

Be Gentle 1121

Chapter 1121

"Alright, thank you," Ivana said. After Jason left the room, she breathed a sigh of relief and relaxed her pose.

Jason was staring at her earlier. She wondered if her cover was blown.

Her face had totally changed. How did they manage to recognize her?

Ivana held the glass of water and continued to wait. Fifteen minutes later, Ivana turned her head when she heard the room door open and saw Luke coming in.

"Mr. Crawford." She stood up and greeted him awkwardly.

Luke nodded. His heart skipped a beat when he noticed that Ivana did not wear any makeup.

Ivana had a seductive face, but she was different from other women. Most if not all other women would wear makeup whenever they went out of their houses.

That reminded Luke of the previous Bianca.

Before Bianca lost her memories, she did not wear any makeup unless it was an important occasion. Now, she would spend her time in front of the vanity the moment she woke up...

Luke did not remain stunned for too long. He sat down opposite her.

Ivana sat up straight. Her gaze wandered around the room and avoided the man in front of her.

Luke noticed the glass of water in her hands. "Do you want a new glass?" He asked.

"No, it's fine." Ivana shook her head. In the moments of silence, she could hear her heart beating faster.

her legs and looked at her. "I've read your resume, but there are a few more things that I'd like to
took a deep breath and tried to calm

"You mentioned that you own several research patents in Russia. Can I ask what they

been researching a cure for cancer," Ivana said. Shanks was the inventor behind those patents, but she knew their contents very

you think that you can research something better here?"

I am confident." Ivana nodded. Shanks might have been the one who invented the cure, but she had helped him in his research. She did not expect that Shanks would name her as the patent

to know that Luke was eyeing the pharmaceutical

thought that the determination in her eyes seemed familiar, and he began to sense something within him. He changed his sitting position and continued to ask her about her experience in

felt slightly more at ease when Luke only asked her about work-related matters, but she could not be fully

the man in front of her was

and Ivana chatted for almost an hour when Jason knocked on the door and reminded Luke that the next meeting was about

up, straightened his clothes, and looked at Ivana who also stood up. He asked, "Ms. Ivana, have we ever met

since he saw her, he thought that she somehow

"Yesterday was the first time we met." Ivana's heart started to beat faster when she heard him say that. She clenched her fists to try to calm herself down, and her fingernails dug into *her palms*.

"Have you been to A City before?" Luke looked at her with a profound gaze.

Ivana forced a smile and said, "I was born in A City, but our family migrated to Russia when I was very young. This is the first time I'm back in the country. I don't think we've ever met **before.**"

Luke nodded when he thought of her middle name. "I like the name 'Luca.' I'll call you that in *the future.*"

Ivana was taken aback as he continued, **"Ms. Luca."**

"Mm. Take care, Mr. Crawford." Luca's blood slowly froze when she heard him call *her that*.

Every one of his words could make her blood freeze or boil.

After Luke left the room, Luca's body teetered, and she fell on the couch.

It took her a long while before she found the strength to leave the *room*.

Luca took the elevator downstairs. She did not have a car, so she had to take a cab from outside the T Corporation building.

She did not notice that someone sitting in a BMW across the road was staring *at her*.

Bianca had a savage expression on her face as she watched Ivana **leave**.

an informer that was close to Luke. That person had told her that Luke was going to meet Ivana

drove over to T Corporation. However, she stayed in the car because she could not find a reason to disturb

Their meeting lasted for an hour!

her fist and punched the steering wheel. What other reason did a man have for meeting a woman alone for

out her phone and made an encrypted

call was soon answered. Bianca asked directly, "What's the name of the woman that Boss sent

said that we shouldn't tell you yet. He'll tell you about her when it's time," the man on the other end of the

you don't tell me who she is, you're only making my life difficult. Just tell me her name, and I'll keep a close eye on that woman," Bianca said. She had to find out if Ivana was that

I have no right to question Boss's orders. Just do your job." The man ended the call

talking through an encrypted channel, and their calls could not be very

cursed savagely and tossed the

at her phone for some time before deciding to give Luke

call was soon picked up. Bianca tried to make her voice gentle, but her vocal cords had been ruined, so there was always a hint of hoarseness in

Chapter 1122

Bianca drove the car to Tommy's school. Seeing that it was still early, she sat down at a nearby cafe and ordered a coffee while waiting for school to end.

Usually, Luke or the driver would be the ones to fetch the children home. It was the first time that she did so.

Bianca browsed on her phone, feeling quite bored. She would not have done this if not that she wanted to gain Luke's favor.

To achieve her objective of getting closer to him, she had to pretend that she was a good wife and mother so that Luke would place his trust in her.

An hour later, Bianca casually sauntered out of the cafe and went to the school gate.

Parents and caretakers were crowding at the gate.

Bianca frowned disgustedly when she saw the crowd in front of the gate. She thought that they were disorderly and unmannered.

She was not in a rush anyway. After the crowd dispersed, she slowly walked toward the gate.

She saw Tommy carrying his backpack standing next to the teacher. Putting on a fake gentle smile, she waved at him and said, "I'm here to pick you up, baby."

Tommy pouted when he saw her, as though he was angry.

It was the first time that the teacher saw Tommy's mother. She lowered her head and asked Tommy, "Is that your mother, Tommy?"

"Mm." Tommy nodded reluctantly. He did not consider the woman in front of him as his mother, but he had to admit that she had the exact same face as Bianca.

