

Chapter 891 The Premise Of Returning

Marco's calm face changed slightly when he heard these words. Then he turned to look at Melvin, trying his best to suppress the disgust and anger in his eyes.

"I only agreed to return to the Cruz family, not to stand here and listen to you say such a thing!" he said angrily.

In fact, he blamed himself for the whole thing. He felt that he should have known long ago that people in the Cruz family were all birds of the same feather!

But Melvin didn't seem to be bothered by Marco's anger. Instead, he shrugged and said, "Well, I'm only doing this for your own good."

Marco knew that it was impossible to argue with someone like Melvin who would never admit that he was wrong, so he replied in a firm tone, "If you insist that I do this, then I might as well not recognize the Cruz family as my family or you as my father."

When Melvin heard this, he shook his head and let out a small laugh. There was a look of helplessness and indulgence on his cold face, as if he was having fun watching a child throw a tantrum.

"Marco," he said after a while, "I know everything you've been doing in Vagow. At first, I was glad to see that you didn't waste

your life away. But now, I can see that it's that woman named Loraine that has made you dull and incompetent. How on earth did you become so naive? Since your identity has been made public, it doesn't matter whether or not you admit being part of the Cruz family. Everyone out there now knows that you're a member of the Cruz family! Do you think you can just go on and live a peaceful life by not acknowledging the Cruz family?"

Even though Marco was angry, he had to admit to himself that Melvin wasn't wrong after all. His face turned cold as he came to the realization that leaving the Cruz family wasn't going to be as easy as he had thought.

In fact, their relentless chase was the reason he agreed to return to the Cruz family in the first place. He would have loved to be on his own, as independent as ever, but they just wouldn't stop looking to get him into their fold. When Clifford took the bold step of making his identity public, that was what effectively cut off his escape route.

Seeing that Marco did not refute his statement, Melvin said in a casual tone, "I'm not the kind of old-fashioned parent who likes to interfere with young people's relationships. If you and that Torres family girl are in a normal relationship, it's fine..."

He paused for a moment. Then he went on with a hint of displeasure in his tone, "But I heard that the Torres family took advantage of your departure from the Bryant family and demanded that you marry into their family. After exhibiting such behavior, how can they be qualified to be our in-laws?"

Marco wanted to explain that the Torres family had not taken any such advantage of him, but Melvin interrupted him.

"Well, it doesn't matter whether it's true or not," he said with a shrug. "The Torres family is just a small family. They may be considered a wealthy family in Vagow, but in Zodiac, they're nothing. Marrying Loraine will give you nothing and it will not help you in any way if you were to take over the family business."

Melvin, naturally accustomed to being an authoritarian, did not give Marco a chance to speak. Instead, he went on yet again in an arrogant tone, "The Cruz family can give the Torres family some compensation for the time their daughter has spent with you. So even after breaking up with you, Loraine can continue to live a wealthy and peaceful life in Vagow. There will be no need for her to be involved in the turmoil in Zodiac. You came back for the sake of her safety, didn't you?"

Marco couldn't stay silent any longer. He shouted back immediately, "I have the ability to protect her! And please, take note of this: my return to the Cruz family is not in any way a compromise or a step backwards. It's just to get rid of all those hidden dangers and ensure that no more foolish individuals will come to disturb me and Loraine. No, I will never break up with her!"

Melvin frowned and looked at Marco in displeasure. But Marco stood straight and faced him without flinching, his eyes hard and fearless, like a predator's in the wild.

Melvin sighed. He couldn't help but admit to himself that Marco and his younger self had so much in common. They were both fearless and naive.

After a moment of silence, he chuckled and patted Marco on the shoulder. "You're talking like that because you haven't seen enough women," he said with an air of wisdom. "Vagow has really limited your perspective. Go and have some rest for now. In a few days, I'll arrange for you to meet some high-class ladies from Zodiac. The more of them you meet, the less likely you'll be to cling to just one."

Then he called a security guard over and ordered him, "Take my son back to his room so he can rest. No one is allowed to see him without my permission, and he is not to be allowed to wander around outside!"

When Marco heard this, his muscles tensed up and he immediately assumed a defensive stance. "You want to confine me?" he asked in disbelief.

But Melvin chuckled and replied, "Come on, you're overreacting. The thing is that since you just don't listen to me, I'm worried that you'll hurt yourself by running around aimlessly."

Marco never expected Melvin to share Clifford's barbaric behavior of confining people, and he certainly didn't expect Melvin to come at him so directly. Hence, without thinking twice, he decided to make a run for it.

As he ran, more guards began pouring into the lobby.

But his two fists were no match for so many others. After

some struggling, he was soon beginning to get exhausted. With his head bowed, he began to breathe heavily, and sweat flowed down his strong, muscular body.

