

Chapter 922 Joining The Crew

Two days flew by in the blink of an eye. Loraine was on the verge of joining the crew at Vincent's request.

To prepare for her new role, she enlisted the help of a private acting coach and dedicated several days to refining her skills, diligently rehearsing scripts at home.

The film's storyline closely paralleled her experiences, stirring up memories and occasionally plunging her into emotional turmoil. Jennie and Vincent had asserted that she was ideally suited for the part.

Having acquired new responsibilities within the filmmaking team, Loraine deftly balanced her commitments at Universe Group. Fortunately, operations at her company proceeded without issue, sparing her the need for on-site oversight.

Delegating someone to handle the investigation, she stood before the mirror, adjusting her appearance. Opting for modest attire and light makeup, she aimed for an approachable and friendly demeanor.

Vincent tasked a charming, round-faced female assistant with welcoming Loraine at the gate.

Upon Loraine's arrival, the assistant, Isabella Jennings, welcomed her warmly and ushered her into the workplace without delay.

Isabella introduced herself with a bright smile, expressing her eagerness to assist Loraine. "Miss Torres, you can call me Isabella. Let's head to the dressing room right away. You're scheduled for the first session, and we've been eagerly awaiting

your arrival. Mr. Cohen is currently occupied with shooting other scenes, but as soon as you're ready, he'll guide you through your session in front of the camera. Do you have any insights or suggestions you'd like to share?"

Lorraine's heart pounded with nervousness, fearing she might fail the task and disappoint Vincent. However, Isabella's gentle voice helped ease her anxiety.

She chuckled softly, "I'm just a newcomer, Isabella. I don't have much experience, let alone any groundbreaking suggestions."

Her self-deprecating humor helped to ease the tension, and Isabella warmed to her immediately. Their conversation continued in a more relaxed and amiable atmosphere.

In the dressing room, two makeup artists, accompanied by their apprentices, marveled at Lorraine's beauty and delicate features. After exchanging greetings, they settled her into a reclining chair.

As they worked on penciling her eyebrows, they engaged in a string of banter in an attempt to make her laugh.

Lorraine pressed her lips together to suppress her laughter, careful not to disturb the rouge and powder on her face. "Quiet, please! If you mess up my makeup, the director will scold you."

Her words elicited laughter from the artists. Isabella remarked, "Miss Torres, you're much kinder than the previous actress hired for this role. If only you had joined us earlier!"

One of the makeup artists nodded in agreement. "Despite not being a star, the previous girl was very arrogant. She always acted superior and found fault with us."

Lorraine, not wanting to gossip, redirected the conversation to a discussion of the characters in the film.

Isabella, an avid reader of the original story, eagerly seized the opportunity to showcase her insight. She animatedly recounted the tale, gesturing enthusiastically. "You'll be portraying the only woman cherished by the hero! She remains an unforgettable character despite being separated from him due to life's twists and turns. Though she doesn't have many scenes in the film, many actresses aspire to play her!"

Reflecting on Loraine's words, Isabella asked, "Miss Torres, are you also a fan of Mr. Cohen? Have you harbored feelings for him in real life?"

Considering that Vincent recommended Loraine, her association with him might spark others' curiosity. A hint of embarrassment flashed across Loraine's face. "No, I have the utmost respect for him."

Just then, the makeup artists set down their eyebrow pencils. "All done!"

Loraine's character was to portray a naturally beautiful girl, standing out amidst a group of heavily made-up girls. Her subtle makeup perfectly suited the role, requiring no extravagant embellishments.

The makeup artists skillfully emphasized the aloofness in her character with precise strokes of the eyebrow pencils.

Isabella handed Loraine a costume to dress up in. Her innate nobility and grace captivated everyone when Loraine emerged from the dressing room.

Isabella exclaimed, "Miss Torres, you resemble the enchanting girl described by the author. Are you a character stepping out of his book?"

Several teammates showered Loraine with compliments. "Are you truly a novice? Your commanding presence exudes leadership qualities. You're destined to be an actress!"

Loraine smiled, "In reality, I'm a CEO, and I'm portraying one in the film. My professional background helps me understand the character deeply."

Her response ignited a lively discussion among the team members. They marveled at how Vincent had discovered an actress who embodied the role flawlessly.

However, their admiration was interrupted by a jealous voice. "Are you the one who's taken my role? You're nothing special compared to me!"

Chapter 923 A Repulsive Woman

All eyes shifted to a woman with thick makeup stepping through the gate. She wore an outfit similar to Loraine's, yet she couldn't match Loraine's beauty and elegance.

This woman was Veronica Lewis, the actress Loraine had replaced. Her harsh words stirred a wave of noise among the members of the crew, proving they were right to think she came to cause trouble. She marched directly toward Loraine, her eyes rolling in distaste.

