

Be Gentle 1251

Chapter 1251

Jason smiled wryly when he saw Tommy's frustrated expression. He shook his head and went back to work.

Five minutes later, he stood up and said to Tommy, "Hey, Little Mr. Crawford, I can't do anything if you miss Ms. Luca, but I can bring you to someone else. Do you want to go?"

"Is it Madam Tina?" Tommy asked.

Tommy chuckled. Luca and Tina were about the same age, but to Tommy, the former was a "Miss" while the latter was a "Madam."

Tina would lose her mind if she found out about it.

"Yes. I'll need to attend a meeting with Mr. Crawford in a while. Why don't you go to Madam Tina's office?" Jason said. He did not want to leave the young child alone in his office.

"Alright then." Even though Tommy missed Luca, he did not want to burden Jason with extra trouble.

Jason took his hand, and they left the office. After handing him to Tina, he rushed to Luke's office to remind him that the meeting was almost starting.

It was already half-past nine when the meeting ended.

Tina had taken good care of Tommy. She made sure that he ate dinner on time, and she also got some supper delivered.

Luke officially got off work at ten o'clock. Tommy was already asleep on the couch in the secretary's office.

His heart melted when he saw Tommy sleeping soundly. Even though Tommy could be naughty at times, he was Luke's youngest child, and Bianca had been through a lot by giving birth to the boy. That was why Tommy was very special to him.

"Mr. Crawford," Tina stood up and greeted Luke when she saw him. She tried to keep her voice low so that she would not wake the sleeping child up.

walked over to the couch, removed the quilt that covered Tommy, and picked

you for your hard work. You can go home," Luke said before leaving the

did not wake up even though he was picked up. Instead, he snuggled into Luke's

took Luke down to the basement parking lot. He carefully placed Tommy on the back seat, fastened the seatbelt on him, then removed his coat and draped it over the

he sat in the driver's seat and started the

still fast asleep sitting in the backseat. In his dreams, he mumbled, "I miss you so much,

was surprised. He looked at his son through the rear-view mirror and realized that he

could not understand why Tommy was so fond of Luca, though he could guess that Tommy must be feeling very sad that he did not get to visit Luca

not a difficult request, but Luke had failed to fulfill

for a while and turned the car around at

an hour later, he parked his car under

sat silently in the car. He was not sure why he drove all the way there. Was it to satisfy

However, it was already so late, and Tommy was already asleep. Going there would not make Tommy happy.

Moreover, by the time Tommy woke up, he would have forgotten why he was angry in the first place. He was not worried that Tommy would bear a grudge *against him*.

Suddenly, Luke heard a slight noise coming from the backseat. He turned around and saw that Tommy was already awake. The boy rubbed his eyes and looked at his father, "Daddy, aren't we *going home*?"

After knowing that Luke did not force Luca to work overtime, Tommy had stopped being angry at his father.

"..."

Tommy realized that the car was not moving. He sat up, looked out of the window, and instantly recognized that they were in front of Luca's **apartment**.

"Daddy, are you here to visit Ms. Luca?" Tommy **asked**.

Luke remained silent.

"It must be already very late, isn't it? Ms. Luca is probably asleep by now. You shouldn't disturb her, Daddy," **Tommy said**.

Luke could see that Tommy was eager to meet Luca. He wondered who it was that had pestered him to come here in the first **place**.

"Let's go home, Daddy," Tommy continued. Even though he wanted to meet Luca very much, he did not want to disturb her while she was **resting**.

"Mm." **Luke** nodded and prepared to start the car.

A cab stopped in front of his car, and he had to wait for it to **leave**.

Tommy also noticed the cab.

person stepped out of the

widened. "Daddy, it's Ms. Luca! Ms. Luca isn't

thought that it was an

his seatbelt and wanted to get out of the car. "Daddy, I want to go and say hello to

did not move. He had locked the car doors, and Tommy was not able to open them on his own. In his desperation, Tommy wound down the window and waved at Luca. "Over here, Ms.

stopped walking. She thought that she had misheard. There was no other plausible explanation for hearing Tommy's voice at

around and noticed the luxury car parked behind the cab. A head poked out of the window, and she realized that she was not

Both Luke and Tommy were there.

Luca! Ms. Luca!" Tommy waved even harder when he noticed that Luca was looking at him. He said to Luke, "I want to go

Luca had already turned around and was looking at them, Luke had no choice but to unlock the out of the car and ran

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'Did he skip lunch and dinner again?'

Luca remembered the scene at the hospital earlier. She heard that he had been keeping watch in the hospital for the entire night, which meant that he probably had not eaten a proper meal since the plate of spaghetti at her house the day before yesterday.

Tommy noticed her hesitation. He wagged her hand. "My Daddy has gastric problems, Ms. Luca."

'Right, he has gastric problems...'

Luca gently pinched Tommy's hand and said, "I only have spaghetti, vegetables, and eggs at home, so I can't cook something too fancy. He can come and eat if he doesn't mind that."

She sighed to herself. She could not bear to see Luke torture himself after all.

'He must be tired all these years, having to take care of the company and the children...'

"Daddy won't mind it at all. Your scrambled eggs are great," Tommy said with a grin. He ran back to the car and told Luke who was sitting in the driver's seat, "Daddy, Ms. Luca promised to cook for us. Let's go."

Luca raised his eyebrows. Somehow, Luca was convinced by Tommy's sob story.

