

Be Gentle 1221

Chapter 1221

It was quite slow to find someone using the program. Luca leaned on the couch with her eyes slightly closed. She became impatient after a while.

She plugged the laptop into the power source, stood up, and went to rest in her bedroom.

Even though her strength had returned, she still felt quite sluggish.

She glanced at her laptop, yawned, and went back into her bedroom.

She looked at the door of the next room and shook her head. Back in her bedroom, she set an alarm on her phone, sent a message to Cole saying that she would be taking the day off, and plugged her phone into the power source.

No matter what, she would not let Amur act alone.

Abel was in A City, so Amur should finish his mission as soon as possible and return to the Island.

Danger lurked wherever Abel was. She did not want Amur to remain in A City.

Luca closed the curtains and lay on the bed. She might not have been able to sleep if it were any other day, but she quickly fell asleep thanks to the drugs.

Meanwhile, in the hospital, Luke received a call from Jason. He glanced at Bianca sleeping soundly on the bed, then went to the balcony to answer the call.

"How are things?" He asked Jason before Jason could speak.

gotten someone to tamper with the security feed, Mr. Crawford, and we've also talked to the courier company. Even if someone wants to investigate the issue, they wouldn't be able to trace it back to Dr. Craw,"

I don't want her information to leak out one bit. Understand?" Luke said. If someone else found out that Luca was the person who diagnosed Queenie's illness, Luca and even T Corporation would be needlessly

Jason replied. Remembering that there was another incident the night before, he continued, "There's something else,

Luke said in a

Westin has gotten back to us. They said that they could not find the waiter in the security feed, and they said that the person isn't one of their employees,"

had sent some of his people to investigate what happened to Luca at the hotel. As expected, they could not

employee?" Luke raised an eyebrow. The owner of the hotel was his friend, and the hotel management would not lie to

words, someone had disguised as an impostor to drug

someone relatively new to the country. Could she have

was indeed attractive, but no one in the party should have tried to drug her. Everyone at the party knew that Luke had brought her along, so even if someone had set their eyes on her, they would not have so brazenly acted upon their

all the guests at the party from his suspicions. However, he did not know if Luca had offended someone

One thing he was clear about was that someone who would harm Luca might not be Luca's enemy. They might be his enemy too...

"Yes, Mr. Crawford," Jason replied. He had not given up on investigating the incident at the party, but he had to make timely reports. "Also, Dr. Craw left the hotel alone at six-fifteen this **morning.**"

"Noted." Luke felt somehow relieved after knowing that she had left early in the morning. If she could leave the hotel by herself, it meant that her health was not affected.

"I'll be late to work today. Reschedule some of the less important *meetings.*"

"Yes, Mr. Crawford," Jason replied. As Luke's subordinate, all he had to do was carry out Luke's orders without **asking why.**

After ending the call, Luke went back to the room. After being hooked up to a saline drip, Bianca's lips were not as dry as before. The redness on her face also subsided a little.

Her condition seemed to be improving. He sat on the couch and waited for the caretaker to come from Crawford Manor to **take over.**

He could only leave for work after the *caretaker arrived.*

In a short while, a caretaker from Crawford Manor came with two flasks in her hands. "Sorry that I'm late, Sir. There was some traffic on *the road.*"

"It's fine." Luke stood up. "The thermometer is on the table. Take her temperature once every half an hour, and tell the nurse if the temperature fluctuates by too much. Also, make sure that **she's hydrated.**"

yes." The caretaker remembered what Luke

at Bianca again and said, "Call me if there's an emergency. I need to return to the company for some

Sir, please eat some breakfast before you leave. Old Master Crawford asked me to prepare this for you. You shouldn't starve yourself," the caretaker said as she handed a flask to Luke. That was the oatmeal she had prepared for Luke, while the other flask contained some clear broth

rushed to the hospital, so they had not eaten their

took the flask and said, "I'll eat it when I get to the company. Take care of

caretaker nodded and watched

'He's changed...'

had been working in Crawford Manor for many years, and she knew how loving Luke was never leave Bianca alone if she fell sick, and he would take care of might still see them as a loving couple, but they would not know as much as time later, Bianca slowly woke up. When she opened her eyes, she tried to look for Luke, but she did not see him in the

Chapter 1222

Bianca gave the chattering caretaker a side-eye. How dare a mere servant talk back to her?

Luke was not around, and she had no reason to put on her disguise. "Shut up," she said.

The caretaker was shocked when she realized that she had spoken too much. "Sorry, Madam," she said while nodding.

She knew that she was only a servant in the household, and she should not have meddled in her employers' affairs, but she could not bear to see Bianca being so sad and aggrieved. She did not expect that Bianca did not want her pity.

The caretaker glanced at the flask and said, "Madam, the cook prepared some clear broth for you. Do you want it now?"

"No. I don't want to eat anything," Bianca refused the caretaker's offer without hesitation. She tried to reach into her pocket, but she realized that she was wearing only a hospital gown. "Where's my phone?" She asked.

"It's in the drawer." The caretaker took out Bianca's phone from the drawer and handed it to her.

Bianca felt a lot better after being rehydrated by the saline drip. It was boring in the hospital, so Bianca used her phone to make a call. "I'm in the hospital now. Come and accompany me."

The voice of a woman could be heard on the other end of the phone. "Huh? What happened to you?"

