

Be Gentle 1291

Chapter 1291

After breakfast, Johann walked in with a medical report in hand and announced, "The report is out, and Jason will bring in the receipt in a short while. Arrangements for your discharge are complete, Mr. Crawford."

Luke stood up and said, "Let's go, then."

Johann looked at Luca who stood at one side and asked her, "Dr. Craw, I suppose you're still taking part in the off-site training today?"

Luca nodded. She woke up early today, so she might be able to rush there.

"I have nothing planned for today. Why don't I give you a ride?" said Johann with a smile.

Before Luca could reply, Luke interjected, "Is the car downstairs?"

"Yes, Boss." Jason nodded.

"We'll send Dr. Craw over to the training site," said Luke. He then looked over at Johann and continued, "You don't need to entertain Dr. Park."

Johann shrugged as he listened to the avaricious words and said, "Alright then. By the way, I asked forensics yesterday and they said the report on the blade should be out by today."

Jason could not help but exclaim, "Dr. Park, you have contacts with the forensics department too?"

"We're all doctors, anyway. Of course, we know each other." Johann smiled as he left the ward with them.

was so heart-warming that many nurses often fell for

arrived at the parking lot, Johann left first. Luke watched Luca who remained silent and said, "Get

not feel comfortable with that. She had texted Rhett saying that she would not be going with them, so they did not have to wait

let Luke drive her to the training site, they might bump into Dr. Albus and the rest. If they saw her coming out of his car, a bunch of rumors would

Craw, I think I'd better take a cab there,"

in." Luke gave her no chance. The driver opened the door for them as he tilted his chin in that direction, indicating that she must get in the

was left with no choice. She climbed in and let him send her to the

she did not run into Dr. Albus and the

walked into the venue and noticed that Dr. Albus and the rest had arrived. She strode over and

Albus noticed Luca did not have any makeup on and said to her with a smile, "Did you oversleep, Dr. Craw? Your shirt isn't ironed and you don't have any makeup

tugged on her shirt. She slept with these clothes on last night, so there were some wrinkles. She nodded and replied, "Yeah, I did. I was almost late, so I didn't want to make you

Dr. Albus laughed as he looked into her eyes as if trying to see through her. However, she was very calm and composed.

He disdainfully laughed at her on the inside. What a harlot she was. She could even tell an outright lie so *naturally*.

Rhett reminded her, "Dr. Craw, you have to get a set of documents yourself because they only give it out based on invitations, so I didn't manage to get it **for you**."

Luca nodded. When they arrived, Luke had given them one invitation letter each. That letter was their pass for the two-week-long off-site training. That was why Luca always carried it **on her**.

As Luca walked over to the information hub, Dr. Albus smiled and said, "Looks like Dr. Craw's nocturnal activities are very interesting. Do you have any idea where she went last night, Mr. **Link**?"

Rhett could not help but feel a sense of disgust for Dr. Albus when he said those words, but since Dr. Albus had a higher position than himself, he could only put on a solemn expression while replying, "Wasn't Dr. Craw in the hotel last night, Dr. *Albus*?"

Dr. Albus replied, "Tsk tsk, Dr. Craw wasn't in her room even at 11 o'clock. Maybe she wasn't even in her room at all."

"Dr. Albus, please watch your words." Rhett could not help but *retort*.

"*I'm not* lying. Last night at around 11, I wanted to borrow some documents from Dr. Craw but no one opened the door even though I kept knocking on the door. So you tell me, was she in the room or not?" Dr. Albus **smiled**.

He deliberately went to look for Luca last night. The part about borrowing documents was a lie, but checking if she was around was true, though.

the end, she was

was not in her hotel room at night, it should be clear where she was. Everyone

Albus' assistant could not help but ask, "Really? If Dr. Craw wasn't in her room even at that time, where shook his head. "It could be that Dr. Craw was sleeping so soundly that she didn't hear you knocking on saw Luca walk toward them, Dr. Albus nodded and dismissed Rhett's claims.

she arrived, Dr. Albus then asked her, "By the way, Dr. Craw, where were you replied calmly, "I was in

so? I wanted to borrow some documents from you last night but no one opened the door when I knocked on it... Did I remember the wrong room number?" said Dr. Albus. He simply wanted this drama to unfold

sensed his bad intentions, but she was not a fool either. She replied calmly, "I have trouble sleeping, so I usually take some sleeping pills to help me sleep. I might have slept early last night, and I must have slept quite soundly. I didn't hear you knocking on the

Albus listened to her and smiled. "Oh,

Luca went through the documents.

