

Chapter 934 Picked Up By Boyfriend

In a grand banquet hall, sparkling lights cast enchanting colors while the sweet sound of piano music floated through the air. People were clinking glasses, soaking in the joyful atmosphere. All of a sudden, they exclaimed in delight at the sight of Loraine.

She was the head of a company, dressed in a beautiful evening gown and shimmering with exquisite jewels.

She moved with a grace that reminded one of a delicate swan gliding over water. Making her way to the podium, she greeted her enthusiastic supporters with a wave and began to speak into the microphone.

Wrongly accused, she fought back by unveiling the truth and presenting proof to the crowd. As her speech concluded, she offered a respectful bow to the audience, who responded with roaring applause. A look of mixed happiness and sadness crossed her face, as she remembered some past events.

She squeezed her eyes shut, fighting back tears. Suddenly, darkness enveloped the room as all the lights went off. Aziel yelled to his videographer, "Okay. Stop!"

When the lights came back on, the staff broke into applause, celebrating Loraine's splendid performance.

Loraine headed back to her dressing room to take off her stage makeup. A group of young women couldn't hide their excitement, praising her acting. "Miss Torres, you were incredible! You're even more talented than some of the veteran actors!"

Loraine shook her head, smiling, "Oh, it's nothing special. I still have so much to learn from the professionals."

Isabella gave her a thumbs-up. "Still, you were amazing! But... Miss Torres, your upcoming scenes involve a rather intense scenario that requires you to portray deep emotions. Are you okay with that?"

Loraine knew exactly what Isabella was hinting at.

Next, she would be portraying a scene where she's attacked by thugs in a dim alley, rarely walked by anyone.

Loraine bit her lip. "Yes. I'll do my best."

The plot was strikingly similar to something she had endured herself. The role often threw her into emotional chaos, as if she were experiencing her past all over again.

But unlike the lonely, defenseless character she portrayed, she had been much more fortunate. In her darkest hour, she had met Marco, akin to a hero swooping in to save her from despair.

Lost in her thoughts, the sound of her phone ringing snapped Loraine back to the present. It was a call from Marco.

Her cheeks warmed up, remembering how Marco had protected her from all the attackers.

A makeup artist was busy removing makeup from Loraine's face, puzzled by the persistent redness. "How strange. Why is the red so vivid?"

Her words made Loraine's heart flutter with a mix of embarrassment and nervousness.

Curiosity led the makeup artist to peek at Loraine's phone screen. "Miss Torres, is that your boyfriend calling? Why aren't you answering his call?"

Blushing, Loraine nodded in agreement and answered the call. "Hello, Marco." She spoke into the phone.

Her voice, usually so stern, now held a sweetness. The staff members around her exchanged knowing glances and murmured about her romantic life.

Loraine put on a stern face and coughed loudly to quiet them down. Then, with an affectionate tone, she said, "Thank you for your help. Your video spared me from a long explanation."

Marco's laughter filled the air. "As your boyfriend, isn't it my duty to help you? Like you say, we're in this together, through thick and thin."

A bright smile lit up Loraine's face.

Marco's voice grew softer. "I'm here outside. Come out when you're ready."

Anxious to see Marco, Loraine urged the makeup artist to finish quickly, not bothering to change her outfit.

She hurried outside, holding her dress's hem with both hands to prevent it from sweeping the ground. Then she noticed a car parked by the gate.

As the window lowered, Marco's attractive face came into view, his lips forming a slight smile. "The moon's out tonight. Would Miss Torres care to join me for a late-night snack?"

Beaming with happiness, Loraine took her seat next to him, as graceful as a butterfly settling on a flower.

Marco leaned in to fasten her seatbelt, his arm around her waist, and planted a kiss on her cheek.

Chapter 935 Candlelight Dinner

Their kiss reignited long-lost passions, marking a delayed yet heartfelt reunion.

Marco looked at Loraine, his eyes alight with desire. Having missed her dearly, he held her close, savoring the scent of her hair.

He fought the urge to rush things, choosing instead to flirt and savor the moment. He was skilled at stirring desire while keeping up a gentlemanly appearance. He devoured her lips and traced her waist with his fingers.

Soon, she seemed close to giving in to his advances.

Gently, she pushed him back, catching her breath and flushing with a shy glow.

She fought the temptation to stay close to him, wary of losing her composure.

Seeking a diversion, she shifted the conversation. "What brings you here? How did you manage to slip away from the Cruz residence?"

He encircled her with his arms, whispering, "I told them I had a meeting with Jimmie. He's a world-famous lawyer, with considerable sway in the political realm. The Cruz family always accorded him the utmost respect."

