

Be Gentle 1081

Chapter 1081

Bianca did not want to be involved, but if there was no one to guide Eler and Amur, they would fall into a bottomless abyss.

She said so much in hopes that Amur would not push himself into a corner.

Amur's current physique and skills were far from enough to escape this place.

Amur nodded, bent over, and said, "Miss, I understand."

Bianca glanced at Eler, who was still crying. She nodded and said, "It's time for lunch. Go have something to eat."

Amur glanced at Eler and nodded. "I'll bring both of you some food."

"Okay, thank you." Bianca thanked him.

After Amur left, Bianca sat on the edge of the bed and silently watched Eler.

Eler cried for a long time before noticing that Bianca was staring at her. She silently wiped her tears away.

"Miss..." She felt like breaking down again as soon as she spoke.

Seeing her tears falling uncontrollably, Bianca grabbed some tissue and handed them to her. "Don't cry. Love is complicated but you'll figure it out eventually."

"Miss, have you experienced this before?" Eler asked with her eyes red from crying.

'A crush?' Bianca thought of Luke, and the corners of her mouth rose slightly. When she was in high school, she thought that their love would lead to a dead-end, but they eventually made it to where they were.

"Yes, I have," she nodded and said, "Eler, don't worry about it so much. You still have a long way to go. Who knows what will happen in the future?"

sat next to her and said, "The saddest thing to me is that Mr. Shanks, whom I always thought was kind, would actually do such

Bianca patted her head.

that this was something every teenager would go through. "You'll learn from this experience. You have to be strong. Amur still needs

of her brother and nodded. "Thank

well aware of her younger brother's temper. If it were not for Bianca, he might have already made a move on Shanks. There must be a reason why Shanks managed to stay on the Island of Despair for so long. Apart from his excellent medical skills, he might have other

when she saw that Eler had slowly snapped out of it. She looked at the markings she made on

to get out of here and return to Luke's side so that I can accompany our children as they grow up. When Rainie grows up, she might face the same troubles

not be able to understand teenage crushes, so how would he advise their children on what to

a pain in her heart as she thought about it. She had missed out on too much of their lives and did not want to miss out on

looked at Bianca's peaceful expression and sighed. She hugged her while saying, "Miss, did I remind you of something that makes you

a young daughter. One day, she'll grow up to be your age and maybe she'll face the same troubles." Bianca gently touched her head. "Eler, do you think I can see my family

Eler hugged her even tighter. This was the first time she was hugging Bianca. After what had happened, she thought of Bianca as a big sister who would help her find her way through

Bianca chuckled softly. 'Yeah, sure.'

The next day.

Bianca went to the training ground alone. Shanks stood there and raised an eyebrow when he did not see Eler. "Where's **Eler?**"

"*She's* not interested in medicine, so she went along with Amur to the other training ground," she replied, standing *in position*.

Eler was not sure how much Shanks had heard yesterday, but whether he heard about her crush or not, she decided to **avoid him**.

Although Bianca did not agree with her decision, she respected her wishes.

It just so happened that Abel did not have any objections, so Eler and Amur went for training together.

Shanks nodded and remained expressionless as he said, "Let's start. Move that stool *over there*."

Bianca saw a stool near the wall and looked at him with some **doubt**.

"*It's for you*," Shanks said. Pregnant women like Bianca were prone to fatigue, and her feet might swell if she stood for a long **time**.

Bianca walked over, moved the stool, and sat down.

Shanks began his lecture.

Bianca listened carefully and jotted down everything he said. Her gut feeling told her that this information would be useful someday.

For several days in a row, Shanks was **Bianca's teacher**.

after class, Bianca was about to leave when she saw Abel standing by the

I have something I want to show you." Abel grinned and

looked at his ill-intentioned smile and had no interest in what he had to say. She said with a cold expression, "I'm

you want to see Luke?" Abel was shaking the phone in

and looked at him warily. "What did you do

do anything. Don't worry, he's fine. And..." Abel deliberately stopped midway through his

what?" Bianca could not maintain her usual calmness whenever Luke

he's having the time of his life." Abel turned on the phone, zoomed in on a photo, and handed it to

in the photo was Luke. He was lying there with his eyes closed. His clothes were stripped off and a woman was lying on his

woman's face looked familiar. Bianca felt sick. Before she realized who the woman was, her eyes rolled to the back and

moved quickly and carried her into his arms before she fell to the floor. He looked at her closed eyes and frowned fiercely as he uttered, "What the hell?! She fainted just

looked at Bianca, who had passed out, and shifted his accusatory gaze

understood what he meant and said innocently, "I didn't know she's so

Chapter 1082

As a pregnant woman, Bianca was too frail. Shanks had to take it seriously now that she was at risk of a miscarriage after being triggered.

Abel was not anxious when he heard that the child in Bianca's stomach was in danger. He leaned against the wall and whistled, feeling a little triumphant. "What a weakling."

Shanks' hands were in his coat pockets as he looked at the woman lying on the bed. He said with a blank expression, "Do you want to keep the baby?"

"Of course," Abel replied without even thinking about it.

"Keeping the baby will be more troublesome," Shanks said as he knew that Bianca's body would be affected after going through these near-misses.

Abel shrugged his shoulders and acted indifferently. "It doesn't matter how troublesome it is as long as I can control Bianca."

Eler walked into the room and was stunned when she saw what was going on. She looked up at Shanks and asked, "What happened to Miss?"

Shanks did not answer her. Since Abel was sure that he wanted to keep the child, all he had to do was follow his instructions. He said to Eler, "Go to my research lab and bring the blue box over."

