

## **Be Gentle 1061**

### **Chapter 1061**

Shanks observed Bianca eating the spaghetti. After not eating anything for a few days, Bianca found it difficult to swallow.

She did not complain. Instead, she chewed slowly and swallowed carefully.

Shanks was secretly impressed.

Abel was Robert's successor and wielded supreme power on the Island of Despair. No one under him had the right to talk back.

However, Bianca, a powerless woman, managed to negotiate with him. What surprised him the most was that she did not ask for Eler's younger brother's release by offering him money.

Instead, she offered her unborn child for the life of a stranger, and Abel actually accepted the offer.

Shanks grunted coldly, feeling something in his usually cold heart. He turned around and prepared to walk away. At the door, he stopped and said, "Don't eat too much in your first meal in a while. You should still eat your supplements and only stop when you can eat the normal amount."

When Eler heard that, she replied on behalf of Bianca, "Yes, Mr. Shanks."

She sounded quite agitated because she would be reunited with her younger brother soon. All that was thanks to Bianca.

After Shanks left, Bianca showed a look of discomfort on her face. "Please get me a glass of water."

Seeing that Bianca was going to throw up, Eler immediately poured her a glass of warm water.

Bianca took a big gulp without any hesitation.

you alright, Miss? Shall I get Mr. Shanks for you?" Eler asked

need." Bianca took a deep breath to suppress the churning in her stomach. She had not eaten for a few days, and her stomach was not used to the

forked some more spaghetti, washed it a little in the water, then took

instantly understood. "I'll get a bigger glass of water

"Thank you." Bianca's face was pale.

say that, Miss," Eler said when she returned with another glass of water. She fell on her knees and said, "I should be the one to thank you, Miss. You saved my younger

wanted to stop Eler from kneeling, but she did not have much strength. She could only shake her head and said, "It's nothing. Please get up. Where I'm from, it's bad luck for someone to kneel

up an excuse so that Eler would get

Eler heard that, she instantly stood up and dusted her knees. "I'm sorry, I didn't

did not say anything and continued to eat

knew that Eler was worried about her younger brother, so she took the opportunity to ask Abel

Her final objective was to get out of the place, and helping Eler was part of the plan. She needed a person whom she could trust. If she could get Eler's younger brother, that would make two people.

*If* she were to escape in the future, she needed their help, just like how Luke had Gale and Rain's help.

Bianca took a few more bites. Now that her stomach was not empty anymore, she felt a lot better. "Hand me the supplements," she said.

Eler was already shedding tears of gratitude when she handed the supplements to **Bianca**.

It was the first time that Bianca had asked for the supplements herself. It looked as though her will to live was back **again**.

**Eler** did not have to worry that Bianca would try to kill herself or that her brother would **be injured**.

Half an hour later, Bianca frowned. "Why isn't he here **yet?**"

Eler explained, "This underground complex is very vast. It covers more than half the island. We're at the east of the island, while the training grounds are in the west. It'll take some time to get **here**."

**Bianca frowned**, though she was quite surprised that the underground complex was bigger than she thought.

"Have you been to all the places?" She asked **nonchalantly**.

"No. I'm only a captive, and there are many places that I can't go. At first, I was brought to the training grounds. Then, I was brought here to be a servant before I met you. We don't have the freedom to go anywhere **we please**."

seeing Bianca drink all the supplements, Eler asked, "Do you want some

shook her head and sat on the

later, Eler's younger brother came to the

cried tears of joy when she saw the thin frame of her younger brother Amur. She rushed forward and hugged

Amur started crying when he

heart wrenched when she saw the siblings reunite. Eler and Amur looked like each other, just like how Lanie and Rainie were alike. She wondered how her children

that the two children were mature, Luke would not be able to hide the fact that she had gone missing from them. She wondered how Luke would explain it to the children and if they would cry over her

up in Bianca's eyes when she thought of

held her younger brother's hands and said, "She's our savior, Amur. You'll have to serve her with all

said "our savior" instead of "your savior" because Bianca had saved her by  
nodded. He wiped his tears and was about to fall on his knees when Eler stopped him. "Miss says that  
where is from, kneeling will bring the other person

## **Chapter 1062**

Eler slowly pulled her hands away as tears brimmed in her eyes. "Are you thinking of your family?"

She had caught a glimpse of Bianca's husband while in the surveillance room. Even though she only saw  
him remotely, she could tell from the man's face that he loved Bianca very much.

"Mm." Bianca's eyelashes fluttered. She did not open her eyes, so she could imagine that she was not  
imprisoned in that small room but that her lover was not far away.

Eler saw the tears in her eyes. She helped her wipe them away with a paper towel.

She stood there without saying a word. Just like Bianca, she had lost her family after being abducted,  
and she would often dream of her family whenever she slept.

Such memories could only exist in the mind, and she would have to face the cruel reality once she woke  
up. Eler knew how it felt, so she did not know what to tell Bianca.

She was not going to comfort Bianca with false promises.

Bianca quietened down and said nothing.

Eler took a chair and sat down beside her.

Outside the room, Abel came in through the front door. He could not help but chuckle when he saw  
Amur sitting in front of Bianca's room. Did Bianca request for Amur so that he could be reunited with his  
elder sister?

Amur sat up when he saw Abel come near, feeling fear when he saw the eerie smile on Abel's face.  
"Boss."

