

## Chapter 258 We Are Family

Laura covered her nose. Her heart was beating hard and fast. It took a while before she finally calmed down. Then she began to pound at the door of the lab with her hands.

"Qbot! Open the door!"

But the door remained closed and Qbot didn't respond to her at all.

The atmosphere was eerily quiet.

Laura was now ashamed and angry. She turned around and ordered the bodyguards, "What are you waiting for? Why don't you catch the thief?"

Loraine, whom she was referring to, suddenly snapped, "Let me see who will dare to try it!"

The bodyguards were shocked to hear this.

"I'm the CEO of Universe Group, a company that recently partnered with your company. Are you sure you want to catch me?" Loraine's warning worked.

The bodyguards looked at each other and hesitated.

After all, they were in the employ of Marco and his company.

When she saw that they were not going to take any action, Laura scolded them angrily, "Don't listen to her. Catch her! Just now, she stole some important confidential



information from Bryant Group! If you let her go and anything goes wrong in this company, will you be able to take responsibility for it?"

After hearing this, the bodyguards blocked the corridor.

Laura smirked and nodded in satisfaction. "I don't know how this woman gained Qbot's trust. Who would cooperate with a person like her? Catch her immediately. I'll bear all the consequences if Marco gets angry!"

When they heard this, the bodyguards were no longer afraid. They surrounded Loraine and Allen, with the intention of catching them.

Loraine frowned and glanced at Allen, who was quite thin.

No matter how smart Allen was, he was someone who never exercised. He was not strong at all. If it came down to a fight, she would be unable to protect herself and him at the same time.

Fortunately, before things could get any worse, the door of the lab was opened. And Marco walked out.

He looked at all the bodyguards and asked in an icy tone, "Who ordered you to do this?"

All the bodyguards immediately turned to Laura.

Laura quickly looked away, avoiding her son's gaze. "Marco, trust me. I'm helping you this time!"

"You're interfering in the company's affairs and threatening the partner of the company. Is this how you're helping me?"

Marco had learned the whole story from Qbot and he was very mad at Laura right now. His eyes showed as much.



Qbot urged him, "Daddy, this is the bad woman that bullied Mommy! Teach her a lesson!"

Laura was pissed off by Qbot's statement, and patted her chest to calm down.

She didn't dare to talk to Marco. Instead, she turned her attention to Qbot. "You're an AI system developed by Bryant Group. How can you be so ungrateful to your owner and turn around to help others?"

Hearing this, Marco frowned. Laura, who had been looking at him from the corner of her eye, sighed sadly as if she was worried about the safety of Bryant Group.

"Marco, how long has Loraine known Qbot? It's only been a while and yet Qbot is taking her side. How can we just sit back and let this happen?"

As she said this, she turned to Loraine and sneered, "Who knows if she has hacked the poor machine? For the sake of the company, I have to make sure she doesn't leave here!"

Marco had enough of his mother's ramblings. "The reason why Qbot takes Loraine as its mother is because I set it up that way. It has nothing to do with Loraine."

Laura was shocked to hear this. "Marco, are you crazy? This woman has divorced you. She has nothing to do with the Bryant family! Correct that mistake immediately. Don't let an outsider take advantage of our family!"

"Shut up! Daddy, Mommy, and I are family!" Qbot suddenly shouted before Marco could respond to his mother.

The sudden response scared Laura a little, but her annoyance quickly drowned her fear. "Shut up! You call



them Mom and Dad? Do you really regard yourself as a human being? You're just an AI system!"

Her statement angered both Loraine and Marco.

"Enough! Mom, don't forget what I told you."

Marco's harsh tone made Laura shiver.

But then, she remembered she had shares of Bryant Group. Why would Marco not let her get involved?

With this in mind, Laura's confidence suddenly grew and she confronted Marco. "Is there anything wrong with what I said? Marco, you keep disrespecting me for Loraine's sake. She's just an outsider. Do you still care about me as your mother?"

Loraine chuckled in amusement when she heard this. "You don't even cherish the biggest achievement of Bryant Group and you think you have a right to have a say in the company's affairs? If you're allowed to go on like this, you'll only bring huge losses to Bryant Group."

Loraine firmly believed that people like Laura didn't deserve any respect, so she never attempted to give her any.

"What do you mean? What rubbish are you saying?" Laura asked, frowning in confusion.