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Luca did not need him to remind her about it. She looked in Dr. Albus' direction and nodded.

Since she did not say anything, Rhett chose not to either. After all, he just wanted to remind her, but she seemed calmer than he was. Not even a veteran like Dr. Albus could have a temper like hers.

After Luke dropped Luca off at her destination, he went back to the office with his kid.

After arriving at the office, Jason frantically pushed open Luke's door before he could even get to work. "Boss, Miss Norman is waiting for you in the lobby. She said she has something important she wants to talk to you about."

"Which one?" Luke replied coldly, not bothering to raise his head.

Jason replied, "Leia Norman, Mrs. Crawford's younger sister."

When Luke heard her name, he suddenly remembered that she was here as well. He rejected outright without even thinking about it. "I have no time for her."

Jason knew he would say that, so he passed on Leia's message. "Boss, Miss Norman said she has something important about Mrs. Crawford she has to tell you about. She wants to see you no matter what."

About Bianca...

Luke looked up with an icy expression in his eyes, "Let her in."

noded. Just when he was about to inform the reception to invite Leia upstairs, his boss then continued, "Bring Tommy

was reading a book when he raised his head and asked, "Daddy, why do I have to

the possibility that Leia might bring up the past, so he did not want to involve the kid in this. That was why he made that arrangement. He said to Tommy, "When adults are

should not listen, I got it." Tommy hopped off the sofa as he followed behind Jason with his reading material in

a while, the receptionist brought Leia upstairs. "Miss Norman

glared at Leia coldly. She had been living overseas these past couple of years. Since that fiasco with Jack Norman, her intention of coming back to the country was rejected time

not look like she was living a good life

office door closed behind her, and it was only the two of them left in the office. As Leia stared at the man in front of her, her face could not help but show some sentiment for him. However, when he stared at her with those ice-cold eyes, she shuddered for a moment. There was nothing but fear in

Mr. Crawford.” Leia stood there as she tried to overcome the angst inside of her. Even though she had a favor to ask of him, she could not bring herself to call him

been waiting here ever since Queenie told her Luke had arrived in America. However, the receptionist told her that he had not been in the office the past couple of days, so she did not get to see him

“**So you’re** finally willing to tell me about the kidnapping that year?” Luke glanced at her before looking away. After all, one second spent looking at her was one second *wasted*.

His cold words struck Leia as she stood there awkwardly.

She was ready to bargain with him, but he did not seem interested at **all**.

“**I know** certain things about what had happened that year, but if I tell you, you’ll have to promise me one thing,” said Leia as she clenched her fist. She was having money problems here in America. She could not take it anymore.

She knew what was going on in her hometown, but even if her reputation was ruined, she could still live a lavish life as long as Jack was around.

“You have no chance of going home,” Luke said. He knew what she had in mind before she could even say **it**.

He knew about every single thing she did in the past couple of years. The mastermind behind all this sent a fake Bianca to fool everyone into thinking that she had come back home but he had not given up on his investigation.

As for Leia, she was one of the people who knew what had happened that day. She said nothing about it, but that did not mean she knew nothing. That was why he arranged for someone to keep an eye on her after she was **sent overseas**.

Jack Norman, on the other hand, was very unhappy with what Leia did behind his back. After he sent her off to America, he gave her just enough money for her basic needs but did not tell Queenie anything *about it*.

Luke had been waiting for her to come clean when she finally could not take it anymore.

he did not expect her to cross the line. She was short of money, so she tried using her body to get some. In the first year, she managed to get close to some of the local

Brody took his revenge on her and exposed her for everything that she did, completely destroying any reputation she had. All the rich people did not want to see her anymore, and her days of living lavishly

Leia found a new boyfriend and came back to the country using marriage as an option was once again cut off by

clenched her fist after he rejected her. She glared at him as she said, "Don't you want to know what happened

Luke continued typing, ignoring her completely.

Crawford, if you convince my dad, I'll tell you everything I know," Leia continued. Even though she was not directly involved in the matter, she knew more than

typing, looked up, and stared at

a glimmer of hope as her fists trembled. "Didn't you sense anything wrong about Bianca who went missing and then came back just a few months after? Don't you suspect anything at

you know?" Luke raised his brow, thinking about the possibility that Leia might know about the fake Bianca in

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Leia was stunned. Just as she was trying to figure out his words, Jason pushed the door open.