Luca watched him park the car in a parking spot and step out of the car. She did not say anything and walked toward her apartment.

Tommy jogged up to Luca and took her hand. "Don't go so fast, Ms. Luca."

It was then that Luca realized that she had subconsciously walked faster, so she slowed down a little. Soon, Luke caught up to her.

street lights in the neighborhood cast long shadows on the three people. Even though the adults kept some distance from each other, their shadows looked so close

as though they were a family of

is Mrs. Crawford?" Luca asked, breaking

fever subsided, her body temperature remained constant," Luke said. He knew that Bianca's fever had not returned because the caretaker did not call him for the entire

very healthy, so her fever might return some day. You should make sure that she keeps on drinking the concoction," Luca said carefully, though she felt bitter in

seemed to talk more when talking

became doubtful after hearing what Luca told him. "Are you sure that it's only the common

far as I can conclude from the test report." Luca nodded. Indeed, she could not give any other answer. She could not tell him that it was because of the

physician had told him the same thing, but Luke somehow felt that Luca was

three people stepped into the elevator and arrived at Luca's

the door, put her handbag on the couch, and turned around to look at the man behind her. He was walking into the house, so she told him, "Sit down for a while. I'll go and cook in the

"Ms. Luca, why not ask Daddy to help you?" Tommy said eagerly.

Luca shook her head. For a while, she thought that Tommy was trying to match her **with Luke**.

"**I'm fine** doing it myself. It won't take long for me to cook something simple." She turned around and walked to the **kitchen**.

Tommy saw Luke sitting on the couch as though he was in his own house, so he sat down beside him. "Can I discuss something with **you, Daddy?**"

"**I don't** agree," Luke said. Even though Tommy had not mentioned what it was, he could guess that it had something to do with *Luca*.

Tommy puffed his cheeks. "I haven't even said it!"

Luke did not reply. He took out his phone and read his work **emails**.

Tommy whispered into his ear, "Daddy, I'd like Ms. Luca to be my godmother. What do you **think?**"

"**No**," Luke replied while he browsed through an email and deleted it. His tone remained *the same*.

"**Hmph!**" Tommy crossed his arms and said angrily, "I've done so much for you, but you can't even agree to one small request! Daddy, you old geezer!"

Luke did not reply.

Tommy bit his lip. He knew that there was no use changing his father's mind once he had made a decision.

up the remote control, turned on the television, and raised the

was not bothered by the loud sounds coming from the television. He continued to read his half an hour later, Luca served the food on the dining table. Her heart warmed when she saw the father and son sitting on the couch. "Let's Tommy heard that, he hopped off the couch, walked to the dining table, and took a deep whiff. "You shouldn't be working in Daddy's company, Ms. Luca. If you open a restaurant, I'll go there every smiled as she filled up a plate with spaghetti and placed it across the table. That was up a smaller plate for Tommy, thinking that he must have eaten his dinner came over and looked at the food she had prepared. It was only Spaghetti Aglio e Olio with sautéed vegetables and omelets, but it looked as though the simplest ingredients could become extreme delicacies in her suddenly remembered that Bianca used to be able to do that. She would turn simple ingredients into delicious food so that the children would eat realized that when he was with the impostor Bianca, his heart would not be fluttering like what he was experiencing now, and he would rarely reminisce about when he was with Luca, he could not help but think of the precious

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"Thank you, Ms. Luca!" Tommy thanked Luca and continued eating. Luke noticed that Luca was very gentle toward Tommy. Over the past three years, he knew that many people had tried to be nice to Tommy so that they could get closer to Luke, but none of them had managed to do what Luca did. Her care toward the boy seemed to be genuine. She was not faking it at all. Luke picked up his fork and began to eat. Luca felt slightly relieved when she saw that Luke had started eating. It was the third time sitting at the same dining table as Luke. Every time, she could not process her feelings. Fifteen minutes later, all the plates were swept clean. Luca stood up and cleared the table. Tommy yawned. Luke noticed that it was already eleven o'clock. Usually, Tommy would have already been in bed, but today was different. "Tommy is sleepy, Mr. Crawford. You should send him home." Luca also thought it was already quite late. When Tommy heard that, he shook his head and said, "I'm not sleepy at all."

He wanted to stay there for a bit longer. Somehow, he felt safe and comfortable whenever he was in Luca's house.

Luke could see that Tommy was barely awake. He thought that Tommy really liked Luca.

stood up and said, "Thank you for your

Luca put the stacked plates and cutlery on the dining table once more. "Let me see

saw them out at the door. After Luke took Tommy's hand and they went out of the house, Luca closed the door slightly and watched

turned around and looked at her. He was reluctant

Luca waved at him.

waved back. "I'll be back to visit you again,

noded but did not say anything. She only closed the door after watching them go into

leaned on the door and looked at the stack of plates and cutlery on the dining

than feeling relief that Luke and Tommy had left her house, she also felt reluctance. She did not want to see

they met, Luca felt that she was becoming more and more inseparable

closed her eyes weakly, pretending that Luke was still in the

...

week later, Luca presented her research findings during a meeting. She was the last one to present, but she was also the researcher who showed the

After her presentation, everyone's gazes fell on *Luke*.

Today, Luke would decide on who to send to the off-site training in New **York**.

Luke did not immediately announce his decision. Instead, he looked at Cole. "Who do you think should go, Dr. *Kidman*?"

