

Be Gentle 1161

Chapter 1161

Tommy skipped into the living room, and Bianca walked toward him and said gently. "You're back home so late, Tommy. Are you hungry?"

Tommy could sense the reluctance in his mother's voice. He shook his head and said, "I'm not hungry."

Bianca smiled. She was already used to Tommy's coldness toward her. She then turned to Luke and said, "I've saved some chowder for you, Luke. I'll heat it up for you."

"Don't worry about it, Bea. I had a big dinner," Luke said. He had eaten a lot in the meal earlier, but he did not tell Luca or Tommy.

"Ah..." Bianca glanced at Tommy, who was already heading up the stairs. She continued, "Alright then. You must be tired. I'll go and prepare the bathwater for you, then you can take a bath and sleep."

Luke was not really convinced by the concern Bianca showed him. "It's fine, Bea. I still have some work to do. If you're tired, you should go to bed first."

Bianca maintained the smile on her face even though Luke had refused her offer. She had already expected Luke to refuse.

She went up to him and hugged him. "Alright then. You shouldn't sleep so late though. Also, try to come home for dinner. I'd be worried if I don't see you or Tommy."

Luke's profound gaze landed on her face and paused there. "Okay," he said.

"I'll go and throw away the soup in the kitchen. It'll smell if I leave it overnight," Bianca said gently.

"Mm." Luke nodded and went upstairs.

Bianca went into the kitchen and opened the door of the microwave. There were two bowls of chowder inside. One was for Luke, and the other was for Tommy.

took a bowl out and threw the contents into the trash can. As she watched the gooey droplets trickle from the bowl, her expression gradually

had given her heart to Luke, but Luke had

that she smelled the scent of perfume on Luke when she hugged him. The perfume belonged to another

had honed her sense of smell on the Island of Despair. Even though the scent was very faint, she could tell that it was not car perfume but the perfume of

had never caught that scent on him

on the bowl slowly tightened. The veins bulged on the back of her hand. It was an

happened to step into the kitchen and witness that scene. She was shocked.

to her senses and quickly hid her vicious expression. She smiled at Rainie and said, "Yes,

Rainie shook her head. She had wanted to take a glass of water in the kitchen, but she did not expect to see that vicious side

in her heart grew. Was the woman in front of her really

her mother would not have that expression on her face even if she were really angry. Earlier, she thought that her mother had become an ugly witch that ate little children

placed the bowl in the sink and said, "It's already so late. Why aren't you in bed

"I want a glass of water." Rainie came to her senses and poured herself a glass of water. Even though Bianca's expression had returned to normal, she still *felt afraid*.

When Bianca saw Rainie gulp down the glass of water, she stepped up to her and wanted to pat her *head*.

Rainie instinctively dodged.

"Rainie?" Bianca pretended to look hurt, though she was wondering if Rainie had seen her *expression earlier*.

Rainie smiled to try to hide her fears. "I'm going to bed, Mommy. Good *night*."

"Mm." Bianca nodded. After she watched Rainie leave the kitchen, she took the other bowl out of the microwave and poured its contents into the trash can. She put the bowl in the sink and quickly *went upstairs*.

Among the three children, Rainie was the friendliest to her. The girl was her key to getting close to Luke. She did not want to lose that key!

Bianca went upstairs. She tried to go into Rainie's bedroom, hoping that she could improve *their relationship*.

When she tried to twist the doorknob, she realized that Rainie had locked the **door**.

Bianca's expression stiffened. She knew that the children had never locked their doors when they went to bed, especially Rainie.

She tried twisting the doorknob again and failed to open *the door*.

Bianca did not want to call out her name either, so she could only leave.

been standing behind the door. She breathed a sigh of relief when she heard her mother's footsteps fading away into the

that what her brother said was correct. There was indeed something weird about

did not want to believe it, but from what she saw earlier, she had no choice but to admit

on the floor in fear and began to

next day, Rainie woke up earlier. After washing her face and brushing her teeth, she went in front of Lanie's

are you awake?" She knocked on the door instead of

"I'm awake," Lanie said.

opened the door and went inside. She saw her brother sitting at his desk reading a book. She closed the door, locked it, then went up next to her brother. "I have something to tell you,

put the book down and looked at his younger sister. "What

I..." Rainie told Lanie about what she saw in the kitchen. They were twins and had a tacit understanding of each other, so Rainie did not need to explain in detail before Lanie knew what she was trying to tell

you sure about what you saw?" Lanie frowned, though his handsome face remained

sure, and I'm not mistaken," Rainie said. She was not sleepy when she went into the kitchen to get a glass of water, so she was sure that she saw

Chapter 1162

Rainie nodded as she listened to what her brother said. Soon, they heard a knock on the door and their butler's voice. "Master Blanche, Miss Rainie, are you two inside?"

"We're here!" Lanie and Rainie said at the same time.

"It's time to go downstairs for breakfast. Otherwise, you'll be late for school," the butler said. The two children were usually punctual at the dining table, but the butler did not see them, so he went upstairs to remind them.

"It's Founder's Day at our school today, Mr. Griffin. We don't have to go to school," Rainie said.

The butler thought for a while and realized that it was the case; he had forgotten about it because he had been too busy. "I see. However, your Great-Grandpa is waiting for the two of you downstairs."

Old Master Crawford might dote on them, but he was also strict toward them.