"Huh?" Eler was dazed and looked at him quizzically. She wanted to avoid him but did not expect to meet him so soon. At that moment, her mind was all over the place and she was not sure how to react.

Shanks saw her dumbfounded reaction and said, "If you don't want her to be in trouble, go get my blue box now."

He had specially prepared a box full of medical equipment for pregnant women because of Bianca.

"Ah, yes!" Eler glanced at Bianca who had fainted, then turned and ran out.

She found the box that Shanks mentioned, picked it up, and ran back.

"Mr. Shanks, please save Miss." Eler looked anxious and pleaded with him.

Shanks opened the box and took out the equipment inside. He raised his gaze, glanced at Abel and Eler, and ordered, "Both of you, get out."

replied with a hum and turned around to

stood there and looked anxiously at Bianca. "Mr. Shanks, Miss will be

will only disrupt my treatment," Shanks said as he put on

Eler heard this, she dared not to stand around any longer. She turned around and walked

Shanks began to treat Bianca.

waited anxiously outside the door. After an hour, Shanks

"Mr. Shanks, is Miss..."

took off his gloves, his blue eyes darkening as he said, "She's okay for the time

a sigh of relief. Shanks continued talking, "She's still undergoing infusion therapy. Go and check in on her. You can remove the needle when she's

Eler was ill at ease. After all, Bianca was fine in the morning but fainted a few short

you know how to remove the needle?" Shanks asked

his gaze and blushed. She nodded and replied, "I know how to

retracted his gaze and walked to the research

been waiting in the research lab with his legs on the coffee table. There were a few human specimens beside

He asked, "How's she doing?"

Shanks gave him a cold stare and said, "If you continue to torture her, she'll not be far from death."

Abel had no guilt nor worry. It was as though Bianca's life and death did not matter to him. "What a *weakling*."

Shanks put the box aside and replied, "She's weak."

"She has to give birth to this child. Thank you for your hard work," Abel said while handing him some documents, "This is the contract I signed with Capital Corp."

"It's *done*?" Shanks knew that Abel wanted to start a pharmaceutical company. He would be in charge of research and **development**.

"It's **done**. There'll be a large sum of funds." Abel smiled with satisfaction. With Capital Corp's support, he could make a profit from both ends. "Once the patent has been applied for and approved, the company will be immediately *established*."

Shanks sat in a chair and looked through the documents Abel had brought **over**.

Abel waited patiently.

After Shanks was done reading them, he said, "I won't be involved with the company. My role is just to provide **the formulations**."

"No problem. Do pay more attention to Bianca." Abel stood up with a satisfied expression and left the research lab.

The other side.

Eler watched over Bianca. She waited until it was dark. Only then did Bianca **wake up**.

"Eler?" Bianca looked at the person beside the bed and said with a weak **voice**.

awake!" Eler was surprised and happy. She stood up and looked at Bianca, then said tearfully, "You nearly scared me

expression turned sour. She touched her belly and said, "What's wrong with

fainted and..." Eler paused. She knew that she cared about her baby. Although the baby was saved, she was not sure if telling her about the danger earlier might trigger

what?!" Bianca grabbed her clothes suddenly. 'Did something happen to

"You were at risk of a miscarriage but Mr. Shanks treated you and the baby is safe now. However, you'll have to be on bed rest for the coming week..."

was relieved to find out that her baby

why did you suddenly faint?" Eler asked

worry about it." Bianca glanced at the time and realized that it was already eight o'clock in the evening. It was probably midnight in

and the kids should be

"Miss..." Eler felt her sadness.

little hungry." Bianca changed the topic and did not want Eler to ask any more questions.

I'll go to the kitchen and reheat this for you." Eler nodded, stood up, and left with the meal that she had prepared for

lay still in bed, her stomach still hurting. She had two children, so she knew why she was feeling like

was so frail that she fainted when she saw that photo of

Chapter 1083

Luke stared daggers at her as soon as she said that.

Maxine paused and kept the rest of what she wanted to say to herself. His gaze was spine-chilling. It reminded her of a demon from hell that was capable of silently killing anyone.

She felt scared, but she had no regrets.

The night before, she found the opportunity to spike Luke's wine with the drug that Shanks gave her. Things went well. After he drank it, he passed out.

Maxine then sent him to the hotel, took the photo that Abel requested, and kept a copy for herself.

She deliberately did it so that Luke would get the wrong impression. However, she did not expect that when he woke up the next day, he did not react and even treated her as though she was invisible.

Maxine was beyond furious, so she came to Old Master Crawford in hopes that he would be on her side.

Susan was just enjoying the drama. When she saw that Maxine was so scared that she immediately kept quiet after being stared at by Luke, Susan said mockingly, "Luke, how could you do something like this? As part of the Crawford family, I need to say something. We're still unsure if Bianca is alive yet you did such a thing to this poor girl. What are you going to do?"

"Mom!" Louis tugged at her sleeve.

Susan did not want Luke to marry Maxine. However, when she was presented with such a good opportunity to ridicule Luke, she naturally would not let it go.