Cole was quite confused. During the research period, Luca had been absent often, and she would regularly take time off work. Why would her research progress the *fastest*?

Moreover, her research topic was not an *easy one*...

Cole thought that he would be one of the chosen, but it seemed that he could only be number *three*.

He was reluctant to admit it, but he had to comply with the rules. "Mr. Crawford, according to the rules set during this period, the people who should go to the off-site training shall be Dr. Albus and Dr. **Craw**."

"**It's** decided then." Luke glanced at Luca. Even though Dr. Albus had come in at number two, his research was far behind what Luca had *done*.

"*Alright*." Cole felt aggrieved, but he could not go against his boss's decision.

"Dismissed," Luke said.

Everyone stood up, and Luca left along with the other researchers. Only Luke and Jason were left in the conference room.

While Jason packed up the meeting minutes, he could not help but say, "Dr. Craw seems quite capable. She's only here for a month, but she's already done so much. After this, she should be applying for an independent laboratory and research *team, right?*"

Usually, many pharmaceutical research projects needed at least six to twelve months to show some results. It was surprising that Luca had done so much within a month.

stood up and put his hands into his pockets. "Back to the

took the minutes in his hands and left with

elevator, the other researchers gave Luca their congratulations. Luca returned their well wishes one by one, though she could not help but sense

they did not say it, she could tell that they were unhappy about

there had thought that Luca managed to gain a spot in the company because she had some illicit relationship with Luke. However, Luca had proven to them that she was actually a very

not accept that their preconceived notions were

at the Technical Department, Luca went back to her

Kidman, shall we go for a smoke?" Dr. Albus said while taking out a packet of cigarettes from

Cole nodded.

people stepped out of the elevator and went to the

handed a cigarette to Cole and lit it. Then, he lit another one for himself. He took a drag and said, "I'm sorry, Dr. Kidman. I didn't expect that things would turn out

had struck a deal with Cole so that his research progress was slightly faster than Cole's. He did not expect that he earned a spot while Cole

was confident that Cole and he would be the two who were selected, and that was why he had given some benefits to Cole so that Cole would let him take the first

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Cole's expression sank even more, which confirmed Talia's guess.

Talia had expected that Cole would be selected to join the off-site training, but the results were out of her expectations. Disregarding Cole's sullen expression, Talia continued asking, "So who got selected?"

"Luca Craw, and Dr. Albus!" Cole sat sullenly on his office chair. As the manager of the Technical Department, it was a huge embarrassment that he was not selected for the off-site training. He said sternly to the woman in front of him, "What happened? Can't you even do a simple job?"

Talia felt quite aggrieved that Cole was blaming her for it.

She knew about the deal between Cole and Dr. Albus. Cole was the only one who had benefited from the deal, and she did not see a single cent from it.

If Cold had not accepted Dr. Albus's bribe, he would definitely be selected.

She thought that it was wrong for Cole to blame her. After all, she managed to make friends with all the researchers' assistants except for Rhett. They did not join the department at the same time, and Rhett was not a social person, which was why they were not close to each other. She could only estimate Luca's research progress from what other research assistants told her.

"Sorry, Dr. Kidman." Talia could only apologize to placate Cole.

She was also not very happy that she had missed the chance to join the off-site training.

Cole grunted huffily. Now that he was not selected, there was nothing that he could do. It was not like he could ask Dr. Albus to make way for him!

"Get out." Cole became even more annoyed when he saw Talia's groveling manner. He did not want to see her in his office.

Talia was also not willing to be in the same room with Cole while he was angry. When she heard Cole's command, she slunk out of the office as fast as she

he watched the office door close, Cole suddenly regretted getting Talia to be

had poor technical knowledge, and she could not do what

soon as Luca sat down on her chair in her office, someone knocked on her door. She instinctively stood up again and opened the door, and she was slightly taken aback when she saw that it was

for being selected, Dr. Craw." Rhett was rarely

would definitely bring her research assistant along, which meant that Rhett would be going to New York event would look good on his resumé, and it would be beneficial to him if he decided to further his studies or career in the

Luca did not look too happy. Abel had wanted her to join the off-site training, which meant that he had planned something for

have to be on her guard at all times, and that was nothing to be

that Luca was not being herself today. Usually, Luca would tell him to come in instead of opening the door for

Luca had opened the door for him, and she did not look too

"What's wrong, Dr. Craw?" Rhett asked out of concern.

Luca came to her senses. What was she doing?

When she heard the knock on the door, she instinctively thought that Luke was outside. That was why she had opened the door for him while thinking of how to keep *her distance*...

She shook her head. "It's nothing. Our next step is to apply for an independent research laboratory for the next stage of our research. Also, pack your bags. We'll be heading to New York soon."

The exact date had not been decided, but Luca guessed that the trip would be in the next **few days**.

Rhett nodded and made a mental note of what Luca told him. "Alright, I'll prepare the application **soon**."

"Mm." Luca nodded. She turned around and was prepared to close the door when she heard Rhett say, "You seem tired, Dr. Craw. Why not take it easy today, and you can rest a **little?**"

Rhett could see the lethargy on Luca's face, as though she had many things on her **mind**.

Luca paused. "Alright," she said.

