

## **Be Gentle 1151**

### **Chapter 1151**

"Yes. Mr. Crawford changed his mind this morning," Mo said.

"Mm, understood." Luca was frustrated by the news article. She would have to face Luke later...

She quickly walked into the office to make some preparations for the meeting.

Mo watched her walk away and mumbled, "Why does Dr. Craw look so much like the woman in the photo?"

Fifteen minutes later, Luca came out of the office.

When she arrived at the conference room, almost all the other personnel from the Technical Department were there.

Luca looked at the nameplates on the oval table and found her seat. She was relieved when she found out that her seat was some distance away from the CEO.

She casually glanced around the room and noticed that no one was paying any attention to her. It seemed that no one recognized her in the photo.

Luca felt a lot more at ease. All she wanted was to do her job and not cause any trouble.

She knew that Luke would deal with the media outlets, so she was not worried that the news would spread.

Five minutes later, Luke came in through the door. Behind him were Jason and Cole.

Luca lowered her head and pretended to revise her notes. She did not want to meet his gaze.

Luke sat in the CEO's seat and gazed at everyone in the room coldly. His gaze darkened when he saw Luca.

Luca was observing all that discreetly. She noticed the change in Luke's

the direction of Luke's gaze and found out that he was looking

on Luke's left side. The conference room was silent. He braced himself and asked, "All the researchers are present, Mr. Crawford. Shall we begin

Luke nodded. He sat there but did not do anything, as though he was a mere

observer for thirty seconds for Luke to speak. Seeing that Luke was not speaking, he cleared his throat and said, "Let's begin the meeting then. Our agenda today is to determine the company's development plans for the next financial quarter. I hope that all of you are prepared to present your projects; that will determine the amount of funding you will get in the

The researchers nodded.

Luca was notified about the meeting yesterday, and they had worked overtime on their presentations so that they would receive

no one objected, Cole waved his hand and said, "Let's start from sitting next to Cole broadcast his slideshow on the screen and presented his research was the third researcher to handed her USB drive to Mo so that Mo could help her broadcast it. Then, she began to introduce the two drugs that she first drug was a cure for cancer, while the other was an antibiotic. Shanks did half of the work for both of As Cole listened to her presentation, his dissatisfaction gradually turned into **shock**.

He thought that Luke had employed the woman because of connections. The presentation showed him that Luca was a far more capable researcher than he had imagined.

**Her** work had surpassed many experienced researchers. Unlike most modern drugs that improved other drugs with similar components, Luca's drugs were wholly **revolutionary**.

If she were not capable, she would not have been able to perform such research.

Luca could tell that all eyes in the conference room were on her, but she could not keep calm when she realized that Luke was looking **at her**.

**She tried** to still her wildly thumping heart as she presented her progress report on the two drugs. After it was over and she sat down, she heaved a sigh of relief.

**Luca's gaze** turned even more profound after hearing her presentation.

**He** did not expect that she would be presenting two progress reports. If the two drugs made it to the market, it would be a blessing for countless patients and bring record profits to the **company**.

**Luke looked** at the presentation on the screen and sank deep *in thought*.

After Luca's presentation, the other researchers also presented their progress reports one by one. Luke listened to **them all**.

By the end of the meeting, none of the other researchers' presentations were as attractive as what Luca presented.

Cole turned to Luke and said, "*Mr. Crawford...*"

said curtly and stood up. He looked around the conference room and was the first one in the conference room looked at

her head. Her hands were clasped tightly under the table. Earlier, his gaze seemed to have lingered on her for a

left, he took the elevator and went to his office on the

was standing behind him. He asked, "Boss, aren't you going back to T

there many reporters outside T Corporation?" Luke

Jason answered. He thought that Luke stayed behind because of a certain woman, but it turned out that he was

a scandal happened in the past, Luke would hold the fort in T Corporation instead of hiding in a discreetly observed Luke's expression and scratched his head

the elevator reached the top floor, Luke stepped out of the elevator and told Jason, "Get Luca Craw to come to my office in half

"Yes!" Jason nodded.

to her office. Before she could sit down, Mo came in and told her, "Dr. Craw, Mr. Crawford wants to see you at

## **Chapter 1152**

Luca followed Jason to the CEO's office.

Watson Biopharmaceuticals was only a subsidiary company, so the furnishings in the CEO's office were not as lavish as that of T Corporation. The dull gray walls gave her an oppressive feeling.

Jason stood at the entrance, and he had no intention of going inside. He pointed toward the interior and said, "Please, Dr. Craw."

Luca took a deep breath and knocked on the door.

"Come in." Luke's voice was heard from the inside.

Luca's hand gripped the metal doorknob. It was cold to the touch and made her shudder slightly.

She pushed the door open and walked in. Seeing Luke sit on the swivel chair, she deliberately left the door open. "Mr. Crawford."

"Sit." Luke pointed at the seat opposite him.

Luca nodded. She had only taken two steps when she heard Jason closing the door behind her.

She turned around and glanced at the closed door.

"..."

She did not want to close the door because she did not want to share a private space with Luke.

