

Be Gentle 1001

Chapter 1001

Allison's heart skipped a beat when she heard that. "You can restore the footage?" She blurted.

"The surveillance system is the most advanced in the world. Barring a power disruption, there's an eighty percent chance that the footage can be restored," the manager said. They would use the best technology for their important clients.

"How about the remaining twenty percent?" Allison asked.

"If the jamming device is too close to the camera, then our technicians can't do anything about it." The manager did not want to admit it, but he could not hide the facts when he saw Old Master Crawford's gloomy expression. "Don't worry, Old Master Crawford," he said, "We'll do our best to restore the footage and cooperate with the police."

The stolen antiques were worth at least a hundred million dollars, and the culprit had injured someone. The manager knew how serious the incident was.

"Mm." Old Master Crawford nodded as he saw the caretaker come over with cleaning equipment. The police had finished collecting evidence, and the mess could be cleared up. "Ensure that the place is spotless," he said.

"Yes, Old Master Crawford," the two caretakers said while pouring cleaning solution on the floor.

Allison felt uneasy while she watched the technicians at work. If the footage was restored, there was a greater chance that Jon might be exposed.

The police left after collecting evidence, while the technicians remained in the living room.

Old Master Crawford and Bianca went upstairs. Only Allison sat in the living room watching the technicians.

Bianca gently opened the door to Rainie's bedroom. Rainie was fast asleep, but her brows were tightly furrowed. She was probably having a nightmare.

sighed, took off her jacket, and draped it

little girl felt warmth around her and instinctively nuzzled Bianca. Her brows gradually relaxed after the nightmare was driven

her and closed her eyes. Luke was still in the hospital. She switched her phone to vibration mode in case she missed his

sun rose in the morning, and Rainie woke up to find that her mother had been sleeping beside her while hugging

smiled sweetly. No wonder the nightmare disappeared suddenly. Her mother had protected

opened her eyes when she felt the little girl in her arms move. She looked at Rainie and saw that she was

want to sleep for a little more?"

fine, Mommy. I'm not sleepy anymore." Rainie sat

sat up and tied her hair with a rubber band. "Let's go and brush our teeth then. We'll go downstairs and greet Great-Grandpa a good morning,

Rainie nodded and went to the bathroom to brush her teeth. Bianca also went back to her bathroom to wash her teeth and change

Glancing at her phone, Luke had not contacted her for the whole night. The last message was at half-past three, when he told her that he had brought Thea to *the hospital*.

It was still early. Bianca went to check on Tommy and saw that he was still asleep.

She closed the door gently, then went to Lanie's bedroom. He was also asleep, but he had kicked away his **blanket**.

Bianca shook her head helplessly. Lanie had rarely kicked his blanket. Perhaps he was not used to sleeping in a different bed. When she tucked him in again, she noticed that his body temperature was abnormally high. She touched his forehead and found that he had *a fever*.

She gently tapped his face. "Wake up, Lanie."

Lanie opened his eyes groggily, glanced at Bianca, then closed his eyes. "I don't feel too good, Mommy..."

"Stay in bed, Lanie. I'll get a cooling patch for you." After tucking him in, Bianca went downstairs hurriedly and asked the caretaker for the first aid kit.

"*Let me* get it for you, Ma'am," the caretaker said and took out the first aid kit from the television *cabinet*.

Old Master Crawford noticed that Bianca seemed flustered. "What's **wrong**?"

"Lanie is having a fever. I'll give him a cooling patch and send him to the hospital." Bianca found the child-sized cooling patch in the first aid kit she got from the *caretaker*.

"*Why does* he suddenly have a fever?" *Old Master Crawford frowned*.

shook her head. "I don't know. Maybe he suffered a fright or caught a cold. I'll be sending Lanie to the hospital later. Can you take care of Rainie and

Master Crawford nodded. "Alright. You'd better go

upstairs with the cooling patch and happened to see Rainie coming out from her room. "Rainie, I'll have to send Lanie to the hospital. Please stay here and look after Great-Grandpa and Tommy,"

Why is Lanie going to the hospital?" Rainie asked as she followed behind her mother. She thought of Thea who was still in the

a high fever," Bianca said as she pushed open the door to Lanie's bedroom. When she went over next to him, she saw that his cheeks were red. She instantly put the cooling patch on his

frowned and said anxiously. "He'll be fine,

fine. He just needs some medicine," Bianca said as she picked Lanie

feel horrible, Mommy," he mumbled while being

Here, Lanie, I'll carry you on my back, and we'll go to the hospital. You'll feel better after seeing the doctor," Bianca said. She had to carry Lanie on her back instead of her arms because she was not as strong as

had a family doctor, but it was still early, and it might take the doctor another hour to arrive. If she drove to the hospital, she would reach there in half an hour if the roads

Chapter 1002

"Faster," Luke urged because he thought that Johann was too slow.

"There's no point in hurrying. A mercury thermometer needs time to work," Johann said leisurely. He shook his head when he saw how anxious Luke and Bianca were. "It's normal for kids to have a fever, especially Lanie, who hasn't fallen sick in a while. It shouldn't be surprising that the fever hit him hard."

As the saying went, "Sickness comes on horseback and leaves on foot."

Bianca was nonetheless anxious when she heard that. She had been focused on taking care of Rainie and Tommy the night before and had neglected Lanie. She did not even know when he started to have the fever.

Five minutes later, Johann took out the thermometer and glanced at it. "103.1 degrees. Don't worry, Lanie is a strong boy. He'll be fine after an injection and an IV drip."

