

## **Be Gentle 1131**

### **Chapter 1131**

Luca went to the kitchen and made dinner for Tommy. She did not have many food ingredients left, so she had to be extra creative with the eggs. She remembered that Tommy was not very fond of eggs, and she had to be very meticulous so that Tommy would eat.

An hour later, the fragrance of food wafted out of the kitchen.

Tommy wore the slippers that Luca had prepared for him and ran toward the kitchen. He stood at the door and blinked. "It smells really good, Ms. Luca."

Luca was wearing an apron. She turned her head and smiled.

She was standing in front of the window, and Tommy could only see her silhouette because of the lighting.

Tommy was stunned. 'Why does she look so familiar...'

Luca did not notice the change in his expression. She said, "Go and wash your hands, Tommy. Dinner will be ready soon."

"Yes, Ms. Luca!" Tommy's eyes were like crescent moons when he smiled. He bumbled over to the bathroom and washed his hands.

Luca brought the food out of the kitchen. Tommy was already sitting at the dining table waiting.

"Looks delicious!" Tommy said with a wide grin on his face.

Luca smiled and handed him the cutlery. "Have a taste. If you like it, I hope that you can finish your plate."

Tommy took the cutlery and said, "I love everything that you make for me."

sat next to him and watched him

eating happily. Soon, he had almost cleared out his

glad that Tommy enjoyed the food. "I was worried that you won't like the eggs," she

far as she remembered, Tommy was a picky eater. No matter how hard she and Luke tried, Tommy would not touch any piece of food that he did not

really like eggs, but your cooking is so good. I love it," Tommy said and continued to shovel food into his mouth. There was something familiar about the food

felt a flood of emotions when she watched him eat. After Tommy cleared out his plate, she smiled and wiped the child's

"Are you full?" She asked.

rubbed his round stomach. He could not eat another bite. "I'm full," he smiled

Luca cleared the table, Tommy lifted his head and looked at her. "You're so gentle, Ms.

way the woman watched him eat made him feel that she was his

smiled. "You're so cute. I don't think I can be angry

felt an odd sense of familiarity when he saw Luca's eyes curving like crescent moons when she smiled.

"Ms. Luca, don't you think that our eyes look

**Luca was** stunned. 'Do they? I thought Shanks worked on **them...**'

"Is that so? I don't think that they're alike at all," she said. Shanks had given her double eyelids, which was unlike what she had before.

She did not know why Tommy found their eyes to be similar. Perhaps it was mere childish *whimsy*.

After clearing the table, Luca took out the textbooks from Tommy's backpack. "You've been watching cartoons the entire afternoon. Perhaps you should study *a bit*."

"Okay." Tommy did not object.

*Luca took* the textbook, asked Tommy how far the teacher was into the syllabus, and began to tutor him. She let the child indulge in an entire afternoon of cartoons, but she did not want him to neglect his **studies either**.

Tommy listened attentively. In an hour, she had imparted a lot of knowledge *to him*.

*He* was a fast learner. Luca realized that she had taught him about two days' worth of what he would learn in **school**.

"Am I smart, Ms. Luca?" Tommy leaned on Luca and *sought praise*.

"**Yes** you are." Luca patted Tommy's head. He was Luke's child and inherited his **intelligence**.

**Suddenly**, she thought of Nyla, who was still on the Island of Despair. She hoped that the girl would be as intelligent as her elder *siblings*.

you have any older siblings?" Luca asked, hoping to find out how Lanie and Rainie had

do!" Tommy's eyes sparkled when his elder siblings are mentioned. "I have an elder brother and sister.

must be just as smart as you are!" Seeing how Tommy admired his elder siblings, Luca could guess that they had a

are!" Tommy said smugly. "They're good-looking, and they're ace students in school. My brother loves to read, and he can understand everything. My sister is an amazing ballet dancer. In two months, she will be entering an

was comforted by what Tommy told her. She was happy that her children

Luca!" Tommy lifted his head and looked at

lowered her head to look at

can I bring my brother and sister over for dinner?" Tommy asked. Luca's cooking was great, and he did not want to enjoy

believed that Lanie and Rainie would love Luca's

"Sure!" Luca said.

clapped his hands and cheered. He grinned and looked at

what that expression meant. She smiled and said, "Do you want to watch

## **Chapter 1132**

Luca came out of the kitchen with a plate of sliced apples.

Tommy was sitting on the couch wagging his legs while watching the cartoon on the television. He behaved as though he was at home instead of a stranger's house.

Luca smiled and put the plate on the coffee table. "I only have apples in my fridge. I'll go to the supermarket tomorrow and buy your favorite fruits."

"Thank you, Ms. Luca!" Tommy said. He picked up an apple slice with a toothpick but did not eat it. Instead, he handed it to Luca. "You should eat some too!"

Luca smiled sweetly seeing how sensible Tommy was. She took the toothpick and said, "Thank you, Tommy."

Tommy could see the warm glow in Luca's eyes and could not help but lean closer. "Ms. Luca, can I lean on you?"

Luca was taken aback, but she soon knew what Tommy wanted. She smiled and nodded. "Of course."

Tommy inched closer to her carefully in case she was uncomfortable.

Luca ate the apple and picked him up with both hands. "Come and lean on me."

Tommy grinned and snuggled in her lap. "You're so warm, Ms. Luca," he said.

Luca tousled the little boy's hair. She held the plate in her hand so that Tommy could access the fruit easily.

Tommy was not worried at all as he sat on Luca's lap and watched the cartoon.

