

Chapter 943 The Real Perpetrator

The atmosphere was tense and quiet as everyone focused on the performance. Suddenly, Marco's voice caught everyone off guard, causing several actors to halt instinctively.

Aziel's forehead veins bulged as he shouted, "Cut!"

Then he spun around to look for the person.

Loraine had been performing exceptionally well, but today's repeated disturbances were too much for a director who prized a perfect scene.

However, instead of finding a simple disturbance, he saw a robust man swiftly approaching Loraine and enveloping her in his arms.

Aziel's eyelids fluttered in irritation as he exclaimed, "Who is this guy? A stalker fan? This is outrageous! Get him out of here!"

Amid the chaos, Marco gripped Loraine tighter, feeling her warmth. He then turned a steely gaze to the wall behind her.

A subtle scent of flammable oil wafted through the air.

Marco shuddered at the thought of what could have happened had he arrived any later.

Thankfully, he was just in time.

He glanced down and noticed the puzzled expression on Loraine's face. Without hesitation, he scooped her up and

steered clear of the wall, cautioning the actors, "If you want to live, steer clear of that wall!"

The actors instinctively followed his directive, moving away, then stood there puzzled about why they had listened to him.

Aziel felt ignored and irritated, so he stormed over, hands on hips, ready to argue.

The crowd gathered around. Some showed concern, while others observed. Kaley remained, her face flushed with anger, looking like she could crack her teeth in frustration.

Her plan was on the verge of success, and Loraine would soon meet her demise. Then, someone showed up out of nowhere to stop it!

In her fury, when Kaley was about to have Vincent remove the disruptive man, she recognized him as Marco!

Aziel was about to scold the man when Marco fixed him with a stern, commanding gaze and stated in a deep voice, "Check behind that wall. There's something dangerous there!"

Hearing this, everyone's expression drained of color, and they instinctively stepped back. Caught off guard, Aziel felt compelled to heed Marco's warning and signaled for an inspection.

While Marco held Loraine close, Kaley watched from a distance, her jealousy bubbling as she clenched her fists.

Knowing she had to maintain her composure or risk exposure, she feigned fright, huddled behind Vincent, and asked in a quivering voice, "What happened? Uncle Vincent, what's the danger?"

Vincent was also unsure of what to do. He patted her hand to reassure her. Soon, they heard the sirens of fire engines

approaching from outside.

A group of firefighters quickly entered, began evacuating people, and started inspecting the wall.

To everyone's shock, the firefighters discovered hazardous combustibles hidden behind the wall's curtain!

The crowd was taken aback, all pondering the same terrifying thought: What if Marco hadn't intervened?

The wall was going to blow up out of nowhere. Loraine would get hurt, and the whole film set might catch fire, too!

Upon hearing this, Loraine's complexion drained, and she felt a chill of dread. She then recalled that the strange scent she had detected was indeed flammable oil!

Had Marco been delayed, the consequences could have been terrible...

Sensing her distress, Marco wrapped his arms around her and soothingly patted her back. He then turned to Aziel and revealed his role as an investor.

"I caught a guy who looked like he intended to start the fire, but it turns out he was bribed. I want to stop filming today and have everyone cooperate with the investigation! As an investor, I'll cover the damages today. But right now, I need to uncover the real perpetrator who tried to harm people by setting that fire!"

Aziel, alarmed by the near disaster that could have befallen his crew, couldn't object. He nodded his agreement.

The others concurred, voicing, "We must uncover the real perpetrator! Who would resort to such heinous tactics? Could they have an antisocial personality disorder? If we don't find the perpetrator, who would dare continue working on this set?"

With a grim expression, Vincent added, "Yes, we must find the perpetrator behind this dangerous act!"

Catching Vincent's tone, Marco noticed Kaley clinging to Vincent's arm, her face ashen, attempting to remain inconspicuous.

He distinctly heard Kaley refer to him as uncle.

Addressing the room straightforwardly, Marco said, "Isn't the perpetrator someone from your Wilson family?"



Chapter 944 Vincent's Identity

Everyone was startled to hear about the Wilson family.

In Zodiac, the surname was almost as revered as the Cruz family.

