

## Be Gentle 1031

### Chapter 1031

The sales clerk overheard that and asked, "Are you a fashion designer, Madam?"

"No." Bianca shook her head while glancing around the bridal boutique. She did not see anything out of place.

"My elder sister is an architectural designer. She designs many big buildings." She could tell that Bianca was being wary. She tried to praise her to lower her guard.

"I see, Madam. Would you like a drink?" The sales clerk asked.

"Warm water will be fine," Bianca said.

"Alright. Please sit on the couch. Our designer will be here soon," the sales clerk said.

Leia held Bianca's hand enthusiastically and led her to the couch.

The bodyguards followed behind them closely, never allowing them to be more than three feet away.

Leia glanced behind her and said, "Don't you think that's too much, Bianca? You don't need to bring so many bodyguards with you to just a bridal boutique."

"Luke arranged that for me," Bianca said while observing her surroundings.

Leia was angry. Was Bianca trying to show off? Everyone in A City knew that Luke loved Bianca.

She could not express her jealousy on her face, so she smiled and said, "Luke is too paranoid. What could possibly happen here?"

looked at her and said

beginning to be unnerved when she saw Bianca looking at her like that. She touched her face and said, "Why are you looking at me like that, Bianca? Is there something on my

your face is perfect." Bianca took her hand away and picked up

Leia smiled and sipped some water.

rather flamboyant man came over and greeted the two women. "Good morning, ladies! I'm Jamie, the designer here. This must be the

that the designer was looking at her. She said helplessly, "I'm already married. This one's the

awkwardly as he looked at Leia's bulging stomach. "My apologies for the

unhappy. She was the one with the blissful expression on her face, so why would the designer think it was

you can't see clearly, then you ought to have your eyes checked," she huffed. She would have left the place if not for Jamie being the most famous wedding gown designer in A

did not expect Leia to be so candid. "My sincere apologies," he could only say that because he wanted the

flipped to a page in the catalog and tried to change the topic. "I think this design suits you, Leia. It's not too restrictive. You'll have to prioritize comfort in

*Leia looked* at the design and thought that it was quite nice too. She told the designer, "I want this *one*."

"*No problem*. Actually, many pregnant brides-to-be will select this design, and they all say that it's quite comfortable. I haven't had any negative feedback from it so far," Jamie said enthusiastically. "If you've decided on this design, shall I take your measurements? We can discuss the details after **that**."

**Leia nodded.** "Okay. Where should **we go**?"

"This way, please," Jamie said.

*Leia pushed* herself up and waddled over.

Bianca remained seated. She looked around and saw nothing out of the ordinary. She began to wonder if Xavier was only lying to her to get her out of *the car*.

She exchanged glances with Sean. Sean remained vigilant as he stood *behind her*.

**The** sales clerk brought a tray with drinks. "Please have a cup of tea."

Bianca took a cup. It was warm. She did not drink *from it*.

The sales clerk handed the cups to Sean and the **other bodyguards**.

"**It's** fine, we're not thirsty," Sean refused the drink without hesitation.

specially trained bodyguards, and they knew not to accept any food or drink while on duty. If someone had drugged the drinks, they would not be able to protect their

sales clerk placed the drinks on the coffee table. "I'll put them here then. If the drinks are cold, you can let me know, and I'll replace

Bianca put her cup on the coffee table and did not drink from it. She picked up a catalog and browsed

taking the measurements, Leia came out of the room and noticed that Bianca remained seated there. She felt quite

aren't those people doing anything yet? They're all pigs! They'd better not hurt

Leia coming out of the room. "Are

done. I added an extra inch to my waistline in case the baby grows bigger. I wouldn't want the gown to be an ill fit." Whenever Leia became nervous, she would try to speak as much as

wondered why Leia was telling her so much. Leia had never bothered telling her all

It was pretty strange indeed.

the catalog and replied,

glanced around her and did not see Hera's men yet. She could only sit on the couch and touch her stomach. She felt quite thirsty, and she picked up her glass of

## **Chapter 1032**

Bianca heard the moan and turned her head to look at Leia. Leia was fine earlier, but she seemed to be in a daze now. She was holding her head as though she was uncomfortable.

Bianca placed her hand on Leia's shoulder. "Leia?"

"Get lost!" Leia was suddenly hostile. She wanted to push Bianca's hand away, but she did not have the strength to do so. "Ugh... Bianca... you... drugged me!"

"I didn't..." Bianca stood up and frowned. "That cup of water."

Sean was thinking of the same thing. He took the cup that Leia had drunk from, carefully brought it to his nose, and smelled something sweet.

"It's a sedative drug, Madam," he said. He had learned to discern different types of drugs in his bodyguard training, and he was very sure what drug that was.

Leia slumped on the couch right after Sean finished speaking.

Jamie stood there, flustered. "What's going on?"

The three bodyguards surrounded Bianca while Sean deftly went behind Jamie, restrained his arms, and pinned him down on the coffee table. "Who are you?"

Jamie struggled to catch his breath. He was not as strong as Sean. "I'm the designer here!"

Bianca told one of the bodyguards, "Check the front desk."