An hour later, the cartoon ended. Luca lowered her head and looked at the child on her lap.

you sleepy?" She asked softly when she saw that Tommy was already rubbing his

nodded. He had stayed up late the night before he had to run away from home. Naturally, he was already feeling

could not bear to watch him wear himself out. She said, "How about you go take a shower, and we'll go to

Ms. Luca." Tommy nodded again and looked at her. "Ms. Luca, can I sleep with

course you can." Luca took out his pajamas from his backpack. Abel had prepared a two-room apartment for Luca, but the other bedroom was turned into

the pajamas and skipped toward the

he took his shower, Luca brought him to the bedroom. The sparsely-furnished bedroom with gray walls was cold and

was not high, and Tommy climbed onto it easily. "Your bed is so soft,

let Tommy bounce on it twice before holding his hand. "That's too dangerous. You'd better lie

what he was told. He blinked and said, "When are you sleeping, Ms.

take a shower," Luca said while spreading the blanket. "You'll sleep first,

lay down on the bed and pouted. "Alright, Ms. Luca. I'll wait

**Luca** patted his head, tucked him in, then went to the closet to take out her pajamas before going to the **bathroom**.

*After* her shower, her phone began *to ring*.

*Luca* saw the long string of numbers on her call notification. Her gaze turned cold as she answered the call. "Yes?"

"*Why* did you bring that kid home, Ivana?" Abel's sinister voice was heard from the other end of the **call**.

*Luca* knew that she could not hide anything from him. "My daughter is still in your hands. What can I possibly do?"

**Nyla** was still on the Island of Despair. Because of that, she could not tell Tommy her real **identity**.

Abel laughed coldly and said, "Yes, I'm glad that you remember that your daughter is in my hands. Don't think of doing anything stupid if you want your daughter *to live*."

*Luca* gripped her phone tightly. She was growing tired of his threats, but she could not afford to ignore them.

"Is there anything else?" she asked.

"**That's all**," Abel said matter-of-factly. "I'm just reminding you about your daughter in case you forgot about her after seeing your son. Right, do you want to talk to *Nyla*?"

"**There's** no need." Luca ended the call and stood in the living room in a *daze*.

'Nyla...'

**Tommy** could hear Luca talking in the living room. He clambered out of bed because he was curious and saw her standing there. "What's wrong, Ms. Luca?"

came to her senses. She turned her head and smiled at him. "It's nothing. I just received a scam

and said seriously, "Daddy said that if you receive a scam call, you should immediately hang up and block the number. You don't have to talk to them because they're bad

when she looked at his serious face. She took his hand and said, "Alright. Didn't you say that you're sleepy? Let's go to

had grown a lot taller in three years. It was much easier to take his

"I'm worried about you!" Tommy explained.

but I won't be so easily deceived. Don't worry." Luca placed him on the bed and took off her slippers. She slept close to the edge while Tommy slept next to the wall in case he rolled over and fell in the off the light and covered herself with

Tommy lay by her side, he could feel the warmth from

Luca," he mumbled. He wanted to sleep closer to her, but he was afraid that she might be smiled and hugged him. "Is

warm, Ms. Luca," Tommy mumbled. "No one has cuddled me in bed for a

your Daddy cuddle you while you sleep?" Luca asked. She did not hope that the impostor Bianca would cuddle

## **Chapter 1133**

Tommy did not get a response from her. He asked again, "Ms. Luca?"

Luca came to her senses and made up an excuse. "I'm sure that a cute boy like you must have a godmother. Any woman would want you to be her godson."

Tommy grinned. "Why don't you be my godmother, Ms. Luca?"

Luca did not know how to react to that. It was quite ridiculous to think that her biological son would become her godson.

"You'll have to ask your parents about that," she tried to stall with an excuse, hoping that Tommy would forget about the issue in a couple of days.

"Alright, I'll ask Daddy about it then." Tommy nodded and committed it to heart.

The woman in front of her gave her an inexplicable sense of familiarity. He wanted to see her more often.

Luca pinched his plump cheek. "Didn't you say that you're sleepy? Why aren't you sleeping yet?"

"Good night, Ms. Luca." Tommy curled up in Luca's embrace and closed his eyes.

Luca did not move. As she heard the child's breathing become calm and rhythmic, she sighed. She had returned with a different face and did not tell him the truth, yet he had trusted her unconditionally.

That made her feel even more guilty. She could not tell him that she was his birth mother.

She dared not imagine the eventuality when she would be forced to harm them. How would their future be?

Luca's eyes were wide open in the dark room. In the countless nights on the Island of Despair, she had dreamed of returning to A City. Now that she was back, she did not know what she should do.

what if she had her own objectives? Abel was holding Nyla hostage. She could not fulfill any of the things she wanted to

again when she thought

...

in Crawford Manor, Luke obtained the security footage of the surrounding area. He saw that Tommy turned a corner not far away from their house and disappeared beyond

happened that the surveillance cameras in that area were under

in the study. His expression

came into the room with a glass of milk. She could tell from his expression that he was frustrated about

dared not mention it, in case he blamed her for

had dinner, Luke. Why don't you have a glass of warm milk?" Bianca gently placed the glass of milk next

Luke moved his mouse around but showed no intention of picking up the

aggrieved when she saw that he was not looking at her, but she did not show it on her face. Instead, she stood next to her and pretended that she was worried about

her heart, she was incredibly

*All* she had done was reprimand the child for a bit, but that child had run away from home. He was purposely giving her trouble!

**Luke** replayed the footage several times but could not find anything useful. Bianca's legs were beginning to tire, and she had the urge to **leave**.