Abel muttered when he saw Amur shaking in fear. He reached out to push the door  
stopped him. "Miss is asleep

Abel frowned. He was like a king in his domain, and he could go wherever he pleased. No one had ever  
stopped him

resting now, Boss." Amur stood in front of the door determinedly and stared into Abel's terrifying gaze.  
Fear had overwhelmed him, and even his fingertips were

was already eighteen years old, but he had been malnourished, so he was shorter than Abel by a

at Amur unhappily. After rescuing him from the training grounds, Amur thought that Bianca was his

not like that. Clenching his fists and throwing a punch at Amur's face, he wanted to show the boy who  
was the true master of the

body could not withstand the force. His body fell through the door and gave Bianca and Eler

Amur moaned in agony as he laid on the

stood up and wanted to rush over when she saw Abel coming into the room. She quickly stopped herself. "B...

*Abel stretched* his fingers and smiled brazenly. Looking at Amur on the floor, he said, "So weak. Looks like he needs to go back to the **training grounds**."

"No, Boss!" Eler shook her head and fell to her knees. "Please don't send my brother back there."

*Amur* was already injured by Abel's punch. If he went back to that inhumane place now, he would die at any time.

**Bianca** sat up and impassively observed the situation. She could roughly guess what had happened.

**She looked** at Amur writhing on the floor and said mockingly, "You just brought him here, and now you want to take him **away**?"

Abel narrowed his gaze and looked at Bianca's calm demeanor. Any other woman would already be shrieking in fear. However, she seemed unfazed.

"*He's* too weak," Abel said derisively, "yet he's thinking of protecting you. Are you expecting the weakling to protect you?"

"**Do** I need any protection?" Bianca said calmly. "I'm a prisoner here, just like them. Why would I need any protection? He belongs to you, not me."

Abel smiled, satisfied that Bianca knew her place. "You specifically requested for him, *Bianca*."

"What about it? I couldn't bear to see the siblings separated. If you want him back, take him away. After all, I don't have any power here. It's just that his abilities are limited, so you might as well keep him here to help you, or should I say, watch over me." Bianca tried to sound calm, but she was getting slightly nervous.

guess why Abel had punched Amur, but she was not sure if she would be able to keep Amur by her side if she said

any case, she had

quite impressed with Bianca's wisdom. Not only had she shown that she knew her place, but she sounded like she was submitting to

not make that obvious, but he could sense that it was indeed the

turned his head to look at Amur. He saw that the boy was glaring at him, unwilling to

coldly. "I'll give him another chance, Bianca. Don't try to brainwash him. If he thinks that you're his master, I won't hesitate to feed him to the wolves, and my pet wolves have been

his master, and I never will be," Bianca lowered her gaze and said. Her hands under the blanket were everything there, including Abel's twisted theory of

Abel left, Eler went forward and helped her younger brother up. She started sobbing when she saw that his forehead was

it hurt?" She helped Amur to the

### **Chapter 1063**

Eler could not help but shed tears when she listened to Bianca speak to her younger brother.

Amur would be sent back to the training grounds if Bianca had not saved him. She used a towel to stop Amur's bleeding, then cleaned him up. Other than the injury on his forehead, the other wounds were not serious.

Eler turned around and spoke to Bianca, "Miss, I want to go to get some medicine from Mr. Shanks."

"Mm." Bianca shook her head. She sighed when she looked at Amur's pale face.

Amur was much weaker than she thought. She would have to spend more effort on him to strengthen him.

After Eler left, Bianca asked, "Amur, do you want to protect your sister?"

"Yes!" Amur gradually calmed down. He felt that he could be calmer with Bianca.

"Then you'll have to work hard. You might be out of the training grounds, but you're still on the Island of Despair. You won't be safe just because you're here. You should know how to train yourself, right?" Bianca said. All she could do was protect him from being bullied by those people on the training grounds and made sure that he had enough food. She could not promise him anything else.

Amur touched the wound on his forehead and nodded determinedly. "Yes, Miss. I will make myself stronger so that I can protect Eler."

Bianca smiled. According to Eler, Amur was eighteen years old this year.

However, he did not look or behave like he was eighteen. Despite the harshness of the training grounds, he remained innocent as ever.

said, Bianca. I have to say that you can be very persuasive." Abel came through the door. Evidently, he had heard what Bianca said

was shocked. His eyes were gradually filled

calm as she sat on the bed. "Shouldn't a boy protect his

but why shouldn't he protect you too?" Abel glanced at Amur contemptuously, thinking that he was useless for being so frightened upon

related to him, and I'm also your prisoner." Bianca knew what she should say and what she should not. She could divulge her plans

said, prisoner. Come and pick your weapon." Abel waved his hand, and a mercenary came in with a bunch of weapons and dropped them on the

at the weapons, then

a weapon that you fancy. In the future, you'll use it to end Luke

monster!' Bianca cursed in her heart. Abel planned to use her to kill

not fight back for now, so she could only obey. She inspected each of the weapons on the floor and finally pointed at a dagger. "I

fluid motion, Abel stepped on the hilt and kicked upward. The dagger flew upward and dropped into

Bianca was very impressed by that display of skill, even though it was not very flashy. She thought that even Gale or Sean could not **do that**.

