

Chapter 750 Severing Connections

In an instant, Jefferson's confidence deflated like a leaky balloon. He clumsily tumbled out of bed and lunged for Loraine, desperation painted across his face. "Loraine, you can't do this!"

Loraine recoiled, her expression a mask of disgust, her eyes looking away. "After what you've done, Jefferson, do you really think I won't terminate our contract?"

It was clear to Jefferson that he had committed something reprehensible. In an attempt to maintain some dignity, he grabbed a piece of cloth to conceal his exposed body and attempted an explanation. "Today, I was confused. I thought this would strengthen the bond between our families."

However, seeing Loraine's darkening countenance, he hastily shifted his argument. "But even if we set aside these matters, you should remember the past kindness of the Bryant Group. We've always brought profit to the Universe Group. Now that the Bryant Group is facing adversity, can the Universe Group just stand idly by?"

Loraine cast an amused glance at Marco, seated in his wheelchair. With a wry smile, she responded, "It was Marco who secured the profits, and it had nothing to do with you."

As she reflected on how the Bryant Group had flourished under Marco's leadership and how the company's fortunes had crumbled after his departure, she couldn't help but feel a flicker of annoyance.

These people had proven to be utterly inept, yet they tried to lay claim to Marco's accomplishments. It was nothing short of a travesty.

Unfazed, Jefferson declared defiantly, "So what? The contract was initiated by the Bryant Group. It would be ungrateful to sever ties with us. Do you delight in the prospect of the Bryant Group's collapse? Loraine, you can't be so callous!"

Loraine chuckled wryly, her tone laced with irritation. "Do you not comprehend why the Bryant Group was profitable for the Universe Group in the first place? It was Marco who initially proposed the collaboration, but the Bryant Group's decision to oust him has cost them dearly. Why would I consider partnering with a company that implicated me in their schemes? It's out of the question."

Jefferson felt indignant and harbored resentment towards Laura and her daughter.

Were it not for their vile machinations, Loraine might have fallen for him. He believed that Loraine would have pleaded with him, and he wouldn't have found himself in this degrading position.

At a glance, Loraine detected Jefferson's intentions and addressed him sternly. "Jefferson, you've just confessed to your actions, and numerous individuals have borne witness to it. I'm willing to let it slide as a token of our final kindness. Don't press your luck."

On the other side of the room, a look of shock played across Laura's face. She had unwittingly exposed her involvement as well, and if Loraine chose to investigate, how would she escape culpability?

Moreover, with Liza's sudden downfall, Jefferson sought to



implicate Laura and her daughter. She needed to protect her family's interests.

Laura shifted her gaze to Marco, seated resolutely in his wheelchair.

He had been a dependable ally in the past, solving numerous dilemmas for her. Now that he had assisted in getting Liza to the hospital, could he be relied upon to spare her and her daughter?

Determined, Laura flung herself towards Marco's wheelchair, dropping to her knees, her voice quaking with fear. "Marco, you have to save the Bryant Group. Your grandmother has fainted. You can't abandon your sister and me now!"

Marco, hearing her pleas, was repulsed. Laura persisted, "We won't vie against you anymore. As long as you spare me and Marina... Please, help persuade Loraine to spare us. We'll behave and stay out of trouble!"

Upon hearing Laura's words, Jefferson cast an imploring look at Marco.

Marco's gaze turned icy as he locked onto Laura, who remained kneeling before him. "I've heard these pleas countless times. When did you act on your words?"

Back then, he had been forced to do so many things against his will by these perfunctory words! Cold determination etched across his countenance as he continued, "Furthermore, I already stated upon my departure that I was severing all connections with the Bryant family. I have no intention of meddling in your family affairs."

Laura sobbed, "Marco, you can't be so heartless..."

But Marco's resolve remained unyielding. Observing Laura's

tears, he recognized her tactic to manipulate him through his sense of gratitude, but the debt had been paid many times over as the Bryant family had exploited his goodwill.

Resolute, Marco raised his gaze to Loraine, appealing silently with his eyes. "Loraine, I'm weary. It's late; let's return."

Loraine, wordless, gave a small nod with a hint of a smile. With gentle insistence, she wheeled his chair out of the room, not sparing a glance for the chaos left behind.

Jefferson and Laura were left with a burning desire to halt their departure, but it was too late.

