

## Chapter 1095 Trial

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Having gathered every available evidence of Jaden's crime, Loraine decided to visit Ghosthand again with Jimmie to tell Huntley all about the current situation of things.

Jimmie had assured her that the evidence they had gathered was enough to convict Jaden of the crime. It wouldn't matter whether or not Ghosthand or Denny appeared in court. So, Loraine's visit was just for the purpose of informing Huntley about the fact that Jaden could finally be brought to justice.

When Huntley heard the news, he stood in silence for a while with tears in his eyes. At the end, to Loraine's surprise, he voluntarily promised to appear in court so he could witness the moment Jaden would be tried and sentenced.

A few days later, Jaden's trial formally began. Loraine, Marco, and Huntley were all present in court.

Jimmie, standing as counsel to the plaintiff, looked professional and elite in his formal suit. Once in a while, he would give his client an assuring smile.

When it was his turn to speak, he became very serious and smartly argued against all the arguments of the defense counsel. After he outlined all the evidences that had been obtained against the defendant, the defense counsel was rendered utterly speechless.

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Not only had he plotted to murder Loraine and her parents, he had also been actively trying to hunt down those who knew about the crime, such as Ghosthand and Denny. Because of his actions which led to the deaths and destruction of so many lives, he was finally sentenced to life in prison.

His wife, who was his accomplice in the crimes, was given a twenty-year sentence.

As soon as the verdict was issued, everyone breathed a sigh of relief. But those on the plaintiff's table exhibited no outward joy.

Nothing would bring back the members of their family who had suffered and died at the hands of Jaden.

They watched indifferently as Jaden and his wife were taken away to prison. The only feeling they had was one of being rid of a heavy burden on their hearts.

With her tear-filled eyes, Loraine looked out the window at the sky, and murmured, "Dad, Mom, I've finally gotten justice for you."

As they walked out of the court, Loraine looked at Huntley whose eyes were just as red as hers, and apologized to him again. All along, Ghosthand had been innocent.



But Huntley wasn't sad. There was no gloom on his face anymore. Instead, he replied with a smile, "You don't have to apologize, Loraine. You didn't do anything wrong. Those who did wrong are already paying the price. In fact, I... I should be thanking you. We are very glad and satisfied that the real culprit has now gotten the punishment he deserves."

For a moment, Loraine was left speechless. After a while, she asked him, "What are you going to do next?"

Since Jaden had now been brought to justice, Huntley and Ghosthand didn't have to hide or live under assumed identities anymore.

"All I have is the skills my uncle had taught me," Huntley replied with a shrug, "but I haven't made any jewelry for quite some time because I've had to stay hidden and maintain a low profile. I guess I can now go back to my old profession."

When Marco heard this, he quickly suggested, "Why don't you try applying at the Universe Group's amusement park? Your handmade artifacts can become some of the gifts that people would win, and you can also decorate the park with some of your handcrafted works."

"That's a really good idea!" Loraine concurred. She was practically overjoyed at his suggestion.

Huntley was stunned. Despite the fact that he had been living under the radar, he had heard about how popular the Universe Group's amusement park was.

All his years underground had made him feel inferior and he could not see himself at such a high level. "But... that's too good for me," he reasoned. "I don't think I can handle such generosity."

But Loraine shook her head and said to him straightforwardly, "If not that you agreed to talk to us, we would never have been able to get the evidence we needed to bring the culprit to justice. I'm indeed very grateful to you. Besides, I'm not even being generous. Your skills should never go to waste. If you work at the Universe Group, I have to give your starting salary



a good thought so that I won't have to worry about you being poached!"

Her joke lightened the atmosphere and made Huntley laugh.

No one would turn down the chance of having a better life, not to mention someone who had been stuck in difficulty for so many years. Huntley had always wanted Ghosthand to live more comfortably. So, after careful consideration, he nodded and said yes to Loraine's offer.

Looking at the man and woman standing side by side in front of him, he couldn't help but be reminded of how he once shut the door in their faces. The thought made him chuckle, but he quickly bowed to thank them for the generous offer.

"I wonder if I can have the honor of inviting you to design wedding rings for Marco and I?" Loraine asked with a wide smile. "I trust your skills very much."

Huntley was shocked by this and he couldn't help but look at Marco to see his reaction.

As far as he knew, all the powerful families always hired popular designers. Though he had learned from Ghosthand, he was still a nobody. All he had done in the past few years was repairing some gadgets. This huge offer was certainly not something he would dare to accept!

But to his surprise, Marco seemed to agree with Loraine. He turned to look at her and said dotingly, "She is the one in charge of our family."

Huntley couldn't help but laugh. "Okay then. I will definitely give you my best work!" he vowed to them.

After a few more simple exchanges, he said goodbye and left. Marco met with Jimmie to do a little catching up before he decided that it was time for him and Loraine to go home.



Just then, Loraine got a call from Tillie.