*Abel* threw the dagger toward Bianca. Amur gasped when he saw that.

**Bianca** did not move. The dagger fell next to her thigh and penetrated the bed board, but it did not injure her.

*Amur relaxed* slightly. The dagger was only a hair away from piercing Bianca's **skin**.

Bianca calmly pulled the dagger out and rested the tip on her chin. "This is a real weapon. Aren't you afraid that I might **kill myself?**"

"You won't," Abel said. He turned his sinister gaze toward Amur. "If you dare to kill yourself, the boy and girl will join you in *death*."

"I'm flattered that you'd think that my life is worth anything now," Bianca said mockingly.

**Abel ignored** that comment. He kicked a longsword toward Amur. "You've been using a longsword in your training, *right?*"

"**Yes, Boss,**" Amur replied woodenly as he looked at the longsword next to his feet. He put the towel down and picked the weapon up, and his hands could not help but shake again.

**Seeing** that, Bianca said, "You might as well pick a weapon for Eler too. After all, they'll be joining me in the training."

Abel nodded and allowed it.

at the boy. "Amur, go and help your sister pick a

to use whips..." Amur braced himself and said. If Bianca did not speak to him, he would not dare to speak when Abel was

a whip then." Bianca noticed a whip among the pile

picked up the other weapons and left the whip on

not leave but instead lingered in the room and stared at Bianca. Bianca felt uneasy when she saw that sinister smirk on

you want to hear any updates about Luke Crawford?"

did not say anything. It did not matter whether she wanted to hear it; Abel would tell her if he felt like it. She might as well shut her mouth and wait for Abel to continue

"Luke sent his mother to jail. I wonder if you've been so blind to marry such an ungrateful

discreetly shocked. It seemed that Luke had found the culprit of the break-in, and Allison was indeed behind

did not show his mother any

that Allison and Luke were drifting apart, but they were mother and son after all. If Bianca was still by Luke's side, she would try to persuade him to think

## **Chapter 1064**

Bianca tossed the dagger in the air, thinking of catching it as Abel did.

When she tried to catch it, the sharp blade cut her finger, and blood instantly gushed out.

"Miss!" Eler ran over and tried to stop the bleeding with a napkin. "You're too careless."

Bianca pulled her hand away and pressed on the wound. "It's just a small cut."

"Where did you get that dangerous weapon?" Eler said while she turned her head toward Amur. She was just about to reprimand her brother for not taking care of Bianca when she saw the sword in his hands. "Amur, how did you..."

There was a rule on the Island of Despair that no one should bring their weapons out of the training grounds.

"You'll get into big trouble if Boss sees it!" Eler broke out in cold sweat. Her mind raced, thinking of how she should dispose of the weapons before someone saw them.

"Boss gave us these weapons, Eler. The whip on the floor is yours." Amur stood up, tossed the longsword away, and patted Eler's shoulder with one hand.

"He?" Eler blinked. She had an ominous premonition. "Boss gave us these?"

It was not easy for Amur to leave the training grounds. She did not want her younger brother to go back to the hellish training regimen.

"Mm. We should train ourselves so that we can survive here." Bianca removed the napkin from her finger. The bleeding had already stopped. She spoke to Eler as she wiped the blood from the dagger with another napkin. Knowing what the young woman thought, she wanted to convince her.

stood there in a daze. She had never thought of that, but Bianca seemed to have moved her slightly. She could feel her blood

felt a twinge in her nose as she handed Bianca the tincture. "This is from Mr. Shanks, and it's very effective in healing

shook her head and pushed Eler's hand away. "Amur needs it more than I

going to use that much anyway. Mr. Shanks said that you should keep it in case you need it in the future,"

She gripped the dagger as she leaned by the bed without saying a

Seeing that Bianca did not intend to dress her cut, Eler took the bandages and helped Amur dress

said nothing. Eler might be oblivious, but Bianca understood what Shanks meant. He was trying to tell her that it would be incredibly difficult to

there was only one way

gripped the hilt tightly. She would have to live on no matter what, and she would eventually escape from Abel's

could do it, she could do

...

**"Bea!" Luke** dreamed of Bianca again. He opened his eyes and realized that it was only a dream.

**He dreamed** that Bianca was imprisoned in a small, dark room. Tears streaked across her face, and she was calling out his name in despair. He wanted to save her, but his hands and feet were restrained by thick and heavy iron chains. He could hear her desperate cries, but he was *helpless*.

**While the** scenes in his dream replayed in his mind, Luke supported his forehead with his **hand**.

*"Daddy, did you dream of Mommy?" Lanie said.*

Luke turned his head around and noticed that his son was standing next to his bed. He did not get up from the bed. "Mm."

"I dreamed of Mommy too," Lanie said. There was a hint of worry in *his eyes*.

**"What** did you dream about?" Luke reached out and patted his son's head.

Tommy and Rainie had been hoping for Bianca's return, but Lanie did not say anything about that and had even tried to cheer up his younger siblings. Luke knew that he missed his mother too, but he was not going to say anything because he was **the eldest**.

*"I dreamed* that Mommy told me to take good care of Daddy, and she said that she'll come back." Lanie's eyes misted with tears. He placed his hand on Luke's forehead and felt that it was not as hot as *before*.

