

Chapter 1289 Being Generous

Upon hearing Caroline's comment, the atmosphere abruptly quieted, and the manager's expression soured. However, as Caroline was a guest invited by Loraine, he held back any remarks.

Loraine, noticing the tension, quickly reassured the manager and then turned to address Caroline with a grave expression.

"Your Highness, this night market concerns the popularization of the Smart Park project, making it more accessible and integrating it seamlessly into daily life. If you cannot speak prudently, I will not hesitate to inform Mr. K about your behavior," she said in a deep voice.

Caroline was taken aback by Loraine's firmness. Although she often acted whimsically around Mr. K, she knew all too well his formidable disposition when it came to serious matters.

The Smart Park project was of great interest to Mr. K, and Caroline realized that any negative feedback from Loraine might result in him scolding her.

Visibly deflated, Caroline muttered under her breath, "It sounds grand, but it's just a few roadside stalls, isn't it?"

Marco, having overheard her remark, responded with a cold



glance, "If you're so displeased, you're free to leave. I can arrange for a driver to take you back right now."

Frustrated, Caroline opened her mouth to retort, but Marco had already taken Loraine's hand and moved on.

Suddenly left behind, Caroline, usually the center of attention, felt both angry and isolated. She reluctantly followed them, continuing to survey her surroundings with a critical and disdainful eye.

Marco, indifferent to her critical gaze, cherished the night market's lively ambiance. Visiting this night market with Loraine had changed his negative perception of night markets as dirty and chaotic, showcasing a different experience contrary to traditional perceptions.

He found a unique romantic charm in the bustling atmosphere, with each visit evoking cherished memories of their past times together.

When they wandered into a jewelry shop bustling with young couples crafting handmade jewelry, Marco fondly remembered the bracelets he and Loraine had once made for each other. The one Loraine crafted for him was still treasured, kept safely as a token of their bond.

Beside him, Loraine paused as well. The two exchanged a knowing smile, both clearly recalling a fond memory from the past.

Marco gently took Loraine's hand and whispered, "I want to pick out another bracelet for you."

While Loraine already owned plenty of exquisite jewelry, the idea of choosing simple handmade woven bracelets delighted her as much as if she were still a child. She enthusiastically agreed, "Okay!"

As they entered the store, the owner came forward to greet them. Loraine was taken aback when she recognized him, exclaiming in surprise, "Dillon?"

The lanky young man before her was the teenager from the orphanage who had grown up without being adopted.

Dillon, equally surprised to see them, greeted them warmly, "Loraine, Marco!"

He eagerly ushered them into the store to browse the accessories. Still processing the unexpected reunion, Loraine asked, "Aren't you supposed to be studying at school? What brings you to Zodiac to open a store?"

She had initially set up the night market to assist the residents of Woodshill, including those from the orphanage, so it wasn't unusual to see them here. However, she was puzzled because Eloise had ensured all the children attended school, yet here was Dillon, having left school to start a business.

Dillon scratched his head and grinned, "I never really settled into school, and honestly, I didn't enjoy it, so I stopped going."

Besides, thanks to your support, everyone from the orphanage is well taken care of here. Opening this store has allowed me to earn more and help improve other children's lives."

Loraine was momentarily at a loss for words. The children from the orphanage weren't carefree and naive; instead, they were mature beyond their years, always aware of their responsibilities and limitations. With a sigh, she decided not to pursue a conversation that might discomfort Dillon. Instead, she and Marco seamlessly transitioned into the roles of typical customers, browsing and selecting accessories.

After they had made their choices, Loraine engaged Dillon in a warm conversation, showing genuine care for his well-being, while Marco discreetly moved to handle the payment. However, just as he was about to pay, Caroline interrupted him.

With characteristic arrogance, Caroline remarked, "Isn't Loraine too stingy? Why should you have to pay for such a trivial thing? I'll cover it!"

She then slapped a bill on the counter, glancing triumphantly at Loraine.

Dillon, who had been conversing with Loraine, was visibly taken aback and replied awkwardly, "I'm sorry, I can't take this."

Caroline, misunderstanding his refusal and thinking he didn't recognize the currency, said disdainfully, "This money is more than enough to buy half the items in your store. It doesn't matter if you recognize it or not. Keep the change; I have plenty."

Dillon, at a loss for words, turned to Loraine for assistance.

