

Be Gentle 1071

Chapter 1071

The most amusing thing was that Brody was hugging another woman sleeping in bed when Wayne found him. Brody did not know what happened until the woman woke up and screamed until she lost her mind when she saw all the blood.

It had already been eight hours, and the doctors could not do anything.

News soon spread throughout A City, and Leia slowly lost interest in him after that. She did not mind marrying a eunuch, but she did not want to be marginalized in the Hilton household together with him.

Brody's father had many illicit relationships with women, and it was not surprising if he had other sons elsewhere. If he decided to select another son to inherit the family business, the family would have no reason to object. When that happened, Brody would not have any standing in the family.

Wayne did not leave behind any traces. The Hiltons did not know who did the job, and Tania was helpless about it.

"Don't say that, Wayne." Leia clung to him and unleashed her charm on him. "Grandma introduced Brody to me because she could not bear to see Dad and Mom play favorites. She doesn't want me to suffer here."

Wayne glared at her fiercely.

Leia was afraid, but she continued to speak to buy herself more time. "Other than that, she's been very nice to me despite knowing that the Bianca b*tch is her biological granddaughter. If I follow you, I won't get to be by her side anymore, so I thought I'd spend one last birthday with her before leaving."

Wayne hugged her with one arm.

Leia was shocked. She thought that his hand was going to go around her neck...

"Please, Wayne?" She begged softly.

you stay for a few more days, as long as you satisfy me today." Wayne grinned evilly and pinched so naughty, Wayne." Leia forced a smile on her face, though she was

Wayne went wild on her in that long night, Leia clenched her fists, thinking, 'He'll be dead

'Soon...'

...

to the airport early the next

saw Abel come out of the arrival gate, she smiled and waved her

came over and hugged her slender waist. "Long time no see, beautiful lady. Do you miss

She giggled and leaned onto him. "Of course I miss you. I think of you every day and

might be a foreign man, but any woman in A City would fall for his handsome

Abel said as he pinched

*The two people left the airport and took a cab to Maxine's **hotel**.*

In the car, Hera asked him, "Why were you gone for so long?"

"I was very busy. Why, are you sad?" Abel ignored the driver's curious gaze and continued to tease **Hera**.

"I wasn't sad, silly. I'm being annoyed to death," Hera grumbled. She did not say who or what was annoying her because the driver would **overhear it**.

Leia had been a pest to her. Hera could not live in peace because of *Leia's incessant urgings*.

"Oh? I'll have to compensate you for that tonight." Abel sniffed her cheek.

The driver could only shake his head helplessly. 'Sigh, young people these days!' He *thought*.

Maxine had already informed the hotel staff of their arrival. When they reached the hotel, the staff brought them upstairs and pressed *the doorbell*.

Maxine opened the door and saw the two people outside. "Come in," *she said*.

Abel was mildly surprised when he saw Maxine's pure-looking face and wondered why her demeanor changed completely after only two months.

Hera took Abel's arm, and they went into the suite. She clicked her tongue when she saw the interior, thinking that Maxine must be loaded to stay long-term in such a lavish *place*.

did you come here?" Maxine asked Abel as she closed the

a flight." Abel smiled. After leaving the Island of Despair, he disguised himself and took a plane from the

was shocked. "Aren't you worried that you might

even know who abducted Bianca. Why should I be afraid?" Abel said. As far as everyone else was concerned, he was a law-abiding citizen

not very happy when she heard him say that about the man she

what Abel could do, she knew better than to lose her temper in front of him. "You should have kept a lower profile. If the immigration police suspect you for the slightest bit, they'll be able to track you

seemed unperturbed. "As the saying goes, the most dangerous place is the safest. I'm not going to be afraid. Isn't that so, beautiful

smiled gently. "I trust in your

"Good girl." Abel kissed her.

heart fluttered, and she leaned closer

Maxine looked at the couple contemptuously.

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Abel's mocking comment made Maxine blush. She was used to being pampered, and other than Luke, no other man had ever treated her like that before.

That made her even angrier.

"Looks like you've been seduced by Bianca too," Maxine said coldly.

"Alright, that's enough. Aren't we on the same side? We shouldn't be quibbling." Hera stepped up to be the mediator when she saw that the atmosphere was becoming tense. It would be bad if Maxine made Abel angry before the deed was done.

Maxine grunted coldly, sat on the couch, and turned her head away.

Abel lit up a cigar and dragged from it. "You don't have to worry about Bianca. Now that she's with me, she'll be begging for me to kill her."

"That better be the case." Maxine paused for a while and added, "Not only that, but I want her to give up entirely on Luke."

"I think so too." Abel laughed brazenly as he leaned on the couch. The main objective of his visit was to ask Maxine for a favor.

"Help me get some photos," he said.