She closed the door and sat on the couch.

was right. She had not been sleeping well ever since she went to the hospital to diagnose the impostor tried to force herself to sleep with the aid of sleeping pills, but her dreams were wild

her dreams, she saw Luke being physically intimate with the impostor Bianca, and they were a happy family with their children. She could only watch those scenes helplessly as she realized that she was only a spectator with no influence

once when she dreamed that the impostor Bianca had accused her of being a seductress while Luke only watched coldly without saying a word. When Luca turned around, she saw Luke and the impostor Bianca wore her out. Eventually, she stopped taking the

not only had she found it hard to fall asleep, but whenever she closed her eyes, Luke's face would appear in her

was why she had been sleeping only a few hours every day for the past

back on the couch and closed her eyes. Even if she could not fall asleep, she could at least unwind a little so that she did not look so

later, her phone began

opened her eyes and adjusted to the brightness for a few seconds. She picked up the phone and saw that the call was from

morning, Mrs. Norman." She answered the call with a

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After Luca ended the call, she hastily typed up a leave application form and went to Cole's office.

She knocked on the door and only went in after the person inside gave his consent. She placed the form on the table and said, "I need to take time off work, Dr. Kidman."

Cole narrowed his eyes. If it were before, he would not ask too many questions. After all, if Luca had lagged behind on her research, it was beneficial for him, but now...

He was angry that her research had progressed so quickly despite taking time off work frequently. Even the veteran researchers could not catch up with her.

Cole took on the demeanor of her superior and sighed. "Dr. Craw, how many times have you taken time off work this month?"

Luca did not answer. She knew that Cole was unhappy that she had taken his spot in the off-site training trip, and her attendance at work had nothing to do with it.

"There might not be a written rule about how much time off an employee can take, but you've been regularly absent from work, and you should know that other employees might not be too happy about it," Cole said imperiously.

"I have something urgent," Luca said.

Cole glanced at the application form. Luca did not write her reasons for taking time off, so he asked, "Tell me then, what's so urgent?"

"It's about Mrs. Crawford," Luca said. She would not be so insistent on going if Queenie had not made the request herself.

She was not concerned about the impostor Bianca's health at all, but she did not want Queenie to be worried or afraid. After all, Queenie's health had only recently improved, and she should not fall ill again because she was worried over the impostor Bianca.

with Mrs. Crawford?" Cole was quite surprised, though he was also

could she be acquainted with Mrs. Crawford? Isn't she Mr. Crawford's

really have to go, Dr. Kidman. Please approve my application,"

could see that Bianca was not lying. He thought of making Luca's life difficult, but he did not want to offend Bianca. Eventually, he signed his initials on the application form and approved

Luca left with

happened to meet Talia on her way out of

felt disgusted by Luca's impassive expression. 'What's she so smug

morning, Dr. Craw," Talia greeted Luca even though she was not happy to meet

"Mm." Luca nodded and left.

Talia went into Cole's office, she asked, "Dr. Kidman, why did Dr. Craw look time off work,"

From Cole's expression, Talia could tell that he was not pleased about Luca taking time off work so often. It was a similar situation in high school, where the ace students who did not pay attention in class would turn out to have better results than **others**.

Luca was like an ace student in high school. Her results proved that she was on a different level from the others, and other people would be naturally jealous *of her*.

Talia said indignantly, "She's been taking time off work so often this month. I don't see any other researcher taking off work *so often*."

"*She says* it's because of Mrs. Crawford," Cole said. "Do you know about her relationship with Mrs. Crawford?"

"**I don't** know..." Talia shook her head and raised her doubts, "But isn't she sleeping with Mr. Crawford? How would Dr. Craw and Mrs. Crawford know each other?"

"That's true." Cole's expression sank.

He realized that he had *been deceived!*

Talia thought that the only way to gain Cole's good graces now was to stand on his side. "Dr. Kidman, I've heard that Ms. Stone is acquainted with Mrs. Crawford. Should I try to find out something from her? If we find out that Mrs. Crawford is lying, you have the right to admonish her."

Cole thought that it was a good idea. He nodded and said, "Alright, go and find out whatever you can. I'd really like to know if Luca Craw is really acquainted with **Mrs. Crawford**."

"Yes!" Talia said and left the office.

handed the application form to Mo, she packed up her handbag, left the building, and caught a cab to the

stepped into the hospital room, she was surprised to see Bianca hooked up to medical equipment. It seemed that she was successfully resuscitated, but her condition was not

there too. When he saw Luca, he asked, "Why are you

not surprised that Luke was there. Before she could answer, Queenie said, "I asked Luca to come. Bianca was fine earlier,

Luke did not reply.

"Can I take

nodded. He was on his way back to T Corporation when he received a call from Dr. Blake that Bianca had suddenly fallen into

was why he immediately turned around and went to the

not expect that Queenie had informed Luca about

over to the bed and placed two fingers on Bianca's wrist to take

was informed that Luca had arrived. He rushed over to the room and observed her with

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Luca was silent as she listened to Queenie admonish the caretaker.

Queenie was a gentle woman, and she would even be kind toward someone who had taken advantage of her. However, she used harsh words on the caretaker because of Bianca.

Luca's heart wrenched, though at the same time, she felt jealous.

She should have been the recipient of Queenie's love and concern. Abel had taken that away from her, and she could only bear the pain silently.

The caretaker felt aggrieved. "I don't make the decisions, Mrs. Norman. Madam told me to keep it a secret, and I dared not tell anyone."

Queenie could empathize with the caretaker, and she could only blame Bianca for being ignorant. The concoction was supposed to help Bianca feel better, but she had suffered because of her own caprice.