"I have a high fever. Come over here quickly. I'm bored to death." Bianca dared to make that call in front of the caretaker because the other party was a woman. Bianca even put the call on speaker so that the caretaker could listen to the conversation.

"But I have to go to work..." the woman on the other end of the call hesitated. She was not pampered like Bianca, so she did not agree to it straight away.

Take the day off. It's not like you're getting paid less if you work less," Bianca retorted

woman's name was Grace Sheppard. She was a sales clerk that Bianca had befriended when she her lip. She hated how Bianca spoke to her, but she could not tell that to

all, Bianca provided her with a lot of benefits. She was willing to be Bianca's lackey, despite what other people thought

better come quickly. Otherwise, I won't want to be friends with you anymore." Bianca could tell that Grace was hesitating, so she gave her an

did not have many friends. She would either go shopping or café-hopping alone, or she would invite Grace to come along

not fond of mingling with the other ladies in the same social class. Those people did not want to associate with her because of

plan involved getting Luke to know that his woman had been violated by other men. Given a choice, Bianca would never want that to happen to

that, other socialites thought that she was not qualified to be Luke's wife. She was relentlessly bullied while Luke seemed

why Bianca hated those socialites who thought too highly

"*Alright*, I'll let my manager know about it before I go over. Right, have you had breakfast? Should I bring something for you to eat?" Grace asked. She did not mind spending some money on Bianca. After all, her returns would be many times greater if she made *Bianca happy*.

"**Nah**. I don't have the appetite." Bianca only wanted Grace to come over so she had someone to chat with.

"Alright, see you soon."

"See you," Bianca said happily and ended the call.

She looked at the caretaker, who seemed to be at a loss, and frowned. "My friend will be coming over soon. Go downstairs and buy some fruits and cupcakes for her. We wouldn't want her to think that we're stingy."

The caretaker nodded, though she was thinking, 'Fruits and cupcakes? Does she plan to hold a tea party in the **hospital**?'

However, she could only do what she was told.

After the caretaker left, Bianca glanced impatiently at the saline drip. There was half a **bottle left**.

It was a bother to be hooked to the drip, but she could not *remove it*.

She had fallen sick last night, but Luke only tended to her for a while before returning to the study. Earlier, he had sent her to the hospital, but he left for work soon after that. Other people would think that he was only a relative and not her husband.

'How heartless...'

hour later, Grace arrived at the hospital. She had told her manager that Bianca wanted her to take the day off, and the manager did not ask her any further

Bianca was a regular customer in the store. If Grace were good friends with Bianca, she would come to shop more often, and the manager would benefit from the increased

did you fall sick all of a sudden?" Grace asked after she entered the room. Bianca's face was pale, and she did not look like she was pretending to

caught a cold," Bianca said. She did not tell Grace about the

the doctor say?" Grace continued to show

don't know what the doctor told my husband. In any case, it's so boring staying here all by myself. Right, there are some cut fruit and cupcakes for you. Help yourself," Bianca said

considered inviting Grace to Crawford Manor to be a guest so that she could flaunt her generosity. She imagined Grace's admiration toward her wealth would satisfy

not do so because she knew that Old Master Crawford would not

all, Old Master Crawford was a modest person. It would be very embarrassing if Old Master Crawford scolded her in front of

Chapter 1223

"The cupcakes are for my guest. How can you buy cheap ones?" Bianca chided, thinking that the caretaker was deliberately tarnishing her reputation.

The caretaker felt aggrieved, but she was afraid that she might lose her job. She could only apologize.

"Sorry, Madam. I'll go and get new cupcakes for your guest."

Grace thought that Bianca and the caretaker were being dramatic. She shook her head and said, "It's fine, Bianca. I don't think she's usually this inconsiderate, but I'm sure it's because she wants to take care of you. The cupcakes aren't very delicious, but I can get some better ones delivered. Do you want to eat anything?"

"Alright then. You don't have to get any food for me. When I'm better, I'll treat you to some delicious dessert," Bianca said with a smile, then glared angrily at the caretaker.

The caretaker had bought cheap cupcakes for her guest. If Grace was not so magnanimous, she might even think that Bianca was neglected in the household.

The caretaker smiled gratefully at Grace for helping her.

Grace smiled but said nothing. She took out her phone and ordered some food delivery.

She had her motives for helping the caretaker. If Bianca invited her over one day, the caretaker would already have had a good impression of her.

After all, she was more understanding and kind than the Madam of the household...

After ordering her food, Grace asked Bianca, "Right, where's your husband? You're in the hospital, but he isn't around."

Grace had only seen Luke's face in the television and newspapers. She had never seen him in real life before.

another reason for coming to the hospital. If she could meet Luke in the flesh, it was another thing for her to

had calmed down earlier, but she was angry again when Luke's name was mentioned. However, she had to protect Luke's reputation as a caring husband, so she smiled gently and said, "Luke is busy with his work. I'm not very ill anyway, so after I woke up, I told him that he should go back to his company to catch up on his

the caretaker heard that, she could not help but think, "Are you sure that you're the one who told Luke to leave? You were so angry when you found out that Luke had left you alone in

did not agree with it. "He can do his work some other time. You're sick, and he should be taking care of was not very pleased when she

would know how to read the atmosphere, but sometimes, she can be quite annoying with her

"I'm fine with it," she said.

shrugged when she

knocked on the door and came into the room. He smiled when he saw that Bianca was already awake. "How do you feel,

feel better after the injection. Thank you, Dr. Park," Bianca said with a

was not very happy with Johann, but she had to remain civil toward Luke's friends. After all, those relationships

Johann glanced at Grace sitting on the couch but said nothing. He picked up the digital thermometer and took Bianca's temperature. It was 100 degrees, and that was quite *an improvement*.

