

Chapter 1177 Being Expelled From The Wilson Family

Upon hearing Joseph's words, Loraine's expression remained unchanged, making it difficult for others to discern her thoughts.

She should have felt relieved that the long-hidden truth was finally revealed, and those responsible for her mother's suffering were facing justice. Yet, she found no joy in her heart.

It was the first time she had heard the restored recording—Jaylah's voice recounting the plots against her mother from years ago stirred deep anger in Loraine, but more overwhelmingly, profound sorrow.

She remained unresponsive to Joseph's words, but Kaley was visibly distressed.

If Jaylah was expelled from the Wilson family, Kaley, who had no blood ties to them, would lose her status as well.

Unable to imagine losing her privileged life, tears began streaming down Kaley's face as she looked imploringly at Joseph.

Joseph remembered the affection he had shown her over the years, and his heart softened momentarily. Yet, considering Jaylah's actions, he could not simply forgive and forget.

He hesitated while looking at Kaley, then turned away, signaling to Francis. "Francis, take care of this. Kaley was not involved in Jaylah's actions; she wasn't even born then. We won't punish Kaley for Jaylah's actions."

Francis, noting Kaley's distressed state, responded coolly, "She should then return to her biological father. From now on, she will bear her father's surname, as she is not truly a Wilson."

Joseph seemed to wrestle with the harshness of this decision but ultimately remained silent, giving his tacit consent.

Kaley, desperate, abandoned all semblance of composure and fell to her knees before Joseph, tears flowing as she pleaded, "Grandpa, you've always shown me the most love. How can you do this? I knew nothing of what Mom did. I've always seen myself as a true Wilson, your granddaughter... How can you..."

Her sobs filled the room. Joseph felt a stir of compassion.

At that moment, Vincent interjected with a sneer, "Save your theatrics. Always playing the victim—how are you any different from your mother? Your act won't work on anyone here!"

As Damon and Edwin hesitated to step forward, shame overtook them and they retreated. Joseph, observing Kaley's desperate display, felt a flicker of sympathy.

He addressed her, saying, "The Wilson family will provide you with a sum of money, sufficient for a comfortable life..."

However, Kaley, accustomed to the luxuries and influence of the Wilson family, knew that without their name, the money would not sustain her lifestyle for long. How could she relinquish such a life and power?

Before Joseph could finish, Kaley interrupted, tearfully pleading, "I don't want the money. I just want to stay with you!"

She then turned to Loraine with a pitiful look. "Loraine, since you don't wish to return to the Wilson family, let me stay and take care of Grandpa instead, please..."

Loraine was both amused and astonished by Kaley's attempt to

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manipulate the situation.

Before Loraine could respond, Marco stepped in front of her, shielding her from Kaley's gaze.

Even Marco, typically oblivious to such drama, recognized Kaley's act. With a stern expression, he confronted her. "So, you're not aware of your mother's wrongdoings, huh? Come on, you've been no better than your mother!"

Taken aback, Kaley faltered, then, recalling something that deepened her guilt, she quickly muttered, "If you insist, I'll return to my father."

With that, she hurried out, her exit so swift it was almost like a flight, without even a parting word to Joseph.

Joseph's gaze narrowed, a suspicion taking root.

He had believed Kaley was innocent, but Marco's accusation and her reaction suggested a hidden complicity with her mother.

What had this mother and daughter been up to behind his back all these years?

This realization was not lost on Vincent, who, seeing Kaley's abrupt departure, acted swiftly to detain her, then turned to Marco, demanding, "What exactly has Kaley done? Tell us!"



Chapter 1178 Evidence Of Kaley's Misdeeds

Reminded by Loraine, Vincent was the first in the Wilson family to suspect Kaley, but he lacked concrete evidence of her wrongdoing.

He had hoped to rectify the situation involving the crew for Loraine's sake, but without proof, the issue remained unresolved.