"Please leave, Miss Norman."

Leia left just like that and was dissatisfied. She suddenly realized something. Queenie had mentioned before that she could come back as long as Luke gave the word. It turned out this was what she meant by that. Apart from Jack, even the man in front of her was stopping her from going back!

She ignored Jason as she raised her pitch. "Why are you doing this to me? I want to go back!"

Jason frowned when she raised her voice. He knew that this was not going to be easy to handle, so he walked out and spoke to the secretary, "Tell security to come up here, please."

Leia knew she was going to be dragged downstairs. She shuddered and fell to her knees, "Brother-in-law, I beg you. I just want to go back home."

She had never wanted to call him her brother-in-law, but now, she had no choice but to give in.

Luke glared at her coldly. Her cries for help sounded like insults to him. "Isn't it a little too late to treat Bea as your sister?"

Leia shook her head as she sobbed. She did not want to continue living like this. "It's not like that. We've always been family. Please don't be this cruel to me."

The guards quickly arrived at the scene, and Jason gave the order, "Bring her downstairs."

Leia stared at the security guards but she was still shaking her head and begging for mercy. The guards grabbed her arms and dragged her away, "We're family, you can't do this to me!"

Luke said nothing, and the guards did not stop dragging her outside either.

The noise gradually softened but Jason could not help but cover his ears. He asked, "Boss, why doesn't she want to stay overseas?"

she was the adopted daughter of the Norman family, so her life over here would not be too bad, right? Why did she insist on going back,

not imagine how an ex-superstar suddenly became

Luke knew, though.

wanted to save up on rent so that she could have more money for herself, so she found herself a decent white-collar boyfriend and lived

flamboyant appearance, he was doing dark and dirty

to that, Leia was also involved. Since she wanted to save herself, she had to go back home. That was why she was willing to do anything out of desperation, even lying to Queenie and promising her boyfriend her hand in marriage in an attempt to go back home to get out of the rut she was

to work," Luke commanded. He had no sympathy for Leia's predicament at

she did that

was because she was the Norman family's adopted daughter and the fact that Bianca was Jack and Queenie's daughter as well that Luke did not pursue the matter

Leia knew how to discipline herself and appreciate what she had, she would not have ended up

nodded. He knew Luke had arranged for someone to keep an eye on Leia, but they only reported directly to Luke. Hence, he had no idea what was going on

walked in with the book in his embrace. He frowned and said, "Daddy, was Aunt Leia crying just

Luke replied as he fixed his gaze on the computer screen. "You don't have *an aunt*."

Leia was not worthy to be Bianca's *sister*.

Tommy nodded and replied, "Okay." He said nothing after that. Leia was not welcome among them, after all.

"*What* do you want for lunch?" Luke asked all of a *sudden*.

Tommy gave an instinctive reply, "I want Ms. Luca to cook **for me!**"

"*She's* busy right now," Luke replied. He was not surprised by his kid's answer,

Luca's cooking was mediocre, but somehow, it bewitched both of *them*.

It was as if she added some secret sauce that made them come back for more every *time*.

As *Luke* mused over it, he suddenly thought of Bianca. Her food was amazing, and he would never get tired of it. He wanted to enjoy her **cooking forever**.

Tommy shrugged when he heard that. "Anything will do, *then*."

“Mm,” Luke replied. Then, he shifted his focus to the work *at hand*.

...

training, Luca did not leave alone. Instead, she followed Dr. Albus and the others back to

they arrived, they ate a meal before returning to their own

a while, someone came knocking on

the door and realized that it was Jason and

clung to her immediately. “Ms. Luca, I miss you so much. Did you

not know how to respond, so she caressed the child’s head. Jason brought the kid and came knocking on her bedroom door, which was all too familiar

you had dinner, Dr. Craw?” Jason smiled as he asked

nodded. “I have. Is anything the matter,

Jason could respond, Tommy said, “Ms. Luca, Daddy is busy, so he asked you to take care of me for a

looked on as the kid was eager to enter the room. He smiled and continued, “Yes, Dr. Craw. My boss has an important discussion to attend to. Can you look after the kid for a

I’ll be visiting a friend later on.” Luca rejected. It was not like she did not want to, but she simply wanted to check out the address Paul

bring Tommy with you. He’s such a good boy, he won’t bother you,” Jason

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Tommy stared blankly at her with tears in his eyes as if he would bawl his eyes out if she said she did not like him.