**However**, if she left now, all her effort would be in *vain*.

She began to think for a reason or excuse to **leave**.

**Luke** closed the last video and turned around to look at the woman behind her. "Why are you still here?"

"..." Bianca was speechless. She had been standing there, but he had totally ignored **that!**

*"Is there* any news on Tommy?" She showed her concern for the child instead of her **dissatisfaction**.

"No." Luke furrowed his brows hard. He did not expect that Tommy could evade surveillance. If the boy had not gone into the blind spot, he expected that they would have found him by now.

**"What should** we do?" Bianca said anxiously and bit her lower lip. She tried to look as pitiful *as possible*.

Luke did not pay any attention to her because his attention was fully focused on finding Tommy. "You should go and rest."

"Then you..." Bianca was not happy that she was sent to her room alone.

*Halfway speaking*, the computer beeped. Luke had received a new email.

**Luke opened** it and downloaded another security footage video. He said, "I'll have to continue reviewing the footage. Tommy is still young, and the outside world is too *dangerous*."

thought that she should accompany him, but she could not bear standing anymore. She nodded and said, "Alright then, I won't disturb you. If you find anything, you'll have to let me

did not turn his head to look at

the study while occasionally turning her head to look at Luke. She breathed a sigh of relief after leaving the room. It was so hard to put up an act as a caring

all the security footage videos and reviewed them throughout the night. He did not find

up very early the next morning. There was no more food left in the fridge, so she had to go downstairs and buy

worried that Tommy might be afraid if he woke up and found himself alone, so she woke him up.

"Tommy, I'm going downstairs to get breakfast. What do you want to

hope that you can cook for me, Ms. Luca." Tommy rubbed his

more food in the fridge, so I can't cook. Do you want soy milk or milk? How about pastries or

like anything that you like, Ms. Luca." Tommy did not want to make decisions. He thought that Luca's tastes should be similar

only say, "Alright then, I'll see what I can get. You can continue

"Yes, Ms. Luca." Tommy nodded.

her face and went downstairs to buy breakfast. She was not sure if Tommy's tastes had changed so she bought milk, soy milk, bread, and

## **Chapter 1134**

The footage from the surveillance cameras showed that Tommy was seen in the area. Jason had brought the bodyguards from Crawford Manor to look for him.

After Luca walked far away, she turned around to look at Jason and the bodyguards busy at work. She turned away and hastened back home.

Back at the apartment, Tommy had already woken up and washed his face. He was sitting in the living room, waiting for Luca to return.

When he saw Luca come in through the door, he exclaimed in surprise, jumped off the couch, and ran toward her. "You're back, Ms. Luca!"

Luca was holding things in both of her hands, and she had to close the door with her foot. Her heart warmed when she saw that the child was so excited to see her, and she led Tommy to the dining table. "You must be hungry. I bought a little bit of everything, so you can eat whatever you like."

She could not tell what Tommy liked to eat, so she took the extra effort to make sure that he received enough nutrition.

"I'll eat anything that you buy for me, Ms. Luca." Tommy looked at her while grinning. He sat on the chair while waiting for Luca to spread out the breakfast items.

"Really? Aren't you a picky eater?" Luca remembered that Tommy used to be very picky with his food. From how Tommy had relished the all-egg dinner the night before, she could tell that his dietary habits had changed drastically over the past three years.

"I'm not a picky eater," Tommy said, though his gaze subconsciously shifted to his left.

He was the pickiest eater in the Crawford household, but he was everything that Luca had prepared for him.

Luca noticed the mannerism, but she did not call him out.

She unpacked all the bags and put the food in front of him. "What do you want to eat?"

at the pastries. Old Master Crawford treated that as junk food and said that they were unhealthy for children. He had not eaten pastries for

pointed at the pastries. "Can I eat those, Ms.

you can!" Luca handed the pastries to him. She had made sure that those were freshly made and not overnight items. "Here, have some soy milk

Ms. Luca!" Tommy took the food and began

ate the bread and drank the milk. After breakfast, she said, "I met a group of people on the street earlier. They looked like they're searching

surprised. He was worried that Luca might hand him to those people, so he said, "I'm sure that they're not looking for me, Ms.

have your photo in their hands," Luca said deliberately to see if he wanted to

did not want to stay there, she would send him back

he could not deceive Luca, Tommy could only say dejectedly, "I don't want to go home yet, Ms. Luca. Can't I stay here for a

then." Luca could tell that Tommy was unwilling to go home yet. She patted his head and threw the empty bags

expected that she would refuse. He opened his eyes wide and grinned. "You're so nice,

"If you don't want to go home yet, I won't force you. I'll have to go to work next Monday though. You'll have to go home no matter what," Luca laid down *the terms*.



Tommy grinned and saluted her, "Yes, Ma'am!"

Luca cleaned the table and combed her hair. "Tommy, will you be okay if I leave you at home *alone*?"

Tommy clung to her and asked her, "Where are you going, *Ms. Luca*?"

"**There's no** more food in the fridge. I'll have to go to the supermarket." Luca took a recyclable shopping bag with her and prepared to buy more food. With a child living in her house, she had to buy food for two *people*.

Tommy *blinked* and looked at her eagerly. "Ms. Luca, can you bring me along?"

Luca *turned* her head and looked at him. "Aren't you worried that your Daddy's subordinates might discover you?"

**Tommy ran** over to his backpack, took out a cap, and wore it on his head. He turned around and said coolly, "They won't be able to discover me now."

Luca *rubbed* her chin and frowned. "I can still recognize you in *one glance*."

