

Be Gentle 1261

Chapter 1261

Luke raised his eyebrows and looked down at his son without saying anything.

Tommy put his hands on his waist, looking like he was about to give Luke a lecture. "Daddy, can you arrange for Ms. Luca to stay on the same floor as us next time?"

Apart from them, the only other person in the elevator was the lift attendant. Luke was not worried about letting him overhear their conversation. "The company has limited funds."

Tommy was young and did not know what limited funding meant, but he knew that funding was money.

"Daddy, you're not short of money!" he retorted.

Luke looked at his son. This was a six-star hotel. Even if it was just a standard room, the environment was top-notch. He knew what Tommy was thinking about and deliberately asked, "Why do you want her to stay on the same floor?"

Tommy said honestly, "It'll be easier for me to go look for her."

It was obvious that Tommy was reliant on Luca.

When they reached their floor, Luke pulled the suitcase with his left hand and held Tommy's hand with his right hand.

"Why do you like her?" he asked.

Tommy thought about his question for a while. 'Do I need a reason to like her?' He could not find one, so he said, "I liked Ms. Luca since the first time I saw her."

Luke stood at the door, took out the room card, and opened the door.

Tommy walked in and looked at the luxurious room while exclaiming, "Daddy, this room is so big! There are two rooms here. We can invite Ms. Luca to stay in one of them! I'll stay in the same room as Ms. Luca!"

his head and said,

"Why?" Tommy looked at him disappointedly.

might misunderstand." Luke put down his suitcase and glanced at the suite. It felt nice. His gaze fell on He looked puzzled.

"I have a wife, your Mommy, so I can't stay in the same room with her or others might misunderstand the

"Only a couple can stay in the

noded. No matter how much Tommy liked Luca, he could not let her stay

don't spend the night in the same room as Mommy. You sleep in the study every night,"

turned half-gloomy when he heard what Tommy said. The reason why he chose to sleep in the study was that he felt something was off with Bianca.

to believe her when Bianca used amnesia as an excuse. However, he felt uncomfortable whenever they had any physical contact. The intimacy was no longer there. Therefore, to avoid further contact, he chose to sleep in

that moment, he finally understood why he felt

glad that he did not go against his gut feelings and chose to sleep in the

"Daddy?" Tommy was not afraid of him even though he was completely silent and seemed like he was in a bad mood.

"I'll get you your pajamas. Take a shower and go to bed," Luke said. They arrived at the hotel around 11 at night. Tommy was not sleepy because of the jet lag, but he had to adapt to the timezone here. That was why Luke asked the child to take a bath and sleep.

"Daddy, you haven't answered my question yet." Tommy stood there, watching as Luke turned the suitcase sideways, unzipped it, and took out a set of pajamas from *it*.

"Mommy and I are an exception," Luke said, "Living in the same house is the same as living together."

"Daddy, then this is also considered the same house..." Tommy still wanted to try to argue, but when he saw Luke's stern face, he did not dare to say *more*.

He silently picked up the pajamas in Luke's hand and said, "I'm going to take a *shower*."

Luke nodded and took out Tommy's other toiletries from the **suitcase**.

Tommy found the bathroom, walked in, and looked at **him again**.

Luke put his toiletries aside, adjusted the temperature of the water, and asked, "Can you do *it alone*?"

"Of course, I'm not a kid anymore!" Tommy *nodded*.

Upon seeing this, Luke tested the water temperature again before leaving **the bathroom**.

He was sitting on the sofa talking to Jason about his schedule for tomorrow.

Tommy walked out after taking his shower. "Daddy, I'm done. You should wash up too before it gets too **late**."

Luke nodded, then said to Jason, "Okay, that's the schedule for the

"Okay, Mr. Crawford," Jason responded.

listened to him and asked curiously, "Daddy, are you talking to

"Yeah," Luke nodded.

want to talk to Uncle Jason," Tommy looked at Luke with puppy dog eyes and

wants to chat with you,"

agreed to talk to Tommy, and Luke gave Tommy the phone. Then, Luke picked up his pajamas and walked into the

held the phone, and after he saw Luke close the bathroom door, he whispered, "Uncle Jason, what's Ms. Luca's room

Luca left the elevator, he made a note of the floor she was on but he did not have the time to ask for her room

did not bring his tablet on this trip to New York so there was no way for him to

Jason thought about it for a while and said, "She's

thank you, Uncle Jason." Tommy smiled cheekily, made a mental note of Luca's room number, and then ended the

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Tommy heard the sound of the door opening and closing. He opened his eyes and calmed the restlessness in his heart. After waiting for a long time, he crawled out of bed.

He gently pushed open the bedroom door and glanced at the living room. There was no one.

'Daddy must have gone to bed.'

Tommy smiled cheekily. He decided to go find her alone since Luke would not let Ms. Luca stay with him.

They were all in the same hotel anyway. It was not considered as running away from home.

Tommy thought about it for a little and walked to the door. He looked at the locked door and jumped a few times before he finally opened it. Then, he walked out without a second thought.

Luca was in the bedroom and opened his eyes when he heard the door opening.

He had yet to fall asleep, and his bedroom door was not shut. A tiny squeak was enough to wake him up.

Tommy walked to the elevator and pressed the button. After he waited for a while, the elevator door opened slowly. When the elevator attendant inside saw him, she smiled and asked, "My dear child, why are you alone? Where are your parents?"