Gritting their teeth in frustration, they watched as Loraine pushed Marco's wheelchair away, resentment trailing in their wake.

Then, as Loraine and Marco left the hallway, a woman's voice called out in desperation. "Loraine! Wait!"



Chapter 751 Shamelessness

Loraine turned around, her gaze darkening slightly as she laid eyes on Bella.

She remembered their previous encounter from another banquet, where it was evident that Bella had a contentious relationship with Marina. Loraine had seen through Bella's attempts to manipulate her to gain leverage over Marina.

Loraine couldn't help but wonder why Bella was so eager to seek her out, especially after her father's disgraceful actions.

Her skepticism marked her expression as she spoke. "Is there something you need?"

Gasping for breath, Bella leaned against the wall, her eyes revealing traces of innocence.

Unfortunately for Bella, her attempts to impress Loraine fell flat. Loraine only furrowed her eyebrows in annoyance at Bella's antics.

Her usual tricks of appearing cute and clingy had no effect on Loraine, much to her dismay. Hesitating, Bella spoke with a hint of grievance. "Loraine, I think you may have misunderstood my father."

Loraine maintained her stoic demeanor, responding, "Whether or not Jefferson is guilty, it's not for me to judge. You should speak to him and ascertain if there's been a misunderstanding."

Bella clenched her teeth, determined to defend her father, and pushed forward. "Loraine, trust me, my dad is not the kind of



She then tried to put all the blame on Marina and Laura. "Loraine, you should know better than me what kind of people Marina and Laura are!" She hesitated, then added, "This incident was undoubtedly orchestrated by them."

Loraine looked unimpressed. "And why would they have framed your dad for this?"

"They aimed to disrupt the cooperation between the Universe Group and the Bryant Group. With my dad now a major shareholder, the Bryant family's future position is at stake. Marina and Laura are afraid that cooperating with the Universe Group would jeopardize their survival. So, they devised this vile plan to smear my father."

Bella nodded to herself as if satisfied with her reasoning. Urgently, she turned to Loraine and continued, "Loraine, if you truly misunderstand my dad, then you would just be playing into the hands of Marina and Laura. You have to understand that the Bryant Group needs this cooperation now more than ever. You, for the sake of..."

Interrupting her, Loraine maintained her stern gaze. "No need for emotional appeals. I'm a businesswoman, and I need to consider the benefits for the Universe Group. What can the Bryant Group offer at this juncture?"

Taken aback by Loraine's response, Bella quickly offered, "As long as my father becomes the CEO of the Bryant Group, we will help you bring the Bryant family to justice and provide relief to you and Mr. Bryant. Loraine, remember, my father and I have always been on your side. At the previous Universe Group banquet, when Marina accused you of wearing a counterfeit product, I defended you."

Loraine couldn't help but raise an eyebrow in amusement at Bella's attempt to use a small favor to gain the upper hand.

She responded, "Miss Foster, even if you hadn't defended me, I would have exposed Marina's actions. You should know that if there were areas where the Bryant Group was worth collaborating with, I would not have terminated the contract. Unfortunately, the Bryant Group is now beyond redemption. There is no longer any reason for the Universe Group to invest its resources in them."

Loraine glanced at Bella, saying, "And you were there earlier, you must have heard your father's words. Initially, his plan was aimed at me."

However, Bella wasn't easily discouraged. "But you're fine now, right? My father is the one suffering. Can't you find it in your heart to forgive him and help save the Bryant Group?"

Loraine fell silent, her eyes fixed on the unapologetic woman before her. Bella's shamelessness left Loraine feeling utterly disgusted.

Not wishing to exchange another word, Loraine turned to leave.

Bella made a feeble attempt to stop her, even considering grabbing her hand.

Suddenly, Marco stepped in, displaying a recording on his phone.

During the earlier chaos, Jefferson and Laura had unwittingly spilled their own secrets, exposing their guilt. Marco had managed to record the scandalous conversation with his phone.

Marco spoke with an air of authority. "We know the truth, and if you persist in troubling us, I have no qualms about sharing the



Bella froze, her face blanching.

She never expected that Marco had discreetly recorded their conversation during the chaos.

With the recording, Bella's attempts to remedy the situation fell apart. In disbelief, she watched as Loraine wheeled Marco away, leaving her standing there in defeat.

