

Chapter 601 Shares

Loraine had thought that Marco was going to kiss her on her lips, but it only landed on her forehead.

She breathed a sigh of relief, but at the same time, she felt slightly disappointed.

But remembering what he said about making it up to her later, she couldn't help but glance at him.

When Marco saw the expression on her face, he couldn't help smiling. He gave her the breakfast he had bought. "Here it is."

Then, without another word, he drove off to Bryant Group.

By the time Loraine finished the bread and milk, the car had arrived at the headquarters of Bryant Group.

The news that Marco wasn't a member of the Bryant family and had been suspended from the company had by now become widely known. So when he suddenly appeared at the company, all the employees couldn't help but look at him and Loraine in surprise.

But Marco ignored them all and marched straight to the conference room.

Right there in the conference room, all the shareholders of Bryant Group were present.

Unlike the last shareholders' meeting which was full of undercurrents, this time, the plot had succeeded. The reaction of those present varied. Some took pleasure in Marco's

misfortune while others sighed.

But Marco ignored them all and looked straight at Marina, who was seated in the position of CEO. "Where is the contract?" he demanded in a cold tone.

Marina was dressed in fancy designer clothing and various pieces of jewelry, as if she wanted to wear all the luxuries she had missed for months.

When she saw Marco, she could barely contain her glee. Without wasting time, she handed him the agreement immediately.

After taking a quick look at the document, Marco signed his name on it.

Then he glanced at everyone expressionlessly and announced in a low voice, "From now on, all the shares that were originally under my name are transferred to Marina, and I will officially resign and leave Bryant Group."

This speech led to an instant commotion. Many people pretended to be surprised and pained.

But Marina didn't care. She quickly grabbed the document from him. After reading again the part about the transfer of 25% shares, she laughed out loud.

Now, except for Liza, who held 35%, she held the most shares of Bryant Group. Since Liza wouldn't be in charge of the company, that definitely meant that she was now the CEO!

She grinned happily and tried to pretend to be calm. "Normally, the shareholder with the most shares should be the CEO. But since Grandma is old, I will be the CEO," she announced, stating the obvious.

Then she turned to Marco and said in a pitiful tone, "The five million dollars I promised you is still on offer. I don't want anyone to say that Bryant Group owes you anything."

All along, Loraine had been waiting at the door and didn't want to come in, but when she heard what Marina just said, she frowned and walked over to Marco.

"How dare you mention such a thing!" she fired at Marina immediately.

But Marco quickly tried to calm her down before turning to Marina. "No, thanks," he said in response to the offer. "From now on, I'll be going my own separate way. If anything happens to Bryant Group, don't ever come to me."

Marina didn't take his words seriously. Instead, she replied disdainfully, "Don't worry. As long as you don't shamelessly ask for money, Bryant Group will never contact you again."

Watching her act so domineering, Loraine felt very angry. And she sneered at her, "Who would want to come back to a ruthless company like this? I hope you remember everything you said today. Don't cry and beg Marco to come back to clean up your mess tomorrow!"

This statement made Marina furious and she shouted for the security immediately. "Where are the guards? Come in and drive these two unimportant strangers out of here!"

Marina recalled the last time when she was kicked out of the shareholders' meeting. She still held a grudge against them over that treatment and now was a good chance for her to take revenge!

Back then, Jefferson had helped her. But this time, when she ordered for Marco to be thrown out, none of the shareholders



said anything in support.

Loraine was very worried that Marco's calm mood would be messed up by the ruthless behavior of Marina. So, she stood in front of him and scolded her, "Marina, even though Marco has nothing to do with Bryant Group, I still have 1% of this company's shares. I am one of the shareholders of Bryant Group! Even if you have gotten the shares that were under Marco's name, that doesn't mean you can drive away other shareholders."

But Marina sneered dismissively, "What does 1% of our shares mean? I now have 25% now, that's 25 times more than you! Loraine, this is not your Universe Group. This is Bryant Group. I can kick you out whenever I want. What do you think you can do to stop me?"

Loraine burst out laughing when she heard this. "Well," she shrugged carelessly, "to be honest, I really don't want the shares. And anyone who wants them can buy them from me."

Any wise company CEO would know the importance of shares in the business, especially a family business like Bryant Group.

Moreover, stock price would most likely fluctuate during the critical period of the new CEO's appointment. And sometimes, even a small number of shares could be a decisive factor.

But Marina didn't care. Instead, she said haughtily, "You can sell them if you like. It's only 1%. Come on, who will buy them? What would they buy them for?"



Chapter 602 Jefferson's Ambitious Scheme

Loraine was left speechless by Marina's stupidity.