Tommy did not fear talking to strangers. He blinked and answered, "Aunt, I'm looking for my Mommy."

Seeing that he was so adorable, the elevator attendant's heart softened. She asked, "What's your room number? Isn't your Mommy in the room?"

is in room 1218," Tommy told her Luca's room number. If he did not make up the lie, the elevator attendant might not have agreed to send

Why are you on the 18th floor, then?" The elevator attendant was not a fool. If he did not have a room card, he would not be able to walk around as he pleased. Not to mention, he was in

Daddy's room is on the 18th floor," Tommy turned around and did not see Luke. He felt relieved and continued talking, "My daddy and mommy got into a fight today, so they're sleeping in different rooms. Aunt, I can't sleep without my

that his cute face was full of grievances, the elevator attendant sighed and said, "Well, come in then. I'll take you to find

so nice." Tommy walked into the elevator immediately. A triumphant smile appeared on his face when the attendant pressed the

knew that no matter where he came from, no one would say no to a child who pretended to be attendant touched his head and said, "You're a good

out from the corner. He was still in his pajamas. After Tommy opened the door and went out, he knew where he was

watched as the numbers on the elevator went down. When it reached the 12th floor, it stopped. He was relieved and called Jason, "He's on the

Tommy wanted to find Luca secretly, he allowed him to do so. He just wanted Jason to double-check and see if he entered Luca's

"Okay, Mr. Crawford. I'm going to check on Tommy now." Jason's room was next to Luca's. He could hear the movements outside if he paid *attention*.

After the elevator reached the 12th floor, Tommy thanked the elevator attendant. "Thank you, Aunt. I have no money with me but I'll ask my daddy to give it to you *tomorrow*."

"You're welcome." Seeing that he was so sensible and well-behaved, the elevator attendant was worried about him walking around the floor alone. Hence, she said, "Let's go, I'll take you to your **Mommy's room**."

"Thank you." Tommy nodded.

The elevator attendant took Tommy's hand and walked to room 1218. Then, they rang **the doorbell**.

Luca had not gone to bed. She was wary when she heard the doorbell and saw a woman dressed as an elevator attendant through the peephole. Luca opened *the door*.

"Hello, what's the matter?" Her door was chained, so she was not afraid that the woman would barge in.

"Hello, your child is looking for you," the elevator attendant said with *a smile*.

"My child?" Luca was puzzled. When she was about to say that she had no children, she heard Tommy's voice. "Ms. Luca, I'm looking for you."

She unchained the chain, pushed the door open, and looked at the child at the door. It was **indeed Tommy**.

are you here?" Luca asked suspiciously. She looked around again and did not see

for you." Tommy walked in with a smile and thanked the elevator attendant outside the door. "Aunt, thank you. This is my

Luca heard him call her Mommy, her emotions overwhelmed her and she got a little

wanted to take this title selfishly and have Tommy call her Mommy a few more

welcome, Madam. I hope you'll reconcile with your husband as soon as possible. The child is innocent," the elevator attendant said with a smile and turned around

the door with a confused expression on her face. It was strange enough for Tommy to call her 'Mommy', but she also had a

why are you here?" She locked the door, then squatted down to look at Tommy

Luca, Daddy won't let you move upstairs, so I came downstairs to look for you," Tommy

you call me 'Mommy'? And what's this about my husband? Since when do I have a husband?" Luca continued to

He did not expect his lie to be exposed so quickly. He touched the back of his head and obediently told the reason why he said that to the elevator attendant. It was to let him get on the

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Tommy listened to her and replied in a slightly frustrated tone, "Ms. Luca, you and Daddy said exactly the same thing."

Luca was stunned.

Tommy continued, "However, Daddy and Mommy are husband and wife but they don't sleep in the same room..."

Luca had known about that for a while and was a little happy about it.

She touched his head and said, "Okay, let's move on from this. Promise me that you won't do this again. This is dangerous."

"This is the hotel." Tommy did not understand why it would be dangerous. After all, his Daddy and Luca were both here.

"Who said that the hotel is safe? Have you ever thought that if the person in the elevator was bad, you wouldn't see me ever again?" Luca frowned when she heard what he said. This kid needed to improve his safety awareness.

The last time, he was almost bullied by gangsters. Not long after, he still dared to run up and down in the hotel in the middle of the night.

Personal safety was not something to be joked about!

"I know I did something wrong, Ms. Luca, but I just wanted to be with you. Ms. Luca, I miss it when you cuddle me to sleep." Tommy pouted and showed an aggrieved expression.

Luca's heart softened. She did not want to shoo Tommy back to his room since he was here for her. "Is your daddy asleep?"

"Daddy is already asleep." Tommy nodded.

"You can rest in my room tonight. I'll send your daddy a text to inform him so that he won't worry if he can't find you tomorrow," Luca said and looked for her phone.

Luca." Tommy burst into laughter when he heard that he could stay by

found her phone on the coffee table and sent a text to Luke informing him that Tommy was with

same time, Luke received an update from Jason that Tommy had gone into Luca's

down and scrolled the screen as he stared at the text from

not notice that the corners of his mouth were

finished sending the text, she put her phone down, touched the child's head, and said, "It's late. Why don't we go

Tommy felt happy when he thought of how he would be able to go to bed in her

energetic, but we have to adapt to the jet lag. By the way, how long will your daddy be on this business trip?" Luca

know. Daddy said it depends on the situation, but he helped me take a two-week leave." Tommy held her hand and walked to the bedside, then

weeks? Isn't that the duration of

not the kind of person who would abuse his power at work for private matters. There was no reason for him to go along with them for training. He must have come to New York with them for official

it was coincidentally for two weeks as

a little uneasy and thought that Abel was

'What on earth is that horrible man going to **do...**'

The hotel bed was relatively high, so Luca put Tommy on the bed and then took out a clean towel from the bathroom. She folded it and put it on the *bed*.

