

Chapter 1279 Severing Ties With Her

Jorge's face drained of color as he looked up at Keely. His lips quivered, barely whispering her name in disbelief.

When Keely caught sight of Jorge and Marco together, she felt as if she had plunged into icy water. Seeing Jorge's devastated expression, she snapped back to reality and rushed towards him, but he recoiled sharply, as if she were a contagion.

His gaze was a complex tapestry of shock and disbelief, seeing for the first time the true nature of the woman he had once loved deeply.

Jorge had just overheard Keely's chilling admission—that she had never loved him and had merely used his affections to climb the social ladder.

With a bitter chuckle, Jorge stepped back, his eyes brimming with pain. "I fought with Marco over you and hurt others for you irrationally, but you... you've just used me as a pawn. Everything I did was merely facilitating your deceit..."

Keely's expression shifted desperately as she clung to a sliver of hope, feigning innocence. "Jorge, everything I said was put into my mouth by Loraine, I—"

"Enough! Stop treating me like a fool!" Jorge's roar cut through the tense air, his body shaking with the weight of his realization. "I was outside the whole time and saw everything from when you entered the dressing room. And still, you lie? How could someone who is supposedly mentally impaired cunningly sabotage the dress and then cover it up?"

Keely's gaze darted venomously towards Loraine, fury written all over her face. Jorge's words made it clear—this press conference was a trap that Loraine had set up for her.

Realizing the urgent need to pacify Jorge, Keely tried another tactic. She mustered tears, looking at him with feigned sorrow.

"Jorge, I was wrong. I just hated Loraine so much. She made my life miserable, and I wanted to get back at her. You promised you'd always take care of me, remember?"

But as she continued, Jorge's expression only darkened, the memory of her earlier words echoing in his mind. "He was so naive to believe my casual charm." The more she spoke, the deeper Jorge's realization of her manipulation became, each word confirming his worst fears.

He wasn't the bright bulb. He couldn't even see when he was being manipulated by Keely.

Jorge's emotion stirred as he glared at Keely. At first, he thought he would be enraged, but when he saw the tears streaming down Keely's face, his raging emotions dissipated, now disillusioned.

He then turned his back on Keely. With a chill in his voice, he announced, "From now on, I want nothing to do with her. Marco, you can take her away and do whatever you please."

Upon hearing that, Keely's eyes widened. "Jorge! You can't leave me like this! Jorge..."

But even with her pleas echoing in the room, someone dragged her away, the sounds of her screams fading in the distance as Jorge watched her.

Marco gave Loraine a knowing glance, both equally relieved that the problem was dealt with.

The ordeal was finally over, and the pretense of animosity could cease.

Unable to restrain himself any longer, Marco stepped forward and wrapped Loraine in a gentle embrace. She rested against his chest, her eyes falling on the engagement ring still adorning his finger. With a soft expression, she removed her own ring from around her neck, whispering, "Put it back on for me."

Marco nodded, his movements reverent as he carefully slid the ring back onto her slender finger.

Jorge, turning back to observe this tender moment, felt a rush of complex emotions.

By now, he fully grasped the deep, unwavering love that bound Marco and Loraine. They truly loved and trusted each other without conditions.

Reflecting on his own actions, Jorge realized he had wronged Loraine and placed his best friend in a difficult position.

He bowed his head, his apology sincere. "Loraine, I'm sorry for everything I've done. I was wrong to blame you without knowing the full story."

Loraine regarded him for a moment, then responded, "It's okay. Just be more discerning in the future and don't let anyone deceive you again."

Jorge nodded silently, his thoughts heavy. "I need some time to reflect on everything that's happened today. But rest assured, I won't interfere in your lives anymore. As for Keely... I will sever ties with her and cease all support."

Loraine sensed the solemnity of his tone and was about to offer some words of consolation when Remy entered, prompting her, "Boss, it's time for the press conference."

Acknowledging the reminder, Loraine turned to Marco, clasping his hand gently. "We still have challenges ahead."



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Chapter 1280 Marco's Bold Gesture

The press conference was abuzz with excitement. Reporters eagerly aimed their cameras at the entrance, each hoping to be the first to interview Loraine and secure the juiciest scoop for their outlets.

