

Chapter 436 You Harm Her

Upon hearing Marco's voice, Grady paused, his surprise echoing through the line. "Marco? Why are you with Loraine?"

Loraine was poised to explain, but Marco's curt retort cut her off. "Loraine is in my house. That's why she's with me."

His tone sounded possessive, marking his territory.

Caught off guard, Grady stuttered, "Loraine, why are you at Marco's place?"

Loraine scowled, fully confident that neither the Cruz family nor Grady had any hand in the earlier incident with the rascals.

Yet Grady's question seemed to overstep boundaries.

"I had to discuss something with Marco. We're just friends, Grady. I'm under no obligation to update you about my personal life," she replied icily.

Her cold response washed over Grady, leaving him ashen.

Was she distancing herself from him?

Yet, Loraine, the woman who placed such importance on personal boundaries, was at Marco's home at this

Grady's teeth ground together as the words tumbled out of his mouth before he could think.

"And Marco? He's exempt from respecting your personal time? Have you forgotten the pain he's caused you? Loraine, he's just going to hurt you again!"

Loraine froze, Grady's words plunging her into an unexpected realization.

When had she grown so comfortable with Marco's boundary-crossing actions?

Marco's face darkened, his gaze drifting to Loraine as he issued a retort.

"Grady, how dare you? Who truly harmed Loraine? Aren't you aware that outside your family's house, Loraine almost..."

His words hung in the air, abruptly cut short by Loraine's interjection.

"That's enough," she stated, her expression darkening.

Grady, sensing something amiss, pressed on. "What happened outside the Cruz home? Loraine, did you get into some trouble? Are you okay?"

Loraine had no wish to relive the harrowing incident. Each time it was brought up, she had to navigate the tormenting details once again.

So she held her silence.

Marco, looking at her with concern, sneered at Grady, "If you're so keen on knowing, go ask your darling cousin Cassidy."

With that, Marco snatched the phone from Loraine's hand and ended the call.

Loraine stood in shock. She wanted to intercede, but it was already too late. "Why... why did you end the call so abruptly?"

Marco, his expression stern, retorted, "You'd be wise to steer clear of that fool, lest his troubles spill over onto you."

Loraine snorted in bitter amusement. "Mr. Bryant, look who's talking! You're no better than him, aren't you?"

Taken aback, Marco spluttered, choking on his own words.

Feeling a wave of melancholy wash over her, Loraine began packing up the first aid kit, her expression icy.

Marco watched her hesitantly, inching closer to her with caution.

Seeing that Loraine didn't push him away, Marco edged even closer.

Not long ago, Marco had been a ruthless commander, issuing brutal orders to snap rascal's arms without remorse. Now he was as timid as a puppy, seeking Loraine's attention.

Tentatively, he tugged on her sleeve, speaking in a low, soft voice. "Lorraine, did I upset you?"

Lorraine's response was to slam the lid on the medical kit shut, leveling a cool glare at him.

After a beat, Marco confessed, his tone sincere, "I was wrong. The fault is entirely mine. I swear, I won't repeat it."

Seeing his anxiety, Lorraine couldn't help but erupt in laughter.

She was unsure why she had been so infuriated. Was it due to Marco's past encounters with numerous women?

However, there were times when he was so obtuse that he did not understand the point of the women who wanted to flirt with him. And all that was history. Now that they were divorced, what right did she have to hold him accountable?

Marco visibly relaxed at her laughter.

Not wanting to annoy her again, he queried carefully, "Lorraine, how are you planning to handle Cassidy?"

The mention of Cassidy wiped the smile off Lorraine's face.

She had tolerated and conceded repeatedly at the banquet, which only emboldened Cassidy and encouraged her to take liberties.

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Lorraine's response was a cold, cutting chuckle. Her voice dropped to a low register, "I'll make sure she gets a taste of her own medicine."



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Chapter 437 Eye For Eye

Within the walls of the Cruz family mansion, Grady stood staring at his phone, bewildered.

What was Marco implying?

His cousin, Cassidy?

A frown creased his forehead as disgust surged within him. Had Cassidy caused more trouble for Loraine?

Earlier that evening, post Loraine's departure from the exhibition, Grady had been preoccupied with subsequent tasks.

He was swamped, and given his distaste for Cassidy, he hadn't bothered tracking her whereabouts.

Cassidy's actions towards Loraine at tonight's banquet were enough to fill him with remorse. If she had sought out Loraine privately to harass her...

Darkness shadowed Grady's eyes. He would not let her get away with it!

Pocketing his phone, Grady flagged down a servant, his voice clipped as he demanded, "Where is Cassidy right now?"

The servant, taken aback by Grady's rare display of anger, responded hurriedly, "Miss Rivera is in her room."

