

## Chapter 247 Making Trouble

Hearing this, Loraine looked up at her and smiled, "Who are you?"

The woman had on a short plaited skirt and a white shirt with the top three buttons undone, displaying a lot of cleavage. Her face was also decorated with a thin layer of makeup.

"My name is Etta Hayes. I'm Mr. Bryant's personal secretary. I'm in charge of his daily affairs at work and sometimes his private life."

Loraine smiled.

The secretary even took care of Marco's private life. And how exactly did she do that? In what way did she do it?

Thanks to her encounters with Keely, Loraine had accumulated some experience in dealing with bitches.

She was not surprised to see the young woman dressed in such a provocative matter. It was clear that her intention was to have a closer relationship with the CEO.

Loraine found it funny that the secretary claimed to be worried about the image of the company when what she really wanted was for her to stay away from Marco.

Lorraine chuckled.

Anyway, she didn't give a damn about whatever relationship existed between Marco and this woman. "If you have any problem with me sitting here, you can ask Carl about it," she said to the young woman with an air of finality.

Etta's expression changed slightly and she quickly apologized. "I'm sorry, Miss Torres. I didn't know it was Carl who arranged it. I'm sorry if I offended you. Please don't be angry."

She naturally looked gentle and beautiful, and now she was acting submissive with a touch of fear. Some might think that Lorraine was bullying a junior employee.

This attracted the attention of the people who were now entering the conference room. They were employees of Bryant Group and they didn't really know much about Lorraine, so they quickly formed an impression of her based on what they saw.

Lorraine watched them with great interest. Instead of getting angry as they had expected, she smiled and said, "I'm sorry. I've already taken my seat. Since you think Marco and I can't sit together, you can change his seat if you want."

Perhaps the secretary was just not as skillful as Keely, or perhaps it was Lorraine who had improved greatly, but the fact was that Lorraine handled the issue perfectly and even entertained herself with it.

Since the secretary didn't like her sitting with Marco, she could just go ahead and change his seat.

Lorraine was visiting the company in the capacity of CEO of Universe Group, so the request was a reasonable one.

Etta's face paled.

She had long heard that Lorraine became ill-tempered after she was appointed as the CEO of Universe Group. There was a rumor that Lorraine had even kicked out Mia from a studio.

She deliberately provoked Lorraine just to make her lose her temper. And then she would act like a battered victim for Marco to see.

But she didn't expect Lorraine to act so calmly and turn everything back on her.

She was a mere secretary. She couldn't even see Marco in the company. How could she have the right to change the CEO's seat?

Etta lowered her head and said, "Miss Torres, I didn't mean that. You and Mr. Bryant are divorced and have become business partners. Gossips will begin to spread if you behave intimately."

She had hardly finished speaking when a domineering voice came from behind. "Why would Bryant Group be afraid of gossips?"

Nearly startled out of her wits, Etta hurriedly turned

around and bowed respectfully. "Mr. Bryant."

Marco strode into the conference room, with Carl following behind.

"Who are you?" Marco asked, casting a cold glance on Etta and then turning to his assistant. "Carl, how can you allow just about anyone to enter the conference room?"

Etta panicked and quickly said in her defense, "Mr. Bryant, I'm your new secretary, Etta Hayes. I came to bring coffee."

She was practically shaking with apprehension and trying to give Carl a pleading look.

But Carl avoided her gaze and looked up at the ceiling instead as if he didn't see her looking at him.

He had not expected that someone would offend Loraine so soon.


Marco attached great importance to Loraine now, so if he were to try to cover for Etta, he would be fired.

"What position does she hold in the secretarial department?" Marco asked him with a frown.

There were tens of thousands of employees in Bryant Group, so there was no way he could know each and every one.

But before Carl could answer, Loraine sneered, "It seems Mr. Bryant has a lot of young and beautiful

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 +120 Points at most

female secretaries."

Marco was stunned. But he recovered quickly and tried to explain himself. "The secretaries are only working for Carl. They're under his leadership. They have nothing to do with me."

Carl nodded in concurrence and added, "That's true. She's my subordinate and has no business with Mr. Bryant."

## Chapter 248 His Preference

Lorraine looked indifferent as if she didn't take their explanation seriously.

Etta, on the other hand, was highly embarrassed.

She had just tried to show Lorraine that she had a special relationship with Marco, but now, Marco claimed not to know her.

She would not give up so easily!

A trace of resentment flashed through her eyes and Etta looked at Marco with tears in her eyes.