"Alright. Sorry to trouble you." Bianca's heart wrenched when she saw Lanie's lips cracking from the fever. She took a cup of water and a straw and said, "Drink some water, Lanie. You'll feel better."

Lanie opened his eyes, pushed himself up, and took a few sips of water. Even though his body was uncomfortably hot, the discomfort made him unable to drink too much.

Bianca wanted to ask him to drink some more.

"Don't force him if he doesn't want to drink. He'll feel better after the IV drip," Johann said.

Bianca could only give up. She looked apologetically at Luke. "I didn't take care of Lanie."

"You did nothing wrong." Luke draped his arm over her shoulders and comforted her. "It's just a fever. You don't have to blame yourself for it."

Bianca nodded. She wished that she was the one who fell sick instead.

the nurse to bring some medicine and gave Lanie

Lanie to eat the medicine. The boy was sensible enough, and he swallowed the bitter medicine without making a

the family of three. They were in his office, but it seemed that he was the odd one out. "I'll be going on my rounds. If the IV drip is empty, go to the counter and get the nurse to remove the

"Mm, thank you," Bianca said.

not look too pleasant. "Aren't you

many patients who are in a worse state than Lanie. Your son is occupying my room, so I'll have to perform my duties elsewhere." Johann grinned. He could only feel so smug when Luke asked for

"I'm sorry..." Bianca was embarrassed.

worry. Money will solve it. I'll just charge you according to VIP private ward rates." They were not short of money

his stethoscope and walked toward the door. "The thermometer is on the table, and next to it are the alcohol wipes. If the fever hasn't subsided in half an hour, get the nurse to inform

he walked out of his office and closed

the IV solution slowly drip into

Luke took her hand and led her to the couch. "Don't worry. Don't you trust **Johann's skills?**"

Bianca had met Johann many times, and she had full confidence in Johann's skills. However, she could not help but feel guilty. "Rainie and Tommy were frightened by the scene yesterday. I thought Lanie seemed composed, and that's why **I didn't...**"

"I don't blame you." Luke's hands held Bianca's hands. "Nobody wants that to happen. Right, did the police find *anything?*"

"**The** police gathered the evidence. The security feed was jammed, so they could only conduct the investigation from the evidence they collected. They haven't found anything **yet.**"

"The feed was jammed?" Luke found it quite surprising. However, when he thought further about it, it was not very surprising that a thief would employ special means to break into Crawford *Manor*.

"They're still trying to fix it," Bianca said. She was in a rush to leave the house earlier, and she did not ask about how the restoration process was **coming along**.

However, she remembered seeing the technicians still fiddling around with the computer, so she guessed that it had not been restored yet.

"*Right*, how is Thea?" Bianca had been concerned over Lanie's fever and had not asked *about Thea*.

"*She* lost a lot of blood and suffered a serious concussion. The doctors managed to save her by giving her a blood transfusion, but she has to stay in the hospital for observation because of the blood clots in her head. If the blood clot doesn't increase in size, she can be discharged," Luke said. Johann was at the hospital early in the morning because Luke had brought him to the hospital the night before to **treat Thea**.

"It's that serious..." Bianca felt quite uneasy after hearing that.

Children should not have been injured like **that**.

is here. Don't worry," Luke

was the best doctor in the hospital, and he was renowned even in other countries. Many other hospitals had tried to poach him, and he would not have remained in that hospital if not for

Lanie gets better, bring me to visit Thea." Bianca looked at her son on

"Alright," Luke said.

check Lanie's temperature again." Bianca stood up, took the thermometer on the table, sterilized it with an alcohol wipe, and inserted it into

minutes later, she took out the thermometer to see if the temperature

do you want some water?" Bianca

still feeling groggy from the fever. He shook his head slightly when he heard his mother speak to

not do anything if Lanie did not want to

another injection, Lanie's body temperature began to fall. She breathed a sigh of relief when she touched his forehead and noticed that it was not

a lot better, even though his body was quite weak. He was already sitting on the bed, and the redness of his face had dissipated. "I'm fine here, Daddy, Mommy. You should go and visit

Chapter 1003

Johann raised an eyebrow and looked at Lanie's handsome little face. "Why would you want to stay here? I thought you hated hospitals."

Lanie glanced at his parents and said, "Daddy and Mommy want to visit Thea. I shouldn't go, in case I pass my germs to her."

Johann turned his head to look at Luke and Bianca. "Am I a babysitter too?"

"Fifteen minutes," Luke negotiated with him with his glacial demeanor.

He meant that Johann would only have to take care of Lanie for fifteen minutes.

"That's too long. Ten minutes." Johann did not hate Lanie, but he felt uncomfortable looking at the boy's face. It reminded him too much of Luke.

He would try to avoid Luke whenever possible, and looking at a copy of Luke's face would give him a headache.

"Twenty minutes," Luke said with finality. He took Bianca's hand and left the room before Johann could say anything.

Johann pouted. "What a hard sell. I haven't even agreed to it."

Even so, he had no other choice but to take care of the boy.

He poured a glass of water and handed it to Lanie. "You should drink more water to replenish your fluids."