Luke coughed gently. Luca came to her senses and sat down at the chair opposite him.

help you, Mr. Crawford?" She asked

interested in your projects," Luke said

breathed a sigh of relief when she heard that Luke only wanted to meet her for her projects. "Thank

much money do you need?" Luke asked. His heart skipped a beat when he heard her soft

her head and did not notice the sparkle in Luke's eyes. She thought carefully for a bit, though she was not very sure about how researching funding worked. As far as she knew, her projects were in the final stages, and she did not need as much funding as those that had just

she had to do was to verify the data from Shanks's research. There was practically no risk of need too much money because my research is in its final stages. I shall leave it to your discretion," Luca want to request more?" Luke was quite surprised. Any other researcher would want to take the opportunity to ask for

all, if the research was successful, they would make massive profits for the company, and they could take the credit for

won't make my research better, so I'll only ask for enough." Luca was not interested in research

Luca wrote some characters on a

Luca was holding the document, Luca could not discern what he was writing. She guessed that he was filling up a

"**When** I talked to you last time, you were only working on one project. Why do you suddenly have two?" Luke put the document away and *asked*.

"*Isn't that good for the company?*" **Luca said.**

"*It's good, indeed.*" Luke nodded. "The project is in its final stages, so you must have spent a lot of time on it. Did you bring it over from your previous company?"

Luca knew what he was worried about. She nodded and reassured him, "It is indeed a continuation of a project from my previous company, but I've done most of the research in private after I resigned. They don't have any useful **information.**"

**Luca nodded**, and his phone began to ring. It was from an unknown number, and he rejected the call without hesitation.

Luca did not say anything and waited for Luke **to speak.**

"*Did you read the papers?*" Luke asked. He thought that the phone call was from **a reporter.**

"**You** mean that piece of gossip? I've read it." Luca's heart skipped a beat. She knew that he would eventually mention it, and she did not know what he thought of the article.

She observed Luke's expression. He seemed calm, but she did not know what he *was thinking.*

"*Mm.*" Luca nodded slightly. When their eyes met, he felt a tingle in his nervous system. That was a sensation that he had not experienced for a very long time. "Are you *bothered?*"

"**The** photo doesn't show my face clearly, but I hope that you'll be able to settle this problem, Mr. Crawford," Luca said.

*If the news continued to spread, Abel would eventually find out about it. She did not know what Abel's plan of revenge was, and she could not predict what he might **do.***"

deal with it." Luke could tell that the woman was trying to keep a distance  
That somehow made him feel unhappy.

on the door and said. "Boss, Tommy's homeroom teacher wants to speak  
Luke frowned. "Come in," he said.

Boss," Jason replied and opened the door. He was holding a phone in his  
He handed the phone to Luke.

am Luke Crawford." Luke took the phone and spoke into it. His tone of voice

teacher glanced at Tommy who was sitting on a chair. She said, "Good day to you, Mr. Crawford. I'm  
sorry for disturbing you. Tommy isn't feeling well. Do you want to pick him up and bring him

I'll go over now," Luke said and handed the phone back to Jason. He stood up and took his coat that was  
hanging at the

Jason ended the call, he asked, "Are you going to Tommy's school,

feeling well. I'll have to bring him to the doctor," Luke said. Over the past few years, Luke had been  
taking care of the children himself. He would only delegate those tasks to the driver and the caretakers  
if he had to go on a business

let Bianca do anything for

### **Chapter 1153**

After Luca left the CEO's office, she did not go anywhere else other than the elevator lobby.

She was surprised when she saw Luke standing there waiting for the elevator. It had been quite some  
time, but the elevator had not arrived yet.

It was then that she realized that they were not in T Corporation, and Luke did not have a personal  
elevator in the Watson Biopharmaceuticals building. It should not have been surprising that Luke would  
be waiting for some time.

Luke must have heard her footsteps because she was not sneaking, and it would be very suspicious if  
she tried to run away.

Luca had no other choice but to approach him. "Mr. Crawford."

"Mm." Luke nodded. His eyes remained transfixed on the elevator display. The elevator had not arrived  
yet.

Luca stood some distance away from him. She thought for a while and asked, "Is Tommy okay?"

"I don't know. I'll have to bring him to the doctor," Luke said. He placed his hands in his pockets, and he  
looked cool and handsome.

Luca nodded. She was worried about Tommy, but she did not say anything.

The elevator arrived at the top floor. Luke went inside first and held the door open. Seeing that Luca had no intention of going in, he ordered, "Come in."

Luca could not refuse, so she went inside.

Luke pressed the button for the basement parking lot, then pressed the button for the Technical Department.

Luca stood there stiffly. She lifted her head to look at the decreasing numbers on the display.

"Are you worried about Tommy?" Luke said.

"I think I have an affinity with that child," Luca said.

you to be his godmother." Luke glanced at her side profile. She was wearing light makeup, and she looked like a blooming rose in

I refuse?" Luca said. She could accept that she would not be able to reconcile with her child, but she could not accept that she would be her child's

Luke said. The elevator stopped at the

doors opened, and Luca did not want to stay in the elevator for an

a sigh of relief as she heard the elevator closed behind her. She noticed that Cole was standing not far away and looking

Luca was not interested in office politics, but she had to

a lot from your presentation today, Dr. Craw. If you're free, shall we have a chat?" There was a hint of appreciation in

that Luca was not very capable, but it turned out that her research held far more value than what he did not have to think too hard to conclude that Luke had approved a big amount of funding

Luca was not fond of that man, but she had to

continued, "Mr. Crawford asked you to meet him in his office earlier. Is it about

"Yes," Luca replied curtly.

had just finished speaking when Mo came over and said, "Dr. Cole, Mr. Doyle wants to meet frowned. "Why is it

*He wanted* to speak with Luke about the **funding**.

