

Chapter 1199 Mr. K

After Damon escorted the woman to the police station, Marco shifted his focus back to his company affairs. Later, when he went to pick up Loraine from work, he couldn't help but bring up the incident.

Loraine was taken aback upon learning that the woman might have been a kidnapping victim. "How is she? Did they manage to save her? What if those human traffickers return for her?" she asked anxiously. Her mother's harrowing experiences had left Loraine deeply empathetic towards victims of trafficking, fueling her fervent disdain for such crimes.

Marco watched her, his eyes filled with admiration. He knew that stepping into the situation would be significant to Loraine, which was why he had extended a helping hand to Damon. Her compassion for the stranger deepened his affection for her.

"Don't worry," he reassured her, "Damon took the woman to the police station. He's more than capable of handling this situation."

Relieved, Loraine relaxed slightly.

Marco continued, his voice softening, "Seeing that woman reminded me of the time I saved you... I'm grateful that we met, yet I'm also pained by the dangers you've faced. That's exactly why I intervened today. I knew you would have done the same."

Loraine recalled her own moments of helplessness, her heart throbbing with pain, but the memory of Marco coming to her rescue brought a smile to her face.

She knew he used her past to justify his present heroic actions, a tactic that both amused and endeared him to her.

Teasingly, she replied, "Aren't you worried that playing the hero might lead to another fleeting romance? You are now part of the Cruz family and hold the position of CEO at Solar Company. If the woman were to search for you later, she wouldn't have as challenging a time locating you as I did back then."

At her words, Marco pulled her close. His eyes conveyed a mix of affection and mild exasperation.

"I rescued that woman because I reflected on the similar challenges you have faced and believed that you would opt to assist her if you were present. I had no ulterior motives."

He went on to describe Damon's reaction, drawing laughter from Loraine. Just as she prepared to tease him further, Marco grasped her hand earnestly, his voice firm. "I'm fully committed to you. If I ever act with other intentions, let me..."

Before he could finish, Loraine wrapped her arms around his neck, silencing him with a kiss.

As the kiss ended, her eyes shimmered with tenderness. "I believe you," she murmured.

No further words were needed as Marco pulled her close, embracing a serene moment of connection.

As the car warmed from their closeness, they paused, respecting their boundaries yet relishing the lingering warmth.

Eventually, Loraine spoke softly. "Since learning about my mom's suffering, I've been thinking. I want to help women who've been trafficked, to prevent such evil deeds from recurring. Marco, will you join me in this?"

Their fingers intertwined, heartbeats in sync, as if their souls were fused.

"I'll stand by you in whatever you choose to do," Marco affirmed.

Moved, Loraine leaned away from his embrace, her gaze affectionate.

As Marco adjusted the air in the car, he leaned in closer, his voice both tender and resolute. "Loraine, our engagement party is just around the corner."

She nodded against the steering wheel, his whispers filling her ears. "And after that, we'll have a grand wedding. I will be your husband, and I will always be by your side..."

Outside the car, the night enveloped everything in total darkness, akin to the buried secrets of Zodiac.

Meanwhile, in an opulent room, a man reclined, his legs crossed, the fabric of his suit rustling softly.

He swirled a glass of red wine, then elegantly sipped the crimson liquid within.

After a prolonged silence, a cold voice inquired, "Jaylah is held captive by the Wilson family?"

"Yes, it appears she's been handed to the police. And Kaley's been ousted, living in hardship now. The Wilsons are currying favor with Loraine, and business at Universe Group and Solar

Company is booming. Mr. K, what's our next move?"

Mr. K's eyes narrowed, his chuckle low. "It seems external forces can't shake them. But that's fine. If these pawns are ineffective, we'll dismiss them."

He tapped his fingers on the glass, finishing his wine with a slight smirk. "I wonder if Marco will remain steadfast by Loraine's side when confronted with past acquaintances? My dear nephew has had enough rest. It's time to bring him back into play."



Chapter 1200 Planning A Surprise

Since the Universe Group developed the new composite, Loraine and Marco continued progressing steadily, undistracted by external pressures.

Initially not the romantic type, Marco's demeanor shifted notably after meeting Loraine. His gestures of affection, subtle yet significant, weren't for show but heartfelt expressions of his love for her.

To Marco, both the engagement banquet and the wedding held profound significance.

The former served as a public commitment to their union in the presence of friends and family, while the latter would be a sacred vow before God and clergy, affirming his fidelity.

Upon his urging, Loraine consented to host another engagement party.

Leveraging their prior experience, they planned efficiently, focusing keenly on the details.

"I want this to be an intimate affair. Only those with invitations may attend," Loraine declared, excitement sparking in her eyes as she discussed designing the invitations herself.

Marco supported her vision wholeheartedly, adding, "Then we need to carefully consider our guest list."

"Absolutely," Loraine agreed. "It should be just those close to

us, keeping it understated."

A thought struck Loraine, and she turned to Marco solemnly. "I want to inform Grandpa this time. His health may prevent him from attending, but it's important that he is informed since we are hosting our engagement party."

They had initially postponed telling Aldo due to their plans of hosting the wedding soon after returning to Vagow, but now felt he should be included in their current celebrations.

Understanding her longing for Aldo, Marco nodded and reassured, "I'll arrange for videos and photos of the event, so he can experience it as if he were there. He won't miss out on this milestone."

Moved by his thoughtfulness, Loraine felt a surge of motivation to perfect the invitations. Marco affectionately tousled her hair, pondering momentarily before finding a reason to leave her to her designs.

Stepping out, he sought Rowan to update him on their plans for rehosting the engagement party and shared how deeply Loraine missed Aldo.

Although Rowan and Wesley had initially come to Zodiac on their own business, they departed early when Marco reached out to them. Thus, Rowan understood the significance of Marco's request.

After a moment of thought, Rowan stated plainly, "Dad's been discharged, but he's too frail for a long journey from Vagow to Zodiac. It's best to record the event and send him the video."

Marco, already aware of this, remained unfazed and shared his thoughts. "I have a proposal, but it requires Aldo's cooperation."

Rowan signaled for him to continue.

"Solar Company has been developing a new technology that's just entered its testing phase. If Aldo agrees to assist, I might be able to bring him here for the event."

Rowan considered this for a moment, then nodded slowly. "I'll talk to him. What do you need from me?"

Marco outlined his plan, adding, "I need you to contact him discreetly. I want it to be a surprise for Loraine."

Rowan looked at him intently, his tone serious. "This technology is still under wraps, right? Are you sure about this? Don't you have concerns about potential risks?"

Marco's expression remained calm as he smiled. "I trust her and the Torres family completely. Besides, I've already committed to sharing all my patents with her, and Universe Group has free access to them. Her happiness is my priority."

Rowan was momentarily at a loss for words. After a pause, he clapped Marco on the shoulder and said, "You've changed a lot."

When they first met, Marco was as alert as a cheetah, holding his own in a confrontation with Rowan, a trained special forces soldier.

But now, influenced by his feelings for Loraine, Marco showed no signs of defensiveness around them.

Rowan grinned, offering a sincere compliment. "I believe this better version of you will bring Lorrie happiness!"

With a confident smile, Marco replied, "Rowan, I won't let you down."