"What photos?" Maxine finally turned to look at him.

grinned. "Photos of Luke with other

wanted Bianca's love for Luke to die entirely, then be reborn from the ashes. If she had nothing but hatred for Luke, she would lose all hope of reuniting with him. Desperate women like that would be easily

chuckled coldly. "You might as well find someone to edit those photos for you. Why did you have to come all the

be convincing. This is the latest drug. If Luke takes it, he'll fall unconscious and be under your control." Abel took out a small vial from his

eyes sparkled when she

knew what she was thinking, so he reminded her, "He'll be unconscious, but he won't do

not embarrassed that Abel guessed her thoughts. She asked, "Do you have any other

the side effects are serious. If you don't give Luke the correct dose, he might be impotent for the rest of his life." Abel took out a blue vial and flashed a sinister grin. "Do you want this? If Luke is impotent, he won't have any other

Maxine refused instantly and rolled her eyes at him. She wanted to be physically intimate with Luke, but she would not want to permanently

not try to convince her. He stashed away the vial and took out a name card. "Once you get the photos, you can send them to my

"**Sure.**" Maxine narrowed her gaze as she looked at the white vial. With the drug, she could definitely take some *nice photos*.

She could not help but be happy when she realized that she was involved in Bianca's torment.

After that, Abel talked about the next topic. "Ms. Douglas, I have some business for you. I wonder if you'd be interested."

"What business?" Maxine replied carelessly, her attention fully focused on the vial.

"**These** two drugs," Abel said while taking out the blue vial once more. "These are the newest products from our lab. They'll bring huge profits if you manage to market *them*?"

Abel needed funds to redevelop the Island of Despair, so he asked Shanks to invent **the drugs**.

"*Didn't* you say that it'll cause permanent damage?" Maxine frowned. She had no intention of investing **in it**.

"**As** risky as it might be, there'll always be a market for it. You don't have to worry about that," Abel said. Lust was a major driver of human behavior. He knew that people would buy the drug to satisfy their personal desires.

"I can't market this in the country. What kind of collaboration are you looking for?" Maxine became serious. She finally understood Abel's true purpose in meeting *her*.

"My lab has many other drugs that can cure various diseases, and they're much more effective than what you can find in the market now. As long as I receive funding, I can apply for patents, and there'll be plenty of chances for us to collaborate," Abel said. There was money to be made in *both channels*.

not market certain drugs openly, so he had to look for Maxine. She was the perfect partner because both of them had dirt on each

sank into deep thought. Investing in a pharmaceutical startup required a lot of money, and she could not make that

you give me a few days to think about it?"

can only give you one day. If you don't give me an answer, I'll just have to look for another partner." Abel did not give her too much time to consider. "I'm very confident in my researcher, Ms. Douglas. I can say that any drug on the market now isn't as effective as what

saw that he was in a hurry to look for a partner. "Is there anything

Abel could tell that she was hinting at him to leave. He hugged Hera and stood up. "You can contact me with your decision before this

Maxine planned to discuss it with her parents. To Capital Corp, the amount that Abel asked for was not a lot. However, it was a lot of money

Hera to the door. "Beautiful lady, how about we rent a room

good. I'll be able to accompany you for the next few days." Hera was very excited. With him around, she would be able to enjoy the services of the six-star hotel for the next

I like it when you are proactive." Abel hugged her waist. Before he left the room, he turned and spoke to the woman behind him. "Luke Crawford might like women with pure looks, but he is more fond of women who are self-reliant. Think about it, Ms. Douglas. Luke's attitude toward you might change if he finds out that you're not relying on your

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Looking at Hera's face, Abel smiled but did not say anything. The couple went into the suite.

He would not refuse any woman who offered themselves to him. Moreover, Hera was quite bodacious.

An hour later.

Abel leaned on the headboard and smoked a cigar. Hera took his cigar, kissed his cheek intimately, and took a drag of the cigar. She instantly coughed out loud.

"Ugh. Why is this cigar so spicy?" She frowned and handed the cigar back to him.

Abel took the cigar, not feeling any pity for the woman. "It's spiked with something."

His cigars were too strong for ordinary people. Only one woman in the world could accept the cigar, and that woman was Kassy.

Indeed, no other woman compared to her.

"It's spiked? What did you put inside it?" Hera was shocked.

Abel smiled mockingly when he saw the change in her expression. "Don't worry, you'll be fine."

Hera breathed a sigh of relief after hearing that. She leaned on his chest again and looked up at his sculpted chin. "Where have you been? I can't even get through you on the phone. Don't you know how much I missed you?"

Abel enjoyed her gentle and cloying speech.

went back to where I came from, of course. I can't possibly hide Bianca in any random place," he

all-powerful in A City. When Abel decided not to kill Bianca, he did not linger in A City in case he

and continued asking curiously, "So where are you from? I can go and look for you if I

from..." Abel's gaze turned profound. Was she trying to pry information

bad, no matter how beautiful or seductive she might be, he would not tell her about the Island

the cigar with his fingers and lifted Hera's chin. "Why do you want to know? Do you want to be

curious, silly." Hera could tell that Abel did not intend to tell her, and she was smart enough not to pry into his secrets. Instead, she changed the topic. "How long are you going to

depend on Maxine Douglas," Abel said. In other words, if Maxine would agree to invest in his venture, he would go

the case..." Hera thought of how Leia had pleaded to her, so she grabbed his chest. "Can you do me a happy to serve a beautiful lady." Abel held her

him about Wayne and Leia, then eagerly waited for an

"Wayne Blatt?" Abel seemed to have remembered that name. He had agreed to dispatch that person, but he had to change his plans after he changed his decision on Bianca's *fate*.

"**Yes.** Leia has been bugging me. Why don't you help free her from that man's clutches?" Hera said.