He looked around the room and did not see Luke. "Where's **Luke**?"

Bianca explained patiently, "I told him that he should go back to his company to work. It's not very serious anyway."

Johann did not call out on her lie. Instead, he shook his head and said, "That's Luke's fault. Work might be important, but his wife is in the hospital. How can work be more important than one's significant *other*?"

Before Luke left, he had told the director of internal medicine that Bianca was still sleeping and to call him if there was anything. Johann had overheard that *conversation*.

Bianca smiled, while Grace nodded *in agreement*.

Johann continued, "You should've seen how anxious he was when he brought you to the hospital. That made everyone anxious **too**."

That made Bianca quite proud of herself. She smiled and said, "It's just a regular **fever**."

"*It's still* no small matter." Seeing that the drip was about to run dry, Johann called the **nurse over**.

The nurse soon came in. When she saw that Johann was inside, she greeted him enthusiastically, "You're here, Dr. Park."

"Mm. Take good care of her. She's the wife of my friend," Johann said that and left **the room**.

holding her phone, but her eyes were on Johann instead of the screen. Her heart was thumping

deftly removed the needle from Bianca's hand and left the room with the empty

stood up and went close to Bianca. "Who's that doctor just now?" She asked in a soft

Dr. Park, a famous surgeon in A City." Seeing Grace's sparkling eyes, Bianca could tell what she was

more interested in Johann after she heard

was a wealthy, handsome, and famous doctor. He was like the man of his

have a girlfriend?"

genuinely did not know the answer to that question. She did not have too many interactions with Johann, but she knew that he was very popular. Some women deliberately injured themselves so that they could meet him in the

could not admit that, so she said, "I've never seen any specific woman by Johann's side, so I guess that he doesn't have

guess?" Grace raised an eyebrow. "Isn't he your husband's

but I've never seen him with another woman, and we don't talk about that topic anyway. Why, are you interested in him?" Bianca

Chapter 1224

Amur woke up in the evening. Seeing that it was almost time, he opened the door to make some preparations for his mission.

After he left his bedroom, he was surprised to see Luca sitting on the couch. "Why aren't you at work?"

"I was drugged, so I needed the rest. I took the day off." Luca saw that Amur was dressed in black. "Are you going on your mission?"

Black was the best color to hide something, such as oneself in the dark of the night, or the wounds on one's body...

"Mm." Amur nodded.

Luca stood up and removed her jacket. She was also dressed in black.

"Are you..." Amur seemed to have realized something.

"I told you that I'm coming along with you on the mission. You're already injured once, Amur. I can't let you get injured again. As long as you're in A City, I'll take care of you on Eler's behalf."

'Is it just because of Eler?' There was a hint of disappointment in Amur's eyes.

He did not want Luca to risk her life with him, but she insisted on going, and he could not refuse. Even if he did, Luca would still find some way to tail him.

"It'll be very dangerous." Amur's voice was slightly hoarse.

"I know, and that's why I want to go along with you. Don't worry, with me around, your mission will be easier." Luca wore a black backpack. She looked as though she was going to the gym.

The assassins on the Island of Despair had various specialties other than physical training. Luca's specialty was in medicine and pharmaceuticals, while Amur's specialty was networking and hacking.

Luca nodded and left the apartment with

Amur. They went into the elevator, Luca rubbed her stomach. "How about getting some dinner

two of them had been sleeping for the entire day, and they had not eaten

What do you want to eat?"

"How about burgers?" Luca suggested.

you want," Amur said. The elevator arrived on the first floor, and they

went to a burger joint right outside the neighborhood. When they were at the exit, Bianca was surprised to see a luxury car parked outside. It was the same car that had brought her to the party

'That's Luke's car...'

Luca did not know whose car that was, but he could guess it, judging from

Amur's frozen expression on the spot. A while later, she saw Luke getting out of

the car. "That's me at the burger joint, Amur," Luca

Amur was reluctant to leave. In fact, he was thinking of standing in front of Luca so that Luke could not get close to

"Just go. I'll be fine." Luca flashed a genuine smile.

Amur nodded. His blue eyes lingered on Luca for a while before walking toward the **burger joint**.

While Luca walked over, he noticed that the two people were dressed in black, as though they were a *couple*.

Luca seemed active and nimble in those black clothes, and she looked very different from her modest attire when she was at work or her elegant party wear last night. He said, "Are you going *somewhere*?"

"I've already taken the day off, and it's already past office hours anyway. Are you so interested in my personal life?" Luca retorted.

Luca was not pleased with Luca's tone, but he had nowhere to release his *anger*.

"He doesn't look like your younger brother," Luca *said*.

"But he is my younger brother," Luca emphasized. There was no need for her to explain her relationship with Amur, but she did not want Luke to *misunderstand*.

"How are you feeling now?" Luke continued, shifting the **conversation topic**.

Luca narrowed her gaze and smiled calmly. "I'm feeling a lot better now. Thank you for your concern, Mr. Crawford."