The children were not supposed to sleep in, they had to eat three meals a day, and they had to exercise three times a week. Those were the rules that Old Master Crawford had set for them.

"We know. We'll go downstairs soon," Lanie said.

The butler went downstairs.

"Do you understand what I told you?" Lanie looked at Rainie.

"Yes, Lanie." Rainie nodded to show her understanding.

Lanie opened the bedroom door, and the twins went downstairs. Tommy was already at the dining table eating his breakfast. When Old Master Crawford saw the twins, he asked them, "What were you doing in the room?"

morning, Great-Grandpa. It's a school holiday today, so Lanie and I were discussing what we should do for the rest of the day." Rainie smiled sweetly and sat next to Old Master

sparkled when he heard that. "I want a school holiday

to go to school," Lanie

went to a different school than the

I wanna play with you." Tommy wished that he could have a holiday so that he could go and visit

to ignore Tommy. They could not involve their younger brother in their plan

could say anything, the driver came into the dining hall. "It's time to go to school,

at his elder siblings, but they said nothing. His pleading gaze turned toward Old Master Crawford.

you already have a day off from school yesterday? You should go to school today." Old Master Crawford did not coddle

could only pout and leave with

and Rainie exchanged glances. Eventually, Rainie said, "Great-Grandpa, Lanie and I would like to go to Simon's house to play.

"**Simon?** That Holston kid?" Old Master Crawford narrowed his **gaze**.

"**Yes!**" Rainie hugged Old Master Crawford's arm. "Our teacher told us that we should get along with our classmates, so we thought of taking the opportunity to improve our friendship with him."

That was what Lanie asked Rainie to tell the old man. It was much more convincing when it came out of Rainie's mouth.

"*Yes, you can, but you'll have to let Uncle Zander bring you there,*" Old Master *Crawford said*.

"*Yes, Great-Grandpa.*" Rainie smiled sweetly and winked at Lanie. The first step of their plan was a **success**.

While Sean brought Tommy to school, Lanie and Rainie waited for him at home. After breakfast, Rainie went upstairs and knocked on the master bedroom **door**.

"*Who is it?*" Bianca's voice was heard from *inside*.

"*It's me, Mommy.*" Rainie took a deep breath, trying hard not to be reminded of the horrific *scene yesterday*.

"Rainie? Come in," Bianca said.

Rainie pushed the door open and saw Bianca sitting on the bed. She seemed to have woken up not too long ago, and her hair was disheveled. She did not look gentle at all.

She remembered that her mother used to have a gentle gaze even though her hair and clothes were disheveled. That made her want to *go closer*.

The woman in front of her did not give her that impression **at all**.

getting late, Mommy. You should eat your breakfast soon. It's not good for your health if you eat your breakfast too late." Rainie leaned on the doorframe. She was as caring as an

looked at the time and realized that it was indeed quite late. "Good girl. Right, why aren't you at school yet?" She

Founder's Day today. You should get cleaned up. Otherwise, Great-Grandpa won't be happy,"

was instantly reminded of that annoying old man. She narrowed her gaze and said, "Alright, I'll go and wash my

She watched Bianca walk into the bathroom, and she tiptoed into the room the moment the bathroom door was

the sound of her footsteps, she asked, "What would you like to eat for breakfast, Mommy? The food is getting cold, so I'll ask the cook to heat it up

fine. Thank you, Rainie,"

went to the bed and saw a few strands of hair on it. She picked up two strands and said, "Alright, I'll let the cook

left the room with the strands of hair. Lanie was already waiting for her in the living

placed the strands of hair into Lanie's palm and said, "I'll go and tell the cook to prepare breakfast for Mommy. Otherwise, she'll

nodded. He held the strands of hair tightly in his palm and went to

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Everyone in the Crawford household knew that Lanie considered the Holston boy his rival. That was why Old Master Crawford nagged him a little.

"Yes, Great-Grandpa. I'll make sure that Lanie won't fight with Simon," Rainie said.

"Yes, you should." Old Master Crawford waved his hand. He was not worried when the twins looked out for each other.

After they left the living room, Lanie protested, "What nonsense were you on earlier?"

"Great-Grandpa was worried that you'd pick a fight with Simon. I was only reassuring him that you won't," Rainie said with a smile.

"Nonsense. I can't be bothered to pick a fight with Simon." Lanie said coolly. His hands were in his pockets, and he looked like a mini version of Luke.

He only fought with Simon to protect his sister.

Lanie looked at his sister, who was skipping out of the house, and thought that she would not understand what her brother did for her.

Sean was already waiting for them in the garage.

After the twins got into the car, he drove the car and left the house.

Bianca happened to look out of the window of the dining hall and saw Sean's car leave. 'Didn't they say that it's a school holiday today? Where are they going?' She wondered.

She walked into the living room and saw that Old Master Crawford was reading the papers. "Grandpa, where are the children going?"