Sometimes, Vincent wondered if Kaley, despite not appearing as innocent and kind-hearted as she seemed, might not actually be responsible for the crew incident.

However, Marco now revisited the issue with definitive proof.

Kaley had orchestrated the placement of flammable explosives in set props, skillfully covering her tracks. Yet, Marco had uncovered clues linking her to the sabotage.

Moreover, Kaley had falsely accused Loraine of stealing a costume and conspired with Jaylah to try to have someone rape Loraine at a Wilson family party.

Now, armed with the full truth, Loraine and Marco were prepared to expose these deeds publicly.

Joseph's face turned ashen with rage, his hand gripping his cane tightly. A mix of guilt, shock, and anger played across Vincent's features. The other members of the Wilson family were equally stunned by the revelations.

The Wilsons had never been ones to throw their weight around,



yet Kaley had exploited their influence for her own schemes, keeping them all oblivious.

Marco turned to Damon with a sneer. "This isn't just a failure of oversight. The Wilson family has grown complacent and arrogant, never properly disciplining your subordinates. Mr. Wilson, have you ever wondered why you have been suspended from your work? Why did your subordinates dare to act against the Universe Group? It was because Kaley manipulated them by leaking what she claimed were 'your' wishes!"

Damon's face fell as he processed the implications. Then, as Marco detailed the manipulations at a recent auction, Edwin realized he had been unwittingly complicit.

The Wilson men, regardless of their typical arrogance, had to confront the reality that they had been duped by Kaley's deceitful charade.

Now that all her misdeeds had been exposed, Kaley found herself in a state of desperation. Her complexion turned ghostly as the gravity of her situation sank in. Abandoning all composure, she knelt before Joseph, tears streaming down her face as she pleaded for forgiveness.

"Grandpa, I was wrong. Mom led me into this. I was misled too! I promise it won't happen again. Please forgive me!"

Joseph's face was livid as he pushed her away. "Marco, since you have proof of her actions, turn it over to the police! I won't intervene anymore!"

Reflecting on how Kaley had manipulated him against Loraine, Joseph felt a mix of shame and anger. He hadn't realized he'd been deceived for so long.

Initially, Joseph harbored some sympathy for Kaley. Now, he showed no leniency. "Vincent has already taken legal action against Jaylah. As the elder here, I must set the right example!"





With Joseph's blessing, Marco contacted the police, who promptly arrived and took Kaley into custody. Despite her tearful pleas, the Wilsons showed no mercy.

Loraine and Marco watched the unfolding scene, detached.

After Kaley was taken away, Marco turned to Loraine, who was in a sour mood, and said, "It's over. Let's go."

Vincent approached and said earnestly, "Loraine, could you stay a moment longer? We all owe you an apology."

Loraine gave a slight nod, and Vincent signaled to the others.

After a moment of struggle, Edwin was the first to step forward and apologize.

Damon soon followed, and even Francis lowered his head, offering his regrets.

Eventually, Joseph, supporting himself with his cane, stood and approached Loraine, taking her hand tenderly. "Lorrie, I promise to discipline these fools... Can you forgive them?"

Loraine observed their faces, noticing a blend of anticipation and guilt reflected in their expressions. She remained noncommittal, her silence indicating that apologies alone were insufficient to heal the wounds inflicted.

Joseph sighed. "Lorrie, please come back to the Wilson family and let us make amends. We will support you fully!"

The others echoed his sentiment, but Loraine addressed Joseph with a critical question.

"Where's my engagement rings?"

Caught off-guard, Joseph quickly had someone retrieve the rings and presented them to Loraine with an eager smile.



Loraine accepted the rings, her emotions complex.

She carefully stored the rings away, then spoke firmly. "I have my own life now. I won't return here. And since you knew what had happened to Mom... Please, stop manipulating me with your threats."



Chapter 1179 Reflection Of The Wilson family

Hearing Loraine's words, Joseph's face darkened instantly.