"I have this too!" Tommy took out a child-sized mask from his backpack. He was well-prepared for his escapade, and even Luke might not recognize him after Tommy put on his cap and mask.

Luca was pensive when she saw what Tommy was doing. She wondered if her disguises had left a strong impression on Tommy, and he was merely imitating her **now**.

Tommy twirled around in front of the fitting mirror and was quite satisfied with his disguise. He went over and held Luca's hand. "Please bring me with you, Ms. Luca. I can help you carry the bags

have you forgotten what you have promised me?" Luca's heart melted when Tommy did that

remember, Ms. Luca!" Tommy still held her hand tightly. "But I'm not the one asking to go outdoors. All I want is to accompany you! My teacher also said that it's not safe to leave a child home

Abel keeping a constant eye on her, it was not safe to leave Tommy in the house

other choice, Luca pushed Tommy's cap and said, "Alright, but stay close to

promise that I'll stay close to you!"

brought Tommy downstairs. At the entrance of the apartment, she glanced around and did not see Luke's

'Guess they didn't find anything...'

also looking around warily. He breathed a sigh of relief when he did not see anyone

Tommy went to the nearby supermarket. She bought many fresh ingredients, some snacks, milk, yogurt, and his

looked at her. "Are those all

**Chapter 1135**

"I love them!" Tommy nodded his head.

Luca smiled and patted his head. She was Tommy's birth mother, and it was not surprising that they loved the same things even though it had been so long.

Luca brought the shopping cart to the checkout counter. She had a shopping bag in each of her hands, while Tommy also carried one bag.

The two people left the supermarket.

"Where are we going now, Ms. Luca?" Tommy asked. His shopping bag was not heavy, and one of his hands clung to the hem of Luca's clothes in case he wandered away.

"We're going home." Luca saw that his eyes were the only facial feature that was not covered. She was worried that he might not be able to take the late morning heat.

"Okay!" Tommy smiled and nodded.

The supermarket was a short walk from Luca's apartment. They arrived at the gate after walking for five minutes.

Luca saw several men in black suits interrogating random people not far away. She felt nervous and lowered her head to look at Tommy.

Tommy also noticed those people too. He lowered his head when he realized that they were his father's subordinates.

"Keep calm and continue walking." Luca remained composed. She shifted the shopping bags to one hand, and the other hand took Tommy's hand as they walked toward the elevator.

Fortunately, the bodyguards did not stop them.

got into the elevator, Tommy breathed a sigh of relief. "Phew, luckily they didn't see us,"

to go back sooner or later," Luca reminded Tommy with a

about that some other time." Tommy did not want to go back so soon. He wanted to stay there for a few more

miss your parents?" Luca was not sure how to react to that. The elevator stopped at their floor, and they walked

return to them soon enough. Also, Daddy always says that I'm a big boy now, and I need to learn how to be independent." Tommy stood at the door, waiting for Luca to unlock

had no retort to those comments. She unlocked the door with her keys, after which Tommy cheered, ran inside, and took off his cap

stepped inside and closed the

so hot, Ms. Luca!" Tommy said coyly

I'll turn on the air conditioning." Luca knew that he was feeling stuffy. She put the shopping bags away, picked up the remote, and turned on the

a lot more comfortable after the chilly air from the air conditioner cooled down the house. He grinned and said, "Ms. Luca, can you tutor

happy that Tommy took the initiative to learn. "Of course. I'll have to put the ingredients in the fridge, otherwise they might

"Yes, Ms. Luca!" Tommy nodded, took out his textbooks from his backpack, and sat on the couch to wait for *Luca*.

*After Luca* put the ingredients in the fridge and came out of the kitchen, Tommy was sitting on the couch and reading a story aloud.

*Luca* smiled gently, went over, patted Tommy's head, and began to **tutor him**.

*Meanwhile*, Luke's subordinates searched the entire area and found nothing. They had gone around the neighborhood with Tommy's photo and asked the residents if they had seen the boy, but no one gave them a positive *answer*.

*Jason could* only tell the results of his findings to **Luke**.

The atmosphere was tense in the spacious office. After Jason made his report, he stood still and waited for Luke to reprimand him.

**Luke** took a drag from his cigarette and exhaled a smoke ring. He looked coldly at Jason and the bodyguards. "If you haven't found him, then continue to *find him*."

Jason could feel his scalp tingle from those cold words. "Should we still look for him in that area, **Boss?**"

"Did you see him in any other area?" **Luke replied**.

*Jason* shook his head. "No. I'll go and make *arrangements now!*"

**Tommy** had already been missing for two days and two nights, and there was no news of him. Luke hoped that he was deliberately hiding from **them**.

hard to find a small child in a big city. Even if they did not hear any bad news about him now, they could not guarantee that he was safe. They had to find him as fast

people left the office. "Stop dawdling around. Let's go and look for Tommy,"

The bodyguards nodded and brought their subordinates to look

evening, Luca went downstairs to take out the trash. She noticed that there were several bodyguards in black suits lingering around the area. When a bodyguard noticed Luca and wanted to approach her, she nimbly hid

throwing the trash into the dumpster, she returned to

watching cartoons on the couch. Luca sighed. For a brief moment, she thought that what she was doing was

if she wanted to live together with her child, that was not the way to do  
her selfish desire, she had to make

Ms. Luca?" Tommy heard Luca sigh and turned his head to look at

Daddy's subordinates are looking for you downstairs." Luca walked over and sat on the couch. She  
wanted to convince the child to go

pouted. "They're still searching for

## **Chapter 1136**

Tommy looked at the snacks in his hands and pouted. "Ms. Luca, after I go home, will I ever get to see  
you again?"