"Good day, Mrs. Crawford," the teacher greeted Bianca with a smile after Tommy confirmed it.

nodded at the teacher arrogantly, walked over, and took Tommy's hand. "Let's

was dragged away, he turned around and waved to the teacher. "Goodbye,

Tommy. Remember to do your homework, and see you tomorrow." The teacher waved goodbye to Tommy with

held Tommy's hand tightly, ignoring his greeting to the teacher. She opened the car door and pretended to look motherly. "Here, Tommy, get in the

pulled his hand away from her and clambered into

cursed under her breath seeing how ungrateful Tommy was. Then, she closed the

around her car and went to the driver's seat. While fastening her seatbelt, she heard Tommy ask, "Where's Daddy? Where's Uncle Sean? Why aren't they picking me up

usually the one who picked Tommy up from

around and saw Tommy's look of dissatisfaction, as though he were an arrogant heir. She smiled and explained, "Your Daddy is busy at work, and I happen to be nearby, so I thought I'd save your Uncle Sean some trouble and pick you

always trouble Uncle Sean though." Tommy took out a toy from

hands gripped the steering wheel tightly, and veins bulged on the back of her hands. No matter what she did, Tommy remained hostile to

you say that, Tommy? Uncle Sean is our driver. Sometimes, I'll have to rely on him to fetch me around. There's nothing wrong with that, right?" She

Tommy ignored her.

Bianca felt as though she was talking to herself, which made her **embarrassed**.

She did not attempt to speak to Tommy anymore. Instead, she started the car and drove to Crawford Manor.

Her task would be complete as long as she sent Tommy home. However, Tommy's words were like a thorn on her heart that caused her pain **and discomfort**.

Bianca glanced at the rear-view mirror and saw Tommy playing with his toys. She narrowed her gaze and had an idea.

Back at Crawford Manor, Tommy picked up his backpack and went toward the house without saying *a word*.

The butler greeted the boy with a smile. "You're back, Master Tommy."

"Good afternoon, Mr. Griffin," Tommy greeted the butler courteously. Then, he skipped happily into the house.

Bianca, who was following behind Tommy, saw the scene and felt indignant. The boy was not rude; he was only rude to her.

The butler smiled at Bianca when he saw her. "You're back, Madam."

Bianca was in a bad mood. She showed a sour face to the butler and replied to him with only *a nod*.

Tommy was already back in his bedroom. Bianca could not be bothered to entertain him, so she went back to her bedroom and closed the **door**.

at the time. Luke was almost home, and she would want to have a serious discussion

three children had been a thorn in

went to check on his three children after he got home. They were doing their

some time with them, he remembered that he did not see Bianca downstairs. She must be in her

Tommy's head and stood

to look at him. "Daddy, are

go and put my briefcase down." Luke went straight to the children's bedroom after returning home. He was still carrying his

noded and pointed at his workbook. "There are some questions that I don't know how to answer. You'll have to come and teach

smiled and left

came to Bianca's bedroom and saw that the door was ajar. He went inside and saw Bianca sitting on the couch with her arms crossed. She seemed very

Luke walked up to her and looked

lifted her head, and tears welled up in

Chapter 1123

Luke did not know how to solve that problem. He hoped that his children would eventually accept the fact that their mother had lost their memories and changed her personality.

Two years had passed. The three children continued to mature, but they could not accept Bianca into their lives.

Bianca sniffled and turned her head away. "I don't want to say. If they can't accept me for who I am, I might as well leave."

"Bea..." Luke's voice became low.

Bianca did not say anything.

"What happened when you picked Tommy up from school?" He asked.

Bianca continued to shed her tears. When she thought that she had cried enough, she leaned on his shoulder and aired her grievances. "I'm so tired, Luke. Why is Tommy so mean to me when I've done so much for him? I really can't remember how I used to be. Should I look for Ms. Tia again? Maybe she can help me recover my memories."

Luke's expression turned as cold as ice when Bianca mentioned Tia and her memories.

He held Bianca's shoulders and said, "The boy is still young, and he doesn't understand what happened. Don't be too caught up with your past, Bea. I'll go talk to him, and things will be better."

Bianca looked at him with tears in her eyes. "Will things really become better?"

"Mm. Don't overthink it. Go wash your face and eat your dinner," Luke said.

Bianca nodded and reluctantly stepped away from his shoulder. She was satisfied that he would be talking to the children later.

to know that Luke had never spoken up for

Bianca went into the bathroom.

stood up and glanced at his wet shoulder. He left the bedroom and went to Tommy's

Tommy was doing his homework.

"Are you done yet?" Luke said.

lifted his head and smiled at his father. "I'm almost done, Daddy, but I need help with these two down beside him and said, "Show me and I'll

pointed at the questions on his workbook, and Luke solved them in

finished his homework, he handed the workbook to Luke. "Please check my

that Tommy had finished his work and signed his initials on the last

cheered happily. Once he was done with homework, he could go and watch cartoons. He was about to leave the room when Luke grabbed his

at Tommy with a serious expression and said, "Stay with me for a while. I want to talk

Tommy nodded and sat back down. "What do you want to talk about, Daddy?"

Luke held his little hand and said, "Your Mommy is unhappy today. Do you know **why?**"

"*I don't* know." Tommy shook his head in confusion. "Mommy is usually unhappy anyway. You'll just have to get used *to it.*"

Luke frowned when he saw Tommy's innocent expression. "She's unhappy because you've done something bad to her, **Tommy.**"

Tommy knew what he wanted to say and instantly pouted. "I didn't do anything to **her.**"

"..."