**Luke patted** his head again. "Why aren't you **at school?**"

came back from school," Lanie said sternly. He continued after seeing Luke's shocked face, "You slept for an entire day. Uncle Johann said that you have a fever. It would have been a lot more serious if the caretaker

his forehead. His forehead felt cool, though his head felt

thought that it was because of a lack of sleep, but it turned out that he had fallen



Johann said that if this goes on, your body won't be able to take it, and I'll have to take care of Rainie and Tommy for you. I know that you're anxious about finding Mommy, but you'll have to eat your meals and have enough rest," Lanie

the caretaker went to clean the study earlier that morning, she noticed that Luke had not woken up, even though he would usually wake up at the same time. She went into his room to wake him up, but he gave no reaction. The caretaker's resulting screams shocked the entire Crawford

Crawford came into the room and found that Luke was having a fever. He hastily called Johann over to treat

rarely got sick, but he had a 107-degree fever this time. It took Johann a lot of effort to cure him, and he told them repeatedly to ensure that Luke had enough rest. Otherwise, his body might not be able to take the

listened and memorized all that so that he could repeat it to his father. After hearing what his son said, Luke patted the

his father's hand and said, "You have to take good care of yourself, Daddy. Now that Mommy is missing, Rainie and Tommy will be helpless if something happens

I promise," Luke said as he looked at Lanie's face. He had raised Lanie since he was young, and Lanie had inherited Luke's serious demeanor. Compared to other children of his age, Lanie rarely

## **Chapter 1065**

Lanie held Luke's hand tightly as they walked down the stairs. "Right, Grandma's lawyer is here. He's been waiting for you for more than an hour."

"Lawyer?" After he got downstairs, he looked around the living room but did not see Walter. Instead, there was a middle-aged man whom he did not know sitting on the couch.

He seemed to be the lawyer that Lanie was talking about.

The man sitting on the couch was called Henry Sneyder. He stood up when he saw Luke. Despite being one of the best lawyers in A City and having won many lawsuits for wealthy families, he could not help but feel nervous when he saw Luke.

"Nice to meet you, Mr. Crawford. I'm Henry Sneyder, and this is my name card," Henry said politely while handing Luke his name card.

Luke did not take it. "What is your business here, Mr. Sneyder?"

"It's like this. I'm representing your mother, and I'd like to discuss something with you," Henry said, though his arms remained in the same position.

He felt awkward because Luke did not take the name card.

"Where's Mr. Walter Long?" Luke said coldly as he brought Lanie to sit down on the couch.

He promised Allison that he would find a good lawyer for her, and the best lawyer in A City was Walter Long. The chances of winning the case were basically zero, and Walter had accepted the case as a favor for Luke.

Lanie turned to speak to the caretaker at the side. "Aunt Jemma, Daddy is already hungry. Can you bring him some oatmeal?"

The little boy was always concerned about his father's wellbeing. The caretaker smiled when she heard that. Then, she went into the bedroom and brought Luke a bowl of warm oatmeal.

Henry put away his name card in embarrassment and sat back down on the couch. "Your mother didn't want Mr. Long's help and hired me instead."

who Walter Long was. If Henry was one of the best lawyers in A City, Walter was one of the best lawyers in the country. No ordinary person would be able to hire him for

she hire you herself?" Luke

knew who the prosecution lawyers were, and he knew that even Walter could not win the suit. However, Walter could bargain for a

thought that Allison was incredibly stupid for not trusting

contacted me." Henry pushed his glasses. The incident had shocked A City, and many lawyers were hoping that they could get a piece of the

that it would be almost impossible for the Crawfords to hire them, so when Maxine contacted Henry to represent Allison, he accepted the job without even

not say anything. The caretaker brought him a bowl of oatmeal, and he began to eat

would have forgotten who Maxine was if not for the fact that she had shown up at T Corporation a few

that Luke offered no response, he wondered if it meant that Luke had tacitly agreed that he would be representing

no chance of winning this case, Mr. Crawford, but I can try my best to argue for a reduced sentence," Henry

continued to eat his oatmeal without looking at Henry. Any lawyer would have said the same

continued, "Your statement will be vital in fighting for a reduced sentence. Can you prepare a petition so that I can hand it to the

"I'm very busy." Luke understood the purpose of Henry's visit.

**Walter had** told him that Luke's petition was very advantageous for Allison because he was Allison's son.

Allison had stolen from the family, so Luke could make up a reason for why she was forced to do so.

However, Luke had refused.

"**Mdm. Tanner** will be sentenced to at least a few years in prison, Mr. Crawford." Henry thought that he could convince Luke, but Luke had refused him so **candidly**.

**Luke finished** the last bite of oatmeal and placed the bowl on the coffee table. "See him off," he **said coldly**.

"Mr. Crawford?" Henry stood up, still hoping that Luke would change his *mind*.

"This way, please," the caretaker said to Henry.

"*Mr. Crawford*, Mdm. Tanner is your mother. If you don't want to write the petition, can you be there on court day?" Henry tried to fight for the slightest advantage for **Allison**.

"I'll be on a business trip." Luke took Lanie's hand and **walked away**.

**The caretaker** escorted Henry out of the house.

Luke could see the confusion on his son's face. "Do you have a question?"