But Marina, on the other hand, felt ecstatic. She had only come to the shareholders' meeting today to acquire Marco's shares, not to discuss the future of the group with these shareholders.

After waiting in vain for the security guards to show up and usher Marco and Loraine out, she figured that since she would soon be the CEO, there was no need to bother herself going after them for now. So, she simply announced, "Alright, today's meeting has been concluded. You all are dismissed!"

The shareholders looked at one another in astonishment, but none of them stood up to leave.

After all, they had been with Bryant Group for so long, and they couldn't recall any time in the past when a shareholders' meeting was so hastily concluded.

Marina frowned in annoyance at their refusal to leave but didn't bother to do anything about it. She grabbed the share transfer agreement and left the conference room, looking forward to occupying the CEO's office.

After she officially took over the company, she would fire all these people who had refused to listen to her! After that, no one would dare to disobey her authority!

Meanwhile, in the conference room, Jefferson's eyes twinkled and he cleared his throat before saying, "Since the meeting is



over, everyone can now go back to your various offices."

It was then that they all began to get up one after the other.

Loraine and Marco didn't want to stay any longer, so they got up to leave too, but Jefferson's cheerful voice called out to them, "Miss Torres, may I have a word with you?"

Loraine glanced at Marco, and the two of them silently agreed to stay and see what Jefferson had up his sleeve.

Jefferson had always been an ambitious man.

When Bryant Group was stable, he could only secretly gain a few benefits. But since the news of Marco being an illegitimate child came out, he had been actively networking to maximize his gains. In fact, he played a great part in the realization of the current situation.

Funny enough, Laura and Marina trusted him simply because they were trying so hard to expel Marco. As a result, it never crossed their mind that Jefferson would turn against them.

Marco was not surprised that Jefferson was talking to them. Because Loraine's statement about the 1% shares was actually a deliberate bait for him.

Now that there were only the three of them left in the conference room, Jefferson wiped his glasses and plastered a sleek smile on his face as he said, "Miss Torres, as the CEO of Universe Group, holding shares in Bryant Group might not be of much use to you. If you're interested in selling them, I would like to buy them from you."

Before the shareholder's meeting, Jefferson had already made a lot of moves in secret. Some shareholders who had learned that Marco was going to resign decided to sell their shares, and Jefferson had encouraged the idea.



Now, he held a total of 20% shares.

Of course, the foolish Marina could not possibly know that this man who always had a smile on his face had already done so much dirty work in secret.

At this point, other than Marina, Liza, and Jefferson, the next large shareholder of the group was a mysterious individual who had never appeared publicly. This individual had a 15% stake.

Jefferson had been actively trying to contact this mysterious major shareholder so he could negotiate the purchase of his 15% stake. He had been spending all his time and efforts to gather shares, and unexpectedly, Loraine had presented him with a wonderful opportunity to get an additional 1% stake.

Adding Loraine's 1% to his, as long as the last major shareholder sold his or her shares to him, he would hold 36% of the shares, which was more than that of the largest shareholder, Liza. In this way, Bryant Group would effortlessly become his property.

With this thought in his mind, his smile became wider and wider. He had the Bryant family to thank for pushing Marco out, otherwise, how could he have come this far in his plan to take over Bryant Group?

Loraine gave him a quick glance and pretended to hesitate. Seeing her reaction, Jefferson thought to himself that there was a big chance of success. He lowered his voice and said, "Miss Torres, how about we go somewhere else to discuss the details?"

But suddenly, Marco pulled her aside. Loraine didn't resist. She simply walked away with him to have a private talk.

Glancing over at Jefferson who still had that smile on his face,



Marco sneered, "This old guy has big ambitions. Not only did he secretly contact me and offer to buy my 15% stake, he even wants to snatch your 1%."

Loraine was shocked to hear him say this. "Didn't you transfer all your shares to Marina?" she asked him. "How come you still have 15%?"

Marco told her straightforwardly, "These are the scattered shares I had Carl purchase under another name in the past. I originally bought them as a backup plan, but I never thought I would actually use them one day."

Loraine gasped, "Wait... Are you planning on selling those shares to Jefferson? If you do that, he will own 36%, even more than Liza! Then he will become the largest shareholder and completely control Bryant Group."

Marco simply shrugged and said, "If he wants the shares, I'll sell them to him. I don't want to hold onto anything related to Bryant Group. If he wants to be the largest shareholder, let him be. Bryant Group has nothing to do with me anymore."

Loraine, thinking of how cold-heartedly the Bryant family had treated him, didn't bother to argue with Marco.

"Now, your 1% is the most crucial piece," Marco added. "Since you're going to sell the shares, you should of course sell them for a good price."

He knew very well how desperate Jefferson was. He would pay anything to get those shares.