Tommy did not want to take the blame. He said, "I only asked her why Uncle Sean didn't pick me up today, but she told me that I shouldn't trouble Uncle Sean too much. Mommy troubles Uncle Sean all the time, *isn't it?*"

Luke sighed. He knew that Bianca was unhappy not because of what transpired today, but because of the chronic communication problem between her and *her children*.

"I know you're a good boy, Tommy, and you should be more understanding about your mother. She's forgotten about everything in her past," he continued.

Tommy pouted, stood up, and said angrily, "I didn't do anything wrong, Daddy. Why should I be understanding to her when she doesn't attempt to understand me? She's an adult while Lanie, Rainie, and me are children. Why are you on Mommy's side? You're a baddie, just like her! Give my Mommy back to **me!**"

Luke was helpless when Tommy **started crying**.

"Listen to me, Tommy!" He said.

listen to you all the time, Daddy. You always tell me that I have to make sense whenever I speak. I'm making sense now, but you're not making sense. I don't want to talk to you anymore, you baddie!" Tommy began to bawl after he

was next door and heard the commotion. She immediately came over and saw the father and son in a standoff. "Daddy, why is Tommy crying?"

that Tommy hardly cried, and her heart wrenched when she saw Tommy being

is a baddie!" Tommy complained to his elder

stood there helplessly, looking at the two children in the face of

cry, Tommy." Rainie tried to comfort her younger

Tommy did not stop bawling.

you leave the room for now, Daddy? I'll try to calm Tommy down," Rainie

rarely dealt with situations like this. He could only leave

left, Tommy continued to bawl. It took Rainie a long time to calm him down

a baddie. He's been brainwashed!" Tommy complained

Chapter 1124

Luke followed him upstairs and knocked on the door.

"I'm sleeping." Tommy's childish voice came from within.

Luke's hand froze. Rainie could see that her father was distressed and told him, "Don't worry about Tommy. He'll forget about it by tomorrow morning."

Luke sighed and patted Rainie's head. His daughter always seemed sensible. "I have some more work to do. Please take care of your younger brother."

"Yes, Daddy." Rainie nodded.

Luke returned to the study. T Corporation had been expanding over the past two years, and his responsibility became greater and greater. He would work in the study every night.

After Luke left, Rainie knocked on the bedroom door. "Tommy, it's me, your sister. Let me in."

"I'm sleeping, Rainie," Tommy said.

Rainie was not sure how to react to that. "Don't you want Daddy to sleep with you tonight?"

"I can sleep by myself tonight, Rainie. I'm very sleepy!" While Tommy said that, he rummaged through his closet and found the biggest backpack.

When Rainie heard what Tommy said, she knocked on the door again.

again, Tommy did not open the

sighed and said, "Alright then, I won't disturb you. Sleep tight and see you

brought a stool over, stood on it, and took out some of his clothes from the closet. He decided that he would run away from home so that his father would pay more attention to

packing the clothes, he stashed some of his favorite books and snacks into the backpack. Then, he smashed his piggy bank and took out the

lay on the bed after the preparations were done. All he had to do now

three o'clock in the morning, everyone in Crawford Manor

pushed the door open and looked down the corridor. A sliver of dim yellow light shone from the door to the study that was

toward the study and peeked inside. Luke was sleeping on the sofa bed without turning the

chuckled to himself, returned to his bedroom, wore his backpack, and left

was in a secluded location. Tommy walked along the road until he was exhausted. He tossed the backpack away and sat down on the ground,

is so tiring." Tommy glanced at his backpack next to him. If he had known that it would be so exhausting to run away from home, he would have brought less things along with him. It was only after he left Crawford Manor that he did not know where he should

He crouched by the road and mumbled to himself, "Should I go *home*?"

Instantly, he shook his head and dismissed the idea. "No, I can't go home now. That would be very embarrassing!"

He hugged his backpack, leaned against the wall, and fell asleep.

There were no cabs on the road so late at night. He would leave in the morning *instead!*

The next morning, Tommy woke up and realized that a group of people were staring at him. He rubbed his eyes, looked at the adults surrounding him, and asked, "What are you all looking *at*?"

An old man who was on his morning jog crouched down and asked him, "Why are you sleeping here, little boy? Are you *lost*?"

"I'm not lost." Tommy stood up, wore his backpack, and dusted his *clothes*.

A woman noticed that the clothes Tommy wore were very expensive. She smiled lovingly and said, "Little boy, can you tell me where you live? I'll bring you **home**."

Tommy instantly thought of how Luke had reprimanded him the day before, so he shook his head. "No, Ma'am. I'm not going home."

"It's very dangerous for a little boy like you to be wandering outside alone. Why don't you want to go home?" The woman asked Tommy. There were so many human traffickers nowadays, and the cute and handsome boy would be a lucrative target.

As she thought about that, her motherly instincts went off the charts. "Come with me. My car is right over there. I'll bring **you home**."

old man agreed with her. "Yes. You're so small, what if you meet a bad guy? Your Daddy and Mommy must be worried about you. You should go

going to Daddy's home. I want to look for Mommy," Tommy pretended to look

not want to follow those adults back to Crawford Manor, so he had to make up another

adults immediately understood. The boy's parents were divorced, and the father must have won custody of the boy. However, his father was mean to him, so he wanted to look for

also guessed that the boy had run away from home and lost his way. That was why he was sleeping by

for a bit and held the woman's hand. "Ma'am, I know my Mommy's address. Can you hail a cab for me? I have

heart melted when Tommy looked at her with those big and

be too dangerous taking a cab by yourself?"

be fine. Cab drivers are usually good guys. Also, you can give me your phone number and note down the cab's license plate. When I arrive at my Mommy's house, I'll give you a call to tell you that I'm safe!"