There were no pillows for children in her room. The hotel pillows were too high for Tommy, so she patted her pillow and said, "Is it okay if you sleep on this tonight?"

"Okay, Ms. Luca." Tommy grinned. He forgot to bring his pillow when he came downstairs. He did not expect her to be so *thoughtful*.

With his permission, Luca lay down on one side of **the bed**.

When the two lay down, Tommy curled up into her arms and whispered, "Ms. Luca, your arms are very warm, like..."

Luca asked curiously, "Like what?"

'Just like Mommy's arms...'

However, Tommy kept it to himself. Even though he did not want to admit that the person in A City was his Mommy, *she was*.

Luca gave him a lot of warmth. However, she was just Ms. Luca.

"It's like a heater!" Tommy replied and closed his eyes to conceal the sadness in his eyes.

This was the first time he felt that Luca was more suitable to be his Mommy than *Bianca*.

gentleness, kindness, and warmth made her a suitable

he could only have one

his eyes. The scale in his heart was unconsciously tipped toward Luca. He really wanted her to be

However, that was impossible...

gently swept Tommy's back. Tommy was adaptable, and the motion helped him adapt to the jet lag. He quickly fell

Tommy's breathing slowed down after

rested on the pillow and looked at Tommy. She left the bedside lamp on to make Tommy feel safer because they were in an

was also because in case she woke up in the middle of the night, she could immediately figure out where she

to Tommy's steady breathing, and a smile appeared on her face, revealing a sense of happiness. Suddenly, a burst of sleepiness struck and she closed her

and Luca both slept very peacefully that

opened my eyes, the sky was already

looked at the ceiling and tuned out for a while. Last night, she fell asleep without taking any medicine. She was not affected by jet lag, insomnia, and did not

'This is...'

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Luca could not help but click on his picture. The group photo was enlarged on the screen.

She still remembered that memory from three years ago. The weather was wonderful and the sun was warm. The wildflowers were in full bloom and were fragrant. There was an atmosphere of happiness all around.

That day, their kids had a great time playing around. Luke, whose expression was mostly cold, also showed a bright smile on his face.

Luca remembered everything from that day clearly. She looked at the photo, the corners of her mouth slightly raised as she touched the screen.

"Ms. Luca..." Tommy's muttering interrupted her.

Luca turned off her screen, turned sideways, and looked at Tommy. He was close to her. She asked in a soft voice, "What's the matter?"

"I want a hug..." Tommy had not fully woken up. His voice was sleepy and he acted like a baby.

Luca smiled softly, took him into her arms, and whispered, "It's still early, go back to bed."

Tommy closed his eyes and felt extremely happy being in her arms. "Ms. Luca, did Daddy look for me?"

"He knows that you're here, don't worry." Luca gently swept his back, quietly soothing him.

When Tommy heard her words, he closed his eyes and went back to sleep.

Luca's actions became softer and softer before she eventually stopped. She watched as the child slept innocently. Her heart was warm as she silently covered Tommy with the blanket.

After an hour.

that it was getting late and shook Tommy's arm slightly. "Tommy,

groaned but did not open his eyes. He held onto

Luca, your hand is so warm." His eyes were still closed when he spoke. He felt a sense of security whenever he was around her. He was reluctant to

at the child and was not sure whether to laugh

was just the beginning of autumn, and the weather was not too cold. She touched Tommy's head. If it were any other day, she would have wanted the child to sleep a little longer and spend more time

they continued to stay in bed, they would be

how she used to wake Tommy up. Just then, she scratched his

ticklish and his eyes opened in an instant. His round eyes looked at her while his body kept evading her attacks. "Ms. Luca, what are

you up." Luca stopped when she saw him wake up and squeezed his cheek gently. "Okay, get

was still drowsy and sat up. He looked at her and said,

up and combed his messy hair with her fingers. "What's

mommy used to wake me up like this. For a moment, I thought you were my Mommy," Tommy said. Since Bianca lost her memory, no one had woken him like that again. Although he was ticklish, he missed this kind of intimate

When his eyes were closed, he thought she was his **mommy**.

Luca's smile was a bit stiff. She thought that children had poor memory and would not remember most of their childhood memories.

However, it seemed that Tommy remembered **everything**.

Luca's mood was complicated.

'Tommy must be very disappointed about the fake Bianca entering his life. Otherwise, why would he remember those little things from *before*?'

"Ms. Luca, did you do it on purpose?" Tommy asked when she kept silent, then held her **hand**.

Luca shook her head. She did not know how to explain it to Tommy, so she had no choice but to lie.

"What do you mean? Aren't all the children in the world *ticklish*?"

Tommy pouted and said, "Ms. Luca, you did it on purpose."

"I wanted to wake you up. Look at you, you look so energetic now." Luca squeezed his cheeks, got out of bed, and said, "Let's wash up."

"All my toiletries are at Daddy's..." Tommy said. He should have brought his toothbrush and towel with him if he knew that things would go so **well**.