The bodyguard nodded and went out to check. The receptionist was no longer there. Realizing the severity of the issue, he quickly came back to Bianca and said, "The receptionist is gone, Madam."

decided, "Let them escort you to the car,

as she looked at Leia passed out on the couch. She thought that Leia was behind this, but she had fallen victim

drugs posed a great risk to pregnant women. Leia would not have allowed her and her baby to be put into

that Bianca did not move and said anxiously, "Madam, your safety is

of water was meant for Bianca and her bodyguards, but Leia had drunk it instead. She could tell that their target was not Leia but

go," Bianca said decisively. Just when she turned around, she felt something whiz past her

she was in shock, the three bodyguards had slumped on the

two foreign faces come through the door. They were holding homemade guns in their hands. The needles earlier were shot from those

Sean was shocked by the scene. He let go of Jamie and prepared to protect Bianca behind him when Jamie struck him with a

"Idiot!" Jamie said mockingly.

Sean's eyes opened wide. He wanted to fight back, but the silver needle was coated with a powerful sedative, and he quickly lost

at the edge of the couch and looked at the three men in fear. "Who

"Why don't you ask God when you meet him in heaven? He might tell you that Luke was the one who let you die." Jamie walked up to Bianca and tore off a layer of skin from his face. A different Caucasian face was revealed to *Bianca*.

**"That's impossible!"** Bianca took two steps back and tried to remain calm. She had learned self-defense skills from Rain, but she alone could not fight against three men. Moreover, they had guns in their *hands*...

**"Are you** so sure? He said that he hates you and gave us a lot of money." There was a hint of mischief in Abel's deep-blue eyes. The woman could keep calm in front of them as though she was unafraid. No wonder she could be a match *for Luke!*

*Unfortunately* for her, Luke's woman had to die. Otherwise, he could not avenge his dead godfather and Kassy, his most **beloved**.

*"Nonsense."* Bianca glanced at the floor-to-ceiling window next to her, estimating the chances of survival if she decided to break the glass and **jump out**.

*The road* was right outside the window, but the glass was thick and heavy. She could not break it with her body.

Bianca sank into despair.

*"This is no fun. Tie her up and knock her out,"* **Abel ordered**.

**One of** the men said, "Shouldn't we kill her, *Boss?*"

*"I have* a use for this woman." Abel looked into Bianca's clear eyes. He suddenly thought that he should not kill her *just yet*.

**How should** he make Luke live the rest of his life in agony? Other than killing Bianca, he could also torture **her**.

The man pointed the barrel of his gun at

not want to fall into his hands and be used to threaten

head-first toward the window, thinking that she would rather die than cause Luke

tsk," Abel said while throwing the silver needle in his hand at Bianca. He knew what she was

struck Bianca's neck, and her knees went weak. Before she could reach the window, she was already on the

of dying? Your Luke will be very sad if you're dead." Abel stepped gripped the carpet tightly, trying her best to stay conscious. She bit her lip and squeezed some words out of her mouth. "Just... kill... me... don't to kill you at first, but I've changed my mind. You have a bright future ahead of you, Bianca, just like Luke did." Abel crouched in front of Bianca and pinched her face was clean and elegant. Even though she was in danger, she exuded a unique a waste for her to stay by her closed eyes, Abel smiled and said, "You shouldn't belong to a man. You can make many men bow to let go of his hand, and Bianca's head fell on

### **Chapter 1033**

Bianca was carried onto the bridal boutique van. She was already fully unconscious. Abel sat next to her. He thought for a while and removed the silver needle from her neck. He had learned his needle skills from Robert, his godfather. Robert had offered to teach those skills to Luke, but he was not interested in learning them. Abel pinched Bianca's petite face and said, "Your man doesn't know what's good for him. He didn't want to learn how to fire a needle, but his wife ended up being a victim of the needle. Tsk tsk tsk, how pathetic." His subordinate, who was driving the van, said, "Boss, are we going back to the mansion?" He was referring to the mansion that Maxine had prepared for them. "Go to the seaside," Abel said. He originally planned to stay there for longer, but he had a better plan. "Yes." The subordinate made a U-turn at the traffic light ahead and went straight to the seaside. When they reached the seaside, Abel got out of the car. He had already called a cruise ship to come and pick Bianca up, and it would arrive in half an hour. By the time Sean and Leia woke up, Bianca would already be somewhere at sea. The subordinate came with a phone. "Boss, it's from Ms. Douglas." Abel stubbed out his cigarette and took the phone. "Ms. Douglas." "Have you completed the mission?" Maxine asked. Hera had introduced Abel to her. Even though Hera had promised that Abel was a very capable assassin, Maxine had her doubts. done," Abel said while enjoying the sea breeze and taking out a skin-thin mask from his Bianca dead?" Maxine could not hide the joy in her "No," Abel replied.

you say? Why didn't you kill her?" Maxine's voice instantly turned from joy to anger. "Have you forgotten our

had paid a large sum of money to Abel so that Bianca

didn't forget, but I've changed my mind." Abel counted the number of cigarette butts on the floor. There were four. It meant that the cruise ship would arrive in another ten

keeping up to your end of the deal. Why would anyone want to trust you?" Maxine was furious. She felt as though she had been scammed of

Douglas, what you want is for Bianca to be separated from Luke. I have done that for you. As for where she will go, you don't have to worry. I can guarantee you that she will never be back to Luke's side." Abel could guess that Maxine loved Luke, which was why she wanted him to get rid

agreed to the job because that would be a heavy blow to

silent for a while. "Abel, don't tell me that you've fallen in love with Bianca?" She said

denied it. "Kassy is the only woman I

though Kassy had never loved him, and he was never short on female companions, his heart had always been captivated

"What's *the* point of keeping her alive then?" Maxine thought that Bianca would remain her biggest threat as long as she did not *die*.

"I have a use for her," Abel said as he watched the cruise ship appear from the horizon. "Don't worry, Ms. Douglas. I have something else to do. Bye."