Loraine gave a playful pout. "I wish they showed me the same respect!"

He laughed and reassured her with a kiss on her forehead. "Actually, Jimmie had plans with Jennie. Without using his name, the Cruz family would never have allowed me to leave."

She agreed, "We owe Jimmie and Jennie for this."

He treasured this rare opportunity to be with her, relishing the fleeting joy of her company.

They left the bustling city center for a quaint restaurant tucked away in a quiet corner.

The restaurant's simple exterior belied its elegant interior.

Soft lighting and soothing music created a tranquil atmosphere. The scent of perfume roses filled the air. Candles flickered gently, casting a warm glow on the diners.

Marco pulled out a chair from under the table, motioning for Loraine to take a seat. "Remember that candlelight dinner we had?" he began. "We didn't quite have the night we hoped for because of an unexpected turn of events. Now, we have another chance."

Loraine reflected on a past incident where their dinner was interrupted by an urgent call from Liza, causing a sudden end to their evening.

Back then, he was deeply involved with the Bryant family's issues. Despite his hectic schedule, he always found time for her, going out of his way to bring joy into her life.

Their love endured the toughest trials, and life's ups and downs made them ponder deeply, strengthening their resolve to weather any storm together.

Moved by Marco's unwavering devotion, Loraine felt tears welling up. She lamented playfully, "I shouldn't have removed my makeup tonight! This evening is too special for that!"

She felt a deep sense of gratitude for all Marco had done since they arrived in Zodiac, far beyond what words could express.

Despite his own troubles, he consistently managed to surprise her pleasantly.

She pondered how long he had waited for her after work.

How much effort he had put into arranging their dinner?

She was saddened by his struggles with the Cruz family and yearned for their return to Vagow, a place of freedom for him.

Seeing her tears, Marco quickly knelt by her side, gently dabbing her face with a napkin. "You're always beautiful to me, makeup or no makeup."

Lorraine's emotions intensified, her eyes brimming with tears. He embraced her, asking, "Are you enjoying tonight?"

She responded with a nod, her cheeks flushing.

He presented her with a rose, kissed her gently, and murmured endearments.

Feeling a rush of warmth, she playfully pushed him away, teasingly pinching his nose. "Where did you learn to speak so sweetly?"

He laughed, "You're my best teacher in that."



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Chapter 936 Benton Family's Plot

Macro and Loraine stayed longer at the restaurant, saying sweet nothings to each other. The two cherished this brief period of union very much. However, time seemed to fly quickly, and it was finally time for them to part their ways. In the end, they reluctantly let go of each other and bid goodbye.

When Loraine woke up the next morning, she still felt lost, longing to be with Marcon. Her fingertips gently brushed across her lips as if she was feeling the warmth of Marco's kiss from the previous night.

The beautiful memory flashed in her mind, and she couldn't help but sigh out of helplessness. Only after a while did she go to the bathroom to wash up and send a message to Isabella to ask about today's arrangement. She was about to drive to the filming site when her phone vibrated with a notification sound. It was a message from Isabella.

"Miss Torres, you don't need to come to the filming site today because Aziel has decided to put off your work. You have to play a victim role in the next scene, and to ensure your safety, Aziel wants the supporting characters to play their parts with extra care. He needs more time to train them."

Loraine replied, "Okay."

Recently, she had been dedicating more of her time and effort to her part-time acting job. In doing so, she had little time to handle business affairs of Universe Group. Now that she didn't have to go to the filming site, she went to the company and asked her staff how the company was doing.

The employees reported that the Solar Company had started its cooperation with Universe Group in Vagow and was willing to expand its cooperation with the latter in Zodiac.

Since Solar Company held a big influence in the international market, Loraine was very happy to hear that Solar Company had started a business venture in her country. Besides, Solar Company had always had her back and supported her company in many ways. She took it as a trustworthy partner and would not let this chance go. Immediately, she asked her staff to send her some related documents.

While she was looking at the documents, she heard a knock on the office door.

With her eyes still glued to the documents, she said, "Come in."

The door creaked open, and Jaden entered, greeting her with a bright smile. "Lorrie, you're back?"

Loraine raised her head, returning a bright smile at him. "Mr. Benton, what brings you here?"

Jaden acted like an amiable elder, chatting with a friendly tone without talking about business at first. Only when Loraine seemed impatient did he get to the point, saying, "Lorrie, the shareholders have complained about your frequent absence. They asked me why you hadn't shown up these days. Were you too busy to come here?"