Grandma really going to prison?" Lanie asked. The adults tried not to mention that in front of the children, but Lanie had overheard bits and pieces of the

fully understood after hearing what Henry had

made a mistake, should you bear the consequences?" Luke asked as he led Lanie out of the

"Yes, you should," Lanie said.

bearing the consequences for the mistakes she made,"

his head to look at the setting sun. If Bianca were here, she would have disapproved of

thought that Luke's methods were too direct for the young children. It was better to educate them

held Lanie's hand tightly and sighed. "Bea, if you don't agree with what I'm doing, then you should come home

Tommy were in the garden with their great-grandfather. They ran toward Luke when they saw

hugged his leg and asked, "Why did you get out of bed, Daddy? Mommy said that you should stay in bed if

fine." Luke bent over and lifted Tommy in his arms. He could not help but feel forlorn when Bianca was

out and touched Luke's forehead, then at his forehead. Bianca had often done that to check if he had

## **Chapter 1066**

"Bea is one of us. You'll have to bring her back no matter what," Old Master Crawford said as he looked at the children who were playing in the garden. They might seem happy, but the old man could tell that they were worried.

The children were still young, and they needed a mother for their upbringing. Luke was not the kind of man who would marry another woman just for their children. He was not going to love another woman other than Bianca.

Luke looked at the sun that was setting beyond the mountains. Summer was coming to an end.

Bianca had said that summer was her favorite season.

"I will bring her back," Luke said. He had said the same sentence to many people, and he had sounded confident every time he said that.

He was not afraid of any danger. Bianca was everything to him.

Old Master Crawford patted his shoulder and said, "I've heard that Old Master Rayne's health is declining. I know that you're busy searching for Bianca, but don't forget to show some concern to the old man too."

Now that Bianca was missing, it was up to Luke to take care of Old Master Rayne.

"Mm." He nodded. As he looked at the playing children, his gaze dimmed with an undetectable hint of sadness.

...

The next two months passed in the blink of an eye. Bianca's stomach was growing. It was not very obvious, but one could see that she was pregnant.

put the apparatus down and said impassively, "The baby

her stomach. Life in the past two months had been tough for Bianca. Despite her pregnancy, Abel had insisted that she participate in various training sessions. They were not too physically intensive, but Bianca had never done it before, so she found it

persisted. The baby in her womb had persisted

still have to eat those." Shanks stood up and pointed at the supplements on

did not make those supplements. Instead, he had left the island and bought them on the

been two months, but various forces were discreetly observing the island. One had to leave the island from the opposite side so no one would notice

island was still in the process of rebuilding. If those forces or the government noticed that, they would certainly bring

nodded slightly and touched her stomach. Eler had taken good care of her for the past two months, and she did not skip a meal or miss out on

turned around and left the

the past two months, Shanks had rarely communicated with her, other than dressing

did not attempt to suck up to him like what other people did, nor did he find any joy in tormenting Bianca, as Abel

**Eler came** in with breakfast. Seeing that Bianca was done with her examination, she placed the tray on the table and said, "Please eat your breakfast, **Miss.**"

*Bianca looked* at the steaming hot meal. Her stomach was empty, but she did not feel any discomfort. "I'm not **hungry, Eler.**"

"**You** should eat some. You'll have archery class later, so you should take this time to eat. That'll be better for your stomach," Eler said. Abel had designed a series of courses for Bianca. Even though archery was not very physically intensive, it would not be good for her body if she ate later and had to exercise on a full *stomach*.

**Bianca felt** a pang of despair when she heard that. She looked at her hand; her fingers were already callused from wielding a bow. She got out of bed, sat on the chair, and slowly ate her **breakfast**.

"Have you eaten?" She asked.

**Eler and** Amur were subject to the training regimen too, and their regimen was several times tougher than Bianca's.

"**Amur and** I have eaten, Miss. Don't worry about us," Eler said while preparing the day's supplements for Bianca. Shanks had prescribed all that.

*She brought* the supplements and warm water to Bianca and said, "What did Mr. Shanks say earlier, **Moss?**"

"**The baby** is stable." Bianca instinctively touched her stomach and ate several more bites of her breakfast. She was feeling quite full, so she ate the supplements and gulped down the *water*.

*Eler frowned* when she saw that most of the breakfast was untouched. "You're eating too **little, Miss.**"

already full," Bianca said. She was not used to the

already three months pregnant. You should eat more." Eler thought that Bianca was too thin and that the baby did not receive

more during lunch," Bianca said with a smile. She went to the bedside, picked up a jacket, and suddenly seemed

Miss?" Eler asked out

turned around to look at her. "It's almost winter now,

almost winter. It should be very cold on the surface," Eler said. It was still fall, but the Island of Despair was very far north, so the temperature was very

was regulated in the underground

that long." Bianca shook her head helplessly and wore

winters in A City were usually very cold too. She wondered if Luke had prepared the children's

training time, Miss." Eler did not know what Bianca was thinking, but they could not afford to be  
Bianca and Eler left the room.

## **Chapter 1067**

"I'm worried that she'll tire out." Eler knew that Bianca's accuracy had improved. However, it was no use if Bianca's arms tired out before she could finish the task.

"Believe in her," Amur said.

The mercenary noticed the siblings whispering to each other and reprimanded them, "What are you doing? You don't get to eat if you don't finish the arrows."

After Eler heard that, she picked up the bow and arrows and began to shoot.

