

Chapter 652 Spreading Rumors

Marco's brows furrowed, his features hardening instantly.

He already had a poor impression of Judie, and it showed in his icy reception. He retorted flatly, "I'm afraid I have to disappoint you, lady. I'm not old enough to be Loraine's grandfather. As for you, however, the grandmother role seems fitting."

Judie was taken aback, her hands flying to her face in disbelief. A whirlwind of shock, confusion, and anger swept over her.

Loraine initially intended to just tease Marco, but his biting retort caught her by surprise. It was so jarring, so directly insulting to Judie's looks, that Loraine couldn't help but burst into laughter.

Judie had invested heavily in her looks, and she was by no means unattractive. In this small village, she was even considered a local beauty. But in the eyes of Marco, who had encountered an array of stunning women, she was simply ordinary.

In addition, there was the unmistakable evidence of heavy makeup on her face, making her skin look even less appealing. Her unpleasant temperament and air of arrogance also painted her as

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In addition, there was the unmistakable evidence of heavy makeup on her face, making her skin look even less appealing. Her unpleasant temperament and air of arrogance also painted her as somewhat mature.

Even Eloise found herself chuckling at Marco's words, a sense of relief washing over her.

Judie's anger bloomed, her face flushing a deep crimson, but Marco's assertive presence held her at bay. Unsure of his status, she didn't dare confront him as she usually did with others. Consequently, her usual bravado faltered.

She turned her wrath on Loraine, spewing accusations, "Loraine, you shameless woman! How can you even lie at this point? How can you have such a handsome boyfriend? You must have splurged to hire an actor to play the part! Yes, I've figured it out. You're using the money from your sugar daddy to keep a pretty boy around!"

Marco's icy gaze bore into her, his aura of

authority undiminished despite his casual attire. He exuded the same commanding presence that he embodied in the board room when he was at the helm.

His posture sent a wave of intimidation coursing through Judie, rendering her mute.

Striding over to Loraine, Marco assertively wrapped his arm around her shoulder, drawing her close. His chin rested affectionately against her forehead, a gesture that staked his claim over her, reminiscent of a wild animal asserting dominance.

He retorted coldly, "So what if I'm a 'pretty boy' kept by Loraine? Is it envy you feel because you lack one?"

Judie found herself taken aback by the man's assertive tone and proud declaration that he was a "pretty boy". Her face blanched, and she fumbled for a response.

Loraine couldn't suppress a mix of amusement and astonishment at Marco's audacious admission. It seemed Marco had not only come to terms with being her "pretty boy", but had embraced it with gusto. Though most men would find it humiliating to admit it.

However, witnessing Judie's livid reaction offered Loraine a gratifying sense of satisfaction, and she refrained from countering. She accepted Marco's antics and even chimed in with a sing-song voice, "Yeah, I think you're just green with envy!"

Upon hearing Loraine's playful response, Judie's

complexion darkened. She trembled, pointing a shaky finger at Loraine. "You..."

Innocently, Loraine met her with a bright smile. "Me? What about me?"

Furious, Judie stamped her foot. "You... you shameless woman! You're a harlot! Living off some wealthy businessman and using his money to keep a toyboy! You'll be exposed and disgraced sooner or later!"


Loraine was about to retort playfully, but Eloise's patience had worn thin with Judie's constant disrespect towards Loraine. She interjected sternly, "Judie, how dare you defame Lorrie, and spread baseless rumors about her!"

With everyone in the village present, Eloise wanted to dispel the accusations against Loraine once and for all.

"Loraine was taken in by her family since she left, not kept by anyone as Judie implies," Eloise clarified, adding emphasis, "Moreover, Marco is Lorrie's romantic partner. They are in a legitimate relationship!"

The villagers whispered among themselves, their belief in Eloise's words uncertain. And Judie staunchly rejected Eloise's explanations, snapping back, "Old woman, you're spouting nonsense. Loraine is an untrustworthy harlot. Don't bother defending her!"

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 +120 Points at most

Marco's countenance shifted instantly, his glare landing on Judie with a chilling ferocity.

Suddenly, Judie felt like she was in the crosshairs of a lethal predator. The paralyzing fear caused her to freeze in place.



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Chapter 653 I Won't Allow Her To Triumph

Loraine, standing close to Marco, registered the tension that had enveloped him. His muscles were strained, his breaths heavy.