It seemed like a normal conversation, but the tone and the words they used were very *awkward*.

"I've already settled that thing." Luke *continued*.

should have ended earlier. Luke should have already gotten into his car and left, while Luca should be continuing her way to the

Mr. Crawford." Luca understood what Luke was saying even though he was being

was the tacit understanding they had with each other after years of

Mrs. Norman want to invite you to their house for dinner as a sign of thanks," Luke said. Earlier, he had given a call to Mr. and Mrs. Norman and told them about Luca's identity. They were very grateful and wanted to meet

today." She wanted to meet her parents very much and check on Queenie's condition, but she had

"Tomorrow," Luke said.

Luca knew that she could not refuse in case Luke got

she decided to break off from the awkward conversation. "Am I free to go for dinner now,

do you want to eat?" Luke

held the straps of her backpack and said, "I'll be having dinner with my younger brother, Mr. Crawford. Also, your car is causing quite a disturbance.

drivers of other cars were wary of accidentally bumping into Luke's luxury car, so they tried to stay some distance away, which made the already narrow entrance to the neighborhood

watched her leave coolly, as though their intimacy the night before meant nothing at all

Chapter 1225

After eating their dinner, Luca and Amur set out together.

They were careful to cover their tracks. Instead of heading to their destination directly from the apartment, they took several detours before going there.

The sky was already completely dark by then.

"I've scouted the location earlier, and I've found a flaw in their security. If we go in from there, we won't be discovered," Luca said. They were already dressed in tight black clothes and wore masks.

Amur nodded and let Luca lead the way.

They stood at the side of the mansion. That was a blind spot that the security cameras could not detect.

The lights in the mansion were brightly lit. Obviously, the owner of the mansion was inside.

Amur had already investigated his target. The mansion belonged to him, but his mistress lived there. Without fail, the wealthy businessman would spend the night at the mansion every Monday.

He would usually keep a low profile whenever he visited the mansion, so he did not bring too many bodyguards with him. It was the best time to take him out.

Luca took out a drone from her backpack and attached a camera to it. With a controller, she made the drone ascend into the air. Once it was too high to be detected by the mansion's security system, she made it fly into the mansion.

The businessman was making out in the bedroom, and the bodyguards were standing on guard outside.

Through the camera on the drone, Amur could tell that there were eight bodyguards in the mansion.

Amur exchanged glances. She circled the drone around the mansion one more time before

low for a little while longer," she said. If they acted now, they might alert all the bodyguards in the mansion and cause a big commotion in the

nodded, and they began

the lights in the mansion became dimmer, while the lights in the other mansions turned off one by surrounding walls of the mansion had motion sensors, and even a passing bird would trigger an alarm. Luca and Amur could not go into the mansion by scaling

took off her mask and skin-tight clothing, then gestured to Amur to watch

Amur's gaze followed her.

lowered the brim of her cap, went to the front gate of the mansion, and rang

was standing at a very peculiar angle. Through the security feed, the people in the mansion could see that there was a woman at the front gate, but they could not see her face

would not be as wary when interacting with women, even though they could not see her face. Moreover, she was standing

later, the front gate opened. A man stood there and asked her, "What

lowered her head so that the man could not see her face. "Can you help me with something?" She said

"What's wrong with you? This is a private mansion, not the police station! Are you crazy?" The man said **gruffly**.

From the corner of her eye, she could see from his clothes that he was a bodyguard. Just when he was about to close the gate, she hit the back of the man's neck with a karate chop, and the man instantly collapsed on *the floor*.

She did not kill him but instead only knocked him out.

Amur's target was not the bodyguard, and Luca would not want to kill an innocent man.

Amur quickly went over and handed her **the mask**.

Luca lowered her head and put on the mask, keeping her face away from the security camera. She whispered, "There are at least seven more bodyguards inside. You deal with four, and I'll deal with the rest. Just knock them out; don't *kill them*."

The bodyguards were only hired employees, and they would not fight the intruders to the death. Moreover, the businessman was known to be a **miser**.

Amur nodded. They stepped over the man at the gate and went into the **mansion**.

At the front yard, they stood face-to-face with seven bodyguards.

"*Who* are you? How did you come in here?" One of the **bodyguards** asked.

Luca pointed at the gate behind her with her thumb and whispered, "From the gate."

The bodyguard realized that those intruders had malicious intentions. He said, "Quick, capture them! Otherwise, we'll lose all our jobs tonight."

her head. They would all be losing their jobs tonight once the businessman was

rushed toward them, and Luca and Amur started fighting

have to knock them out. Later, they would be fighting the businessman's personal bodyguard, and if they spared any of them now, they would become a distraction

later, the bodyguards were all sprawled over

were already knocked out, so they did not make

was satisfied that they did not cause a commotion. She took out a spray can and a pill from the pocket and handed the latter to Amur. "Eat

did not ask what it was. He removed his mask and swallowed the pill, not worried if she had given him

the spray can and shot a glance at Amur. Then, they sneaked into the

in the living room was on. Once Luca and Amur walked through the door, they saw a man sitting on the glared at them like a hawk. "Looks like you haven't given up yet. You even brought a helper this time, and a girl,

solid muscles rippled as he

"Leave him to me," Luca said.

Chapter 1226

Even though Amur could not see Luca's smile behind the mask, he could tell that Luca was smiling because her eyes were curved like crescent moons.

"Let's go," Luca said.