Queenie looked at Luca worriedly and said, "What should we do now, Luca?"

"Drink the concoction." Luca pulled her hand away and said.

"Will she recover if she drinks the concoction?" Queenie asked, thinking that it was too easy.

"I'll try acupuncture again." Luca turned to look at the nurse and recognized that she was the same one as last time.

"I'll get the needles ready for you." The nurse immediately knew what to do.

Luca looked at Dr. Blake. "You're the chief physician, right?"

"Yes."

need a list of drugs you gave her when you resuscitated her earlier," Luca said. None of this would have happened if Bianca had drunk the concoction

had to know the drugs Bianca was given so that she could adjust

looked at her solemn expression and nodded. As he handed her the report, he could not help but wonder if the woman knew what she

glanced at the report. They did not use too

the dosage. She'll have to drink a bowl a day," she

the caretaker replied. "I'll get the cook to prepare a bowl

caretaker left hurriedly, the nurse returned with a set of acupuncture needles. Luca took it and said coldly, "All of you should leave the room. Close the door

was the first to leave, and Queenie and the nurse followed. Only Dr. Blake remained in the

"What do you plan to do?"

sat down on the chair next to the bed and laid out the items in front of her. "I'm waking Mrs. Crawford frowned. "The patient is unconscious. She can't possibly wake

He was very familiar with Bianca's condition, and he knew that Bianca would not wake up when she was still *so weak*.

"I have my way of waking her up. You should leave the room; I need to remove her clothes." Luca could see the skepticism in the doctor's eyes, and she did not bother to *explain herself*.

Dr. Blake could see that Luca was determined. "The patient is very weak now, and you'll have to bear all responsibility if anything happens to her," he said **sternly**.

"No problem." Luca nodded. She could understand that the hospital was afraid of getting into trouble, especially when the patient was Luke Crawford's **wife**.

Seeing how readily Luca agreed to take responsibility, Dr. Blake left the *room*.

Luca inserted two needles into Bianca. When she saw Bianca slowly waking up, she removed the *needles*.

Bianca's condition was worse than last time. She was very weak when she woke up.

"**Why** is it you again?" She scrunched up her face in disgust after seeing Luca in front of her. She tried to sit up, but her body was weak. "What did you do to me? I can't move my *muscles!*"

"*What* did I do? Your condition is deteriorating abruptly because you didn't drink the concoction. You were already one foot in the grave, but the doctor managed to save you. I can't stop you if you really want to die. I'll be going to New York in a few days, so if you don't drink the concoction, I don't think the doctors can save you again." While Luca spoke, she walked toward the door.

Her tone was filled with impatience. She could not find any sympathy for Bianca when Bianca had done that to herself.

"**You!**" *Bianca's* face was pale with anger. However, she could only swallow her words when she saw Luca open the **door**.

"**She's awake,**" Luca told the people waiting outside of the room.

could not believe it, so he was the first to rush into the room. He saw Bianca sitting on the bed, and aside from being a little pale, there did not seem to be anything wrong with

are you feeling better?" He

She pretended to be oblivious as she looked at her parents and Luke. "What happened

a fever, and you passed out..." Queenie said in equal parts of pity and blame. "Why didn't you drink my fault, Mom." Bianca lowered her head and pretended to apologize, though her gaze

might have been unconscious, but she remembered the moments before she

had suddenly beat faster, all the nerves in her body seemed to be ripped apart, and cold sweat did not stop

could not find any comfort from the increasing agony, and she passed out in half

felt as though she

several reasons why Bianca did not drink the concoction. Other than the fact that she hated Luca, she thought that Luca was only trying to

knew that she would not gain Luke's attention if her health

the ordeal, she realized that she had to take Luca's

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Luca pressed her lips together and swallowed her words of rejection. "Sorry to have troubled you," she said stiffly.

Luke nodded and left the room, and Luca followed behind him.

Bianca watched as the two people left the room one after another. She wished that she could step between them, but her condition did not allow her to do that.

Meanwhile, Dr. Blake was still amazed that acupuncture could awaken an unconscious patient. He glanced at the trash bin in the room; there was a pile of needles inside.

What he did not know was that Luca had only used two of them.

Dr. Blake asked, "How do you feel now, Mrs. Crawford?"

"A little tired..." Bianca answered. If she was resuscitated, there should not be major problems to her health.

"I'm glad that you're feeling better." Dr. Blake heaved a sigh of relief. He still had his suspicions, but it was nonetheless good news that she managed to wake up.

"I'm fine." Bianca wanted to sit up, but she did not have the strength to do so.

Dr. Blake nodded. Earlier, he did not believe what the nurse told him, but now, he had no choice but to admit that it was true. He said, "You should rest more. You can call the nurse over if you don't feel well."

"Alright." Bianca gave a perfunctory response. After the doctor and nurse left, she looked at Jack and wondered how she should make him leave the room.

"I think I want to drink some milk, Dad. Can you buy a bottle for me at the cafeteria downstairs?"

