

Chapter 1081 Become Suspicious

Francis' face turned livid with rage after Edwin stormed out and slammed the door. In a fit of anger, he swept the documents from his desk.

However, a troubling thought soon interrupted his fury.

Edwin had been demoted to a peripheral position recently; how could Edwin have known about his decision so quickly?

Suspicion chilled Francis' gaze. He worried that a mole within his company was leaking information to his family, and Kaley, who seemed overly invested in the family dynamics, was likely the culprit.

After a moment of contemplation, he instructed Franklin to discreetly investigate Kaley's recent activities. The thought of Edwin then brought on a headache.

Edwin had been a dutiful son, but he was easily manipulated.

Francis disapproved of the dynamic between Edwin and Kaley. Kaley had a knack for exploiting Edwin's weaknesses. There was an incident from their childhood where she had manipulated Edwin into a fight that nearly ended in tragedy.

Despite his disapproval, Francis couldn't curb the indulgence Joseph and Edwin showed towards Kaley.

Unlike Vincent, Francis was no naive man. He preferred to keep his disdain for Kaley to himself. He mused, "Even if Edwin isn't very bright, Dad won't be fooled so easily, will he?"

Realizing that a clash with Kaley was inevitable, he believed it wise to inform Joseph, hoping to prevent any disapproval from him in the future.

With his plan in mind, Francis grabbed his coat and directed his driver to take him to the old family home.

There, in the serene garden, Joseph sat in a deck chair, holding a photograph with a melancholic expression.

He tenderly traced his fingers over a necklace in the picture, its blue hue reminiscent of the ocean. Had Loraine been present, she would have instantly recognized it as her "Tear of the Sea" necklace.

Joseph sighed deeply, "Sweetheart, if I had been more attentive to you and your mother, would you have ever run away from home? Then your mother might not have died so early from grief, leaving me all alone..."

Lost in his painful memories, Joseph was startled by Francis' low voice approaching from behind. "Dad."

Noticing the photo in Joseph's hands, Francis' brow furrowed slightly.

Joseph put the photo on the table and turned, his expression tinged with irritation. "You didn't warn me before you came, and you move so silently. Are you trying to give me a heart attack?"

Francis managed a smile and sat down across from him. He poured tea for both of them and took a slow sip before speaking. "I've been keeping an eye on Loraine as you requested. It seems Kaley might be exaggerating things a bit."

Joseph's frown deepened. "What do you mean?"

Francis recounted Loraine's recent successes, emphasizing her resilience. "Even though she had help, she handled her

challenges without arrogance or desperation, and she managed to turn the tide in tough situations. I don't believe she would engage in petty conflicts with someone like Kaley."

Joseph mulled over this as he held his teacup. Finally, he snorted dismissively, "I only know she bullied my granddaughter!"

Francis sighed, glancing at the photo beside him. "I still think it's unlikely Kaley is easily bullied, and Loraine doesn't seem like someone who would stir up trouble intentionally."

Joseph shot him a sharp look, his anger evident. "You brat! Don't forget you're Kaley's uncle! I've heard from Kaley herself that Loraine is charming and eloquent. Are you getting swayed by her looks like that fool Vincent?"

Francis expressed his frustration. "I haven't even met her... My views are based solely on her recent actions and what I've observed firsthand. Dad, I believe your opinion might change if you saw her yourself."

Joseph paused, reflecting on the situation, and muttered, "I'm curious about the woman who has both my sons defending her."

Francis took another sip of tea and ventured further, "Also, Dad, I think it's time Kaley learned to stand on her own. Coddling her too much could lead her to become arrogant and headstrong, which might..."

He was cut off mid-sentence as Joseph, overcome with anger, picked up a stool and brandished it at him.

He scolded Francis harshly, "Don't think I'm unaware of your prejudice against Kaley. Who are you to lecture me about family? I've raised Kaley and know better than anyone what she needs!"

With no viable response, Francis left the old house in an

awkward and reluctant retreat.

Back inside, Joseph fumed, "You three brats! Always stirring up trouble. None of you see how devoted and thoughtful Kaley is!"

After cooling down a bit, he considered Francis' words and motioned for the butler.

"Find out where Loraine has been recently! I want to know more about this woman who supposedly bullies Kaley!"



Chapter 1082 Reminded Of Something

After the proposal on the night of Christmas, both Loraine and Marco began preparing for the engagement with mutual understanding.