Amur was taken aback. He remembered that Luca had said the same thing when she stood up against Abel to protect him.

Whenever he was bullied by other mercenaries on the Island of Despair, Luca would fight them, and she would always say "Let's go" whenever she was done.

Amur reached out and grabbed her shirt sleeve to stop her from going.

Luca turned around and looked at Amur doubtfully.

"Let me handle the rest," Amur said.

Luca might also be trained on the Island of Despair, but she had never taken a human life.

Amur did not want her innocence to be taken away by killing, so he would do all the dirty work himself.

Luca knew what he was thinking. She smiled and handed the spray can to him. "Knock them out first before doing the deed. Don't harm the woman."

"I know." Amur nodded and took the spray can.

Luca was thinking about protecting the innocent even when she was on an assassination mission. That was why Amur did not want her to do the deed.

went up the stairs while Luca waited at the bottom of the

silent all around, so Luca did not know what Amur

she could smell the faint scent of blood. She smiled, knowing that Amur had successfully completed the

breathed a sigh of relief when she saw Amur come down the stairs. He had successfully completed the mission without getting injured or harming people other than

glad that Amur could return to the Island of Despair and be reunited with

"Let's go," Amur said.

and glanced at him. Even though he was dressed in black, she could smell the scent of blood on his clothes. He might have inadvertently splashed himself with blood when doing

have to burn the clothes once we get back," she

"Yes." Amur nodded.

two people sneaked out of the mansion and left the neighborhood by the path they came from. No one else was

next day, the news that a wealthy businessman was killed in his mistress's mansion had spread throughout

had cordoned off the area and conducted

Luca was impassive as she watched the news flash on the television. She knew that the businessman had made his fortune through human trafficking in his younger days. Many innocent young women were ravaged and tortured because of **him**.

The businessman was influential enough to suppress any scandals about him. Later, he used his ill-gotten gains to start *his business*.

Using his connections, his business thrived, and his wealth *grew*.

Luca had no sympathy for that man. She thought that he deserved to *die*.

She turned off the television, stood up, and emptied the ashes in a barrel into the trash can. Those were the ashes of Amur's clothes which she had burned because they were stained *with blood*.

After dealing with that, she left a written note for Amur and went to *work*.

Many employees at Watson Biopharmaceuticals were concerned about Bianca. The news that Bianca had collapsed at the party spread throughout the company, and the employees crowded around her and asked her if she was *okay*.

Luca went into the elevator and pressed a button. She was slightly frustrated that the other employees knew that she had collapsed, which meant that they must know that Luca had carried her **away too**.

She wondered how the rumors *would evolve...*

That made Luca even more frustrated than ever. Rather than worrying about what Abel might do with the information, she was worried that her colleagues would continue to spread the news.

She was surprised when she met Talia at the *Technical Department*.

"**Talia?**" She was not surprised that Talia was recruited into the department, but that the new recruits had already **started working**.

morning, Dr. Craw," Talia greeted Luca with a

glanced at her nametag and saw that she was Dr. Kidman's

She should have known.

morning. Congratulations that you've become Dr. Kidman's assistant," Luca said, though she did not extend her hand for

Talia felt somewhat awkward when she heard that. After all, Luca had seen her in

and said nothing. She went to her

could not care less that Talia had become Cole's assistant. All she hoped was that the two people did not

watched Luca leave, she wondered if Luca would spread rumors about what happened between her and Cole. Thinking about it again, Talia realized that Luca had also gained her position through similar means, and she had no right to criticize

we're not that different after

when she thought about that. However, the grin instantly vanished from her face. She realized that Luca was very different

to seduce Luke Crawford, the ideal man, while she could only get Cole Kidman, who was already half a century old. She could not smile when she thought

returned to her office, Rhett brought her a cup of coffee. "Your coffee,

Chapter 1227

Luca was busy for the rest of the day. She wanted to work overtime when she remembered what she had promised Luke the day before.

Her phone began to ring when it was time to go off work. She recognized that the string of numbers was Queenie's phone number.

Luca answered the call. "Hello."

It was the first time she had received a call from Queenie, so she had to pretend that she did not know who the other person was.

Queenie could not help but be emotional when she heard that slightly familiar voice. "Is this Ms. Craw?"

"Yes, I am. Are you Mrs. Norman?" Tears welled up in Luca's eyes as she listened to the voice.

When she had first reunited with Queenie, Queenie's voice was slightly quivering, just like how it was now.

"Yes, yes I am. Do you remember me?" Queenie was shocked that the woman recognized her voice in just one sentence.

"Your voice is very gentle and friendly," Luca said. "Also, you sound a lot more energetic. Are you feeling better now?"

"I'm feeling a lot better, and it's all thanks to your concoction," Queenie said as she held the phone in her hands tightly.

Jack was sitting next to her. "Get to the main point," he reminded her.

Queenie remembered why she had called Luca. She said, "Oh, right, I was so excited that I nearly forgot why I called you. Ms. Craw, my husband and I would like to thank you in person, so we asked Luke to invite you for dinner. Do you remember?"