He ended the call, put the phone in his pocket, and ordered his subordinates. "Bring out the woman in **the van.**"

"**Yes.**" His subordinate carried out his order. He opened the car door and carried Bianca over his shoulder.

When the cruise ship moored, the subordinate carried Bianca onto the ship. After that, Abel ordered his subordinates to burn *the van*.

He stood on the deck and watched the van go up in flames. "Let's go," he said with a sinister smile on his face.

"**Yes!**" Someone replied, and the cruise ship slowly moved **away**.

...

**Two** hours later, Sean and the others slowly woke up. Sean felt that his head was spinning, and when he wanted to push himself up, he found that his right arm was in *extreme pain*.

His hand had been crippled.

"**Ugh...**" **Leia** slowly got up while pressing on her forehead. She looked at her surroundings. "Where *am I?*"

Sean looked around and did not see Bianca anywhere. Then, he went around to search every corner of the boutique but did not find Bianca.

rushed up to Leia and grabbed her collar with his left hand. "Tell me! Where did you bring to breathe. She tried to slap Sean's hand away as she said, "What's gotten into you? How would I know where

the one who plotted this. You should know!" Sean was sure that Leia

would I knock myself out if I'm the one who plotted it? Ahh, my stomach hurts!" Leia suddenly felt a sharp pain in

frowned when he saw that Leia's dress was gradually stained red. He let go of her and picked up his phone to call

on the couch, clutching her stomach and saying in agony, "My baby... I won't forgive you if anything happens to my

anything happens to Madam, you won't be forgiven either." Sean ignored her warning. If anything happened to Bianca, both of them would be in deep

contractions in her womb made Leia break out in a cold sweat. She began to fear for her life after she heard

ambulance arrived, and Leia was carried inside. The other bodyguards managed to convince Sean to ride in it

rushed to the hospital after receiving a call from the bodyguards. Sean was undergoing surgery to treat his broken

bodyguards stood outside the operating theater. Their heads were lowered as they faced

"Where is Bianca?" Luke asked.

## **Chapter 1034**

Queenie's face turned pale instantly. When she received the call, she only got to know that something happened to Leia. The phone call did not mention anything about Bianca at all. She grabbed Luke's sleeves and asked him, "What are you talking about, Luke?"

Jack was also anxious when he heard that something happened to Bianca. "What happened to Bianca?" He asked anxiously.

Luke's eyes were bloodshot. "Bianca was abducted at the bridal boutique."

When Queenie heard that, her eyes glazed over, and she fainted into Jack's arms.

"Queenie? Queenie?" Jack hugged her and shook her, but she gave no response.

When the medical staff saw that, they immediately brought a gurney and took Queenie to the emergency ward. Jack had never faced such a situation before, and he hurriedly followed the nurses in. It was only when he turned around to look that he realized Luke did not come along.

"Luke... Sigh!" The nurses closed the curtains and blocked Jack's view. Not sure of what else he could do, he gave a call to his secretary to investigate the incident at the bridal boutique.

A while later, a nurse hurriedly rushed over. "Excuse me, are you Leia Norman's immediate family?"

"I am her father. What is it?" Jack's arms were akimbo. Usually, he would remain composed when faced with big problems, but he could not calm himself down now.

"The patient is going into shock. We need familial consent before we undergo induced labor to save the adult's life," the nurse explained Leia's condition briefly.

"Induced labor?" Jack frowned. Leia's baby was only seven months old. Would the child survive?

you'll have to give your consent now. Every minute delayed poses an extra risk for the patient." The nurse frowned. Leia's situation

rubbed his chin. "Can the baby be

not give up any chance of saving the baby, but the situation isn't looking good. We cannot even detect the heartbeat. That's why we have to induce labor so that we increase the survival chances of the mother," the nurse said. She could not guarantee that the baby was still

finally understood what the nurse was telling her. The baby was most likely gone. If he did not make up his mind now, Leia would be

might have gone overboard, but she was nonetheless his daughter for twenty years. He did not want her to be

the document. I'll sign it," Jack said decisively. Even though Leia and Brody were about to be married, they had not registered their marriage, so from a legal standpoint, Jack was Leia's immediate

nurse nodded and led the way. "Please

glanced at the emergency ward. Queenie was still unconscious. He had no choice but to follow the nurse and sign the consent

Jack went back to the emergency room and saw Queenie being

is my wife?" Jack rushed up and held

"**She** had fainted from a great psychological shock. We'll send her to the ward for now. She'll wake up soon," the emergency doctor **said**.

"*Alright*. Thank you, doctor." Jack **followed them**.

**The doctor** roughly knew what was going on with their family. "Mr. Norman, your daughter is still in an operation. I'll help you look after Mrs. Norman, and you should go and wait at the operating theater. We'll inform you immediately if there's an emergency."

**Jack** nodded. He was too concerned about Queenie, and so he *neglected Leia*.

"**Alright**. Thank you, doctor. If my wife wakes up, you can tell her that I'm at the operating *theater*."

"Of course." The doctor and the nurses wheeled Queenie into **the elevator**.

*Jack went* to the operating theater to wait. On the way to sign the consent form, he had already informed Brody that his child was at the risk of being born prematurely. He did not tell him that Leia was in danger too.

**Brody** did not come even after he knew about it. Jack looked at the time. It had been almost half an *hour*.

...

*Meanwhile*, Luke rushed over to the bridal boutique. The police had been informed, and several police officers were collecting evidence at the scene.