Loraine looked at him carefully, and a memory of the conversation which was recorded by her mother's necklace flashed in her mind, making her feel suspicious.

She was still wary of his real intentions.

She couldn't put her trust in him completely until the investigation proved his innocence.

After a while, she answered with a calm tone, "Mr. Benton, I was feeling upset by some personal affairs. I don't think it's necessary for me to make more explanation to the shareholders."

Jaden chuckled lightly. "Yeah, you're right. But you'd better stick to your post. Otherwise, you will become a victim of the workplace gossip! How about I ask Cayson to come to the company and take over your job?" He pretended as if he was looking out for Loraine and said, "Cayson often helped you in Vagow, and he has been to Zodiac for business trips several times. Besides, he has a good relationship with you."

Loraine immediately shook her head and said, "Cayson is already occupied by his own business. I don't want to disturb him."

"How is it that you are troubling him?" He didn't give up his scheme and continued, "Lorrie, you have been on good terms with Cayson since you were a child. Your father was also very satisfied with Cayson's capabilities. My wife and I consider you as our own daughter as well. Besides, you are old enough to get married now. If you marry Cayson, he can share your workload. You will be relieved of a huge burden. You can devote all your time to doing whatever you like!"

After hearing his words, Loraine put on a polite smile and declined his request, saying, "Mr. Benton, I've always treated Cayson as my brother. Also, I have a boyfriend now, and I love him very much! I believe Cayson will find a good girlfriend..."

Seeing that he couldn't convince her at all, Jaden bit his lip to hold back his anger and bid goodbye to her.

Loraine was left confused. Did Jaden come here for the sole purpose of making a match between her and Cayson?

Not wanting to waste her time, she put all her thoughts at the

back of her mind and focused on her work again.

After leaving the office, Jaden's expression became darkened more and more. He headed to a quiet spot and took out his cellphone which had been on a call the whole time. Then, he warned in a grave voice, "Cayson, did you hear what she said just now? If you don't take immediate action, you will miss the last chance!"



Chapter 937 Being Decisive

On the other end of the phone, Cayson crumpled some papers in his hand, his face showing a look of deep sadness. Loraine's words broke his heart into pieces.

Trapped in his feelings of unreturned love, Cayson kept trying to win Loraine over. He was shocked to hear her clear rejection in front of his father.

Jaden mocked him, "I told you before! Sometimes you need to be a bit decisive, but you didn't listen. You stuck to your 'let's leave it to fate' idea! Now, your chances with Loraine are getting thinner."

Cayson pressed his lips together, his eyes filled with tears and his voice filled with grief. "I love Loraine. I won't make her marry me if she doesn't want to!"

Jaden scoffed, "She's currently in Zodiac. I bet she's going to cause me problems! If you're not ready to give up, come to Zodiac and help me! If you take over the Universe Group, you can call the shots with her."

Jaden thought of his son as a good-hearted person who avoided wrongdoing. He felt he needed to push Cayson to act now to achieve his goals.

For many years, the Benton family had loyally served the Torres family like dedicated servants!

Aldo didn't like the idea of taking orders from Loraine. The thought of Cayson working under the Torres family for his whole life was unbearable to him.

As head of Loraine's branch company in Zodiac, Jaden grew weary of the routine of submitting reports regularly and following her directives. He remained resolute in his determination to spare Cayson from a similar fate.

However, his plan to take over the Universe Group was ruined because Cayson wouldn't conspire with him against Loraine.

He was proud of Cayson's good character but worried about his son's future.

Since Cayson was not motivated by money or fame, he tried to convince him by presenting his plan as the only way to win Loraine's affection.

Cayson's unexpected silence suggested he might be changing his mind about the situation.

When Jaden first proposed his plan, Cayson angrily rejected it as it went against his ethics. If Jaden weren't his father, Cayson would have reported his scheme to Aldo.

Since then, Jaden frequently tried to convince Cayson of the value of his secret plan, leaving Cayson torn between disappointing his family and betraying his beloved Loraine. Over time, Cayson began to waver in his firm rejection of Jaden's harmful strategy.

Jaden smiled with evil intent. "Stop wavering and follow my advice, Cayson. This is your last chance! Once Loraine marries her boyfriend, it'll be too late for you!"

Cayson ran his fingers through his hair, his eyes burning with anger and envy.

He felt overshadowed by Marco, who had recently been revealed as a young heir of the Cruz family, catapulting him to a higher social status.

Cayson knew that without achieving significant success, Loraine wouldn't see him as a suitable partner.