"I don't know," Mo replied with a *smile*.

*Cole* shot a glance at Luca. Luca got to meet with the CEO, but he only got to meet with the assistant.

*Luca noticed* that Cole was looking at her. She explained, "Mr. Crawford had to leave because of an *emergency*."

"I see." Cole clapped his hands and said, "I'll be going up then."

Luca smiled, watched him leave, and went back to her office.

*Cole* was someone who craved power. She had to explain herself because she did not want him to have the wrong impression of **her**.

**She** did not really care if Cole misjudged her personality, but she did not want Cole to think that there was something going on between Luke and her.

...

**Luke** drove the car to Tommy's school. The boy was sitting in the teacher's office waiting for *him*.

"*Daddy*." Tommy smiled when he saw Luke. He jumped off the chair and walked toward him.

Luke touched his forehead to check the temperature, but it was not very warm. "Are you alright?"

"**I'm** a little dizzy." Tommy leaned on him and *pouted*.

*Luke* took his hand. "Mm. I'll bring you to the **doctor**."

handed Luke an early leave form. "Please initial here,

nodded. He took out a pen from his pocket, signed his initials on the form, and brought Tommy

look really outstanding." The teacher could not help but exclaim as she watched the father and

too late to have a crush on him. He's already married," another teacher

not having a crush on him. I'm just saying." The teacher

the car to the

had already been waiting for him in the consultation room. When he saw Luke and Tommy walk in, he said jokingly, "I wish that you won't come and look for me only when you need something. How about making a donation? We need a new block. Some research funding will be good

hospital short of money? Stop that nonsense." Luke placed Tommy on the chair and said, "Tommy says that he's dizzy. Take a look

Tommy's cheek. "What's

and said, "I don't know, Uncle Johann. I feel really

dizzy. Let me check," Johann said. He ran a few tests but did not find any

sure that you're feeling dizzy, Tommy?" he asked

"Mm!" Tommy nodded.

continued, "Where do you feel unwell? Is it here, or

**Chapter 1154**

Johann shuddered when he met Luke's gaze. He wagged his hand and said, "Never mind. I wouldn't dare to take your money."

When Luke heard that, he took Tommy's hand and left the room.

Johann shrugged and shook his head. "Why does he look like he's never satisfied? I don't get it. He's already married, but he's so scary."

The nurse captain happened to walk into the room. When she heard Johann talking to himself, she smiled and asked him, "Which married man is so scary?"

"It's nothing." Johann resumed his serious expression. "Is there anything?"

"The patient in Room 36 is complaining that he's feeling unwell. Are you free to check on him?" The nurse captain asked.

"Mm." Johann hung the stethoscope around his neck and left the room.

Luke brought Tommy back to his car. "I'll send you back home."

"No, Daddy!" Tommy did not want to go back to Crawford Manor. "I want to accompany you, Daddy."

Luke was about to start the car when he heard that. He turned his head to look at Tommy in the backseat and asked, "Are you planning something?"

"What are you talking about, Daddy? Tommy doesn't understand." Tommy pretended to be oblivious.

He rarely referred to himself in the third person. Luke confirmed his suspicions and called him out, "You're pretending to be sick, right?"

"Uncle Johann says that I'm unwell." Tommy blinked, though he was thinking, 'Why is Daddy so smart?'

"I'm sure it's only because he doesn't want to call you out." Luke would not deserve to be the boy's father if he could not tell that.

Tommy stuck his tongue out.

why are you pretending to be sick," Luke

said that you're at the new company." Tommy missed Luca and wanted to meet her again. He pretended to be sick so that Luke would pick him up, and he would be able to go to Watson

he tell you?" Luke asked as he started

said that she can't get through to you, so I told her to call Uncle Jason's number. That was how I got to know about it from him." Tommy blinked. "Bring me there, Daddy. I want to meet Ms.

Luke did not refuse, but he warned his son, "I'll let you off this time. Don't do it again. I'll bring you there you, Daddy!" Tommy said happily and fastened

car arrived at Watson Biopharmaceuticals, and Luke brought Tommy

Ms. Luca, Daddy?" Tommy



pressed the button," Luke

found the button and memorized

the Technical Department, Luke did not bring him directly to Luca's office. Instead, he brought him to the assistants'

was the only person inside. He stood up when he saw Luke come in, but his gaze soon turned toward the little

was a spitting image of

"He must be your son," **Rhett said.**

"**Mm.**" Luke shot a glance at Tommy and let go of his hand. "Help me look after him."

"Ah, yes." Rhett nodded. He did not expect that he would have to take care of the CEO's child one day, but the child seemed to be amiable.

After that, Luke left Tommy in the office while he went upstairs for *work*.

Tommy looked around the office. "Where's Ms. Luca?"

"Do you mean Dr. Craw?" Rhett was surprised that the CEO's son knew who *Luca was*.

"Yes, yes! I'm here to look for Ms. Luca!" Tommy nodded and blinked. "Is she here, Uncle?"