Tommy thought up of a way to stop the woman

you sure you want to take a cab? I can send you there," the

be on your way to work, Ma'am, and I'd hate to impose on you. I'll be fine taking a cab on my own."

Tommy blinked. He was not sure where his destination was. If he had ridden in the woman's car, his lies would

Chapter 1125

Seeing that the apartment was not very far away, the driver nodded and said, "You should be careful. Don't talk to strangers."

"Yes, I know. Thank you, Sir!" Tommy smiled sweetly and skipped toward the apartment.

After the driver left, he stopped skipping and began to frown.

He was very far away from Crawford Manor now, but he did not know where he should go.

"Sigh." Tommy frowned and looked at the budget hotel nearby. Should he stay there for a few days?

Tommy walked toward the hotel. It was better to stay there than to stay out in the open.

A short while later, Tommy walked out of the hotel dejectedly. He was too young and had no ID, so the hotel staff did not allow him to check in no matter how much money he gave them. They even said that they would bring him to the police station.

He knew that he had to stay away from the hotel as far as possible, and he turned a corner into a narrow alley in case someone was following him.

Several hooligans were smoking in the narrow alley. They exchanged glances when they saw Tommy running into the alley, and they immediately surrounded him.

"Hey, kid."

Tommy lifted his head and looked at the hooligans. "Can I help you?"

"Why are you running so hurriedly? Did you do something bad and the police are coming to arrest you?" A plump hooligan asked.

are chasing me," Tommy said

surrounding him did not look like good people. How was he going to run away? Luke might have hired a taekwondo instructor for him, but he was not strong or skilled enough to fight off even one of them. Now, there were so

worry, we'll protect you, but..." The plump hooligan and his friend chuckled. The boy was dirty and disheveled, but they could discern the brand of his

could tell that the boy was the son of a

The gears in Tommy's head spun at record speeds. He was thinking of how he could shake off those

have to give us something in return. Protection isn't free after all. You look like you're from a wealthy family, kid. You must get a lot of pocket money from your parents, right?" The plump hooligan glanced at Tommy's backpack and thought that it must be stuffed with

stingy a wealthy person might be, they would not be stingy toward

have money!" Tommy knew what the hooligans wanted, so he denied it and began to cry. "My family is very,

can't be." The plump hooligan did not believe

thin hooligan said impatiently, "We don't have to waste our time on him. Just snatch

heard that, he immediately grabbed the two shoulder straps of the backpack. He absolutely could not let the hooligans lay their hands on his money. If they did, his plan

nervous Tommy was, the plump hooligan cackled and reached to grab his

"Help! Help!" Tommy screamed loudly.

"Shut up!" The thin hooligan immediately covered Tommy's mouth in case his screams attracted the attention of other people.

Tommy opened his mouth and bit the thin *hooligan's hand*.

"*Argh! How dare you bite me, you damned brat!*" The thin hooligan raised his hand and prepared to slap Tommy's **face**.

Tommy nimbly dodged the attack and tried to escape from between their legs. "**Help! Help!**"

The thin hooligan was incensed. "Grab him! I want to strip him naked!" He **yelled**.

The other hooligans instantly surrounded Tommy.

Tommy could not run away, and he was forced into a corner. He could not scream because of *fright*.

"You b*stard!" The thin hooligan looked at his hand. It was already **bleeding**.

"*Don't... come close...*" Tommy struggled to breath. He was panicking.

"Hmph! He's so protective of his backpack, there must be money in it! Take his money and strip him naked!" The thin **hooligan ordered**.

The other hooligans went closer to Tommy.

was focused on Tommy, and they did not notice that a woman had appeared

very mature of you to gang up on a little child!" Luca saw several hooligans surrounding a small child and

wanted to take a shortcut to her apartment, but she did not expect to encounter that situation. In any case, she was not going to allow that

hooligans turned their heads when they heard a woman's voice behind

thin hooligan looked at Luca's voluptuous body and was instantly aroused. He rubbed his chin and said, "Why don't you mind your own

can't do nothing when I see you bullying a child." Luca glanced at the child behind the hooligans. The child was heavily surrounded, so she could only see the color of the

pay to be a meddler, Miss." The plump hooligan

many people usually paid attention to what was happening in the alley. If they could subdue the woman, they could do anything they wanted

hooligans exchanged glances and focused their attention

very interested in that woman's

pay to bully a defenseless child either. It's either you apologize to him and get lost now, or all of you can fight me at once." Luca clasped her hands together and began to crack her

you think too highly of yourself," the thin hooligan said viciously and spat on the floor. "Someone go and keep an eye on that kid. Today, I want both money and her

Chapter 1126

Luca's heart melted when she heard that childish voice. When she turned to look at Tommy, she was immediately stunned.

"You..." She could not make a sound, as though a fish bone was stuck in her throat.

The hooligans saw that she was standing there in a daze. They dared not provoke her again, and instead, they quickly got to their feet and left the scene.

Luca did not care about the hooligans. She stared at the little child in front of her.