However, what shocked them even more was when Marco pointed at Vincent and referred to him as a Wilson family member.

They couldn't fathom what he meant. Was Vincent a member of the Wilson family?

Lorraine was equally shocked. She looked up at Vincent in disbelief.

Was Vincent truly a member of the Wilson family? The woman who called him "uncle" was the Wilson family's daughter. Did that mean Kaley was the one who had been chasing Marco?

The blood on Kaley's face drained. She didn't expect Marco to reveal it in public.

She wondered how he found out what she had secretly done.

However, she would never admit it because arson was a crime.

Kaley shuddered and hid behind Vincent with an aggrieved look on her face. "Uncle, is there a misunderstanding? Why does he believe the Wilson family has done it? He is looking at me. Does he think it was me? I'm here only to visit you."

A frown lined Vincent's forehead. He nodded and glared at Marco.

He recalled the time when they met in the restaurant. He covered for Marco and heard Kaley had been chasing after him, even if it meant losing her dignity.

When they met again, Marco exposed Vincent's identity as a member of the Wilson family.

Vincent had been concealing his identity all this while because he didn't want to mix his personal and professional life. However, to his dismay, Marco blurted out the truth.

Seeing the curious gazes of the director and the others, Vincent sighed and admitted, "I am indeed a member of the Wilson family. But do you have any evidence? Why would the Wilson family do such a thing?"

Marco cast a contemptuous look at him. Vincent was unhappy to see that. "Our Wilson family has been loyal to our nation for generations. My father is a senior general. I wouldn't do anything that would ruin my family's reputation."

Loraine was lost in thought. She understood everything now.

No wonder she felt Kaley was targeting her. It turned out that Kaley was the daughter of the Wilson family who liked Marco.

Hearing Vincent's words, Loraine nodded. "I believe Vincent. He would never do such a thing, but I'm not sure about Miss Wilson."

Kaley's expression changed. She scowled at Loraine. "Why are you accusing me? I will sue you for defaming me!"

Loraine didn't ignore the hatred in her eyes. "Go ahead! Sue me for slander," she said, smiling. "Meantime, ask the police to investigate the truth as well."

Kaley began to choke with sobs and looked at Vincent. "Uncle, trust me. Grandpa loves me. Do you think I would do such a thing to discredit him?"

Vincent's face turned blank. He was hesitant.

He was determined to punish the perpetrator and make them pay the price for what they had done.

However, Marco claimed the perpetrator was a member of the Wilson family and pointed his finger at Kaley.

He didn't mean to protect his family but couldn't believe Kaley would do such a thing either.

Everyone knew the Wilson family adored Kaley. Although Vincent seemed like he didn't adore Kaley because of Jaylah, he cared for his niece.

After a moment's hesitation, Vincent glanced at Loraine and said, "I... I don't think Kaley would do such a thing. Why are you overthinking, Loraine? I have watched Kaley grow up. She maybe willful and arrogant but is pure and kindhearted. She would never do such a life-threatening thing."

Loraine remained silent for a moment. Her heart sank with disappointment.

Ever since Loraine got along with Vincent, she believed he was not only humorous but also righteous and a trustworthy friend.

She thought Vincent would investigate the issue irrespective of whether Kaley was the perpetrator or not. However, she was appalled to see him protect his family.

The intensity of her gaze made Vincent feel guilty.

Loraine closed her eyes and sighed. When she opened her eyes again, she regained the decisiveness of a female CEO. "If anything went wrong today, I would have been consumed by a sea of fire. Can I ask you something? Will you let go of the perpetrator if I ask you to?"

Vincent froze. He was at a loss for words.

Loraine continued without looking at him, "I only believe in facts and evidence. I will never let go of the perpetrator for any reason."



Chapter 945 The Unexpected News

Loraine spoke with firm resolve, and nobody challenged her.

She was, after all, a victim. As she pointed out, things could have gone badly wrong, and she might have been seriously hurt by now. Could anyone there really absolve the perpetrator on her behalf?

In the ensuing silence, Vincent found himself in a tight spot. He wasn't trying to defend the perpetrator, but he found himself at a loss for words.

The look of disappointment on Loraine's face weighed heavily on his heart.