Master Crawford frowned. Why would she care about

know?" He retorted with an accusatory

was taken aback. Why would she know about her children's whereabouts if they did not tell her? She was planning to use the holiday to improve her relationship

had left the house, and Bianca did not know where she

didn't tell me, Grandpa," Bianca murmured. She knew that Old Master Crawford was unhappy, and she had to pretend that she was at

going to play with the Holston kid," Old Master Crawford

when the Holston name was mentioned. She knew that the real Bianca had some interaction with the Holston family, and that made her

refill your tea for you, Grandpa." Bianca saw that Old Master Crawford was reaching for the teapot. She once again tried to get in his

Master Crawford would tell her what the children

thanks." Old Master Crawford shook his head. He did not let go of his grip on the teapot handle. "You can go and mind your

her lips together and slightly narrowed her gaze. There was a hint of resentment in her

Crawford was impassive toward Bianca's aggrieved silence. He poured the tea into his cup, and the fragrance soon filled the entire

Bianca sniffled and said, "I'll go upstairs **then**."

"**Mm**." **Old** Master Crawford did not have too many words to spare.

Bianca turned around and glanced at the old man, thinking that she would eventually take over the household one day. He would be lucky if he died before that. If he had not, she would not show any mercy to **him**!

Bianca went into her bedroom and looked at the luxurious furnishing. She thought that it was **not enough**.

In the entire Crawford Manor, she could only move between two places -- the dining hall and the **bedroom**.

She felt that she was more like a guest in **the house**!

Bianca was not satisfied. She sat on the couch and thought of the scent of perfume that she smelled on Luke's body.

She would have to take the initiative, no matter if the other woman was Ivana or someone *else*.

When she thought about that, she made a phone call to the reporter.

"*I have* another deal for you," Bianca said *candidly*.

The reporter was having a good time in the safe house. He placed his legs on the table and wagged them. "What is it, Mrs. Crawford?"

"I'll give that woman's information to you. You know what to do with it," Bianca said.

that it? You want to further blow up the scandal?" The reporter was surprised. Usually, any other wife of a wealthy individual would want to cover up the news to protect their

never met someone who behaved like

it up. I'll reward you handsomely," Bianca said. "The woman in the photo is an employee of Watson Pharmaceuticals. You should know what to do with that information,

reporter instantly understood. "Are you very sure that you want the scandal to

you publish the news, pay attention to your bank account," Bianca

was happy that not only did he get to live luxuriously, but he was also well-paid. He agreed to Bianca's request

problem. You'll see it in the evening edition," the reporter

two children arrived at the Holston residence. Lanie had already informed Simon in advance, so when the driver parked the car at the entrance, they saw Simon waiting for them at

Rainie." Simon grinned when he saw Rainie. He wanted to go closer

instantly shielded his sister behind him. "Stay away from my sister,

shrugged helplessly when he saw how protective Lanie was to his sister. "You've come to my house to play with me. How are we going to play together if I have to stay

glaring at him as though he would punch him if he dared to approach

Chapter 1164

"Huh? You want to go out and play?" Simon looked at Rainie and nodded his head. "Yeah! Let's go out and play!"

"Then let's go out and play," Lanie said. He could not think of an excuse for the driver to take them to the hospital, so he thought of getting Simon to help him instead.

"Where are we going?" Simon asked.

"You'll know very soon. Right, is your driver at home?" Lanie said.

"Of course. I'll get him to drive the car over now," Simon quickly ran inside.

Rainie knew what her brother was planning, though she was quite worried. "Lanie, do you think Simon will help us?"

"You'll see." Lanie was confident.

Rainie nodded and said nothing. She did not think that taking advantage of other people was wrong as long as they could confirm their mother's identity.

Moreover, Simon would not lose anything.

Five minutes later, the Holston family driver drove a car over. Simon opened the car door and waved at them. "Come in, Rainie."

Rainie looked at her brother. "Let's get into the car."

"Mm," Lanie said coolly and stepped inside. He sat in the middle seat and waved at Rainie, "Come in, Rainie."

"Yes, Lanie." Rainie nodded and stepped into the car.

kneaded his hands and looked at Lanie, who was sitting between him and Rainie. "Hey, Blanche Crawford, how about if I swap places

Lanie insisted on protecting his

Simon was frustrated when he looked at Lanie's cold demeanor. The twins were sitting in his family's car, but Lanie acted as though he owned the

he felt a lot better when he looked at Rainie's

driver asked, "Where are we

"To Central Hospital," Lanie said.

are you feeling unwell?" The driver became worried when he heard that Lanie wanted to go to

A bookstore recently opened near the hospital. Let's go there and take a look." Lanie did not even blink when he told the

we going out to play? What's so fun at a bookstore?" Simon immediately

got a headache whenever he read a book, so he was not keen to visit a

going to the bookstore? Yay! I've heard that there's a café selling many tasty desserts too. Let's go there!" Rainie caught on to her brother's

that's the one." Lanie nodded. The twins made a

"I'd love to go there." Rainie blinked and looked at Simon. "Simon, shall we *go there?*"

Simon was charmed when he saw that Rainie's eyes were sparkling. He nodded and said without hesitation, "**Yes.**"

The driver started the car and *drove away*.

Twenty minutes later, the driver stopped the car near the hospital. He looked around the place, then checked the area on the map application. "Where's the bookstore you were mentioning, Master Blanche? I can't find it on the *map*."

"It's newly opened, so the maps aren't updated yet. Sir, can you drop us off at the hospital entrance?" Lanie said.

The driver did so.

Rainie opened the car door and stepped out, after which Lanie got out of the car too. When the driver saw that, he said, "Master Blanche, Miss Rainie, where are *you going*?"

"We won't take too long. Can you wait for us here?" Lanie did not want the driver to follow them.