He clenched his teeth, hardening his voice. "Fine, I'll head to Zodiac in a few days!"

After ending the call, Jaden let out a loud, victorious laugh. Meanwhile, Marco was stuck in the Cruz family's estate, yearning for Loraine.

Marco had no issues with her choice to work as a part-time actress. He closely monitored her work environment and even placed his people in the movie production team to protect her from any harm.

He reached out to a source to check on her activities at the movie set.

The source reported, "Mr. Bryant, she's not scheduled to act today. She's supposed to play a role attacked by gangsters in a few days."

Marco's brow furrowed. "Is that so?"

The source added, "Indeed, and the professional actors initially cast as the attackers were replaced without warning. The new actors seem more like actual thugs than actors. The director delayed Loraine's scenes to ensure her safety."

Marco stood up abruptly, his heart racing with worry. "Investigate the backgrounds of her co-workers! We need to guarantee her safety at all costs!"

Still feeling uneasy, he called Loraine. When he heard her gentle voice, he felt a bit calmer. He chose not to alarm her about the potential threat at the movie set.


He was determined to resolve any issues for her, ensuring her acting career faced no obstacles.

Taking a deep breath, he whispered, "I miss you."



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Chapter 938 Murder Plot

As Loraine listened to Marco's gentle voice over the phone, she couldn't help but reminisce about their ephemeral reunion last night. In fact, she even imagined him wrapping his arms around her and breathing in the scent of her hair.

By now, her ears were burning hot and her face was blushing fiercely. "Are you free now?" she quickly asked in a bid to change the topic and hide her embarrassment even though she knew that he could not see her.

Marco replied with a chuckle, "I miss you so much, Loraine. What are you doing right now?"

Loraine faked a cough in an effort to hold back her laughter. Then she replied in a serious tone, "I'm reading a script now. I have a movie role I need to enact in two days' time. If I don't prepare carefully, I won't be able to perform well enough and my teammates will feel let down."

"I've heard a lot about your wonderful acting skills," Marco said in admiration. "So don't worry. Just take it easy. I'm sure you'll do great."

Loraine snorted, "Have you forgotten when you said you would sponsor the film and take me out on a date when you come to inspect the set? I waited for you for so long, but you never came!"

"I'll surely come to see you," Marco promised. "I'm glad you put up a very good performance on your first attempt at acting."

But he didn't stop there. With the words of his informant on his mind, he went on in a tone filled with worry, "But Loraine, I think

it would be best if you'd quit your part-time job as an actress. In the entertainment industry, people plot against one another all the time."

"I know," Loraine sighed. "The reason I took this job was because Vincent asked me for help. Besides, I like the role quite well. It seems like it was specially designed for me. But I'll leave the film industry when my contract ends."

The prospect of his girlfriend starring in a movie filled Marco with pride, but he was very worried that she might get hurt.

"If you want, you can practise your acting at home. I'll be happy to be your spectator," he said in a soft tone.

His flirtatious tone reminded her of the times when they used to do a lot of role-playing in bed.

The mere thought of those erotic scenes made her blush shyly.

But she quickly feigned composure and bantered with him to remove her mind from those dirty thoughts. "I don't think you'll be able to afford my appearance fee," she said teasingly.

Marco couldn't help but burst into laughter. He just wished he could see her as quickly as possible. He missed her very much.

To distract himself from this desire to be intimate with her, he decided to switch to his work. After a casual talk, he bid goodbye to her and hung up the phone.

But just then, his phone screen lit up, showing that he had a new message. He picked up the phone and opened the message.

It read, "Mr. Bryant, I've found that those who played the role of thugs are real hooligans, not actors. Someone hired them to attack Loraine under the guise of acting. They were offered a lot of money as reward. Unfortunately, we still don't know who

is behind it."

After reading this, Marco got up and began to pace the room. After a while, he took a deep breath and replied to the text, "Go to the director as an investor and urge him to replace all those actors! Then go on with your investigation until you track down the mastermind behind all this."

This whole thing made him very angry. Even if the mastermind could be identified, it might not be easy to prove anything.

And the idea of using Loraine as a bait to entice her enemies to show up was not something that Marco wanted to even consider. It would certainly put her life at risk.

Meanwhile, Kaley was soon informed about the failure of her plot against Loraine. All of the people she had sent to infiltrate the filming had been expelled from the film crew.

This news made her fume with anger. It was very painful that her plan was foiled by no one but her beloved Marco.

In fact, her heart was overwhelmed with jealousy.