"I can do that." Abel nodded. After all, he needed to find something to kill time while waiting for Maxine to get back *to him*.

"**Yay!**" Hera cheered. She wanted to take her phone to **call Leia**.

"*Don't call* her yet. Spend your time with me instead." Abel took her **hand**.

Hera slumped coyly into his embrace. "Naughty you!"

"*Heh*, so what if I'm naughty? I thought you liked that." Abel *smiled seductively*.

...

Leia received Hera's call that evening. After hearing that help would come soon, she breathed a sigh of relief and told Hera that Wayne would be coming to her **house tonight**.

"**Leia**, do you mean that you want him to kill Wayne in your house?" Hera *asked*.

Leia was stunned for a while. She did not know where Wayne was hiding, so the deed could only be done in the Norman *residence*.

"I don't have any other choice. If that man is in a rush to go away, my home will be the only option," she said decisively, not expecting that the police would suspect her if Wayne died in her **house**.

well, you're very assertive. It looks like you're not worried that you might be implicated. I'll go and make arrangements," Hera said with a smile and ended the

a deep breath. Was she being assertive? She was forced to

would not have done that if Bianca, Wayne, Jack, and Queenie had not forced her to take such

Abel infiltrated Leia's bedroom according to the map that Leia had given

very nimble, and he did not trigger any of the security measures. Leia was not afraid of the man in the mask. Instead, she felt quite confident when she

man would be able to deal with

should I hide?" Abel

Leia pointed at the open closet. "Wayne will be coming later, and he'll definitely open the closet to see if I've packed my bags. You can kill him right

looked at the spacious closet and frowned. "So you mean I should kill the first person who opens

you have Wayne's photo? Make sure that it's him before you do anything drastic." Leia bit her lip. She did not want him to kill the wrong

his photo alright, but I don't want to lose the advantage of surprise. If I give him any chance to react, both our lives will be in danger. Don't touch the closet if you don't want to die." As Abel said that, he went into the closet and closed

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"What else could be more important than spending time with my mother?" Leia smiled innocently.

Queenie felt relieved seeing her daughter like that. Ever since Leia lost her baby, she had been blaming them for not saving her child or her relationship with Brody.

She might still be holding that grudge if not for Brody's accident.

After the incident, Queenie could sense that Leia was growing apart from her and her husband. She wanted to mend the relationship, but Leia did not give her the chance to do so.

It had been very long since Leia behaved so warmly toward her. Queenie thought that Leia had perhaps forgiven her.

"Good girl. Come sit beside me." Queenie smiled warmly and patted the space next to her.

Leia took off her slippers, reclined on the bed, and hugged Queenie's waist. She could not help but think of what was going to happen in her bedroom.

Queenie felt Leia's presence beside her. She sighed when she thought of Bianca, who was still missing. "It would be so nice if your sister is still here."

She would want her daughters to be by each of her sides.

A hint of viciousness appeared in Leia's eyes when Bianca was mentioned, though she did not express it in her voice. "Mom, can you tell me a story?"

"Story?" Queenie was surprised. "What story?"

"You know, the stories you used to tell me when I was younger. I'd like to listen to them again." Leia lifted her head and looked at her innocently. "I was thinking that if I have a child, I'd read her bedtime stories like how you used to."

smiled gently and patted her head. "You're grown-up now, but you still want to be told bedtime stories. What do you want me to

fine, as long as you're the one telling it," Leia said while leaning close to

for a while and began to tell her

was gentle and soft, but Leia was not paying attention. She tried to listen to any noise coming out of walls were too well-insulated, and she could only hear Queenie's voice. That made her even failed to kill Wayne, Wayne would

was no way to explain to Wayne why a man was lying in ambush in she or Wayne would

in the bedroom, Abel waited quietly in the closet for Wayne

heard a slight noise, but it was not the door opening. Abel was sure that it was not Leia or any of her family

that the person was

the dagger in his hands tightly. The footsteps outside were closer and closer, and a bloodthirsty grin appeared on his

At the moment Wayne opened the closet doors, Abel stabbed his body with a dagger. He was very familiar with human anatomy, so he knew where to stab to ensure certain **death**.

Abel's dagger plunged into Wayne's kidney and twisted.

"Who... are you?" Wayne looked at the dagger in his body in shock. Then, he turned his gaze toward Abel.

"Your killer." Abel did not give him the chance to recover. He pulled out the dagger and wanted to pierce his throat.

Wayne gritted his teeth and dodged *the attack*.

Blood kept pouring out from the hole in his body. If the wound was elsewhere, he might be able to fight back. However, his organs were injured, so he could only *dodge*.

Abel's next few attacks missed. "You're not bad, but you still have **to die!**"

"**Why...** do you want to kill me?" Wayne's strength was rapidly draining away. He stumbled and fell on one knee.

Seeing that Wayne could not fight back, Abel laughed brazenly and pointed his dagger to Wayne's chin. He was quite impressed with Wayne's combat prowess, but he thought that Wayne was stupid to let down his guard because of **a woman**.

"*It's not* me. It's your woman." Abel covered his mouth and plunged the dagger into **his neck**.