She glared at her son, shook him off, and said, "You can consider getting married, but seeing that we have yet to hear anything about Bianca, you won't be able to get a divorce just yet. If you can't get divorced, it won't be an easy task handling the Douglas family."

done talking?!" Old Master Crawford said and felt disgusted with Susan from the bottom of

on her nails as she said, "I'm just laying out the facts. Luke's mother is in jail. As his elder, I have the responsibility to give him advice! Else, our family might be the center

up!" Old Master Crawford could not stand it any longer and yelled

do you want? I'll redress the balance for you!" He looked at the crying

was not a fan of Maxine, he knew that Luke was in the wrong this time. On top of that, the Douglas family was powerful. Old Master Crawford had to be fair and just to avoid conflict from

at Luke timidly and deliberately acted like she was at a

"Luke, don't deny that we—"

body, I would know if I had done it." Luke finished speaking and stood up. "Miss Douglas, if you insist that we slept together, please show

photo enough?" Maxine blushed and stood her ground. That photo was enough to prove that they were together that night. She had even put in the effort to leave some

proves is that we shared a bed," Luke said in disgust. He was certain that he had not done anything that

"You..." Maxine did not expect him to **say that**.

"*You* wouldn't be able to take a photo if I were conscious." Luke remembered that he had passed out after drinking just a glass of **wine**.

He could hold his liquor fairly well, so the only explanation was that Maxine had spiked **the wine**.

"You weren't sober, that's why you thought that I was Bianca and did those things. Luke, I don't need you to take responsibility, but it's not fair that you're blaming everything on me. You're hurting me." Maxine acted like a **victim**.

"If I did it, I'll take responsibility for it." Luke put his hands in his pockets and displayed the aura of a champion as he said, "But only if you have more evidence to show."

"*You mean* you'll only believe me if I'm pregnant?" Maxine did not expect him to be so difficult. If she knew he would be like this, she would have left immediately after taking the photo to avoid so many *complications*.

However, she was so obsessed with him that she thought doing this would mean she could get her hands on **Luke...**

Maxine regretted it, but at this juncture, she had to grit her teeth and insist that they had slept **together**.

"**You** won't get pregnant." Luke's deep gaze that was as sharp as a knife fell on her face. "Because I didn't sleep with *you*."

"*Luke!*" Old Master Crawford frowned. As an elder, he was ashamed that Luke was still denying it even though there was **a photo**.

if Miss Douglas can provide more evidence, I'll gladly take responsibility for it," Luke said, "I'm heading upstairs to check on

said that, he went upstairs without looking

picked up the teacup, pretentiously took a sip, and said with a smile, "Look, this is Allison's good son. Sure enough, the apple doesn't fall far from

this enough of a sh*tshow for you?" Old Master Crawford stared at her and thought that Susan's presence was nothing

something major happened, she would never be on the same side

I'm telling you is the truth. Maxine, don't be too sad. It's unfortunate that you met Luke. If he doesn't admit it, you should just assume it didn't happen," Susan

up, stomped her feet, and said to them, "I'm not lying

be fair to you in this matter." Old Master Crawford held the photo and planned to find someone to examine it. If the photo was real, he had to give the Douglas family an explanation. If the photo was fake, there would be no need for that.

all true..." Maxine emphasized again,

It's late, you should head back." Old Master Crawford wanted her gone because he had a headache looking

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Luke looked at his son seriously. The light shone on his childish face, highlighting his serious expression.

He touched his son's face and said, "I have only one wife and you only have one mother. Her name is Bianca."

Since high school, his heart had always belonged to Bianca. Even when they were not together, he still cared a lot about her and silently paid attention to what she was doing.

Luke never thought about starting a new relationship even when she went to study abroad after the twins were born.

Luke and Bianca were soul mates. Once they were in each other's lives, they were destined to be involved for a lifetime. The connection they had would never be forgotten.

"Daddy, do you love Mommy?" Blanche asked again. He loved his family a lot and did not want to be separated from them for even a moment.

"I love her," Luke nodded and said. His love for her was not the superficial kind but the kind that was etched deeply in his soul.

Blanche smiled, the worry in his eyes vanishing as he lay down and obediently covered himself with the blanket.

Luke tucked him in and said, "Go to bed."

"Okay, Daddy, good night." Blanche closed his eyes.

Ever since Bianca was kidnapped, the task of putting them to bed had fallen on Luke.

After the child was asleep, Luke turned off the lights and walked out of the bedroom.

Crawford stood there waiting for him with his

Luke closed the door and stood in the hallway, his gaze looking

Master Crawford said, "Tomorrow, I'll get someone to verify the authenticity of the

photo is real," Luke said. There was no need for authentication. When he woke up the morning before, he knew that this would happen the moment he saw Maxine lying by his

was his carelessness that led to him falling prey to

not want to drink at home so that the kids would not see him, hence he went to the bar to drink to relieve his lovesickness. Unfortunately, that gave her a chance to take advantage of him.

Master Crawford's cloudy eyes widened as he said, "The photo is real, so how are you going to explain it to the Douglas

worry about this," Luke

Douglas family is going to come over to make a scene, so how can I not worry?" Old Master Crawford was an astute man. When he saw Maxine leave, he knew that it was a matter of time before the Douglas family came over to

care of this." Luke walked to the door of his bedroom, paused, and stood there as he assured Old Master Crawford. "I didn't do anything that would wrong

Crawford sighed when he saw Luke firmly denying having slept with

'Even if Luke claims that he did not sleep with Maxine, she has photographic evidence. What evidence does he **have**?'

If they used the photo to insist on it, Luke would be at a *disadvantage*.

He shook his head helplessly. Allison was already in jail, but she still gave the Crawford family *trouble*.

Old Master Crawford walked back to his bedroom with his cane. He knew that Luke might not hear the end of it after provoking someone like **Maxine**.

Old Master Crawford was right. Two days later, Irving Douglas brought his wife, Verona Smythe, and Maxine to Crawford Manor. They came with a clear motive—to get an explanation from **Luke**.

