

Chapter 1235 Power Struggles

Clifford urgently needed an ally, leading to the swift organization of the banquet. However, due to this haste, the event fell short, failing to maintain the Cruz family's customary sophistication.

The attendees, privy to the banquet's real intent, showed no concerns about the diminished elegance.

The elite of Zodiac converged in a hall where soft music permeated the air. Their sharp glances discreetly scanned for the valuable information they sought.

With their intentions for this social interaction clear, they exchanged polite smiles, clinked glasses, and conversed amiably.

Suddenly, the room fell silent.

Every gaze shifted toward a striking woman adorned in a breathtaking gown, her smile brilliantly outshining the venue's lighting.

"Wow, what a regal beauty! To dance with her, I'd gladly forsake everything and live as a beggar," a businessman blurted out, sparking laughter among the guests.

Another guest chimed in, "She's a dream far beyond our grasp, even if we were to face bankruptcy! Not only is she the Wilson family's long-lost gem, but she's also engaged to the son of the Cruz family and is a formidable woman in her own right."

The businessman's expression turned curious. "Is she... Loraine?"

As someone confirmed this, whispers of awe fluttered through the crowd.

This radiant figure, at the center of Zodiac's elite, was attracting immense attention as others engaged with her fervently.

Loraine, interacting flawlessly with others, sighed inwardly.

She was aware that the bulk of this attention stemmed from her association with the Wilson family and Marco, yet the level of enthusiasm felt excessive.

She hadn't come to seize the limelight but rather to gauge Clifford's potential allies and, if feasible, to throw a wrench in his schemes.

Nevertheless, she found the current scenario manageable. Swiftly adjusting, she deepened her engagement with the guests.

The crowd perceived the poised woman before them as not only aristocratic but also accessible, sharp-witted, and humorous.

Without realizing it, they were coaxed into discussing business matters, leaving the event with a heightened interest in both Solar Company and Universe Group.

Loraine's influence was so discreet that no one sensed any manipulation.

Among those eager to engage her, compliments flowed freely. Someone interjected, "I saw you in that drama, Ms. Torres! It's surprising you have such a knack for acting..."

Loraine responded with humility, her smile undiminished, "I



played a role in the drama at my uncle's request. The success of the show really belongs to everyone involved."

Her mention of her uncle reminded everyone of Vincent, leading them to perceive her comments as a subtle display of her prestigious family connections.

Their flattery grew even more fervent.

Loraine maintained her smile, though it felt a bit forced, as she carried on with the courteous conversation.

Out of the blue, she glanced up, as if noticing something out of place.

There in the distance was Clifford, the evening's host, lingering in a corner surrounded by only a handful of guests, almost fading into the background.

His expression was somber, his eyes harboring a sinister look as they fixed on Loraine.

Undisturbed, Loraine offered him a composed nod and a smile, taking on the air of a gracious host who treated everyone with equal respect.

Clifford's hands balled into fists, his anger palpable.

At that moment, one of his aides leaned in to whisper, "Sir, the Riley family has just arrived."

At this news, a subtle change flickered across Clifford's face. He managed a forced smile towards Loraine before turning to head towards the entrance.

Loraine watched him intently, her mind buzzing with thoughts. She wasn't entirely sure why Clifford had suddenly softened, but she knew she had managed to capture his attention, meeting part of her objective.

Who was he about to meet? Perhaps someone he intended to partner with?

Lorraine's thoughts whirled. After cordially engaging a few nearby businessmen, she planned her next move, to seek out Clifford and stir him up a bit more.

Lost in her plans, she was startled when a hand clasped hers.

Turning around in surprise, she found Keely, radiant in a stunning white gown, beaming at her and exclaiming, "Lorraine!"



Chapter 1236 Loraine Was Framed Again

Loraine's heart raced when she saw Keely.

Keely had left a lasting impression on her. They had once been enemies, with Keely being something of a nightmare for Loraine.

Now Keely referred to her as Loraine, her face wearing an innocent expression.