She was certain that if Judie dared to utter another word, the man at her side would abandon his customary gentlemanly conduct and resort to aggression.

Marco, who commanded such reverence in a vast corporation and struck fear into every level of the organization, was far more intimidating to a naive village woman like Judie.

Astonishment washed over Judie, draining the color from her face. Observing Marco's fury, she was bereft of the courage to voice another word.

Loraine had no desire to restrain Marco either. Sometimes, it took a display of power to counter unreasonable individuals.

She merely extended her hand to grasp Marco's, gently applying pressure as a means of reassurance.

After all, she had been subjected to far worse than any insult Judie could hurl. Rather than unnerving

Chapter 653 | Won't Allow Her To Trii 🎁 +120 Points at most

her, Judie's vitriolic comments only laid bare her own envy and impotence.

Sensing Loraine's touch, Marco eased his hostility slightly, though his warning glare at Judie lingered.

After recovering from her shock, Judie managed to catch her breath, her eyes wide with disbelief. A mere glance from this man had rendered her immobile.

His gaze was genuinely daunting, instilling the fear that if she uttered another word, it would spell her doom.

Yet, noticing that the guards from the Cooper family remained at their posts, Judie felt a sense of relief wash over her.

After all, this was her domain. She shouldn't fear a handful of strangers!

Feeling a renewed sense of confidence, Judie reinstated her imperious demeanor. "Loraine, I'll overlook your insolence this once. Since my family is hosting today's banquet, you are not welcome here. I suggest you leave immediately, along with your man!"

A mocking expression swept over Loraine's face. In the past, she had declined numerous invitations to banquets in Vagow, let alone to attend Judie's feast in this despicable setting. She longed to distance herself from this crude environment, but

Chapter 653 I Won't Allow Her To Tri 🎁 +120 Points at most
her obligation to accompany Eloise had left her with no alternative.

Loraine retorted with a sneer, "Very well. Though we're here to accompany Mrs. Harvey, we did bring two gifts for the banquet. As per local customs, it's only right that we stay. However, given your attitude, I've lost all interest in remaining here. I'll simply take Mrs. Harvey and leave."


As she gestured for Eloise to follow, Eloise willingly complied, indignant at Judie's disrespect and previous dismissal of her gifts. "Since the Cooper family doesn't appreciate our gifts, I'll depart as well!"

Judie, witnessing the situation turn unfavorable, was gripped by panic.

The extravagant banquet was essentially hosted to get Eloise to give up the orphanage's land. If Eloise departed, wouldn't the banquet be rendered pointless? The thought of the money she'd spent fueled her distress!

Momentarily, Judie disregarded her pride, hurriedly modifying her stance. "Wait! Well... Although I'm not fond of you, considering Mrs. Harvey's esteemed status, I'll reluctantly tolerate your presence, solely for her sake. I won't drive you away."

Loraine's smile bore a hint of derision, causing Judie to feel uncomfortable. In a bid to assert

Chapter 653 I Won't Allow Her To Tri  +120 Points at most


dominance, Judie persisted, "However, let's not forget that you're in my territory. If you intend to remain, you must follow the rules. If you fail to do so, don't expect any courteousness from me!"

Regrettably for her, her threats were met with deaf ears. Loraine wore an expression of indifferent disdain, while Marco didn't even bother to look her way, treating her as if she didn't exist.

Judie's frustration peaked, her teeth grinding in exasperation. Taking a few deep breaths to calm herself, she summoned a forced smile and addressed Eloise, feigning concern, "Madam, I do all this in your interest. I've been more than accommodating to them. Please give it a serious thought. Shouldn't the land of the orphanage be given to me?"

Aware of Judie's lingering thoughts on the matter, Eloise responded with a grimace, opting to remain silent. Fortunately, a call from within the villa directed at Judie offered a reprieve. Wearing a disgruntled expression, Judie cast a cursory glance at the group before making her exit, promising to resume her conversation with Eloise later.

Once Judie was out of sight, Eloise's countenance softened. She looked apologetically at Loraine. "Lorrie, I regret dragging you young people into this mess. Judie is not an easy character to deal with. If you prefer, you can take your leave to spare yourself from her offensive language. It's rather

Chapter 653 | Won't Allow Her To Tri  +120 Points at most unsettling."