"I'm afraid that's..." Before the driver could finish his sentence, he saw Simon getting out of the car too. "Master *Simon!*"

"I'll go with them." Simon was afraid that he would not get to play with Rainie, so he decided to follow them.

"Ah, that's..." the driver wanted to follow them, but he could not park the car here. He drove to a nearby parking lot and used the tracker to track down Simon's location.

Simon's father knew that Simon was naughty and did not want bodyguards to escort him. That was why he made him wear a tracker so that the adults could always track *his location*.

the twins into the hospital. Seeing that they were heading straight to the lobby, he could not help but ask, "Rainie, Blanche Crawford, where are you

looking for a doctor." Now that they were at the hospital, Lanie did not hide the truth

"Are you feeling unwell?" Simon asked.

stopped and looked at the chattering boy. They were the same height, but Lanie looked a lot more questions from you, and you'll get back in the car,"

"I don't wanna get back into the car. I want to be

not stop Simon from following them into the

nurse saw the three children wandering in the lobby without any adults with them. She could not help but to go toward them and ask, "Why are you here, children? Are

could say anything, the Holston family driver rushed over. "I've finally found you, Master

driver was worried when he saw Simon's signal enter the hospital. How was he going to find the boy when there were so many

looked at the driver and nodded. Then, he looked at

at the driver and said, "We're not lost. He's our

Chapter 1165

The Holston family driver felt pressured when the three children looked at him at the same time.

Simon seemed to be on Lanie's side, and he did not think that he could refuse. He could only nod and say, "How can I help you, Master Blanche?"

"Help me fill up a form," Lanie said. He was only a child. The nurse might not accept the hair sample that he wanted to get tested.

It should not be a problem if the Holston family driver helped him.

The Holston family driver could only agree.

Meanwhile, Luca was working in her office. It was a peaceful day because Luke was not there. She went to the laboratory with a stack of documents.

She had asked Rhett to help her input the data.

After half an hour in the laboratory, her phone rang.

Rhett happened to look at her phone screen. He said, "Dr. Craw, it's a long string of numbers. Shall I reject the call for you?"

He thought that it was a scam call.

"No." When Luca heard that, she put away the test tube in her hand and answered the call. "This is Luca."

"Miss... Luca, I'm at the hospital. Can you come over?" Amur's voice was heard.

Luca could hear that his voice was weak. "Why are you in the hospital? What happened?" She asked.

"I'm hurt." Amur lay on the bed and bore with the pain while the nurse bandaged

nurse had asked him if he wanted to be sedated.

a rule on the Island of Despair that they should not be sedated on a mission, in case they divulged any secrets while they

stood up. "Are you at Central Hospital? I'll go

you." Amur's lips were pale from the pain. He did not want to trouble Luca, but he did not have any money on hand, and he could not pay the bill. Calling Luca was his last

Luca ended the call, she took off

tell that she was worried about something. "What happened,

younger brother is in the hospital, and I'll have to leave. Is Dr. Kidman here?" Luca hastily packed up her documents. She would have to inform her department lead before she

think Mr. Kidman went out for something," Rhett said. "How about you fill out an emergency leave form, and I'll hand it to Dr.

guess that'll do." Luca was very worried about Amur's condition. She brought her documents back to the office, hastily filled up a form, and handed it to Rhett

to the hospital and found Amur

had dressed him with bandages. She could not see the extent of his wounds under the thick layers of bandages, but she could tell that he was

"How are you?" Luca frowned when she saw his **pale face**.

His pallor meant that he had lost a lot of blood. Indeed, he was currently undergoing *a transfusion*.

"I'm fine. It was... an accident." Amur was in pain, but he maintained a smile on his face.

Luca knew that he had encountered some complications during his mission, but she did not know how dangerous his **mission was**.

The nurse saw Luca and came over. "Are you the patient's *family*?"

"**Yes**. I'm his elder sister," **Luca said**.

The nurse looked at Amur's face, then at Luca. 'Elder sister? Are they *biologically related*?'

Despite her curiosity, she did not forget the main reason she was there. "The patient needs to be admitted. You'll have to pay the treatment fees and the deposit before we can admit him. Can you settle the *payment*?"

Luca nodded and said, "Yes. I'll do that *now*."

She turned to Amur and asked him, "Do you have your **ID**?"

"**Yes**... it's... in my jacket," Amur said. His pain caused him to speak *haltingly*.

Luca found his passport in his jacket pocket. The cover was stained with blood. Luca wiped it with a napkin before leaving the room.

was crowded, and she did not receive any special treatment. She had to stand in line

the same time, the Holston family driver brought the three children

made up a story for him. He pretended to be their father, and he wanted to perform a DNA test because he suspected that his wife cheated on him and the children were not biologically

saw that the three children looked very different from the driver and did not ask too many questions. In fact, she felt some pity

had threatened the driver that he would lose his job if he did not obey what Lanie said. He could only shut up and complete the rest of

smart, Lanie!" Rainie was amazed that Lanie had gotten the test done

all thanks to him." Lanie shot a glance at Simon. Without Simon and his driver's help, it would have been much more difficult to complete their

much easier for a child to navigate the adult world with the help of
at Simon and said, "Simon, can we treat you and Uncle Clement

Simon was happy that the girl of his dreams invited him

"Yes!" Rainie nodded.

you, Princess Rainie!" Simon clapped

Chapter 1166

Rainie was not impressed by Simon's bravado. She turned her head to look at that woman's back and said, "Lanie, I don't think that she's a bad person."