At first, Bianca found it relatively easy to hit the bullseye. As time passed, her arms began to feel weaker. When she stretched the bow, her arms were shaking.

"Continue!" The mercenary yelled. He did not give her time to rest.

Sweat poured down her forehead. Bianca pressed her lips together and fired another arrow, which hit the bullseye.

Eler could not help but feel nervous for her.

Abel came to the training grounds. When he saw that Bianca only had about twenty arrows left, he smiled and slapped her arm. "Not bad. You've hit quite a lot."

Bianca grunted. Her arms were already numb. After being deliberately slapped, she felt the pain spread throughout her limbs.

"Continue." Abel showed no mercy to her. He knew that Bianca was almost at her physical limit, but he did not give her a chance to rest. He wanted her to beg him.

Bianca picked up another arrow and fired.

She was moving slower and slower. Despite being already exhausted, she persisted. 'What an idiot!' Abel could not help but think when he looked at her tightly-pressed lips.

she could only beg him, he might give her

Bianca did not intend to show any weakness at

saw her miss several shots in a row. The mercenary pulled out those arrows and tossed them back at  
chuckled sinisterly and stood there to see how she would

Bianca an hour and a half to finish the remaining twenty  
already left. He was happy that Bianca had made a fool out

currently sitting in the laboratory watching Shanks conduct his experiments. "Do me a favor," he

do that, but there are conditions." Shanks did not look up. His hands continued to pour chemicals into different

a personal favor," Abel said. "By helping me, you're also

knew that it had something to do with Luke

"Say it," Shanks said.

smiled. "I've prepared a woman. All you have to do is change

"Consider it done," Shanks replied. He would be able to do anything medical-related.

...

A City.

Maxine sat next to the bed and looked at herself in the *mirror*.

*Under Hera's* encouragement, she had signed up for a cosmetic surgery procedure.

The procedure caused some visible changes to her mature and charming face. Her big and round eyes seemed pure and innocent, her nose received a tuck to make it rounder, and her lips were more *supple*.

She remained Maxine, but from certain angles, she looked like Bianca.

*Hera* had also encouraged her to do that. She said that Luke might consider approaching her if she made herself look like **Bianca**.

**Maxine** stood up and smiled. After the recovery period of two months, her features seemed more natural.

She had just finished a video call with her mother, and her mother had noticed **the changes**.

*Maxine said* that she had put on makeup, and her mother did not suspect anything at **all**.

Maxine was quite happy. She opened her closet, in which was a row of gowns.

There was a charity banquet in A City that night. The organizers had invited her to attend on behalf of Capital **Corp**.

had also found out that Luke would be

the best opportunity to flaunt herself in front of the

wearing a revealing evening gown, Maxine chose to wear a pink gown that was conservative yet trendy. That, as well as her makeup, accentuated her pure looks. She believed that she would be able to win Luke's

even happier when she thought about

ready by sunset. She was confident when she looked at herself in the

phone started to ring, and she

it?" The call was from

ready, Ms. Douglas?" Hera knew that Maxine was going to attend the charity banquet. It would be the first time in two months that Maxine appeared in front

course," Maxine said with a smile. Her current appearance was a departure from her usual style, but she was quite satisfied with

past two months, she had been discussing with Hera about revamping her

had managed to transform her image in two

I wish you success," Hera said with a smile. Maxine had paid for

## **Chapter 1068**

Socialite B rubbed his chin. After his friend's reminder, he realized that the woman looked quite familiar. "That's true. Her side profile does indeed look like that woman. Which family is she from?"

When he said that, Maxine happened to turn around and look at them.

Socialite A shook his head. "I don't know, but the similarities end there. The front profile isn't that similar."

"Yeah, that's right. Let's go in." Socialite B nodded, and the two men went inside.

Each guest was assigned a seat, which was written on the invitation card.

Maxine glanced at her table number on the invitation card and walked into the hall confidently. Tonight, she would successfully captivate Luke.

The Douglasses were not very influential in A City, but they were quite famous in the entire country, so her table was at the front.

After Maxine sat down on her appointed seat, she glanced at the tag on the seat next to her. The seat belonged to the Crawford family.

'It's Luke!'

Maxine could not hold back her excitement. She did not expect to be so lucky to sit next to Luke.

She was served a glass of red wine. She took a sip to calm herself down.

The guests continued to enter the hall. Many people looked at Maxine in her seat and realized that she was from the Douglas family.

knew who the Douglasses were, even though they did not have any businesses in

socialites who were talking about Maxine earlier also noticed her. "So

that Capital Corp is one of the biggest companies in the country. They're related to the Crawfords too." Socialite B was

are they related?" The other people did



I've heard that Mr. Crawford's mother has blood relations with the Douglasses," Socialite

silent when Allison was mentioned. The newspapers had reported extensively on how Luke had sent his own mother to

no one dared to say that Luke did the wrong thing. After all, the evidence

that's the case..." Socialite A said, "but I wouldn't have expected that they're related. I haven't heard Capital Corp helping T Corporation in any of the crises they faced. Apparently, Mr. Crawford had gotten Ms. Douglas arrested

No one from the Douglasses seems to care that Allison Tanner is in jail now. I guess we shouldn't probe into their family matters. I still wonder who could have abducted Mr. Crawford's wife though, the police haven't managed to find anything," Socialite B said

is here." Socialite A patted his

that two things were taboo to Luke Crawford. The first was Bianca Rayne, his missing wife, and the second was his

*Earlier*, Rainie's classmate had made fun of her because her mother had gone missing. When Luke knew about it, he instantly took action on that child's parents.