Without uttering another word, Grady made his way to Cassidy's room.

At that moment, Cassidy, in high spirits, was humming a tune as she removed her makeup. She peeked at her phone occasionally, anticipating good news.

A knock on her door drew an annoyed sigh from her. "Who is it?" she called out.

Upon hearing Grady's voice, her annoyance morphed into surprise and delight. Hastily adjusting her attire, she swung the door open, tugging at the hem of her dress as she coyly asked, "Grady, why are you here? Have you missed me?"

Standing at the threshold with a stern expression, Grady interrupted her before she could finish, his voice frosty. "Cassidy, I'm here to tell you to leave Loraine alone."

Cassidy's initial shock gave way to a darkening expression.

"Grady, what are you suggesting? You're blaming me because of a mere outsider?"

His brow furrowed as he retorted, "I'm merely offering you advice. One that you'd do well to heed, considering you can't afford to cross Loraine."

Cassidy's face wore a smug smile as she responded, "What's so special about her? I'm aware she's the daughter of the Torres family." She scoffed before continuing, "Grady, you have no idea how arrogant and



insolent Loraine can be! She even disrespected your mother. She's nothing but an uncouth woman!"

At the banquet, Cassidy had heard that Loraine's parents had also attended a Cruz family exhibition, but had tragically met an untimely end.

This revelation only emboldened Cassidy; without the backing of her parents, no matter how formidable Loraine was, it would be a challenging battle to fight alone!

Enraged by Cassidy's remarks, Grady roared, "Enough! Who are you to pass judgment on Loraine?"

His normally mild demeanor was replaced by an explosive temper. Cassidy, taken aback, felt a mix of fear and resentment.

"Grady, you're blinded by Loraine's facade! She's nothing but a deceitful woman who considers herself superior! She even belittles the Cruz family. She doesn't even love you!"

A muscle twitched in Grady's face, the last sentence striking a painful chord.

Taking a deep breath, Grady fixed his penetrating gaze on Cassidy. His initial shock subsided, giving way to a suspicion.

Why was Cassidy so antagonistic towards Loraine?

And Marco's words...

In a frosty tone, Grady demanded, "Kassidy, did you do something to Loraine?"

Kassidy froze, a pang of guilt seeping into her composure, but she managed to feign indifference.

"What could I possibly do? I was merely upset because Loraine was picking on Aunt. I lashed out at her, that's all."

Grady found her claim dubious. He narrowed his eyes, querying, "Is that so? You simply rebuked her?"

Before he could delve deeper, Florence interjected, "Grady, what on earth are you doing?"

Grady, caught off guard, spun around and cast his gaze downwards. He replied, "Mom, I had a question for Kassidy."

Florence scoffed dismissively, "Question? More like an interrogation! Are you now so defensive of Loraine that you question Kassidy about her late in the evening?"

"Mom, you promised you would apologize to Loraine, but tonight you..."

Florence shot him a scathing look. She raised her voice abruptly, challenging him, "Are you choosing to question your mother and your own kin for an outsider like Loraine? Grady, is this how I taught you to conduct yourself?"

Grady blanched.

Emboldened by Florence's support, Kassidy grew increasingly smug. She retorted, "Grady, we are your family. Your loyalty should be with us, not with an outsider named Loraine."

Realizing he wouldn't get any straightforward answers, Grady tightened his lips and cast a sidelong glance at Kassidy. He turned on his heel and walked away without another word.

Pointing at his retreating back, Florence seethed with fury, struggling to articulate her indignation.

Kassidy immediately ingratiated herself with Florence. "Aunt, don't be upset. Grady was merely misguided. He'll soon see Loraine's true colors!"

Florence huffed, her voice icy, "If only he could see her for who she truly is!"

Kassidy's eyes glittered with satisfaction. "Aunt, don't worry. I'll make sure she pays for what she's done."

What Kassidy didn't realize was that her goons had already been apprehended and had betrayed her.

She was still awaiting news from Brody, eager to utterly tarnish Loraine's reputation.

She didn't have to wait long. The next day, a text pinged on her phone.

"Job's done. Get here and see for yourself."

Chapter 438 Falling Into The Trap

A triumphant grin spread across Cassidy's face as she read the message. This was good!

The anticipation had kept her awake all night, a rush of excitement coursing through her veins.

The moment she received the message, she hurriedly dressed, her heart fluttering with joy as she made her way to the location that Brody had shared with her.

The anticipation of witnessing Loraine's humiliation was simply too tantalizing to resist!


Brody had directed her to an abandoned factory.

Kassidy hailed a taxi to the location. Upon arrival, however, she found herself alone in the expansive, desolate space.