"Thank you, Uncle Johann," Lanie said as he took the glass and gulped down its contents.

handed a book to him. "We don't know when your parents are coming back. I don't have any other books, so just read this. Be quiet, I have a report to

nodded. He looked at the cover and saw that it was a medical book. Evidently, Johann did not care if he could comprehend

glanced at Johann contemptuously. The man did not know how to care for a child, and it was no wonder that he did not have a

off the bed, sat down on the couch, and began

smiled when he saw how Lanie sat there quietly and read. Lanie indeed looked like

to his chair and began to write his

brought Bianca to Thea's

sitting next to the little girl, dabbing her dry lips with a cotton swab dipped in water. He stood up when he noticed his brother and sister-in-law entering the ward. "Bro, Sis, how

Bianca replied. Her heart wrenched when she saw the multiple tubes sticking out of the little girls' body. "How about Thea? Has she woken

up earlier and cried in pain. The doctor gave her some painkillers, and she fell asleep again." Louis unfolded the foldable couch. "Don't stand there. Come and have a

Bianca sat down. Bianca looked around the ward but did not see Yuri or Susan, so she asked, "Why are you alone in

Mom went downstairs to buy some food." Louis was worried about his daughter, so he volunteered to stay back to look

Bianca sighed when she saw how haggard Louis looked after staying up for the entire night. "Maybe you should hire a caretaker. They're experienced in taking care *of invalids*."

Louis nodded. "I've already told the nurse about that. The caretaker will be here later. How is the investigation going back *at home*?"

"All the antiques in the study were stolen. The thief was cunning enough to jam the signal of the security cameras, so the police haven't found anything yet," Bianca said.

Louis clenched his fists, and his expression sank. "I won't forgive **that thief!**"

Bianca had always seen Louis with a smile. He had never given her the impression that he had *a temper*.

Seeing Louis's gloomy expression, Bianca could tell that he was at his limit. After all, no parent was willing to see their child get hurt.

Bianca could empathize with Louis as she held Luke's hand tightly. As a parent, all they wanted to see was their children to grow up healthy and strong.

They stayed in the ward until Yuri and Susan returned with Louis's breakfast.

Back in Johann's office, Bianca saw that Lanie was sitting on the couch and reading a book with great interest. "What are you reading, Lanie?" *She asked.*

Lanie lifted his head and replied, "Uncle Johann's *medical book.*"

Bianca was surprised. Not even most adults could understand medical books, so how would the little boy *understand?*

medical book is it?" Luke glanced at the book curiously. The page that Lanie was on happened to be a case study with color photos. It was only a photo, but it was quite bloody for

expression sank instantly and grabbed the book from Lanie's hands. "Don't look at

not understand. He thought that the book was quite interesting, even though he did not understand most of the words. "Why not,

gory. Children shouldn't read these kinds of books." Luke tossed the book on Johann's desk and knocked over a pen

ailed. "Oh, my book! Can't you be a little more gentle

glanced at him icily. "That gory book deserves to be

carefully picked the book up and gently dusted the cover. It took him a lot of connections to find that book, and it was one of his most

expect that you'd find it gory," he mocked, knowing that Luke was not that

not good for children." Luke glared

a fever because of the traumatic scene the night before. Luke did not want his son to be traumatized again by the gory

underestimate your son's mental fortitude. I thought he seemed quite interested," Johann said as he flashed a smile at Lanie, "Isn't that

Uncle Johann." Lanie looked at his

Chapter 1004

Luke frowned, and his gaze turned sharp.

If the signal jammer was in the mansion and close to the cameras, how did the thief manage to sneak it in?

Bianca noticed the grim expression on her husband's face and could guess that he was thinking about the incident. She did not want to disturb him, so she said softly, "I'll bring Lanie upstairs."

"Mm. I'll get the caretaker to bring breakfast upstairs later." Luke kissed her forehead and went to the couch.

Bianca held Lanie's hand and said softly, "Let's go upstairs."

"Alright, Mommy." Lanie still looked a little weak. The two of them went up the stairs.

After seeing his wife and son go up the stairs, Luke went into the kitchen to tell the caretaker to prepare breakfast for them, then walked around the living room. "Why are you so sure?"

"It's like this, Mr. Crawford. The technicians have managed to restore the footage from outside the mansion, but they haven't managed to do so for the footage within the mansion. The footage gets harder to restore the closer it is to the signal jammer, so the only explanation is that the signal jammer had been placed inside the mansion. Also, we've found out that all the cameras were disrupted at the same time, but the intensities were different. It means that the signal jammer remained a constant distance to the cameras," the manager of the security company explained.

Luke instantly understood that the thief did not bring the signal jammer in. All evidence pointed to the fact that someone had placed the signal jammer in the mansion in advance.

"Mr. Griffin," he called out.

"Yes, Sir," the butler stepped up to Luke and waited for orders.

"Have there been any strangers in the house? Including maintenance workers and others," Luke asked. "no strangers in the house recently, Sir. There are also no utility maintenance records either," the butler said. "sure?" Luke glanced

at him and said, "I am sure, Sir. The last scheduled maintenance to the electrical systems was six months ago. There were a few minor repairs after that, but the most recent one was five months ago. I have recorded them in a notebook," the butler

handed him the notebook. "Luke did not want to forgo any

possibilities. If a signal jammer had been installed beforehand, everyone who stepped in or out of the mansion was a suspect. He would have to investigate them

The butler handed him the notebook.

He flipped through the pages and asked, "Is the signal

jammer still active? We've tried to detect it with specialized equipment, but we didn't find anything. The thief must have brought it away when they left," the

butler replied. "If he took it away and the signal jammer wasn't turned off, the effects should be seen in the disrupted footage,

but he might have done something..." the

butler said. "Is it?" Luke was relentless in

"**The** technology is already available overseas, but we'll still have to investigate thoroughly before reaching a conclusion." The manager was already breaking out in a sweat from the **questioning**.