Luke was obsessed with cleanliness. Even in the best hotel, he insisted on using his **own toiletries**.

Luca knew about that.

that Tommy insisted on using his toiletries to wash up, she thought about sending him upstairs. Then, the doorbell

who it is. Wait here," Luca said as she walked to open

outside with a bag in his hand, looking at her with

Dr. Craw, did you sleep well? Are you happy with your room?" He took the initiative to greet

Doyle. Everything's fine. What can I do for you?" Luca

yes, these are Tommy's toiletries. Mr. Crawford asked me to pass them to you." Jason handed her

took it and thanked him. Jason did not linger and turned around

closed the door and opened the bag to find that it was filled with

walked to the bed and said, "Mr. Doyle brought your toiletries here. Come, let's

Ms. Luca." Tommy yawned, got off the bed with a smile, and followed her into

out the toiletries one by one and looked at him again. "Do you want me to

I'll do it myself." Tommy was independent and did not need her to help with

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Seeing his pitiful appearance, Luca could not bear to let him starve. She nodded and said, "Okay, I'll take you to breakfast, but after eating, I'll send you back to Mr. Crawford. Promise me that you won't make a fuss then."

From past experience, Tommy would try his best to stay by her side every time they had to separate. She wanted to cover her ground to make sure that Tommy would not get in the way later because he did not want to leave.

"Okay, Ms. Luca!" Tommy nodded and agreed.

The two left the room together.

Luca brought him to the restaurant downstairs. Rhett, Dr. Albus, and the others were already sitting there eating breakfast.

The hotel that Jason booked for them had a breakfast buffet, so they were all here to fill their stomachs.

"Dr. Craw, good morning." Rhett greeted her because they were sitting near the door.

"Good morning." Luca nodded at them, then took Tommy to the self-service area.

Dr. Albus looked at the scene and could not help but say, "That's Mr. Crawford's child, right? Why is he with Dr. Craw first thing in the morning?"

They witnessed how close Tommy was to Luca with their own eyes, but it was strange that Luca was with Tommy in the early morning.

'Shouldn't the kid be with Luke? Mr. Crawford hasn't appeared yet Luca showed up with Tommy...'

Dr. Albus exchanged glances with his assistant. They then looked at Rhett at the same time. "Mr. Link, what's going on with Dr. Craw?"

"I don't know." Rhett shook his head. He knew about all the bad thoughts in their minds at a glance.

Luca showed up with Tommy early in the morning, they must think that she did not sleep in her room they walked out of the elevator together, it was difficult to say what happened after they went into their you go find out? We're quite curious," Dr. Albus

was scolded by Luca just the day before. He did not dare to trigger her just to satisfy their need to gossip. He shook his head and said, "Dr. Albus, this is Dr. Craw's private matter. It's not my place to ask

Albus did not push Rhett further, seeing that he turned him down. He did not want to be known as a gossip.

brought Tommy to take some food that he wanted. She then randomly chose

took a sip of milk and asked, "Ms. Luca, why aren't you sitting with

noisy when many people sit together. Isn't it nice to have a quiet breakfast like this?" Luca said as she took a sip of the

was not a fan of crowds. She would not sit with them even if Tommy were not with

in agreement and said, "Ms. Luca is right! Daddy also said that it's best to keep your mouth shut during Luca smiled and touched his head.

breakfast, Luke and Jason both appeared in

Dr. Albus and the others stepped forward to greet them before returning to their seats. Dr. Albus exchanged a glance with his assistant. He thought that Luke was great at **avoiding suspicion**.

Luke and Luca did not appear in the restaurant at the same time. Luke chose to appear with his assistant in the restaurant after Luca arrived so that others would not **misunderstand**.

Tommy had been following Luca around. Everyone saw how dependent he was on Luca. They thought that she had no choice but to bring him along since he would not part from *her*.

Tommy made it hard for them to conceal *the truth*.

Dr. Albus thought that he had seen through the whole thing and felt triumphant. Although Luca's research was great, she was still dependent *on men*.

Luca lowered her head to eat breakfast silently. After she finished the last sip of her coffee, she looked at Tommy who was sitting across from her. He was done **with breakfast**.

"Tommy, go to your Daddy," she said.

Tommy did not move and asked, "Ms. Luca, do you need to go to work **already**?"

"Yeah." Luca nodded.

Although Tommy was reluctant, he remembered what he promised her and had no choice but to wave his hand reluctantly. "Ms. Luca, goodbye."

"Goodbye." After Luca stood up, Tommy also stood up and walked **toward Luke**.

"**Daddy**," **Tommy** called out to Luke and sat next to him with a flattering smile on his face.

"You're back?" Luke took a sip of coffee gracefully while **frowning**.

a six-star hotel, the coffee was nothing beyond average. The best coffee he ever had was prepared

be mad... I'm sorry." Tommy could not figure out his mood as there were no ups and downs in his expression. However, he knew he was at fault for leaving the room without Luke's permission. He had no choice but to apologize

lifted his gaze and glanced at Tommy, who was trying to please him and reduce his anger. His expression remained

touched the back of his

wanted to laugh when he saw the father and son act like this, but he could not laugh in front of Luke. Hence, he had to put food in his mouth to divert his

pitifully and tugged on Luke's sleeve. "Daddy, I was afraid of going to bed by myself... You wouldn't want to sleep with me so I had to find

picked up the napkin and wiped the corners of his mouth. He only ate half of the food on his plate and less than a third of the coffee in his cup was

to check her notifications," He

"Her? Who, Daddy?" Tommy asked, puzzled.

at Luca and Tommy instantly knew who he was referring to. There were still 15 minutes before they had to assemble. She stood up and sat down again while sneaking glances at

nodded and said, "Oh, you're talking about

Luke was speechless.

