

Chapter 90 Florence's Ambition

Laura felt downcast after she realized that Marina intentionally bought a counterfeit item even though she instructed her otherwise. She stared at her with fury burning in her eyes.

In a bid to secure a good suitor for her daughter, Laura had gone to great lengths. She didn't want Marina to continue being at the mercy of Marco, who didn't treat them well in recent times. Much to her dismay, the same person she was making sacrifices for was thwarting her plan. Marina's fraudulent actions gave the Bryant family a bad name in front of the Cruz family.

"How could you be so foolish, Marina? I'm highly disappointed in you!" Laura scolded her.

"Mom, don't blame me for this." Marina pouted like a spoiled child. "It's all Marco's fault. If he hadn't cut off my finances and taken all my luxury items for Loraine's sake, I wouldn't have resorted to spending part of your money."

Marina was fond of blaming anyone but herself whenever things turned bad.

Florence was utterly disgusted by her behavior. She had thought Marina was a good young lady, but she now realized that it was all a facade. She gave up the idea of engaging her son with such a fraudulent woman.

"Mrs. Bryant, you should handle the issue with your daughter somewhere else. Besides, it's getting pretty late."

It was clear that they weren't welcomed here anymore. Laura, whose face was red with shame, picked up the fake clock, grabbed her daughter by the wrist, and left dejectedly.

Florence rubbed her forehead hard. After a while, she looked at Loraine from head to toe and became friendly.

"Loraine, thanks for your help. I didn't expect you to have a good eye for antiques at such a young age. Your ability is much better than that of experts who have been in the industry for years!"

"Oh, I'm flattered, Mrs. Cruz," Loraine intoned, blushing a little.

"Mom, my new friend is really something, isn't she?"

Grady chipped in, his eyes glinting with admiration for Loraine.

Florence frowned when she saw the way her son looked at Loraine.

Although she didn't believe the bad things Laura and Marina said about Loraine, that didn't change the fact that Loraine was Marco's ex-wife.

The last thing Florence wanted was for her son to be involved with a divorced woman. Worse still, the divorcee in question wasn't even from a reputable family. What was there to gain from such a union? No! She couldn't allow that to happen!

At the thought of this, Florence said to Loraine, "I'm grateful for your help. If you hadn't pointed it out, we wouldn't have known that the clock was fake. You know what? Our warehouse is filled with priceless antiques. You can go there to pick up whatever you like. I don't like being indebted to anyone."

"Mom, how can you say such a thing?" Grady uttered disappointedly.

Without being told, Loraine immediately knew why Florence was behaving this way. But she turned down the offer politely.

"That's very considerate of you, Mrs. Cruz. But, no, thanks. What I did was nothing." I just remembered that I have some urgent errands to run, so I'll take my leave now. Bye!"

Loraine was exhausted now. She didn't want to get into an altercation with Florence, so she turned around and made for the door in a hurry.

Grady caught up with her outside.

"Wait, Loraine! I'm sorry about my mother's attitude. Please don't take it to heart. I have no idea why she said that. I hope this won't affect our friendship."

Since Loraine had nothing against Grady, she said with a smile, "It's all good, Grady. This won't affect our friendship. See you around then."

Back in the living room, Florence's face became gloomy after she saw her son run after Loraine in a haste.

Even a blind man could see that Grady had something for Loraine. Florence felt that she was

sitting on a time bomb. She paced about the living room for a while before she summoned the butler. "Go to the warehouse and pick up a small item for Loraine. Although she turned down my offer, we have to pay her back anyway. I don't want her to take advantage of her help to get close to Grady later on."

Wrinkles appeared on the butler's forehead at this time. "I'm afraid that won't be possible. Someone already bought all the antiques from the warehouse. None of them belongs to the Cruz family anymore."

"What? Someone bought everything?" Florence's eyes widened in shock. "Who did that?"

"Marco Bryant."

"Marco Bryant? It seems the Bryant family is richer than I imagined."

Florence suddenly regretted kicking Laura and Marina out. She began to toy with the idea of becoming in-laws with the Bryant family again even though those two behaved badly a while back.

As Florence pondered on how to mend fences

with Laura and Marina after such a dramatic scenario, she couldn't help but ask the butler for his opinion.

"Why do you think Marco purchased all those antiques at once? Could it be that he was sending a signal that he wants his family and the Cruz family to be united by marriage?"

"I don't know how to put this." The butler had something to say, but he didn't know the best way to put it.