"Mr. Bryant, I'm the one who takes care of you in this company. I knew you were busy this morning and you didn't have time to have breakfast. I was worried that the meeting would take long, so I specially prepared some coffee and desserts."

She was confident that the tears in her eyes could easily arouse any man's pity.

But Marco was not just any man. Instead of pitying her, his face turned cold and his gaze became very unfriendly.

When Carl saw this, he quickly told Etta, "Well, you can leave now."

In the company, there were many women who constantly tried to get close to Marco. As long as they never went out of line, he simply turned a blind eye to their antics. Marco, on his part, didn't take them seriously either.

But Etta was so bold that she actually offended Loraine, thereby stepping on Marco's nerves.

Carl knew for sure that Etta would be fired.

When Etta saw that her attempt to gain pity had failed, she knew she was pretty much in trouble, but yet, she was still determined to struggle.

Marco was young, promising, handsome and rich. Most importantly, he was the CEO of Bryant Group. For countless women, he was the dream lover.

It had cost her a lot of effort to get the position of secretary. All she wanted was to get closer to him. Etta firmly believed that if she got the chance to get into his life, she would be better than Loraine, his ex-wife.

Etta made up her mind never to leave. She couldn't leave Bryant Group after all she had done to get here.

With this in mind, she worked harder on her acting. Her eyes became red and she began to sob.

"Miss Torres, I know I was wrong. But I was just trying to do my job. The coffee and desserts are carefully prepared by me. I have even learned of everyone's likes and dislikes. So, please kindly forgive me for

what I did wrong."

Even though Etta was speaking to Loraine, she kept looking at Marco while assuming a pitiful expression as if Loraine was making things difficult for her, and she was only caring for Marco.

Loraine let out an angry laugh. "You're so sweet. But how come you don't know that Marco doesn't like desserts?"

Truly, Marco never added sugar to his coffee nor did he eat desserts.

Even though Marco never treated her nicely during the three years when she was his wife, still, no one knew his preferences better than her.

Etta was shocked to hear Loraine say this. But she quickly recovered herself and pasted the pitiful expression on her face again.

Looking at the desserts she had brought, she couldn't help but turn red with embarrassment. Still, she was not willing to give up. She retorted, "How do you know he doesn't like desserts? You..."

But before she could complete the statement, the expression on Marco's face promptly shut her up.

Loraine used to be Marco's wife. How could she not know Marco?

It was at this moment that Etta finally understood that she was no match for Loraine in every aspect, and it



became clear to her that Marco was unattainable.

She slumped down on the floor, looking crushed and defeated.

Carl promptly called for his men and asked them to take her out.

In spite of all her attempts, Marco's mood was not affected at all. In fact, he now looked at Loraine affectionately.

He never expected that Loraine would still remember his habits. Truly, he didn't like desserts, but he never really told anyone or showed it in any way.

He was a very cold person that seldom revealed his emotions to the public, so it was difficult for most people to detect his preferences. The best they could do was guess.

Only Loraine knew him well.

And that was due to the fact that in the past three years, she had been taking good care of him with all her heart.

At this point, a warm feeling arose in Marco's heart, and he began to feel regretful.

He had such a good wife, but he ended up pushing her away.

He still wanted to say something, but Loraine beat him to it. "Since everyone is here, let's start the meeting."

she said.

Marco could only do exactly what she asked. He was someone who always separated business from private matters, and he wouldn't let their negotiations get affected by emotions.

During the discussions, Loraine argued strongly and refused to give in.

For a moment, the atmosphere in the conference room became tense.

From his study of the previous partnership between both companies, Nichol, the project director at Bryant Group, took the initiative to make a concession. "I think we can use the design of Universe Group. I will assist Miss Torres with anything she might need."

Loraine was a little surprised and she couldn't help but ask, "What's wrong? Why are you being so cooperative?"

Nichol felt embarrassed by the question. "I know and trust you well enough now."

And that was not mentioning the fact that Loraine was the niece of Mr. T, whom Nichol saw as his idol. For his sake, Nichol would never make things difficult for Loraine.

And more importantly, Marco had just fired an employee for the sake of Loraine. So, he would not be stupid enough to go against her.

## Chapter 249 Show Loyalty

Eventually, the meeting ended successfully.

Though there were some conflicts between the two groups, all the problems were quickly resolved. At the end of the day, the two groups reached a pleasant consensus.

Marco cleared his throat to grab Loraine's attention, and when she looked at him, he asked her, "Are you free tonight?"

"No, I'm busy," Loraine replied.