The day's shoot was clearly off, and it was apparent Loraine wanted to leave. She turned and asked Aziel for permission to go, then left the set.

Marco was quick to follow her.

Once they were gone, the crew exchanged looks and started whispering among themselves. Everyone agreed the perpetrator had been brutal, but out of respect for Vincent, no one dared speculate about the identity of the perpetrator.

Watching Loraine leave in such a state left Vincent feeling conflicted.

He thought back to when he first met Loraine. It had been a chance encounter. Before that day, she hadn't even known him, yet she had helped him out on multiple occasions and even

agreed to assist with his film.

Yet as her friend, he had dismissed the suspect without any real investigation.

Vincent sighed deeply. As he turned around, he caught Kaley glaring in the direction Loraine had gone.

Vincent's heart skipped a beat at her expression. He almost thought he was seeing things.

To him, and indeed to the entire Wilson family, Kaley had always seemed sweet and charming. How could she look so fierce?

Doubts crept into Vincent's mind, echoing Loraine's words. He began to suspect that Kaley wasn't as innocent as she appeared.

When Kaley noticed his stare, she looked shocked. She quickly turned away, her face a picture of pity and innocence.

Vincent, with a stern face, asked her, "Kaley, tell me, are you involved in this?"

Kaley's face showed a flicker of panic. She couldn't understand why Vincent, who had just been supporting her, suddenly doubted her. Trying to look as pitiful as possible, she responded, "Uncle, I already told you I wouldn't do such a thing. Are you going to doubt me just because of what others say?"

She continued, her voice tinged with hurt, "I know you think I'm a disgrace to the Wilson family for chasing after Marco. But I'm over him now. I've never met Loraine before today, and I only knew about their relationship because you told me! Loraine is actually my favorite singer, Alice. Why would I want to harm her?"

Although Vincent excelled at acting in the play, he seemed



quite naive in real life. Noticing Kaley's distressed expression, he wondered if he had been too harsh on her.

After a moment of reflection, Vincent realized there might be some truth in Kaley's words. He sighed and said, "Kaley, I really hope you don't let me down."

He glanced at Kaley, then turned and walked away, seeking out firefighters to help investigate the incident.

As he left, Kaley's expression quickly turned sour. She felt both resentful and scared. In her mind, Loraine was to blame.

If Loraine hadn't come along, no one would have taken Marco from her! She wouldn't have been forced into such a tricky situation!

She was also upset that Vincent doubted her because of Loraine.

Fuming, Kaley stormed off the set. She was irritated yet confident in the influence of the Wilson family. She believed she had covered her tracks flawlessly this time. Given Loraine's status and power, uncovering any proof would be unlikely.

But Marco added an unpredictable element, as did Vincent!

Although Vincent wasn't often at the Wilson estate, he was influential.

Furthermore, his reputation as a world-renowned actor was significant. If he chose to delve into this matter, he might actually uncover something.

What if they discovered that she was the perpetrator? Would her carefully crafted persona as the innocent girl crumble?

Kaley was aware that she wasn't a true descendant of the Wilson family. She and her mother, Jaylah, depended on the



Wilson for support. Both she and Jaylah always had to maintain a facade of obedience around the Wilson family.

What would happen to her relationship with the Wilson family if her facade shattered? Would they continue to cherish her as they did now?

Suddenly, Kaley became restless as her phone rang incessantly. Annoyed, she answered with a sharp tone, "I'm not in the mood. This better be good news!"

Listening intently, her irritation soon gave way to elation. As the caller finished, a sly smile spread across Kaley's face, her eyes gleaming with malice.

"Just when I thought I was out of options, this news comes at the perfect time! Get everything set up immediately..."

That evening, a bombshell dropped and quickly became the talk of the town. It was about Vincent revealing his girlfriend in the latest TV series.



Chapter 946 Shift The Attention

The acclaimed actor, Vincent's girlfriend was exposed.

He had always been an enigma in the glitzy world of entertainment. Unlike his peers who thrived on scandals and fleeting fame, his presence commanded respect solely through his unparalleled talent. His string of accolades painted a picture of excellence, making him a national icon.

