

## Chapter 371 Family Scandal

Marina stood at the door, frozen in shock.

Her bag had fallen off her hand and her eyes were wide in disbelief. Obviously, she had heard the conversation.

When Liza and Laura saw that Marina was the one that had just come in, they breathed a sigh of relief.

For a second there, they thought that it was Marco.

Despite Liza's threats to Laura, she didn't intend to tell Marco the truth, at least not now.

She knew very well that if Marco learned about such an explosive truth, things would become complicated.

And she wouldn't want things to get out of her control.

But she had not wanted Marina to know about it either. Unfortunately, that had already happened.

"Mom, Grandma, are you serious?" Marina asked anxiously, rushing over to meet them.

Liza frowned but gave no response.

But Marina grabbed her mother's arm and shook it. "Mom, answer me!"

When Laura didn't answer, she pressed the wound on her arm and Laura screamed in pain. But Marina ignored her cries and kept repeating the question loudly.

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Liza was annoyed by all the noise. But she knew that if Marina was not told the complete truth, she would keep asking and might even attract Marco's attention in the process, which would be highly problematic.

Liza sighed and made up her mind to tell her granddaughter the truth.

"Yes. It was your father who brought Marco into the family. He didn't talk much about it. He only asked us to take good care of the child. Not long after, he passed away."

Marina was shocked to hear this. "So, you mean, he's not my brother?"

"He's your father's son! How could he not be your brother?" Liza snapped angrily. "I don't know who his biological mother is. He was very young when he was brought here, so I decided to let your mother raise him and we announced to the public that he's your mother's biological son."

mother's biological son."

Laura gnashed her teeth in hatred and anger as Liza mentioned this. "He's nothing but an illegitimate child! A bastard born by Winfred and his mistress! Otherwise, why couldn't he tell us the truth about the child's origin?"

Liza scolded her. "Shut up! Stop talking nonsense!"

"Why can't I complain about it?" Laura grumbled defiantly. "I was pregnant with Marina at that time, but my husband brought a boy from nowhere and asked me to raise him. How could he do such a crazy thing?"

Liza said nothing in response for a while. Then she murmured, "Winfred had his own reasons. And I gave you a lot of shares as compensation, didn't I?"

But Laura was not willing to back down. "But now, Marco is in charge of Bryant Group and he doesn't want me to participate in the business. Besides, you've also cut off my dividends. Is that fair?"

"It's your fault! You deserve it!" Liza shouted angrily at her, even lifting her cane again to strike her. But Laura was able to dodge quickly.

This scared Marina and she stepped back to avoid being hit.

But Liza's anger was far from over. She pointed her cane at Laura's nose and shouted, "Is this Marco's fault? You didn't show him any love. You sent him abroad and let him fend for himself. After he took over Bryant Group, you made things difficult for his wife whenever he was not at home. After all these years, you still haven't changed? What's wrong with you? Why did you stop the partnership between Marco and Universe Group?"

Tears welled up in Laura's eyes, but she held back her anger and didn't dare to say anything.

Liza continued, "You know what you've done all these

days and how much impact it has had on the company! So, whatever has been done to you, you deserve it!"

Laura could still feel pain in the spot Liza had previously hit her and she could not help but give the old woman a ferocious look.

Seeing the angry look on Laura's face, Liza warned her, "Laura, don't ever try such acts again. Remember, Marco saved Bryant Group. Without him, you and Marina wouldn't have anything!"

When Laura heard this, her face turned pale and she allowed herself fall back on the sofa.

After she married into the Bryant family, she became rich and had total peace of mind. She didn't want to manage the company because she was neither capable nor willing to work hard.

Liza cast a cold glance at her and Marina before hissing and leaving the room.

Marina, on her part, was still in shock, trying to process the new information she had just learned. As a result, she didn't give a damn about her mother.

Laura gritted her teeth and endured the pain and embarrassment in silence. But after a while, she cleared her throat and turned to look at her daughter with gentle eyes.

"Marina, don't worry," Laura assured her with a fierce look. "I'll help you find an excellent husband and we'll defeat Marco together!"

Marco was not her biological son, so he was highly unreliable. And since her dream of clinging to Ashton had been shattered, her daughter was now her last

hope.

"Really?" Marina asked excitedly.