Rhett was about the same age as Luca, and he did not think of himself as particularly avuncular.

"Dr. Craw isn't here," Rhett said.

"**Stupid** Daddy, he told me that he was bringing me to meet Ms. Luca! He lied to me!" Tommy wanted to storm out of the office when he heard *that*.

**Rhett** quickly held his hand and said, "She's in another office."

*Tommy instantly* smiled when he heard that. "Oh? Please bring me to *her, Uncle!*"

Rhett could only nod. "Alright."

and thanked him, "Thank you,

Rhett brought the boy to the research laboratory, he rubbed his chin. 'Uncle? Do I look that

not find Luca in the research laboratory, so he brought Tommy to

noticed that Rhett was bringing a child around. She went up to ask him curiously, "Whose child is

boss's child," Rhett replied. The child was friendly and easy-going, even though he had been calling him "Uncle." Earlier, in the laboratory, Rhett had told him not to touch the equipment, and he was quite

of the other children he knew would be that

the boss's babysitter now?" Mo laughed. She bent over and smiled at Tommy. "Hey, li'l Boss, do you want a snack? I have plenty of

frowned, not tempted by the snacks. He said, "I don't eat snacks, Ma'am. I want to meet Mo was not used to Luca being referred to by her first means Dr. Craw," Rhett said and brought the child away more and more curious. She did not expect Luca to be friends with the CEO's daughter. That was irrefutable proof that Luca knew who their CEO was before she would believe Luca if she said smiled. She was fond of gossip, and the biggest subject of gossip was in the Technical 'This is interesting...'

### **Chapter 1155**

"Don't worry, Ms. Luca. I didn't sneak out this time. Daddy brought me here!" Tommy smiled sweetly.

"Ha, I hope you won't do that again!" Luca took the opportunity to discipline the child. She hoped that he would not run away from home again.

If he ran away again, he might not be so lucky.

"Don't worry, Ms. Luca, I won't!" Tommy reassured her.

Luca remembered that Luke said that Tommy was sick. She placed her palm on his forehead but did not think that he was having a fever.

Tommy thought that Luca's hand was warm, and it had given him an inexplicable sense of security.

"What are you doing, Ms. Luca?" he asked.

"Aren't you feeling unwell? I thought you'd be having a fever," Luca said.

Tommy shook his head. "I lied to Daddy. I'm feeling very healthy!"

Luca was relieved when she heard that, though she pretended to glare at him. "You're such a naughty boy. You shouldn't lie to your Daddy."

"I wouldn't be able to meet you if I hadn't lied to Daddy, Ms. Luca," Tommy said matter-of-factly. He did not think he did anything wrong at all. "I'm only telling a white lie. All I wanted was to meet you."

"Naughty." Luca gently flicked the back of his hand.

"Don't you want to see me, Ms. Luca?" Tommy asked.

happy when a handsome little boy wants to meet me, but you shouldn't do that next time. It's not good to lie." Luca stood up, held his hand, and led him to the couch.

thought that he would not have such opportunities

would not have made up an excuse to skip school if he did not know that his father was going to Watson Biopharmaceuticals

Luca, can I have dinner at your house tonight?"

an eyebrow. "Why do you want to have dinner at

your cooking, Ms. Luca," Tommy said with a grin. His plan

remembered that Amur was living in her house now. He might be trustworthy, but she did not want Tommy to meet another person from the Island of Despair. She could only say, "I can't promise you anything. I might need to work overtime today, and your Daddy, who is also my boss, might not agree with

Daddy dopes?" Tommy frowned and

about that." Luca was quite sure that Luke would not agree to it. He would want to bring the boy back to Crawford

see what Daddy says!" Tommy decided that he would try to convince

She knew what Tommy was thinking, but she was not

knew Luke very well. Once he was set on something, nothing would be able to persuade him to change his mind. The only person who could do so was

**She was** quite unhappy when she thought about the **impostor Bianca**.

Tommy might have told her that Luke and the impostor Bianca had been sleeping separately, but Luca was worried that the little child might not have seen the entire picture.

**"Ms. Luca!** Ms. Luca?" Tommy saw that she was lost in thought, so he tugged her shirt **sleeve**.

**Luca came** to her senses and looked at the little boy. "Yes?"

*"You should finish your work so that you don't have to work overtime, Ms. Luca. You'll have to cook a delicious dinner for me tonight,"* Tommy said. He had come to Luca's office to meet her, but he did not want to distract her from her work.

He was quite empathic!

"What about you?" Luca asked. Her office did not have a television, and she had to use the other electronic devices for *her work*.

**"You** don't have to worry about me, Ms. Luca. I brought a book!" Tommy smiled and took out a general knowledge book from his backpack.

**"Alright then.** You can read while I finish my work on hand." Luca was at ease when she saw that Tommy could keep himself occupied. She returned to her chair and resumed her work.

Luca reproduced the steps of Shanks's research and did not discover any problem. Not feeling very convinced, she compared his data with hers one more time.