It had been two years, but she could instantly tell that the little boy in front of her was Tommy, her son...

"What's wrong, Miss?" Tommy was wondering what the lady was thinking. Even though she had defeated the hooligans so violently, he was not afraid of her at all. In fact, when he held her hand, he thought that the feeling was somewhat familiar.

"Nothing." Luca came to her senses and took his hand.

He was much taller and bigger. Even his hand in her palm felt bigger.

Luca felt a little emotional when she thought that she had missed out on Tommy's growing years. She thought of finding out the school her children were in so that she could look at them from a distance.

She did not expect to meet Tommy here.

"Do you know me, Miss?" Tommy asked her when he noticed that tears were welling up in her eyes.

"I don't." Luca shook her head instinctively. Tommy had another mother now. She could not possibly tell him that she was his real mother.

still young, and he would not

were many things that she had to keep to

sure you don't know me, Miss? I thought you looked familiar. I might have seen you somewhere before." Tommy smiled brilliantly and leaned close to

that Tommy's face and clothes were dirty. She patted his head and asked him, "Why are you here alone? Where are your

"I don't have parents," Tommy said.

was surprised. Why would he say

has their parents. You must have your parents too," she tried to communicate with Tommy

Tommy frowned. It looked like the lady was not as easily convinced as those

like children who are honest. If you tell me the truth, I'll buy you breakfast,"

stomach growled. He sighed and said, "Alright, Miss, I'll tell you, but you can't tell
nodded. "I promise I won't tell anyone

were very far from Crawford Manor, and there must be a reason why Tommy appeared alone there. She
had to find out

"Daddy doesn't love me anymore, and he scolds me even though it's Mommy's fault. That's why I'm
running away from home," Tommy explained the *reason briefly*.

Luca felt sorry for him. She knew that the boy was hungry, so she did not ask any more questions. She
poked his nose and said, "I live nearby. Do you want to eat at a cafe, or shall I make breakfast **for you?**"

"I want to eat your cooking, Miss!" Tommy's eyes were sparkling. Even though he had been told not to
trust strangers, he did not think that the woman in front of him was a stranger. In fact, he thought that
she was not a bad person.

Luca shook her head helplessly and brought Tommy back to her *apartment*.

Tommy looked around at the cramped apartment. It was totally unlike Crawford Manor, but he had the
inexplicable urge to stay there.

Luca brought him to the bathroom and said, "I don't know how you got so dirty. Quickly go and take a
shower. Right, do you have any clothes?"

She did not have any items for children in *her apartment*.

Tommy nodded. "I have clothes in my **backpack.**"

"That's good. Go and take a shower, and you can put the dirty clothes in that basket," Luke *said*.

Tommy smiled brilliantly. "You're a nice person, Miss."

"Why do you think that I'm nice? Aren't you afraid that I'm a bad person?" Luca's heart melted when she
saw *his smile*.

had not met her children for so long, and she selfishly wanted her son to stay with her for a little longer.
That was why she did not inform Luke

she was supposed to be someone who had just returned to the country. If Tommy did not tell her about
it, she was not supposed to know that Luke was

thought that it made sense if the boy stayed with her, and she had no qualms about

nice person because I said so." Tommy opened his backpack and took out

a flood of emotions in her mind. She did not know what happened that made Tommy run away

Tommy's dirty face, she grumbled that Luke did not take care of their

She sighed.

heard the sigh and looked at her. "What's wrong,

Shall I take a shower with you?" Luca remembered that Tommy was very clingy. Even though Luke had told him to be independent, he would always find a reason to cling to

blushed and shook his head. "I'm fine, Miss. I'm a big boy now, and I can take a shower

felt slightly disappointed. She helped Tommy adjust the water temperature and asked him, "Since when did you take showers by

three years ago, I think. Ever since my Mommy went missing, I've been taking showers myself." Tommy smiled at her when he

Chapter 1127

Bianca stood next to Luke and watched the footage of Tommy sneaking away. She was unhappy about what she saw. Was Tommy giving her trouble by running away from home at this juncture?

She might be unhappy, but she managed to conceal her emotions. She placed a hand on Luke's shoulder and showed a worried expression. "What should we do now, Luke?"

Luke had been replaying the security footage. The cameras could only track Tommy until the front gate. Beyond that, Luke did not know where he went.

He was incredibly frustrated. "We'll have to find him."

Tommy was still young. Where could a young child possibly go? However, Luke was worried precisely because Tommy was a young child. He called Jason on his phone to look for Tommy immediately.

Bianca looked at Luke's gloomy expression. He did not say it, but she could tell that he knew the reason why Tommy ran away.

She began to blame herself. "It's all my fault. Tommy is still so small, I shouldn't have scolded him. He's my son too..."

Luke was not in the mood to comfort Bianca, who was about to cry. All he could think of was finding Tommy.

He stood up and said, "I'll go to the police station."

Bianca was taken aback when she saw him leaving the study. She quickly ran after him, not bothering to wipe away the tears on her face. "I'm going too, Luke."