"Come on, spill!" Florence took a sip of coffee from the cup in an attempt to soothe her temper.

"Well, Marco asked that all the antiques be sent to a woman named..." The butler paused and swallowed hard. "Lorraine Torres."

Florence spat out a mouthful of coffee at the mention of that name.

"What did you just say? Come again!"

A look of horror appeared on Florence's face. She went to the door and looked out, only to find that there was no trace of Lorraine.

Why did Marco buy an entire collection for Lorraine?

Chapter 91 Liza's Arrival

Laura and Marina returned home in embarrassment.

The two had not only failed to engage with the Cruz family but also worsened the relationship between the two families.

They were scolded by Liza Bryant, Marco's grandmother.

"You two are fit for nothing. It's a small matter. You couldn't even handle that!"

Liza was seventy years old. Her silver hair was neatly combed into a tight bun.

Although Liza looked old, one could tell she must have been a ravishing beauty when she was young. Her brows furrowed. Her harsh features made her look menacing.

Both Laura and Marina were afraid of her.

Marina said quickly, "Grandma, it's not my fault; it's Loraine's. If not for her, the engagement would have been settled!"

"How dare you argue?" Liza glared at her granddaughter. "If you hadn't taken away that five million, we wouldn't have ended up like this."

"Grandma, you are partial!" Marina complained. "Marco has spent more money on that bitch, Loraine. He has bought a truckload of luxury goods for her. Why don't you discipline him instead of yelling at me?"

"What did you say? Marco spent money on a country girl who can't get pregnant?" Liza grew furious.

"Mom, Marco doesn't listen to me. You have to discipline him. I can't let Loraine deceive him," said Laura. "I think Loraine is targeting our family. God knows how much money she is going to leech off our family. You should teach her a lesson!"

Loraine had no clue that Liza was targeting her. She returned to normal life after she came back from the Cruz family.

One day, when Loraine was about to get off work, Jolie suddenly rushed into her office.

"Loraine, an old woman is waiting in the reception hall on the first floor. She wants to see you. Would

you like to meet her?"

Lorraine frowned. "An old woman?"

Jolie nodded worriedly. "She looks rude and arrogant. You better be careful around the woman, or just ignore her."

"It's okay. I'll go there and have a look."

Lorraine walked to the reception hall. She stopped short, and her body froze when she saw the visitor. The mere sight of the woman annoyed Lorraine.

"You have become arrogant. How dare you make me wait for you?" Liza cast a scornful look at Lorraine.

"Mrs. Bryant, you have come to meet me; not the other way round. Look, I'm very busy. Please come to the point. If there's nothing else, I'll get back to work."

Liza's face darkened. She believed Lorraine was the same silent, obedient person she used to be when married to Marco.

"Stop! I'm here to warn you. You've divorced Marco, so stop bothering him. If you are smart, better return all the things he gave you."

She felt Lorraine was interested in the luxuries.

"It's too late." Loraine sneered. "I have donated all the gifts your grandson gave me to the charity auction."

"What? You donated them?" Liza yelled. "I don't believe you. You're lying to me. You sold them, didn't you?"

Loraine shrugged. "The details of the charity auction are open to the public. If you don't believe me, you can check it for yourself. If you're shameless and desperate to have them back, ask the poor orphans to return them to you."

"Loraine, I underestimated you! I didn't expect you to be so cunning and deceitful. You are spending the money of the Bryant family to earn a reputation," Liza spat venomously.

"If that's what you'd like to believe, go ahead. I can't do anything."

Loraine didn't want to waste time explaining herself. Some people were firm with their beliefs. No amount of persuasion would change their opinion.

"I shouldn't have agreed to let Marco marry a bitch like you! You were married to him for three years,

but you didn't give birth to a child. How shameless!" Liza shouted at Loraine, and the people around turned to look at them.

The employees and customers of Universe Group began murmuring about it.

"Did you hear that? This woman is scolding Loraine for leeching off the Bryant family."

"That is possible. Loraine was just a country girl before she married Marco. I guess she has extorted a lot of money from the Bryant family in the form of alimony."

"Loraine was married to Marco for three years but never got pregnant. I'm guessing she must have divorced Marco after they found out about her physical problem."

Loraine's face darkened when she heard people whispering about her.

"Mrs. Bryant, don't go too far. Do you still think I'll be at your disposal like before? You want to make trouble for me? You'll regret it!"