Yet, despite his fame, he wasn't flashy. He was a rare figure in the entertainment industry, devoid of the usual chatter and gossip that surrounded his peers. Few dared to engage in hype with him, and those who did were so obscure that their efforts went unnoticed by the masses.

He remained a solitary figure in the industry—a perennial bachelor whose romantic status was an annual subject of speculation. Each year, fans debated his relationship status only to be captivated once again by his stellar performances.

Then, like wildfire, news of his love life broke loose, igniting a frenzy of chatter across social circles.

Netizens swarmed to discuss, joking about the longevity of this latest buzz and eagerly awaiting any official denial.

Rumors swirled that Vincent had joined a new production, perhaps laying the groundwork for his next magnum opus. But the burning question on everyone's mind was: who was the mysterious woman by his side?

A clandestine photograph emerged, capturing Vincent in an



animated conversation with a mysterious woman. Her identity was shrouded in mystery, her tantalizing features barely discernible.

An insider dropped an interesting detail. "The woman is not from the entertainment industry, but she has a reputation in it. She helped Vincent and joined the crew this time."

Then, a clearer image surfaced—a snapshot of Vincent and the mystery woman heading towards a lounge.

The revelation that she was Loraine, of all people, left netizens stunned.

Netizens were updated with the famous Loraine tales, leaving them more perplexed with each new detail.

The pair seemed a perfect match in social circles. But wasn't Loraine supposed to be with Marco in Vagow?

Yet, the flood of news about Vincent and Loraine's relationship lent it an air of authenticity. The analysis of their connection grew more convincing, supported by numerous photographs.

Rumors swirled that Loraine and Vincent fell in love on set! This topic ignited fervent debate.

Meanwhile, amidst heated discussions online, another rumor surfaced—a safety incident on set where Loraine narrowly escaped danger.

Accompanying the rumor was a photograph depicting firefighters rushing to the scene that day. Despite the crew's efforts to hush it up, the truth leaked out and was soon confirmed.

Some of Vincent's fans, who had rooted for a romance between him and Loraine, reacted strongly to the news, expressing outrage and vowing to support Loraine in seeking justice for



the incident.

As opinions intensified, dissenting voices emerged. "Weren't Loraine and Vincent in love? The hype seemed too good to be true. Why hadn't Vincent spoken up for Loraine during her ordeal? Why hadn't he helped her?"

Reports claimed Loraine had helped Vincent secure his role on set, yet he remained silent. "I think he's despicable!" one comment read.

Throughout the night, a multitude of views were debated, and the fervor showed no signs of abating.

The next morning, Kaley approached Vincent with feigned concern, showing him the online news. "Uncle, these people have gone too far. How can they accuse you like this? You should make a public statement supporting Loraine's investigation. Otherwise, they'll label you as heartless on the Internet! They'll tarnish your name!"

Vincent, never one to keep up with internet buzz, was preoccupied with his crew duties and often missed the latest drama. So when the topic of his supposed slander reached him, he was utterly baffled. He reluctantly picked up Kaley's phone to check what the fuss was about.

Kaley continued, "Could Loraine be intentionally stirring up controversy? Using slander to boost her own fame? Her behavior is despicable. I was worried about her yesterday when she almost got hurt, but this..." Her voice trailed off, disappointment evident in her tone. "It's one thing to suspect me, but to tarnish your reputation..."

Vincent pursed his lips, a tumult of emotions swirling within him. He wanted to interject, to defend himself, but words eluded him.

After skimming through the trending posts, he felt a knot in his

stomach. He understood the nature of publicity and how people exploited it. He was used to it, so he didn't doubt Kaley's claims.

But the idea that Loraine might be using him for her own ends unsettled him. Could Loraine be orchestrating this for her own gain? Was she trying to sway public opinion in her favor? To make her investigation easier? Vincent mused, torn between helping her and feeling manipulated.

He had even helped in the investigations. Yet she chose to do this to him.

This revelation left a bitter taste in his mouth. His admiration for her started to wane, replaced by a tinge of resentment.

With a decisive nod, he set the phone down and stormed out, determined to confront Loraine face to face.

