

Chapter 975 Trapped In The Shopping Mall

Loraine was adjusting her makeup in front of the mirror when she noticed a strange woman enter, but she paid no mind and kept applying her makeup.

The woman wandered around and then left without doing anything noticeable, which Loraine found odd. A thought struck her suddenly, and she froze, lifting her head to survey the restroom's layout.

The restroom's window was very small, effectively ruling out any exit except through the main door.

At that moment, she heard a faint noise from the door and instantly reacted. She hurried to the door and tried to open it.

As she feared, the door was locked!

Outside the restroom, Carlotta stood with her arms crossed. Listening to Loraine's attempts to open the door, she sneered smugly, "You shouldn't have crossed the wrong person. Enjoy your time in the restroom! Let's see how you make your appointment now!"

Carlotta had already paid off the mall's cleaner. For tonight, at least, no one would suspect anything was amiss here, much less come to Loraine's rescue.

She then placed an "Under Repair" sign at the restroom door. After admiring her "handiwork" for a moment, she walked away.

Loraine pounded on the door for a while, but there was no

answer. She frowned, realizing that the strange woman must have locked her in.

However, she didn't recognize the woman at all, nor did she remember ever having offended her. What could her motive be?

Reflecting on her recent car accident, Loraine felt her heart drop. She was aware that in Zodiac, there were many who wished her harm, some even wishing her dead.

As she stared at the sealed door of the restroom, her panic increased.

If the woman who had locked her in was connected to those responsible for the car accident, this might be more than just a threat.

Loraine was afraid of dying. The psychological trauma from the car accident had left her more vulnerable than before, and she was still recovering. With the thought of potential danger looming, her hands shook as she pulled out her mobile phone.

She knew she couldn't just sit and wait for the worst. This was a busy mall, and any attempt to harm her here would surely be less overt than the car accident had been.

Trying to steady her nerves, Loraine realized she had unconsciously dialed Marco's number.

She stared at the familiar digits. Even though she had blacklisted him, his number still appeared at the top of her contact list, suggesting deep down, she still found him trustworthy and dependable.

Almost in a daze, the phone connected after just two rings, catching her off guard.

Marco's voice, filled with surprise and confusion, came through. "Loraine, you finally called me. Have you calmed down? Loraine,

can you forgive me? I..."

Upon hearing his voice, Loraine paused, and then her expression hardened. She forced herself to stay composed and responded coolly, "Nothing."

After she said that, she hung up the phone immediately. Leaning against the door absentmindedly, she gave a self-mocking smile.

She laughed at herself for still being so foolish even after the car accident. How could she still think of him first when in danger?

Loraine dismissed her fragile emotions.

She knew she had to break her excessive dependence on Marco! Right now, the most pressing issue was finding a way out.

She had managed to survive a car accident, so escaping now should also be possible.

She glanced at the phone screen. There was still some time left before her meeting with Cayson. She always liked to be punctual, which was why she had left ample time.

Should she call Cayson for help?

She shook her head, dismissing the idea. She hadn't handled the dinner situation well. If she called Cayson now, he might think she was giving him an opportunity.

Loraine sighed and kept looking for someone nearby who could help. Just as she found a suitable contact and was about to call, her phone screen went black—it was out of battery.

Her expression darkened. She realized she had been working overtime the past few days and hadn't charged her phone in a long time.

Did she really have to wait to be found by the mall staff?

Frustrated by the thought, Loraine studied the door lock closely, then lifted the hem of her dress and kicked the lock forcefully with her high heels.

Thanks to her uncle's military training, Loraine was far from helpless. After about ten minutes of continuous kicking, the doorknob loosened and dangled, barely attached.

A smile of relief spread across Loraine's face. With one final push, the restroom door fell to the floor.

However, the force of her action surprised her, and she was slightly stunned by how hard she had pushed the door.

But it was too late. She stumbled forward, about to fall.

Closing her eyes, Loraine silently hoped this fall wouldn't ruin her dress.

Just then, she heard a familiar voice call her name anxiously.

And in the next moment, she was caught in a warm embrace.



Chapter 976 A Brief Tender Moment

Loraine opened her eyes and looked up in confusion. She saw Marco staring back at her, his jaw tight.