**If she** realized that something was wrong, she would immediately terminate the *experiment*.

If that happened, she would have to bring out another project to placate Luke and the other people.

sitting on the couch reading his book. Occasionally, he glanced at Luca and could not help but grin when he saw her hard at work. 'She's so pretty,'

that he could live with her

when she was about to go off work, someone knocked on

thought that Rhett was bringing the experiment results in. "Come in," she said without asking the person outside to

the door was opened, Tommy hopped off the couch and ran

expression stiffened, and she lifted her head with much difficulty. When their eyes met, Luca wanted to lower her

would seem very awkward, so she did not do it. She stood up and greeted him courteously,

glanced at the couch. On it was Tommy's backpack and a book. He did not see any snacks, juice bottles,

Luca manage to get him to sit still for an entire

thought that it was quite unbelievable. He knew that Tommy could hardly sit still, and the boy could only concentrate on something for two hours

matter how interesting a book might be, he would only be able to read it for two hours maximum. After that, he would be clamoring for snacks

at the scene, he guessed that Tommy had been reading the book in Luca's office for the entire

## **Chapter 1156**

However, when Luke heard Tommy's suggestion, he was suddenly interested in trying Luca's cooking.

He looked at Luca and asked her, "Would it trouble you?"

Luca was about to say that it would trouble her very much, but Tommy spoke before she could. "Ms. Luca says that it's okay as long as you agree."

"..." Luca was speechless.

The child was always faster than her.

"Alright, sorry to impose on you then," Luke said.

"..."

She felt as though the two were ganging up on her.

Cooking was not something hard for her, especially after Tommy stayed over in her house. She had regained her confidence in her cooking skills.

However, she hoped that Tommy and Luke would not come into contact with the other people from the Island of Despair.

She was afraid that Amur might give away something if he knew who Luke was, even though Amur might be worried about her.

She did not want to put Nyla in danger just to satisfy her selfish needs.

"Yay!" Tommy clapped his hands and cheered.

something to tell you, Mr. Crawford." There was only one excuse left to keep them out of

Luke gazed at her. She did not know what Luke was

stove is broken, and I haven't found someone to fix it yet, so I can't cook," Luca said while kneading her hands. It was not very convincing, but it was a

her stove was broken, he could not force her

about to say something when Tommy spoke first. "Huh? What brand is it, Ms. Luca? Why did it break

a little embarrassed, as though Luke and Tommy had seen through her lies. However, she could only tell more lies to cover up her previous one. "The stove belongs to my landlord. It might have broken because the previous tenant

He could think of many solutions just so that he could eat Luca's cooking. "Don't worry, Ms. Luca, you can come to my home and

did not expect Tommy to think of that. She shook her head and said, "That's not very convenient, isn't it? Don't you have a cook

don't have a cook at my house," Luke said. Crawford Manor had a cook, but his house

Luca was taken aback. "My house?

the one I'm

this is great! You can come to my house and cook, Ms. Luca." Tommy clapped his hands, happy that his father was

that she had run out of excuses. She would not be able to leave if she did not make dinner for Luke and Tommy. She could only nod

*Luke nodded. "Pack up. We'll be leaving soon."*

*That line* was spoken to both Tommy and **Luca**.

*Tommy* went to the couch and put the book in his backpack while Luca tidied up her desk and placed her research notes in the safe.

**Every** office was equipped with a safe so that no one else could steal the proprietary information. If any outsiders got their hands on the projects, the company would suffer huge **losses**.

*Luca* took off her lab coat and put on her jacket, wore her cap, and left with Luke and *Tommy*.

The three people walked toward the elevator. It was only the second day of operations, so many people had not started on their projects. Moreover, it was already way past office hours, so there was no one else in the Technical **Department**.

The elevator doors opened, and the three people went in.

Tommy stole a glance at Luke, then turned his head to look at Luca. He giggled when he thought that they looked like a family of three.

**Most importantly**, Tommy did not seem to mind it **at all**.

He had never liked any woman that tried to suck up to Luke.

As the elevator doors slowly closed, Luca felt that the atmosphere was quite awkward. "What would you like to eat, Mr. Crawford?" She asked.

"I'll eat anything that you cook," Luke said.

Luca's heart skipped a beat. The answer was quite perfunctory, but she was somehow moved.

'What's going on with me...'

alright." She nodded. She lowered her head and looked at Tommy, "How about you, Tommy? What would you like to

eat anything that you cook, Ms. Luca." Tommy did not specify any particular

thought that it was very troublesome to cook for Luke

all their favorite dishes, but she could not cook only those. Otherwise, they might suspect that she was trying to suck up

decided that she would decide what to cook after going to the

make some more food, Ms. Luca?"

"Oh? Why?" Luca did not understand.

is a big eater, so you should make more food. He won't be able to sleep on an empty stomach. The doctor says that you'll get a headache if you don't sleep well." Tommy tried to find an excuse for

"..."

say that he was

arrived at the basement parking lot. Luke went to bring the car while Luca and Tommy waited in the

Luca's hand tightly in case she tried to

## **Chapter 1157**

Luca shook her head helplessly and said, "Didn't you promise me that you won't run away from home anymore?"

Tommy stuck his tongue out. He could be a little reckless whenever he was anxious.

"I was just saying it for fun, Ms. Luca." He took her hand and rubbed it against his cheek.

Luca could not help but smile when she saw how Tommy was acting. She patted the boy's head.

Luke sat in the car and observed their interactions. There was a motherly glow in Luca's gaze.

That expression could not be faked. Luke could sense that Luca's feelings were genuine.

Tommy looked to his right, and his eyes sparkled. "Daddy's car is here, Ms. Luca."