"**Boss!** I've failed to protect Madam. Please punish me as you see fit," Ripley said when he saw Luke. He felt guilty for failing to protect Bianca and was ready to lose his job.

glared at Ripley with an ice-cold gaze. "What did

the surveillance cameras were out of commission. The police are looking for evidence now," Ripley said. His head was still throbbing from the effects of

forensics officer had taken his blood sample

see who they were?" Luke clenched his fists. Despite the severity of the incident, the abductors did not make a mess out of the place to subdue his four bodyguards. At the same time, Bianca was brought away without much of a

turned bloodshot when he thought of Bianca, as though he would go berserk at any time. He would not forgive anyone who tried to harm his beloved

three Europeans. We managed to see two of them, and the police have already made a facial composite. Sean managed to see the other one, but he's sent to the operating theater before a facial composite could be done," Ripley

roadside surveillance cameras," Luke said. After the police collected evidence, they came up to Luke. "Mr. Crawford, please follow us back to the police

like to talk to the superintendent too," Luke said coldly and turned

Ripley saw Luke and the police officers leave, he made a phone call to the city council to obtain the security footage from the roadside surveillance

civilians would not have access to the security footage. However, the victim was Bianca Rayne, Luke Crawford's wife. The news had already spread before the police announced

## **Chapter 1035**

"How long will it take?" Luke's expression was grim. His mind was occupied by thoughts of Bianca.

"They just got back. It should take another half an hour," the superintendent said. Looking at Luke's frigid expression, he promised, "Don't worry, we'll get to the bottom of this. I've already contacted the

people in the traffic department, and they should be able to track down the getaway car in half an hour."

Luke understood that the superintendent was telling him to wait.

He could have skipped past the superintendent to receive the security footage from the traffic department. What he wanted was the facial composite from Ripley and the bodyguards' descriptions. Knowing that the culprits were Europeans, he had a vague feeling that the culprits were related to his past.

Ten minutes later, Luke received a call from Ripley. "Boss, I've already tracked down the car that took Madam away. They drove straight to the port area in the west, and they did not swap cars."

Luke frowned. "Let's meet there."

"Yes. I'm already on my way to the port," Ripley replied.

The superintendent overheard the conversation. "Mr. Crawford, have you found out where the culprits went?"

"The port in the west," Luke said, stood up, and headed out.

The superintendent could not help but be impressed by Luke's efficiency. All his police officers were not as fast as Luke's subordinates. He felt that his police department was quite unqualified.

"I'll make arrangements," the superintendent said while following him.

"I want the latest facial composites," Luke said as he opened the door.

superintendent dared not delay. "I'll get them for you now!" He

felt guilty that the police could not solve the break-in at Crawford Manor, so he had to make sure that they could help in Bianca's

went to the evidence room, took two facial composites, and handed them to Luke. "This is it, Mr.

not identify the two Caucasian faces. He noticed that one of them had a scar on his face and guessed that he must be an international

could afford to hire international mercenaries must be loaded. They did not abduct Bianca for money, but they wanted to lure him

that Bianca had once again got into danger because of him, he clenched

the superintendent, and several police cars went to the post area in the

wrenched when he saw the

'Bianca...'

over and reported his latest findings, "The car was already in that condition when we got here. We did not find any bodies in the car. It seemed like the culprits wanted to destroy the

out to the port and clenched his fists. A storm was brewing inside him, threatening to engulf everything in his

The superintendent instantly went to delegate his subordinates. "If the culprits came to the port, they must be hiding the person in a container or the slums nearby. Go and search carefully if you can find Mrs. *Crawford*."

"Yes!" The police officers replied in unison and scattered in **all directions**.

Luke's eyes remained transfixed on the *horizon*.

The superintendent trembled when he sensed Luke's seething rage. He hoped that Luke would not pull off something major. Otherwise, he might lose *his job*.

"Search the van. You might find some evidence!" He said. He knew that the culprits had set the vehicle on fire to destroy the evidence, and it was incredibly implausible that they would find anything *useful*.

However, they had to be thorough, lest Luke channeled his wrath **on them**.

"Yes." The forensics officers put on their gloves and masks and started to collect evidence.

The **charred** remains of the van were still hot. The forensics officers had to be very **careful**.

For the rest of the day, the police officers checked on every container and house in the area, but they did not *find Bianca*.

Luke stood next to the sea from afternoon until nighttime.

Ripley stood next to him. What they knew was that the port was Bianca's last known location. However, after checking through all the containers and houses, there was no trace of her. The nearby villagers said that they did not see anything out of the ordinary other than billowing smoke.

It meant that Bianca was brought away in another vehicle before the smoke, or...

Ripley looked at the sea.

the abductors killed Bianca and threw her into the sea, it would be impossible for them to find

they brought Bianca away, they must have done so

sea was so vast, and they did not know where to

uh..." the superintendent had been there for the entire day. He was tired and thirsty, but he dared not leave as long as Luke

Luke ordered. His heart was ice-cold as he stared at the

did not know where Bianca had gone, but he believed that Bianca was

yes, yes. All of you, continue searching! Don't miss out on any detail!" The superintendent

...

hospital, Queenie had already woken up. She sat in the wheelchair while accompanying the

the induced labor procedure, Leia delivered the child at seven months old. However, it did not survive because it had congenital

### **Chapter 1036**

Jack could not bear to see Queenie cry. He took out a handkerchief and wiped her tears. "Alright, don't cry. You shouldn't be emotionally agitated."

Queenie had passed out for the past few hours. If she became agitated, she might pass out again,

Queenie took his handkerchief and looked at Leia on the bed. She was still under the influence of the anesthesia.