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Luke's expression was neutral earlier, but it turned gloomy after Luca left.

Jason lowered his head to eat his breakfast silently. Tommy was the only one who dared to ask questions.

Luke glanced at his son, then turned to look at the entrance of the restaurant. Luca and the others had already left. He looked away, picked up the napkin, wiped his mouth, and stood up.

Jason followed him, stood up, and asked, "Mr. Crawford, are you going to the office now?"

"Mm," Luke took Tommy's hand and walked out.

Jason followed behind him as he took out his phone and gave the driver a call, asking him to wait for them downstairs.

Tommy looked up at Luke and asked, "Daddy, are we going to where Ms. Luca is?"

"No," Luke stood in front of the elevator and answered his question with a stern expression.

"Ah, why not?" Tommy thought they were going to be at the same event together, which was why he agreed to Luca's request obediently.

After Jason spoke to the driver, he said to Tommy, "Tommy, Dr. Craw is going for training. We're going somewhere else."

Tommy was stunned, he curled his lips and said, "I thought I would be seeing Ms. Luca later."

Jason was not sure whether to laugh or cry when he saw Tommy's reaction. However, he did not dare to be presumptuous in front of Luke, so he could only try to hold in his smile.

been working by Luke's side for many years and had already mastered his ability to hold back his laughter so Luke would

elevator arrived, Luke and Tommy went downstairs. The Rolls-Royce was parked at the entrance of the hotel. When the driver saw them coming, he immediately got out of the car and opened the door

by the car, looked at Luke eagerly, and said, "Daddy, I want to look for

Luke carried him into the car, closed the door, and got into the car from the other

was ruthlessly rejected. He looked at him with puppy dog eyes. When he wanted to say something, Luke said, "Have you forgotten what you

Tommy shut his mouth instantly.

on the trip to New York, he promised that he would not make a fuss and

tiny fist hammered his knee, then he sighed deeply. He frowned like a little adult with infinite

unmoved by his actions. He took out his personal phone and found that there were no new notifications. He put the phone in his pocket and closed

at him and knew it was best to stop bothering him. However, he did not rest with his eyes closed but looked at the scenery that was flashing outside the car window. He had a good rest the night before and was very

The other side.

Luca, Dr. Albus, and the others got in the car arranged by the Pharmaceutical Association. They were going to attend a lecture with the top medical professors and pharmaceutical professors from all over the world. They would get together and exchange ideas with each other on the special cases they had taken *on*.

This was Luca's first time attending a lecture as such, but compared to others, she was not as **interested**.

Dr. Albus went through the list of attendees in the car and said excitedly, "Dr. Steve will also attend this lecture! That's wonderful!"

Luca did not know much about these big shots in the field, so the expression on her face was calm like stagnant water.

Rhett could not believe it. He stared wide-eyed and asked, "Dr. *Steve*?"

"Yes, *look* at this list. I heard that he very rarely attends lectures like this. I didn't expect to be able to meet him this time. It seems that luck is on my side!" Dr. Albus' tone was full of admiration toward **Dr. Steve**.

Dr. Albus' assistant said, "Dr. Steve also published a new research paper in an international journal a few days ago. The research direction of his paper is related to what you're working on now. It'll be great if we can pick his brain on *it*."

Dr. Albus' pharmaceuticals were mainly for the treatment of intestinal infarction, which was relevant to Dr. Steve's recent research paper. Hence, they were *overjoyed*.

They would have something to boast about if they had the chance to have a chat with Dr. Steve for a few minutes.

"Well, we must seize the opportunity." Dr. Albus nodded and secretly made a decision.

The three of them were discussing happily and were happy to be able to meet the big names attending this lecture while Luca *kept quiet*.

handed a list to Luca and asked, "Dr. Craw, would you like to need." Luca shook her head and closed

was neither sleepy nor tired but she did not want to talk about this lecture with them any further. Abel was involved. Compared to their high expectations, she would be taking a precautionary route so as not to accidentally fall into Abel's trap.

Rhett heard her reply and nodded.

names were also on the list but they were on the last page. The pharmaceutical industry would not attract the attention of the public if there was nothing

addition, they were not big names in the field, so their names were at

Albus was pleased to see his name on the list. He took out his phone, took a photo, and planned to post it on social media because it was a rare opportunity for him to meet all these big names in

car drove for about half an hour before it reached

lecture was held in the auditorium of a university in New York. The four of them got out of the car and followed the instructions to

were in the university compound because it was a school

on the path, her delicate face becoming part of

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Dr. Albus, who was watching as things went down, gave Luca a thumbs up. He smiled and said, "Dr. Craw, impressive."

In his heart, he secretly despised Luca and thought that she was something else. 'No one, not even university students, can escape her seduction. It's no wonder she receives special treatment from Luke.'

Luca kept quiet and followed the signs to the venue.

William, who watched her walk away, was a little sad. He thought that the language barrier was a pity.

His friend on the side noticed that he looked sad and lost. He patted him on the shoulder and asked, "William, why are you so upset?"