He wanted to clarify that he had been misled by Jaylah into believing Marco was untrustworthy, which had fueled his opposition.

However, Loraine did not wait for his explanation. After speaking, she bowed and turned to leave. Marco quickly followed her, and neither of them looked back.

Joseph let out a heavy sigh of sadness.

The rest of the Wilson family shifted uncomfortably, with even the typically composed Francis appearing uneasy.

Among them, Vincent stood apart, arms crossed, a look of pride on his face.

He had been vigilant about the matter, and it was under his persistence that Joseph finally uncovered the truth. Now, he relished the opportunity to assert himself in front of his siblings.

Vincent surveyed them with a smug smile. "I only found out today just how much harm the Wilsons have inflicted on Loraine. No wonder she doesn't want to return!"

Damon retorted, "I was misled before. And didn't you misunderstand Loraine as well at one point?"

Vincent laughed openly. "Sure, I was deceived because I was



naive, but I acknowledged my mistake as soon as I realized it, didn't I?"

His smile broadening, he added, "Besides, even if Loraine doesn't wish to return to the Wilson family now, she still calls me Uncle Vincent!"

Damon inhaled sharply, and Francis remained silent, deep in thought.

Vincent's smugness only grew. "Instead of bickering with me, perhaps you should consider how to make amends with Loraine!"

With that, he walked away confidently. Damon, frustrated, turned to Francis and muttered, "Look at him!"

Francis said nothing, his head bowed as he pondered.

Joseph, observing the dispute among his sons and remembering how he himself had also been deceived by Jaylah and Kaley, hesitated to reprimand them severely.

Realizing that only Vincent, whom he often found irritating, had managed to remain in Loraine's good graces, Joseph couldn't help but consider Vincent's approach.

How could they make amends to Loraine in a way that would lead to her forgiveness and reconciliation with them?

After leaving the hotel, Vincent wasted no time and hurried to catch up with Loraine and Marco.

He arrived just as they were getting into their car, ready to leave.

Vincent quickly approached and energetically waved through the car window to get their attention.

Inside the car, Marco watched Vincent's animated gestures and





couldn't help but ask, "What is he doing?"

It was hard to reconcile Vincent's public image as calm and collected with his current antics.

Loraine shook her head, puzzled by Vincent's behavior. Knowing Marco's feelings towards the Wilson family, she suggested, "Let's just leave him. Let's go."

Recalling Vincent's recent efforts in the investigation and his role in persuading Joseph to seek the truth, Marco's expression softened.

He also recognized that Loraine's view of Vincent was more favorable than her view of other Wilson family members, given Vincent's consistent support.

"Vincent has been quite helpful recently," Marco conceded. "We should at least see what he wants."

Encouraged by Marco's words and remembering Vincent's assistance, Loraine felt a surge of gratitude. She nodded in agreement.

The couple then exited the car. Loraine smiled at Vincent and said, "Thank you for your help... Uncle Vincent."

Although Vincent had just been boasting in front of his brothers, hearing Loraine call him 'Uncle Vincent' again took him by surprise.

His face quickly brightened into a smile. "You're welcome! I'm your uncle, after all. It's the least I can do."

Seeing his smile, Loraine's heart warmed further.

Vincent, a bit embarrassed by the emotional moment, scratched his head, unsure of what to say next. Seeing Loraine, now wearing her engagement ring and holding hands with



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Marco, he managed a chuckle. "Your previous engagement party was interrupted, so you'll definitely need to plan a new one."



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Chapter 1180 Francis's Display Of Generosity

Despite regretting that the last engagement party was ruined, Loraine believed that Marco meant more to her than any event.

Believing in the strength of their love to conquer any challenge, she deemed another engagement party unnecessary.

"We don't need to hold it again. Since I have retrieved the rings, that is sufficient," she stated.