Seeing them appear, Old Master Crawford had no choice but to smile and entertain them. He asked the housekeeper to call Luke downstairs.

"*Here's* some tea, enjoy," Old Master Crawford said after the servant made **the tea**.

Verona snorted coldly and looked unfriendly. After all, the two of them never had a good impression of Luke. When they heard that their daughter was taken advantage of by him and Luke refused to be held accountable, she naturally was not in a *good mood*.

Compared to Verona's cold attitude, Irving seemed neutral about it. After all, the Crawford family was well-to-do. It was an opportunity for their two companies to join forces and create an empire. It was not the best idea to burn all bridges now. He picked up the teacup, raised it to Old Master Crawford to show his respect, and drank the **tea**.

Old Master Crawford smiled and looked at Maxine. He thought to himself that Maxine seemed different from the last few times he saw her. 'What happened *to her*?'

When Old Master Crawford was staring at Maxine, she remembered the old man's plans for the photo she had shown. She asked, "Old Master Crawford, I trust that you've gotten someone to authenticate the photo and found that *it's real*."

is real," Old Master Crawford said. With this photo, their family was at a

wouldn't lie." Maxine lowered her gaze slightly, but the corners of her mouth could not help but raise into a smile. With this photo and her parents, Luke and the Crawford family would have to give her

was convincing her parents to come, she had gotten scolded. Verona ranted on and on, not understanding why she did

was done could not be undone. She and Irving could only come here and provide her with a downstairs with Blanche following closely

knew that the Douglas family was here, he went and pestered Luke as he was worried that Maxine would snatch his father

knew about his thoughts and took him

servant said, "Old Master, Young Master is

raised her gaze and turned her head. When she saw Luke lead Blanche toward them, a look of admiration flashed through

also turned his head and looked at Luke. Capital Corp had no contact with the Crawford family before this, so it was his first time seeing Luke in

was more outstanding in person than in magazines and newspapers. No wonder Maxine had fallen in love at first

Chapter 1085

Luke's expression did not change one bit when faced with Irving's urging. His gaze was cold, and he did not have the attitude they thought he should have considering he had done something wrong.

"Butler, go to the study and get the black folder on the table," Luke calmly ordered the butler. The others in the living room were confused.

"Yes." The butler was not sure of his intentions but went upstairs at his orders.

"Luke..." Old Master Crawford thought he was being abrupt and impolite.

"Grandpa, I'm telling you that I didn't do anything to Miss Douglas. As a matter of fact, my lawyer thinks that she has caused harm to my body." Luke's expression was cold. He held Blanche tightly in his arms.

Blanche kept quiet when the adults were conversing because he believed in his father.

Irving's expression changed a little when he heard Luke's words. He had looked at him with admiration a second ago, but now, he was fuming.

'Maxine harmed him? It takes two hands to clap! How could he say such things about my baby girl?'

Before Irving could say anything, Verona stepped in. "Luke, Maxine is the one who was violated. How could you bite back at her like that? Do you think that you're being reasonable?"

"Miss Douglas knows in her heart whether she was violated." Luke leaned on the sofa, his royalty-like aura could not be ignored.

a cold expression and did not care that there was a child here. She said in a sharp tone, "Old Master Crawford, it seems that Luke thinks that Maxine is in the wrong? Our family is indeed in the wrong. We should have demanded Allison to have a tighter grip on her baby

Old Master Crawford heard it, he frowned and felt

Allison was in trouble, the Douglas family had no interest in helping. Who do they think they are to say such things

expression remained unchanged when he listened to them talk about Allison. He knew that she was mocking

who was sitting in his arms, shifted

touched his head and motioned him to calm down. Blanche was his own person, so it was normal for him to feel uneasy when he heard

butler handed Luke the black folder and asked, "Young Master, is this

did not take it but raised his chin and said, "Hand the folder to Mr.

this, the butler respectfully handed the

a sour expression and opened the folder to see what Luke was up

In the folder, there was a blood test report filled with medical terms. He was a businessman, so he did not understand much of the content.

"*Mr. Douglas*, the doctor's diagnosis is at the end of the report," Luke **said**.

Irving skipped the obscure test report and went directly to the last page. He quickly read the doctor's diagnosis, and when he was done, his face **turned pale**.

Luke said, "I woke up that morning and went to the hospital for a blood test. The report shows that the CNOOC residue in my blood sample contained a drug that hadn't been decomposed. The drug is strong, and a small amount will cause one to pass out. One's bodily functions would be almost in a static state, so how could I have done what Miss Douglas claimed I did?"

Maxine's face turned pale as she immediately said, "How could it be? You were fine that day! You were drunk but *not unconscious*."

"**The hospital** has my blood samples. If you don't believe me, you can take a sample and go to the hospital that you trust for a reexamination." Luke curled his lips and looked at Maxine *coldly*.

The report only came out yesterday. If he had gotten his hands on it a few days earlier, Maxine would not have gotten the chance to bring her parents here to slander him.

Maxine's body felt weak and she could only sit there while mumbling, "*It's impossible...*"

"*The hospital* is still running tests on my blood sample because the composition of this drug is very rare. It's very different from the drugs found on the black market. They're also curious as to where the drug came from." Luke's ruthless gaze fell on *Maxine*.