"Paul, I fell in love with her at first sight, but such a beautiful woman doesn't understand our language..." William was head over heels and stared at Luca's back.

Paul sneered, snapped his fingers, and said, "Friend, you were deceived by her. She's walking to the university's auditorium. There's a medical lecture in the auditorium today, and those with her don't look like students. She must be here to attend the lecture. It doesn't make sense that she got an invitation to the lecture but doesn't understand a single word of English."

William was shocked. "So... are you saying that she understood me?"

"Of course, but..." Paul looked at him and had a nasty thought. He said, "She understood you but pretended not to. It must be because she's not interested in you."

William was frustrated. This was the first time in his life that he failed to pursue someone.

He was voted the school hunk of this university. Apart from being a popular face in this university, he was also known in other universities for his excellent football skills and was admired by many girls.

However, from the moment he saw Luca, he no longer had eyes for other girls.

his arm around his shoulders and asked, "Why are you so upset? It's just a woman. I'll help

want to hurt her." William shook his head and refused. He knew what his friend

not a good person. He was a playboy but did not want to hurt Luca, who he fell in love with at

woman like her will be swept up by others after staying in New York for two more days. Do you want that to happen? Don't regret it when you see her with other men,"

suddenly clenched his fists, his eyes bursting with possessiveness as he grunted. "No, she belongs to

good!" Paul smiled when he saw that William was on board. He said, "I'm your best friend. Of course, I'll help you go after the woman

walked into the auditorium with the others. She would not expect that the consequences of rejecting a seemingly harmless boy would be

were seated far behind, but this arrangement was exactly what Luca

was not interested in medicine in the first place. The reason why she studied so hard was that she wanted to

the Island of Despair, learning another skill meant gaining another shot at protecting

sat with Rhett on her left and Dr. Albus on her

into the auditorium one after another. Luca walked aimlessly and saw

However, he was surrounded by people, so he did not notice her.

More and more people entered the auditorium. After a while, the lecture officially began. Luca was a little absent-minded listening to the various *medical reports*.

She thought of Luke.

He asked Tommy to relay his message and asked her to check her **notifications**.

'Does he want me to approve his friend request? Why would he... **want that?'**

Luca's thoughts were getting jumbled when out of the blue, the phone that she was holding on began to *vibrate*.

No one was alarmed because she turned it to vibration mode before the lecture started. She picked her phone up and found that it was a video call request **from Tommy**.

Luca took the earphones from her bag and picked up **the call**.

Tommy's cute face appeared on the screen.

Luca smiled, she could only type because it was inconvenient to speak. [What's **the matter?**]

Tommy said happily, "Ms. Luca, Daddy gave me a phone to play with so I called you. What are you *doing?*"

[Listening to the lecture.]

you and Daddy are so busy. Ms. Luca, look at him..." Tommy tapped his finger on the screen and it cut to the rear camera. She saw Luke, who was sitting behind Tommy, at

was leaning on his side with his gaze on the computer screen. He was highly focused on his work. His resolute and stylish side profile made it impossible for anyone to look

is so handsome when he works...' Luca's heartbeat suddenly skipped a

pace of her heartbeat seemed to be out of

me stay here after he brought me to the company. He keeps looking at the computer. I'm so bored, Ms. Luca," Tommy pouted while telling her about his

who was busy, heard his son's complaint and stood up to walk over to

held the phone and kept the camera on him. "Daddy, what are

walked to Tommy's side and looked at the child while

the phone." He held out his

be bored out of my mind if you take the phone away. My teacher said that it's not good for kids to be bored. It might make me stupid." Tommy protected the

down, took the phone from his hands easily, and turned the

Chapter 1268

Luca opened his friend request but hesitated for a long time.

She wanted to accept the request, but her rationality told her that she should not. The fewer interactions with her, the better it was for him and the children.

She struggled internally for a long time before putting her phone back into her handbag. She did not accept his friend request.

She knew Luke's character very well, and she knew that he would not ask her directly to accept the friend request. All she had to do was to wait three days for the request to expire, and she should be off the hook.

Meanwhile, Tommy was sitting next to Luke. "Daddy!" He exclaimed when he saw Luke end the video call.

"Don't disturb her," Luke said and handed the phone back to him.

He knew that Tommy would be bored, so he asked Jason to buy several children's books.

"I'm not disturbing Ms. Luca at all. Can't you see that she's so bored?" Tommy pouted and protested.

Luke stood up as though he did hear what Tommy said.

Seeing that Luke had already ended the video call, Tommy thought it was not appropriate to call her again right now. "Daddy, did you send Ms. Luca a friend request?" He asked.

"This is adult stuff. It's none of your business." Luke sat on the executive chair and continued to read through his emails.

Tommy pouted. He decided to download a game on the phone. "Ms. Luca won't accept your friend request," he said crankily.

Luke raised his eyebrows when he heard his son

doesn't like you," Tommy said while downloading a puzzle game. "Don't you know? Ms. Luca seems awkward whenever you're around. I think that Ms. Luca is afraid of you. That's not too surprising. After all, there aren't that many people in the world who aren't afraid of you. You shouldn't go the next time I visit Ms. Luca. Don't come and disrupt

how you use the word 'intimacy.'" Inexplicably, Luke felt irritated by what his son

'Is Luca afraid of me?'

rubbed his chin, wondering if he was that

not reply to his son. Instead, he continued to read his emails when he received an email from

the email was Luca's dossier. It had been delayed for a long

the first time that Gale took so long to

opened the document and read all eleven pages. He frowned and began reading from the top

dossier was very detailed. It recorded Luca's experiences since she was a child, and every statement was well-supported

why Gale took so long to investigate someone with an unremarkable past. Moreover, Gale told him that he faced difficulties because someone seemed to deliberately withhold Luca's information

had been wondering if that was the case or if Luca's information was

A knock on the door brought Luke back to his senses. He closed the email window and said, "Come in."

