

Chapter 1101 The Misunderstanding Intensifies

After Joseph's reprimand, the three stood silently, embarrassed and growingly anxious about his condition.

They understood Joseph's fiery temperament, and in his current state, he was irrational. Thus, they had to comply.

Joseph's anger gradually diminished, and he commanded with a firm tone, "You must retrieve it. Do you understand?"

The three nodded submissively. Francis attempted to comfort him. "We'll find a solution, Dad. Take care. We will recover the Tear of the Sea."

Joseph gave a brief nod and asked them to leave the room.

Outside, the three men leaned against the wall at the corridor's end, each with a unique expression.

Vincent broke the silence. "I still believe that Loraine isn't that type of person. Given the Wilson family's power, there must be some mistake."

The others quietly agreed. The revelation had come from Joseph's loyal aide, making it outlandish but plausible.

Noticing their silence, Vincent sighed and lamented, "I was only three when Tessa vanished again. Why am I involved in this?"

Damon frowned, seemingly recalling his sister from distant memories. After a moment, he remarked casually, "Tessa has indeed changed since she was found. She even wronged Jaylah

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and fled in anger. How can Dad blame us?"

Vincent's anger ignited, and he sneered, "That's why she ran away! Jaylah must have wronged her. Besides, you two can't see the truth. If I were in her shoes, I'd have fled too!"

Damon sighed in resignation, "Why do you despise Jaylah so much?"

"You two have never seen her true nature," Vincent retorted. "In my view, Tessa did not wrong Jaylah. It had to be Jaylah who forced my sister to leave!"

From childhood, Vincent refused to believe his sister had fled. Despite his firm stance, he faced skepticism, with Damon frequently perceiving contradiction.

Predictably, Damon frowned and responded with discontent, "Must you always oppose me?"

"Who is against you? I am presenting the facts. You are the one infatuated with Jaylah!" Vincent retorted.

Francis detected brewing tension between the two, prompting him to intervene.

Their focus should have been on devising a plan to reclaim the Tear of the Sea from Loraine, so why were they shifting their attention back to Jaylah?

Francis was aware of the frequent clashes between his younger brothers over Jaylah-related matters, yet he maintained his impartiality.

Frowning, Francis intervened in the dispute, questioning sternly, "Is it constructive to engage in this argument? Regardless of Jaylah's involvement, our foremost goal is facilitating a meeting between Loraine and Dad to resolve the situation. If she did take the necklace that belongs to our family, let her

return it."

Vincent and Damon acquiesced to their elder brother's authority. Sharing a skeptical glance, they diverted their eyes.

Vincent scoffed, declaring, "I'll approach Loraine and gauge her willingness to cooperate."

Damon countered, "Rumors regarding your association with Loraine have circulated previously. I doubt if you will side with us. Let me convince her instead."

Vincent clenched his teeth with frustration. "Can you stop being so suspicious! Loraine and Kaley are of similar age. How could I possibly harbor any interest in her?"

Damon emitted a disdainful snort, while Francis nodded in accord, aligning with Damon's sentiment. "Vincent, your proximity to Loraine is undeniable. To preempt any speculation, let Damon extend the invitation to Loraine under the name of the government."

Recognizing the validity of Francis' reasoning, Vincent yielded. Any alternative action might inadvertently fuel assumptions regarding his intentions to assist Loraine.

Subsequently, the three brothers exited the hospital premises.

After leaving the hospital, Vincent subtly relayed a message to Loraine, offering her a discreet heads-up in case she found herself unprepared.

Even after sending the warning, Vincent's apprehension lingered. Eventually, he reached out to Marco, choosing not to disclose the details but urging him to remain vigilant regarding Loraine in the coming days.

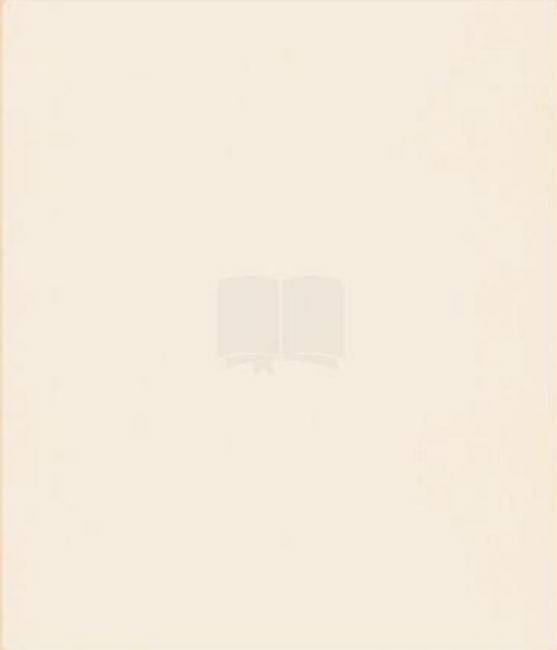
Upon dispatching the message, a sense of relief washed over Vincent, evident in the relieved grin that adorned his face.