'How did she get her hands on drugs that are not even on the *black market*?'

expression was bitter. He turned to look at his daughter and knew that what Luke said was the truth after seeing Maxine's

the report in her husband's hand and looked at it. After reading it, she said, "These reports can

chief of police can help me prove that this report is true. When my blood was drawn for examination, I asked him to film and notarize it." Luke knew that Maxine was plotting against him, so he made sure that he covered his grounds after

Douglas..." He asked the pale woman, "A lot of people are curious about where the drug

would I know?" Maxine shook her hands and tried to

could you not know?" Luke sneered. "You came into contact with that glass of wine. You were the one who spiked me, so let me ask again, where did the drug come

know what you're talking about." Maxine quickly shook her head. She felt bitter as she did not expect him to cover

could do at this point was to deny it. "I saw you falling near the bar, so I brought you to the hotel. But I

this particular drug's effects, I wouldn't have been able to do anything. Miss Douglas, when will you stop insisting that we slept together?" Luke looked at her pale appearance and said without

pursed her lips, looking pitiful. She tried to fend for herself and said, "I really

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"What are you doing?" Verona did not understand why her husband was apologizing.

To her, it was not a serious matter. If Luke really pursued the matter, the worst-case scenario would be to go to court. They most definitely could afford to hire a famous lawyer.

"Shut up!" Irving felt ashamed. Originally, he thought it would be great to build a relationship with the Crawford family, but he did not expect that this was all plotted by his own daughter from beginning to end. As her father, he ended up being used by her!

Verona wanted to express her dissatisfaction, but seeing that Irving's expression had turned ugly, she held herself back. She glared at Luke, stood up, and took Maxine's hand. "Let's go."

"Mom..." Maxine did not want to leave, but she had no choice considering how awkward the situation was.

"Haven't you embarrassed us enough?" Irving also wanted to leave. He had lost all his dignity and stared at her fiercely.

'Spiking someone's drink and taking an indecent photo just to slander them?! What kind of women would do such things?! How shameful!'

Moreover, if Luke was not exaggerating, the drug's origin was unknown.

After being glared at, Maxine stood up reluctantly. Her tears were still falling and she looked pitiful, but she could not gain any sympathy points from Luke. The hard work she had put in over the past few months was in vain. She felt somewhat hesitant to accept this.

Verona took her daughter away. Irving apologized to Luke again and then left with his wife and daughter.

they got to the entrance, Luke slowly said, "Miss Douglas, you should think about how to explain where the drug came from. The police have deployed a team to look into this drug and are preparing to make it a high-priority

did not experience any side effects from this drug, but it was a new type of drug and since the police knew about it, it was impossible for them to ignore

felt as though a thunderbolt had struck her head. If the police investigated this and found that she was involved, she would be in deep

though she was unwilling, Maxine immediately hurried

that the farce was finally over, Old Master Crawford breathed a sigh of relief and glanced at his grandson. He ranted, "Why didn't you bring this report out

came out yesterday," Luke

Crawford asked curiously, "What you said

Luke picked Blanche up, put him on the floor, and touched his head. He said, "I told you that there's nothing to worry

was relieved to know that his dad had not wronged Mommy. He nodded and said with a thumbs up, "You're

his head. 'If I'm awesome, Maxine wouldn't have been able to take advantage

He stood up, took his son's hand, and said, "Let's go. You need to do your homework."

"Okay, Daddy." Blanche nodded obediently as the duo went upstairs together.

Old Master Crawford was still sitting on the sofa, staring at the black folder.

'Maxine is just a woman, and the Douglas family are also proper businesspeople. I have never heard about them getting involved in the underworld. How did she get this kind of *drug*?'

After this incident, Old Master Crawford was even more dissatisfied with Maxine.

Before that, he had a pretty good impression of Maxine and even thought that if Luke gave up on Bianca someday, Maxine would be a good choice. However, at this moment, he no longer liked her at all.

A scheming woman as such was not suitable to be the mistress of the Crawford family. Susan Armstrong and Allison Turner had given him enough headaches. In contrast, the best mistress of the Crawford family was still Bianca.

Irving drove back to the hotel where they were staying. The moment they walked into the bedroom, he waved his hand and slapped Maxine on the face.

"Ah!" **Maxine** screamed while covering her face. He did not hold back with that slap. Her face instantly became red **and swollen**.

are you doing?! Are you crazy? Why are you hitting our child?" Verona felt distressed. Maxine was her youngest daughter and also her favorite

you think I hit her? I worked so hard to bring her up and in the end, look at what a fool she has become!" Irving's chest rose and fell, his face flushed because

trivial matter, do you have to go so far? We've never been involved with the Crawford family, so this isn't a big deal and no one will know about it. Why are you reacting like this?" Verona's heart ached as she looked at her daughter whose eyes were red from

raised her hands and said in a soft voice, "Let me

carried resentment in her heart. She cried and uncovered her hand from her face, revealing her

Even if she has done something wrong, you shouldn't slap her!" When Verona saw that Maxine's face was swollen, she immediately turned around and protected her by moving in front of her. Verona glared at

you think what she did is a small matter? If Luke goes after her, she'll bring shame to the entire Douglas family!" Irving was very angry. He knew that a loving mother made a wastrel. He had sent Maxine abroad when she was young to train her to be

she came back, she looked great but her heart had

Irving was annoyed.

understood his point of view. She said, "The Crawford family said that they would let it go. Even if news of it breaks out, you should never lay your hands on her. She did it because she loves Luke. Those who are in love will

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"Do you think that there's nothing I can do if you don't want to tell me the truth? I'm canceling the partnership right now." Irving was disappointed when he saw how she refused to tell the truth.