Luca looked at the car that was slowly approaching them and nodded. "Mm."

Tommy moved to the back while Luca helped him open the door. After Tommy went inside, Luca prepared to sit beside him when he said, "You should sit next to Daddy, Ms. Luca."

"Huh?" Luca glanced at the side passenger seat. She felt a little awkward.

The side passenger seat made her too close to Luke. It would be bad if a reporter caught them together again.

Tommy urged, "Daddy will be bored if he's sitting alone in the front. You should accompany him."

Luca did not know what to say to him. If other people found out, they would think that she was trying to suck up to Luke.

She pinched Tommy's cheek and sat inside the car. "Won't you be bored if you're sitting alone in the backseat? Let me accompany you, alright?"

thought about it and nodded, "Alright,

and closed the door. She felt a lot more at ease when she sat next

she had to sit next to Luke, it would have been a

glanced into the rearview mirror to ensure that the two people had fastened their seatbelts. He stepped on the gas pedal, and the car

on Luca, and he could feel that she was very nervous. He kept on talking to calm

voice echoed in the car. Luca looked at him lovingly and replied to

Luke drove toward the apartment.

apartment had been vacant ever since Luke and the children moved back to Crawford Manor. Nobody went there except for

going to the apartment, Daddy?" Tommy looked out of the car window and recognized where they

Luke nodded. He glanced at Luca through the rearview mirror

though it was only a casual glance, Luca noticed it. When she did so, her heart skipped a

his gaze back to his driving. "There's a supermarket in front. You can get the

nodded and looked out of

*The surroundings* had largely changed over the past three years, though the supermarket remained the same.

*Luca* remembered that she used to buy food ingredients at the supermarket so that she could cook for Luke and **the children**.

Luke parked the car at the roadside. Luca put on her cap and prepared to step out of the car.

"**I want** to go too, Ms. Luca," Tommy said.

Luca turned around to look at him and shook her head. "I'll be back very soon, Tommy. You *and...*"

*Luca* paused. She nearly said, "You and Daddy should wait in the *car*."

**Luke** would definitely suspect something if she said **that**.

**Her** abrupt pause made Luke suspect something anyway. That tone of voice sounded **familiar...**

**He** turned his head to look at the woman who was about to step out of the *car*.

**Luca** **composed** herself. "You should stay in the car. I'll be **very quick**."

Tommy pouted because he did not want to be apart from Luca. "But Daddy!" He turned to look at Luke.

"**Wait** in the car," Luke said. He understood the reason behind Luca's decision.

*The papers* were still having a field day on the scandal. If the paparazzi managed to take another photo of him shopping in the supermarket with Luca, Old Master Crawford's previous efforts would have gone to **waste**.

he received a call from the Crawford Manor butler. The reporter was nowhere to be found, and Old Master Crawford could only suppress the news by money

not afraid of being implicated in the scandal, but Bianca would definitely throw a

would rather Bianca not give him any

was nothing they could do if they could not find the reporter. After all, some other scandal would soon replace

pouted when he heard his father's order. 'Can't he see that I want to get closer to

on the cap and said, "I'll be back

noded and watched her exit the car and go into the

suddenly leaned forward and said, "You can look away now,

are you talking about?" Luke turned his head away. He did not seem flustered when his son caught him

staring at Ms. Luca earlier," Tommy

you do the same thing?" Luke did not hesitate to call him out



can do that, but you can't. You're already married," Tommy wagged his head and said. Even though he did not think that the woman in the home was his real mother, he could not argue with the fact that they were legally

turned profound when Tommy

### **Chapter 1158**

Tommy looked at Luke, who seemed to be lost in thought. "What are you thinking, Daddy?" he asked.

"Nothing." Luke did not tell him about his confused feelings.

He had only met Luca for only a few days, but why did she seem so familiar?

Tommy did not ask him any further questions. He returned to his seat and waited for Luca to come back. Wagging his legs, he mumbled to himself, "I wonder what would Ms. Luca cook for us today?"

That made Luke think of the same question too.

Meanwhile, Luca went into the supermarket and quickly placed fresh food ingredients into her basket.

She knew that Tommy and Luke were both picky eaters, so she had to be meticulous.

She devised a recipe as she picked up the food ingredients. After that, she realized that there should be no seasonings or spaghetti in the apartment, so she added those to the shopping basket.

Luca approached the checkout counter with a full shopping basket.

It was the evening rush hour, so the queue was very long. By the time she came out of the supermarket, it had already been half an hour.

She rushed toward the car while carrying two shopping bags.

Tommy saw her coming from afar and happily opened the car door. "You're finally back, Ms. Luca!"

Luca put the two bags in the car before sitting inside. She glanced at the man in the driver's seat and blurted an apology. "I'm sorry, there are a lot of people in the supermarket."

fine." Luke saw her red face in the rearview mirror. She had been walking hastily while carrying two seemingly heavy

raised her head and looked at the rearview

taken aback. After coming to his senses, he started the car and drove toward the

car, Tommy looked at the two bulging shopping bags excitedly with sparkling eyes. "Why did you buy so much food, Ms. Luca? Daddy might be a big eater, but he won't be able to

patted his head and explained, "There's also spaghetti and

"Oh!" Tommy nodded.

overheard that while driving. He was impressed that Luca was meticulous enough to guess that there was no seasonings or spaghetti at the

they arrived at the apartment, Luca brought the two shopping bags out of the car. After her training on the Island of Despair, she did not find those bags

help you, Ms. Luca." Tommy behaved like a

did not let go of the bags. "I can do it myself. They're not

turned around to look at Luke, who was walking behind them. "Can you help Ms.

noded and said to Luca, "Allow

fine..." Before she could finish her sentence, Luke had taken the shopping bags from her

When Luke bent over to take the bags, she could smell the familiar cold and sharp scent of mint on *him*.