Luca thought for a while. She wanted to meet the child in the future too. She took a piece of notepaper  
and wrote her phone number on it. "This is my phone number. If you miss me, you are welcome to call  
me any time. We can also have a video call. What do you think?"

"This is great!" Tommy grinned. He had a phone, but he did not bring it in case they were able to track  
his location with it.

Luca was reluctant for Tommy to leave, and she knew that her reluctance was growing by the minute.  
She opened the door and said, "Let's go."

Tommy held her hand, and the two people went downstairs.

When they stepped out of the elevator, Luca noticed the bodyguards in black suits. She asked Tommy,  
"Is that one of your Daddy's men?"

Tommy could recognize a few of them. He nodded and said, "Yes!"

"Go then. Be a good boy, alright?" Luca could guess that his father would scold him when he returned  
home.

"Aren't you sending me over there?" Tommy looked at her reluctantly.

"I don't think I should. I'll just watch you from here." Luca let go of Tommy's hand. She did not want the  
bodyguards to tell Luke about her.

Tommy could only walk over alone while frequently turning back to look at her.

Luca waved at him. She only left after seeing Tommy return to the bodyguard's side.

Those people shall not know about her.

bodyguards asked Tommy many questions, though Tommy did not answer them. When he turned his  
head again, Luca was

Tommy felt very dejected.

bodyguards noticed that Tommy was feeling down. They asked, "What's wrong, Master Tommy? Are  
you

felt a little better after looking at the snacks in his hands and thought about the phone number in his pocket. "I'm tired. Bring me

The bodyguards were relieved that they found the boy. They escorted him to the car while informing Jason about

relayed the news that Tommy was found to

abandoned his work and drove straight home. Tommy was already sitting on the couch while being surrounded by a few

back, Sir," the butler

startled when he heard that. He hopped off the couch and wanted to

Luke called him and blocked

his head and looked at Luke's stern face. He looked at Old Master Crawford, knowing that his great-grandfather was the only person who could

had already told Old Master Crawford everything the moment he got back to Crawford Manor, including the fact that a woman named Luca had taken him in for the past two

you been since yesterday?" Luke asked. Jason had only told him the general area where the bodyguards found Tommy, but that was all they knew. No one had provided them with any leads, and Tommy had appeared in front of the bodyguards all of a

"Hmph!" Tommy pouted and did not answer his father's question. He knew that his great-grandfather would protect him.

**Even** though he was back home, he was still angry at **Luke!**

**Luke's expression** sank. Before he could lose his temper, Old Master Crawford took Tommy's hand. "Tommy, are you hungry?"

"I'm hungry, Great-Grandpa," Tommy immediately answered.

"Alright, let's go and have dinner." Old Master Crawford was furious after hearing what Tommy had to say. That was why he sided with his great-grandson.

**Lanie** and Rainie exchanged glances, and the four people went into the dining **hall**.

**The only** people left in the living room were Luke, who was still angry, and the butler.

"Mr. Griffin," he called out sullenly.

"Yes, Sir." The butler stood behind him *and nodded*.

"Where has Tommy been for the past two days?" *Luke asked.*

"According to Master Tommy, a young woman took him in. Earlier, the woman saw the bodyguards going around her neighborhood looking for Tommy, so she let him go," the butler said. "The woman has

taken good care of Master Tommy. When Master Tommy was found, his clothes were clean, and he was holding a pile of snacks in his hands. It seemed that he had an easy *time*."

"Did he say who that young woman was?" Luke placed his hands in his pockets. Why would someone take Tommy in but not **identify herself**?

woman not know who

"Yes, but..." The butler paused.

"Speak."

Tommy only told the identity of that woman to Old Master Crawford, and I did not hear who she was. Moreover, Old Master Crawford doesn't want you to know who that woman is," the butler

Master Crawford knew that Luke would be suspicious. If Luke knew the identity of the person who took in Tommy, he would send someone to investigate

had taken Tommy in without asking for anything in return, and she was not willing to reveal herself. It meant that she did not want to be disturbed, and that was why Old Master Crawford did not tell anyone else in the Crawford

Luke sighed helplessly and went upstairs.

looked at his strong and well-built back and

did not have it easy. Ever since Bianca lost her memories, he was caught between his wife and his been two years since the last serious incident in the family. Any other family would have been devastated

Tommy went back to his bedroom

stood in the corridor. He leaned against the wall and faced Tommy's bedroom

out of the bedroom and saw her father. "Tommy is fine, Daddy,"

## **Chapter 1137**

Tommy lay on his bed. He was on a video call with Luca.

Luca looked at Tommy on her phone screen, wishing that the joy she experienced in the past two days could last forever.

However, she was now Luca and not Bianca. She could not be by her children's side for too long.

Seeing that Tommy was yawning, Luca said softly. "It's getting late. You should go to bed."

"I hope that I can sleep with you, Ms. Luca," Tommy pouted and said coyly. He remembered that he had slept soundly by her side the night before, and he wanted to experience that again.

"You're a big boy now. You have to be independent," Luca said.

She also wished that she could be by her children's side, but that was an impossibility for now!

Tommy blinked and looked at her gentle demeanor. "Ms. Luca, when I decide to forgive Daddy in a few days, I'll let him know that I want you as my godmother!"

"We'll talk about this next time. You still have school tomorrow. You'd better sleep soon," Luca said.

Tommy nodded and reluctantly ended the video call. As he lay on the bed, he thought of how he should introduce Luca to his elder siblings.