The taxi swiftly departed, leaving her alone in the eerie quiet. The wind blew, causing Cassidy to shiver and hug herself, a prickle of fear running down her spine.

But she reassured herself: Who would venture to such a remote location to rescue Loraine? This was exactly the right place to deal with Loraine!

Emboldened by this thought, she ventured into the

Chapter 438 Falling Into The Trap  +120 Points at most factory, her heart brimming with anticipation.

But just as she stepped inside, a black cloth suddenly obscured her view.

Then, she felt a hand covering her mouth and nose.

Kassidy's eyes widened in shock, and she tried to wriggle free, but the cloth seemed to be laced with a powerful sedative. Within moments, her body went limp and darkness descended.

When she finally came to, the first sensation she registered was the coarse rope binding her hands and feet. A blindfold covered her eyes, rendering her sightless.

Terrified, Kassidy cried out, "Who are you? Why have you kidnapped me?"

The chilling sound of male laughter echoed around her.

"Apologies, miss, but we've had a change of plans. Your body will be paying the rest of the debt!" the man jeered.

Kassidy had never dealt with these ruffians before, but the implication of his words was undeniable.

She'd been betrayed by the very ruffians she'd hired!

The thought terrified Kassidy; she had approached them knowing they'd stoop to any low for money, and the reality was now petrifying.

"Let me go! Do you know who I am? I'm the daughter of the Rivera family and the future daughter-in-law of the Cruz family! If you dare lay a finger on me, the Cruz family will not let you off the hook!"

But her threats were met with raucous laughter. One of them approached her, wiping her tears with a sly smile. "Once we're done with you, you won't be marrying into the Cruz family. They'd never accept a woman like you."

The fright nearly choked Cassidy. She recoiled in horror, sobbing hysterically, her face streaked with tears and snot.

"Please, don't touch me. I can pay you... I can give you a lot of money..."

A sudden thought struck her. She raised her head, pleading, "If it's a woman you want, go after the one I told you to kidnap! Her name is Loraine. She's far more beautiful than me, and much more entertaining! Since her divorce, her personal life has been a mess. She's a notorious socialite in Vagow! She'll give you what you want, and she can offer more money!"

Her words fell on deaf ears as one of the men's hands began to roam her body, his fingers deftly untying her collar.

As her skin was exposed to the cool air, Cassidy broke down, sobbing uncontrollably.

"Please, don't touch me. I'm soon to be wed to the Cruz family. I'm heading to Zodiac..."

With a swift rip, a significant portion of her attire was torn away.

As desperation seeped into her and she braced for the worst, the blindfold on her face was abruptly removed.

Kassidy's once pristine makeup was now a smudged mess, her eyes blurred from tears. She sniffled and raised her eyes, only to see a slender silhouette.

She stared in shock and when her gaze landed on Loraine's face, she let out a shrill cry, "Loraine? Why are you here?"

With her phone in one hand, Loraine withdrew her other hand from Kassidy, the one that had terrified her moments ago.

Loraine looked at Kassidy impassively, a sneer tugging at her lips.

"Miss Rivera, are you now aware of the utter helplessness and despair a girl feels when she is violated? Did you ever consider how I might react when you plotted against me like this?"

Kassidy was too flabbergasted to utter a word. The other men involved in the charade removed their masks, aligning themselves behind Loraine.

They were an assembly of suited bodyguards.

After a while, Kassidy regained her senses.

What just happened? Loraine wasn't harmed. She had

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even orchestrated a ruse to spook her.

But it was Brody who had sent her the message!

Kassidy exclaimed furiously, "You set up a trap to deceive me!"

Lowering her gaze, Loraine responded coolly, "Indeed, I lured you here using Brody's phone. I planned to give you a taste of your own medicine. Miss Rivera, are you satisfied?"

Enraged, Kassidy spat, "Loraine! You dare to kidnap me! I won't let this slide. I'll inform the police and expose your true self to everyone!"

What an unrepentant woman!

Loraine's expression darkened. She retorted, "Kassidy, you have the audacity to shout at me and place blame? You are the culprit here!"


With her guilt gnawing at her, Kassidy looked tentative.

She wracked her brain but couldn't fathom how Loraine had discovered that she was the one who had orchestrated the scheme.

But she couldn't confess!

"Loraine, why are you accusing me? You lack evidence. Perhaps it's you who've provoked someone else. Why must you pin the blame on me?"

Witnessing Kassidy's lack of remorse, Loraine simply shook her head.

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She had given Kassidy a chance.

But with Kassidy refusing to admit her transgression, she didn't wish to converse further. With that, she clapped her hands.

In the ensuing moment, from the room located behind the factory, Carl along with some bodyguards emerged, escorting a group of battered ruffians.