Luca's eyes reddened slightly. That was his unique scent. Every sleepless night on the Island of Despair, she could not help but think of him.

Luca took the bags and headed toward **the elevator**.

**An elevator** happened to be waiting on their first floor, and the three people went in. Luca was seized by a wave of emotions when she saw Luke press a familiar *button*.

**That used** to be her home **too...**

Luca's phone started ringing and interrupted her thoughts. She frantically took her phone out and saw that it was Amur *calling her*.

*It* was not appropriate for her to answer the call because Luke was nearby. She rejected the call, then sent a text message to Amur, saying that she would have to work overtime and not be home for dinner.

Very quickly, Amur replied with his acknowledgment.

Luca put her phone away.

"Who was it?" Luke asked.

Luca was taken aback by the question. "It was a **telemarketer**."

**Luke did** not ask any further questions, even though he knew that she was lying. She would not have replied to a telemarketer with a message after rejecting the call.

gently lowered her head. When she heard the elevator doors open, she lifted her head again and saw Luke stepping out of the

shook her hand. "We're here,

noded and walked out of the elevator with

go of Luca's hand and ran happily toward the door. He keyed in the passcode and unlocked the door with a

Ms. Luca!" The boy waved excitedly at

She looked at Luke and saw that he was still standing at the

Suddenly, she felt a little nervous.

Luke said, noticing the slight change in

Luca nodded and went inside.

the two shopping bags and went to the

kitchen is over there, Ms. Luca," Tommy said

looked at Tommy. His enthusiasm seemed to have affected her, and she could not help but smile. She did not expect that he would be so excited over a

around the living room. The furnishings remained the same; it was as though she had stepped into a time machine and returned to three

### **Chapter 1159**

Luca was surprised. She had not put too much thought into how she arranged her items, and she had done what she always did.

Three years ago, Luke would occasionally step into the kitchen to watch her cook. He had even asked her about how she arranged the items, and she had patiently explained it to him...

"Also?" Luca was flustered for a second, but she soon composed herself. She turned her head to look at him. "Have you seen someone else arrange her items like this?"

"My wife," Luke said. "She used to arrange her items like this."

Luca nodded. That was how she had arranged her items since she was young. Even though she had not stepped into the kitchen for three years, she could remember how to do it when faced with a variety of items.

"I learned this method from the Internet. This way, I can efficiently find the things I want, and that'll help me cook faster. Not only that, but I also arrange my apparatus like this when I'm in the lab. I won't have to waste time looking for the things I want."

Luke nodded. He stared at the kitchen counter, thinking of something.

It was normal for two people to share some similarities. Perhaps Tommy was fond of Luca because she shared some similarities with the Bianca from before.

How about him then?

Luke was confused. He had never approached another woman so readily and hoped to know her better.

That was not how he usually acted.

Seeing that Luke was still standing there, she said, "Can you leave the kitchen for a while, Mr. Crawford? I'm not used to someone watching me cook."

afraid that Luke might catch on to some of her

not expect that Luke knew her so well, that he could think of the previous Bianca just by watching her arrange the items on the kitchen

might not have thought that Luca and the previous Bianca were the same person, but she could not bear to see the confusion in his

she done to make the man so concerned about

Luke nodded and left the kitchen.

breathed a sigh of relief, though she felt very dejected. Earlier, she hoped that Luke would suspect her for the slightest

not, and everything was just

out the rest of the items from the bags in a daze and prepared to

sat on a chair in the dining hall and listened to what was going on in the

door was open, and he could hear

became even more profound as he heard her turn on the tap. Everyone had their method of arranging items, and it was impossible that the two people could behave

Luca's explanation earlier was quite far-fetched.

"*What are you doing, Daddy?*" Tommy thought that the cartoon on the television was boring, so he ran over to the **dining hall**.

"**Nothing,**" Luke said. He did not want to tell his son what he was thinking.

Luke's phone rang. It was from **Bianca**.

Luke answered it.

"**Luke,** the butler said that you and Tommy aren't not having dinner at home tonight. Do you have a business dinner to attend?" Bianca's voice was heard from the other end of **the phone**.

**Luke looked** at Tommy, who was sprawled over the table. "I'm working overtime *today*."

"*With Tommy?*" Bianca felt a little suspicious. When Sean, the driver, came home and said that Luke had taken Tommy from school, she did not think too much about it. It was only when she got to know that Luke was not coming home for dinner that she began to wonder what was **happening**.

"Tommy wasn't feeling well earlier. I picked him up from school, and he's now in the company with me," **Luke explained**.

"**If that's** the case, should I send some food over?" Bianca felt a little more at ease after hearing *his explanation*.

Whenever there was a change in Luke's schedule, she would immediately think that it had something to do with Ivana.