"Mm." Lanie was staring at that woman's back too.

Simon saw that his friends were staring at the woman as though they were bewitched. He could not help but mumble, "You can't tell if a person is good or bad from their face."

"Shut up, Simon," Rainie said while continuing to stare at the woman.

When it was Luca's turn at the counter, she hastily paid the bill and left without looking at the children again.

She returned to the emergency room with the receipt. After the nurse verified it, she arranged for Amur to be admitted.

Luca looked at Amur lying on the bed. "Are you hungry, Amur? Do you want to eat something?"

"I'm not hungry." Amur shook his head. The nurse had told him that he would have to stay in the hospital until they removed his stitches. That would be seven days later, and he did not want to stay there for so long.

"Luca..." he wanted to tell Luca about getting discharged early.

Luca shook her head. "Don't think about leaving so soon. You'll have to listen to the doctor."

"I'm fine. You've studied medicine before, right? My wounds aren't that serious, they're just a little deep," Amur said. He could not get out of the bed in case the movement tore his wounds.

mean that you can be discharged tomorrow. We'll see what happens when your wounds have scabbed over. Also, I can't come to the hospital that often. I'll hire a caretaker for you, and if language is a problem, you can communicate with her through a translation app," Luca said. Their blood was enhanced with a drug that encouraged scabbing. It would still take three days before he could be

"Alright." Amur nodded and agreed.

glanced at the medication that the doctor had prescribed him. The drugs encouraged healing and replenished blood levels, and there were also nutritional supplements. With the IV drip, Amur would not

"I'll charge your phone, Amur. You can call me if you need

blinked. He only troubled Luca because he did not

he got injured and did not contact her, she would probably think that he had returned to the island after he successfully completed his

to the door, but she suddenly turned around and said, "You have to take care of

"I will." Amur smiled at her.

left the hospital, she happened to see the Holston family driver leave the hospital with the children. She hid behind a tree and watched the car leave while sighing

she returned to A City, she had been busy doing Abel's bidding and trying her best to hide from the people

Other than Luke and Tommy, she did not want to see *anyone else*.

She was not being cruel, but she did not want to be reluctant to leave them when she would eventually have *to*.

However, Luca realized that she wanted to see them **very much**.

When she thought of that, Luca did not take a cab back to the company. Instead, she went to the Norman **residence**.

Nothing much changed in A City in the past three years, though the Norman family had some **changes**.

Two years ago, Jack retired from his post despite being at the peak of his career. He did so to accompany *his wife*.

Leia was sent overseas on the pretense of furthering her studies, and she had never returned since. Luke played a part in ensuring that she would not be able to return to the country.

Luca had investigated all that before she returned to A City. She also knew that her mother's health had declined after so *many ordeals*.

"We're here, Miss," the driver **told her**.

Luca came to her senses. She paid the fare, thanked the driver, and stepped out of the **car**.

Norman residence stood in front of her. The gates had not changed, but she could not

Normans, she had become

There was no place for her to sit down, so she could only stand under the shade of a tree and hope that she

was lucky, she might get to see

out of the house. She wore a thin shirt in the warm weather because she was weak, and she held a pair of hand pruners in her

to prune the roses in

out of the house with her and said, "If you're not feeling well, you shouldn't abuse yourself. The gardener will be here in

will wilt in two days." Queenie smiled and shook her head. Her face was pale. "I'm fine. I'm only pruning the flowers. It won't be too taxing on

were Bianca's favorite. Bianca might have lost her memories and would not come to visit them, but Queenie wanted to tend to the plants in case Bianca might come over

you never listen," Jack said helplessly. He reached toward her hand pruners and said, "Let me do

Chapter 1167

The couple went to the rose bush in the yard. Queenie told Jack which flowers he should cut so that the future blooms would not be affected.

After they were done, Queenie sat in the gazebo and wiped off the sweat from her face.

Jack noticed that her complexion was quite pale. He asked her out of concern, "Do you want to rest in the house?"

"No, it's cool and windy here. I feel much better after sweating," Queenie said with a smile.

Jack sat down beside her.

Queenie took his hand and said, "Jack, I have a craving for the apple pie they sell in the cafe at the street corner. Shall we walk over there?"

"You'd better not walk around. I'll buy it for you," Jack said.

Queenie held her hand and shook her head. "I'm not that fragile, Jack. I'd like to sit in the cafe with you and enjoy some dessert, just like what we used to do in our younger days."

After she married Jack, Jack was busy with his work, and they always tried to find time out of their busy schedules to enjoy some apple pie in the cafe.

The memories from those years gone by were still fresh in her mind.

"Alright." Jack did not want to see her tire out, but he could not refuse her request. He reached out to Queenie. "Come, let me buy you some apple pie."

Queenie smiled gently and took his hand. "Alright."

The couple stepped out of the gate.