Her eyes were bloodshot. She remembered that before she passed out, Luke had said that Bianca was abducted at the bridal boutique. She turned around and asked Jack, "Is there any news about Bianca yet?"

"I asked Luke earlier. Not yet." Jack looked at his daughter on the bed and wondered if she had anything to do with the incident.

If she was proven to be involved, he would disown her!

Queenie was overcome by sorrow and nearly passed out again.

Jack steadied her by the shoulders. "Luke will find her, and she will return safely to us."

"Mm..." Queenie tried hard not to cry out loud. She could only silently wipe her tears. Her elder daughter was abducted, while her younger daughter had to lose her baby. She would rather be the one suffering.

The door opened, and Tania rushed in aggressively. She ignored Jack and Queenie while roaring at the patient on the bed. "Get up at this instant, Leia Norman!"

Queenie wiped her tears and stood up. "Mrs. Hilton, Leia is still unconscious. She wouldn't want this to happen either.

looked at Queenie and could not imagine that an elegant woman would have a daughter like that. If their distant relative was not part of the surgery, they would have been deceived until it was

pointed at Leia sleeping on the bed, her finger trembling with anger. "Why is your daughter like that, Mrs. Norman? Why would she keep that baby in her womb despite knowing that it has birth defects? Does she want to marry Brody so much? What do we owe

was indeed at fault. Queenie bowed deeply at Tania and apologized on behalf of her daughter. "I am sorry. I admit that we were careless and have brought trouble to you. We will accept whatever decision you

might not be the daughter that Jack and Queenie knew, but they were not going to abandon her at

was impressed by Queenie's behavior. She thought that an adoptive daughter like Leia could never learn to be like her

want to call off the marriage," Tania

paused. Ever since she found out that Leia had been hiding the truth about the baby, she knew that the marriage would eventually

was at fault, and she should bear

and agreed to it on Leia's behalf. "I'll return all the betrothal gifts in

did not expect Queenie to agree to it so quickly and return the betrothal gifts. She was once again impressed by

**Even** so, Queenie was Leia's mother, and the Hiltons would rather not have anything to do with *them*.

*Tania* did not soften her attitude. She nodded and said, "You don't have to return that. Treat it as a gift for Leia. Brody already knows about it, and he says that he doesn't want anything to do with Leia anymore. I hope you can ensure that she won't pester Brody."

*As a mother*, Tania knew that Brody still had feelings for **Leia**.

**Of** course, those feelings were only skin-deep. She was afraid that Leia might look for Brody after *she recovered*.

*Leia wanted* to marry Brody because of his money. She was wicked and useless, and Tania would not have agreed to the marriage if not for the baby in Leia's womb.

**Tania's anger** grew once more when she was reminded of that baby. She turned around and left.

*In a weird twist of luck*, Leia did not get to deliver the baby. Otherwise, she would be a sinner to *the Hiltons!*

Queenie sighed again, and her tears **fell**.

**Bianca's** whereabouts were unknown, and Leia's marriage was called off. What was going on?

"Jack, what should Leia do?" Queenie looked at her *husband helplessly*.

of Leia and Brody's marriage had spread throughout A City. Everyone knew that Leia was pregnant with Brody's child, and they were to be married

that the Hiltons knew that the baby had congenital birth defects, it would not take long before everyone knew that Leia had hidden the truth from the

Leia's reputation was ruined.

He did not expect that Brody would call off the

like Brody wanted Leia only for her

Queenie, "It's good that the wedding is called off. Brody doesn't love Leia anyway. When she gets better, I'll send her overseas to study. She can come back in a few years when all this has blown

grabbed Jack's shirt sleeve and shook her head. "I'll miss

you can do about that. Leia's reputation in A City is ruined by now," he said decisively. No matter what Queenie or Leia would say, he would have to send

then, he had objected to Leia taking up a degree in performing arts. He only begrudgingly agreed to it because Leia said that she wanted to fulfill Queenie's dreams of becoming an

that her acting career was destroyed, what else could she do? How would she be able to sustain herself when her parents were

## **Chapter 1037**

Jack did not agree to it. Leia was already an adult, and she should have the mental capacity for it. "You can't hide it for too long. If Brody doesn't come, she'll eventually realize what happened."

Queenie was silent.

"Leia isn't a child anymore. If she had been lucky, she would have been a mother in two months. We shouldn't shelter her anymore. She was the one who decided to keep the baby and marry Brody, and she'll have to bear with the consequences herself," Jack said.

Usually, fathers educated their children differently from mothers. Queenie began to reflect if her educational methods had been correct.

"Alright." She eventually agreed after pondering over it.

Leia woke up two hours later. Before she could feel sad about the fact that the doctors failed to save her baby, Jack told her that the Hiltons had called off the wedding after they knew that the baby had congenital birth defects.

"That's impossible!" Leia leaned on the headboard. She shook her head in disbelief when she heard that Brody had agreed to call off the wedding.

"Brody wouldn't want to meet you anymore, Leia. In a few days, when you're feeling better, we'll return all the betrothal gifts to the Hiltons," Queenie said as she touched Leia's face gently. "Don't be sad. There will be someone else who will love you more."

She and Jack were not greedy people. Even after Tania said that they need not return the gifts, she decided that she should.

"Brody loves me so much. He wouldn't call off the wedding. Is it because of the baby? Mom, tell him that I can give birth to another baby for him. I'll give him a plump and cute baby!" Leia grabbed Queenie's hands tightly and begged.