After all, Eloise's life was entrenched in this village, making her future encounters with Judie inevitable. It wouldn't be wise to cause offence and estrange the Cooper family. However, Loraine had risen above this environment, and she no longer needed to endure such humiliation.


Eloise's only concern was for Loraine's wellbeing, a sentiment Loraine fully understood. However, she couldn't just leave at this point.

Judie was an arrogantly condescending individual. Even though she had rescinded her earlier statements and insisted Eloise's presence at the banquet, there was no telling what other strategies she could employ to harm Eloise.

While Loraine could offer protection to Eloise this time, she couldn't assure her safety indefinitely. Therefore, she could only rest easy once the Cooper family was dealt with conclusively.

Naturally, Loraine kept these thoughts to herself, unwilling to burden Eloise with her concerns.

She simply smiled and reassured, "I've matured now, and I'm no longer the little girl who was easily intimidated. I can protect you now, and be your pillar of strength. So, don't worry about me. Let us accompany you. Regardless of Judie's schemes, I won't allow her to triumph."

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Eloise was touched by Loraine's words, although she still appeared somewhat apprehensive. To allay Eloise's concerns, Loraine pushed Marco in front of her with a casual smile.

"Besides, I now have a boyfriend. He'll ensure my safety even if Judie attempts to harm me."

Chapter 654 Vicious Intention Revealed

Hearing Loraine's admission of him as her boyfriend, Marco's grin broadened as he moved forward, exuding sincerity. "Mrs. Harvey, you have my word, I will look after Loraine well!"

Reflecting on Marco's impressive display of strength when he single-handedly confronted a group of black-clad men at the orphanage entrance, Eloise hesitated momentarily but didn't reject his assurance.

Marco had leapt to Loraine's defense earlier, an act which attested to his genuine affection. He appeared quick-witted, and with him at her side, it seemed less likely that others could mistreat Loraine. Considering Loraine's decision to stay for her sake, Eloise saw no need to object.

She soon found an empty table for them to sit at. All around them, the villagers were heartily enjoying the feast. For these folks, accustomed to modest meals, the lavish spread on the banquet table was a rare indulgence, and they were making the most of this celebration.

However, Loraine and Marco found the oily, rich dishes unappetizing. Eloise, given her age, had a weak appetite and set her tableware down after a

Chapter 654 Vicious Intention Revealed 🎁 +120 Points at most
few bites.

As the banquet reached its zenith, some guests began to depart.

Lorraine figured that Judie might make her move now. After all, a banquet would lose its purpose once everyone had left.

Sure enough, as the next dish was served, Judie took center stage, a microphone in hand, ready to address the crowd.

"Fellow villagers," she began, "Today, we celebrate the harvest festival, and while this feast is a way for us to share the bounty, we also have an important issue to discuss!"

The villagers glanced at her as they ate, but most remained engrossed in their meals.

Clad in red and clutching a modest microphone, Judie was reminiscent of a rural performance host. Her passionate speech, filled with dramatic highs and lows, echoed throughout the space. "The Cooper family may be prosperous now, but there are many in our village who still face hardship. As we enjoy our prosperity, we, the Cooper family, have no intention to monopolize it. As members of this community, we aim to lead our fellow villagers towards affluence!"

Lorraine's lips twitched ever so slightly, her face impassive. She nearly wanted to applaud Judie's

Chapter 654 Vicious Intention Revealed 🎁 +120 Points at most
theatrical display.

If the Cooper family were genuinely altruistic, they wouldn't have collected gifts at the gate, allowing only those bearing gifts to partake in the banquet.

It was one thing to fool the villagers, but quite another to fool herself.

At this moment, Judie was utterly absorbed in her self-aggrandizing speech, her fervor only growing. "In order to guide our fellow villagers towards prosperity, the Cooper family has tirelessly coordinated with city-based construction teams, and they've agreed to assist us in building an agritainment resort! You see, these types of resorts are all the rage in the city! They believe we can build one here, and once it's operational, the city's tourists will flock to us! The profits will be shared among us all!"

Her concluding remark proved too enticing for the villagers to ignore. Roused from their gastronomic bliss, someone led with an approving "Okay," and the crowd erupted in applause.

"The Cooper family is truly generous!"