She was a little surprised. It had been a long time she spoke to Tillie. Nevertheless, she answered the call. "Have you seen Aria lately, Miss Torres?" Tillie asked anxiously. "She has gone missing again!"



## Chapter 1096 Aria's Whereabouts

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Aria had a history of fleeing, having done so previously in Vagow, and now, to Loraine's astonishment, she had done it again in Zodiac.

Loraine whispered, wondering if Clifford had done something to Aria, "What's going on?"

Tillie said, "I don't know what's going on. She was doing okay after she came back, gaining weight and her belly's getting bigger. At first, we assumed her weight gain was a side effect of her medication. And since she was so thin and frail beforehand, I was thrilled to see her finally putting on some pounds! But a few days ago, some distant relatives visited, and a child innocently laughed at Aria, remarking that she looked pregnant..."

Tillie burst into tears. "And she vanished that very evening!"

Loraine's face clouded with concern as she asked, "She's been gone for several days, then?"

"We've been searching for her nonstop to the point of exhaustion, but every lead has turned up empty. That's when I remembered how close Aria was to you, so I'm reaching out in hopes you might have some insight or information about her whereabouts."

Loraine nodded sympathetically. "I understand. I'll do everything I can to help. I'll be in touch as soon as I uncover any information."

After that, she said to Marco, "Aria is not the type to cause trouble for others without a good reason. There must be something behind her decision to run away, but she's still so young and vulnerable... We need to find her as soon as possible."

Marco nodded, then his face lit up with a remembered detail. Clifford had called him around the time Aria vanished, and he hung up on him. Maybe there was a connection.

Despite his deep-seated animosity towards the Cruz family, Marco held no personal grudge against Aria.

As Loraine had pointed out, Aria was exceptional in her family. She had never caused him harm, and in fact, had often shown kindness and support, even going out of her way to help both him and Loraine on occasion.

The memory of how she had treated him with kindness and warmth at the Wilson family's banquet touched his heart, and he promptly instructed his subordinates to launch a search for her.

It was unthinkable that a young and inexperienced girl like Aria could vanish without a trace, leaving even the powerful Cruz family unable to find any leads in days. This realization made Marco feel uneasy.

He didn't mention his unease to Loraine. He helped her into the car and they left the courthouse.

As he drove, his phone rang, displaying an unknown number on the screen.

His curiosity piqued, Marco answered the call, and was surprised to hear Aria's gentle voice on the other end of the line.

"Marco!"

He frowned, ready to scold her, but Aria spoke quickly, not



giving him a chance to interrupt.

"I've finally escaped, just like you did, Marco! I've been wanting to break free for a long time! Now that I've gained my freedom, I'm reaching out to you, Marco, because I'm worried that my father will trace my call if I contact Loraine. Since you've managed to evade the Cruz family's detection, I'm counting on you to keep my whereabouts safe and let you know that I'm okay!"

Marco snorted, but Aria's words had struck a soft spot, and he found himself unable to scold her further.

Then, with a knowing glance, Marco handed the phone to Loraine, implying it was Aria on the line.

Loraine's voice was laced with concern as she asked, "Aria, where are you? Tell me. I'll come meet you."

Aria's voice was sweet and reassuring. "I'm fine, Lorrie, and I'm safe. Don't worry about me. I'm doing great!"

"If you're safe, why did you run away? Remember, if you need anything at all, Marco and I are here for you. We'll do our best to support you in any way we can."

After a moment's silence, Aria said, "Well, anyway... I'm safe, I promise. And I will come back to you, safe and sound! As for why I ran away, I'm tired of being controlled and disciplined all the time, just like Marco was in the past. I want to be free to make my own choices and live my own life!"

Loraine was speechless, surprised that Aria used Marco's past as a defense. She felt guilty and couldn't criticize her.

Aria repeatedly assured them of her safety throughout the call, attempting to placate them with soothing words. But Loraine's worry lines deepened, her brow furrowed in concern. "I won't breathe a word to the Cruz family, but we need to see you in





person. We need to know you're okay with our own eyes."

Aria's voice was laced with hesitation and uncertainty as she replied, "I... I'm sure the Cruz family has their eyes on you, Lorrie. It's better if we don't meet. I've worked hard to stay under the radar, and I don't want to risk being found out. I've finally found a place to settle down, and I can't let them track me down again. As time passes, the search for me will die down, and I'll find a way to reunite with you when the coast is clear."

Loraine let out a deep sigh and exchanged a knowing glance with Marco.

The girl who had worn them out with worry seemed to be hiding something. After reassurances of her safety, she abruptly ended the call. Loraine sighed, "This conversation has only left me more anxious than ever!"

Marco gently stroked her hair, offering comfort. "At least we know she's safe for now. She sounded okay, too. I'll track her down as soon as possible and set up a meeting for you. Don't worry, Loraine, she'll be okay."

Loraine nodded, though still worried. Marco surprised her with a gentle forehead kiss, then continued in his deep voice, "Let's focus on engagement preparations. I promise to bring Aria back safely for our celebration."