"It's not about the baby, Leia!" Queenie tried to comfort her. "You've lied to the Hiltons, and they're furious about it. There's no more chance between you and Brody."

baby had no problems, the Hiltons would not have been so

would appreciate being deceived like

Brody too much, Mom, don't you know? I didn't want to disappoint him because he's so eager to be a father, and I dared not say anything. Give me my phone, Mom. I'll explain it to Brody," Leia said while crying. She would have already gotten off the bed and went to look for Brody if not that her whole body

hands were in pain. She did not pull them away, but instead, she looked at her

had been silent all this while. He handed Leia her phone and said, "If Brody still loves you, he'll answer your call. If not, you should

let go of her mother, took the phone, and dialed

call beeped twice before it switched to the busy

Brody's number again. This time, she was told that the other party had blocked her

can't be. Listen to me, Brody!" Yelling at the phone, Leia was on the brink

grabbed her phone and said, "Calm down,

"He doesn't want me anymore, Dad. What should I do? No, I'll have to go and find him so that I can explain it to him. If he knows the truth, he'll forgive me!" Leia's snot was all over her face. Just the day before, she had been fantasizing about what she would do with her riches when she became Mrs. Hilton.

**The** day after that, she was informed that the marriage was called off.

**Her** fantasy crumbled right in front of her. Leia could not accept it.

Jack saw that Leia was about to get off the bed, so he pressed the panic button and held her down. "You can't get out of bed **now**."

"Let me go and find him, Dad!" **Leia begged.**

The nurse quickly came in. "What's wrong?" She asked.

**"She's** emotionally unstable. Can you give her a tranquilizer shot?" Jack turned his head around and **asked.**

**The nurse** could see that Leia was out of control. She nodded and said, "I'll go and get the doctor *now*."

**"No,** no, I don't want tranquilizers. I only want Brody!" When Leia heard that, she could not help but curse the cruelty of *her father*.

Why did her parents agree to call off the marriage instead of begging the Hiltons to accept her? Why did her father stop her from meeting Brody? When she thought of that, she bared her teeth and bit down on Jack's arm.

have you lost your mind?" Queenie was shocked when she saw that. She instantly rushed over to shove not very strong, but Leia was very weak now, and she fell on the

Leia!" Jack frowned when he looked at his arm. It was bleeding from the

on the bed and glared at Jack with

came into the ward and saw the scene. She immediately said to the nurse, "Prepare the don't want any shots. All of you are bad guys. You only want to harm me!" Leia roared at the alright, I won't give you a shot then. Can the nurse at least examine Leia remained quiet.

took that as a tacit agreement. She shot a glance at the nurse, then went out of knew what the doctor meant. She walked over, closed the curtains, and pretended to examine Leia. "You've lost too much blood after the procedure. You shouldn't move about in case you start to

## **Chapter 1038**

The doctor did not know how to react when he heard that. Now that she thought about it, Leia's reason for her emotional distress was indeed different from other women. She guessed that she needed the baby to retain her fiancé.

"Do you know who that woman is?" The head nurse suddenly came over. As the leader of the nurses, she should not have been nosy, but she could not help but gossip when she overheard the conversation between the doctor and the nurse.

"I don't know, but she seems familiar," the doctor said.

"I don't think you'd know her since you just got back from abroad. She used to be an actress that has acted in many movies. However, that did nothing to boost her popularity. She retired from public view following an incident, but after that, there was the news that she would be married to Brody Hilton. You should know about the Hiltons, right? They're involved in international trade, and they're extremely wealthy. The baby should be her bargaining chip to enter the Hilton household, so that should be why she could not accept the fact that her baby is gone," the head nurse whispered.

The doctor instantly understood. "No wonder. She wants to reason with her fiancé that the baby didn't survive. Tsk tsk, it's not easy marrying into a wealthy family."

The nurse nodded. She remembered the wound on Jack's hand, so she took the antiseptic and gauze. "Isn't that so? Sometimes it's easier to live a normal life. I'll go in and administer the shot."

"Go then. Forget what you heard earlier. Don't agitate the patient and her family's feelings," the head nurse reminded her.

The nurse went into the ward. "I'll be administering the shot now, Ms. Norman."

Leia was lying on the bed. Her eyes sparkled when she saw the nurse. Once she received the shot, she would be able to leave the hospital. "Quick, quick, I want to recover."

The nurse put the tray on the table and prepared the syringe. "It'll sting a little. You'll have to bear it."

Leia nodded and looked at her adoptive parents. She did not feel any guilt for injuring Jack.

flowed silently. She was sad when she thought of how Leia had acted

ward was silent except for the rustling that came from the

into the room and broke

Queenie wiped her tears and asked him anxiously, "Have you found

were bloodshot, and his face was frigid. When he saw Leia on the bed, he quickly walked over as though he did not hear what Queenie

a chill when she saw him advance upon her like the devil. She

were the ones who abducted Bianca?" Luke's voice was ice-cold. He wished that he could

not for her, Bianca would not have

police and bodyguards did not even find a hair even after combing the entire area. Only Leia knew where he

knew that Leia had regained consciousness, he instantly rushed over. He would have to find Bianca as soon as he

"I don't know!" Leia shuddered again. She was already physically weak. When Luke glared at her like that, she felt as though she had fallen into the **abyss**.

"I know a hundred different ways to make you speak, Leia. Don't make me," Luke warned. He would have snapped her neck if not that she knew *Bianca's whereabouts!*

Leia was genuinely afraid. She knew that he meant what he said, especially after that time when he had taken "special care" of her.