Loraine felt bewildered by Veronica's baseless animosity; she racked her brain but couldn't understand why Veronica, a stranger to her, seemed so offended. She narrowed her eyes at Veronica, her forehead creasing in confusion.

Veronica let out a scornful snort. "You're just like everyone else; I can't believe Vincent chose you."

Veronica hinted darkly that there must have been an illicit exchange between Vincent and Loraine, insinuating that Loraine had offered sexual favors for landing the role.

Isabella held back her fury and said softly to Veronica, "Miss Lewis, your contract with us is over. You shouldn't be here. Please leave..."

Veronica glanced at her with contempt. "Who do you think you are? Just an assistant! How dare you speak to me like that?"

Isabella's frustration boiled over, but she stood firm, facing Veronica squarely.

Loraine moved in, placing herself between Isabella and Veronica. "I'll ask you the same thing. Who do you think you are?"

Veronica's anger erupted. "How dare you speak to me that way? Sure, Vincent may have fired me, but I'm still a renowned actress. You're just a nobody! With your lackluster acting, you would never have landed this role without getting cozy with Vincent! Your only asset is your looks."

Loraine retorted with a sneer, "And you're so certain because? You've tried that approach yourself?"

Veronica shouted back, "Ridiculous! I've earned my place with genuine talent! You're worthless. Without seducing Vincent, how could you replace me?"

Loraine remained composed, facing Veronica's fury. "Now I see why they let you go."

Veronica snapped, "What's that supposed to mean?"

Loraine scoffed, "Because your nasty attitude has annoyed everyone."

Her sharp reply amused the other staff members, who erupted into laughter.

Veronica's attempt to shame Loraine backfired, leaving her the one embarrassed.

She howled in fury, "You'll regret this! I am going to teach you a lesson!"

With that, Veronica lunged at Loraine, her arms swinging wildly, her long nails aimed to scratch Loraine's face.

As her nails nearly grazed Loraine's skin, some spectators covered their eyes, unable to watch what they feared would happen next.

But Loraine, skilled in self-defense, quickly sidestepped the assault.

Veronica, failing to hit her mark, stumbled forward due to her momentum.

She lost her footing, fell to the ground, and ended up lying flat, spread-eagled, causing a wave of gasps and screams from those watching. It was a sad and ludicrous sight, a well-known actress humiliating herself.

With tears in her eyes, Veronica managed to get up and faced Loraine angrily. "How dare you disrespect me! Do you have any idea who supports me? I'm backed by the Wilson family!"

Lorraine's brows knitted in puzzlement; the word 'Wilson' rang a bell. Suddenly, she heard a stern voice. "So what, even if you are backed by the Wilson family? How dare you act so self-important and arrogant!"

Veronica's face drained of color at the sight of the man by the gate. Her voice shook as she said, "Mr. Cohen..."



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Chapter 924 Doubt About Vincent's Identity

Vincent had been waiting for Loraine to arrive. Their film project had hit a snag when they couldn't find the right actress to replace Veronica, causing a pause in the shooting.

He and Aziel hurried to the reception hall to welcome Loraine. However, they were met with an unexpected scene: Veronica was there, yelling at Loraine.

Vincent caught bits and pieces of what the bystanders were saying, piecing together the drama that had unfolded between Veronica and Loraine.

After saying sorry to Loraine, he turned to Veronica with a stern look. "Stop blaming Loraine," he said firmly. "This was my call to have you replaced. If you have a problem with that, go ahead and tell the Wilsons to deal with me. I'd like to see if they actually care enough to step in."

Veronica, clueless about Vincent's connection to the Wilsons, was shocked by his boldness. She wondered, how could he dare oppose the Wilsons?

She paused, a theory forming in her mind.

There were whispers that Vincent was backed by a powerful family, a key player among investors. Since he joined the showbiz world, he had soared, collecting awards and acclaim. This led many to speculate he had a rich patron, yet who exactly supported him was still unknown.

Veronica, on the other hand, didn't have much clout. She

claimed the Wilsons backed her, but it seemed doubtful they'd confront Vincent, a global star, just to defend her.

Trying to avoid trouble, Veronica stopped arguing with Vincent and glared at Loraine. "You'll see, I'll get back at you," she warned.

Loraine simply smiled coldly. "Go ahead, I'm not scared."

Veronica pushed through the onlookers, storming out of the hall. With her gone, calmness settled back over the place. Vincent and Aziel then provided Loraine with some guidance for her upcoming filming.

Vincent couldn't help but praise Loraine. She matched the character from the book perfectly, especially in costume.

Aziel walked around her, examining her closely. He adjusted his glasses and said, "This role is meant for you!"