"Dad, I told you that I don't know anything about the drug. We've already signed the contracts, and if we back out now, we'll lose a lot of money!" Maxine panicked when she heard that her father wanted to pull back his funds.

It was a trivial matter to back out of the contract as Capital Corp could afford it, but Abel was no ordinary man.

If they canceled the contract, Abel would be furious and take revenge. She would not be able to defend herself at all!

Maxine had heard from Hera Sanchez that Abel was so powerful that he could make someone disappear without a trace. If such a man was unhappy and decided to go after her, she would be helpless.

"Maxine, what else are you hiding from me?" Irving clenched his fist. If Verona were not standing in front of Maxine, the other side of Maxine's face would be swollen as well.

He favored his youngest daughter very much, but against the reputation and fate of the Douglas family, he chose the latter.

Verona did not understand her husband's reaction. She defended her daughter, saying, "How is Luke's matter related to the pharmaceutical company? It's a great thing that Maxine is interested in starting a business. You should be on her side."

"I've indulged her too much and spoiled her!" Irving looked at his wife and daughter with resentment. "This is a new type of drug. Have you ever thought about how your daughter got her hands on something that's not even on the black market?"

Verona opened her mouth. She thought about what he said and remembered what Luke had mentioned earlier. She suddenly realized the seriousness of the matter.

She turned around and looked at Maxine with a serious expression. "Maxine, there's no one else now. Tell us where you got the drugs from."

"I don't know!" Maxine said firmly. She could not tell them the truth, not even if they were her own parents.

you insist that you don't know anything, you have to tell the police the same thing when they come knocking on our door." Irving was incredibly disappointed in her. He turned around and called

Maxine heard him order his assistant to destroy the signed contract, there was a burst of despair in wanted to try to turn the situation

had a stern expression as he walked out of the room. He could not be bothered to look at

should I do?" Maxine could not help but throw herself into Verona's arms while weeping. "This partnership can't be

not understand why she was reacting this way. She thought that Maxine was upset because she grew up living a comfortable life and had never experienced this kind of failure. She comforted her, saying, "My dear, your father is too angry right now and that's why he's reacting as such. Don't cry. There are a lot of opportunities in the future for investments and entrepreneurship. When your father calms down, you can find another company to invest in. We'll

louder when she saw that they did not understand what she was

should I do if Abel comes after

...

The Island of Despair.

read Maxine's email, his expression turned

"Boss, what's the matter?" The mercenary by his side watched the cracks on the desk and gulped. If Abel slapped someone, even the hardest bones would **crack**.

"**Damn that** woman!" Abel walked out of the office with a furious expression and went to Shanks' *research lab*.

"What's the matter?" Shanks was busy working on finalizing the formula. It was to apply for a patent for **Abel**.

"That *b*tch* screwed things up," Abel said with a cold expression.

Shanks stopped working and looked at *him*.

"This *b*tch* said that she wants to cancel the cooperation," Abel said. 'I've already started preparing for the company. How dare she pull her funds out at this *moment?!'*

Shanks understood the situation and lowered his head to continue with the work at hand. "Now **what?**"

"Now what?! Hmph, all the plans I made have been disrupted!" Abel was extremely angry. Originally, after the company was established, they would apply for a patent and the company could apply to be listed. However, with Maxine now out of the picture, he would not have enough funds to even establish **the company**.

"**They've signed** a contract with you and will have to compensate for backing out of the contract. With this money, plus the money that Robert left you, it's enough for you to start a pharmaceutical company," Shanks said.

Abel pretended to be calm. He was well aware of Robert's **money**.

However, he had no intention of using that *money*.

you don't want to touch that money, you can continue looking for a partner. But if you visit the Island of Despair so frequently, someone will find out sooner or later." Shanks reminded

knew this woman was so unreliable, I wouldn't have come back." Abel was confident before this. However, seeing what had happened, he had to listen to

there were still people outside keeping their eyes on the Island of Despair, so his frequent visits could lead to them

Abel left angrily.

at the door and lowered his head to continue working on the formula. They had to apply for patents for these drugs and they had to wait for Abel's company to be established before they could conduct clinical trials. These things cost a lot of money, so it made sense for Abel to be so

the issues of funds and the company's operations had nothing to do with him, so Shanks calmly continued with his

at the door and took a deep breath before knocking

his gaze and glanced at her. He pointed to the tonic on the table and said, "Take

Mr. Shanks." Eler was there to retrieve the tonic for Bianca. After Shanks helped her save the baby, Bianca had to take the tonic every

Bianca was getting better every day.

walked into the research lab. Her heart was beating like a drum as she walked toward Shanks to pick up the tonic on the side of the table cautiously. Shen then turned and

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Eler seemed to be in a daze. It took her a while to come to her senses after hearing Bianca's voice. She nodded and said, "I've brought you the medicine, Miss."

Bianca knew that she was behaving like that because she had met Shanks. "Bring it to me," she said.

To ensure that the baby was safe, she tried not to get out of bed.

Eler handed her the medicine.

Bianca opened it and downed it without complaint. To her, the most important thing now was keeping the baby safe.

By now, she had some affection for the baby.

Eler brought Bianca a glass of water after Bianca finished the medicine. "Please wash your mouth."

"Thanks," Bianca said. She finished the water and handed the glass back to Eler.

"Miss..." Eler wanted to say something.

"Is it about Shanks?" Bianca could instantly tell what she wanted to say.

"Mm. I think that I'm useless." Eler was dejected.

Bianca sighed. "Useless" was not the correct term to describe someone in love, but she had to admit that Eler fell in love with the wrong person.