*Their family* business was declared bankrupt two days later.

*After* that, no one dared to mention Bianca's name in front of him in case they offended him.

*Luke walked* toward his appointed seat. Maxine had been listening to the conversations around her. When she heard someone say that Luke was coming, she turned her head to him and smiled gently.

*Luke stopped* walking when he saw Maxine. Three seconds later, he continued walking.

**Maxine's heart** kept thumping when she saw Luke sit down on his appointed seat. She wondered if Luke stopped walking because **of her**.

She dared not look into his eyes, but she noticed that Luke had paused for a while. It was only a few short seconds, but it meant that her presence had an effect on him.

**Maxine was** happier when she thought of that. She blushed intensely when she lifted her head to look at Luke. The redness of her face made her look as though she was drunk.

"**Luke**," she called out softly with a different tone of voice. Instead of sounding outgoing and charming like she used to, her voice was gentle and *soft*.

*Luke shot* a glance at her and turned away while nodding. That was his reply to her *greeting*.

He was shocked for a brief moment when he saw her side profile, but he did not mistake her as Bianca.

**However**, he was quite surprised that the face belonged to *Maxine*.

he became annoyed. If he knew that Maxine would attend the banquet, he would have asked Louis to represent

secretly happy when she saw that Luke did not say anything. She wondered if he was still in no see, Luke. How have you been?" She said, forgetting that the things she did had irked him up his wine glass and did not say anything, as though he did not hear what awkward. Fortunately, there was no one else at the table, so she did not humiliate fingers gripped the wine glass tightly, and she took deep breaths to calm herself down. 'It's okay. Luke is so cold because he doesn't want to show his excitement,' she tried to comfort must have sensed something when he saw her felt calmer after reminding herself that she had put in a lot of effort in the past two months. She smiled again and was about to talk to Luke when Percy and Nina came to the table and remaining seats at the table were for the here!" Percy was surprised to charity banquet was Luke's first public appearance in two months. Before this, Louis would have represented the Crawford family in public events while Luke was busy searching for

## **Chapter 1069**

Maxine did not want to humiliate herself, so she gave up on the idea of talking to Luke.

If she said something and Luke ignored her, the two people sitting opposite her would naturally look down upon her.

Maxine could only browse on her phone while drinking her wine. Occasionally, she would turn her head and look around. Meanwhile, Luke sat there with a cold expression. He was also alone, but he did not seem awkward.

As Maxine continued to sit there, she felt as though the people around her were mocking her.

Nina, sitting next to Percy, was quite reluctant to attend the banquet. She was discreetly observing Maxine.

Eventually, she was sure that Maxine had performed cosmetic surgery on her face. The signs were not obvious, but she could tell that her pure looks were not natural.

Remembering that Maxine had a crush on Luke, Nina's contempt toward Maxine grew.

'Does she think that she can win Luke's heart just by making herself look like Bianca? How stupid of her.'

The more she thought about it, the more contemptuous she became. As Bianca's best friend, Nina would help her protect the people and things that were most important to her.

Luke took another sip of the wine, unbothered by his noisy surroundings. His mind was only occupied by Bianca.

Bianca was the love of his life and the mother of his children...

Luke drank glass after glass of red wine.

Maxine smiled when she saw that Luke was trying to drown himself in alcohol. Previously, she would have tried to stop him, but now, she hoped that Luke would be drunk.

would not be able to clearly discern reality once he was drunk. That way, Maxine had more chances to get close to

the end of the banquet, Luke had drunk a lot of wine. After most of the guests left, he stood up with the help of the table, and he began to

Maxine wanted to support him when she saw

was faster than her. He dragged Luke and looked at him contemptuously. "How embarrassing. Do you think that you're at

narrowed his gaze. "I'm not

drunk, but you drank a lot. Let's go. I'll bring you home." Percy knew very well that a drunk person would not admit that he was drunk. He carried Luke behind his back and

walking, turned around to look at Maxine,

with you?" Maxine was angry that Percy had snatched her chance of getting close to Luke, but she could not do anything

upward. "Were you planning to bring

She meant the suites.

is that? I only want to bring Luke home." Maxine felt embarrassed that Nina had seen through

so?" Nina stopped smiling. She looked at the backs of the two men and said, "Did you perform your cosmetic surgery in A City? It looks

Maxine was stunned. No one else noticed that she had performed cosmetic surgery, so how did Nina *do it*?

**Nina turned** around and left while Maxine remained frozen on the spot. No matter how Maxine would try to change her face, Luke would never look at her.

**His** heart belonged to Bianca and no other woman.

**The** extended Rolls-Royce drove toward Crawford *Manor*.

Luke sat in the backseat. He was quite intoxicated, but his sitting posture remained elegant.

"**Look** at him again, and I'll throw him out of the car." Percy had been dissatisfied with the attention that Nina had been **giving Luke**.

*Nina* turned around and looked outside the window. "If you really want to throw him out of the car, you wouldn't have picked him up in the first place."

*Percy grunted* coldly and looked at his drunk **friend**.

He would not have helped Luke if Maxine was not there to take advantage of him.