"There's no need. We're getting food delivered." Luke looked at Tommy. He was grinning cheekily, as though telling him that he should not **have lied**.

he had to tell the lie. If he told Bianca his current location truthfully, she would definitely overthink and go

too lazy to go to T Corporation anyway; it was quite far from Crawford Manor. She would not have said that if not that she had to pretend that she

was quite happy when Luke said that she need not go. "Alright then, come back  
replied and ended the

was grinning. "You shouldn't

need to tell a lie if not for your cravings," Luke said with a straight

only agreed to my suggestion because you also want to try Ms. Luca's cooking, don't you?" Tommy said. He was smart enough to tell what his father

anyone else what we did today,"

Tommy also knew what was going on. He placed a finger in front of his lips and blinked. "This is a secret between me, Daddy, and

was very busy in

was only a child, so he would not realize that her cooking tasted exactly like the previous Bianca's

However, Luke was not the same.

## **Chapter 1160**

"Your food is amazing, Ms. Luca!" Tommy said cheerfully as he picked up a pork chop.

Luca smiled and stole a glance at Luke. He was eating a fish fillet, and she could not discern his expression.

She could tell if Luke was enjoying the food or not.

Luke ate silently without saying a word. Not speaking while eating had been a good habit of his.

Luca silently nibbled on a piece of broccoli.

The only sounds around the dining table were from Tommy eating loudly. When the father and son fought over the last fish fillet, Luca could feel the rivalry between them.

"There's more in the kitchen," she said, not expecting that the dish would be so popular.

Luke was not going to fight his son for a fish fillet. He pulled his hand back, and Tommy gleefully took the fish fillet away.

Luca hastily picked up the plate. "I'll go and get some more for you, Mr. Crawford."

Luke shot a glance at her bowl and said. "Don't worry about it. You've been eating only vegetables."

"Huh?" Luca realized what he was saying and quickly nodded. "Alright."

She picked up a pork chop and placed it on her plate.

She knew that Tommy loved her pork chops, so she had not taken any for herself.

Luke's gaze turned profound when he saw how Luca ate carefully in small bites.

was well-mannered, as though she was well-taught in

dinner, Tommy patted her bulging stomach and burped. "Your cooking is really delicious, Ms. Luca. I hope I can eat your cooking every day so that I'll become tall and

smiled as she cleared the

it. The cleaner will come tomorrow,"

did not insist. She glanced at the father and the son and said, "Do you want some

Tommy's eyes sparkled. "Yes, Ms. Luca!"

to eat everything that Luca prepared for

smiled when she saw Tommy's face. She walked into the kitchen, brought out a bunch of grapes on a plate, and placed it on the dining

blinked. "You're amazing, Ms. Luca. How do you know that I love

love grapes? Then you should eat more." Luca pushed the plate in front of him, then looked at Luke. "It's getting late, Mr. Crawford. I'd like to go

give you a ride," Luke said. The sky was completely dark, and it was already

refused. "It's fine. I'll catch a cab

she walked toward

had the sudden urge to rush up to her and insist on sending her

**However**, he did not do so. He was in a daze as he saw the door open **and close**.

"*Why* didn't you stop her, Daddy?" Even Tommy could tell that Luke was about to stand **up**.

"Eat your grapes." Luke's expression darkened. He shot a glance at the grapes. They were fresh and were still coated in water droplets.

"*Oh*," Tommy said and continued to eat the sweet and juicy *grapes*.

After leaving the apartment, Luca caught a cab and went **home**.

**The surrounding** scenery only made her feel melancholy.

*Back at* her apartment, she pushed the door open and saw that Amur had been waiting for her. She smiled and said, "I'm *home*."

"**Welcome home.**" Amur could tell that she was exhausted. He said out of concern, "Did you have a lot of work to do today?"

"No." Luca saw Amur's equipment on the table. "Is it time that you went on the **mission**?"

"Yes." Amur nodded. His target was back in the country, so it was about time to *act*.

"Take care." Luca went over to the coffee table, inspected his equipment, and patted his shoulder. After Amur completed his mission, he would be going back to the Island of Despair, and she would be alone *once more*.

"Mm." Amur grinned sheepishly.

Luca nodded. She knew the rules of the Island of Despair, so she did not ask him any details about his mission.

"I won't bother you then. I'll be sleeping soon," she said.

was polishing his weapon. The retractable long sword was his weapon of choice when he had resolved to protect Eler and

been carrying the weapon with him for three years, and his fighting skills had

went back to her bedroom, Amur took out a black listening device from his pocket and stuck it to the underside of the

was worried that Luca might face some difficulties after he left, so he decided to plant a bug in the apartment that might come in useful

the bug, he packed up his equipment and went to his

he closed the door, he stared at the tightly shut door of Luca's bedroom. He held his breath and heard nothing coming out of

did not know that Amur had a very keen sense of

had told him that she was working overtime, but he could smell the scent of oil and smoke on

she had been working overtime, why would she be

...

Tommy finished his grapes, he and Luke returned to Crawford

car, Tommy wagged his legs and smiled. "Daddy, don't you think that Ms. Luca's cooking is

"It's not bad," Luke commented.

sighed. "Her cooking tastes a little different today though. The last time she made fish fillets for dinner, they tasted exactly like how Mommy used to