However, Marco shook his head and spoke seriously. "I agree with Vincent. I need to organize another engagement party to make it absolutely perfect and flawless."

Though he didn't vocalize it, he blamed himself for handing the engagement ring over to Joseph.

Regardless of the reasons, he felt compelled to make amends. This was a lifelong commitment for him and Loraine. Every detail mattered.

Seeing his determination, Loraine recalled their previous efforts and his enthusiasm when preparing for the initial engagement party.

Recognizing his sincerity, she gently agreed, "Alright, let's plan it together."

Observing them exchanging affectionate glances, Vincent chuckled. "Alright, I'll leave you two to your discussion. And don't forget to invite me to the party this time!"

The fact that he hadn't been invited last time had infuriated him for a long while. It was the first time he felt such resentment towards being a Wilson.

Now that the misunderstanding was cleared, he trusted Loraine would include him.

Without hesitation, Loraine smiled and assured him, "Of course."

With Vincent happily departing, they resumed discussing their plans in the car.

Reflecting on past lessons, Marco frowned. "This time, we need to choose a hotel with better privacy. We must avoid any mishaps."

Loraine chuckled softly and nodded in agreement. After discussing for a while, Marco's eyes suddenly brightened, and he looked at her expectantly. "By the way, I asked Carl to find a new boutique. Since we have the afternoon free, let's go there to select our attire for the engagement party."

Both had deliberately cleared their schedules for the day, allowing them to enjoy the afternoon without needing to rush back to work. Loraine readily agreed.

After they arrived at the boutique, they were engrossed in selecting their attire when Loraine's phone suddenly rang.

Initially, Loraine was reluctant to answer; however, the persistent ringing hinted at urgency. Apologizing to Marco with a smile, she stepped outside to take the call.

Retrieving her phone, she saw it was Remy calling.

Loraine was surprised. Answering the call, she heard Remy's voice on the line. "Ms. Torres, I'm not sure what's happening. Suddenly, numerous companies have approached us, expressing interest in partnering with the Universe Group!"



Frowning, Loraine recalled the various enterprises that had sought her out after learning her identity at the dinner party.

Such partnerships were often short-lived and could potentially harm the Universe Group. Without hesitation, Loraine responded firmly, "Politely decline all of them. The Universe Group is selective in its partnerships. We only collaborate with sincere enterprises."

After a brief pause, Remy clarified, "But Ms. Torres, I've screened them, and they're all reputable partners... They mentioned the Wilson family recommending them to us."

Loraine furrowed her brow, realizing the involvement of the Wilson family. After a moment's thought, she concluded that this was their attempt to appease her, especially since Francis had previously manipulated her to break up with Marco and return to the Wilson family through cooperation.

However, relying on decisions from the Wilson family for future business ventures posed risks, undermining the Universe Group's autonomy.

If Francis genuinely wanted to make amends, he wouldn't involve unknown companies but instead foster collaboration between the Star Group and the Universe Group.

Loraine couldn't help but inwardly sneer at Francis's profit-driven motives. Unsurprised by his nature, she remained composed and instructed Remy to decline all offers.

Despite Remy's regret, she agreed and ended the call to handle the matter.

Afterward, Loraine pondered briefly and sent a message to Vincent, asking him to relay a message to Francis.

"The Universe Group is currently engaged with the amusement park project and other ventures with Solar Company. Our plate





is full. Please inform Francis that there is no need to involve me in these partnerships."

Meanwhile, in the CEO's office of the Star Group, Francis's expression darkened upon learning that the Universe Group had rejected all partnerships.

He rarely extended such gestures to anyone, even more so without asking for anything in return. Why did Loraine refuse?

Observing Francis's demeanor, Edwin cautiously ventured, "Dad, Loraine is a woman, after all. Maybe she's indifferent to those partnerships... Let me handle it. I know how to coax a woman. I'll persuade her to happily accept me as her cousin!"