He initially disagreed with Vincent's sudden choice to swap Veronica for Loraine, who had zero acting background.

But the moment he saw Loraine in her makeup, he realized Vincent was right.

Loraine turned out to be humble and friendly, a refreshing change.

He was fed up with the haughty newcomers who often messed up and acted like they were better than everyone else.

Loraine responded with a polite smile, "That's very kind of you. I hope you'll guide me more in the future."

Aziel's face broke into a wide smile, clearly pleased.

Vincent joked with Aziel, "Mr. Lee, please believe me. I've never backed the wrong horse!"

He reassured Loraine, "Don't worry about Veronica. The Wilsons won't bother you over her."

Loraine wasn't intimidated by Veronica's threats. However, Vincent's confidence puzzled her. Could he be linked to the Wilsons?

She wondered if he had ties to the Wilsons, remembering Jennie's comments about him.

Loraine did not want him to stand up for her, fearing that she might feel indebted for his assistance, so she quickly said, "I'm fine. Don't bother."

Vincent paused, remembering their last encounter at the restaurant and the man who was with her. He believed that the man was Loraine's boyfriend, and she was trying to keep her distance due to fear of her lover's jealousy. He sighed. "Loraine, we're friends, aren't we?"

Loraine nodded hesitantly. He continued, "You're around my niece's age. There's no need to keep your distance just because of your boyfriend."

Despite his mature age, Vincent looked and sounded young. Realizing he belonged to her parents' generation surprised Loraine. Not bothering to clear up his misunderstanding, she managed a faint smile in response.

Vincent then teased, "If only my niece were as thoughtful as you!"

Chapter 925 Veronica's Complaint

Vincent's lighthearted words brought comfort to Loraine.

Ever since she arrived in Zodiac, she hadn't made many friends she could truly connect with, except for him.

As the crew was busy setting up the equipment, she found herself enjoying a casual conversation with him.

Loraine inquired, "Did you hear back from your teacher yet?"

Vincent exhaled a heavy sigh. "Unfortunately, my teacher fell ill and had to go overseas for better care. He sent me a message explaining that he won't be able to receive visitors for a while."

Loraine's face briefly showed her disappointment. Then he shared more, "He's planning to tour Kitay once he's better. He fell in love with its stunning scenery on his first visit and can't wait to explore it again."

Her mood lifted at this piece of news. "Do you think you could take me with you when you go see him? I've got a couple of questions for him too."

His response was light-hearted. "Of course. Consider it done!"

Aziel signaled for them to join him. He felt it was important for Loraine to get acquainted with the set, especially since she was new to the scene. He had arranged for Vincent to guide her.

But to his amazement, she was already well-versed with the script, could recite the entire storyline and showed great

synergy with Vincent during the practice run.

Aziel was impressed with her performance and optimistic about her future in the industry.

She shared with him the effort she put in to prepare for this opportunity.

Her dedication touched him deeply, something he found rare among newcomers.

Initially, she was just meant to be a temporary addition to the cast, filling in a small role amidst bigger stars like Vincent. The expectation was that she wouldn't stand out much in the film.

However, her audition turned out to be a triumph, earning applause from the entire team. Meanwhile, Veronica stormed off, filled with envy and rage.

She quickly called Kaley to vent her frustration. "Kaley, I was treated unfairly by another actress today. I need your help to set things right!"

Kaley inquired, "Who are you talking about? You're my close friend. Who would dare trouble you?"

Tears streamed down Veronica's face. "She stole my spotlight! Her only advantage is her looks. I can't understand why the director chose her. I've looked into the brand of clothing she wears. She dresses plainly and doesn't seem like someone with a wealthy sponsor. I just can't figure out how she managed to charm the director."

Veronica directed her fury towards Loraine, viewing her as a novice with no significant influence in showbiz. She was taken aback when Vincent stood up for Loraine.

Bitterness consumed her as she recalled the recent embarrassment. She twisted the truth, aiming to provoke Kaley

into taking swift action. "What's more, she belittled the Wilson family. She claimed that the Wilsons weren't a concern! And to make matters worse, Vincent supported her, echoing her disrespectful remarks about the Wilsons!"

Kaley was surprised to hear about Vincent's involvement. "Are you talking about the renowned actor, Mr. Cohen?"

Veronica confirmed, "Yes, that's him! In my opinion, Loraine has tricked him. He not only criticized me but also forced me out of the set!"

She was convinced that Kaley would take her side and cause trouble for Loraine.

Kaley sneered, "Anyone who crosses my friend is an adversary of mine. I won't let her get away with it! Relax, I've got your back!"



Chapter 926 Scenes

In the crew, the pivotal moment of the hero's first encounter with his unforgettable love was finally approaching.