He decided that he would ask Lanie and Rainie to join in the video call tomorrow.

As her phone screen darkened, Luca sighed inaudibly. She went to clean up her house. When she saw the yogurt and milk in the fridge, she sighed again.

She had bought all those drinks for Tommy, but she had forgotten to tell him to take them along with him when he left.

closed the fridge door, went back to her bedroom, and fell on

to her side and touched the empty space where Tommy had slept the night before. "It would be great if I could spend another night

knew that she should not indulge herself with such

bedroom light was blinding her, so she turned the light off. In the dark and silent night, her tears suddenly started flowing

at home for the next

she ran out of food, she went out of her house to

went to the nearby supermarket and found that it was closed for renovations. With no other choice, she had to take a cab to another supermarket in the downtown

got out of the car and looked at her surroundings. Many things had changed in the past three years, and she was not familiar with

had the idea to go around

into a shopping mall and bought several shirts for work. Then, she took the

she wandered around the mall, she found herself in the

were many clothes and toys for children. Luca suddenly had the urge to

**Whenever she** touched the clothes, she would pull her hand back and sigh. She could not reunite with the three children, and Nyla was not with her. There was no one for her to buy clothes *for*.

**A sales** clerk saw that and enthusiastically went up to her. "Are you buying clothes for a *child*?"

"Mm." Luca nodded.

*The sales clerk said, "These are the latest designs in our store. All sizes are available, and they fit children from one to ten years old."*

*The colorful* array of children's clothing made Luca even more dejected. She shook her head and said, "I'm just looking. You don't have to worry about *me*."

"Alright then, you can call me if you need anything." The sales clerk left.

Luca stayed in that section for quite a while. She imagined that Nyla would love the clothes **here**.

**The** cloth and sewing materials on the Island of Despair were mostly drab colors. There was no aesthetic sense to Nyla's **clothes**.

"Ow!" While Luca was lost in thought, a little girl ran over and bumped **into her**.

*She steadied* herself and looked at the little girl sprawled on the floor. She helped her up and asked her, "Are you okay?"

*There was* a red spot on the girl's forehead. She started **bawling**.

When Luca wanted to comfort her, she heard the voice of a woman. "I told you not to run around, Jasmine, but you don't *listen*."

Luca was shocked. She turned her head and saw that the voice belonged **to Nina**.

over, picked up the crying little girl, and smiled apologetically at Luca. "I'm sorry, I should have kept a closer eye on her. Are you

shook her head. She felt a lump in her throat when she saw her best friend. "I'm

it hurts," little Jasmine complained as she pressed

rubbed the little girl's forehead. "It's painful, right? That's why I told you not to run

Jasmine slumped on Nina's shoulder, and her crying ceased. "I won't do that anymore," she said

'Aunt Nina?'

guessed that the child must be Jean's

have been released from prison. Luca became quite emotional when she thought of what happened in

that the little girl had stopped crying, Nina turned to look at Luca. "Are you really alright? I thought I saw your stumble when the girl bumped into you. You're not hurt anywhere,

fine. Don't worry about it." Luca tried to compose herself so that Nina could not hear that she was about to

missed everything in A City, including her family

Nina thought that the woman in front of her looked familiar, but she could not remember where she had seen that face. "Right, have we

## **Chapter 1138**

Nina's gaze shifted away from her kids and toward Luca, but she found that she had already left.

As Nina watched her walk away, she found Luca familiar.



After Luca left the children's clothing area, she slowly calmed down and contained the pain she felt. She was overjoyed to meet Nina. She wanted to hold her hand and catch up to ask about how she had been in the past few years.

However, she could not do that.

Luca hated feeling powerless.

She walked around the mall and realized that she was not in the mood to shop, so she walked toward the exit.

There was an event happening on the first floor of the mall. Luca looked up and saw the logo of Brilliant Architectural Design LLC. She was stunned and brought her steps to a stop.

She could not hear anything that the host of the event was saying. She just stood there and stared at the logo of Brilliant Architectural Design LLC with mixed feelings.

This logo was designed by her. Three years later, the company was still around and the logo remained.

Luca wondered if Nina and Sue were the ones trying to keep the company up and running.

Suddenly, Luke's name was mentioned, and Luca snapped out of her daze. She looked at the man who was walking onto the stage.

Luke was wearing a tailored suit and walking to the center of the stage with high spirits. He then took the microphone handed by the host.

The noise around him stopped when he arrived at the center of the stage.

began to introduce Brilliant Architectural Design LLC. When he mentioned that the company was founded by the love of his life, she could not help but chuckle. Luke was the center of attention everywhere

the lighting in the shopping mall was not the best, his appearance seemed to gather everyone's attention. No matter where he went, he would always

at the distance between herself and Luke—not only the distance from the stage to where she was but also the distance that could not easily be spoken

as Luke finished his speech and turned around

could leave the area, Jason called out to Luca. "Ms.

stopped. She wanted to leave but if she did, it would make things awkward. Hence, she looked back at him and said with a smile,

here..." Jason glanced at her, then turned to look at Luke on the stage. "Are you here to

smiled and said, "Yes, I didn't expect to bump into Mr. Crawford for an

is fate." Jason smiled. "Ms. Ivana, there'll be a reception in the company later. Would you like to join

him down without a second thought. "No, I'm not a part of Brilliant Architectural Design LLC and I think it's best if I sit out of

be silly, you're also a part of T Corporation. I believe the boss would be more than happy to see you there." Jason extended the invitation once

shook her head and looked somewhere far away. She saw Sue standing there, sneaking looks in their direction. Hence, she said, "I have something to attend to, so I'll make a move

**When Jason** heard her reply, he knew that it was pointless to ask her to stay again. He smiled and watched her *leave*.