Chapter 1181 An Audacious Admirer

Francis threw Edwin a scornful look. "You?"

He was all too familiar with Edwin's antics. With a derisive snort, he shook his head in denial of the proposal.

Stung by the contempt, Edwin snapped back, "Is it really that hard to please a woman? Kaley also..."

His words trailed off as he caught himself mentioning Kaley, a forbidden topic; he clamped his mouth shut.

Francis's gaze turned icy. "Watch your words closely," he warned in a low tone. "Or they might just land you in a heap of trouble someday."

Within the Wilson household, Kaley's and Jaylah's names were now strictly off-limits.

Embarrassed, Edwin hung his head, his cheeks burning. Moments later, he sneaked a wary glance at Francis, found him unresponsive, and seized the chance to escape.

Convinced that his proposal had been tacitly approved, Edwin left, buoyed by his usual arrogance.

He believed firmly in his ability to charm any woman with lavish gifts. Thus, he made a beeline for the nearest luxury store and indulged in an extravagant shopping spree, selecting fine jewelry and designer handbags.

According to Edwin, the way to a woman's heart was through



opulence—if one gift didn't capture her affections, it simply meant it wasn't extravagant enough.

With the evening winding down, he picked up a voluminous bouquet of flowers and positioned himself conspicuously at the entrance of the Universe Group building, anticipating Loraine's appearance.

At the same time, Loraine and Marco were returning from a shopping trip, fresh from purchasing their attire for the engagement party. After receiving a call from Remy, Loraine decided to head to her office to handle some business matters. Marco escorted her back to the company.

Edwin's grand gesture drew a curious crowd. When Loraine and Marco stepped out of their car, they did not spot Edwin, but instead were greeted by an assembly of spectators and a sea of flowers. Loraine laughed lightly, intrigued by the scene. "Who's making such a bold declaration of love today? What an elaborate affair!"

Marco was indifferent initially, but noticing Loraine's curiosity, he leaned in and whispered, "Do you want something like that?"

Loraine shot him a disapproving look, her mind flashing back to an even more elaborate event he had orchestrated for her. With a hint of mischief, she responded, "I don't need it. Such extravagance could be quite embarrassing, don't you think?"

Marco touched his nose, recalling his own naive attempts to impress her.

Back then, he was clueless about women, with only his equally baffled friend Jimmie for advice.

Despite his missteps, Loraine cherished the memory of how Marco's efforts had genuinely moved her. She smiled warmly at him.





Holding his hand, she drew closer and murmured, "Grand gestures don't matter to me. It's the thought and the person behind them that count."

For Loraine, Marco was undoubtedly that person.

Touched by her words, Marco felt a surge of affection and almost swept her up in a public embrace, but he held back. Instead, he wrapped an arm around her and whispered, "Let's head inside."

They skirted the crowd discreetly and entered the company building. Along the way, they caught a few employees casting surprised, knowing glances their way.

Loraine was perplexed but remained lenient. She didn't reprimand the employees who had stepped out to witness the spectacle. As she pondered their reactions, Remy approached.

When she noticed Marco beside Loraine, she hesitated for a moment before explaining the situation. "Ms. Torres," she stammered, "actually, the flowers and jewelry outside are intended for you."

At these words, Marco's warmth vanished, replaced by an icy demeanor.

His protectiveness flaring, he positioned himself in front of Loraine and declared sharply, "I need to see who dares court my fiancée right before my eyes!"

Loraine felt a mix of bewilderment and resignation. She had maintained a discreet presence in Zodiac, rarely appearing in public or mingling with men. The elaborate display was utterly unexpected.

Holding her hand tightly, Marco's eyes sparkled with resolve. "Let's find out who this audacious admirer is!"





Together, they made their way to the entrance. There, they found a man obscured behind a massive bouquet of roses. As Loraine stepped forward, he peeked out, his smile broad.

"Loraine, I've brought you gifts!" he exclaimed.