The dagger severed Wayne's jugular vein. Blood splattered on Abel's body.

a fool." He took a napkin and wiped his blade

to the floor. His body twitched for a while, and his eyes

He was dead.

his mission was complete, Abel whistled a happy tune. Indeed, the scent of warm blood from the jugular vein was the sweetest of all. He took the debit card that Leia had prepared for him and jumped from the blood was still flowing. Soon, it covered the

midnight, Leia's phone vibrated. Her heart skipped a beat, and she picked the phone up. It was a message

seeing the codeword, she breathed a sigh

codeword meant that Wayne was

not control the excitement in her heart, though she had to pretend that nothing

Queenie looked at her suspiciously. "Leia?"

a little sleepy, Mom. You should rest too," Leia said with

Queenie nodded in agreement.

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Queenie turned around and wanted to get her phone to dial for emergency services when she caught a glimpse of the pool of redness in Leia's room.

"Ahh!" She noticed the man lying in the middle of the pool. It was Wayne Blatt, the wanted criminal!

Queenie's face turned pale, and her heart started to pound faster. She could not catch her breath, and she fell on the floor and passed out.

Leia felt a thud next to her. She opened her eyes slightly and saw Queenie passed out next to her. 'Useless!' She thought.

She continued to lie on the floor. Her surroundings were totally quiet, and her nostrils were filled with the thick stench of blood. The blood belonged to Wayne. She would have gone into the room and felt the blood turn cold with her fingers if not that it would be hard to explain her actions later on.

Leia did not feel very comfortable, but she did not want to get up. Instead, she remained in that position and waited for her father to return.

Meanwhile, Abel evaded all the security cameras, left the Norman residence, and went into Hera's car.

"Ugh, why is there so much blood?" Hera asked. Her stomach began to churn when she smelled blood.

"I slit that man's throat," Abel said. There was still a glint of bloodthirstiness in his eyes.

Hera could not help but shudder when she heard that. 'You slit that guy's throat? How barbaric!'

"Are you hurt?" She pretended to be concerned.

"That's not possible," Abel said while taking off his clothes. He had prepared another set of clothes because he knew that the encounter was going to be bloody.

was quite surprised by Abel's ability to kill another person without getting

knew that Wayne was a special forces soldier who had injured several police officers

Abel could kill him without getting hurt. As she started the car, she asked, "What are you going to do with

somewhere hidden and burn them." Abel was not going to leave any trace of his

Hera knew where such a place was, so she

morning, Luke was woken up by a call

"Serious news."

it?" Luke was worried that the news might

anxious tone, Percy said, "Don't worry, it's not about your wife. It's Wayne

slightly relieved when he heard that it was not about Bianca. "What happened

being wanted throughout the country. They had suspected that Wayne was related to Bianca's disappearance, but they did not have any

"Wayne Blatt is dead. His body was found in the Norman residence. When Mr. Norman came home last night, he found his wife and daughter passed out on the floor, so he called the police. The body was found in a horrific state. The police haven't announced anything yet; they don't want to cause a panic," Percy said. He had just received the information too.

"**Did** Leia kill him?" Luke asked. He knew that Leia had a grudge against **Wayne**.

"*What a creative guess. There's not a hint of blood on Leia's body. The entire bedroom floor is covered with blood, but there were none of her footsteps either. It meant that she wasn't in the room when Wayne died, and she passed out when she saw the body. The police are still investigating the reasons behind the murder, but I think that it's too suspicious,*" Percy said. He called Luke to tell him *his suspicions*.

"*Indeed, it's suspicious.*" Luke stood up. "If Wayne is found dead in the Norman residence and Leia isn't the killer, the killer must be someone else. Who could they be, and why would they want to kill Wayne?"

"I guess that they want to help Leia..." Percy guessed. "From the preliminary autopsy findings, the killer isn't a weak woman like *Leia*."

"*We'll* have to get to the bottom of this," Luke said decisively. He planned to go to the police station **later**.

"*Sure. I knew you'd say that.*" Percy could guess that Luke would want to investigate the matter, so he had already made arrangements.

After the call, Luke went downstairs. Old Master Crawford and the children were already eating their breakfast at the dining *table*.

"*You're awake.*" Old Master Crawford nodded at Luke. "Eat your breakfast. You'll be very busy today."

"You already know what happened at the Norman residence?" Luke asked.

"Mm. The police want to withhold the news, but they can't withhold it from me," Old Master Crawford said and took a sip of milk. "I heard about the news earlier. You should go over to the Norman residence and see if they need any *help*."

"Mm." Luke nodded and sat down.

overheard the conversation and asked curiously, "Daddy, what happened at Grandpa's

You should eat more." Luke placed a bread roll on Lanie's

not ask any more questions. He knew that it was a matter among the

breakfast, Luke sent the children to school, then went to the

officers were going in and out of the Norman residence. Jack was sitting on the couch with a solemn expression on

caretaker came and told him, "Mr. Crawford is here,

to come in," Jack lifted his head and said. He knew that Luke would be here. After all, Luke had suspected that Wayne had abducted

Wayne was dead, Bianca's abductor was

into the house and nodded at

Luke stood up. The police were almost done with gathering evidence. He brought Luke upstairs and said, "You're quite

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Jack sighed when he looked at the mess in the room. His eyes were lifeless, as though he had aged ten years overnight.

"Did they bring Wayne's body away?" Luke asked.