**Luke**, who was standing on the stage, watched the interaction. His eyes darkened. 'When did Jason get close to Luca?'

*After Luca* left, Jason returned to Sue with the intention to help her distribute the leaflets and gifts from Brilliant Architectural Design LLC.

As soon as he picked up the leaflets, Sue snatched them and said, "I don't need your *help*."

*Jason* was confused about her angry tone. '**She's angry?**'

"**Sue...**" **Jason** picked up the gifts on the side and held them tightly in his hands so they would not be taken away by her. "What *happened?*"

"**I'm** fine. Aren't you busy? Go and work on whatever that you need to work on." Sue saw that he was holding onto the gifts tightly and knew that it would be pointless to try and snatch them from him.

"*I'm not* busy." Jason looked at her puffed-up cheeks and suddenly understood the situation. He got closer to her and asked, "Are **you jealous?**"

"Me? Jealous?" Sue rolled his eyes.

**Jason knew** that she was saying one thing but her heart was saying another. He patiently explained, "She's a new talent hired by the boss."

*Sue handed* the leaflets to her colleagues and asked, "What kind of talent? Is *T Corporation hiring?*"

Although Luke was managing Brilliant Architectural Design LLC, it was run separately from **T Corporation**.

Architectural Design LLC was Brilliant Architectural Design LLC, while T Corporation was T

she had moved two steps to the side, Jason got closer and said cheekily, "T Corporation is going to enter the pharmaceutical industry, so we went through a round of recruitment. The woman from just now is one of the company's

snorted. She was uncomfortable seeing Jason so close to other women, but when she saw that woman, she could not bring herself to dislike

researcher who's smart and beautiful?" She sighed, her tone did not convey any trace of

hired her for her capability," Jason said while he handed out gifts to the people around

go for looks." Sue watched as Luke walked over, surrounded by bodyguards. She deliberately walked wanted to catch up to her but Luke called out

"Where is she?" he asked.

are you talking about... Ms. Ivana? She left,"

slightly. When he was giving the speech on stage, he saw Luca standing in

and walked out. "Get the car ready, let's head back to

the bodyguards following him immediately replied,

### **Chapter 1139**

Sue shook her head helplessly when the word 'wedding' was mentioned. "I don't think it's possible for me to get married."

"Why?" Nina was puzzled as she thought that Jason and Sue had a stable and sweet relationship. It should just be a matter of time before they got married.

"Whether we can get married depends on when his ex-wife will stop bothering him. Only then will I agree to his marriage proposal," Sue said. It was not that Jason had never proposed to her but that she kept turning him down.

In the past three years, Bailey had not given up on badgering Jason. Although her methods had toned down, Sue still did not feel comfortable about it.

If and when Jason found a way to put a stop to his ex-wife's erratic behavior, she would get married to him then.

When Nina heard about what was going on between them, she sighed and said, "What if Mr. Crawford introduces a successful entrepreneur to Bailey? Maybe she'd give up on Mr. Doyle then. That woman is truly sickening."

Sue listened to her rant. Although what Nina said was true, she shook her head and said, "Let's not talk about this in front of kids."

"It's not a big deal." Nina touched Jasmine's head.

On the other side, Luke left the mall in a car and noticed Luca, who was standing not too far away from where he was. His gaze locked onto her.

Jason, who was sitting in the passenger seat, noticed it. He turned around and said to Luke, "Boss, it's Ms. Ivana."

"I know." Luke's deep-set eyes stared at him. 'Why does he seem so interested in Ivana?'

Jason was uncomfortable being stared at like this. He touched his nose, turned his head around, and stopped looking at Luke.

was not excited to see Ivana. However, he was not sure why he reacted as such. He thought it could be because he knew that Luke was interested in

the side and get down,"

in charge of driving and Jason looked at each other. The car was immediately parked next to Luca. The two then got out of the

looked at the car parked next to her with a suspicious gaze. She wanted to take a taxi home but the mall was crowded on weekends so there were not many available. That was why she was still

out of the car and opened the door. "Ms. Ivana, please get in the

about it, I'll wait for the taxi." Luca looked at Luke who stepped down from the back seat and turned the offer down without a

did not want to come into too much contact with him, lest her heart went out of

boss has something to talk to you about,"

at Luke. He was standing next to the driver's door with one hand on the roof, staring at

two looked at each other for three seconds, Luke said,

simple and direct command made Luca unable to turn him down. He looked at her with a blank expression. His aura was so strong that she could not take it any

a motion to invite

Luke and Jason did not seem like they intended to leave... Luca looked at the cars coming and going. People might gossip if they noticed that she and Luke were staring at each other in public.

**Grudgingly**, she compromised and went into the passenger seat.

Luke sat in the driver's seat.

*The bodyguards* and Jason closed the doors before walking to the convoy that followed behind them. They got into one of those **cars**.

Luca concealed her panic by buckling the seat belt. Her hands were sweaty when she was **done**.

**She had** never felt like this with other men, no matter how powerful they were. Only when she was with Luke did she feel this mess of emotions that consisted of guilt, discomfort, and indescribable love. When those feelings were mixed together, she became embarrassed and uneasy.

"**Where** do you live?" Luke started the **engine**.

Luca was taken aback. 'Is he going to send me home?' She was already in the car and had no choice but to share her address *with Luke*.

