

Chapter 98 Eliza's Downfall

The next morning, soft music was playing in a fancy apartment.

Eliza was wearing a silk nightdress at this time. She stared at her computer screen with an evil smirk as she drank red wine.

The protest carried out by residents near the signal tower was in the news. It was the hottest topic of discussion on all social media platforms.

Some trolls on Twitter helped Eliza to propagate false stories about Loraine, making people turn against her more.

Since there was a picture of Loraine standing by as the bodyguards tried to control the crowd, the trolls alleged that Loraine told them to use violence to dispel the protesters.

For the photos that captured government officials giving the residents welfare contracts to sign, the trolls alleged that

Universe Group tried to bribe the residents to keep their mouths shut.

As a result of these lies, people hurled insults at Loraine and Universe Group. They called for the company to be shut down and investigated.

Eliza leaned into her seat, threw her head back, and burst into laughter.

"Yes! Everything is going just as planned," she muttered, punching the air.

Eliza hated Loraine with every fiber of her being. She wanted to witness Loraine's downfall, so she was happy that she was having her revenge with the help of others.

She had barely basked in her success when the official Twitter account of Universe Group posted a video of the real situation at the protest ground.

The video showed that Loraine didn't use violence against the rioters at all. She was captured speaking to them calmly. She even promised to relocate close to the signal tower to make them feel at ease. The video also showed how the residents stopped

protesting after receiving handsome compensation.

When Eliza saw that the tide was being turned in Loraine's favor, she sent out a thread that she had in her drafts.

"Don't be fooled by Universe Group! They are only trying to calm the backlash they received. I used to be an employee at Universe Group. I participated in the entire design process for the smart city project. Loraine Torres was committing so many atrocities. That was against my conscience, so I quit. For the greater good of everyone, I want to tell the whole world that the sins of Universe Group and Loraine Torres are too heavy to be overlooked. Many lives and properties will be lost if they are allowed to go scot-free! Justice must be served!"

The public made a U-turn after seeing the latest series of tweets from Eliza. People began to praise her while cursing out Loraine. But shortly after, another counterattack was launched.

Universe Group issued a statement of

clarification.

"We would like to clarify that contrary to what Eliza Welch alleged, she was actually dismissed because of costly mistakes at work. On no occasion did she participate in the designing and execution of the smart city project. All that she said is false. We will be dealing with this matter legally."

Along with the official statement came Eliza's work records. These records confirmed that she was lying about her involvement in the project.

An investigation report was also posted. The report showed how Eliza moved into a fancy apartment recently and also frequented many shopping malls to buy designer clothes and bags that an ordinary employee wouldn't be able to afford.

These were pointers to the fact that Eliza had been bribed. It became clear that she did it for money, not to get justice at all.

The good reputation she built with her well-coated lies came crashing down in an instant. People turned against her and accused her of

deceit.

"Gosh! I can't believe it was all a lie. She's so disgusting. She got fired because of her mistakes, but she went on to accuse the company falsely. How despicable!"

"Eliza, what do you have to say about the new evidence?"

"Where is she? Has she escaped from earth already?"

The issue was extremely serious now. Since the backlash had delayed the government project, affected Universe Group's reputation, and also sent the public into a frenzy, Eliza committed a lot of offenses. She was now in the bad books of the government and millions of people.

Eliza was scared to death at this time.

She picked up her phone and called the person who put her up to this.

Keely didn't answer the calls at all. She was boiling with rage at this time.

"Gosh! She's such a worthless loser!"

It was just one step away! Keely was so close to defeating Loraine this time.

But all her efforts went down the drain because Eliza didn't play her cards right.

Now that Eliza was exposed, Keely didn't want to have anything to do with her. She blocked her number, cleared her call log, and deleted the chats immediately.

She had no use for Eliza anymore, so she intended to find someone else.

Back in the fancy apartment, Eliza was sweating profusely. She had made several calls by this time. Soon, the calls began to disconnect without ringing.

Only then did Eliza realize that she had been abandoned. She was so flustered that her phone slipped off her hand and fell to the floor.


"Oh, God! I shouldn't have done all that!"

Eliza began to regret allowing hatred to blind her. She cursed the day she got in contact with Keely and agreed to assassinate Loraine's character just to get some money.

Now that her ally dumped her at this crucial time, Eliza was at a loss.

Just as Eliza racked her brain, there was a

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loud thump on the door.

"Open up! This is the police!"

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Chapter 99 A Calculated Strike

In the architectural design department, Loraine was swamped with work in her office. She was oblivious to what was going on online.