"**If the** technology exists, then you can't say that the signal jammer is in the house." Luke closed the notebook after finding no one *suspicious*.

"*Well...*" The manager was at a loss for **words**.

"The signal jammer is in the house. Find it whatever it takes," **Luke ordered**.

The manager was at his wit's end. If the technicians could not find the signal jammer with their most sophisticated equipment, what else could **he do**?

He could not afford to offend the Crawfords. Their reputation would be affected if they did not solve **the problem**.

"*Alright, we'll* do a thorough search again," the manager could only *promise that*.

Luke handed the notebook to the butler. "Give me a copy of all the **details inside**."

"Yes, Sir." The butler went away with **the notebook**.

Allison came down the stairs. She was flustered when she saw the technicians that were still *there*.

She had been eavesdropping on the situation downstairs and knew that they had restored the security footage in the garden. If they were lucky, they would restore the security in the living **room too**.

If that were the case...

became afraid. She decided to go to the bank later to transfer the money to Jon, then tell him not to fence the stolen antiques

back, Luke," she said. She stole a glance at the technician's computer and could only

Luke nodded. His eyes were transfixed on the computer screen, which only made the technician even more

feeling better?" Allison asked out

fever has subsided. He's resting upstairs now." Luke did not look at

to look relieved. "That's good to know. Whatever happened last night, I didn't sleep well because of it. I'm

Luke did not stop her.

manager of the security company said, "Please wait a moment,

heart skipped a beat. She turned around and pretended to look impatient. "What is

manager knew that she was Luke's mother. After all, her tantrum toward the public during T Corporation's crisis was all over

Chapter 1005

"Mm." Luke turned his gaze back to the computer screen and took out a name card. "Send to my email the restored footage as well as the footage before and after the incident."

"Yes, I'll do that right away." The manager replied and handed the name card to his subordinate. "Send the clips earlier to this email address."

"Yes."

Luke received an email notification on his phone. He added, "Inform the butler if there's any new information."

Then, he went up the stairs.

The manager watched Luke go up and said to his subordinates, "Keep working, stop daydreaming."

Upstairs, Luke saw Bianca and Lanie eating their breakfast in the second-floor hall.

"Are the things downstairs settled?" Bianca handed him a bowl of lukewarm oatmeal. "Here, have some oatmeal."

"They haven't restored the footage." Luke sat down next to her. He could feel through the bowl that the temperature of the oatmeal was just nice for him, so he took a big gulp.

"We should give them some more time," Bianca said.

"Mm," Luke said and ate a slice of wholemeal bread.

Lanie did not have an appetite for food. After finishing a small bowl of oatmeal, he said, "I'm done, Mommy."

Bianca handed him a napkin. "Wipe your mouth, then take your medicine."

Mommy." Lanie wiped his mouth, then swallowed the medicine that Johann gave

relieved that her son did not complain even though the medicine

wanted to tell him that he did not need to act so maturely. His parents were behind

Lanie said and gulped down another mouthful of water to flush away the

called your homeroom teacher. Take a nap after this, alright?" Bianca said to

breakfast, Lanie said that he wanted to go

that he had felt better after the medicine, and he would be bored if he stayed at home

"Alright, Mommy," he said.

saw that Luke had finished his oatmeal and ladled another bowl for him. "This one's warmer. Eat

was moved when he thought that Bianca had cooled down the earlier bowl for him.

that his parents were getting all lovey-dovey, Lanie knew that it was time to give them some personal space. "I'm getting a little sleepy. I'll be taking a nap in

to use the blanket," Bianca said. "Do you want some

rather eat your cooking." Luke shook his head, finished the oatmeal, put the bowl on the table, and looked at her. "I want to drink the coffee you make,

He had stayed up the entire night, and he would be studying the security footage later. He needed the coffee to keep himself awake.

"Alright. I'll make it for you now." Bianca stacked up the bowls and brought the tray downstairs.

The cook took the tray from her hands. "Let me do it, *Ma'am*."

"Alright. Where do you keep the coffee beans at home?" Bianca was not too familiar with the layout of the kitchen in **Crawford Manor**.

It's in the first drawer of the white cabinet. Do you want coffee?" The cook **asked**.

"I'm making a cup for Luke." Bianca opened the drawer and saw the pack of coffee beans inside. She took out the beans and the necessary equipment to grind the beans.

She made several more cups of coffee. After pouring one for Luke, she told the cook, "Bring these to the people in the **living room**."

The technicians had stayed up the entire night restoring the footage. They should also be tired by *now*.

The cook nodded and smiled. "You're so kind, *Ma'am*."

"It's nothing." Bianca knew that they were working very hard. A hot drink might make them feel better. That was why she made a few more cups *of coffee*.

She took the cup upstairs and opened the door to the study. Luke was sitting in front of the desk and looking intently at his computer *screen*.

"Luke?" Bianca called out softly and placed the cup on **the table**.

of the coffee filled the entire room. Luke inhaled deeply and enjoyed

are you looking at?" Bianca glanced at the computer screen curiously. The footage was paused, and the person on the screen was

reviewing the footage for any clues." Luke minimized the

not know how badly the signal was jammed. "Was that

Luke nodded and opened his

not want to disturb him. "I'll leave you to your work. I'll check on Lanie in his

incident, she was not in the mood to return to her company today. She had told Sue that she would be taking care of Lanie for the rest of

Bea." Luke held her hand and kissed

Bianca smiled and left the room.

...