Luca was mad at herself. She thought she had hurt his feelings with the tone of her voice.

“Ms. Luca, I won’t bother you. Please don’t dislike me.” Tommy rubbed his eyes as he tried to contain his tears. Just the sight of him would melt anyone’s heart.

“No, I don’t dislike you. Stop overthinking.” Luca grabbed his hand and said, “I just went to the supermarket. Guess what I bought?”

Tommy still had tears in his eyes as he looked up at her. At least he was somewhat distracted now.

“What?”

“Your favorite snack,” replied Luca as she opened the drawer. She was going to be here for two weeks and would meet Tommy anytime, so she prepared them.

She picked up a bag of chips that kids liked and handed it to him. “Here you go. Treat this as an apology from me. Don’t be sad, okay?”

"You didn't do anything wrong." Tommy was very happy when he saw the bag of snacks that he liked. His eyes were sparkling with delight, and the tears that were welled up in them before were all gone.

He knew Luca pampered him when he saw the drawer full of snacks.

From that moment onward, he had no reason to be sad anymore.

Luca watched as he tore open the bag of snacks. She brought him over to the sofa and said to him, "Tommy can I tell you something?"

"Is it about going to your friend's house?" asked Tommy as he bit into a piece. He knew what was on her mind even if she did not say it.

Luca nodded.

asked again, "Ms. Luca, can I

is a very important matter, I can't bring you with me. Besides, it might be a little dangerous," replied Luca as she caressed

Tommy tilted his head as he thought about what she just said. After a while, he asked her, "Are you going to do something good? Like that time you saved

guess so... I can't bring you along with me. If I put you in any danger, I'll feel very guilty," said Luca. She had no intention of fooling him. After all, he was a smart kid. If she tried to fool him, he might

though she was confident in protecting him, she did not want him to experience too many things like all, her darling had to grow up in a warm and

understood what she meant. He replied, "I understand, Ms. Luca. I'll wait for

about leaving you alone here, so I'll send you back." Leaving a kid in the room alone was not the

Daddy should be out by now..." Tommy took another bite of the snack as he tilted his head. He was sent here because his father would be going out for a discussion,

She suddenly thought of another person, so she said to him, "I'll send you over to Rhett's place and I'll come to pick you up when I'm

She did not want to ask Dr. Albus and the others. These people were a bunch of gossips, so she could not be bothered. Rhett was the only one she could **trust**.

"Alright, Ms. Luca." Tommy nodded.

Luca breathed a sigh of relief when he agreed with her. She then said to him, "Let's go over there right now. I'll leave after I drop you off. By the way, don't tell anyone else what I'm about to do."

"Not even Daddy?" Tommy asked.

Luca thought about it for a moment and then nodded. She extended her hand for a pinky promise. "It's better not to tell him. I don't want too many people to know. This is our secret, okay?"

Tommy extended his hand and hooked his pinky with hers. After that, Luca brought him to Rhett's room.

After leaving the child to him, she went back to her room, changed into a set of clothes, and left the hotel.

Luca hailed a cab and gave the driver the address that Paul *gave her*.

The moment she left the hotel, Luke immediately caught wind of it. He then asked the person on the other end of the call, "Did she bring *Tommy along?*"

"Boss, Dr. Craw didn't bring Tommy with her. She left him at Rhett Link's place," said the person on the line.

Luke responded, "Mm." After two seconds, he then instructed, "Continue following her."

"Yes, Boss."

knew that Luca went to the police station, he arranged for some people to follow her. They had undergone professional training. If they did not expose themselves, it would be very hard for Luca to sit beside the driver's seat as he listened to Luke's instructions. He thought to himself, 'It seems that Luca does have some motives of her own. Boss

could bring Tommy to the place that they wanted to go, but they deliberately left him with still managed to find a solution to

Interesting...

turned around and looked at the man in the back seat. The sky was getting dark, and his face was hidden in the shadows. As the street lights flashed past, his arrogant and dignified aura was magnified infinitely by the

is Dr. Craw going to do?" Jason asked. He was getting more and more curious

coldly, "We'll know when she gets to

Dr. Craw was about to make his boss go on

had done many things before, but Luca was still a mystery to him. However, she did not seem malicious at

patiently anticipating the day his boss would expose Luca's

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The car remained where it was. When she got out of the cab, she noticed that it was an ordinary car.