I remember. I'll head over after I pack up," Luca said as she wiped the tears that were flowing from her eyes with a

got someone to drive you there. You can go downstairs now; the car is waiting for you,"

had a headache when Queenie mentioned Luke's name. "It's fine, Mrs. Norman. I can catch

evening rush hour now, and you won't be able to catch a cab that easily. Luke's car is already waiting downstairs. You don't have to refuse," Queenie

was silent. It looked like she could not find an

replied. She sighed after the call ended; all she wanted was to keep a distance

her desk, Luca quickly went downstairs and left the building. There was a Maybach parking at the

instantly tell that the incredibly flashy car belonged

to her left and right. Most of her colleagues had already left, and no one she knew was around her. She quickly walked over to the Maybach and opened the

sitting in the backseat, she realized that she and the driver were the only people in the car. She had to ask, "Is this Mr. Crawford's

Luke, she was worried that she sat in the

evening, Ms. Craw. Mr. Crawford asked me to drive you to the Norman residence,"

"Alright, thank you." Luca was relieved that Luke was not in *the car*.

Sean started the car and drove *off*.

Talia walked out of the building and raised her eyebrows.

She had kept a close eye on Luke, and she could recognize that the Maybach was his car. After all, she still had a crush **on him**.

'*See?* I knew that Luca only got a job in Watson because she's sleeping with Luke. I wonder why she can be so arrogant.'

Talia was angry when she remembered how Luca had rejected her. "Hmph, I'll let the entire company know what kind of person you are."

...

Sean parked the car in front of the Norman residence. "We're here, Ms. Craw," **he said**.

Luca came to her senses, thanked him, and stepped out of the car.

She rang the doorbell, and the Norman family caretaker quickly came out of the house. She greeted Luca warmly, "You must be Ms. Craw. Please, *come in*."

The caretaker treated Luca warmly because she was Queenie's savior.

In her ten years of working for the Normans, Queenie had been very kind to the caretaker. In fact, Queenie was the person who had extended financial help to the caretaker when her family faced **problems**.

was very grateful toward Queenie. Luca had saved Queenie's life, so she was a benefactor to the Normans

noded and walked through the gates behind

walked past the front yard, Luca noticed the rose bushes that were blooming vividly. Those rose bushes used to be her favorite, and she did not expect that Queenie would tend to them even though she was that Queenie had spent a lot of effort on the rose bushes. She must have watered, pruned, and weeded them

noticed that Luca was staring at the rose bushes. She smiled and said, "Ms. Craw, do you like

"I love them," Luca said.

coincidence! Mrs. Norman and Ms. Bianca love roses too. Before Ms. Bianca lost her memories, she adored those rose bushes. Even though she had rarely visited us over the past few years, Mrs. Norman is still taking very good care of them," the

Luca smiled and looked away.

true that Queenie loved roses, but she would not have devoted so much effort to those rose bushes if not that Bianca loved

see that Queenie truly cared

into the living room with the caretaker. Jack and Queenie were already sitting there waiting for

became emotional when she saw Luca walk in. She stood up, walked up to Luca, and grasped her hands

Chapter 1228

Luca followed Queenie and walked to the sofa to sit down. She looked at Jack and Queenie, saying, "Mr. and Mrs. Norman, you can just call me Luca. Ms. Luca sounds too formal."

Jack and Queenie glanced at each other. They both smiled gently. "Okay, Luca sounds nice. We want to be more casual too but were afraid that you would mind."

"I don't mind," Luca answered almost immediately. She did not mind at all. When she decided to appear at Norman Residence, she was already prepared to be in contact with Jack and Queenie for the long term.

Hearing them call her Ms. Luca made her feel even more distant from them.

"Well, then you should call us Uncle Jack and Aunt Queenie." Queenie loved Luca's sincere and gentle character.

"Uncle Jack and Aunt Queenie," Luca went along with Queenie's wish.

Queenie was overjoyed and quickly poured her a cup of tea as she said, "I'm sure you're exhausted from the journey here. Come, have a cup of tea to warm your stomach."

Luca was not tired from the car ride as Luke's car was comfortable. She was, however, tired from doing experiments.

She took the cup of tea from Queenie and thanked her.

Jack's gaze carried a hint of appreciation when he saw her sipping the tea slowly, unlike the others who rushed to finish it in a gulp. He was happy to have met someone who knew how to enjoy his first-rate tea.

After Luca finished the cup of tea, she felt as though her exhaustion was nearly gone.

It was top-shelf tea. Jack was a fan of good tea, so the tea he brewed for guests was excellent. She felt satisfied after

the satisfaction in Luca's eyes and asked her, "Do you enjoy drinking

do." Luca nodded, and as soon as she put down the teacup, Queenie poured another cup

did not do that because Bianca was her savior but because she liked her very much. She thought of the first time they met and how she had felt inexplicably close to Luca. Their interaction brought her a lot of like it, drink as much as you want," she

supportive. To prove that she did not say what she did because she was apple-polishing, she picked up her cup again, took a sip, and then put it down. "There are three flavors in this tea. Different flavors are brought out when the tea is drunk at different temperatures—hot, warm,

her a complimentary look. "Sure enough, you're someone who values and

Luca smiled.

she heard what Luca said, Queenie asked curiously, "Luke said that you came from Russia. I've always thought that tea wasn't a big thing in Russia. Luca, who did you learn your tea-tasting skills

replied, "I learned from a tea shop owner who came from a family of tea lovers. He has unique insights into tea

"That's interesting." Jack nodded, waved his hand, and said, "The tea is warm now. Would you like to take a sip?"

