

## Chapter 903 Marriage

Marco scowled, disliking how Melvin disregarded his wishes and decided on his marriage for him.

He showed no interest in Melvin's choice for his bride. With a firm tone, he declared, "As I've mentioned before, my heart is set on Loraine, and no one else. If you find Kaley so admirable, perhaps you should consider her for yourself!"

Melvin's anger boiled over. He slammed his fist on the table, exclaiming in frustration, "Foolish! Can you not see you're ensnared by love? Does a woman's affection outweigh your future? Are her feelings more significant than the legacy of the Cruz family?"

Melvin felt both enraged and powerless against Marco's resolve. Clenching his jaw, he adopted a more persuasive voice.

"Marco, you're overlooking the prestige of the Wilson family! Among all in Zodiac, they're our only match. Their ventures surpass even our family! The Wilson family has surged ahead rapidly in recent years. Against a minor house like the Torres, they'd easily prevail. Marrying into the Wilsons would undoubtedly elevate the Cruz name!"

At this, Marco scoffed, "Didn't you always boast of our family's might, claiming we feared no one? Why then do we seek alliances through marriage?"

Melvin, speechless with fury, managed only a sharp, "You!"

Marco playfully said, "Should the Cruz legacy hinge on matrimonial alliances, it would only diminish in my eyes, and

Melvin yelled, "Enough! I've been putting up with you because you're my son. No one has ever dared to insult me thus within our family. Be wary, Marco!"

Marco learned a lot from his past dates about how to infuriate someone. Observing Melvin's lack of manners and composure, he allowed himself a small smile.

He then said without rushing, "That's fine. If I displease you, cast me out. Better yet, publicly disown me. I'll return to Vagow at once. After all, by your own admission, the Cruz family's stature is insufficient for my inheritance."

Melvin's expression contorted upon hearing Marco's stance.

Nevertheless, Marco maintained his calm, stating, "Regardless, I will not wed a Wilson. Loraine is my only choice."

Melvin closed his eyes, inhaled deeply, and tightly gripped his teacup before shooting Marco a fierce look.

Through gritted teeth, he questioned, "What spell did Loraine cast on you? Why choose a matrimonial alliance with her family rather than marry into the Wilson family? What allure does this woman hold that makes you lose your mind?"

With a tight-lipped expression, Marco said, "You wouldn't get it."

He gazed at Melvin, hoping to catch a glimpse of some tender emotion in his gaze.

Considering the worn state of the photo album, he believed that Melvin must have harbored love for his mother. Yet, since his arrival in the Cruz household, Melvin had talked of nothing but business interests, never once bringing up his mother's memory.

Melvin's stare was icy, and eventually, he diverted his eyes. With a firm tone, he declared, "I will never welcome such a woman into our family. Abandon the idea. Don't ever think about disowning me. I will set up more blind dates for you!"

It seemed the glare from his son caught Melvin off guard, making him recoil. With that, he quickly exited the scene.

Watching him leave, Marco's expression turned to one of disgust. Then, he calmly unlocked his phone.

By now, Marco had a solid grasp of the Cruz family's history and their business dealings.

After a moment's contemplation, Marco texted Carl, instructing the Solar Company to discreetly sabotage a significant deal for the Cruz family.

Upon receiving Carl's confirmation, Marco's gaze softened as he looked at Loraine's image on his screen, his eyes filled with affection and yearning. He couldn't resist texting her.

In his message, he half-jokingly sought validation. "I've turned down seven blind dates to stay true to you!"

Loraine found his message endearing and replied with a light-hearted, "Well done! You've earned my commendation!"

A smile spread across Marco's face as he texted back. But at the sound of footsteps at the door, he quickly hid his joy, putting away his phone and assuming a serious expression as he glanced through a report.

Melvin re-entered, oblivious to the swift change in Marco's demeanor, and coldly announced, "Your meeting with the Wilson daughter is set for tomorrow. Prepare yourself. No excuses this time. Attendance is mandatory, regardless of your

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## Chapter 904 The Wilson Family

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Marco's mood had vastly improved when he had talked to Loraine, but it instantly soured again. He cast a cold glance at Melvin. "I told you, I'm not going. You can't force me!"