"The cost of Qbot is one billion dollars!" Marco angrily informed her. "It's not easy for an AI system to cultivate independent wisdom and personality. That's the most important achievement of Bryant Group. All the money you've ever owned will not be enough to pay for the losses!"



## Chapter 259 Unique

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Marco had never fully lost his temper, and this was the first time the employees in the company were seeing him this angry. They fell into a scared silence.

Laura's face paled. However, she refused to give in. She mustered her courage and retorted, "It's only an AI program. It can simply be restarted if it dares to be at odds with Bryant Group."

The scientific research personnel frowned as they heard her haughty and ignorant words.

Even Marcel, the one who called her here, couldn't stand her attitude and said stiffly, "Qbot is the product of three years of grueling research by all our engineers and researchers. It is the only super AI system existing in the world. It is unique. What you just said now is absolute rubbish!"

Marcel had contacted Laura because she had complained to him about Loraine earlier, and when he saw Loraine today, he realized as well that she was not easy to deal with. Adding to that, he worried that she might take Qbot away.

He felt it was a duty of his as a longstanding member of Bryant Group to interfere when the interest of the company was threatened. So he called Laura.

However, he could not tolerate his lifetime achievements being belittled and insulted this way.

Laura, on the other hand, still did not see a problem. "We



simply need to restart it and update the system. It's not as serious as you claim!"

As he saw that Laura still did not understand the magnitude of the current problem and was acting indifferent, Marcel breathed in deeply to control his anger before he spoke, his voice shrill and chilly.

"Qbot's entire thinking program and every memory element are one of a kind. Qbot will be destroyed if restarted because its intelligence will be erased. And we wouldn't be able to afford such consequences!"

Laura grew scared at the seriousness of his tone, and she said dully, "Is it really that big of a deal? I had no idea it was so..."

Marcel shook his head helplessly. No words were needed to express the amount of disappointment portrayed on his face.

As she saw this, Laura forced on a smile and tried to coax Qbot like it was a child. "Come on out, Qbot. I was wrong. I'm so sorry. Don't be upset, okay?"

There was no response from Qbot, and the technology walls around it remained dim, instead of the usual lighting from it.

Laura was embarrassed.

She still found it odd to treat Qbot like a person. To her, it was excessive to reduce herself to apologizing to an AI program.

However, with Marco and Marcel boring holes into her with their eyes, she had to patiently call for it multiple times.



No matter how she tried, however, Qbot still remained unresponsive.

Marco frowned. Something was wrong. He called out to Qbot as well. But there was still no response.

Everyone's expression fell.

Immediately, Marco ordered, "Hurry! Check the system!"

Instantly, one of the researchers left to inspect every part of the system.

Laura slowly stepped back into a corner as the realization that something was wrong dawned on her. "This has nothing to do with me! I didn't touch a button or anything!"

Lorraine was furious. "This has nothing to do with you? The lab researchers have carefully taken care of Qbot for so long. Allen and I like him a lot as well. You're the only one who spoke ill of him and hurt him!"

"Lorraine, shut up! This is Bryant Group. You have no right to make comments on this!" Laura shouted like a madwoman.

Lorraine retorted, "Remember, I'm Bryant Group's partner now, Laura! If the cooperation gets affected by Bryant Group's internal problems, it will be a breach of contract. I can rightfully demand compensation."

Laura's face went dark. She knew nothing about the company's business and only cared about receiving the bonuses and money from her shares.

As she heard now that the matter could cause compensation, her heart began to beat faster in fear. She turned to the others from the company and asked urgently,

"It's not true, is it? She's just trying to make me scared, isn't she?"

However, Marcel had gone to check the mainframe computer in the lab at that moment. The others had no time to answer her at that moment as well, or they simply did not want to.

Ashamed, Laura moved aside for the research and development personnel who were bustling around.

After a while, Marcel rushed out with beads of sweat on his forehead and said to Marco anxiously, "I've checked the system but found no problems. However, we've lost all connections with Qbot!"

He put a hand on his head full with sparse grey hair and his face whitened. "It's all over. We're doomed!"

He looked worse than he would if he lost a grandson.

Marco turned to Laura with a cold, piercing glare.

"If something has happened to Qbot, you will be held accountable at the shareholders' meeting. All the shares Dad gave you would be withdrawn."

Laura's hands and feet froze at his words. She was so scared she couldn't make a sound.