As their car exited the garage, Marco glanced back at the venue.

The club's lights shone brightly, yet a sense of desolation permeated the scene.

The Bryant Group had reached the end of the road, and its future appeared bleak.



Chapter 752 Unrepentant

As Loraine and Marco departed, the other guests slowly dispersed, leaving only Laura and Marina, who kept crying, and the dejected Jefferson.

In the dimly lit lounge, Laura and Marina clung to each other, their sobs ringing through the empty space.

Their future was now shrouded in uncertainty, and they knew they were in deep trouble.

Marina sobbed, "Mom, I just want to disappear. What will become of us now? I can't bear it!"

Tears welled up in Laura's eyes as she looked at Jefferson with a mix of anger and despair. She gritted her teeth, saying, "You heartless scoundrel! You've tarnished our reputation!"

Jefferson, in the process of putting on his clothes, retorted, "It's your fault that our plan failed! I'm not going to let you off the hook!"

Jefferson realized that his situation was dire.

He had invested all his money in buying shares of the Bryant Group and borrowed heavily, only to see the stock's value plummet.

He now faced financial ruin and bankruptcy.

In this desperate situation, he had resorted to his vile plan to force Loraine into cooperation. But he had not anticipated his utter failure.

It was clear to him that Laura and Marina had played a part in his downfall.

He couldn't help but cast them a furious glare and reprimand them, "You cunning women! Are you trying to blame everything on me? Not a chance!"

Laura trembled at the intensity of his glare, but Jefferson was in no mood to continue arguing with them. He gave them one last malevolent look before storming out of the lounge.

As the earlier commotion came to a close, only the mother and daughter remained, a stark contrast to the previous revelry.

The room was filled with the echoes of their sobs, and Laura, her eyes red and puffy, clutched a blanket for comfort. As she gazed at the bruises on her arms from her altercation with Jefferson, tears streamed down her face.

Marina, her cries intensified, could barely catch her breath.

Originally, the only thing they needed to worry about was that they wouldn't be able to live a rich life in the Bryant family after the Bryant Group declined. But after this incident, they didn't know how to live in the future.

Overwhelmed by their predicament, Marina angrily muttered, "Mom, this is all Loraine's doing! She must have schemed against us!"

Laura's eyes widened as she considered the earlier events at the door, where Marco and Loraine had made a sudden appearance and watched the chaos unfold.

It was evident that they had set them up.

With this realization, Loraine and Marco were, in Laura's eyes,

far more wicked than Jefferson.

She clenched her teeth in resentment and voiced her hatred. "Loraine is ruthless! We used to be kind to her, and this is how she repays us! We merely humiliated her verbally, and she's retaliated so viciously."

Marina, infuriated, added, "Mom, since she doesn't want us to live well, we won't let her off the hook either. We have to take revenge!"

Laura's nod was resolute, and with nothing to lose, they were prepared to resort to unscrupulous methods.

They no longer had to fear the consequences of their actions.

Laura once trembled at the thought of Liza's disapproval, but now Liza was no longer a threat. The Bryant family was in ruins, and Laura felt a sense of resigned satisfaction.

In the ensuing days, Loraine's focus remained on Marco and his rehabilitation. She paid little attention to the Bryant Group's future.

News of the Bryant Group's bankruptcy became a hot topic online, eliciting mixed reactions.

Many netizens were not surprised, as the Bryant Group had been plagued by scandals and was infamous for delaying workers' salaries.

"The Bryant Group should have gone bankrupt a long time ago. They delayed salary payments to the workers! They deserved it!"

However, a different narrative began to emerge.

"The Bryant Group had its share of issues, but this bankruptcy is too sudden. Someone must have had a hand in it."

Chapter 752 Unrepentant

 +120 Points at most

"I'm in the business world, and I know the Bryant Group had deep roots. This bankruptcy seems unnatural. The Universe Group terminated their contract, and that was the last straw."

"The Bryant Group may deserve some blame, but the Universe Group adding insult to injury isn't right. They terminated the contract when the Bryant Group was already on shaky ground. What kind of business conducts itself this way?"

"Companies partnering with the Universe Group, be cautious. When you face financial difficulties, they may not hesitate to twist the knife."



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Chapter 753 Comments

As the comments swirled on the internet, the focus had shifted. Initially, the talk revolved around the Bryant Group's bankruptcy, but it soon transformed into a heated discussion about the Universe Group.