Jack nodded. The room was getting stuffy, so he took the opportunity to go for a walk.

left, Bianca found some excuse to make the caretaker leave. Only she and Queenie were left in

candidly, "Mom, why did you ask Luke to go with

see the jealousy in Bianca's eyes. "Bea, Luca came here because of you, and it's only polite for us to send her back. You should be grateful to

was not in the mood to listen to all that. 'How pretentious!'

know, Mom, but I can't be at ease when I think of what that woman might do to Luke. Look at me, I'm helpless now, and I can't do anything if the woman decides to make a move on Luke,"

and patted her hand. "Alright, I won't do it next time. You just woke up, so you shouldn't be too a deep breath to calm herself down. In her agitation earlier, her heart began to heat faster again. "I love Luke too

trust him. Luke is a good husband and a good father," Queenie

Bianca nodded but said nothing.

would not have been so anxious if it were some other woman because Luke would not have been bothered with them, but she could not keep calm when it

had to be the first

you're thinking too much," Queenie said lovingly as she stroked

Bianca knew that she was not overthinking. Perhaps Queenie thought that Luca was a good person, but Luca was from the Island of Despair, and no one from there could be good.

Meanwhile, Luca sat solemnly on the side passenger seat. The atmosphere in the car was tense, but Luca did not plan to break **the silence**.

She thought that the silence would continue when Luke, driving, suddenly spoke, "The progress of your research is much faster than the *others*."

Luca nodded and said, "Mm."

"**I'm surprised**," Luke said. Indeed, he was quite surprised when Luca made her progress report earlier. Luca had made the most progress among all the researchers, and her topic was not an **easy one**.

"*It's nothing*. I've been working on it for some time," **Luca explained**.

Luke remembered Luca saying that she had brought the research over *from Russia*.

"**Mr.** Doyle has booked a flight to New York in two days. Is that okay?" **Luke asked**.

"No problem." Luca turned her head to look outside of the window instead of the man next to *her*.

His scent lingered in her nostrils, and her hands slowly clenched *into fists*.

The conversation ended, and the car fell into silence again. It was so quiet that they could hear each *other's breathing*.

Her breathing was very soft, as though she did not want to make too *much noise*.

felt uneasy, as though there was something in his mind nagging him. He was usually aloof, but he could not feel the same way

not show those feelings on his face, and Luca did not know what he was

an hour later, Luke's car arrived at

already unfastened her seatbelt while the car was still moving. When Luke stopped the car, Luca opened the door and cast a sideways glance at him. "Thank you,

welcome." Luke's voice was low and

had never experienced those sensations before, and he did not understand why those sensations bloomed when Luca was

shut the car door, she walked toward the building without turning

next half a minute, Luke stared at her walking away. He only left after she disappeared

out from her hiding corner. She went downstairs to buy something, but she did not expect to witness

something going on between Luca and Mr. Crawford..." She muttered to herself. When she remembered what Talia had asked her that morning, she could not help but smirk. Luca had used Mrs. Crawford as an excuse to go on a date with Mr.

thought that Luca's story was implausible when Talia told her about it earlier. Bianca hated Luca, so there was no reason Luca wanted to meet

she witnessed them together, things seemed to be more interesting than she

Chapter 1258

"Were you at the hospital just now?" Mo followed behind her into the elevator and wanted to probe more.

"Yes, I came from the hospital." Luca was unfazed with her questions and pressed the elevator button.

She was almost certain that Bianca and Mo partnered up when she came to the company to look for her the last time. Otherwise, how would she know that Bianca was hospitalized?

Mo replied, "Then, is Mrs. Crawford doing better?"

"She's doing much better," Luca answered casually. "Since you care about Mrs. Crawford so much, why don't you visit her at the hospital?"

Mo was stunned. She had seen the news of Bianca's hospitalization from social media but she never went to visit. Even if they were friends on social media, the gap between their status was like heaven and earth.

'Bianca may not want me to visit her...'

"I've been...relatively busy these days," Mo explained with an awkward smile on her face.

Luca nodded and did not expose her.

After the elevator reached their floor, the two walked out one after another. Mo stood behind Luca while staring at her bitterly.

'One day, Bianca will take care of her! Let's see if she'll still act proud then!'

Two days later, Luca, Rhett, Dr. Albus, and his assistant set off for New York.

Jason booked the same flight for them. When the four arrived at the airport, they discovered that Luke was also at the airport. Jason and a little boy stood beside him.

smiled and ran toward Luca the moment he saw her. "Ms.

was curious as to why the mini version of Luke, probably the boss' youngest child, seemed close to Luca.

was confused when she saw Tommy at the airport. She let go of the handle of her suitcase, lowered her body, and touched the child's head. "Why are you

going to New York with Daddy. Ms. Luca, you're also going to New York, right?" Tommy blinked his eyes and

Luca glanced at Luke with confusion on her face.

would he take Tommy to New York when he has school to attend? It's not like him to do this... Luke has always been very strict with the kids. If it's nothing serious, the kids are never allowed to be on a leave of absence. On top of that, he's also going to New

Luca, let's go there together." Tommy took her by the hand. When he saw her, he forgot that his Daddy was behind

Albus and the assistants watched the scene while marveling in their

thought that Luca and Luke were secretly seeing each other. They were shocked that she had completely won over his youngest son.

would be able to achieve what she

aware that others were staring at how Tommy was hugging her. She knew that there was nothing she could say, so all she did was nod

"Awesome!" Tommy's smile grew even wider.

looked at the scene in silence. He did not ask Tommy to come back to his

He was going to New York to deal with some work matters, not because the team, including Luca, was going there.

Tommy wanted to follow along because Jason mentioned that he had booked a ticket for Luca and others when he was updating Luke about work. Tommy happened to overhear it so insisted that he went **too**.

