

## 174- Rafael On Our Side

The meeting was going well. Nina was diligently noting down all the points with every employee's name.

She wanted to change a few things just to show her power.

" Ladies and gentlemen. It was so good talking to you. I need to tell you a few things and I really appreciate that all of you are here. In this way, you all can carry on the duties in a more organized way." Nina stopped speaking when Delinda raised her hand, " Yes? You want to say something?" Delinda got to her feet, " Ma' am, all the employees aren't here, Ms. Marissa Aaron usually arrives late. She is our head and sometimes we need a person to whom we can confide in about our tasks." Nina didn't want to make a face.

Oh yes. Marissa is also a part of this event then why she isn't here?

" Speaking of her," this time Valerie took the attention of the audience when she got up beside Nina, " From now on, there is no head but us. We' ll be looking out for all your problems. You have an issue? Come to either of us, and you are good to go." Nina was nodding her head in her favor.

A few employees didn't seem happy with the decision, but Nina didn't need their approval. After all, she was also the owner. She couldn't leave everything on Marissa.

What kind of game was she playing?

" Do you know anyone from the HR department?" Nina asked the event group and pursed her lips when found them shaking their heads.

" There is only one whose name is Zara," Delinda told her, " We aren't acquainted with her but have seen her around." " Hmm. I' ll ask someone from the HR department to make gold cards for you. Cards should be compulsory just like they are in other branches of MSin," They all kept moving their heads while listening to Nina.

Then and there, Nina rang a bell. When a peon arrived, Nina asked him to send Dean inside.

" Your cards will be finalized soon and then we can discuss the table positions on the venue. How many tables are expected by the way?" " Four," Kate spoke, " Including mine, there will be three more for Shang, Delinda and Marissa." Nina wanted to roll her eyes. She still remembered how Marissa used to be involved in kitchen matters of the house.

What was that silly girl thinking? Would she win Rafael's heart with her terrible cooking?

Since childhood, Rafael always got food from the best chefs hired by her.

" For selections, who tasted her food? Did she even cook it herself?" she asked no one in particular.

" There was a jury who tasted the food, ma' am. She dropped her main dishes on the floor and was left with one dish. The jury took decision solely on that dish," Kate informed them.  
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Nina shrugged and clicked her tongue inside her cheek, " Well. In this case, I think we should give her table the last position in the hall. Somewhere, not many can reach her. After all, it's a big event and we don't want the world to witness the embarrassment." The door opened and Dean came inside," You wanted to see me?" " Ah. Dean," Nina took back her seat," They don't have VIP cards with them. Ask someone from HR to hand over the cards by this evening." Dean raised a brow but didn't say anything.  
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" Is Rafael here yet?" she asked him. She needed to see her son who was avoiding her calls.

" No. He is in an outdoor meeting and will be back by afternoon I guess." " Hmm. What about Marissa?" Nina raised her hand slightly as if expecting the immediate answer, " Where is she? I just came to know that she is usually late." Dean gave a subtle look towards the audience and then shook his head, " She is late because she is busy meeting the people responsible for the event. Like, we have chefs, but the grocery materials can only be bought from an organic market. Marissa knows about this stuff, so she is usually out, finalizing the deals with the dealers." Nina didn't look convinced.

" Why is she doing that? We have a great team," she pointed towards the smiling faces of the people present there. Kate's smile was the most radiant one, " Ask her not to waste her time outside anymore. From tomorrow, she needs to be on time in this office. We appreciate punctuality." Dean wasn't liking it at all.  
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Nina and Valerie were changing all the rules made by Rafael and Joseph.

"I know we have a great team, ma' am," he smiled, "I don't have any doubt. But Ms. Aaron is doing it because she is the head." " Oh," Valerie started laughing as if making fun of him, " She is no more the head," She looked at the audience and then pointed towards Kate, " She is ideal for being the head. I'm sure she can do it better." Dean was standing there with a clenched jaw. No matter how wrong Marissa might be. She didn't deserve it.

These two ladies were simply bullying her at her back.

He cleared his throat and then eyed the women of Rafael's family, " She won't be the event head if I get a written order from Mr. Sinclair, ma' am. With due respect," he bent his head, " Until I don't get it, she will stay the head. I hope I'm clear about it." Valerie's face went red in a matter of seconds," What do you mean by this?" her nostrils flared up in fury, " As a Sinclair, Nina and I do have some rights." "I know, ma' am," he bent his head again showing them his submission. He needed to tackle the situation smartly, " You do have rights. Please ask Mr. Sinclair to hand over the order so that I can implement it as soon as possible." He stepped back and offered a formal smile to the ladies, "I hope you' ll understand. It's nothing personal." Gradually rest of the staff started walking out of the room. Kate had a disappointed look on her face.

While Nina and Valerie were looking at the staff with a mixture of anger and disbelief.

Their hard work went to waste just because of Dean.  
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" Nina," Valerie whispered, " talk to Rafael.I think Dean is right. We can't do anything unless Rafael is on our side."