilities at work.

But Loraine replied in a soft yet firm tone, "Right now, I'm your crutch, and I can't leave you."

Marco didn't say anything, but his heart was racing.


After completing a lap, he became drenched in sweat from exertion. Loraine wheeled him back to his hospital room and was about to pour him a glass of water when she discovered that the water jug was empty. So, she told him, "I want to go get some water. Just wait here for a moment, alright?"

Marco nodded with a smile and closed his eyes to rest.

He was lying there in his hospital room, weak and covered in post-rehabilitation sweat, when all of a sudden, Laura and her daughter arrived.

Marco heard sounds and assumed that it was Loraine returning. So, he called her name. But instead of a response from Loraine, what he heard was a scornful sneer, "Still expecting Loraine? Look at you. You're in such a sorry state. Why would Loraine bother visiting you?"

Chapter 732 Unwanted Visitors

 +120 Points at most

Marco's eyes snapped open. When he saw the two women standing at the side of his bed, his face immediately darkened. "What are you two doing here?" he asked in an icy tone.



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## Chapter 733 Hypocrisy

Seeing Marco in such a sorry state, Marina adopted a haughty attitude and was about to mock him. But Laura quickly covered her mouth and signaled for her to keep quiet.

Laura surmised that even though Marco had fallen from grace, he still carried a sense of pride from his past glory. Patronizing him might just make him feel angry.

After ensuring that Marina would stay quiet, Laura put on a friendly smile, looking even more concerned than when she was his mother, and said to Marco, "Marina is just worried about you. Look at what has happened to you in such a short time. How did you end up like this?"

After making a show of looking around the hospital room disapprovingly, she continued, "Marco, we were all one family for so long. That's why Marina and I rushed over as soon as we heard that you were hospitalized."

But when she saw that his expression didn't change, Laura gritted her teeth and added, "You know, if it was anyone else, they wouldn't even show up. Now, you know who truly cares for you."

But all Marco did was frown suspiciously. He didn't know exactly what this mother-daughter duo was up to. It all felt very strange to him.

He continued to stare at them coldly. He didn't bother to say anything, though inwardly, he was sneering at them.

Lorraine had been taking care of him so diligently all this time.

In contrast, these two, since their arrival, had still not shown any concern for his injuries or how he was feeling.

Truly, Marina and her mother were not the type of people who cared about others. At this point, Marina added to her mother's statement, saying, "Marco, even though you're not part of the Bryant family anymore, we have so many years of family ties. If you want to return to the Bryant family, I can give you a chance."

"What?" Marco chuckled when he heard her ridiculous proposal.

But Marina cleared her throat, still maintaining her arrogant demeanor as she clarified her statement, "As long as you marry me, help me revive Bryant Group to its former glory and treat me as well as you treated Loraine, I don't mind letting you take over Bryant Group."

Marco's eyebrows furrowed deeply, and he looked at them with disgust. "Are you both out of your minds? Why are you here making these absurd proposals?"

"Marco, don't take offence," Laura quickly admonished. "Think carefully and you'll see that our proposal is for your own good. Look at yourself now, lying here in the hospital without anyone by your side. Marina and I are the only ones concerned enough to spend money to find out where you are."

She spoke as if she had done a great benevolent act by tracking him down. "The past is the past," she continued. "After all, you grew up under my care. As long as you treat Marina well and respect me as your mother-in-law, the Bryant family will still welcome you back."

After listening to their absurd proposal, Marco felt as if someone had force-fed him a mouthful of flies, causing his stomach to churn with nausea.

Even though he had anticipated that their visit wouldn't bring



anything good, he hadn't expected it to be this ridiculous.

Had they been driven mad by the Bryant Group's irrevocable downfall? He wondered.

Not able to tolerate their presence any longer, he shouted at them, "Get out of here immediately! I don't want to see you guys anymore!"

But Laura misunderstood his response as a sign of pride, and she said in a soft tone, "Marco, after all these years that we've spent as one family, why play tough now? Look at yourself. You're in such a miserable state. It doesn't seem like anyone is taking care of you."

As she said this, she nudged Marina forward, discreetly urging her to add her voice.

Marina got the cue immediately and played along. "Marco, come back with us," she urged him. "You'll be at Bryant Group's hospital, where specialists can take very good care of you. Don't suffer alone here."

While speaking, she pulled out a handkerchief, attempting to wipe the sweat from his face with feigned timidity.

When Marco saw what she was about to do, he glared at her furiously. He was afraid that Marina might touch him, so he quickly pushed her away from him.

Marina, not being naturally strong, lost her balance and tumbled to the floor.

"How dare you push me!" she shouted in anger and disbelief.

"Don't ever touch me!" Marco shouted back at her.

At this point, Marina lost it and she began to show her true

colors. "Do you still think you're a CEO?!" she screamed at him. "I'm offering a divorced man like you the opportunity to marry me, and you can't even show gratitude. Instead, you pushed me! How dare you?! You're not still pining for Loraine, are you? Have you taken a look at yourself? What use is it for you to be so faithful to her? With your current state, do you think she'd still like you?"

But she'd hardly finished the sentence when an authoritative voice rang out from the doorway, "Who says I no longer like Marco?"