Allison left Crawford Manor, she drove to a

from the manager of the security company had nearly exposed her. She would have been caught if she did not manage to keep

took out the button-sized signal jammer from her handbag, opened the car window, and tossed it in the

Chapter 1006

Allison could tell that Jon was thinking about money. She was worried that trouble would follow once the antiques entered the black market.

She said, "No, you can't do that now. Old Master Crawford is very angry that you hurt his precious great-granddaughter, and he'll find out that you stole the antique if you release them into the black market now. Also, your jammer is useless. They're restoring the footage, and I don't know if you've managed to sneak in undetected. No, you'll have to leave A City and lay low for a while."

Jon frowned. Things were not that complicated when he first accepted the job!

"I don't have money now. I'll only have the money to run away after I sell the antiques," he said while lighting up a cigarette, indicating that he was not going anywhere.

Allison took out a fat stack of banknotes from her handbag and handed it to him. "Here's two hundred thousand dollars. I've withdrawn this from my credit card. Deduct this from your pay that I've promised you, and we'll split the rest after you've sold the antiques."

Jon's eyes widened when he saw the money, though he was not quite satisfied because the amount was less than what Allison had promised him. "That's not going to be enough. What if you go back on your word? I'd rather keep the antiques with me."

Allison glared at him. 'What a greedy man!'

"Isn't this enough for you? If I had money, I wouldn't have hired you to steal the antiques! Don't worry, I'll keep to my word. Ever since you stepped into Crawford Manor, we've been on the same boat. I won't be so stupid as to betray you. Take the money, buy a ticket, and leave A City now," she said as she stuffed the money into his hands. Then, she went further into the house and inspected the antiques.

She was satisfied that Jon knew the worth of the antiques. He had made sure that all the antiques were not damaged while he was escaping.

Jon blew a smoke ring. "What do you think? I took anything that wasn't bolted down."

bad. Pack them up again and bring them to my car. I want to lock them in the safe of my mansion. After things have died down a bit, come back and help me sell the antiques," Allison said with satisfaction. She was also in dire need of money, but she had to be

had a hundred thousand dollars on her credit card. That would barely last her until she got the dividends from T

repackaged the antiques and stuffed them into

the door, looked to her left and right to see that there was no one around, and quickly stepped out of carried the sack and placed it in Allison's car boot. Seeing that she was quite generous, he said, "Let me give you a word of warning, Ma'am. You should be wary of Elsa and Elise. Don't ever let them see these about them?" Allison asked curiously. However, she was not planning to show the antiques to the people who knew about it,

not good people." Jon leaned on Allison's car and lit another cigarette. "They say birds of a feather flock together, and I'm friends with them. Don't fall for their frowned. The sun was getting hotter, and her skin could not take it. "I know. You'd better not linger here for too long either. Also, don't brag about what you've done. I don't want a third person to know

"Of course. I'm not an idiot." Jon stubbed out *the cigarette*.

Allison drove the car away. Before she returned to the mansion, she made up an excuse so that Elsa and Elise vacated the place. She felt a lot more relieved after storing all the antiques in her **safe**.

...

Crawford Manor was brightly lit at night. The technicians from the security company were still trying their best to restore *the footage*.

The restoration process was at its last step. After seeing that the footage was playing normally, the technicians breathed a sigh of *relief*.

Luke glanced at the screen. The footage was black-and-white because all the lights were off. The thief seemed to know where the cameras were, though he could not avoid being captured in the frame when he walked up *the stairs*.

"Zoom into that person's face," **he ordered**.

The technician did what was told. The image was blurry, and the man was wearing a balaclava. There were no *distinguishing features*.

"We've tried our best. This is as much as we can restore," the manager explained. The day had been much more taxing than the entire **past year**.

The quality of the restored footage was not up to par, and the signal jammer seemed to have *vanished*.
footage to my email," Luke

The manager breathed a sigh of relief and forwarded the footage to people from the security company left, Crawford Manor was silent once sat in the living room, cast the footage onto the television, and replayed it over a cup of floral tea and some desserts and placed them on the coffee table. "You didn't eat too much at dinnertime. Do you want a

heart warmed when he saw the swirling steam from the cup of tea. He lowered his head and kissed her. "Thank

thank you." Bianca blushed slightly. Even Old Master Crawford had retired to his bedroom after the long day. Only Luke remained in the living room replaying the footage trying to look for

also seen the footage. The thief was very careful, as though he had an insider. They could not discern anything from

glanced at the television and saw the part where the thief went up the stairs. "That's strange," she said while furrowing

Chapter 1007

Luke opened a chat window for Gordan and sent a video chat request.

"Are you thinking of asking Gordan for help?" Bianca was surprised when she saw that. "Isn't he in Moscow?"

"It doesn't matter where he is as long as he agrees to it." Luke leaned against the couch and held Bianca's hand.

Gordan soon accepted the request. He made an exaggerated expression to the camera. "Oh, long time no see! I didn't expect that you'd be looking for me. You're here too, Sis. Do you miss me?"

"There's serious business," Luke said brusquely and made his intention known.

Gordan raised an eyebrow. He saw Luke and Bianca were holding hands and mocked them, "I didn't expect that you'd be asking for my help! Also, can you two not be so lovey-dovey all the time?"

Luke was not going to beat around the bush with Gordan. He said, "Someone stole some things from Crawford Manor. Help me find the thief."

"Who would be so daring?" Gordan stretched his limbs lazily. "Give me whatever information you have on him, and I'll be on his trail."

Luke tapped his phone several times and said, "It's in your email."