"They did," Jack said worriedly. "His jugular vein was completely severed by a sharp blade."

That was the coroner's preliminary finding. When Jack saw Wayne's body, he could even see the bones inside. It was a gut-wrenching sight.

Luke was not that interested in Wayne's death. He was so concerned because Wayne might have known something about Bianca's disappearance.

Now that Wayne was dead, Luke had no other leads.

His phone started ringing. He went to the balcony before answering it. "What is it?"

The call was from Percy. "I've found the man you want. My men have just tied him up. Where do you want me to deliver him?"

"Your house," Luke said. Ever since he found out that Xavier had harassed Bianca the morning she went missing, they had been trying to find the man. Xavier had hidden himself well, and it took them so long to find him.

"I'll go over now." He left the balcony immediately.

Luke went to tell Jack. "You can call me if you need anything, Dad. I have to go now."

"Alright then. I won't bother you." Jack waved his hand, indicating understanding.

far as he knew, Luke was only a businessman, and he would not be of much help in these circumstances. He was afraid that his political enemies would take the opportunity to bring him down and bring trouble to his wife

looked at Xavier, who was bundled up like a burrito. He smiled sinisterly and told the driver, "Back to the the driver replied and started

to struggle, but his entire body was tied up, and he found it hard to even wiggle

movement, Percy turned his head and glanced at him. He did not want to get himself involved, but his subordinates called him to tell him that they found Xavier at a ranch in

hesitating, he drove there to capture Xavier himself. As expected, he found Xavier there and tied him glared at him and did not say

been hiding at the ranch for the past few months. The only time he left the place was when he went to warn

not want to flee abroad. He hid there so that he could dig up some dirt

him, he did not manage to prevent Bianca from being abducted, and his hiding spot was found. Even so, Xavier did not beg for

car drove back to

After Percy got out of the car, he told his subordinates, "Bring him to the living room. We'll hand him to Luke when he comes."

"Yes." Two burly men came over, picked Xavier up, and went to the *living room*.

Percy sauntered to the wine cellar and selected a few bottles of red wine from his collection. He would be bringing those to Nina's mansion later.

"Sir, Mr. Crawford is here," the butler said as he walked into the cellar.

"That's fast." Percy was still holding onto a bottle of wine, not expecting that Luke would arrive so quickly. He handed another bottle of red wine to the butler, "Open and decant this."

The butler took the bottle and went away.

Percy selected a few more bottles. He would bring them along *with him*.

Back in the living room, he saw Luke sitting opposite Xavier.

He went over and asked him, "Did you manage to find *out anything?*"

Luke stared intently at Xavier. He had been sitting there for five minutes, and Xavier did not say a word.

Seeing that no one said anything, Percy shrugged, sat down on the couch, crossed his legs, and stared at Xavier. He might be a captive now, but he was not going to divulge what he knew *so easily*.

The butler brought the decanter and several glasses to the living room. "Your wine, **Sir.**"

Percy poured two glasses of wine and handed one of them to Luke. He took the other one, leaned back on the couch, and looked at Xavier

the two people were looking at him, Xavier closed his eyes to avert

and took out a stack of documents from

brought something? What is it?" Percy picked up the documents curiously and flipped through them. "I didn't expect you to do this. Not bad, Xavier, I can see that you've been a burden to

opened his eyes. "Just

was his misfortune to

this." Percy brought the document in front of Xavier and flipped to the

eyes widened when he saw the document. "How dare you do this, Luke

Bianca?" Luke crossed his arms in front of him. His tone was low and sinister, like

his fists and glared at Luke. "Relinquish

indicated that Luke was one percent away from holding a dominant stake in Tanner

Chapter 1077

Xavier thought that he was quite pathetic.

However, that was all because of Bianca. He looked at the stack of documents in front of him and considered carefully. Finally, he decided to spill the truth. "I only know that someone wanted to harm Bianca that day, but I don't know who the culprit was."

"Tell me everything that you know," Luke ordered. He had already dispatched his subordinates to the ranch, and he would soon find out if Xavier was lying.

"You can't imagine how powerful that person can be." Xavier glared at Luke with bloodshot eyes. "I've also been trying to search for Bianca ever since that day, but I've never managed to find her. Luke, if I can't find her, you won't be able to find her either."

Xavier was quite confident of his methods, but he had not been able to find anything ever since Bianca was abducted.

Luke narrowed his gaze and looked at Xavier.

Xavier was not afraid. "That's all I know. You must be sending your subordinates to the ranch now, and they will bring you all the information I have. You can continue the investigation if you have the ability."

"I'll get to the bottom of it, and I'll bring Bianca back. What did you tell her on that morning?" Luke asked.

"I knew that someone was going to harm her, so I went there to warn her. Unfortunately, Bianca is irredeemably silly. She knows that someone wants to harm her, yet she thinks that she can find out who that person is. What do you think happened then? If she could trust in you a little more, all this wouldn't have happened!" Xavier said.

He had been thinking of that ever since he started searching for Bianca.

If Bianca were a little more reliant on Luke, she would not have been abducted.

Luke narrowed his gaze as the anger in his heart grew.