"You stay at home." Luke was worried about Tommy's whereabouts. He did not want to bring her along.

could only watch as Luke quickly walked away. She had no way to release her

had done all she could in two years, but she could not get Luke to accept

else could she do so that Luke would care

went on, Luke would only continue to drift apart from her. Even if he did not fall in love with another woman, he would focus his entire attention on his three children, while she could only be a

not want that to

downstairs. Old Master Crawford was standing in the middle of the living room and reprimanding the servants of the

managed to sneak away from Crawford Manor because the front gate was not locked. All Tommy had to do was to stand on tiptoe and open the

did not know what to do when she stood at the staircase and watched Old Master Crawford being

she could do was to pretend that she was very worried about her

tried to squeeze some tears in her eyes, hoping to evoke the old man's pity and show him that she was also worried about

When Old Master Crawford heard her sobbing, he shot a disdainful glance at her and told the servants, "Make sure that you lock the front gate before you go to bed every **night!**"

"Yes, Old Master Crawford!" The butler replied. He felt slightly aggrieved when he remembered that there were two locks on the gate. One of the locks was at the usual position, while the other was slightly **higher**.

The higher lock had not been locked for more than a year, and no accidents had ever **happened**.

However, Tommy found his chance to run away precisely because of that!

"You're dismissed." Old Master Crawford was deathly worried about finding Tommy, but there was no point in scolding them excessively. After all, they were no experts in lost *child retrieval*.

Luke had already dispatched his subordinates to look for Tommy. With the help of the police, they should be able to find Tommy in no time.

Seeing the servants scatter to their respective posts, Bianca wiped the tears from her eyes and went over. "Don't be angry, Grandpa."

"How can I not be angry?" Old Master Crawford glared at her. After knowing that Tommy had run away from home, Rainie had told him what happened the day **before**.

Luke would not reprimand his children for no reason. Old Master Crawford could guess that it was all because of **Bianca**.

"*Grandpa...*" Bianca did not expect that Old Master Crawford would be angry at **her too**.

Tommy last night. You must have told him something, right?" Old Master Crawford did not beat around

did not play favorites among his great-grandchildren, but he paid more attention to Tommy because Luke went missing when Tommy was born. Everyone thought that Luke was gone

birth had mended a hole in Old Master Crawford's heart. No matter how naughty the little boy might be, Old Master Crawford could not bear to

"I didn't..." Bianca tried to explain.

Master Crawford did not give her the chance. "Bianca, you've lost all your memories, but that's okay. I still treat you as Luke's wife. You don't remember anything about your children or even think that

Tommy and the others aren't your children, but I don't blame you because you didn't ask for that to happen. Now, as a mature adult, you're tattling on a child. Are you purposely trying to upset him? If you think that you're not happy staying here, you can choose to leave at any time! Let me say this right now. I won't let anyone try to convince you

Crawford's words were like barbs that pierced

she heard that Old Master Crawford would not try to convince her to stay, her face went pale and she shook her head. "I didn't mean that, Grandpa. That's not what happened

Crawford cut her off mid-sentence. "You don't have to explain yourself. I can roughly guess what happened yesterday. You've given birth to three children for the Crawford family, yet you don't want to take care of them. Fine, I'll take care of them on your behalf

Bianca's mind was in a mess. She did not expect that old man to say

angry, Old Master Crawford. Please take care of your health," the butler reminded him when he saw that the old man was

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The butler could only do what he was told. "Give Dr. Cairn a call."

"Yes," the servant picked up the phone and made a call to the Crawford family doctor.

The other two caretakers carried Bianca upstairs and placed her on the bed.

While the entire Crawford Manor was in chaos because of Tommy's disappearance, the culprit was enjoying himself.

After his shower, he stepped out of the bathroom and smelled the fragrance of food. That made his stomach growl loudly.

Luca seemed to have sensed Tommy behind her, and she turned her head around. She smiled when she saw Tommy standing at the kitchen door and said, "Are you done with your shower? Go and sit at the dining table. I've prepared some warm milk for you. You can drink that first, I'm almost done."

"You're so nice, Miss." Tommy giggled, turned around, and sat on the chair. He took a sip of the milk that she had prepared for him, then turned his head to look at the woman in the kitchen.

He liked the place, and he liked that woman.

He thought that it would be a good idea if he could stay here. However...

He was worried that the woman might attempt to take him home. That was why he had to find an excuse so that he could continue staying here. As for his father...

Tommy became angry when he thought of his father. 'If he's not going to believe me anyway, he can continue searching!'

Luca came out of the kitchen with two plates of spaghetti. She placed the smaller plate in front of Tommy. The food had been slightly cooled down because Luca did not want Tommy to accidentally scald himself.

eat. You must be hungry." Luca handed the cutlery to

the plate with a smile. Before he even took a bite, he was already praising the cooking. "The spaghetti smells really nice,

been a while since I cooked anything. Give it a taste and see if it suits you," Luca said. She did not step into the kitchen in the three years she was on the Island of Despair, and she wondered if her skills had become

did not know if Tommy's tastes had changed in the past three years. She was quite worried that Tommy did not like her

a forkful of spaghetti and stuffed it into his mouth. His eyes immediately sparkled. "Wow, your spaghetti is so delicious, Miss! It tastes just like how my Mommy used to

Luca was happy when she heard Tommy's praises. The "Mommy" might not be referring to her, but she was indeed Tommy's

I haven't eaten something so delicious for so long," Tommy said as he took another

Luca frowned slightly. "Why?"

stop asking me that, Miss?" Tommy did not want to explain it to her, or rather, he did not know how to explain to a stranger that he suspected that his mother was not his

people would believe in

felt a twinge in her nose. "Alright, I won't ask

"It's been three years since I've eaten spaghetti like this. You're so nice, Miss!" Tommy grinned at her in satisfaction.