"The Cooper family is indeed the wealthiest in the village! Not only do they prosper themselves, but they also uplift their fellow villagers. Commendable indeed!"

At first, Loraine didn't heed Judie's speech, finding

Chapter 654 Vicious Intention Revealed 🎁 +120 Points at most
it amusing more than anything. However, as she listened more intently, she realized something was amiss, and her expression grew stern.

Building an agritainment resort?

Loraine recalled how she and Marco had to park their car in town and walk the rest of the way along a rugged, muddy path to get to the village. Even the most adventurous or wealthy city dwellers wouldn't endure such inconvenience to visit a rural agritainment resort.

Unlike the villagers, who saw this as a money-making opportunity, Loraine, having taken over the Universe Group and supervised numerous architectural projects, had a keen business acumen. She assessed the feasibility of opening an agritainment resort in the village with a calm, objective eye.

The conclusion was straightforward—it wouldn't work.

Having grown up here, she was well aware of the region's impoverished state and lack of picturesque scenery. Moreover, beyond the county town were dirt roads, unsuitable for most vehicles. Taken together, it was clear that an agritainment resort would be doomed from the start.

Yet, Judie insisted on constructing one. Was this not foolhardy?

Furrowing her brow, Loraine doubted Judie's claim of having the villagers' welfare at heart. She realized Judie was trying to rile the villagers, blaming the orphanage for withholding the critical piece of land required for the resort.

As Loraine expected, Judie sighed. "Despite my best efforts to negotiate, Mrs. Harvey remains unyielding. She is hindering our progress in building the agritainment resort."

Several agitated villagers rose and began accusing Eloise, who had always been revered in the village.

Unaccustomed to such rebuke, Eloise was taken aback, eager to defend herself.

However, Judie continued her tirade, "Not only that, Mrs. Harvey has also obstructed our attempts at further development! She even hired some unknown outsiders to harm my people and chase them away! The construction team was livid! Can you envision our future under such conditions? No one will assist us in developing our village."

Eloise snapped back, "Lies! It's you who intend to bulldoze the orphanage! I've said it before, I'm not opposed to development, but I refuse to relinquish the land without a suitable plan in place for the children!"

Judie retorted, "How have I not provided suitable arrangements? Haven't I mentioned it already? I'll

Chapter 654 Vicious Intention Revealed 🎁 +120 Points at most
send the children where they belong. You're the one who's being difficult!"

Hearing this, the villagers, unaware of the reality, began to question their stance. After all, the children in the orphanage weren't theirs, and their interests might not align with the villagers' personal gain.

Just as the atmosphere began to thicken, Loraine's calm and clear voice sliced through the tension.

"So, in your perspective, handing children over to human traffickers is considered suitable arrangements? If anyone here is in dire need of money, perhaps you could suggest they sell their own children first?"

Chapter 655 Repairing The Roads

As Loraine finished speaking, the villagers erupted into a tumult of whispers and exclamations.

They were firm believers in the old adage, "the more children, the more blessings." They had never contemplated selling their children, much less exploiting orphans for profit.

The very idea of profiting from the sale of children was diametrically opposed to their core values and moral principles.

Every eye turned to Judie, their expressions demanding an explanation. "Judie, is what she says true?"

"Selling children is an abominable act! I refuse to be involved in such a thing!"

"I can't take part in such a ruthless scheme. I'm out!"

A shade of pallor spread over Judie's face as she glowered at Loraine, attempting to deflect the allegations. "It's obviously not true. You all know what kind of person Loraine is, how can you trust her words?"

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Judie had previously orchestrated a smear campaign against Loraine that had tarnished her reputation in the village. Loraine was perceived as a woman who liaised with an affluent man, bore an illegitimate child, and then left. Every claim struck a raw nerve with the conservative villagers, rendering her an object of contempt.

Consequently, the villagers' initial disbelief towards Judie's accusations wavered, with some turning their attention to Loraine, asking, "Are you really Loraine from the orphanage? Why have you returned after all these years?"

Seizing this moment of uncertainty, Judie provoked, "You can't trust Loraine. She was the mistress of a rich man, and left the orphanage for the luxurious life of the city. Now that she's been discarded, she's trying to sabotage us and prevent us from making money!"