Her goal had been to tarnish Loraine's reputation by paying some ruffians to assault Loraine sexually under the guise of film-making. In case of a lawsuit, they could easily claim that their actions were a part of the film's storyline and therefore escape all the legal consequences.

She was intent on ruining Loraine's reputation at all costs in order to distance her from Marco and prevent her from becoming a daughter-in-law of the Cruz family.

But she couldn't help but wonder how on Earth Marco had managed to discover this secret of hers.

Her envy of Loraine and the way she was being protected by Marco all the time had taken over her mind.

Kaley gritted her teeth and racked her brain in search of an even more venomous plan of action against Loraine.

Eventually, a suitable idea entered her head.

The plan was simple. Loraine would be pressed against a cracked wall in a scene. As long as the wall had been secretly tampered with, Loraine would get hurt or even lose her life.

A murderous look flashed across Kaley's eyes as she ran the plan through her head again and again. Then she sent a message to her subordinate while murmuring to herself, "Loraine, if I don't kill you once and for all, you'll never stop getting in my way!"



Chapter 939 Encountering A Rival In Love

Upon receiving a message from Aziel, Loraine hastily wrapped up her work at Universe Group and sped off to the film set.

She was to play the role of the hero's cherished love interest, whose tragic fate molded his character, inspired him to build a business empire, and etched a permanent scar on his heart.

Flipping through the script, Loraine contemplated how best to embody the character's indomitable spirit.

Anxiety gnawed at her after reading the comments online, especially those from readers of the original book. They deemed the character an unmatched paragon, casting doubt on whether any actress could be suitable for the role.

Aziel gave her precise instructions on how to convey the character's emotions. "The girl goes to a bar to drink and dance away her sorrows. She is plunged into despair and loneliness, grappling with the toughest moment in her life with no one to rely on..."

Loraine nodded, recalling how she had felt in the aftermath of her divorce from Marco and assuming control of the Universe Group.

Aziel elaborated further, "Focus on your emotions. After stumbling out of the bar, you stagger alone down the street, intoxicated and drained. Then you're accosted by thugs. Despite the assault, you resist fiercely, refusing to yield to them. You never once waver in your pursuit of happiness even in the midst of adversity."

The director's words reminded Loraine of unpleasant experiences from her past, stirring her emotions.

The make-up artists asked, "Miss Torres, you'll be dressed as a person who has been sexually assaulted, so the makeup might be a bit unflattering. Are you comfortable with that?"

She thought that a CEO like Loraine would never accept wearing unkempt clothes and make-up. After all, many actresses insisted on having their make-up look pristine all the time, regardless of whether it fit the storyline or not.

Loraine reassured her with a smile. "I should adapt myself to my role for the film. I don't mind."

Since she had experienced something similar in real life, she was unfazed by the potentially embarrassing scene that she would have to act in.

They were all in the dressing room, unaware of what was going on outside.

At the entrance of the film site, a beautiful woman arrived to visit Vincent.

Vincent agreed with Kaley's sentiment from before: the younger generation shouldn't be dragged into the grudges of the past.

Fortunately, Kaley's upbringing in the Wilson family shielded her from the influence of her mother, Jaylah.

Vincent had never divulged his family background to anyone before. Now, he introduced Kaley to his colleagues. "This is my niece, Kaley Wilson."

Kaley's delicate features, luxurious outfit, and courteous manners were all indicative of her social status. Everyone greeted her warmly.

Vincent escorted Kaley into his workplace, oblivious to the envy and resentment festering within her. "Kaley, have you given up on Marco? If not, you will when you see his girlfriend. To be honest, she's prettier and kinder than you..."

Jealousy bubbled up inside Kaley, and she inwardly cursed Vincent for belittling her while praising Loraine.

However, she masked her feelings and said, "Of course! I'll take your advice. But it's always nice to meet someone you speak highly of."

Vincent nodded in agreement. Then, seeing Loraine emerge out of the dressing room, he grinned and waved enthusiastically at her. "Loraine, come over here!"

Kaley glowered at Vincent. She resented him for his cutting remarks about her, and his warm reception of Loraine.

In Kaley's eyes, Loraine was her sworn enemy.

The mere sight of Loraine's refined features ignited a surge of jealousy within Kaley.

Moreover, Loraine's makeup only served to emphasize her elegance and sophistication. With a graceful smile, she acknowledged both Vincent and Kaley.

Kaley couldn't swallow the fact that she was being eclipsed by Loraine, who she believed was inferior to her in terms of family background and social standing.

Concealing her frustration, she plastered on a smile. "Miss Torres, it's a pleasure to meet you. I'm Vincent's niece."