Luca saw them walking toward her, she suddenly felt flustered and did not know what

been standing under the tree for an hour, and she did not expect to be lucky enough to

Luca in the distance. She patted Jack's hand and said, "Look at that young woman over there,

Jack also noticed Luca.

was drenched in sweat after standing in the sun for an hour. Several stray strands of hair were stuck to her

go over there." Queenie could not bear to see a young woman standing under the

nodded, and the couple headed toward
young lady," Queenie smiled and greeted

Luca did not expect that they would come over and greet her. She suddenly felt a twinge in her nose, and her eyes were flooded with a mixture of tears and

you waiting for someone?" Queenie asked. It was almost noon, and the sun was scorching hot. She could not imagine why any normal person would

tree had been recently pruned, and it did not provide much

Luca nodded. She was incredibly moved by the seemingly mundane conversation. She wanted to tell them that she was waiting for them, but she could not

"**Look at** you, all drenched in sweat. You must have been waiting for a long time, isn't it? There's a cafe at the street corner up ahead. Why don't you wait there?" Queenie said gently. She did not know why she decided to be so friendly to the young woman in front of her.

She had never seen that face before, but she felt that the young woman was incredibly familiar.

"**We've agreed** to meet here." Luca tried to find an excuse.

"*It's* not too far away. I'm sure that it's incredibly tiring standing here. We're going there, shall we go together? You can tell your friend that you're waiting in the cafe." Queenie extended the **invitation**.

Luca nodded emotionally when she received the invitation to go along with them.

Jack did not say anything. He knew that his wife was a kind and charitable person.

The three people walked toward the **cafe**.

Luca did not speak on the walk there. They were supposed to be new acquaintances, and Luca did not want to unnerve them.

She knew that Jack was naturally cautious because of the nature of his **career**.

If she tried to strike up a conversation with Queenie, Jack would grow suspicious of **her**.

"**We're** here. The apple pie here is amazing, young lady. You can try some." Queenie smiled and shot a glance **at Jack**.

Jack smiled indulgently. "You can go and find a seat. I'll get the desserts at the counter."

Get a slice for this young lady too," Queenie

I..." Luca did not expect that Queenie would be so hospitable

you like apple pie?"

I love it." Luca shook her head. Her tastes were similar to Queenie's

good." Queenie felt an inexplicable fondness for the young woman. She took her hand and said, "Why not have a slice of apple pie while you wait for your friend? It's a lot more comfortable waiting here, isn't

is. Thank you, Madam." Luca took her hand and brought her to the

"Shall we sit here?" Luca asked.

course." Queenie smiled and sat

was done ordering at the counter. He looked around the place and saw that they were sitting in a spot where the air conditioning was not as

a newfound appreciation for the young woman. In the short walk earlier, the young woman had noticed that Queenie was not very healthy, and she had selected a spot that was not

sat opposite the couple. Now that they had become more familiar with each other, she began to chat with them. "Sir, Madam, how should I address

husband's surname is Norman,"

Chapter 1168

"Okay." Queenie smiled softly, rolled up her sleeves, and reached out her hand to Luca.

Luca's fingers trembled slightly as they rested on Queenie's veins.

Even on a hot day, Queenie's skin was extremely cold. It was clear that her health was weak.

Luca held her breath, checked Queenie's pulse, and had a rough idea of what was going on.

She motioned Queenie, wanting to take the pulse reading on her other hand.

After Queenie saw that, she reached out her other hand. Seeing how Luca seemed like she knew what she was doing, Queenie was a little excited.

Over the years, Jack and Luke had searched for doctors to treat her but in the end, they only had Johann to count on to take care of her health.

However, Johann had no permanent solution to cure her. All he could do was help Queenie manage the discomfort.

Johann said that her problems could only be managed, not cured.

Since then, no matter which doctor tried to treat her or prescribed her any medicine, she no longer held any hope.

Luca felt something abnormal in Queenie's pulse. She frowned and wanted to dig deeper into the issue.

At that time, the waiter brought three slices of apple pie and placed them in front of them.

Luca retracted her hand and had a rough estimation of what was going on. Her eyebrows were knitted together. She thought that what she had in mind was unlikely.

what's wrong?" Queenie asked

her head and said,

just tell me the truth. I know my body. I've been sick for so many years and I don't have much hope anymore," Queenie said as she picked up the fork and fiddled with the apple

had ordered her a freshly baked apple pie. She was waiting for it to cool so as to not burn her mouth.

Norman, I have a few questions for you," Luca said. She needed more evidence to confirm her

"Go ahead," Queenie said.

usually feel cold during the day, but both hot and cold at night. However, the times when you feel hot and the times you feel cold are different. Most of the time, you feel cold, don't you?"

Queenie nodded, her eyes lighting up. She had only told Johann this and was surprised that Luca could find out about it so

got this just from checking

you usually don't have much of an appetite, except for sweet things. If you force yourself not to eat sweets, there would be a bitter taste in your mouth, even when you didn't take any medicine," Luca

"Yes." Queenie nodded again.

thing... Although your body is weak, your basic indicators are all normal—including your blood pressure, blood sugar level, and heart rate,"

"**Yes, you're** right." Queenie's tone was a little excited as she said, "Ms. Ivy, what's wrong with me?"

Earlier on, she refused to believe that there was something wrong with her body because when she went to the hospital for a check-up, everything **seemed normal**.

Jack had high blood pressure but she did not have **those problems!**

However, as time went on, her body grew weaker and weaker without any warning. She finally accepted the fact that she **was sick**.

Jack listened to what Luca said and asked, "Yes, what's wrong with my dear's **body?**"

"Mr. Norman, Mrs. Norman's body needs to be nurtured. As long as that's taken care of, she'll eventually get better," *Luca said*.