The public had turned their ire towards the Universe Group, accusing them of adding to the Bryant Group's miseries. The tide of opinion was changing rapidly.

Online discussions now centered on the moral character of Loraine. People were digging into her past actions, forming subjective judgments. "Loraine is arrogant and ruthless. If she can do this to the Bryant Group today, she can do this to other partners tomorrow!"

Loraine's name became a trending topic, with many netizens no longer concerned about the Bryant Group's financial downfall. The negative sentiment toward her was growing.

Marco noticed this development and frowned.

He couldn't help but wonder if this was the initial intention of the troublemakers who sensationalized the Bryant Group's bankruptcy. Had they come for Loraine from the start?

Feeling uneasy, Marco decided to send a message to Loraine, inquiring about the situation. "What's happening on the internet? Are you trying to find out who's behind this?"

Loraine's swift response came, assuring him. "No, don't worry. I know who's responsible. They won't be able to stir up much trouble."

Marco was puzzled for a moment but soon understood the culprits behind this.

It couldn't be Jefferson, who was in a state of despair. Only Laura and her daughter would resort to such actions.

It was not the first time that they had used this trick. He had to admit that it was disgusting.

Disgusted by their tactics, Marco decided to fight back. Since they wanted to ask for trouble, they should not blame him for being ruthless.

He had someone post the recording of Laura and Jefferson's quarrel online and ensured it received substantial attention.

As the recording spread, the internet erupted in anger. The netizens couldn't believe the disgraceful behavior they were witnessing.

"Unbelievable! Are these people even real? Loraine and Marco must be going through hell!"

"My goodness! Marina and Laura, after being part of Marco's family for so long, they harbor such improper desires?"

"Is that Jefferson, the greasy old man? He's old enough to be Loraine's grandfather. This is truly disgraceful!"

Netizens began to sympathize with Loraine and realized that something was amiss. "The hot topic claimed that Loraine terminated the contract when the Bryant Group was in trouble. In reality, it was because of Jefferson's actions that Loraine couldn't tolerate."

"I can't believe they even suggested that Loraine was wrong. If I were in her shoes, I would have reacted even more strongly!"

Comments began to change as netizens lambasted the Bryant Group for their greed and hypocrisy. They also discovered Marco's and Loraine's accounts and left supportive comments.

It was not until Loraine got home from work that she saw these comments. She was a little surprised. She didn't know what had happened, but she didn't bother to look into it. She just guessed that the netizens had eventually found out about the shamelessness of Laura and her daughter.

She browsed through a few posts and was about to put down her phone when she suddenly noticed some particular comments.

Realizing they were left by Marco's account, Loraine was amused. Why had he joined the debate and left comments?

Marco's comments were extraordinary among the online discussions. His writing was meticulous, and his selection of words was elaborate, resembling an official notice.

One user wrote, "Mr. Bryant is such a charmer!"

"Marco used his personal account for Loraine's sake. I ship them!"

"Can't agree more!"

Witnessing the support from online users, Loraine felt touched. She gazed at Marco, who was sitting on the sofa in the living room, legs crossed, his expression still serious as he continued to interact with netizens.

Loraine couldn't help but smile. Despite his fall from grace, Marco's charisma remained strong. In fact, she found herself even more drawn to him.

Just then, a bleep resonated from the kitchen. Loraine checked the microwave, then turned to Marco, saying, "It's time for dinner."

Marco lifted his gaze, his eyes still filled with the same earnestness as he interacted with the netizens. However, when he looked at Loraine, a spark of joy lit up his eyes.

With a warm smile, Loraine led him to the dining table, setting down the dishes.

As they began their meal, she offered him comfort. "I don't care about the online news. You don't have to be upset by some people's silly comments."

Marco realized that she had read his comments and felt a bit embarrassed, but he maintained his serious tone. "I want to do something for you, and I can't bear to see others say that you're bad."

Loraine's heart warmed at his words. She scooped up a spoonful of food for him and said, "Let's eat."

Together, they finished their meal, and then washed the dishes side by side. As the evening passed, Loraine prepared to leave.

But just as she stood up, Marco's hand reached out to grasp hers.

His eyes sparkled with anticipation as he implored, "Loraine, it's getting late. Stay here."

