

Chapter 1237 Can't You Give Me Another Shot

Meanwhile, Loraine was engaged in a lively discussion with her business partners. She had just met with a supplier of materials and finally grasped his earlier reservations.

He had been skeptical about working with Loraine, who had an esteemed reputation, fearing she might not live up to it.

However, their conversation dispelled his doubts, and he was now ready to sign the contract promptly.

The partner who had introduced them chuckled heartily and remarked, "I've been saying for ages that Ms. Torres is utterly dependable. Yet, you were still skeptical. Just look at how my company has prospered since partnering with Universe Group. It's seen tremendous growth and reaped significant benefits!"

Loraine responded with her usual humility, and the supplier nodded in agreement, contributing to the cordial atmosphere.

Just then, a young man approached, phone in hand as though recording a video. He pointed his camera straight at Loraine while a voice declared from behind the device, "There she is!"

Loraine's demeanor cooled instantly. She frowned at the camera, or more precisely, at the dapper playboy operating it.

Realizing his phone was blocking his face, the man lowered it slightly with an awkward smile, revealing his handsome features. He then addressed Loraine warmly, "Loraine..."

The two partners exchanged a knowing look, recognizing the

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man in front of them.

With her arms crossed and her face set in an impassive expression, Loraine's stance made it clear she had no interest in engaging with the man.

The man was none other than Edwin. He scratched his head as he explained, "It's just that grandpa hasn't been well, and our family doctor has strongly advised against him going out. However, he's been missing you terribly... I knew you'd be at this party, so I..."

He paused, as if to distance himself from seeming peculiar, then hurriedly added, "I saw you with someone else earlier, and I immediately initiated a video call with grandpa. Before I could engage with you, you left, so I had to follow you here."

Seeing the typically arrogant Edwin speaking in such a gentle manner with Loraine, the partners quickly understood that it was a private affair and decided to take their leave.

Loraine, although managing a polite smile and bidding farewell to them, clearly remained skeptical of Edwin's explanation.

Her face was an unreadable mask of cold detachment. Seizing the moment, Edwin turned the phone screen to Loraine, with Joseph now visible to her on the screen.

Seeing the old man squinting to see the screen, Loraine managed a soft, caring smile and began, "You... What's going on with you?"

Upon spotting her on the screen, Joseph smiled and brought the phone nearer to his ear to hear her more distinctly. After a moment to understand her clearly, he laughed and said, "Oh, it's nothing serious at all! Just the doctor playing it safe! I'm fine!"

Edwin whispered to Loraine, "Ever since grandpa snuck off to the countryside to look into the past, he's been feeling under

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the weather, weak and coughing a lot. The doctor told him he should stay indoors."

Joseph, overhearing the conversation, barked, "Enough! Hand Loraine the phone and quit bothering us!"

Edwin grimaced but did as he was told, passing the phone to Loraine.

Seeing the old man with white hair and wrinkles on the screen, Loraine noticed the IV pole by the bedside. Her expression softened, and her voice took on a gentler tone, as if she were a typical young person concerned for her grandpa.

As they chatted about daily life, just what Joseph wanted, his eyes filled with tears. He urged Loraine to look after herself and not hesitate to call on her uncles if she needed anything. He was keen to know about her day-to-day life.

Loraine answered his questions patiently. When she noticed Joseph's eyes drooping with tiredness, she said gently, "Get some rest now. Take good care of yourself, and I'll come to see you when I can."

With a nod, Joseph instructed his servant to adjust the bed so he could lie down, and then settled in quietly.

Soon after, the rhythmic sound of Joseph's steady, peaceful breathing filled the room. He had drifted off to sleep with a gentle smile on his lips.

The servant standing by his side carefully tucked away the phone and murmured, "Ms. Torres, you really are remarkable... It's been ages since Mr. Wilson slept so peacefully."

Loraine pursed her lips and remained silent. Once she had ended the call, she handed the phone back to Edwin hastily, as if she wanted to quickly distance herself from him.

Edwin quickly pocketed his phone and hurried after her, pleading with a hint of desperation, "Loraine, I've changed! Can't you see that and give me another shot?"

Loraine gave him a cold, disinterested look and replied, "Only someone who's truly immature would claim they've matured."