"Hasn't he given up on searching?" *Nina asked.*

"No. He's still at it," Percy said. After two months with no developments, everyone should have known what it meant.

Bianca was most likely dead, and her body had been disposed of in the sea. The sea was so vast, and there were so many **creatures**.

body would have been eaten before it could float to the

give up that easily." Percy knew his friend very

nodded. She would not want Luke to give

sighed as she looked out of the window. In the next second, Percy gripped her chin and forced her to look at him. "You can look at

not resist. Her eyes fell on the man's

had been more and more domineering recently. Not only had he moved into the same mansion as Nina, but he also did not allow her to

The Rolls-Royce arrived at Crawford Manor.

got the butler to help him carry Luke into

was not in bed yet. After seeing the two men carry his father into his bedroom, she walked toward

her head and asked her softly, "Why aren't you sleeping

eyes were filled with worry. She reached out and held Nina's slightly cool hands. "Why did Daddy drink so much, Ms. Nina? Is he worried about

and crouched to Rainie's eye level. "It's normal for your Daddy to worry about your Mommy, isn't it? It's not what you think. Your Daddy drank so much because he was at a business

## **Chapter 1070**

'She can't say she hates them?'

Percy narrowed his gaze. When he saw the love in Nina's eyes when she talked to Rainie, he suddenly thought of an idea.

He thought that he should let Nina bear a child for him.

The two people in the car were silent again. Percy's words made Nina remember the child she once had.

She had hoped to deliver the child safely, but Pierre had crushed her hope.

Did she hate him for that? She did, but she could not do anything about it. She was no match for Pierre at all.

She had lost to him, and her child was collateral damage. Nina could not forget the scene when blood spurted from her stomach.

Over countless nights, she had dreamed of the child that was not fated to be hers. Every dream was torture.

All that was because of Pierre, but Nina could not tell Percy that.

Meanwhile, Maxine, who had barely spoken to Luke for the entire night, watched as Percy brought the drunken man away.

She was furious, but she could not throw her tantrum in front of others.

Maxine left the scene, pretending to be unperturbed. On the way back to the hotel, she received Hera's phone call.

She rejected the call instantly.

phone began to ring again in less than half a minute. She could not take the ringing anymore and answered the call. "What is it?" She said

tone, Hera could tell that Maxine had failed to achieve what she

told Maxine what she had been informed. "Ms. Douglas, Abel will be

him come then. What does that have to do with me?" Maxine rolled his eyes. She could not seem to

says that he wants to meet you. Shall we meet him tomorrow?" Hera said. She was quite relieved that Abel was

had been using Bianca's disappearance to threaten Hera. She wanted

Hera was not able to do that herself. Only Abel could do that, but Abel seemed to have gone missing as well. Fortunately, Abel finally

to ask Abel to kill Wayne when they would

he want with me?" Maxine became wary. Their deal was complete once Bianca was out of the scene. If the police or Luke found that she was meeting Abel, all that she did would be

don't know the details, but Abel said that it'll be good for you," Hera told Maxine what Abel told

*Maxine* was thoroughly annoyed, especially when she did not know what the other party wanted with her. She did not want to meet *him*.

Before she could give her answer, Hera tried to persuade her. "I know that you want to wash your hands off the deed, Ms. Douglas, but if you want to do that, then you should listen to what I say. It won't be good for us if Abel implicates us."

*Abel* had complete information about the two women, but they did not know who Abel was, aside from his *name*.

Maxine thought that it made sense. She did not want any extra trouble. "Alright, bring him over tomorrow," she **said**.

"**Alright**." Hera wanted to ask more about what happened at the banquet, but Maxine had already ended the call. Hera could only shrug. "You have such a bad temper. No wonder Luke doesn't even want to look at *you*."

She had just finished mumbling when she received Leia's call.

"Tsk," Hera said and answered the call. Before the other party could say anything, she said, "If it's about the thing I promised, I'll do **it**."

"*When can you do it?*" Leia sounded **anxious**.

"*What's the rush?* The person that will help you will arrive tomorrow. I'll talk to him." Hera sounded casual. The person in danger was *not her*.

"I want to meet him." Leia was not relieved. She felt that she had to talk to that person herself.

"It's not up to you to meet him. As long as you prepare the money, I'll make the arrangements," Hera said. It would be very troublesome if Leia got to meet Abel.

to say something when she suddenly heard some movement in her room. Her heart skipped a beat, and she could only comply. "Alright. I'm running out of time. You'd better make

the call ended, she stared at her room door and hesitated to

was pressuring her. After he knew that she had lost her baby, he came to look for her almost every day. At first, she could say that she was not feeling well, but she was beginning to run out

said that he was going to bring

refused. However, Wayne threatened to kill

did not want to die, so she could only say that she was still recovering. She had to be healthy so that she could bear another child

had been stalling for two months, and Wayne was losing his patience. She knew that Wayne would take her away by force if she did not do

was why Leia was so anxious. She did not want to be a fugitive like

the noises in her bedroom again. Leia knew that it was Wayne urging her to

out of the bedroom and saw Leia standing there with a pale face. She walked to her and touched her forehead. "Why do you look so pale, Leia? Are you feeling

Leia said with a smile. If she wanted to join Wayne in exile, Jack and Queenie would have been dead