When Queenie heard her reply, her excitement slowly dissipated. Everyone had told her the same thing, but she was frustrated as it was unknown how long it would take for her to feel better.

"**I see**, thank you." Queenie smiled reluctantly. She initially thought that there was hope, but unexpectedly, she was disappointed once again.

After she ate half of the apple pie, Luca hurriedly left under the pretext that her friend had arrived.

She hailed a taxi, went back to her apartment, and went straight into the study **to work**.

Queenie's body was becoming weak because she was being exposed to a colorless and tasteless poison. It could be consumed through food, and after it accumulated in the body for a long time, the harmful effects on the body would gradually increase in *severity*.

It was not very poisonous, but if it was consumed for a long time, it would affect one's health and eventually lead to *organ failure*.

Luca felt from Queenie's pulse, it was likely that Queenie had been consuming this poison for at least three years. The poison was deep in her body, but her condition did not continue to deteriorate as she had not taken it for the last

long as the toxins were still in her body, her body would still be

spent the whole afternoon preparing some herbal concoctions. She did not have enough ingredients on hand and went to a nearby pharmacy to restock what she needed. Once she was done, she delivered the concoctions through express delivery to Norman

did not include her real address to prevent Jack and the others from finding out that she was the one who sent

At night in Norman Residence.

the kids were in Norman Residence for dinner. A few nights every month, he would bring the kids back to Norman Residence for

had lost her memory and refused to acknowledge them as her parents, so he would take on the filial duty to

was setting up a game of chess. He was planning to play another round with Luke before dinner when the

in Norman Residence was in

up and said, "I'll go get

"Okay." Luke nodded.

looked at the intercom and saw that it was a deliveryman, so he went out to collect the

Chapter 1169

Jack finished reading the letter and looked at his wife. He was lost in his thoughts.

"Could this be from the woman we met today?" Queenie asked. Ivana was the only person who popped into her mind.

"Could be." Jack frowned as he stared at the package.

She managed to list all of Queenie's symptoms just from checking her pulse. However, she did not say anything about it being curable earlier. Then, they were sent some herbs. Who else would it be if not her?

"Jack and Queenie, who are you talking about?" Luke looked at the two. Although Bianca did not recognize them, he still cared about his in-laws.

Jack told Luke what had happened earlier.

After Luke heard what Jack said, he picked up one of the packets and said, "Jack and Queenie, don't take this medicine for now. I'll bring it to Johann to test it tomorrow."

Queenie hesitated. Her gut feeling told her that Ivana was a good person, and she felt an inexplicable surge of warmth when they first met.

Jack was concerned about Queenie's health. He nodded and said, "Okay, it's best if we can get Dr. Park to run a test on it. It's not worth taking the risk since we don't know what this is."

When Queenie heard her husband agree with Luke, she nodded in agreement as well.

After dinner, Luke took the medicine packet and left with the kids.

Queenie looked at the remaining medicine packets and picked up the letter again. The handwriting on it was beautiful. She thought of Ivana's young and charming face. The corners of her mouth raised into a smile.

you thinking about?" Jack made some tea and put a cup in front

put down the letter, held up the cup to warm her hands, and said, "I don't think that the girl has ill

silent for a few seconds. They were soulmates, so of course, he knew her thoughts. "The source of the herbs is unknown. It's better to have them checked before you decide whether to take them

true." Queenie took a sip of hot tea, then picked up the wrapped box to look for a phone

are you looking for?"

looking for the girl's phone number, it's just..." Queenie looked at the censored delivery details and reluctantly put the

get someone to find out," Jack said. Delivery companies would have some sort of records. Moreover, the parcel was sent from the same city. It would not be too much trouble to investigate it. As soon as he mentioned it to someone, they would get everything

Queenie shook her head and let out a sigh. "I'm sure she doesn't want to be harassed by us. If she wanted us to contact her, she would've mentioned something in

fair." Jack nodded. When he raised his head, he saw their family photo hanging on the wall. He shook his head. The people in the picture were still around but the circumstances had

a while, the caretaker of Norman Residence walked over with a tablet and handed it to them. "Master, Madam, you should read

the tablet and glanced at it. His brows were knitted tightly together as he said, "Nonsense, a bunch of

"What's wrong? Why are you so angry?" When Queenie saw how angry he was, she took the tablet from his hands. The news stated that Luke was secretly dating a researcher from *Watson Biopharmaceuticals*.

The couple knew about it as Luke had explained to them what was really going on before the news **broke**.

They trusted Luke, but they did not expect that the media would announce the identity of the woman. In the report, it was mentioned that Luke was using his company as an excuse to see his lover.

"Nonsense!" Jack said angrily. They did not believe that Luke was that kind *of person*.

The caretaker chimed in, "The reporters nowadays are disgusting and full of lies! Madam, what are we going to do now?"

"Luke will take care of it." Queenie sighed. They all believed that Luke would never wrong Bianca, but that was not enough. Whatever happened next was up *to Luke*.

"Give me the phone," Jack said **solemnly**.

"Okay." The caretaker immediately handed Jack *his phone*.

Jack called Luke to inform him of what had **happened**.

Luke, who was driving, immediately stopped the car when he heard the news. He clicked on the link that they sent **him**.