Loraine responded calmly, "Your Highness, while we appreciate your generosity and wealth, this establishment is part of a smart commercial district where we do not accept cash payments."

Chapter 1290 Caroline Was Stunned

At first, Caroline was stunned. Then she became angry and hissed, "How is that possible?"

After looking around the small shop with her beautiful blue eyes, she said in a firm tone, "I didn't see the credit card machine. Stop coming up with excuses for your stinginess!"

Both Loraine and Marco stayed quiet.

After a brief moment, Marco walked past Caroline and went to a camera in front of the counter and looked at it for a moment.

All of a sudden, an electronic voice spoke up. "Your payment was successful."

"The payment has been made," Marco declared. Then he went back to stand beside Loraine.

Caroline was shocked. She had seen people in Kitay pay with their mobile phones. In fact, she had even heard of facial recognition payment. But none of that seemed to be as convenient and efficient as what Marco had just done. The payment was completed with just a glance.

Being a member of the royal family trapped in the ancient royal palace for the purpose of learning royal etiquette, her knowledge of the latest technology was even less than that of most ordinary people out there.

When she finally recovered her composure, she noticed that Marco was about to leave. Without thinking, she reached out to

grab him. "What kind of technology was that?" she asked curiously. "Tell me!"

But Marco swiftly dodged her, refusing to let her hand touch him. Turning to Loraine, he handed her the items he had just paid for. It was only after doing this and holding Loraine's hand that he replied Caroline, "This is a quick payment method by the Solar Company that combines big data and iris detection technology. It can even prevent people from avoiding their bills, automatically avoid incorrect deduction, and even has government approval. Right now, it's only been implemented in projects carried out by the Cruz family, Solar Company and Universe Group."

Caroline didn't fully understand what he was saying. But she had already begun to form her own prejudices. "Why is such an advanced technology being made available to ordinary people? They don't deserve it," she said with a scoff.

Caroline's words were quite offensive. After she spoke, all the customers around glared at her. However, she was unaware of her impropriety and continued to wear an arrogant expression.

"As a member of the royal family, you should know about this technology, but you don't. What makes you think you're more deserving of it than the so-called ordinary people?" Marco retorted angrily.

Caroline was shocked by this response. "How dare you compare me with ordinary people?!" she shouted at him in fury.

She was so angry that she glared at him for a long time before swiftly turning around and stomping off.

Marco and Loraine noticed that there were people in the crowd who followed her in order to protect her. Hence, there was no need to worry about the safety of this arrogant princess.

"I'm glad she's finally leaving," Marco said with a sigh of relief.



Loraine found it amusing. "Was that why you were so mean to her, because you wanted her to get angry and leave?" she said teasingly.

Marco nodded in the affirmative. When he saw that no one was looking, he got close to Loraine and said in a low voice, "It's rare for us to go on a date like this. How can she join us? What's more, she's even more unruly and stubborn than Kaley. And she's very annoying too. If not for the diplomatic relations between our government and Eplistan, I wouldn't have tolerated her this much."

The fact that he had provoked her to make her leave was his idea of being polite to her.

Of course, Loraine knew what he was thinking. Like him, she also didn't want their date to be disturbed, so she felt glad that Caroline was not around anymore.

"In that case, don't think about the annoying things anymore," Loraine said with a smile. "We haven't been together like this in a long time. Let's find a place to sit down and talk."

Marco nodded enthusiastically in agreement.

They bought two cups of drinks and sat down on the street. Like typical lovers, they leaned against each other, chatting about trivial things.

After a while, Marco told Loraine what he felt about Mr. K, amongst other things.

"I don't know much about my mother," he murmured. "Melvin is still in the hospital, and no one can help me answer my questions."

Loraine's heart sank when she heard this. "Has Melvin's condition not improved yet?" she asked worriedly.

"The poison is rare," Marco sighed. "Right now, they can only stabilize him, but they can't wake him up."

After a brief silence, he continued, "I've already gone through enough. I prefer not to seek out my mother's family in order to steer clear of the troubles."

Truth be told, he was worried and unsure if their wedding ceremony could be held as scheduled. He didn't want anything bad to happen that would derail their plans.

Loraine didn't say anything. She just silently leaned on him to show her support. Marco held her hand and said gently, "Soon, we will start a family and have our own children. You and the children are enough family for me."