Unbeknownst to him, Kaley smirked mischievously behind his back. "Mom was right about him. Uncle Vincent is quite gullible!"



Chapter 947 Confrontation

At that moment, in a warehouse, a man was jolted awake by cold water splashing on his face.

He was disoriented for a few seconds, then surveyed his surroundings with wide eyes and uttered a noise.

Soon, a pair of slender legs appeared before him, and the gag in his mouth was removed. The stern-faced man standing over him demanded in a low tone, "Won't you tell me who sent you?"

The captive, Marco had seized, was responsible for distributing flammable liquids. His name was Amon Martel.

Amon was a hired muscle and notoriously resilient. Despite two days of questioning, he remained silent, only claiming that the Wilson family had instructed him.

Marco was growing impatient. He was determined to find and punish whoever was responsible for harming Loraine. Amon was tight-lipped, however. Beyond being caught, he had left no trace, seemingly ready to shield his employer.

Concerned that the Wilson family might act from the shadows, Marco was hesitant to turn Amon over to the police without results, but he was also careful not to cross a line.

After another unsuccessful interrogation, Marco instructed his men to keep watch over Amon and left briskly for the Cruz family estate.

Back in his room, Marco pondered briefly before leveraging the resources of the Cruz family and Solar Company in his investigation. His sole aim was to apprehend the individual

behind Loraine's distress.

Though he was skeptical about the Cruz family's involvement, their position within Zodiac made them useful. With assistance from Solar Company, he was confident clues would emerge soon.

However, his investigation revealed ties not only between Amon and the Wilson family but also connections with the Cruz family.

Marco's expression darkened. He had never regarded the Cruz family highly. Despite their familial ties, if they were implicated in harming Loraine, he would not stand by them!

He directed his team to pursue this lead, which quickly led them to Clifford.

Marco's eyes narrowed with cold fury. Reflecting on how he and Loraine had ended up in such dire straits in Zodiac, largely due to his uncle, his resolve hardened. He was about to order further investigations when the door burst open.

Melvin entered without knocking, visibly furious. "You are a disgrace! Look at what you've done!"

Marco regarded him with icy detachment, aware that Melvin had likely heard about his efforts to shield Loraine and his public suspicions that Kaley was behind a recent arson attack.

As expected, Melvin pointed at him with deep disappointment. "How could you publicly accuse Miss Wilson because of Loraine? Do you realize the damage this could do to our families?"

In a frosty tone, Marco retorted, "She orchestrated it. She's malicious, no better than the worst of criminals. And now, you want me to marry such a woman and blame me as well?"

Melvin, stymied, shot back angrily. "What are you saying? I've

known Kaley since she was a child. She's intelligent, innocent, and kind. How could such a wonderful person commit such heinous acts?"

It wasn't unreasonable for Melvin to think this way. In his view, Loraine was just another person, whereas Kaley was part of the prestigious Wilson family. With Joseph holding significant influence in the government and the family's long-standing traditions, it seemed unthinkable to Melvin that Kaley could be involved in anything as severe as intentional injury.

He sighed and expressed his frustration. "You should not look down on her just because she's adopted. Jaylah, too, is adopted, yet she holds the same status as a biological daughter in the Wilson family. Kaley is the cherished only daughter of the younger generation in the Wilson family. She is adored by everyone, and her position is far above Loraine's!"

Marco scowled, growing impatient. In his heart, Loraine was cherished just as deeply by the Torres family!

He had no intention of causing Loraine any harm, yet Melvin kept defaming her!

Frustrated by his inability to identify the culprit and weary of the conversation, Marco responded sharply, "If you value family lineage and esteem the Wilsons so highly, why didn't you marry Jaylah?"

Melvin's face turned a deep shade of red, and he was too upset to speak.

Marco scoffed and added, "But it's not too late. You could still marry Kaley."

This comment pushed Melvin over the edge. Enraged, he pointed at Marco and exclaimed, "You're tactless! Marco, I've spoiled you too much. Listen, if you refuse to marry Kaley, you can forget about taking over the Cruz family business!"

He pulled his hand back, glared at Marco, and huffed, "You're utterly disrespectful. To speak such defiant words! Clearly, you have no intention of avenging your mother!"



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