Luca smiled and handed him a napkin. "Wipe your mouth."

"**Thank you**, Miss," Tommy thanked her. He felt that he wanted to become closer to her when he saw her smile.

After breakfast, Luca cleared up **the table**.

Seeing her busy cleaning up in the kitchen, Tommy thought hard about what to do next. He expected the woman to ask him again about his parents, then inform them about his whereabouts!

No! He did not want to go back so **soon**!

Tommy wanted to stay with the woman for a while longer. He thought of something and took out all the snacks in *his backpack*.

After Luca finished cleaning up in the kitchen, she saw that Tommy was sitting obediently on the couch. There was also a pile of snacks on the coffee table.

She smiled and walked over. "That's a lot of **snacks**."

"*This* is for you, Miss. Thank you for taking me in." Tommy **blinked mischievously**.

"**Wow! You're** giving all that to me? But all I did was make you a plate of spaghetti." Luca knew what Tommy was trying *to do*.

was the mother to the child. How could she not guess what he

they had not met each other for three years, she felt that Tommy was still the same boy, except that he had grown taller. Perhaps that was the proof that they were related by

became dejected, thinking that he had no hope of staying there. "Can't you take me in for a while, you want to go home?" Luca took the opportunity

Tommy's gaze wandered around the room.

tell what that gesture meant. She said, "I'll consider letting you stay if you tell me the

her everything, except the part where he suspected that the Bianca at home was not the

Luca sank into deep thought.

grabbed her arm and shook it. "You're so nice and pretty, Miss. Can't you let me stay here for a few days out of your kindness? I promise I'll behave and won't give you

stay here, how are you going to school?" Luca said. She was beginning to be swayed by Tommy's

could not believe her luck. She was satisfied to be able to stay with her child for a few days and form some new memories, even if she could not reunite with

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"Yes, Miss. I promise that I won't leave the house!" Tommy held up both of his hands and promised solemnly. His father would not find him so easily if he did not step out.

"Good boy!" Luca patted his head. Of course, she knew her son very well.

Tommy was not someone who could sit still. To ensure that he could stay with her for a longer period, Luca decided to tell him to stay in the house.

If she let Tommy out, Luke's subordinates would easily find him.

Tommy thought for a while and continued asking, "How would you know that I'd be discovered by my Daddy's subordinates if I go out? Do you know who my Daddy is?"

"Who is your Daddy?" Luca pretended that she did not know.

"He is..." Tommy paused and grunted angrily. "Never mind, let's not talk about him. He's a big baddie."

"Don't say that. I'm sure that your Daddy loves you very much. Who knows that it might only be a misunderstanding? As for how I know that your Daddy has subordinates, I can tell that from your clothes."

Tommy looked at the clothes he was wearing, then looked at Luca in confusion.

Luca explained, "All your clothes are branded, and not any normal family can afford them. I can guess that your Daddy is a wealthy businessman. I bet that he's very nervous that you're missing now, and he's getting his subordinates to look for you."

Tommy looked at Luca in admiration. "You're so smart, Miss!"

Luca said nothing. She smiled and patted his head.

She felt quite proud about herself that her son admired her.

you haven't told me your name yet." Luca suddenly realized that she had not asked Tommy for

How about you?" Tommy replied to the question with a

Luca introduced herself. She opened up a pack of crackers on the coffee table and handed a piece to Tommy. Tommy took it and ate it

continued, "Why do you trust me? Aren't you afraid that I'm a bad

pretty, Ms. Luca, I don't think that you're a bad person at all. I might be young, but I can tell a good person from a bad person!" Tommy said smugly. The moment he laid his eyes on Luca, he could tell that she was a good

her eyebrows. "Am I a good person just because I'm

really, but I believe that you are a good person!" Tommy said. He picked up a cracker and handed it to her. "You should eat some snacks

you." Luca was touched. She lowered her head and ate

Luke came home immediately after knowing that Bianca

Crawford was sitting in the living room. When he saw Luke return, he asked, "Have you made arrangements to search for

have, Grandfather." Luke headed toward

Crawford shook his head helplessly when he saw that his grandson was singularly focused

Ever since Bianca returned, there had not been a single day of peace in the Crawford household. Was every Crawford man destined to be plagued by problems with women?

Zachary, his son, was like that. Luke, his grandson, was also like **that...**

Luke quickly walked up the stairs. When he went into the bedroom, he saw Dr. Cairn packing up *his equipment*.

"How is Bea, Dr. Cairn?" He asked.

"Mrs. Crawford fainted because she was emotionally agitated. She'll wake up soon, but..." Dr. Cairn paused.

"But what?" Luke asked.

"If Mrs. Crawford's emotions are usually unstable, it's best to engage the services of a psychologist. She is physically healthy, and she shouldn't have fainted so easily because of a physical problem. The only explanation is that it's a mental problem," Dr. Cairn explained. Tia had paid him off, so he would mention Tia's services whenever Bianca was *involved*.

If Tia could come and treat Bianca, it meant that she had more opportunities to be in close contact with *Luke*.

She was an arrogant woman. Even though she had a crush on Luke, she would rather wait for Luke to approach **her**.

"Alright, I know." Luke's expression sank as he looked at the woman on **the bed**.

After Dr. Cairn left, Luke told the butler, "Schedule an appointment with Ms. *Tia*."

"Yes, Sir." The butler nodded, took out his phone, and gave a call **to Tia**.