Yet, another set of bodyguards rushed in. It was clear that he stood almost no chance whatsoever. Worse still, before long, he accidentally exposed a flaw in his defense. Immediately, it was taken advantage of by the guards. In a matter of seconds, he was pressed down by four or five people, leaving him struggling to break free. But his efforts were in vain.

All he could do was to glare at Melvin in fury.

He had never been in such a horrible situation before, and worse still, it was caused by his own biological father!

Melvin, on his part, stood aside, looking at Marco and guards with cold indifference and arrogance. "Look," he said to Marco, "it doesn't matter how powerful you were before... that's all in the past now. For the next few days, you'll stay here and learn how to take over the family business."



Chapter 892 House Arrest

Marco was taken back to his room. Outside, a line of bodyguards stood watch. The security was tighter than what Clifford had around Ariadna in Vagow, tighter than a drum.

Marco's attitude helped him settle quickly; he wouldn't resist fruitlessly.

There was no point in being angry. Melvin was intent on keeping him under control, not letting him slip away easily.

With this realization, Marco's contempt for the Cruz family grew stronger.

Melvin had essentially confined him to the house! It caught Marco off guard.

Surprisingly, when Loraine was attacked in Vagow, Melvin had cautioned him over the phone.

That trust in his father made Marco drop his guard.

Now, he suspected Melvin had planned to confine him all along. The guards hadn't been there when he entered the house, but they appeared out of nowhere after Melvin's command.

The room appeared ready for his arrival.

Marco surveyed the room. Despite the aged decor, everything was meticulously maintained.

A towering bookshelf held a variety of volumes, spanning

Marco was taken back to his room. Outside, a line of bodyguards stood watch. The security was tighter than what Clifford had around Ariadna in Vagow, tighter than a drum.

Marco's attitude helped him settle quickly; he wouldn't resist fruitlessly.

There was no point in being angry. Melvin was intent on keeping him under control, not letting him slip away easily.

With this realization, Marco's contempt for the Cruz family grew stronger.

Melvin had essentially confined him to the house! It caught Marco off guard.

Surprisingly, when Loraine was attacked in Vagow, Melvin had cautioned him over the phone.

That trust in his father made Marco drop his guard.

Now, he suspected Melvin had planned to confine him all along. The guards hadn't been there when he entered the house, but they appeared out of nowhere after Melvin's command.

The room appeared ready for his arrival.

Marco surveyed the room. Despite the aged decor, everything was meticulously maintained.

A towering bookshelf held a variety of volumes, spanning different subjects.

Rather than diving into the books, Marco surveyed his surroundings first. Peering out the window, he chuckled

surroundings first. Peering out the window, he chuckled bitterly.

Melvin had thought of everything. Guards downstairs ensured he couldn't escape through the window.

The entire house was now heavily guarded, anticipatory of his inevitable but futile attempts to escape.

Marco's expression turned grave. Melvin's schemes seemed boundless, prompting Marco to wonder if there were more traps.

Melvin's awareness of his Vagow adventures hinted at extensive surveillance. Marco suspected the room might be bugged.

His mood darkened further. He searched every corner, every object.

Then, a discovery stunned him.

An old photo album rested on the shelf, its cover worn with age.

Marco picked it up, feeling its history under his thumb.

Why would Melvin leave it so noticeably? What could it be?

Curiosity got him, and he had to open it.

The first page held a message: "Baby, grow up quickly, safe and healthy."

Marco's hands trembled as he flipped through the pages.

The initial photo revealed an adorable baby with delicate features.

In the subsequent picture, the baby grinned, displaying tiny teeth.

Marco scrolled through, witnessing the child's growth milestones—first words, first steps—all documented beside him.

As the boy matured, his resemblance to Marco grew, while the innocent annotations faded.

The final page held a shocking image—a torn, bloodied wedding photograph.

Not only was the photograph bloodied, but it was also torn in half. The remaining intact portion captured a youthful Melvin smiling.

Marco pondered in silence. It might be his mother's wedding photograph to Melvin.

Regarding his mother, Marco had heard of her, though he didn't know he was a member of the Cruz family at the time.

His mother, of royal descent, was known for her beauty and nobility.

Tragically, she died in a mysterious accident, the nature of which remained a mystery. It was dangerous, nearly claiming Melvin's life and resulting in the loss of his only child.

Once dismissed as mere gossip, Marco now realized that it had something to do with him. He couldn't help but wear a

bitter smile on his face.

He understood the events better than anyone else. Despite the uncertainty surrounding them, they led to Winfred's severe injury and eventual demise shortly after bringing him back.

What danger prompted Melvin to relinquish his son and hide him for over two decades?

After a prolonged silence, Marco closed the album, sensing Melvin's motive for its placement.

Perhaps Melvin sought to express his past struggles, hinting at hidden truths about his mother's death?

Yet Marco put no trust anymore.

He would investigate the truth by himself, and Melvin couldn't use his mother's death to threaten him to break up with Loraine.