Loraine felt a twinge of fear initially, but remembering Keely's situation, she managed to mask her discomfort with a smile and asked, "Why are you here?"

Loraine was taken aback to see Keely there. She soon noticed an embarrassed servant nearby, responsible for Keely.

The servant navigated through the crowd and approached Loraine with an apologetic tone, saying, "Ms. Torres, I apologize. Miss Haywood dashed over as soon as she saw you, and I couldn't keep up."

Loraine nodded, signaling that it was fine, then glanced from Keely's hand on her arm to the servant with a questioning look.

The servant quickly said, "Mr. Riley is here at the party, and Miss Haywood insisted on coming with him. She's been feeling better lately, so Mr. Riley allowed it."

Jorge was here as well...

Recalling their previous disagreements, Loraine nodded after a moment. She admitted to herself that she had been at fault

too but believed it was all behind them now.

She believed Jorge wouldn't dwell on their past disagreements or initiate new ones.

After all, they both valued their relationship with Marco.

When Loraine was lost in thought, Keely tugged at her arm like a mischievous child, saying, "Loraine, play with me, play with me!"

Loraine looked at her, feeling a bit overwhelmed.

Considering Keely's current condition, saying no directly would hurt her feelings. However, Loraine wasn't prepared to play games with her former enemy, given the pain and suffering Keely had caused her.

She was on the verge of asking about Jorge's whereabouts, but she stopped short, her gaze locking onto something in the distance.

Not too far off, Jorge and Clifford were walking side by side, chatting and laughing as though they had been friends for years.

It was surprising to see the arrogant Clifford associating with someone in such a friendly manner.

Clearly, Jorge was the business partner Clifford was seeking to collaborate with.

Loraine's brow furrowed slightly as she pondered.

If Clifford had selected Jorge, then her actions today appeared to be unnecessary.

Marco and Jorge were close friends. If Marco talked to Jorge privately, Jorge would surely assist them. This would also serve the purpose of distracting Clifford.

With this thought, Loraine felt more at ease. Convincing Jorge would be simpler than convincing others. Loraine glanced at Keely, who was still clinging to her arm. She sighed before smiling, "How about we go have something to eat nearby?"

In doing so, she would look after Keely for Jorge. Building a good relationship with Keely now could also help clear up any past misunderstandings.

Keely beamed and replied, "Okay!"

Loraine still felt a bit uneasy. She turned away, ignoring Keely's expression, and walked towards the dessert and drink area.

Loraine saw the wine on the table and her expression darkened, reminding her of days gone by. She turned to the servant and asked, "Are there any foods she dislikes or is allergic to?"

The servant pondered a moment then answered, "No."

Relieved by this, Loraine picked a few cakes and sat down with Keely.

Keely, looking delighted, quickly grabbed two pieces of cake and ate them like a child.

Seeing this, Loraine let out a relieved sigh. She couldn't shake a lingering suspicion, likely stemming from the deep fear Keely had instilled in her.

After wiping Keely's hands, she was about to tell her to eat slowly when a man approached, saying, "Ms. Torres, you're here. Everyone's been looking for you! The supplier for those materials you discussed last time is here today and would really like to meet you. Would you be willing to meet him?"

This man was a business partner at Universe Group, and negotiations over those materials had previously been unsuccessful.

Hearing this, Loraine did not refuse. She smiled and asked her partner to wait for a moment. Then, she turned to Keely and said, "I need to take care of something right now. You stay here with the servant and continue eating. I'll be back soon, alright?"

Keely pouted, seeming to understand, and said reluctantly, "Okay, but hurry back..."

Loraine nodded, instructed the servant to watch over Keely carefully, and left with the partner.

Unknown to Loraine, the moment she left, the innocent expression on Keely's face shifted into a sly smile.

She looked at the servant, casually tossed a piece of cake, and asked, "Do you know what to say then?"

The servant bowed her head and replied obediently, "Yes, I understand. Ms. Torres told you to eat something you shouldn't, as a way to distract you."



Exclusive Offer For You

GO NOW