Judie's remarks partially swayed some villagers, leading to skeptical glances directed at Loraine.

Undeterred, Loraine simply scoffed dismissively, "Judie, it seems you're incapable of speaking the truth!"

She then turned her attention to the villagers, her tone earnest, "When I left the village, it was to join my biological family who had found me. I was not 'kept' by any 'rich man', nor did I leave due to pregnancy. As for the rumors, they don't matter to me. What's crucial is that Judie is misleading you!"

Contrary to Judie's flamboyant, insincere words, Loraine's clear and melodious voice resonated with the villagers. Her sincerity shone through, sowing seeds of doubt in their minds.

She continued persuasively, "Judie's interest in the orphanage's land has nothing to do with building an agritainment resort for the collective good. Rather, it's about her personal profit, aiming to become a local landowner. If she truly cared about everyone and wanted to develop an agritainment resort, she should start with the construction of roads!"

Supporting her, Marco added, "The village roads are indeed in a poor state. City folks may be wealthy, but when they seek a farmhouse experience, they're after relaxation, not hassle. With the current state of the roads, even your village children have trouble getting to school. Do you really think tourists would come here for leisure?"

Both Loraine's and Marco's experience in negotiation and public speaking easily swayed

many villagers, especially those with children. They whispered to each other, "This young man doesn't seem ordinary. He looks more like those movie stars my child admires. As a city dweller, what he's saying must have some truth!"

"That's right! Our children already struggle to go to school. Each time they return, they lament about the state of the roads and the poor Internet connection in the village. They'd rather leave home than stay!"

Judie bristled at the villagers' discourse, unable to conceal her vexation. "What do you all understand? The allure of a farmhouse experience lies in the authentic rural life. Over-modernizing it defeats the purpose. Loraine, all you do is chatter and ensnare men. Is there anything else you can accomplish?"

Jealousy now added to her resentment as Judie glowered at Loraine. Marco might have been a smooth talker, but he was undeniably handsome, with a solid build and a commanding aura. Why couldn't he be hers?

Just then, a bodyguard ran in from outside, his face losing color upon sighting Marco. He hurriedly whispered to Judie, "Miss, it's him! The man who chased us off that day!"

The news stoked Judie's anger, and she fixed a venomous gaze on Loraine and Marco. Sneering coldly, she accused, "Loraine, you're nothing but a liar! You claimed you don't have a sugar daddy,

then who is this man by your side? My men recognized him from financial newspapers. He's clearly wealthy! He must be your sugar daddy!"

The villagers' gaze shifted to Marco, filled with uncertainty.

Even in his casual attire, Marco possessed an aura of exclusivity that marked him as affluent. Could it be that Loraine... really was a mistress?

If so, could her words have any credibility?

As suspicion simmered among the villagers, Marco addressed them calmly, "I am not her sugar daddy. Loraine is my benefactor."

His straightforward response left Judie flustered, and she faltered for words. Seizing the moment, Loraine appealed to the villagers. "Everyone, don't let Judie mislead you. I've been away for years, and it's true that you may not know me as well anymore, but I grew up in this village. I truly wish to help you all, to prevent you from being tricked and exploited by a fraudster."

She looked around and continued, "Earlier, I sent people to the town to learn about the situation, hoping to improve the village roads. But the locals were resistant and rejected my help. Now, I'm here in person, seeking your approval. If you consent, I'll arrange for a crew to repair the roads, making your lives and travels easier. We can also collaborate with the government to bring internet

Chapter 655 Repairing The Roads 🎁 +120 Points at most
connectivity to the village, which will facilitate
your business ventures in the future!"

Lorraine's speech left Judie looking pallid while the
villagers broke into excited chatter. Some
exclaimed, "Refuse help? Why would we reject
such a benefit? We had no idea someone wanted
to fix our roads!"



Chapter 656 That Shouldn't Be The Case

Loraine furrowed her brow at the revelation and said decisively, "That shouldn't be the case. I personally contacted the village chief multiple times before, and he informed me that everyone disagreed with the idea of road construction, so I didn't pursue it."

Could it be that the village chief never consulted anyone else?

The thought struck Loraine, and she immediately searched for the village chief's figure. The villagers also turned their gazes toward him simultaneously.

The village chief was a tall, thin, middle-aged man. As Loraine broached the subject of road construction, he became visibly anxious, wiping the sweat off his face repeatedly.