"Come and read with me, Eler." Bianca did not comfort Eler, but instead, she pointed at the books next to the bed. Amur had helped her obtain those books; most of them were in Russian, and she had to read them slowly with the help of a dictionary.

thought that Bianca would offer her some words of comfort, but Bianca had asked her to read instead. She could see that Bianca was focused on her book, so she did not want to disturb her with

something that troubled them, and no one was obligated to listen to other people's troubles. Eler sat down beside Bianca and started

...

City, winter came and left. Spring passed, and soon, it

green buds were thriving on the branches that extended into the balcony. Luke was standing there. He seemed dejected like an old man. Nothing seemed to cheer

had been missing for nine months. Nothing eventful happened in that time, nor did he manage to find seemed to have disappeared without leaving a trace behind. The police had given up on the search, and he stopped receiving any replies to his

so, Luke did not give up on

out and snapped the twig. "Where are you, Bea?" He

phone rang. Luke crushed the twig in his hand and tossed it on the floor, then answered the

our men seem to have found Madam..." Jason sounded agitated over the call. He dared not speak confidently in case the person was not Bianca and Luke blamed him

gaze turned profound. He paused there for a moment. He had heard the same line many times. Despite every search ending in disappointment, he never gave up hope every time he heard

"Boss?" Jason called out.

"Where is it?" Luke's voice was unexpectedly **hoarse**.

"It's in a village in D City. Someone there said that many features of that person matched. Should we go over there, Boss?" **Jason asked.**

"We leave now." Luke ended the call and drove toward his private airstrip.

He was always so nervous whenever he went to search for **Bianca**.

Jason had already arranged for the flight. The airplane was waiting for Luke.

Luke immediately boarded the plane with Jason following behind. He was tapping on his phone screen to make arrangements in D City.

Two hours later, the airplane landed at D City Airport. Luke got off the plane, and there was already a car waiting.

"Go directly to the location," Luke *said*.

"Yes!" The driver replied.

Jason's phone beeped, and he took it out to look. At first, he was ecstatic, but he soon became **stunned**.

"What's the news?" Luke slapped his thigh. He saw the change in Jason's expression.

"Boss, our men have found the woman and have sent her photo over, but..." Jason *stopped mid-sentence*.

"It's not Bea?" Luke spoke in a low voice. The same thing happened many times over the past nine **months**.

looked very similar to Madam, but they found her in the red-light district." Jason did not hide the information. He passed his phone

The red-light district...

eyes opened wide when he heard that. He felt a chill spread through his body starting from the soles of his

woman in the photo indeed looked like Bianca, but she looked like a
not think that he

"Boss..." Jason called out worriedly.

the woman in the photo was indeed Bianca Rayne and she was found in the red-light district, it might mean that she was forced to do certain things against her

that were true, Luke did not want to think of the things she had
closed his eyes and said,

told the driver the address, then looked at

an hour later, the driver arrived at

out of the car and looked at the so-called red-light district. The buildings were worn and dilapidated, as though they would collapse at any moment. The garish signs indicated that those were places where men could find entertainment. It was an

is she?" Luke became nervous. He wanted to confirm it for

Chapter 1089

Luke was relieved at first, but he became nervous again. He carefully stepped inside and saw the woman.

The woman looked exactly like Bianca.

His eyes opened wide at that instant. His legs froze, and he refused to take another step forward.

"Bea..." Luke opened his mouth, but his throat was dry, and his voice was forced.

The woman sat on the bed, hugging her knees and shivering. She was cackling maniacally and shrieking as though she did not hear Luke. When she lifted her head, the scar on her neck was clearly seen.

The scene stabbed Luke's eyes like a knife. She was his Bianca, but she was also not his Bianca!

"All of you are bad guys! Bad guys!" The woman tore her clothes but soon clenched them tightly. "Don't touch me! Get lost! Go away, now!"

No one dared to step closer to the bed while she continued to behave erratically. She threw a pillow at Luke and screamed, "Go away! All of you are bad guys!"

The foul-smelling pillow landed on Luke's face, but he did not dodge.

The bodyguards looked at each other, then at Luke. Was that woman really their Madam?

They dared not say anything, so they waited for Luke to say something.

did she become like this?" Luke asked. He wanted to step forward, but he had only taken a step when the woman shrieked

no choice but

bodyguard replied, "Any woman found at this place would be...

what the bodyguard was implying. The woman's mental state was caused by repeated violations from men or

the ambulance," Luke said. He dared not step forward in case the woman attempted to hurt

Jason immediately dialed emergency services and gave the

medics arrived soon. Jason had already informed them to bring tranquilizers, though it took them a while before they managed to inject "Bianca"

calmed down, the medics placed her on the stretcher while Luke followed behind. He remembered something while they went down the stairs, so he told Jason, "Investigate everyone in this building. Find out when she first

months, he found Bianca at such

clenched his fists. He swore that he would take revenge on

Jason stopped walking and turned around to give the orders to

Luke followed the ambulance to the hospital.

A man was standing by the road. When he saw Bianca being carried into the ambulance and Luke following behind, he grinned and made a **phone call**.

...

At the Island of Despair, Abel answered the call and grinned in satisfaction.

He opened the door to Bianca's room and saw that she was reclining on the bed with a bulging stomach. That made him smile even *more*.

Bianca put her book away and looked at him warily. "Why are **you here?**"

She was already more than nine months pregnant. Without advanced medical equipment, Shanks could not project Bianca's delivery date, but from her pulse, he could tell that she would be giving birth soon.