He must have run here. His breathing was heavy. Nevertheless, he carried her gently in his arms.

"Are you all right?" he asked in concern as he helped her up.

The moment he asked this, Loraine suddenly felt aggrieved and her eyes turned red.

She couldn't help but recall just how desperate she was the day she could not get through to him when the car accident occurred.

At such a critical moment of life and death, the person she needed the most was nowhere to be seen and could not be contacted. Deep down in her heart, she became highly resentful.

But now, he was here, just twenty minutes after she called him.

Since she had already gotten herself out of danger, what was the point of his presence?

But all of a sudden, she remembered the angry statement she made to him about breaking up with him.

With this in mind, even though she was still unnerved and would have loved to continue resting in his warm embrace, she pushed him away from her and stood up. "Why are you here?"

she asked in a cold tone.

Marco was confused. Nevertheless, he proceeded to explain himself, "I was worried when I got your call, so..."

"How did you know I was here?" Loraine asked with a sneer.

"I... I asked Qbot to find out your phone's location," Marco murmured, his head lowered like a pupil who had done something wrong. "Please don't be annoyed. I... I got a call from you all of a sudden, but when I called back, you didn't answer, so I was very worried. That's why I decided to locate you by all means."

Loraine didn't say anything in response. After all, if Marco had not arrived in time, she would have had a bad fall.

Being a reasonable woman who could easily and clearly distinguish between kindness and wrongdoing, she kept quiet for a long time before calmly replying, "Thank you for coming to help me."

Marco shook his head and glanced at the collapsed restroom door behind her, a hint of sternness flashing across his eyes. "But I was still late," he said with a sigh, clearly blaming himself for what happened.

Loraine was in no mood to discuss this issue at the moment. Nonetheless, she was grateful for Marco's help. But since the issue between them had not yet been settled, she did not want to hear him talk as if he was her boyfriend, so she said to him in a cold tone, "Even though you just came to my aid, I haven't forgotten how you lied to me before. Anyway, you don't need to blame yourself for not coming fast enough. You had no such obligation in the first place. Our relationship is over after all."

The look on Marco's face was one of surprise and pain. But Loraine closed her eyes for a moment, then she said, "You can leave now. I don't need your help anymore, and I have nothing

more to say to you."

She had thought that Marco would get sad and leave after hearing this. But he only kept quiet for a moment. Then, to her astonishment, he picked her up!

Loraine gasped in shocked and instinctively wrapped her arms around Marco's neck. "What are you doing?" she shouted at him.

Marco didn't say anything in response. He just carried her outside.

Loraine became even angrier. She began to pound her fists on his shoulders and yell, "Put me down right now!"

But Marco wasn't fazed at all. Instead, he leaned closer to her and whispered, "If you keep shouting, I will kiss you right here."

Loraine was surprised to hear this strange threat. When she looked around, she saw that they had entered the mall, and there were a lot of people coming and going. It would be horrifying if he kissed her here.

She would not be bold enough to endure such a kiss without feeling so ashamed, but she had no doubt that Marco could really carry out his threat.

As a result, she had no choice but to calm down. "How cheeky!" she scolded beneath her breath.

But Marco was a little happy to hear her scold him. He gladly accepted her comment and saw it as flirting.

Loraine was left speechless and became even more annoyed. "You lied to me before. What do you want from me now? Or are you planning on lying to me again?" she murmured angrily.

Even when she knew that some words would be hurtful if she said them out loud, she never cared. She would still blurt them

out whenever her emotions were out of control. In her mind, she knew she was making trouble out of nothing, but she just could not help it.

Sure enough, Marco froze for a moment when he heard her annoying question, but he just kept walking and didn't say anything in response.

After a while, Loraine heard him say sorry in a barely audible tone.

They did not say anything more to each other until they arrived at the parking lot. Marco put her into the back seat of his car and also got in. Without a word, he half knelt in front of her and took off her broken high heels.

When he saw the red bruise on her foot, his heart ached. He quickly took out a pair of soft, flat shoes from under the seat and put them on her feet. "Sorry I was late." He apologized again.