The more she spoke, the more uneasy he appeared. When he wanted to flee, the villagers locked their gazes on him, immobilizing him.

Caught in a quandary, he forced a smile, his nervous hands wiping away the sweat, his eyebrows creased with tension.

When Loraine's representatives approached him,

proposing to construct roads for the village, he was naturally overjoyed. But once Judie learned of it, she pressured him into rejecting the offer.

How could he, a mere village chief, withstand the influence of the Cooper family, known for their wealth and dominance in the village? Enticed by the substantial benefits promised by the Cooper family, he began to obey as they commanded.

He never expected Loraine would expose the matter before so many people!

The intense scrutiny of the crowd seemed to penetrate him. Fearful of stirring up trouble, he thought about blaming the Cooper family, but the moment his eyes met Judie's, he sensed her malicious intent.

His heart pounded, sweat cascaded down his face. He was unsure how much assistance Loraine could provide, but he knew he couldn't afford to antagonize the Cooper family!

Fortuitously, he devised a cunning explanation. Clearing his throat, he spoke earnestly. "Loraine, you were so young when you left that I barely recognized you. Besides, you've been absent for so long, and you never even returned. We were no longer familiar, so I assumed the call was a scam and disregarded it."

Judie's face broke into a satisfied grin as she quickly chimed in, "Exactly! Moreover, even if you

wish to build the roads, wouldn't the orphanage still need to be demolished? What's the point of your idea? Without the rural tourism, even if you build roads, what difference does it make? The villagers will still be stranded, remaining just as impoverished."

Soon, Judie's shrewd arguments swayed the crowd, and they unconsciously nodded along. "Yes, even if the roads are well built, we still won't be able to make money without rural tourism," they concurred.

Judie felt triumphant and elaborated, "That's why the priority is to demolish the orphanage and build the rural tourism attraction! Once the rural tourism is thriving, you will naturally have money. And construction teams will help with road construction. This is the best solution for everyone!"

Some of the villagers, swayed by her persuasion, began to consider the idea of sacrificing the orphanage for their own benefit. They attempted to persuade Eloise, "Mrs. Harvey, for the greater good, why not make way for progress by relocating the orphanage? We can ensure that the children are well taken care of elsewhere. Our village desperately needs economic development, and we all want to improve our lives."

"Yeah, our financial struggles are real. We need to think about the future of the entire village!"

Eloise's face turned grave, and Loraine furrowed

her brow, speaking firmly. "Is it right to disregard the welfare of these parentless children for financial gain? Do you truly feel at ease making a decision that could affect their lives so profoundly?"

Those who had spoken earlier now looked conflicted, but Judie interjected hastily, "Lorraine, now that you have means, you can't understand the villagers' hardships. They're poor! There's no opportunity for them nearby, and they want a better life. Besides rural tourism, what other options do they have?"

Judie's feigned concern for the villagers immediately won the support of some of the villagers. They shook off their guilt, acting as if they had found justification. "Exactly, you might not worry about money, but we do! Why should we continue to suffer? We must think about the entire village!"

Lorraine maintained her composure, remaining silent, and that only emboldened a few individuals who seemed ready to confront her directly. Judie couldn't resist stoking the flames, eager to escalate the situation further.

Just as the tension reached a boiling point, a figure stepped forward, blocking Lorraine. Marco unbuttoned a couple of buttons on his shirt, rolled up his sleeves, and stood expressionless, exuding an air of authority, appearing as if he could stand against any opposition.

Under his steely gaze, those who had been clamoring shrank back, timidly retreating. Judie, who had been the most vocal, was also taken aback and dared not provoke any further.

At this moment, Loraine spoke calmly. "It's not that we cannot develop rural tourism or build a farm attraction, but if we do, it should reflect our village's unique character. Otherwise, not only will it fail to boost economic development, but it could also waste resources and funds."

"Developing the countryside and establishing a farm attraction can coexist with preserving the orphanage," she added.

Judie instinctively scoffed, "What a naive idea! Loraine, you don't understand the complexities involved, so stop talking nonsense!"

Chapter 657 The Proposal Of Loraine

After Judie finished speaking, she suddenly remembered Marco's presence and took a step back, her eyes wide with fear.