Bianca knew that she was in danger, but she did not inform him. That had caused him much regret.

he had stayed with her on that day, all of that would not have happened, and Bianca would still be with

noticed the change in Luke's expression and said, "What do you want to do with

him to the police,"

Seeing that Luke had gotten what he wanted from Xavier, Percy got his subordinates to bring Xavier to the

the bodyguards went away, the living room once again fell into

took his wine glass and downed its

shook his head. "What a waste of good

ignored his comment. He poured himself another glass and

the bottle. "Don't waste my fine wine. At least appreciate it

put his glass down and

blaming yourself for what happened to Bianca." Knowing what Luke was thinking, Percy put the bottle down and patted Luke's shoulder. "She wanted to thrive without always relying on you. You can't blame anyone if the accident

came from a different background compared to Luke. It was not surprising that Bianca wanted to be

his arms in front of him. His expression was

Percy knew that there was no point in trying to convince him. Luke would have to walk out of his depression **himself**.

Half an hour later, Jason came in with a box. He placed the box on the coffee table and said, "Boss, this is what we found on the ranch."

Percy glanced at the documents that filled up half of the box. "That's all from Xavier?"

"**Yes. Most** of it is related to Madam," Jason replied. He did not know which ones were useful, so he brought everything *over*.

Luke tipped the box over. Percy held his hand and said, "Let me help you."

"No need." Luke refused and began to search the contents of *the box*.

Percy *sighed* and turned to look at Jason. "What else did *you find*?"

"*There were* no other findings. Xavier had been focusing on his search for Madam," Jason said **politely**.

Percy wagged his hand in understanding.

Luke *flipped* through the documents. Xavier had conducted a thorough background investigation on Bianca and the people who were close to **her**.

However, the page on Bianca's abduction *remained blank*.

Disappointedly, Luke put the documents on the *table*.

could not bear to see his friend like that. He placed the wine bottle on the table, stood up, and said, "Looks like I'll have to waste this bottle of wine

picked up the bottle. Instead of pouring the wine into the glass, he poured it into his

give up yet. We're still on the case, and we'll find Bianca eventually," Percy said as he looked at his not reply. He continued to drink

around and said to the butler, "Look after him and make sure he doesn't drink too much. Get someone to drive him home

"Yes," the butler replied and nodded.

back to the cellar to pick up the bag of wine bottles. Then, he drove to Nina's

to wake up late today. She had just changed her clothes and was preparing to make breakfast before going

that Bianca was missing, Nina and Sue were taking care of the company on

turned around when she heard the footsteps and was surprised to

be at work?" "Shouldn't you be at work?" The two people said at the same

was surprised again, though she was the first to answer. "I woke up late, and I'll be going to

noded and placed the bag on

Chapter 1078

Nina was stunned when she saw that Percy had poured all the eggs into the pot. She stirred it with a ladle, covered the pot, and turned around to prepare the toast.

The toast she prepared previously was only enough for her.

Percy crossed his hands in front of his chest. The sight of her preparing breakfast while wearing an apron brought an unprecedented surge of warmth to his heart.

Nina was preparing the salad and picked up her pace when she noticed his scorching gaze. She asked, "Is there any news on Bea?"

Although she woke up late, she knew that Percy had gotten up and left after answering a call. She heard him mention Bianca and Xavier Tanner.

"No." Percy shook his head, and his gaze shifted to the bowl full of washed cherries.

He stretched out his hand, picked two, and plopped them into his mouth. The cherries were big and sweet. They were delicious.

Nina wanted to say something but hesitated.

When Percy noticed her expression, he raised her eyebrows and asked, "What's wrong?"

"Those are for Kari and Teri." Nina was a little puzzled as Percy did not usually enter the kitchen nor eat fruits. He was acting a little abnormally.

To be specific, Percy was acting more and more abnormally.

"Jason Doyle's daughters?" Although Percy was indifferent to these kinds of things, he had heard about the twins due to Jason's tormenting ex-wife who had done a lot of absurd things.

"Yeah, Kari and Teri were clamoring for cherries yesterday." The water in the pot was boiling. Nina took out two large plates and put them aside. She then picked up the ladle, lifted the lid, and scooped the eggs out.

"Are you still taking care of the kids?" Percy asked.

Teri don't have to go to school for these two days, and the babysitter is occupied, so Sue had to bring them to work." Nina was not sure why she was explaining so much to Percy, but she still told him

say that she isn't a fan of kids? Why is she still helping Sue take care of them, then?' Percy thought asked, "I thought you don't like kids?"

not sure how to

put the salad aside, chaotically toasted some more bread, and then put them on two separate

knew that Percy had a large appetite, so she deliberately put more slices of toast on his plate before she topped the salad off with her special

recipe was shared with her

heart sank when she thought of how Anna was in the hospital waiting for surgery. Anna had decided to undergo a liver transplant, but there was no suitable donor for her. Nina's were not a match, so the only option was to wait for Sean to get out of prison before they could proceed with

had about half a year left to serve in prison, but after considering Anna's condition, the court reduced his sentence. Sean would be released in half a

that time came, she was not sure whether she would be happy

breakfast prepared by Nina wafted with a tempting aroma that excited Percy. As he stared at the plates of breakfast on the kitchen island, all he could think of was when he

took out a tray and wanted to put the plates on the tray before serving

stepped forward and said, "I'll

He picked up the two plates with both hands. Nina was worried that they were too hot to hold. She held the tray and suggested. "Let's place them **here?**"

"**No** worries." Percy walked out holding the plates without a bother in the *world*.