Luke wanted to turn him down, but when Tommy looked at him with tears in his eyes, he suddenly remembered Luca's eyes and agreed.

That was what happened.

Jason was getting used to the scene before him. He glanced at the time and reminded Luke, "Mr. Crawford, it's almost time to *check in*."

"Let's go." Luke strode forward.

Tommy held Luca's hand and said, "Ms. Luca, shall we go for check-in too?"

"**Yeah**," Luca nodded. She was holding him with one hand and pulling her suitcase with the other. She stared at Luke, who was walking in front of her, and felt the distance between the two *of them*.

It was an insurmountable distance.

Luca held Tommy and lined up to go through the security check. She wondered why Luke was flying with them to New York for the off-site training.

'Is it because of me?'

Soon, Luca stopped thinking about it and said to Tommy, "Are you traveling to New York for *holiday*?"

Daddy is on a business trip," Tommy shook his

why are you..." Luca was puzzled. 'Taking Tommy on a

heard Daddy talking to Uncle Jason and found out that you're going to New York too, so I made Daddy bring me along," Tommy explained with a wide grin on his face. It was no secret that he loved spending time with

liked to be by her side all the

was dumbfounded. She noticed that there were two other people in front of them for the security check. "How long did it take before he agreed to your

take too long. Only one night," Tommy said while sticking out a finger. He knew about it the night before last and asked Luke then. Luke agreed yesterday morning and called his teacher to request a leave

that it would have taken Tommy weeks to

through the security check. I'll be right behind." When they got to the front of the line, she asked Tommy to go through it

Jason had already passed the security check and were waiting in front. She was like Tommy's

Albus watched silently behind them. He was some distance away from Luca and could not help but gossip to Rhett, "Mr. Link, is Dr. Craw close to the boss'

not sure." Rhett shook his head. He would be just as curious if he had not seen Tommy being so close to Luca

boss' kid..." Dr. Albus stroked his chin. It seemed that it was not the first day they

smiled and did not continue to

Chapter 1259

Luca touched Tommy's head, then shook her head and said, "This is my boss' kid. I'm heading to New York for business."

The middle-aged woman smiled and said, "I thought you were his mother seeing how close the two of you are. You seem like a kind mother."

Tommy finished drinking the water and handed the bottle cap to Luca. He said, "I like Ms. Luca the most!"

Luca smiled. Every time he told her that he liked her, the joy in her heart was endless. She could never get sick of hearing it.

"He's so cute. I'm sure his parents are great-looking since he's such a cute child." The middle-aged woman said with envy. She liked good-looking children.

Luca smiled and said nothing.

As Tommy's mother, she was happy that her child was being praised. Although Tommy got most of Luke's good genes, she still contributed.

Tommy blinked his eyes and said proudly, "Daddy is very handsome."

He only praised his dad but did not mention his mother. The middle-aged woman noticed that and teased him. "How about your mother? Is she beautiful?"

"She's beautiful, but I think Ms. Luca is more beautiful." Tommy put his elbow on Luca's thigh and looked up at her.

"I can see that this kid likes you," the middle-aged woman said.

Luca smiled and felt someone's gaze on her. She did not look up because she knew that it was Luke.

prompt sounded. She took Tommy's hand and stood up. "Tommy, it's time for us to board

Tommy nodded and followed her while holding his

booked first-class tickets for all of them. After showing their boarding pass, they boarded the

found her seat. It was next

other end, Tommy was arguing with Luke. "Daddy, I want to sit with

have all been booked. Sit down," Luke said with a cold expression on his face. He noticed how well Tommy and Luca got along. He was unsure how to feel seeing that Tommy was so dependent on

not disgust nor discomfort, but rather,

noticed his feelings, he felt that it was odd that he felt happy about

I can exchange seats with that uncle!" Tommy said. He recognized that the person next to Luca was also an employee of the

down! Or I'll send you back home." Luke's expression turned gloomy since Tommy was when he heard Luke's answer. He did not dare to make any more noise no matter how dissatisfied just wanted to be with Luca. If he was sent home, he could not spend time

*Anyway, it was just a matter of ten or so hours. He would brave *through it*.*

Tommy sat in the chair and stopped making a fuss.

Luke was satisfied. He buckled his seat belt and told him, "Sit down and don't cause any more trouble."

"*Okay, Daddy.*" Tommy's cheeks were still bulging as he was angry with Luke. However, he was scared of him, so he could only follow along.

Rhett watched Luca pull out an eye mask from her pocket and asked curiously, "Dr. Craw, why does Mr. Crawford's son like you so much?"

"I don't know. Why don't you ask him?" Luca said while looking at him **sideways**.

Rhett immediately shook his head and said, "I dare **not**."

"*He's just a kid.*" Luca put the eye mask around her neck and said, "If you're curious about something, ask the person involved."

As soon as she said that, Rhett knew that Luca was angry.

She did not like others snooping about her. His words had tested her limit.

Rhett apologized immediately. "Sorry, Dr. Craw."