"Mhm." Gordan briefly checked it. "No problem, I've received it. What did the thief steal that you'd require my help?"

"My grandfather's antiques. Also, he injured Louis's daughter." Luke's expression was gloomy when he said that.

you didn't lose anything. In any case, I've been feeling bored, and I don't mind making a trip there. You'd better book a nice hotel for me," Gordan said happily

to enter the room with a cup of coffee when she heard that. She became anxious because she thought that Gordan was going to leave her. "Are you leaving, Gordan? Where are you

instantly sank when he heard Vivian's voice. He glared at the woman sullenly and asked, "Why didn't you knock on the door before you come

door was open," Vivian explained sheepishly. She had rushed into his room because she was too overheard the conversation and said, "Is that Vivian? Gordan, can I chat with her for that Vivian was about to cry. He stood up and said brusquely, "Come here. Sis wants to talk to was still holding on to the cup of coffee. She felt quite sad that Gordan was so angry just because she did not knock on

walked past her, she handed the cup of coffee to him. "This is the coffee you wanted, uneasy when he saw how lowly she was when she handed the coffee to him, as though his heart was pricked by a

the cup of coffee and left the room. "Don't mess up my

"I won't." Vivian tiptoed over, stood in front of the computer, and gingerly bent over. "Good evening, Luke and Bianca."

Luke looked at Vivian and nodded. "You two go ahead and chat."

"Mm." Bianca noticed that Vivian did not sit on the chair next to her. Instead, she stood there while bent over, which seemed quite **tiring**.

"Isn't it tiring to bend over like that? Why don't you sit down?" She suggested. She could tell that Vivian was being considerate, and she thought that Gordan was in the wrong for speaking so rudely to *her*.

"It's fine. I'm not tired." Vivian was worried that Gordan might be repulsed if she sat in his chair. She had accidentally sat on his bed once. That night, he had a new bed delivered, and the old one was tossed at the *landfill*.

"You don't have to be afraid. It's hard for us to chat like that. Please sit, Vivian. You're not dirty." Bianca's heart wrenched when she saw how lowly she behaved.

Vivian carefully sat down at the edge of the chair. If she sat on the entire seat, Gordan might find out that the seat *was warm*.

Bianca thought that Gordan had worn away Vivian's confidence. Otherwise, she would not have behaved like that.

"Vivian, Gordan is coming to A City tomorrow to investigate something. How about you come along too? Treat it as a vacation." Bianca *said*.

A *sparkle* appeared in Vivian's eyes, but she became dejected again when she thought of Gordan.

"Gordan won't let me go, **Bianca**."

don't need his approval; he's not your boss. I'm the one who's inviting you, isn't it?"

wanted to go, but she was apprehensive. She was used to Gordan looking at her with disgust, but her heart ached whenever she saw those

want to spend more time with Gordan?"

want to," Vivian replied immediately. That was the only question she could answer

it then. I'll book tickets for you and Gordan, and the two of you can come together. Also, I miss you, and Tommy misses you too," Bianca said

you, Sis." Vivian was truly grateful. She knew that Bianca wanted to give her an opportunity to be together with

I'm not going to tell Gordan. Try to pretend that nothing happened. It'll be too late when he gets on the plane." Bianca had a

did not want to be with his wife, then Bianca would find her

Sis." Vivian nodded. She decided to do as she was told so that the plan would be

the call ended, Bianca went upstairs and found Luke in the

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Bianca grinned craftily when she saw the message. "How about getting him a presidential suite? That should be enough for the two of them."

"Alright." Luke knew that he could not force Gordan to like Vivian, but getting them a presidential suite was a good idea. It was up to Gordan if he wanted to stay there.

Susan came in through the door and saw Luke and Bianca sitting together intimately. She frowned and said anxiously, "Luke, have you found out who hurt Thea?"

"Not yet." Luke was not ashamed of displaying his love for Bianca to other people, so he stayed in the same pose.

Susan saw that the two were not anxious at all, and her tone of voice instantly became shrill. "I can't believe that you still have the leisure to cuddle with your wife, Luke! Have you spared a thought for Louis? You'll have to find the culprit as soon as you can. That's your grandfather's orders!"

She thought that she could intimidate Luke by bringing out his grandfather's name. The atmosphere became tense immediately after she said that.

Luke furrowed his brows impatiently.

He did not appreciate being threatened.

He and Louis were brothers, and he wanted to find the culprit as soon as possible. He was also quite annoyed that he had no leads to the culprit yet.

Moreover, he and Bianca were married. There was nothing wrong with them cuddling.

Bianca knew that Susan did not mean it; she was probably too anxious about Thea.

Bianca wanted to stand up, but Luke hugged her waist tightly. He glared coldly at Susan at the door and said, "I will find the culprit that hurt Thea, but I don't like other people telling me what to do."

was startled, then she became furious. Louis and Yuri were in the hospital taking care of their daughter, while Luke and Bianca were cuddling in the study, and their children were safe and sound. She was quite indignant when she thought of

was Thea the one injured and

wanted to assert her authority as Luke's elder, but she lost her confidence when her eyes met with Luke's ice-cold

not afford to offend Luke. Luke might not help her if he got angry, and the culprit who injured Thea would get away

Luke thoroughly. She would not have asked for Luke's help if not that Louis was incapable of coldly and left

looked at Luke worriedly. "It won't be good if Grandpa hears of what you

Master Crawford also hoped that the case could be solved soon, not for his antiques but for

caressed Bianca's hair, not worried that Susan would tattle on him. "Grandfather only wants results. He's not too concerned about the

The politics in the Crawford household was more complicated than

enmity from the previous generation had been passed down to the next one. No wonder Lanie and Rainie were much more mature than other children of

you have any other work?" Bianca glanced at the time on the laptop. It was already very

"No." Luke let go of her.