The three kids sitting in the back looked at each other. Tommy could not help but ask, "Dad, what's *the matter?*"

through the article with a gloomy expression. His eyes were filled with anger. "Nothing to to Rainie, "Dad seems really

Rainie whispered. She knew that the only reason Luke would react as such was that something unpleasant had

his phone in the passenger seat and drove back to

Master Crawford was waiting for him in the

take care of it,"

Crawford frowned. He was extremely dissatisfied with what had happened. He grabbed the cane in his hand tightly as he said, "Hold a press conference, and if necessary, fire this woman so that we don't have to hear about this

at what she does, I won't fire her."

Master Crawford widened his eyes and stood up with the help of his cane. "Firing her is the easiest

reporters want to pick a fight, firing her will not prove my innocence. Grandpa, when you took over T Corporation, you told me that we must cherish those who

Crawford was stunned by that and had nothing to

Chapter 1170

"Madam felt uncomfortable after dinner so she went to rest early," the caretaker replied.

"Okay." Luke nodded, walked to the second floor, and gently pushed open the door of the master bedroom. It was dark inside and it seemed that Bianca had gone to bed.

He did not wake her up. He just closed the door and walked to the study.

Bianca, who was lying on the bed, opened her eyes. She turned around and looked at the closed door while flashing a chilling smile.

If it were before, she would have made a lot of noise after seeing the news, but she could not afford to do that right now.

What she had to do was to give Luke some time to manage the situation, and at the same time, she had to make herself seem magnanimous.

Bianca used to be like this, so she had to act as such too.

The more she acted like this, the deeper Luke's guilt toward her would become.

Bianca took out her phone. She did not care that it would hurt her eyes to look at her phone when the lights in the room were switched off. She opened the web page and was overjoyed as she read the comments.

Luke took out his phone as well. After thinking about it, he called Luca.

Luca, who was working, heard her phone ring. She put down the pen and answered the call.

Luke was calling.

had never talked to Luke on the phone before, so she could only pretend that she did not know who was calling

Luke." Luke's heart tightened when he heard the soft voice coming from the other end of

it's you, Mr. Crawford. Hello, why are you calling so late?"

you seen the news?" Luke

news?" Luca paused. She has been working since she delivered the package and had not paid attention to the

your browser and have a look. Also, if you don't want to go to work tomorrow, you don't need to," Luke said. He mentioned that because he thought that she would be emotionally affected by it considering that she was involuntarily involved in this drama. Besides, there were a lot of people calling her all sorts of names on

listening to him speak, Luca opened the browser and typed in Luke's name. She immediately saw the news he was

quickly scrolled through until she reached the bottom of the page. She saw the comments left of the comments were directed at her. They said she was shameless and called her the other woman. They scolded her for meddling in another party's marriage for the sake of her career and destroying their

gaze gradually turned cold as she said, "Oh, so this is what you were referring to. Mr. Crawford, don't worry. This news won't affect my

to her calm tone. It did not seem like she took the news to heart. He opened his mouth and felt like there was a fishbone stuck in his throat. He wanted to say something but he could not bring himself to. He slowly swallowed his words and felt a pang of

wanted to ask Luca whether she really did not care about

In the end, he kept his thoughts to himself and said, "Okay. If you want to take some time off, Dr. Cole can approve your leave at *any time*."

"Mr. Crawford, we're both innocent. If you want me to take a leave of absence at this moment, won't things get more suspicious?" Luca looked at the screen, her expression growing colder and colder.

The netizens were calling her a shameless mistress, but none of them knew that she was Luke's rightful *partner*.

These people did not know right from wrong because she was forced to change her face. They did not know the truth, so it was natural for them to be easily misguided by the news.

Luca felt sad but understood her **circumstances**.

She could not exercise these rights given by Luke. Otherwise, those with ill-intent would take advantage of it to make **things worse**.

"I'll find this reporter as soon as possible and give you peace." Luke listened to the coldness in her voice. It seemed that she really did not care about this. There was nothing more that he *could say*.

"Yes, this is indeed annoying. Mr. Crawford, please hurry and take action." Luca was tearing up, but she kept blinking and forced the **tears back**.

After she said that, she ended *the call*.

It was not that she did not want to listen to Luke's voice anymore but she was not qualified *to*.

Luca heard the busy tone on the other end of the phone and could not help feeling *agitated*.

The next day.

the medicine packet to the hospital and looked

the medicine packet on the table and said, "Get this tested as soon as possible and find out

his eyebrows when he smelled the strong herbs the moment the medicine pack was placed on his desk. He said, "Herbs? I can tell you what this is without going through a

to know what the herbs are for." Luke was not in the mood to joke with him. He just wanted to know what these herbs

see." Johann slowly opened the medicine packet and identified the herbs one

saw him picking up the last piece of herb, he asked, "What is this concoction

Johann mumbled to himself, "Where did you get this

told him about everything that happened in the Norman Residence the day

clapped his hands and looked a little excited. "Get your mother-in-law to come to the hospital as soon as possible. I want to run a

"She's been poisoned?" Luke frowned.

you say that this packet was specially made for your mother-in-law, then there's a chance that she was poisoned. However, this poison is not very common and the hospital wouldn't usually run these tests during blood tests," Johann

the seriousness of the situation, Luke immediately picked up his phone and made some arrangements. He informed Jack to bring Queenie to