*However, if* she told him what happened to Bianca, she would suffer an even worse fate.

**"How would** I know? Go and ask the abductors. Why are you asking me?" Leia said **insistently**.

*Luke* narrowed her eyes. He could tell that Bianca's disappearance was related to **her**.

**Leia glanced** at her parents. They had no intention of helping her. She was on her own now.

She wiped her tears and continued to wail. "Am I that stupid? Why would I sacrifice my child if I wanted to set Bianca up? My child is gone, and Brody doesn't want me anymore. Am I that stupid, Luke Crawford? It's all your fault. It's all Bianca's fault. It's all your bodyguards' fault that my child **is gone**."

*Ripley* was standing aside. He could not help but chime in, "Ms. Norman, the doctor said that it's because of the *drug*."

"Bianca handed me that cup of water!" Leia said regretfully. She knew that someone was trying to harm Bianca, yet she took the cup of water from her.

**If** she had not drunk from that cup, she would still have her baby, and now that Bianca was gone, she would be the only Norman daughter. After marrying Brody, she would be swimming *in riches*.

It was all Bianca's fault!

resentful, but she dared not say too

had no retort to that. Bianca had indeed given her that cup of water, but no one expected that the water

Ripley did not speak, Leia felt more confident. "I'm heavily pregnant. If I'm plotting with someone else to harm Bianca, would I drink that water? Why shouldn't I stay away at a

to prove her innocence in every sentence. Luke bent over and clenched her

you lost your mind, Luke Crawford? Bianca's disappearance has nothing to do with me!" Leia's face turned pale from

know anything. Don't be like that, Luke." Queenie was shocked. She was afraid that Luke would do something to harm her

I'll get to the bottom of this, Leia." Luke loosened his grip and left

on the bed. When she heard his footsteps fade away in the distance, the tears that she held in her eyes finally

Luke was terrifying.

### **Chapter 1039**

The nurse deftly administered the shot and comforted Leia. "It'll hurt a little later on. You should close your eyes and rest for five minutes."

Leia slowly closed her eyes.

The nurse turned around and spoke to Jack, "Let me dress your wound, Mr. Norman."

"Thank you," Jack said as he lifted his injured arm.

Five minutes later, the tranquilizer took effect, and Leia fell silent.

Queenie covered her with the blanket, went to Jack's side, and gently touched his hand. "Does it hurt?"

"It's fine." Jack shook his head. After sterilizing the wound, the nurse carefully wrapped it with gauze. It did not hurt even if he pressed it.

Queenie sighed. Her eyes were puffed up. "You've been a stern father since Leia was small, but you've never punished her. Leia respects you a lot, but now, she bit you..."

"That's enough." Jack glanced at Leia. The tranquilizer had taken effect, and Leia was incapacitated for now. He told Queenie, "Take care of Leia. I'll go and look for Luke."

"Alright." Queenie nodded. Her unease grew whenever she thought of Bianca.

Luke was in Sean's ward.

Sean had already woken up from the anesthesia. He and a few police officers were making the facial composite. His testimony was the most important because he was the only one who had seen the mastermind of the operation.

is it, Officer," Sean said. He could use his left hand as well as his

police officer handed the facial composite

face turned ashen when he saw the face. He turned around and said to Ripley, "Do whatever it takes to find

Boss." Ripley took a photo of the facial composite with his

continued to hear Sean give his statement to the police. According to Sean, the culprits were there for Bianca, and they wanted to

recording the statement, the police said, "Don't worry, Mr. Crawford. We'll do our best to solve this case. We'll be sending the facial composite back to the police station and issuing a citywide bounty for this man. We'll also guard every exit point so that he can't run

remained impassive after hearing

police would not be able to arrest a criminal of that level, just like the police were not able to do anything to the Island

Luke headed out of the ward.

him. "Sorry, Boss. I didn't manage to protect

would have gotten on his knees if not that he was confined to the bed after the operation. Luke had hired him to take care of Bianca, but he had failed to do

"You didn't," Luke said and left the ward.

Johann was coming over. When he saw Luke, he said, "I've already fixed your subordinate's hand. Fortunately, only the bones are broken, and the nerves are undamaged. His hand will be as good as new after the *bones heal*."

"Mm." Luke remained cold and distant.

Johann was puzzled. "What's going on with you? He's still alive, but you act as though *he's dead*."

**Luke had** asked for his help to save Sean's hand, and he had successfully done so. Why did Luke look so *unhappy*?

**"Just do** your job." Luke glanced at Johann coldly and *left*.

He met Jack downstairs.

"Can we chat?" Luke said.

*Luke* nodded. He despised Leia, but he did not hate Jack. Bianca inherited most of her looks from Queenie, but he could see some common features between Bianca and her *father*.

*The two* came to the **hospital cafeteria**.

*Jack* was not going to defend Leia. He did not beat around the bush either. "I think that Leia isn't innocent. I'll try to find out something from her, but it'll be difficult because she's still emotionally **unstable**."

an eyebrow, but he was not too surprised. He thought for a while and eventually said, "Thank  
is my birth daughter. I wouldn't let her suffer like this..." Jack

expression was cold. Jack had recognized that Bianca was his daughter, but Leia had always denied it  
and had even tried to harm her

would not forgive her if he found out that she was the one behind

will be fine. I can sense it," Jack said. He could not bear to see Luke being so cold because of

at the time. He had left the ward for quite a long time, and he was worried that Queenie might not be  
able to take care of Leia alone. He stood up and said, "Back then, when my wife was pregnant with  
Bianca, everyone told me that my daughter wouldn't survive. I didn't believe it. My intuition told me  
that my daughter will be alright. To find the truth, I've also hired many people to help with the  
investigation. Times are different now, and technology has improved. It's easier to investigate  
something now. If you need any help, just tell me. I'll help you even if it costs me

the promise, Jack turned around

on the chair. He sank in deep

later, he gave a call to Gale. "Do you remember the people on the Island of

"Yes, Boss, I remember," Gale replied.

all your information on them," Luke said. He was worried that someone from the Island of Despair had

## **Chapter 1040**

Tommy ran into the scene and wanted to snatch the phone away. He was standing on the sofa and  
crying his lungs out while staggering.