Nina placed the tray back, picked up some utensils, and headed *out*.

Percy was already sitting at the dining table. There were two steaming plates of eggs on toast on the table. There were blooming lilies in the vase on the table. The fragrance of the flowers and the aroma of the food stimulated her senses.

Nina sat on the chair and handed him a set of **utensils**.

Percy took it and ate the **toast**.

Listening to the clinking noise of the utensils colliding with the plate, Nina was not sure how to feel. 'Is there something wrong with me? Why does this make me feel wonderful?'

...

The other side.

The Island of Despair was tranquil. Bianca was lying on the bed, the silence making her feel extra lonely.

She glanced at the wall, and there were already many markings *on it*.

Every day, she would make a mark on the wall. Fearing that she would lose herself if she stayed here for too long, she started keeping a record of the **days**.

Everything was the same in the past few days. Her training was getting more intense while she was becoming more and **more proficient**.

enough, Abel had not made an appearance in the past

over and glanced at the clock. It was four o'clock in the morning, and she was

you awake?" Eler's voice came from behind

closed her eyes, not wanting to let Eler know that she was

past month, she had never gotten a good night's sleep. Bianca would sleep for two or three hours at most before waking up from her dreams of Luke and

did not tell anyone about her pain and suffering. She knew that if she told someone about it, Shanks would find a way to

However, she did not need help.

missed Luke and her kids, but she could not get out of her current situation, so she could only depend on her dreams to alleviate

of her dreams brought her pain, she was willing to endure it as those dreams helped her remember what Luke looked

not hear a reply from Bianca and thought that maybe she was overthinking. She then smiled and closed her

The next day.

and Eler went to the training ground

then discovered that the trainer for the day was not a mercenary hired by Abel

Chapter 1079

Bianca listened carefully to his every word, unwilling to miss out on anything.

She had a basic understanding of the drugs in front of her after Shanks' explanation. She was a little disappointed to find out that these drugs would not cause much harm to the human body.

After Shanks went through the basics, he went on to teach them how to operate the instruments without checking whether the two of them could keep up with his pace.

Bianca was introduced to these instruments when she was in school. Compared to Eler, she was much more proficient. After Shanks assigned them a task, she mixed the materials and completed the purification process not long after.

Shanks sniffed her end product and said as he nodded in satisfaction, "Not too bad. You're done for the day."

Bianca raised her eyebrows. Since she arrived on the Island of Despair, today was the first time she knew she could get out of class early. However, she was happy to leave. She took off her gloves, turned around, and walked out.

"Miss..." Eler held the test tube and looked like she was about to burst into tears. She looked at Shanks imploringly. She was fine serving others, but this was torture for her!

Shanks said with a cold expression, "You can only leave when you're done."

"Mr. Shanks, this is too difficult for me..." Eler felt helpless. She did not get to go to school much back when she was in the village. Her family was not well-to-do, so she had given up the opportunity to go to school to her younger siblings. This was her first time being exposed to instruments like these.

Shanks did not react to her pleas and continued staring at her coldly.

Eler sighed and had no choice but to continue with the task at hand. Her mind was all over the place and she almost knocked over the lamp.

Bianca walked out of the room and looked at the bright corridor. The incandescent lights were constantly shining, reminding her of daylight.

laughed mockingly. 'No matter how bright the lights are, I'm still underground where there's no such thing as day and night. When the lights are off, the only thing left is

saw Abel approaching, Bianca's body stiffened and she subconsciously wanted to

smiled wickedly the moment he saw her. He sped up his pace and stopped in front of

kept quiet and stared at the evil

lifted her chin and asked, "Why are you

me to leave early," Bianca

was in charge of planning her schedule, so he had a grasp of the classes she took

increased the strength of his grip. He squeezed her face and asked, "Do you

The emotions in her eyes

him a lot, don't you?" Abel grinned, let go of her, and crossed his arms in front of his chest. He looked down at her and said, "Luke doesn't seem to miss you all that

you mean?" Bianca asked warily. 'Luke doesn't miss me? Did he go to see Luke? Does he know that I'm

Seeing the looming hopefulness in her eyes, Abel wanted nothing more but to shatter it.

"I heard that Luke has been intimate with a woman recently. If it's not because he's still legally married to you, they'd already be walking down the aisle," Abel said. Maxine had not taken action, so he had no photographic evidence **yet**.

However, he did not need photos to start a rumor. All he wanted was to *trigger Bianca*.

"That's ridiculous." Bianca lowered her gaze and did not react to what he said. That was because she knew Luke was not that kind *of person*.

Although a few months had passed, she was certain that he was still looking for her, so Abel's words held no credibility.

"**You don't** believe me?" Abel raised his eyebrows. He did not expect that his words could affect their relationship in the first place.

"If there's nothing else you want to talk about, I'll go back to my room first." Bianca turned around and walked to **her room**.

Abel looked at her as she walked away. She was like a noble swan, unaffected by his *words*.

He pursed his lips. His eyes were like poisonous snakes, evil and scheming. He was interested to see how long Bianca could keep up her proud and **confident appearance**.

The moment Bianca walked into her room, she fell limply on her bed as though all her strength had been *sucked dry*.