"*Rhett, focus* on what you need to do. I don't care about other things, so don't ask me about them." Luca put on the eye mask when she finished speaking. She then adjusted the position of the seat and lay down.

not know what her emotions were without being able to look at her eyes. He felt regretful as Luca was an excellent boss. However, he said the wrong thing and made

were some things that he should not be curious about, nor was it his place to ask. Rhett decided to focus on doing a good job and ignore all the

it, Dr. Craw. I'm sorry." He whispered, then adjusted his seat and lay down at a more

his head and looked at Luca. He could see Luca clearly from where he

She was already lying down.

hours later, the plane landed safely at New York

as he left his seat, Tommy rushed to Luca's side and said, "Ms. Luca, I'm so

was in first-class, it was tiring for him to stay still for 13 hours. Many people were waiting to get off the plane. Luca was worried that she would lose Tommy, so she stooped down to pick him up. She rubbed his shoulders and said, "You'll feel better after you walk around

happy being held in her arms. He was considerate like a little gentleman and said, "Ms. Luca, you're so strong but Daddy said that I've grown up and am very heavy. You don't have to carry me, I don't want you to

Luca said, insisting on carrying Tommy toward

went through a lot of training on the Island of Despair. It would not be a problem carrying him in her arms and running for a

behind them and was surprised that Dr. Craw, who looked thin, was so strong. She did not huff or puff when carrying Tommy while

Chapter 1260

"Will do," Jason replied while handling his luggage. He looked at the five people walking behind him and said, "Let's go to the hotel first. The car is waiting at Exit D."

"Okay." Dr. Albus dragged his luggage and looked at Jason. Then, his probing eyes fell on Luca and Tommy again.

Luke did not react to Tommy being so close to Luca.

He acted as if Tommy should be with Luca.

Two Rolls-Royce vehicles were parked at exit D. In the bustling New York, there was no shortage of luxury cars but these cars made it extra scenic.

When Luke got closer to the cars, the drivers got out of the cars and opened the doors.

Luca watched Luke walk toward the car in front and was about to get into the second car, but Tommy tugged on her sleeves.

"Ms. Luca, let's take that one." He pointed to the one parked in front.

"You can go." Luca let go and was not planning to get into Luke's car.

Although it was uncomfortable for her to squeeze in a Rolls-Royce with three men, she preferred it over being in the same car as Luke.

Tommy took her hand, pouted, and said, "I want to be in the same car as Ms. Luca."

Luca was speechless.

Tommy looked at her with puppy dog eyes and said, "Ms. Luca..."

can't squeeze in," Luca said, trying to persuade the child. "Come on, I'll see you in the

to their conversation, and his expression remained neutral as he went into the

Jason saw this, he had an idea and said, "Dr. Craw, four of us, including myself, will be sitting in this car. There's no extra room, so why don't you get in that

"Huh?" She saw Jason hand over all his luggage to the driver of the car behind. Jason made it obvious that he would be getting

Luke's assistant but was not riding in the same car

a bright smile on his face as he said triumphantly, "Ms. Luca, this car has no space for you. Let's get into the car

Luca had no choice but to

of the car in front took her luggage and then said, "Welcome to New York. Please watch your head as you get into

in front of the car door and looked at the person inside. She lowered her gaze slightly, carried Tommy into the car, and climbed in as well. She sat next to Luke with Tommy sandwiched between

were all in, the cars left

was caught between the two of them. He suddenly looked at Luca, then at

None of them spoke.

Tommy had an active and friendly personality. He found it boring since no one was talking. He propped his chin, looking like a small adult thinking about life as he asked, "Daddy, Ms. Luca, why aren't you guys *talking?*"

It was no longer quiet as Luke looked sideways at Tommy and Luca.

Luca looked out the window to avoid his *gaze*.

Luke noticed that Luca was being avoidant. If it were the past, he would not say anything, but he had a thought **now**.

"**Dr.** Craw, do I scare you?" he asked slowly in a low voice.

Luca was stunned. She subconsciously turned her head to look at him and instantly fell for those deep-set eyes. "*No.*"

Her answer was quick. She blurted it out as soon as she turned her head as if she said the words without having to think about it first.

Luke was satisfied with her reaction. He continued staring at her. He was not sure why but when they looked at each other, he felt that the other person's eyes were more and more familiar. They reminded him of Bianca.

Although the fake Bianca was lying in the hospital, she had undergone plastic surgery and could fool anyone. Otherwise, there was no way she could stay by his side with a fake identity for so long.

Her eyes were beautiful, as deep as the sea. When he wanted to explore further, he was covered by a shallow layer of haze. There seemed to be inexhaustible words hidden in her eyes that others could not see through.

Tommy looked at the two and said, "Daddy is not scary, right, Ms. Luca?"

Luca snapped out of it. Being in the same car as Luke, she started recalling all about their *past memories*.

could Mr. Crawford be scary?" She repeated it and went along with Tommy. Her tone was more awkward compared

noticed it. Her reaction was less authentic after he gave her enough time

her thoughts were the same, he preferred how she was previously. He thought that it was the real her and she was not hiding behind

not notice much. He just thought that the atmosphere between the two was a little strange. He wanted to make conversation so that things would

I think so too." He held Luke's hand with his left hand and Luca's hand with his

side was his Daddy, and on the other side was Luca, whom he wanted to be close to. He hoped that they could get along with each other

kept silent as she looked at her hand that was being held

were held by one hand each. Tommy was like a connector, trying to connect the two of

it were not for the fake Bianca, she would think that Tommy was trying to do what Lanie and Rainie did

time, they had their eyes on her. In order to have a new mother, they tried their best to keep her by their sides so that she could be in contact with

still chattering while Luca listened. Her replies were a little

listened to the conversation between the child and her. His gaze became deeper and deeper as he thought about how much Tommy