Abel stood at the door and grinned. "I have good news for you."

Bianca was not interested in his "good news," but she felt uneasy when she saw the sinister grin on his *face*.

Bianca's indifference did not dampen Abel's excitement. He continued, "Five months ago, I arranged a **woman**."

"*Luke* won't fall for it," Bianca said calmly. She thought that Abel had arranged a woman to seduce Bianca, but she was confident that Luke would not be swayed by beauty or charm.

if the woman looks exactly like you?" Abel

was shocked. She sat up and stared at him, "What did

ago, I found a woman and altered her appearance, so she looks exactly like you. Now, she is by Luke Crawford's side. I'm sure that he won't fall for other women, but what if the woman looks exactly like you?" bel

remembered that Shanks had studied her face five months ago. She was doubtful about what was going on, but she was not interested in interacting with them, so she did not ask any

not expect that Abel had arranged for a plastic surgery procedure for another

despicable, Abel!" Bianca said through gritted teeth and glared at

of a man did that

shrugged nonchalantly. He was in a good mood, and nothing that Bianca said could anger him. He smiled when he saw Bianca's pale face. "I thought you were very confident that Luke wouldn't fall

"..." Bianca was speechless.

men saw Luke falling for it. He went into the ambulance with that woman. I think he truly believes that his wife is back,"

felt a dull pain in her stomach. She pushed against the bed board and did not make

Chapter 1090

Bianca's water broke. The bedsheets were gradually stained with a mixture of amniotic fluid and blood.

Abel grinned even sicker when he saw the woman slumped on the bed. He sauntered over casually and checked her breath. Bianca was still breathing, albeit her breath was very shallow.

"It's finally time." Abel laughed brazenly. He had been waiting for this moment for very long.

Bianca was wheeled into the operating theater.

Shanks was preparing for the operation. Abel came in through the door and said, "Take this opportunity to change her face too."

Shanks was wiping his instruments with a sterilized cloth. He paused for a while before saying, "Are you sure you want to do it now?"

"She'll have to go under anyway. To you, a C-section and plastic surgery are minor procedures." Abel thought of achieving his goal in one shot.

Bianca's water broke, and there was a threat of miscarriage.

After conducting an examination, Abel decided to perform a C-section. Abel did not want to let go of the opportunity.

Indeed, those operations were considered minor procedures for Shanks.

Shanks stared at Abel for a while. He turned around and prepared to go into the operating theater.

Abel stood there and said, "Make her the opposite of what she was. Don't make her too plain though, that would be no fun."

Shanks knew what Abel planned. He nodded and went into the operating theater.

Eler came back from the kitchen, she was shocked when she saw the bloodstains on the bed. Instantly, she went around to search for

wrong, Eler?" Amur came in and asked his elder sister when he saw her opening the bathroom door

have happened to Miss." Seeing that no one was inside the bathroom, Eler rushed out of

thought that Abel had brought

be with Shanks," Amur reminded her as he grabbed her

was stunned. Indeed, Bianca was almost due, and she would not go around without supervision. She must be

check with Mr. Shanks, Amur. I'll go and look for Boss,"

his head helplessly. Eler was still trying to keep a distance from Shanks. The two siblings went separate ways to search for

found out that Bianca's water broke, and she was in the operating theater. They came to the entrance to the operating

theater was not very well-equipped for delivery. Usually, it was used to treat the assassins that were injured during their

stood uneasily in front of

was standing at a corner. Her hands were clasped together, and she prayed that Bianca would

An hour later, a middle-aged woman came out of the operating theater with a **baby**.

Eler tugged Amur's shirt sleeve. "It's **Miss's baby!**"

The siblings went up to the woman, who was a helper in the kitchen. Eler smiled fawningly at her, "Madam, is this Miss Bianca's child?"

The middle-aged woman rolled her eyes and hugged the child tightly. "This isn't your Miss Bianca's child. This is **Boss's child**."

"But..." Eler did not understand. The middle-aged woman quickly left the scene without giving any further **explanation**.

"Wait." Amur wanted to go and grab **the child**.

Eler suddenly thought of something. She grabbed his shirt sleeve and shook her head. "Boss wants her child, so he won't do anything to it. Miss needs us."

Amur thought what his elder sister said made sense. He stopped walking and waited in front of the door for Bianca to **come out**.

They expected Bianca to be wheeled out of the operating theater after the child was delivered. However, they waited there for the next *two hours*.

"Amur, do you think something happened to Miss?" Eler was worried. Back in her village, she knew that women would die while giving birth because of inadequate medical *attention*.

She was worried that the same thing would happen to **Bianca**.

"Miss will be fine," Amur said confidently as his eyes were transfixed on the door. Shanks must be doing something to Bianca if they were inside for **that long**.

three hours later, Shanks wheeled Bianca out of the

pounced onto Bianca, temporarily forgetting that she was trying to keep a distance

was wrapped in bandages. Her eyes were closed, and she gave no response when Eler called

up in Eler's eyes. "Miss?" She called out

Bianca remained unresponsive.

into the operating theater to deliver a child, but she came out with a face full of bandages. Amur clenched his fists and went up to Shanks. "What did you do to

became a lot more well-built after several months of

remained indifferent toward Amur's insolence. He slowly took off his mask and said, "I worked on her

Amur was shocked. Instinctively, he wanted to grab Shanks's

immediately stopped him and stood in between them. "Calm

that Shanks did not have a grudge against Bianca. He would not have done that if Abel did not order him to

protecting Eler was to Shanks, Amur clenched his fists and loosened them