Bianca had been pretending to be unconscious on the bed. She was quite reluctant to have Tia treat her again, but if she got up at this time, they could tell that she was faking it. She had no other choice but to allow the butler to call **Tia over**.

ecstatic after finding out that Luke had invited her over. She told the butler she would come over now, and even the butler could tell that she was somehow

the call ended, the butler told Luke what Tia told

and glanced at Bianca on the bed. "Take care of her,"

"Yes, Sir," the butler replied.

left the room. He was very anxious about Tommy's disappearance, and he had to channel all his energy toward finding the

Crawford saw Luke come down the stairs. "How

I'll be leaving, Grandfather. I still have to look for Tommy,"

Crawford grunted softly and nodded. "Go then. You'd better find my precious great-grandson as soon as you

Luke did not linger for

did not see Luke when she arrived at

Old Master Crawford and went upstairs with the butler. When she arrived at the second floor, she could not hold back her curiosity anymore. "Where's Mr.

with work, so he's not at home now," the butler

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After Tia closed the bedroom door, she sat down on the couch and waited for Bianca to wake up. She felt quite bored.

She looked around the room and chuckled slightly. Nothing in the room indicated that Luke stayed in the same room as Bianca. Tia was quite happy to find out about that.

As loyal as Luke might be, he would not be able to accept the woman with such a tarnished past.

It was a miracle that Bianca remained in the Crawford household despite what she had been through. After all, her existence was a humiliation to Luke.

The more Tia thought about it, the more indignant she got.

Bianca, lying on the bed, did not hear any movement and decided to be done with her act. She slowly opened her eyes and groaned in pain to tell Tia that she was awake.

"Ugh..."

When Tia heard that, she stood up and looked at Bianca on the bed. "You're awake, Mrs. Crawford."

She might have utter contempt for Bianca, but she did not show that on her face.

Bianca sat up and looked at Tia. She was disgusted by how pretentious Tia was, though she was also very good at acting. "Why are you here, Ms. Tia?" She asked.

"Mr. Crawford asked me to check on you. Why did you faint this time, Mrs. Crawford? Are you stressed by something?" Tia moved a chair next to the bed and sat down.

shook her head and

she found out that Tia had a crush on Luke, Bianca had never told her

when she saw that Bianca refused to say anything. "Mrs. Crawford, I know that you don't want Mr. Crawford to worry, but it's not good for your mental health if you keep on holding it in. That'll in turn affect your sleep quality and your health. That's why you have to tell me if you have something troubling you. I'll help you as much as

to Tia's pretentious speech, wondering why Tia was putting up the act even though Luke was not here. She was never convinced whenever Tia pretended to be

Tia called out when she saw that Bianca's expression suddenly

came to her senses, and her expression suddenly turned solemn. "Do you have a way to restore

expression suddenly became solemn as well. How was she going to restore her memories? Nothing good would come out of it if Luke

Crawford, no one expected that you've lost all your memories. It would be even more unpredictable if we try to

don't have a way, either?" Bianca confirmed it

and tried to distract her focus. "I don't have a way, indeed. Actually, your life is great now. You won't be so sad if you can focus more on

Bianca could tell that Tia was unwilling to restore her memories. She smiled and flaunted Luke's love for her. "Yes, I'm very happy now. Luke is very nice to me too. He gave me warmth when I lost everything and felt that I didn't belong to this world. Thank you for reminding me of his love."

Tia was incredibly angry and frustrated when she heard what Bianca said, though she had to pretend to look empathic. "Yes, I'm glad that you're able to look at it from a different angle. You shouldn't split hairs over minor issues. If you need any help, feel free to call me and I'll help you."

"**Thank you**, Ms. Tia." Bianca could tell that Tia was faking her concern. She got off the bed and said, "Something happened earlier today, and I don't think you should stay for dinner. I'll escort *you downstairs*."

Tia was even more frustrated when she heard that. She had spoken so much with Bianca because she wanted to stall for time so that she could wait for Luke to come back. He was not back yet, but the woman in front of her was already telling her that she should *leave*.

Bianca pretended to be oblivious when she saw that Tia sat on the chair with no intention of getting up. "**Ms. Tia?**"

It seemed that Bianca did not want Tia to stay. Tia could only stand up and smile. "Alright, if there's something else that's so urgent, I shouldn't be *a nuisance*."

'Hmph, at least you're sensible,' Bianca thought. The more Tia wanted to get close to Luke, the harder Bianca would try to stop that from happening.

Tia stopped at the door and said, "You should still be unwell, Mrs. Crawford. You don't have to send me off; I'll show **myself out**."

"*Take care*," Bianca said. She was not going to pretend to be hospitable if Tia had said that she was going to leave.

She had collapsed on the floor when she pretended to faint. Her body was still aching from the fall. remained composed after leaving

had been to Crawford Manor multiple times, and she could navigate the place with her eyes closed. Her expression sank immediately after she left the house, and she made a

the call went through, she said, "Go and investigate what happened in the Crawford household this Tia," the person at the other end of the

call ended, Tia got into his car

someone was looking for Tommy in every corner of A City, and the culprit of the incident was sitting on the couch munching on his snacks while watching his favorite

was sitting next to him and reading a medical book. She was not distracted by the noise from

an episode, Tommy turned his head and looked at the woman who was reading intently. "Ms. Luca," he turned her head and smiled

grown up by quite a lot, but he still loved cartoons. He could sit quietly for the entire afternoon as long as he had snacks and