Aziel admired Loraine's talent, but since she was a newcomer, he decided not to rush her into filming. Instead, he instructed her to observe Vincent's performance from behind the camera and filmed a scene involving Vincent and supporting characters for her reference.

"While having Vincent involve his partner in the scene can be advantageous, there are also drawbacks. If his counterpart can't hold her ground, she might end up being completely overshadowed by him. So, you..."

As Aziel explained Vincent's role to Loraine, he also provided guidance on how to avoid being overshadowed when performing alongside Vincent.

Loraine listened attentively, but as she glanced at Vincent amidst the green screen, she found herself lost in thought.

She felt an inexplicable sense of familiarity the moment she laid eyes on Vincent, particularly drawn to his gentle gaze when he smiled.

In a blink, Vincent's scene concluded.

Approaching with a smile, he handed her a bottle of water. "It's almost time for us to share the stage. Are you nervous?"

After a moment's contemplation, Loraine finally shook her head, dismissing any nerves.

It was common knowledge that she effortlessly commanded the stage during her tenure as lead singer. Now, transitioning to a new role, she felt not an ounce of nervousness, but rather a surge of excitement.

Aziel, observing her demeanor, was so pleased that he was tempted to begin filming immediately. Loraine's ambitious, confident, and proud expression perfectly captured the scene's essence.

"It's the first time our hero, a newcomer, lays eyes on his unforgettable love. At this moment, she's risen to the position of CEO, and the hero is in awe of her. She exudes an air of superiority, but her gaze unexpectedly lands on the hero in the corner..."

After Aziel outlined the scene, the crew commenced filming.

It was no surprise that Vincent was hailed as one of the great actors. Positioned amidst the crowd, he portrayed the blend of ambition and youthful bashfulness with remarkable authenticity.

As he watched the female CEO swiftly pass by, his thoughts drifted to his colleagues' private discussions about her journey from a rural girl to a formidable queen who had forged her own business empire.

He felt both admiration and longing. The young man's ambition drove him to aspire to achieve similar excellence someday.

As the female CEO maintained her steady gaze ahead, she appeared to catch the intricate expression in the corner of her eye. Her initially cold demeanor softened slightly...

The young man's heart skipped a beat. He realized that the female CEO was not as aloof as rumored. Her eyes held a hint of understanding and warmth. She didn't seem perturbed by the scrutiny of a novice like him; instead, she offered a slight

smile.

Then, it was the female CEO's scene. She portrayed a formidable force, swiftly dealing with a senior manager who had been lining his own pockets. With an air of authority, Loraine, in character, tossed the document to the floor with a steely expression. The silence that followed was deafening.

Moments later, Aziel exclaimed, "Cut!"

The entire crew erupted into excitement. Aziel approached Loraine to offer his congratulations. "Perfect! Absolutely perfect! Keep up the fantastic work!"

Praise flooded in from all directions, with even Vincent giving her a thumbs up.

As Isabella and the makeup artist touched up Loraine's makeup, they teasingly remarked, "Miss Torres, are you sure you're not actually a female CEO? The way you handled those documents made us feel like trembling employees!"

Loraine responded with a slight smile, "Yes, I am."

However, her light-hearted tone was taken as a jest, and no one regarded it thoughtfully.

After finishing Loraine's makeup, Isabella informed her, "There's another scene set for this afternoon—a party scene. The crew has reserved the most renowned banquet hall. It's extravagantly luxurious! And as for tonight's costume, specially rented for this role, it showcases the latest luxury styles of the year! Even the jewelry was designed by Mr. T. The crew has spared no expense!"

The rest of the crew couldn't help but feel envious, realizing that if not for their involvement in the production, they might never have had the opportunity to experience such luxury.

However, Loraine raised her eyebrows and calmly remarked, "I'll make sure to deliver this afternoon."

With numerous scenes for Loraine's role left unfinished, Aziel was eager to complete them in one go. After Loraine touched up her makeup, they promptly resumed filming, progressing swiftly until it was time for a break.

After changing back into her clothes, Loraine joined Isabella and the others for lunch in a modest manner, without any pretense.

While eating, a staff member approached Loraine and informed her, "Miss Torres, Mr. Lee is searching for you. He mentioned he'll be waiting to discuss the evening scenes in the lounge at the end of the third floor."

Loraine acknowledged the message, stood up, and left.

As the crew members began to take naps one by one, a woman dressed identically to Loraine stealthily slipped into the prop room.

Before she stood a luxurious gown, sparking a covetous gleam in her eyes. She murmured, "Don't blame me. They've paid me handsomely to do this..."

With caution, she retrieved a gown prepared in advance and clandestinely swapped it with the one displayed on the prop shelf!