Loraine shook her head when he said this. She had not expected him to be so cunning and ruthless. No wonder everyone in the business circles was afraid of Marco. Now, it was clear that his partnership with her had been really fair and gentle.



Marco thought she was hesitating, so he whispered in her ear, "It is better to sell the shares today before it is too late so that you won't have a loss at the end of the day."



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Chapter 603 Making Him Pay A Steep Price

Marco wore his deception on his sleeve, regarding Jefferson as if he were eyeing a juicy lamb ready for the butcher's block.

Loraine stole a brief look at Jefferson, who was blithely ignorant of the manipulation at play. His presumptuous confidence was somewhat comical.

Marco was correct. Marina was ill-equipped to tackle the upcoming obstacles that the Bryant Group would soon face, let alone the crafty Jefferson. The company's stocks were sure to nosedive.

It made sense to sell now, cashing out a substantial profit before the impending crash.

With Marco secretly holding 15% of the shares, Jefferson saw a sliver of hope in his competition with the Bryant family. He was willing to pay a premium for Loraine's 1% share.

Both Loraine and Marco, being savvy entrepreneurs, comprehended this dynamic fully.

However, Loraine never anticipated that her initial acquisition of these shares, merely to assist Marco, would unexpectedly present an opportunity for significant profit. It was a delightful surprise.

Observing Loraine and Marco whispering and casting strange glances his way for some time, Jefferson grew uncomfortable. He rose and walked over to them, his smile strained. "Miss

Torres, have you given my proposition any thought?"

Suddenly, suspicion crept into his mind as he eyed Marco. "You aren't planning to buy shares from Miss Torres, are you? Remember, you just declared severing ties with the Bryant Group. There should be no remaining connections. Besides, what good is 1% of the shares to you?"

Seeing through Jefferson's apprehensions, Marco scoffed dismissively, "Rest easy, I've lost all interest in the Bryant Group."

Jefferson remained dubious about Marco's intentions. Marco shot Loraine a glance, raising an eyebrow suggestively. "My current pursuit is Loraine. Is it an issue if we want a private chat? Let's say, even if we were to exchange a public kiss, it wouldn't concern you, would it?"

Marco's insinuation left Loraine almost choking, and she shot him an embarrassed glare. Jefferson, trying to mask his awkwardness, forced a smile. "Of course, it's none of my business... Anyway, Miss Torres, I am sincere about the acquisition. If you're open to it, can we arrange a private meeting?"

After Marco's assessment, it was clear to Loraine that selling the shares to Jefferson was the most beneficial move. However, she harbored a faint reluctance.

After all, the Bryant Group was Marco's hard work, painstakingly built over years, and it was disheartening to watch it fall into these individuals' hands.

With Jefferson's expectant gaze upon her, Loraine noticed Marco subtly nodding, signaling her to proceed with the sale.

Indeed, the Bryant Group was on the verge of collapse, and without Marco's backing, it was doomed to disarray. Her 1% share would be worthless. So, she might as well cash in while



she could.

Eventually, Loraine addressed Jefferson, "Mr. Foster, I appreciate your sincerity, but a private meeting isn't necessary."

Jefferson exhaled in relief when Loraine agreed to sell the shares. He didn't particularly care whether the discussion was private or public; he was simply elated at the opportunity.

"Considering the urgency, let's conclude this at the Bryant Group. Shall we move to my office? The conference room is often too busy and isn't the most suitable place for business discussions."

Despite the risk of being discovered by the Bryant family while negotiating at the company, Jefferson was confident that Marina, with her usual lack of perceptiveness, wouldn't grasp the circumstances leading to her downfall. She wouldn't find out what was going on.

Loraine glanced at Marco, who responded with an approving thumbs-up. She suppressed a laugh and feigned a moment of consideration before reluctantly agreeing with a nod.

Jefferson was brimming with joy, entirely oblivious to Loraine's subtle amusement.

Loraine shot Marco a teasing glare, finding it humorous that she and Marco were duping an elderly man out of a few hundred million.

Now that Jefferson was a far cry from being virtuous, they did not feel guilty about their actions.

"If you insist, I have no objections. Please, lead the way," Loraine responded.

Jefferson, overjoyed, momentarily forgot his status as a

shareholder. He gave a nod and a bow, inviting her to follow him.

However, when he caught sight of Marco trailing behind Loraine, his smile wavered. Masking his unease with a forced grin, he said, "Marco, this share transaction is a Bryant Group internal affair. As you're no longer the CEO of the company, there's no need for your presence, correct?"

Jefferson's dismissal caused Loraine's expression to cool.

It appeared she had no reason to hold back. If she didn't ensure Jefferson paid a steep price, she would be undermining Marco's plans.