Nowadays, every moment they spent together seemed sweeter than before. Now that the crisis over the Universe Group had come to an end, Loraine felt a lot better and was almost always seen smiling happily.

As for Marco, he was very serious about the engagement and he approached Aldo to ask his opinion. But Aldo criticized him for not arranging it fast enough. So Marco decided to immediately work on this.

Whenever he had a little free time on his hands, he would take Loraine out so they could go shopping for the engagement party. They even paid attention to little things like candies. In Marco's words, if they paid serious attention to how the engagement would be conducted, it would help them prepare for the upcoming wedding ceremony.

Right now, they were walking up and down the commercial street as they discussed their plans.

"Where are we going to hold the engagement party?" Marco wondered aloud. "Should we do it back in Vagow, should we go abroad, or in Zodiac?"

Loraine thought for a moment before replying, "Well, I would like it to be held in Zodiac, since the amusement park is newly finished and booming with people. We can't really leave Zodiac

now. But my grandpa isn't strong enough for long rides, and both Rowan and Wesley are very busy."

"But let's go back to Vagow and hold the ceremony after we're done here," Marco said softly.

Vagow was the place where they had many memories and feelings. What's more, since the Torres family resided in Vagow, Marco was sure that Loraine must really want their wedding ceremony to be held there.

Loraine nodded in agreement with a smile on her face. Looking up at the sky, she felt it did not look nearly as blue as the sky back in Vagow. "I miss Grandpa so much," she sighed. "I don't know when I'll finish my work here."

Marco looked at her in silence. His plan was to invite the Torres family to Zodiac, yet he didn't say it out loud.

Just then, his phone began to ring. He wanted to decline the call so that his private time with Loraine would not be interrupted, but when he looked at the caller ID, he saw that it was Sullivan.

Loraine also saw it and she urged him to answer it. "Pick it up. He could be calling about the amusement park, you know."

Marco sighed, but nonetheless, he decided to answer the call without leaving her presence.

It turned out that Loraine was right. It was really about the amusement park. "The VR tech for the amusement park made a major breakthrough, Marco," Sullivan said from the other end of the line. "Right now, everyone's waiting for your instruction, so you need to come over immediately."

Marco looked at Loraine and hesitated for a moment. But Loraine had overheard what Sullivan had just said, and she quickly urged Marco, "You need to go there and take a look. I'll

be fine."

At first, Marco didn't know what to say in response. He broke into a smile and hugged her before saying, "Well, just go on and look around then. I'll come pick you up for dinner."

Loraine nodded in agreement and watched his retreating figure as he walked away, until he was well out of her sight. Then she turned around and resumed window-shopping.

Before long, she noticed a nicely decorated antique shop and it immediately occurred to her that she could pick up a few gifts for her grandfather. So she stepped into the shop.

It was a quiet shop, and it smelled of sandalwood. But unlike in other shops, there were no overly eager salespeople. Loraine had the freedom to browse through what the store had to offer.

But all of a sudden, the light from the open door went dim. Loraine noticed it immediately. When she looked up, she saw a figure standing at the doorway.

It was an elderly man in a suit who was using a walking cane. He had on a pair of old-school tortoise shell glasses, and seemed quite genial.

As their eyes met, Loraine smiled politely before turning back to pick what she wanted.

But the elderly man who seemed frozen to the spot, was looking at her in panic.

Loraine was focused on what she was looking for, so she didn't pay much attention to her surroundings. But after a while, she began to hear a strange sound similar to subdued crying.

Following the sound, Loraine was surprised when she saw the elderly man bent over in a corner with his shoulders quivering. He was the one sobbing.

Loraine was touched by the sight. She quickly stepped forward and asked him in concern, "What's the matter, sir?"

The man was shocked to hear her voice. He quickly put away something that he was holding and wiped his tears before answering her question in a hoarse voice, "It's nothing."

But when he looked up and met Loraine's gaze, his eyes turned red again.

He was Joseph Wilson, and he had intended to come here and observe Loraine in secret. It astonished him just how similar Loraine was to his missing daughter. He hadn't heard anything from his daughter all these years that she had been away from home. In fact, Loraine looked so much like her when she smiled at him just now.

As a result, he became heartbroken, especially when he went to a corner to look at a photo of his daughter. But when he saw Loraine looking at him with a concerned look on her face, he quickly recovered himself and wiped his tears. Almost immediately, he came up with a credible excuse. "It's just this painting that reminded me of something, and I couldn't help but lose myself," he said, pointing at a painting in front of him.