Melvin was understandably displeased by the constant rejection. "I'm not asking you to go," he said in a firm voice, his expression darkening, "I am telling you. If you're not going, then you might as well stay here. You are not allowed to go anywhere else!"

Marco had been under house arrest for several days now. It wasn't until he had started to go on the blind dates, albeit reluctantly, that he was granted some semblance of freedom. What Melvin just said was tantamount to a threat of further captivity.

Ignoring Marco's sullen expression, Melvin strode into the room and placed a photo on the table. "This is a photo of the daughter of the Wilson family. The date is for tomorrow. The time and address are written at the back. Make sure to behave yourself. Don't even think about screwing this up!"

With that, Melvin turned on his heel and left. Once he was gone, Marco picked up the photo and threw it on the floor.

As much as he hated to admit it, he knew that throwing tantrums would do nothing to help him. He needed to find a way to ditch this blind date, hopefully for good.

Marco closed his eyes and heaved a long, weary sigh.

It took him a long while to calm down, after which, he picked up the photo again. The girl in the picture looked sweet and amiable enough, but he felt nothing.

He glanced at the name written at the bottom of the picture: Kaley Wilson.

Marco immediately instructed his men to look into the Wilson family and their daughter, Kaley. He was wise enough to acknowledge that his previous tricks might not work on this girl, especially when Melvin so clearly favored her. He needed every ammunition he could find if he wanted to secure victory.

Shortly after, he received an investigation file from his men, detailing the business and history of the Wilson family.

According to their information, the Wilson family was quite prominent in Zodiac, with their roots dating back several generations. In matter of social and financial standing, they were not inferior to the Cruz family at all. Unlike the Cruz family, however, the Wilson family seemed to prefer keeping a low profile.

When Marco read through the information pertaining to Kaley, he learned that Kaley's mother, Jaylah Wilson, was adopted.

And yet, sources indicated that the patriarch of the Wilson family favored Jaylah more than his actual, biological son. It wasn't just him, either—the whole Wilson family adored her.

Needless to say, they also doted on Jaylah's only child, who was now Marco's prospective marriage partner.

Marco finished reading everything and tossed the photo into the trash bin. He had no plans in going to that damn blind date. No matter what Melvin did to persuade him, Marco was determined to stand his ground.

It wasn't as if those dates were more enjoyable than being cooped up in his room. He would rather be locked in and chat with Loraine than waste his time on other women he didn't care about.

Marco knew that Loraine was busy with work these days, so he was careful to contact her only when his yearning for her became too unbearable. He didn't want to disturb her unnecessarily, especially when she already had so much on her plate.

He was mulling over his circumstances when his phone beeped. When he glanced at the screen, he saw that Loraine had replied to his message. His face broke into a warm smile. Perhaps it wasn't just him, perhaps she was missing him, too.

Sure enough, her message read, "I miss you so much, Marco. We've only been apart for a short time, but it feels like years have already passed. I don't know when I can see you again, but I can hardly wait."

"I miss you, too," Marco typed. "Don't worry, we'll meet again soon."

He just needed to secure his position in the Cruz family, and things could slowly go according to his plans. The problem was that Melvin was restricting him at every turn.

Marco suddenly thought of Kaley. His lips twitching into a mischievous smile, he typed out another message, this time to Melvin. "I'll go on tomorrow's blind date."

On the other side, Melvin was relieved, fully thinking that his son had finally seen reason. In return for Marco's obedience, he loosened the surveillance the following day.

When Marco entered the appointed place, his face was colder

and more distant than usual. He had quickly figured out that his foul temper usually sent his dates running in the first few minutes of their interaction.

Since this precious Miss Wilson was treated as the family's princess, surely, she would find such an attitude abhorrent, right? If she were the one to object to the match, then there was nothing Melvin could do to force the marriage.

But the moment Kaley caught sight of him, her eyes lit up with excitement. She did look reserved and timid, but he had barely sat down when she blurted out, "I—I would like to get engaged to you."