At her words, Edwin was at a loss for words, his expression souring instantly. Loraine stopped and added, almost as an afterthought, "Opportunities are made through effort, not handed out by others. Besides, we have nothing left to discuss, do we?"



Chapter 1238 The Chance

Subconsciously, Edwin felt the urge to retort, but after a moment's reflection, he realized he and Loraine truly had little in common. Even the gifts he had given her, assuming they would be appreciated, had fallen flat.

The sole positive development was that Loraine was now willing to talk to him.

Not wanting to miss this opportunity, he scrambled to find a topic that might interest her.

"I... I've genuinely changed. If you doubt it, you can see for yourself! I've been working at Star Group and have risen through the ranks by my own efforts..."

Vincent had mentioned this to Loraine before. While she believed it was true, she replied coolly, "And how does this concern me?"

Before she could continue, Edwin interjected eagerly, "Even if you won't acknowledge me as family, as CEO of Universe Group, surely you wouldn't disregard a cooperation offer from another powerful company?"

Loraine raised an eyebrow. "You mean, Star Group?"

With a hint of pride in his eyes, he nodded emphatically. "Exactly!"

Loraine couldn't help but chuckle. She neither accepted nor declined immediately. Instead, she looked him up and down with great interest.

She couldn't help but recall Edwin's days as an ordinary office worker at Universe Group, arriving daily with a piece of bread in his mouth and a stack of files in hand, shuttling between various offices.

He was undeniably proud. Loraine vividly remembered their first encounter; he was fresh from his return abroad, his demeanor brimming with arrogance.

But when he was unfairly dismissed that day, his expression had been one of hurt and frustration, yet he didn't let his anger take over him or create a scene. He simply left.

Now, his temperament had noticeably evolved. He wore a pleasant smile, and looked much more composed.

He had really changed a lot.

Loraine sighed softly, feeling past grievances and complaints towards him gradually dissipate. As a cousin, he had actually done reasonably well. Much of their past conflict stemmed just from differing perspectives.

Edwin, sensing her contemplative gaze, cautiously asked, "What... What do you think?"

With a faint smile, Loraine adopted a businesslike tone. "It depends on what you're proposing."

Upon hearing this, Edwin felt a wave of relief wash over him. Loraine's willingness to engage hinted at potential for cooperation. Additionally, the Wilson family had an abundance of valuable projects.

Of course, if he wanted to win Loraine over, he needed to demonstrate his sincerity.

After pondering for a moment, he spoke earnestly. "The lands I purchased have finally become available for development, but



due to the surrounding environment, constructing residential areas or factories isn't feasible. I'm considering building a high-end club."

Loraine showed little interest. It was evident she wasn't impressed. With a sigh, Edwin continued, "I understand there are many such clubs in Zodiac. It's challenging for me to make something that stands apart from the rest... But after seeing Universe Group's success with the amusement park project, I believe we could collaborate on creating a unique and distinctive club, tailored for the high-end market."

Loraine furrowed her brow slightly. She wasn't dismissing him out of prejudice but genuinely evaluating the idea.

From what Edwin proposed, the deal appeared highly beneficial for Universe Group. After all, Edwin would shoulder most of the financial burden, while Universe Group's construction expertise was the key.

Moreover, she had another angle to consider. Universe Group had thus far handled grassroots-level projects like the smart city project with the government and subsequent CBD projects. These had their own appeal but were not particularly interesting to the upper class.

A well-executed high-end club could not only tap into Zodiac's affluent market but also forge alliances with wealthy and influential families through the club itself. It could also provide Universe Group with insider information on governmental decision-making.

After contemplating these points, she glanced at Edwin and asked casually, "Whose idea was this?"

For a playboy like Edwin, frequenting high-end clubs felt as natural as coming home, yet building one from scratch was beyond his capability. Someone must have inspired him.

"I came up with the idea together with a colleague! Honestly, I learned a lot during my time at Universe Group. When inspiration struck, I immediately drafted the plan!"

In reality, his colleague had merely suggested the idea; Edwin had fleshed out the details based on his own vision. His talent was undeniable.

Loraine nodded, feeling a twinge of intrigue, though she remained composed. "I'll consider it once you have the complete plan."

She glanced at Edwin, a faint, almost imperceptible smile playing on her lips.

"I hope your plan will meet my expectations."