"Luke..."

had gotten a scare when Abel mentioned still not aware of his true identity. If Abel approached him, she was afraid that Luke up the small stone on the side and carved a line on the wall. Another day had passed in this touched her bulging belly. Although she was imprisoned, her physical condition was decent and their child was slowly growing up in her belly day put the stone aside and whispered, "Baby, if something happens in the future, don't blame me for the choices I have finally done with the experiment and returned to the room. She saw Bianca spacing off, so she stepped forward and asked, "Miss, are you Bianca was deep in her thoughts thinking of Luke and came back to her senses. been thinking about everything and anything, including the identity Abel would use to approach Luke to retaliate was in despair knowing that no matter what Abel did, she would still be imprisoned, unable to look so good. If you're feeling uncomfortable, don't force yourself," Eler said nodded and replied, "I'm a little tired, I want to lie down for

Chapter 1080

Eler nodded and said shyly, "It was so scary just now. Fortunately, Mr. Shanks was there to help..." Bianca's expression was calm when Eler mentioned Shanks again. She noticed how shy Eler would get whenever she mentioned Shanks. It was exactly how a 19-year-old girl would act when she had a crush on someone. Eler noticed that Bianca was silent. The thoughts in her mind were overwhelming her, so she blushed and asked, "Miss, you're more knowledgeable than me. What kind of girls do you think Mr. Shanks likes?" Bianca shook her head to indicate that she had no clue. Abel had once mentioned that the reason why Shanks was helping him retaliate against Luke was that the love of his life died from the bombing of the Russian army. From that, she could determine that Shanks was a loyal and affectionate man. No other woman could hope to have a happy ending falling in love with him. "Sister!" Amur walked in, his expression instantly changing when he heard what Eler said. Eler was taken aback as she did not expect that her secret would be overheard by someone else. "Amur..." She was a little upset that Amur had heard it.

Their village was destroyed and their parents were killed. Amur hated everyone on the Island of Despair, including Shanks.

Amur's expression was sour, but he did not want to comment in front of Bianca. Hence, he said, "Sister, can I talk to you outside?"

her lips and

hated the people from the Island of Despair, but Shanks was excluded. She fell for him because she believed that Shanks was a

felt the tension and persuaded Eler. "Go. It's best that both of you clear

walked out to avoid disturbing Bianca. Amur closed the

her involvement was no longer required, Bianca lay on the bed and closed

Shanks?!" Amur's eyes were red as molten anger rolled through him. He asked directly without thinking whether it would hurt Eler's feelings.

is very nice." Eler retorted with a blushed face, her lips trembling slightly. She did not understand why he was

was different from the others on the Island of

can't fall for the men here. They're horrible people." Amur was overwhelmed by emotions and grabbed

he was thin and weak, he was still taller

looked up at her brother and said, "Amur, he's different from others. Others hurt us, but Mr. Shanks would never. He treated you before... How can you forget the kindness he has

"**Forget?** Sister, you're the one who has forgotten!" Amur was irritable seeing that he could not persuade her to change her mind. He turned around and kicked the wall a few times. Months of training had made Amur stronger. He could see cracks in *the bricks*.

"Amur, what are you doing?!" Eler immediately grabbed his arm. If Abel saw Amur acting like this, he would be *locked up*.

Amur's face was contorted with rage. He turned to look at Eler and said, "Have you forgotten that our parents died because of the poisonous gas? Aside from Mr. Shanks, who else do you think has the capability to create that poisonous *gas*?"

When Abel led the mobsters to attack the village, he took away all the young laborers. He then ordered for the remaining middle-aged and elderly laborers to be locked in a house where poisonous gas was released.

Their parents were also inside that house...

Eler was taken back. She said, "Mr. Shanks' drugs are used to save people. The poisonous gas may have been created **by others...**"

Amur was disappointed that Eler was obsessively siding with Shanks. "On the entire island, he is the only one with that *ability*."

'Others? Does she think that the blockheaded mercenaries have the ability to create *poisonous gas*?'

"**That's** impossible..." Eler still refused to *believe him*.

"**I created** it." Out of the blue, Shanks' voice sounded.

Eler and Amur turned to look at him. Eler's face was pale. She could not believe what she just heard.

"Mr. Shanks, how could you?"

poison gas you're talking about is indeed my creation. I prefer to study drugs that can kill compared to those that can save lives." Shanks' blue pupils were motionless and reminded Eler of a bottomless abyss. She was unsure whether what he said was the

two steps back, her eyes filled with despair. She could not believe that she had fallen for

shaking uncontrollably. His hands curled into fists, and he wanted to kill

the door of the room and looked at Eler and Amur with a cold expression. When Amur was about to lose control, she said slowly, "Eler, Amur, come

was stunned. His mind was filled with thoughts of revenge, but Bianca's words snapped him out of

around, held Amur's hand, and rushed into

walked in, Bianca nodded slightly and shut the door without bothering

looked at the brown iron door, then turned and walked toward the research

room, Eler broke down. She squatted in a corner and silently cried while covering her

her. Her gaze fell on Amur, who was still clenching his fists. She said, "Do you think you can beat Shanks up just after a few months

shook, and he stood up straight in an instant. His clenched fists loosened and tightened again and