Jason came in with a bag of books. "Mr. Crawford, here are some books for Little Mr. Crawford's *enjoyment*."

Tommy stood up and took the bag from Jason. "Thank you, Uncle Jason."

He loved reading, so he was very happy to take the thick stack of books from Jason's hands.

Luke nodded. "Thank you."

"You're welcome." Jason nodded and left **Luke's office**.

Instead of playing on the phone, Tommy picked up a book and began to read. Soon, he was engrossed in the story and forgot all *about Luca*.

Luke narrowed his eyes. He checked his personal phone to find that Luca had not accepted his friend request.

...

The organizers had invited many presenters to the conference, so the lectures were split into two sessions: One in the morning, and the other in the afternoon.

After the morning lectures ended, Luca and Dr. Albus left the auditorium and went to find a place to have lunch. They would have to return to the hall in the *afternoon*.

left the auditorium, Dr. Albus's assistant suggested, "I was searching around and found that there is a restaurant in the university that serves decent food. Should we have our lunch there, Dr. Albus, Dr.

nodded. She was not a

Albus agreed with the suggestion, so the four people walked toward the

himself on a university campus and looking at the students around him, Dr. Albus was in a good mood.

"Ah, to be young again. Dr. Crawford, do you think that you'll be lucky enough to meet that young man at the

sank when Dr. Albus mentioned that impudent young man. "That's no joking matter,

Albus could feel that the atmosphere was turning awkward. He forced a laugh and said, "Don't be angry, I was just pulling your leg, but I guess if those young men would want to court you, it does prove that you're quite

Luca did not reply.

rubbed his nose. The atmosphere was more awkward

though Dr. Albus was silent, he was not happy to admit fault. 'Why is Luca so haughty? Is it because he's Mr. Crawford's mistress? I've never seen a mistress act like that

what will happen if Mr. Crawford's wife and grandfather find out about her. Will she still be able to act

four people found the restaurant. They arrived there just before lunchtime, so there were not many customers

ordering their food, they sat down in a

Chapter 1269

William noticed that Luca was looking at him, so he waved to her. "Hey, what a coincidence! We meet again. I'm William. Do you remember me?"

Luca planned to use the same trick as in the morning. She pretended not to understand him, looked away, and continued to eat her food.

William glanced at Paul when he did not get a reply from Luca.

Paul said, "Why don't you try the translation app you downloaded earlier?"

William nodded and opened the translation app on her phone. With the app, Luca could not use the excuse that she did not understand English.

Dr. Albus watched the scene unfold and remembered how Luca had given him the cold shoulder earlier. A mischievous thought brewed in his mind. "Do you need something from Dr. Craw?"

William paused and smiled. "Dr. Craw? Is Craw your name?"

Luca frowned when she heard the student call out her name. Did Dr. Albus deliberately do that?

She turned her head to look at her surroundings. Thanks to William's presence in the restaurant, some of the other customers were looking toward them.

Luca could tell that William was an outstanding individual. She could see that many female students were looking at her jealously.

She sighed and said, "I'm not interested."

Luca said those words quite clearly, and the people at the surrounding tables could hear what she said.

female students were stunned in disbelief. How could she not be interested in William, or was she just playing hard to

students, on the other hand, were whispering among each other, gloating over William's embarrassment. After all, William had stood in the limelight for

unhappy that he was rejected. He did not feel as embarrassed when Luca rejected his advances that morning because it was a communication issue, but now, Luca had rejected him while speaking in

could understand what Luca was saying, everyone in the restaurant would

slowly clenched his fists. His cheeks were on

thought that William wanted to get physical. He took a deep breath and stood up. "Mr. William, Dr. Craw has already said that she's not interested. Please leave now and do not

to look at Rhett. The former was much taller and more muscular than the latter because he had been working

when William was about to charge toward Rhett, Paul grabbed William's shoulder while his other hand tapped Luca's handbag. "It's alright, William. We're the ones at fault for disrupting their lunch.

did not feel so embarrassed when his friend helped him. They left the

around and smiled ambiguously when he looked at the woman who was eating lunch to eat her lunch, though she could hear the discussions happening on the

"Who's that woman?"

"I don't know. She seems too old to be a student. Is she a *teacher*?"

"**I don't** think that we have a teacher who's so ugly! Isn't there some conference at the grand auditorium today? I guess she's an attendee."

"It doesn't matter who she is. If I see her alone later, I'll teach her a lesson on behalf of **William**."

Luca was silent as she listened to the conversation among the **girls**.

She was no stranger to such situations. After all, she could tell that William was the most popular boy in the **university**.

Certain memories came back to her.

When she was in high school, she was bullied because other girls saw her sneakily observing Luke playing basketball. They thought that she tried to be different so that she could gain *Luke's attention*.

Luca finished her soup and wiped her mouth.