Amidst the anticipation, Loraine made her grand entrance, dressed in an elegant, sparkling long dress that accentuated her slim waist and perfect figure, leaving everyone in awe.

She greeted the swarm of reporters with a graceful smile as they bombarded her with questions.

"Ms. Torres, how do you address the rumors about the Universe Group and Solar Company ending their collaboration?"

"We've heard you and Marco have split and even called off the engagement. Is that true?"

Loraine responded with a serene smile, "The rumors about Universe Group and Solar Company are completely unfounded. Solar Company remains the Universe Group's most steadfast ally, and we are at a pivotal moment in our partnership, poised to grow even closer. There is absolutely no plan to end it. As for Marco and me, we are doing wonderfully. Thank you for your concern, but I'd encourage you not to believe everything you read online. Perhaps you could focus more on the exciting new amusement park project that Universe Group and Solar Company are developing."

Her responses only intensified the reporters' fervor, pushing them to probe further. "If it wasn't true, why didn't you release

an official statement when the rumors were circulating so widely? Was it a publicity stunt orchestrated by you?"

"If the collaboration between Universe Group and Solar Company is not ending, what about the partnership between the Cruz and Wilson families? We heard Marco himself declare that they are ending the partnership with the Wilson family. Surely that can't be false?"

Loraine tilted her head thoughtfully, maintaining her smile. "Isn't that exactly what I'm doing now—addressing these rumors? As for the matter concerning the Cruz and Wilson families, I think it's best if Marco speaks for himself on that issue."

The crowd exchanged shocked glances, buzzing with speculation. "Is Marco here as well?"

At that moment, Loraine clapped her hands and stepped aside. Marco made his entrance, striding confidently into the room dressed in a sleek suit that perfectly complemented his chiseled features. His expression was stoic, yet there was an undeniable allure that commanded attention.

Standing beside Loraine, they looked impeccably matched, prompting excited screams from the audience.

Marco scanned the room with a calm, assured gaze and addressed the crowd in a deep, steady voice, "Regarding the question about the Cruz and Wilson families, I would like to clarify that we have not ended our collaboration. Instead, we have paused some old projects. You can expect exciting new joint ventures from both families soon."

The crowd buzzed with discussions, many nodding in understanding. With Marco leading the Cruz family, reassessing old agreements and forging new ones seemed logical.

However, some remained unsatisfied, questioning further, "Doesn't this suggest that the rumors about your rift with Loraine were just a publicity stunt? If not, how do you explain the news about Loraine storming out of Solar Company?"

Marco lowered his gaze thoughtfully, then glanced at Loraine. Suddenly, he pulled her into a hug and planted a kiss on her lips.

Loraine was taken aback, and the room fell silent in astonishment.

Marco calmly stated, "That's what happened that day."

The silence was short-lived as the room erupted into chaos. Cameras flashed incessantly as reporters clamored with excitement.

Loraine, blushing, gently pushed Marco away, trying to maintain composure. "Marco does deserve a scolding. You all should give him a hard time online for being so improper."

The audience saw the couple's public display of affection and understood that they were not at odds. Their relationship appeared solid as a rock!

Before the press conference even concluded, the internet was abuzz. News of Marco's bold gesture spread like wildfire, delighting fans and shippers who eagerly shared clips and photos.

Meanwhile, Jorge's men escorted Keely back to the Riley family estate.

Outside the villa, the butler tossed Keely's packed belongings at her feet, his tone polite yet disdainful. "Miss Haywood, here are your belongings. Although they were provided by Mr. Riley, we are not so petty as to take them back. Please gather your things and depart promptly."

Keely knelt on the ground, tears streaking her face. However, she knew no one would sympathize with her now, and no one would come to her aid.

Glaring resentfully at the villa, she suddenly recalled something and dashed off, eventually finding Kosha in a secluded corner of the garden.

Gone was Keely's previous arrogance; now she knelt before Kosha, tears streaming down her face as she clung to her leg, pleading desperately, "Kosha, please help me! There must be something you can do. I can't be cast out like this!"