She didn't like Marco at all and only treated him as a powerful backer.

Marco didn't like her either and always helped Loraine. Marina had enough of all that!

## Chapter 372 Play Along

Loraine was on edge, her eyes half-closed in nervous anticipation as she faced Marco's handsome face looming before her, inching closer and closer for a kiss.

Suddenly, she jolted awake, her eyes flying open in alarm.

To her great relief, she found herself staring up at the familiar ceiling of her bedroom, adorned with a stunning mural by Wesley.

It took Loraine a while to regain focus, and she felt the softness of her bed beneath her touch.

It was only a dream. She let out a sigh of relief.

She put her hand over her heart and then her eyes widened.

Why would she dream such a thing in the first place?

Suddenly, the memories of the previous night's events came flooding back to her.

She had hoped to forget everything. However, the memories were all too vivid.

Loraine was dumbfounded and let out a little squeal before swiftly diving under the covers like a scared rabbit.

She reassured herself that she must still be dreaming. There was no way she could have locked lips with Marco like that in the real world.

But just as she tried to deny the reality of her situation, her phone vibrated, and a voice interrupted her thoughts.

"Lorraine, it's time to get up. Last night, you were intoxicated. Do you feel better right now?"

It called her Lorraine. So it was Obot.

However, Lorraine was already aware that Obot was Marco, which only made her feel more embarrassed and furious. Clenching her teeth, she snapped, "Just shut up!"

Obot, who had been about to send another message, stopped.

Despite her anger, Lorraine didn't want to reveal how much she cared about the situation. After pausing for a moment, she got out of bed and put on a calm facade.

Clearing her throat, she asked Obot, "Why are you back?"

Obot hesitated for a while before explaining, "Obot was called back to the lab for some testing and upgrades, so I took advantage of the opportunity to come out again."

Lorraine couldn't help but sneer inwardly.

It turned out Marco was good at telling lies.

If she hadn't stumbled upon the fact that Marco was behind Obot by accident, when would he have come clean with the truth?

Lorraine decided to play along with his game.

She acted as if she had never discovered that Obot was actually Marco and decided to believe his explanation.

"Obot, I'm sorry. I didn't mean to scold you. I had a restless night and a headache, so I was feeling irritable."

Obot asked nervously, "Are you okay?"

"I'm fine. I can't remember what happened last night. If you hadn't disappeared from my phone, then maybe you could help me piece together what happened."

Obot was stuck and started making a series of sizzling sounds.

It was just like the failed artificial intelligence from the Johnathan family. Maybe Marco had input something, causing the screen to show nothing but disordered code.

Thinking of Marco's confusion on the other end of the line, Loraine felt satisfied. She snorted and got up to wash her face and brush her teeth.

Carrying her phone, she walked out of the room and saw Aldo sitting in the living room, watching the news.

The television was airing the moment when Loraine and Rowan climbed up the stage to accept the awards.

When Aldo laid eyes on her, he flashed a broad smile and beckoned her to take a seat.

Loraine sat beside him, allowing him to pamper her by rubbing her hair affectionately.

"Lorrie, are you feeling better?"



Loraine scrunched her nose, showing childishness only in front of the elder.

"Grandpa, I'm fine. I just drank a few glasses of wine. I'm not a heavy drinker!"

Recalling how she got so drunk that she made a move on Marco and kissed him, Loraine couldn't help but cough with guilt.

Aldo burst into laughter. "Even if you are over the moon, you should never drink too much. Thankfully, Rowan's subordinate escorted you home. Otherwise, you would make me fret."

Loraine apologized. "Grandpa, I won't do that again. I will keep myself out of harm's way."

Aldo sighed helplessly. "You've been through danger time and time again. It really worries me. Rowan is an ambitious man in the military. I can't control him. I don't want to see my granddaughter in harm's way."

Loraine's recent incidents had made headlines, so she couldn't hide anything from Aldo. She smiled sheepishly, at a loss for words.


Aldo gave her a meaningful look and added, "Lorrie, you need to take care of yourself. I'm not the only one who's worried about you!"

He looked past Loraine with a mischievous expression.

What was he hinting at?

Following his gaze, Loraine turned around and spotted a slim figure emerging from the kitchen, holding something in his hand.

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She was taken aback.

"Cayson? What brings you here?"

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