Bianca stood up and said, "If there's nothing else, let's go to bed. T Corporation is holding its shareholders' meeting soon, isn't it? You'll be very *busy*."

She was worried about Luke.

The next night, Luke and Bianca met up with Gordan and Vivian at A City International *Airport*.

Gordan's expression was incomparably foul. Behind him was Vivian, who was pushing their luggage on a cart.

Bianca frowned when she saw the petite woman pushing the big luggage **cart**.

"*You* deceived me!" Gordan roared at Luke when he *got close*.

It was only when the airplane took off that Gordan realized that Vivian was sitting next to him. She had covered her face in case Gordan recognized her.

The airplane had already taken off, so he could not get off, and no one wanted to change seats with him. Vivian stared at him for the entire **ten-hour flight**.

Luke smiled and did not deny *it*.

Bianca crossed her arms and said, "I was the one who invited *Vivian*."

"Sis, you..." Gordan was at a loss for words. Did the two women conspire? He should not have allowed Bianca to talk to Vivian.

can't Vivian come to A City? She's not a criminal, and she shouldn't be locked up in Moscow," Bianca said. She went over and helped Vivian with the luggage cart. "Let me help

frowned. "Let her do it, Sis. She's strong

also nodded. "It's fine. Let me

was happy to be able to do something for Gordan. Even though she was tired, she did not

her brows. She was not going to let Vivian do all the work. "I don't care if someone here isn't a gentleman, but you can't ask me to ignore

blushed intensely when he heard that. He was a gentleman, but only to

Luke's beloved wife, and Gordan was not going to let her do the work. He sheepishly took the luggage cart from Vivian's hands. "Let me do

shook her head. "I can't let you

Gordan was her precious treasure. He should not do menial work such

felt sorry for Vivian because she would do all that for Gordan. She held Vivian's hand and said, "You should let men

glanced at her, then at Luke. "Would Luke do that

course." Bianca glanced at Luke. Luke would never let her do any heavy work, even if she wanted to do

Chapter 1009

Gordan looked at him. "Aren't you going up?"

"It's already late. Our children are waiting for us at home." Luke felt blissful as he looked at Bianca.

Gordan cringed whenever Luke acted lovey-dovey. He shuddered, clicked his tongue, and said, "Alright. I'll go and look for you at your office tomorrow."

He was on a vacation, but he would rather keep himself occupied with work so that Vivian would not bother him.

"Mm." Luke and Bianca got in the car.

While Luke reversed the car, Bianca could not help but smile as she watched Gordan and Vivian go into the hotel. "Do you think that Gordan will call you?"

"Yes, he will," Luke said confidently.

He had not driven for half a mile when his phone began to ring. He answered it and turned on the speaker.

"#%\$#%\$% you! Why did you only get one room for Vivian and me?" Gordan was blurting curses over the phone. When the hotel manager brought him and Vivian to the suite and gave them two access cards, he realized that Luke had tricked him once again.

"It's a suite. It has two rooms," Luke reminded him.

"It's still the same room!" Ray was forced to live with Vivian in Moscow. Now that he had a chance to get away from her, they ended up in the same room again!

He wanted a paradise of his own!

already booked a suite for you. I don't really care if you want to stay in it," Luke

was exasperated. "Why are you so stingy now? It doesn't cost you too much to book another room

at the traffic light and glanced at Bianca sitting next to him. She had already doubled over with laughter from

money to raise my kids." Luke

Bianca wanted to give Vivian an opportunity, he would side with

too far, Luke. I'll book a room for myself!" Gordan thought that he could mooch a vacation off Luke, but Luke had tricked him instead. When he was about to end the call, he heard Luke say, "I've already told the staff of the hotel not to rent another room

Gordan did not expect that he would

not just this hotel, but every five and six-star hotel in A City," Luke told him in case he would make a trip

had set a very high standard for himself. He would not stay in anything less than a

too much. I'm here to help you, but you treat me like an idiot. I quit." Gordan ended the

not laugh anymore. She was worried that Gordan would not help them, and Luke would become even

"Is Gordan really angry?" She asked *worriedly*.

"He's just saying." Luke knew Gordan's character very well. He was not worried that Gordan would not *help him*.

Bianca sighed. She did not understand. "Vivian is a good person. I don't know why Gordan is so repulsed by **her**."

Luke looked at her furrowed brows and said, "Bea, do you know that all my friends have the same question after they see you for the *first time*?"

Bianca was curious. "What is it?"

"Why I would choose you to be my wife." Luke stepped on the gas pedal as the traffic light turned green.

"Knowing my character, they thought that I'd want a strong or aggressive woman as my wife, not someone gentle and apparently harmless *like you*."

Initially, Bianca had the same thought too. She did not expect that Luke would take an interest in her. "I'd agree with *your friends*."

"**Beauty** is in the eye of the beholder. I like you, and I couldn't care less about anyone else," Luke said truthfully. "It's the same for Gordan and Vivian. This is as much as we should get involved in their business. Anything else is up **to them**."

Bianca nodded in understanding.

The next day, Luke went to work early in the morning. Bianca left Tommy in the babysitter's care and sent Rainie and Lanie **to school**.