Luca nodded, took a sip from her cup, and said, "Compared to when the tea is hot, there's a hint of astringency, but the tea is still fragrant."

"When the tea cools, the astringency will be stronger." Jack nodded, and his admiration for her **grew**.

Queenie sat on the sofa bed as a smile appeared on her face. She listened to the two of them talk about tea. They got along so well that others would not believe it was only their second time meeting. If someone said that they were father and daughter, it was likely that others would *believe it*.

Jack had always been stern and was rarely so gentle and friendly with youngsters he did not know **personally**.

Queenie knew that he was not acting like this only because Luca saved her life; it was also because they got along well.

Jack rarely bonded with someone else like this. They had so much to talk about just on the topic of **tea**.

"I'm going to try it when it has cooled down." Luca put the teacup aside and waited for the tea *to cool*.

Queenie covered her mouth and smiled when she saw how the two shared the same love for tea. She said, "Luke said that you just started working at Watson Biopharmaceuticals, right? It feels like we were fated to meet. We bumped into each other and now... You and Jack share the same **interest.**"

She could not drink strong tea because of her health, so Jack always lamented that he was missing a *tea buddy*.

all fate." Luca smiled as she listened to Queenie's words. However, she felt a

was fated. All these were just coincidences created by

seeing the shy smile on her delicate face. She thought that Luca was good-looking and

They chatted a little more.

also asked about Luca's family. Luca told her the background story that Abel made up

to her past, Queenie sighed and said, "You're an excellent

shyly. She was not excellent because everything that she said was made-up. If she had the choice, she would choose her previous simple life. She was insignificant and ordinary in the streets of A City but she had all of Luke's

an hour later, Luca heard the maid of Norman Residence say, "Master, Madam, Master Luke is

sideways and noticed Luke walking in. He looked a little

here." Queenie stood up and greeted

Chapter 1229

Luke's words reminded Luca of something. She looked at Queenie and said, "Aunt Queenie, can I check your pulse?"

When Queenie heard it, she immediately rolled up her sleeve and placed her hand on the coffee table.

Luca then put her finger on Queenie's wrist where her veins were and checked on her.

Luke looked at her actions, which were similar to how Johann would do it. She seemed professional.

Two minutes later, Luca motioned to Queenie to switch to her other hand and continued to check her pulse.

After a while, she withdrew her hand.

Queenie asked, "Luca, how's my body doing?"

Luca chuckled softly and said, "Aunt Queenie, you have nothing to worry about. Continue to take the concoction and your body will get better day by day. You can stop taking it in another half a month."

The effects of the herbal concoction were much better than expected, so she reduced the length of Queenie's treatment cycle.

"Really?" Queenie asked in a surprised tone. She thought that she would have to go through a few more treatment cycles and did not expect that it would be reduced by almost half a month instead.

"Yes, really. After I go back, I'll adjust the concoction and send it to you," Luca said.

Queenie looked at her tenderly and replied, "I don't want to trouble you too much. Why don't you give me the prescription and I'll get someone to prepare it?"

her head. It did not feel bothersome to do these things for Queenie, and she was concerned about the quality of herbs too. If she bought those that were of poor quality, it would affect Queenie's recovery. She insisted and said, "I'll get it done. I'm more familiar with herbs and can ensure

thought that what Luca said was true. She knew nothing about herbs, so she held Luca's hand tightly and said, "Thank you for going through all

"Nothing to worry about." Luca smiled.

held her hand and did not want to let go. She was not sure why but she liked interacting with

an eyebrow seeing the interaction between Queenie and Luca. He thought that the two were as close as mother

him a cup of tea and asked, "Luke, why isn't Bea with

reminded Queenie of the promise that Bianca made. "Yeah, why didn't Bea come to visit? The last time that she was over, she promised to come to visit me more often. Since Luca is here, I wanted them to get to know

was cold when Bianca, who had been cast aside, was mentioned. "Bea is sick and is now in

voice increased a little, and there was tension in her tone. "Why is she

sent to the hospital because she caught a cold and got a high fever. Her condition has stabilized," Luke said. Bianca's body temperature had dropped in the morning, but in the afternoon, it suddenly rose again. Her condition only stabilized after she received an IV drip. The doctor advised her to be hospitalized for observation, so he did not help her with the discharge

Queenie heard that her condition had stabilized, she relaxed a little and said, "She must've caught a

Jack said, "She's already a mother of three, why does she still act like a **kid...**"

Luca felt like crying when she heard what Jack and Queenie said. Although they were saying these words to the fake Bianca, they said it as *her parents*.

She had not heard such words for a long time, so when she heard them, a lump formed in Luca's throat. Her heart **ached**.

"**Master**, Madam, dinner is ready. Do you want to eat now?" the maid asked.

When Queenie found out that Bianca's condition was stable, she did not ask about it any further. She looked at the maid and nodded. "Let's *have dinner*."

"Madam, duly noted." The maid nodded, turned around, and returned to the *kitchen*.

Queenie looked at Luca. For some reason, she felt that the smile on the other's face carried a hint of sadness that was not present before. She could not help but wonder if she was overthinking.

"Luca, shall we go have dinner?" she asked.

Luca nodded and stood up with her. Then, Luke and Jack also stood up. The four walked into the dining room **together**.

At the dinner table, Jack sat face to face with Queenie while Luca sat next to Queenie. The person sitting across from her was *Luke*.