However, her words had already planted seeds of doubt among the villagers. Though Loraine had returned to the village looking confident and successful, they couldn't be certain of her real abilities.

What if she were indeed nothing more than a kept woman, putting on airs and blocking their path to prosperity?

Amid the skeptical gazes, Loraine smiled gracefully, undeterred by the mistrust. "Since that's the case, I'd like to propose a few ideas for everyone to consider. After hearing them, you can then compare them with Judie's plan and decide which one is better."

The villagers nodded, their curiosity piqued, and Loraine began to speak slowly, laying out her vision. "First, we should renovate the orphanage. It's true that our village lacks prominent scenic spots for tourism development, so it's crucial to attract attention in other ways. The orphanage is lively with many children, and it's relatively close to

Chapter 657 The Proposal Of Loraine +120 Points at most
the county. We can organize regular charity markets near the orphanage, inviting philanthropists from various backgrounds to participate."

Pausing for a moment, she continued, "This will be the first step in gaining publicity. During the market, the villagers can sell snacks, vegetables, or meat. The orphanage children can also make handicrafts to sell or assist the villagers with their sales in exchange for rewards. This way, not only will the villagers earn money, but the children in the orphanage can also learn self-reliance.

The second step is to maintain quality. The orphanage's geographical location is convenient for people from the county to visit. If the market is well organized, once the roads are repaired, we can leverage the market's reputation to further promote the village and attract city dwellers to visit. Moreover, not everyone who wants an authentic experience necessarily wants to stay in a farm lodge. We can convert villagers' houses into homestays directly.

These two steps will lay a solid foundation. Once the roads are repaired, it will be easier for city dwellers to visit, and any further development of farm lodges will also be more straightforward."

Loraine knew that her proposal wasn't a mere pipe dream. In high society, charity galas were common, but she believed it would be more meaningful to do something genuinely impactful for the

Chapter 657 The Proposal Of Loraine 🎁 +120 Points at most orphanage.

With the backing of the Universe Group, she felt confident the project would succeed.

Most of the villagers found her words somewhat confusing, the concept of charity markets unfamiliar to them. However, the promise of starting small businesses immediately, without waiting for the farm lodge to be built, piqued their interest.

"It sounds much better."

"I think it's possible! I support Loraine!"

Voices of agreement began to rise, and even Eloise spoke up. "This way, we don't need to demolish the orphanage, and it can provide the children with an opportunity to be self-reliant. It's a sensible plan, Lorrie, I support you."

To utilize the area for a market, the open space surrounding the orphanage, currently littered with construction debris, would need to be cleared. This space had been left unused since the orphanage was built, and Eloise was always concerned that the mischievous children would play in the rubble and get hurt.

Lorraine's suggestion could simultaneously solve this problem.

The more the villagers considered the idea, the

more they were tempted by Loraine's proposal. On the other hand, Judie was becoming frantic. She scratched her head in frustration, exclaiming, "Don't listen to Loraine's grandiose promises! If everyone starts doing business, what's the point of repairing the roads? And repairing the roads will require a considerable sum. Who will pay for it? If everyone has to contribute, how will you find the money to start businesses? And how long will it take to get them off the ground? Loraine is just fooling us!"

Judie's concerns about finances caused the villagers' enthusiasm to falter momentarily. They recognized that the idea of repairing the roads was appealing, but none were eager to foot the bill.

Loraine responded to Judie's objections with a sneer, declaring, "As for the road repairs, I will handle all arrangements once the villagers agree. As for the cost, there's no need to worry. Consider it my contribution to the village, a gesture of thanks for past kindnesses."

This reassurance, coupled with the fact that the villagers wouldn't have to spend any money, swung their opinions back in Loraine's favor. Her demonstration of gratitude painted her as a benevolent figure, while Judie's stubborn resistance to the road repairs began to appear unreasonable and overbearing.

Seizing the opportunity, Loraine continued, "Judie

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insists that she's looking out for everyone's finances, but why does she still object when I offered to pay for the road repairs? She doesn't have to spend a cent, so why is she so set on taking the orphanage's land? If she truly wants to develop farm lodges, there are plenty of unused plots in the village. Why not choose one of those? It appears that she's more invested in her personal interests than the well-being of the villagers. Her behavior is not unlike that of a local tyrant!"



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