The butler was afraid he might trip over and quickly carried him up, placing him on the floor. He had no  
choice but to hand him the phone.

Tommy asked while sobbing, "Where are Mommy and Daddy? Tommy wants Mommy, I want Mommy!"

"Stop crying. I'll be on my way back now," said Luke with a deep voice. He had to take good care of the  
child as Bianca would surely be upset if she were to know that Tommy was crying so terribly.

Tommy continued to cry hard. "Daddy, you must bring Mommy back."

"I'll definitely bring your mommy back. Be a good kid and hand the phone over to the butler." Luke  
coaxed him.

Tommy rubbed his eyes and handed the phone over to the butler. His big eyes were red after crying so  
hard, the sight of it making others pity him.

The butler took the phone. "Young Master."

"How did the kid know about it?" Luke's voice carried an angry tone.

"The two servants accidentally blurted it out. I've already fired them both," said the butler. Tommy happened to overhear the two servants gossiping at a corner when they were coincidentally talking about the issue regarding Bianca.

Tommy was no longer a kid who knew nothing. He kept crying while requesting the adults in the house for an explanation upon knowing that Bianca was in trouble.

Old Master Crawford was not at home either. The butler was out of his wits and gave Luke a call.

on my way back. Take good care of the kids,"

"Yes, sir!" the butler answered.

up the call and immediately drove his car back home. 'Bianca will be back in one piece. She won't want to see the kids in trouble. Hence, during this period, I must take good care of

...

was late at night and the ocean waves kept crashing against the cabin. The waves even rushed up to the deck and made the entire ship

slowly opened her eyes. As she had been unconscious for a very long time, everything she saw

She moved around and her limbs felt numb as though they were

awake?" A spooky male voice was heard. Bianca fumbled around and opened her eyes. She glanced at the ceiling and asked herself, 'Where is

awake? Are you hungry?" Abel was sitting on the bed and glancing at her with

around and looked at Abel's smiling face. Chills were running down her back. She found that his smile was not friendly at all. He looked like a demon from the gates of hell. It was as if he would smile like this right before taking someone's

you think you'll be able to get away from me by just remaining silent?" Abel rubbed

*Bianca* felt rather disgusted. "Where am I?"

"We're out on the ocean." Abel let go of her and placed one of his feet over the other. "I've changed my mind at the eleventh hour and chose not to kill you. So, are you feeling **grateful**?"

"*What* are you plotting? Where do you plan to send me to?" Bianca wanted to know his intentions and thoughts. She moved her hands and indeed, they were tied onto something, making her unable to move **an inch**.

"I want Luke to suffer," Abel told her this half-truth. As for her second question, he ignored it. "Luke hurt the lady I love, making us unable to meet with each other forever. I want to make him have a taste of losing the lady he loves to let him know how it feels."

"*You* can just kill me," Bianca said calmly. Her hands were hurting due to them being restrained. She was unable to *struggle either*.

"Yeah. Besides, there are lots of people who want to kill you. But in the end, I changed my mind. Bianca, I'll let you live. In the future, don't let me down." Abel got up and walked out the door.

"What are you planning to do?" Bianca gritted her teeth. She could only sense that she was being restrained by a maniac, and that maniac still had no idea about what to do with **her**.

"You'll know about it soon." Abel wiped the smile off his face. "Right now, you just need to live a *proper life*."

He pulled the door of the cabin open and walked out of *it*.

*Bianca lay* on the bed and was looking at the ceiling helplessly. Her limbs were restrained and she could not even *commit suicide*.

She recalled Luke and the three children. 'They're all currently in A City. Things must be chaotic *now*...'

felt a pinch in her heart the moment she thought that she might not be able to see them again for the rest of her

brought in a bowl of pasta and said, "You people of A City love to eat this whenever you don't have an appetite to

took in the smell of the pasta and realized she was rather hungry. However, she was determined not to plead and just

placed the bowl of pasta on the side of the bed and used a fork to cool

citizens of A City are really weird. Whenever you guys don't have an appetite, you eat food like this. The same goes for Luke," Abel started muttering to himself when he noticed Bianca was not responding to

the side of her face and looked at him. "What grudge do you have

raised his brows and his eyes glinted evilly. "A really huge grudge involving love

have simply killed others without any valid reason," said Bianca. She knew Luke very well. Those who were directly or indirectly harmed by him were people who had committed bad

do know him well." Abel smiled evilly and threw the fork to the ground. "But he did kill someone. He killed my foster father. My beloved lady had once saved his life and treated him so well, yet he was so cruel and sought revenge instead. Now that you're within my grasp, I want to train you to become this sort of person. I want to make him have a taste of what it feels like to be hurt by

succeed. I'll never become such a person!" Bianca clenched her

will. I've got a ton of ideas to make you change." Abel placed the bowl to the side of her mouth. "Eat