Suddenly, her phone rang. The call was from Carl.

"Hello, Miss Torres. I have found out who is behind the demonstration. It's Eliza Welch, an employee who was dismissed from Universe Group a while ago. She has already been whisked away by the cops. She will be imprisoned for at least two weeks during which the court will impose a fine on her according to the severity of the crime."

Carl brought Loraine up to speed on the matter.

This surprised Loraine a lot.

"Aren't you Marco's assistant? Why are you reporting this to me instead of to your boss?"

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she asked in confusion.

"Well, Mr. Bryant got injured at the scene of the protest. He's yet to make a full recovery, so he asked me to report the new findings to you instead," Carl replied without hesitation.

Marco was injured!

Lorraine's mind traveled back to what happened a few days ago.

The protest site had been so chaotic. For the whole time, Marco wrapped his arms around her to keep her away from harm. She couldn't have known that he got hurt.

Did he get injured because of her?

"Ahem! How bad is his injury?" Lorraine asked, her voice softened.

This was the chance he was waiting for! Carl suddenly lowered his voice and said sadly, "Well... He's seriously injured. The doctor said that his condition is very bad. We are just hoping that he pulls through."

Carl exaggerated Marco's condition as if the latter was on the brink of death.

Lorraine rolled her eyes and sucked her teeth.

Her instincts told her that Marco's condition wasn't as bad as his assistant was making it out to be.

She wasn't a blockhead, after all. How could a vigorous and healthy man turn into a dying patient all of a sudden?

"Oh, sorry about that. I guess you have to start making arrangements for his funeral immediately. By the way, Carl, since you will be out of a job soon, you can come to me. I'll help you secure a job at Universe Group."

"What?"

Carl was cut off by the disconnect tone the next second.

He stared at the phone and was lost in thought. It seemed that Marco had a rough road ahead of him.

Back in Loraine's office, Cayson knocked and walked in just as she set down her phone.

"Lorrie, the person who put Eliza up to it is very smart. They blocked her account as soon as she was arrested. The cops are interrogating Eliza, but she refuses to confess. On the bright side, they have tracked down

the IP address of the account to a hospital."

"A hospital?" Someone suddenly came to Loraine's mind. "Keely has been hospitalized for quite some time, hasn't she?"

Cayson asked, "You think Keely is the brain behind all this?"

Tapping her index finger on her desk, Loraine replied, "Whoever plotted such a thorough scheme must hate my guts. It so happens that this person is at a hospital. I can't think of anyone else except Keely."

Cayson was rather indignant after hearing that. "Do you want me to teach her a lesson?"

"No, not yet. We don't have substantial evidence to prove she's the mastermind," Loraine said, shaking her head. A quick wit flashed through her mind. "But that doesn't mean I would let this slide for now. Since the enemy struck first, I must strike back!"

Just then, someone knocked on the door.

A cop came to ask Loraine some questions about the protest issue.

After answering all the questions truthfully, she asked curiously, "Officer, are Elmo and

Barr still in your custody at the moment? They got arrested some time back, right? Will they get charged for bribing a government official? What's the latest update on the case?"

The policeman was stunned by her questions at first. But then, it occurred to him that Loraine was one of the victims involved in the previous bribery case.

"Well, the case is still under investigation. The suspects have refused to cooperate with us, so we haven't had any breakthrough so far. If you have any useful information, please do not hesitate to inform me."

Loraine smiled and nodded as every law-abiding citizen would.

"Perhaps you can start by taking a look into all those who are connected to Elmo, such as the members of the Haywood family."

The policeman thought it through for a while and then nodded. "You have a point there. I'll do just that. Thank you."

"Don't mention it. I'm obligated to offer help to the police as a law-abiding citizen."

Shortly after, several members of the Haywood family were placed under thorough investigation due to their suspected involvement in the bribery case.

In the past, they had taken care of Elmo's mess at Keely's request. He was in trouble with the government yet again. It cost them a great deal to clean up everything that indicated their involvement.

Naturally, they gave Keely an earful. She couldn't hear the last of the matter.

Everyone was so annoyed with her because they had only helped her in the past after she assured them that she would marry into the Bryant family, which was very wealthy.

Not only was she yet to keep her promise, but they were also in a mess thanks to her.

They were breathing down her neck as they demanded to know why she hadn't made progress with her plan to marry Marco.

Keely was a bundle of nerves at this time.

She couldn't wait any longer. She must act now! Marco was hers, so she couldn't allow anyone to steal him away.