**Luke frowned** when he heard the address. She lived in the same place where Tommy was found. He did not think too much of it and stepped on the accelerator. The convoy followed closely behind.

*What* they did not notice was that a news reporter who was leaving the mall had taken a picture of them.

*Jason notified* the other bodyguards who were driving and when they got to the next intersection, they did not follow Luke's car and drove straight to T Corporation.

From the rear-view mirror, Luca noticed that the convoy following them had made a turn in the last intersection, so she said, "Mr. Crawford, your bodyguards..."

other things to attend to," Luke

Luca was speechless.

role of a bodyguard was to protect him, the CEO, but he was skipping work to drive her home and even told her that the bodyguards had other things to attend

would have worked with a three-year-old, but not her.

did not believe him, she did not want to think too much about why Luke was acting

simply valued her as a

tried to calm herself down by making up reasons in her head, but she felt more and

way, the two did not talk much. When they spoke again, it was when Luke had parked the car at the gate of the community where she

this it?" He frowned when he looked around the neighborhood. The area was not the safest, and the security facilities were

puzzled about why Luca lived in such a

a senior technician who could afford to live

thank you." Luca unfastened her seat belt. She noticed his frown but did not dare to think too much of

## **Chapter 1140**

"Miss!" Amur was standing near the balcony. The moment he heard something, he turned around and saw the familiar face that made him pleasantly surprised.

Luca was relieved to see that it was Amur. She kept the knife in her hand in her pocket and said, "Amur, it's you! Why did you get off the island?"

"I left the island because the boss sent me on a mission that happened to be near here, so I wanted to visit you. Miss, how are you doing?" Amur grinned when he saw her, his gaze softening.

"I'm doing great. You're getting buff! It seems that your training has improved." Luca approached him and did not ask how he came in. They were all trained on the Island of Despair. Gates as such did not pose any difficulty.

Even the security measures of Crawford Manor could not hinder them.

Amur had grown a lot stronger during the time she was away. That was why she did not recognize his figure just now.

Amur blushed when he heard her praise. He touched his hair and approached her. "Miss, I've been training hard, so my body has gotten much stronger."

"Really? Let's have a look." Luca observed as he walked closer to her. She suddenly grabbed his hand and subdued him to the ground in a second.

Amur was in pain but his face remained unchanged. "Miss..."

He did not expect Luca to do that.

"Amur, your fighting skills may have improved, but your defense still needs some work," Luca said as she let go.

Amur stood up and straightened his crumpled clothes. "Miss, I'll pay attention next time."

her head helplessly. He had never kept his guard up against her. Every time he was knocked down, he would always say that he would pay more attention the

He trusted her too much.

mission is in A City?"

Amur nodded. This was his

careful." Luca patted his sturdy shoulder. With the rules of the Island of Despair in mind, she did not ask him about his mission to avoid putting him in a tough

Miss." Amur touched his face and felt a

he had physical contact with Luca, he could not help

up the groceries on the coffee table and asked, "Are you in a hurry? If you're not, stay for

gave me one month to finish my mission, Miss. I'm not in a hurry," Amur said as he took over the grocery bags in her

you have a place to live?" Luca said as she passed him

already figured out the layout of the apartment and placed the groceries in the refrigerator. When he heard Luca's question, he shook his head and said, "I don't have a place to live yet. I plan to find a

Luca looked at his tall figure and smiled. "I have an extra room here. If you don't mind that it's filled with potions and books, you can stay *there*."

"Really?" Amur poked his head out and looked **at her**.

"Of course, but there's only a sofa bed. You're more than welcome to stay here if you don't mind." Luca nodded.

*For the past three years, she had thought of Amur as her younger brother and Eler as her **younger sister**.*

"Okay, thank you, Miss." Amur *smiled shyly*.

"Okay! I'll cook. Thinking about it, this is the first time you'll be trying my cooking. Do you have any preference on the cuisine?" Luca did not forget that he was *a foreigner*.

"It doesn't matter what you cook. I'm sure that anything you cook will be delicious." Amur wanted to help but remembered that he knew nothing about cooking, so he just smiled *awkwardly*.

**Luca** nodded, took out the ingredients, and planned to show him her **skills**.

An hour later, she made a sumptuous lunch. The two of them sat at the table. Luca raised her glass of juice and said, "There's no wine here, so I'll use juice instead of wine to wish you all the best for your mission."

"*Thank you, Miss.*" Amur held up his juice and clinked glasses with her.

After they clinked glasses, Bianca served him some food as she said, "You won't find these dishes on the island, so eat *more*."

was touched to see his plate full of food, which Bianca had cooked for him.

you miss Nyla?" Amur asked.

was stunned. She teared a little as she thought of her youngest daughter. She nodded and said, "Of course, I miss

I left the island, I took a few photos of Nyla. They're on my phone. I'll send them to you." Amur immediately took out

of Despair did not allow the use of phones. Only before each mission could they bring a mobile phone with a tracker so that they

was why when Luca left, she could not take any photos

"How did you..." Luca was surprised.

thought that you would miss Nyla a lot, so I took them before I left." The moment he found out Bianca was close to where he had to carry out his mission, Amur took the risk and took some photos just so Luca could see

shouldn't have. It's too risky. If Abel finds out, you'll be punished!" Luca was moved and glad that he was

Island of Despair, there were strict rules about taking photos of the island. It was so that what was happening on the Island of Despair would not be leaked

know you miss Nyla, so Eler and I planned to take some photos of her for you." Amur looked at her phone on the table, picked it up, and shared the photos using a software developed on the Island of