Marco kept quiet for a moment and then said in a low voice, "The partnership is going well. It's only natural for us to have dinner together, isn't it?"

A fake smile appeared on Loraine's face.

"Aren't there many beautiful secretaries around you? From your work to your personal life, they manage everything perfectly for you. So, why not just enjoy their services?"

Marco's heart sank. He immediately turned to Carl and ordered him, "Don't recruit female secretaries from now on. And all the staff that have access to me, make sure they're all men."

Loraine was shocked to hear him giving such an

order. "You don't really have to do this, you know."

Those employees had not done anything wrong. It would be ridiculous to fire them for such a reason.

Since Carl knew that Marco had given the instruction for the benefit of Loraine, he told her confidently, "Don't worry, Miss Torres. I promise there won't be any other woman around Mr. Bryant from now on."

But Loraine responded with a sneer, "If he behaves well, I'm sure there won't be anything to be worried about. Now, he's replacing all the women around him with male employees. Is that because he's guilty?"

"Loraine, you know I didn't mean it like that," Marco complained.

Carl defended him. "Mr. Bryant didn't mean it like that. Miss Torres, you should know him well. He's devoted to his work and doesn't meet with anyone in private whether it's a man or a woman."

"If only that's truly the case," Loraine said dismissively. She couldn't help but recall all the time that Marco had spent pestering her lately.

"What?" Carl asked in confusion.

Marco understood exactly what she meant. "Of course, you're the only exception, Loraine."

She was the only one he kept pestering and trying to talk to.

His statement made Loraine feel a little awkward.

His romantic words aimed at capturing her heart were getting more and more undisguised.

She was scared that he would say something inappropriate again, so she quickly said to him, "I have something to deal with at the company, so I have to go now."

With that, Loraine left Bryant Group with her subordinates as quickly as she could, as if she was running away from its CEO.

"Did I say something wrong just now?" Carl asked Marco in confusion.

"No," Marco said with a smile as he stared at Loraine's retreating figure.

There was a lot of time ahead of them, so he was not in a hurry to get Loraine back. He would move slowly and carefully, regardless of the obstacles on his path.

As for Loraine, she went back to her company. She couldn't help but feel a little uneasy when she thought of what Marco said.

Just then, there was a brisk knock on the door before it was pushed open. Allen, the newly appointed director of research and development department, came in with a smart device in his hand.

He stared at Loraine for a while before saying, "Your face is so red."

Lorraine was so shocked and embarrassed that she almost choked on her saliva. "Allen, why are you here?" she asked when she finally recovered her composure.

"Oh, I've made some new progress in my research. Let me show you."

Lorraine was overjoyed to hear this. But before she could take a look at what Allen wanted to show her, she received a message from the receptionist that Laura from Bryant Group was looking for her.

Laura came here as a member of Bryant Group, not Marco's mother.

Lorraine thought for a while and asked the receptionist to let her in.

In a matter of seconds, Laura marched into the office in an aggressive manner.

"Lorraine Torres! Why is this partnership being dominated by Universe Group yet again? Did you use some of your dirty tricks to seduce Marco?" she barked angrily.

Lorraine looked her up and down with a deep frown on her face.

The meeting had only just been concluded and yet, Laura had learned the result of the discussion and even come to blame her. Apparently, there were some spies in Bryant Group who were reporting to her.

"Listen to me!" Laura shouted again when she got no

response from Loraine. "Don't think Universe Group can win over Bryant Group just because you played some dirty tricks! After all, you're relying on our technology to develop the new CBD. Since you're the one who needs us, this partnership must be dominated by Bryant Group!"

Loraine replied calmly, "This partnership has nothing to do with you. If you have any problems with it, you can talk with Marco instead of yelling at me."

Laura was speechless. She had been embarrassed by Marco before, and she wouldn't dare to face him again. This was the reason why she came for Loraine. Hearing what Loraine said, Laura didn't know what to say.


Her imposing manner suddenly weakened a bit, but she still tried to show that she was dominant. "I'm Marco's mother. So, my words are his words. As for you, you should know your place. The fact that we are in a partnership simply means that Bryant Group is willing to take you under its wing!"

"What makes you think so?" Loraine sneered mockingly.

"Because our technology is the best. If you want to develop the new CBD with artificial intelligence, how can you not rely on Bryant Group?" Laura boasted, as if she was the one responsible for the development of such capacity in the company.

Loraine couldn't help but find her amusing. She chuckled and said to Allen, "Allen, it seems this is a


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good chance to display your research and let her see that there's a whole wide world outside Bryant Group."



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