After that, she sent Sue a message, telling her that she would not be in the company in the morning. She wanted to spend some time with Vivian. After all, she was the one who had extended the invitation. Gordan was at T Corporation, so she would play Vivian's host for the day.

to the hotel, then gave Vivian a

Soon, Vivian arrived at the lobby.

opened the door and waved at her. Vivian smiled and came over to her. "Good morning,

Have you had breakfast?" Bianca smiled at

be shockingly ugly, but Bianca was used to seeing

haven't." Vivian smiled awkwardly. She had ordered breakfast for Gordan, but Gordan was a picky eater and threw everything away, including hers. That was why she had not

the side passenger door. "Come, let's go to eat something

have to do this for me, Sis." Vivian was worried that she might be imposing on

you've taken good care of us when we were in Moscow. Now that you're in A City, allow me to be your host." Bianca knew that Vivian did not like troubling others, so she tried to make her at

to trouble you." Vivian was convinced and got into the

to a popular breakfast cafe in A City. It was already past the morning rush hour, so the cafe was relatively empty except for some retired

Chapter 1010

Vivian smiled awkwardly. "I wasn't used to the bed..."

"Was the bed comfortable?" Bianca asked out of concern.

"It was comfortable. There's no problem with it." Vivian was worried that Bianca might switch hotels for her, so she added, "I'll get used to it in another day or two."

She did not want to be separated from Gordan, and she woke up very early in the morning so that she could look at him first thing in the morning.

Bianca knew what she was thinking and nodded. "That's good to hear. Right, did Gordan do something to you after he ended the call last night?"

Vivian's smile froze on her face.

Gordan did not want to be alone with her. After the call last night, he tried to rent another room from the hotel manager.

The hotel manager told him that the hotel was fully occupied.

After that, he yelled at Vivian in the suit, telling her not to come out of her room if there was nothing urgent. Then, he took his suitcase, entered one of the rooms, and locked the door.

"Vivian?" Bianca held her hand.

Vivian came to her senses and shook her head. "It's nothing, Sis."

Seeing that she did not say anything, Bianca did not say anything either.

was served, and the two people ate slowly. After that, Bianca paid the bill and planned to bring her around

said that she wanted to go to the shopping mall. She had only brought long-sleeved clothing, but the weather in A City was warmer than she

brought her to the biggest shopping mall in A City, usually frequented by the wealthy and influential. The people that could be seen there were either wives and daughters of tycoons or white-collar workers who were

shopping mall was seven stories tall. Each floor carried luxury brands from all over the

had noticed that Vivian's clothing was mostly Chanel, so she said, "The Chanel flagship store is on the seventh floor. Shall we go up using the glass

noded, secretly impressed by Bianca's

the glass elevator to the seventh floor. When the doors opened, Bianca was surprised to see Leia stepped out of the elevator and noticed the shopping bags resting next to

was also surprised to see Bianca at the mall. She could not help but be sarcastic. "Oh? I didn't expect that you'd be shopping for fashion. Are you trying to shed your diligent and frugal housewife

been staying at home preparing for her upcoming wedding, and Queenie would always nag her whenever she had the time. She instructed Leia how to be a good housewife after marriage and even told her to learn

extremely annoyed by the nagging. When she saw Bianca, she was reminded of how Queenie had praised her, which made her

Bianca frowned, wondering why Leia was being so **sarcastic**.

Looking at her bulging stomach, Bianca decided not to argue with her. "I'm here to buy clothes with my friend."

Leia only noticed Vivian by then. She was shocked by Vivian's ugly face and took two steps backward. "Are you doing this on purpose, Bianca? Why would you scare me with such an ugly woman?"

Bianca's expression darkened slightly when she heard that injurious comment. Luckily, Vivian was not very good at English, so she did **not understand**.

"I don't think Vivian is scary, and we wouldn't have known that you'd be here shopping either. Also, watch your language. Prenatal education is important, and you'll leave a negative impression on your *child*."

"Your ugly friend will leave a negative impression on my child." Leia glanced disgustedly at Vivian.

Bianca was furious. She wanted to bring Vivian away when Charmaine came over carrying shopping bags. "I'm *done*, Leia."

Leia turned around and said impatiently, "What took you *so long*?"

"It's because I care about you. As your bridesmaid, I want to be at my best." Charmaine smiled as she handed over a *credit card*.

Leia had invited Charmaine to be her bridesmaid, and they were shopping for her clothes. Charmaine did not have to pay a single **cent**.

The credit card was Brody's supplementary card. Leia kept it away and said, "Are you sure you've bought everything then? You'd better not embarrass *me*."

"I've bought everything I want. Of course, I won't hold back since you and your husband are paying." Indeed, Charmaine did not spare any expense. Other than buying the clothes and accessories for her bridesmaid duty, she also bought two sets of Gucci clothing **and footwear**.

that Leia would be too vain to ask her about

was quite satisfied with her reply. She wanted to brag to Bianca but realized that Bianca had already gone

your elder sister?"

was unhappy when Charmaine mentioned Bianca. "Don't just stand there. Carry my bags for me,"

noded and obediently picked up the shopping bags next to

Bianca and Vivian went far away, Vivian asked, "Who was that earlier,

not quite understand what Leia was saying, but she could tell that the woman was not being friendly my mother's adoptive daughter," Bianca

younger sister?" Vivian was even more surprised. Bianca was refined and friendly, so Vivian expected that her parents were good educators. However, she did not have a good impression of Leia and did not expect that Bianca and Leia were from the

nodded and admitted to

Vivian did not say anything.