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He had taken every measure to ensure Loraine was adequately informed and ready.



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Chapter 1102 The Wilson Family's Invitation

When Vincent sent the cryptic messages, Loraine was in the company of Marco.

Loraine was the first to receive the message. It read, "The Wilson family is going to summon you for a meeting soon. It's not a big deal, but brace yourself for that. Take care."

She was baffled by its meaning. Just as she was about to show the message to Marco, he received one from Vincent as well, instructing him to keep a watchful eye on Loraine.

They exchanged glances, and Marco's face darkened as he spoke. "What's this family scheming now?"

Loraine, equally puzzled, responded, "Since he's warning me about it, they're bound to give me an irresistible reason when the time comes."

Recalling the fiasco at the Wilson family's banquet, Marco felt a wave of displeasure. He turned to her, his tone resolute. "I'll go with you. I won't let you face anything alone again."

Loraine leaned into his embrace. "Alright, we'll face this together."

Thanks to Vincent's advance warning, Loraine wasn't caught off guard when the government contacted her, requesting her presence at the Universe Group.

What she hadn't anticipated was the Wilson family turning their meeting into a government summons.

Perplexed by their intentions, she sought answers from Vincent, who remained evasive, dismissing it as inconsequential.

Loraine detested the Wilson family's penchant for shrouding everything in mystery, but fear was not in her nature. After she informed Marco, he assured her he would accompany her.

They rushed to the branch office together. Upon arrival, they were immediately informed that the government representative awaited them in the meeting room. The gravity of the situation was underscored by the presence of rows of security guards flanking the entrance.

Marco reached out to hold her hand, signaling that she could relax, and then guided her forward.

But one of the guards halted Marco and smiled, "Apologies, but Miss Torres is the only individual our representative wishes to meet."

Shooting the guard a frosty look, Marco ignored them and continued into the room.

Immediately, four or five guards closed in, blocking their path. One of them, with a secretary-like demeanor, diplomatically said, "Please don't put us in a difficult position, Miss Torres. The government seeks your presence alone for the negotiations, so no other parties are permitted."

Loraine patted Marco's hand to reassure him before stepping forward with a leisurely, fearless smile. "Negotiations? What kind of negotiations are these? Has the Universe Group violated any laws?"

The secretary stammered, "Of course not, Miss Torres. That would be an exaggeration..."

"Since the Universe Group hasn't committed any illegal acts, I

assume we're here to discuss cooperation. As a businesswoman, I naturally prefer sincerity over the arrogance of oppressors. What exactly is this pompous government representative here for? Personal matters, or public business?"

The secretary was at a loss for words. He could have dodged her question with a vague "for an interview," but Loraine's emphasis on the "personal or public" distinction, especially with many employees watching, left him with no good escape. Failing to provide a proper answer would certainly embarrass the representative in the meeting room.

Loraine's assertiveness was also meant to bolster Marco's confidence.

As the guards remained silent for quite some time, she snorted, "The government has been sitting on the Universe Group's applications without any reason, and we haven't complained. Now this representative is here to boss us around? The Universe Group has always been law-abiding. Who exactly have we offended this time?"

The secretary was sweating profusely. If Loraine continued, he feared his employer's impeccable reputation would be tarnished as an oppressive bureaucrat. He quickly said, "Please wait a moment. I'll consult with my superior and get back to you as soon as possible."

Meanwhile, Damon was the one sitting silently in the meeting room.

After the secretary repeated Loraine's words to him, Damon was taken aback, but not by her boldness. He frowned and asked, "Sitting on the Universe Group's applications? I never ordered anything like that. What is she talking about?"

The secretary replied that he was equally in the dark. Damon thought there could be some misunderstanding, but the primary concern was to invite Loraine to the Wilson family's

residence, so he didn't press further.

He stood up, exited the meeting room, and went to meet Loraine. Looking directly into her eyes, Damon said, "Having outsiders in today's discussion is inappropriate, Miss Torres, and I believe you wouldn't want anyone else to know about it. So please, ask Mr. Bryant to leave."

Loraine gracefully took Marco's arm and smiled, "There's nothing I need to hide from anyone. Besides, Marco is my better half. There's no reason for him to leave."