Dr. Albus also heard what the female students were talking about. He frowned and pretended to look indignant. "Those students have gone too far, Dr. Craw. Let me tell them off *for you*."

Luca could tell that Dr. Albus was trying to exacerbate the issue using the guise of helping her. She said, "You don't have to do anything, Dr. Albus. There are so many students here. Don't tell me that you plan to tell them off one by one?"

smiled. He was not planning on helping Luca in the first place, but if Luca had stopped him from acting, he was not going to say or

lunch, they returned to the auditorium to continue with the afternoon segment of

conference lasted until nighttime. After the last lecture, Luca sat in a chair and watched Dr. Albus and his assistant strike a conversation with the

already exhausted from an entire day of lectures, and she was impressed that Dr. Albus had the strength to talk to those professors. He even took a few group photos with

to look at Rhett, who sat next to her. "Aren't you

his head. "I've already learned a lot from the lectures earlier. Those professors are surrounded by so many people. Even if I managed to talk to them, I don't think I'll be learning anything

smiled, thinking that he was quite

people surrounded the professors because they wanted something to brag about. They would not receive any help in their times

professors made their way out of the auditorium, and Dr. Albus and his assistant

can we go back to the

was the one who was reluctant to leave, though he made it sound like she did not want to leave instead. She stood up calmly and

Chapter 1270

Paul smiled and shook his head. "I'm not interested in Russians, bro. No matter what you want to do later, I'll be there to support and help you. Don't worry, I've heard that Russians aren't as cold as they make themselves out to be. Once you claim her body, I'm sure that she'll fall for you as well."

William puffed out his chest confidently. He knew that no woman who had slept with him could resist his charms. "Of course."

"I'm helping you because I don't want to see you looking like a walking corpse after she rejected you," Paul said as he continued driving.

"Thanks. Let me know if you need my help next time." William thought that Paul was a good friend.

Paul smiled but did not say anything. He had to focus on the signal because his tracker was not a very good one, and the signal would be lost if the tracker went too far away.

The signal eventually stopped at the hotel. Paul glanced at the six-star hotel in front of them and frowned. "Bro, I think the woman stays here."

"How are we going to find her?" William gawked at the hotel in front of him.

They did not expect that Luca was staying at a high-class hotel.

If Luca were staying at a budget hotel, they could think of a way to find out Luca's room number. However, if Luca were to stay at that hotel, they would not be able to bribe the receptionist to give them the information they wanted.

Even if they booked a room tonight, they did not know Luca's floor, and the access cards could only go to their floors.

come from wealthy families, but they were not rich enough to book a room on every

also thinking of the same problem. He had no other choice but to park the car at the curb and say, "Well, we can

frowned. No woman had ever wasted so much of his time. He did not mind waiting, but he did not want to wait there

looked at the stationary dot on his phone, he said, "If we had gotten closer to her, we might have found out her floor. Now, all we can do is just wait. If we're lucky, the woman might decide to step out of the hotel, but if we're not... How about this? We'll wait until midnight. If the woman doesn't show up, we'll

had no other choice but to agree with what Paul said. He had gone so far, and he did not want to quit so

...

her room, Luca felt some discomfort in her

went to the bathroom and confirmed that she was on her period. She knocked her forehead and cursed her carelessness. Her lifestyle and work hours had been irregular lately, which made her period come early. It also meant that she had not packed sanitary pads along

picked up the phone receiver and wanted to call the front desk to send up a pack of sanitary pads. However, she remembered that any expenses would be charged to

she bought a pack of sanitary pads from the front desk, it would be charged to the room, and Luke would definitely see

Luca sighed. She picked up her handbag and prepared to go downstairs to get *it herself*.

On the way back to the hotel, she remembered seeing that there was a twenty-four-hour convenience **store nearby**.

Paul sat in the car and looked at his phone screen, occasionally glancing at the pedestrians on the sidewalk. He saw the dot move and said, "Looks like today's your lucky day, bro."

William also noticed the moving dot. He lifted his head and saw Luca walking out of the hotel. He could recognize his Russian doll's features even from a *distance*.

"*Thanks. I'll be back soon,*" William said. If Luca said yes, he was willing to treat *her gently*.

After all, she was different from other *women*.

As Luca walked on the sidewalk, she was shocked to see a man suddenly appear before her. She looked carefully and realized that he was the male student who had harassed her **earlier**.

"**Why** are you here?" Luca was filled with disgust toward that young man. The university was quite far away from the hotel, so how did he manage to find **her**?

"*It's me.* You remember me, right?" William looked at Luca's delicate features under the street light, feeling more infatuated *than ever*.

"Dr. Craw, that's what they call you, right? Are you really a doctor? I don't mean anything else, but I thought that you look young, just like a student..." William said while following next to Luca, who did not break her **stride**.

to ignore her, though she was regretting that she did not get the front desk to deliver the sanitary pads to her. She would rather let Luke know about it than have that boy

was also wondering how did the boy know where she

thought that Luca's silence was arrogant or even rude. However, he was not going to give up. After all, that made her a

you haven't told me your

said nothing and went into the

also followed inside and continued his questioning. "Are you here to buy some snacks? Let me buy them up a pack of sanitary pads and went to the

frowned when he saw the thing in her hand. How was he going to make a move on her if she was on her in the car watching all that unfold. Suddenly, a sinister grin appeared on his like that woman so much, William, then I shall help you. Once you experience bliss, you shall be dragged into the pits of despair," he mumbled