The maid served the dishes one by one. Queenie poured a glass of orange juice for Luca and said, "I should have made this meal but my body can't take it for the time being. Luca, the next time you visit after I recover, I'll cook a meal for *you*."

Queenie, thank you for your hospitality. It's been a long time since I've eaten such a hearty local meal. I'm very happy that you invited me over today." Luca felt Luke sneaking a peek at her from time to time and felt uncomfortable. She held her glass of orange juice and said, "I should be the one

Queenie were overjoyed with

inadvertently when he heard her overly polite words. 'She can cook local dishes, so why is she saying that she hasn't had them for a long

were clearly said to please Jack and Queenie. On top of that, she would video call Tommy every night. All of her actions seemed to be intentional and well thought

not help but deepen his suspicions

the meal, Luca did not stay around for too long. She knew that if she continued to have a good relationship with Queenie, Luke would be more suspicious

gave an excuse and left. Zander was her driver once

Zander to send her to the intersection of her apartment and got out of the car there. She told him that she wanted to buy something and he did not need to wait for her as she would head home on her own

at the nearby supermarket and drove away without any

did not return to the apartment but went directly to

looked for him the day before and found that Abel had not left the country. It was likely that he was in the Westin

Chapter 1230

Luca frowned when she saw the mercenary who was walking toward her. 'Sure enough, Abel is here.'

He even knew that she was coming so he asked a mercenary to bring her to him.

Luca followed the man without any hesitation.

After they arrived at the top floor, the mercenary said, "The boss is in the innermost room."

Luca walked over and found that the door of the suite was unlocked. She did not bother to knock before storming in.

She followed the sound of glass clinking and found Abel on the balcony.

"You're here." His tone was eerily calm.

Luca frowned and wanted nothing more than to smash a bottle on his head when she saw how casual he was acting.

"Why did you do what you did on Sunday night?" She resisted her impulse and knew that it was not worthwhile to pick a fight with him now.

Abel looked up and finished the red wine in his glass. "I was giving you and Luke an opportunity. How did it go? You got what you wanted on Sunday night. Are you happy? You should be thanking me."

"Your plan failed." Luca stared into his tyrannous eyes as she said without any fear, "I took an antidote."

Sure enough, Abel stopped smiling.

didn't know about your plan, I prefer to be prepared. You spiked my drink but I took an antidote. Nothing happened between us and Luke just stayed in my room for a while," Luca

was a little surprised. He did not expect them to waste their night together

up and shook his head. "Luca, you wasted your chance. I brought Luke to your side and you did

clenched her fists tightly and stared at him. He did not do it because he was kind, he just wanted to watch the drama

at you, he still has no idea who you are. If you had spent the night with him, maybe he would've gotten suspicious and thought of you. Isn't that what you want?" Abel bent over and looked at

a step back. She was not scared, she was just disgusted

"How disappointing. Although nothing happened between you and Luke, someone saw him take you into the room before he left. Even if you're innocent, gossip spreads fast and you'll no longer be deemed

someone leaks the news... Oh, excuse me... If you wanted to do so, you would've already done it." Luca shook her head and stared straight at him. "I guess you don't dare to do it now because you have a detailed

I won't let the news leak. I'll also ask the employees in this hotel and the attendants from that event on Sunday not to say anything because I have a plan. Luca, are you ready?" Abel could not help but appreciate how clever

be great if she could be on his side, but unfortunately, she would always be on Luke's side. Even after she left and changed her appearance, her heart was still

'Women are always so stupid. Luca and Kassy are the best **examples.**'

"*Your plan* has nothing to do with me," Luca said.

"No, no, you're the executor of this plan. Oh, yes, do you think Luke will doubt you?" Abel suddenly remembered something that his subordinates reported **to him**.

Luca did not say anything. She knew that from the day she was sent out of the island, she was destined to be used as a pawn to execute his so-called **revenge plan**.

"He's already suspicious of you. He sent someone to Russia to find out more about you. Luca, you'd better behave well and make sure he doesn't suspect a thing. Otherwise, you and your baby girl will suffer." Abel reminded her.

Luca's pupils tightened when he mentioned Nyla. She clenched her fists and shouted, "Don't hurt Nyla."

"Don't worry. For the time being, she's fine. But if you don't cooperate, she'll suffer." Abel was in a good mood after he saw the fear in *her eyes*.

Nyla was his strongest chip to threaten Luca.

Abel felt happy seeing that she still feared him. "You don't have to worry about Kathryn. If you want to worry, you should worry about the people around *you*."

Luca frowned and looked at him with a puzzled expression.

around me? Who is he referring to? Nyla?

snapped his fingers and a mercenary came from the suite. He ordered, "Send

the mercenary said. She looked at Luca and motioned for her

Luca was skeptical of Abel's words, she knew that if he did not want to share, she would never find out no matter how hard

turned around and was about to leave, she heard Abel say, "If you don't want him to be suspicious, don't come here as frequently. Luke's scouts are keeping watch

clenched her fists and turned around

as Abel said, she was photographed by Luke's scouts when she walked in and out of

left the hotel, she stopped a taxi to go home. She opened the door of her place, looked at the dark living room, and turned on

empty here and she was not used to it. In the past, Amur would wait for her at home, but this time, she did not see him sitting on the sofa waiting

walked to the second bedroom, looked at the tightly closed door, and knocked, "Amur, are you

There was no response.