As it was an ordinary car, she could not tell if the car belonged to Luke or Abel's men.

She did not walk over. Instead, she walked into an alley. The moment she went in, she heard the sound of car doors opening. She then quickly turned the corner. Since she was quite familiar with the place, she managed to avoid them.

The spies looked at each other helplessly. She must have realized their presence...

As a result, they failed their mission...

After Luca was sure she lost them, she walked over to her destination. She then knocked calmly on the metal door.

After a while, an enormous man walked over and opened the door. "Who are you looking for?"

Luca did not panic as the man glanced at her from top to bottom. She replied, "I'm looking for Solomon."

"What business do you have with him?" The man let his guard down as he looked at the frail-looking woman in front of him. He lit a cigarette while leaning on the door.

Luca replied, "I want to buy some snake venom from him."

"You must be mistaken. Who told you that Solomon sells snake venom? You must have come to the wrong place. Please leave now. This isn't the place that you should be coming to," said the man.

Luca did not leave. She was not fooled by his words either. "My boyfriend is a bad man. I want to buy some snake venom and use it against him. I heard that this is the only place that sells a type of rare snake venom. If this is not the place, where else can I get it?"

that, Luca pulled out a stack of dollar

looked at the stack of money in her hand, thought for a moment, and moved aside. "Let's talk

invited her in, Luca walked in

took a puff from his cigarette and looked at her graceful figure. Suddenly, a sinister idea flashed across his eyes. "Aren't you afraid of coming in

guest. Would you harm your guests?" Luca smiled and looked at the floor as a malicious glint flashed across her

no intention to be violent, but if the people here did not know their limits, then she would have

laughed at her in

woman must be obsessed with wanting her boyfriend dead since she dared to come to this

herself as a guest, but she did not know she had become their prey from the moment she walked in. They wanted both the woman and the money. As for her request, that would have to depend on

that the man was still standing there, so she turned around and said to him, "Lead the way. I can't wait to get my hands on

well." The man closed the door and locked

Luca noticed the lock was as thick as a baby's arm. Without a key, opening the lock would take quite some time. However, she was not **worried**.

The man walked forward and led her *inside*.

Luca followed him and asked, "Are you sure your snake venom is the *real deal*?"

"You can try it yourself if you want."

"*Alright*. I'll try it out myself," Luca said. The man laughed at her mockingly. Did she just say she wanted to test the venom? Did she not fear death?

If she was not crazy, then she must be *really desperate*.

"Who introduced you to this place?" asked the man.

"*Paul*, the university student. He said your products are of the best quality, even the police won't be able to find out. Even if they do find out, I can still tell the perfect lie and prevent any suspicion," Luca explained as she looked at **her surroundings**.

Besides the security camera at the door, there were no other surveillance devices in **the area**.

It seemed like this was not Abel's base of operations.

Abel had always been a careful person. Just like in A City, there were other cameras and security devices inside the house apart from the one outside the *door*.

This place seemed like a normal house where black market transactions occurred, so there was nothing to be worried about.

man led Luca deeper into the house. "Boss, here comes

three other men in the house. One of them was tied to a chair with his back turned toward her. That silhouette looked

man whom the henchman called 'Boss' looked at Luca and his eyes lit up. "What a pretty lady. A rare sight, indeed. Tell me, what do you need? I can give you

the malice in his voice and threw him the piece of paper Paul gave her. "You must be Solomon, right? I

looked at the parchment and frowned. "Paul gave you this? What are you going to do

Is that reason enough?" Luca grinned as she glanced at the man tied to the

you're cruel. I'll give you that. You're really the femme fatale. We only have this much venom left. Tell me, how much do you want?" asked Solomon as he set the bottle of venom on

have this much?" Luca frowned as she eyed the tiny

underestimate it. It's enough to kill a bunch of men. If you think it's too little, you can buy it all. If you can wait, we can give you another bottle in two days. However, it's a little expensive,"

"How much?" she asked.

Solomon said as he put up his fingers. He then looked at her pervertedly and said, "Also, I want you to sleep with us for one

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Luca pulled the needle away and circled her arm around Solomon's neck. There was a vicious expression on her face which sent a wave of terror across the two other men.

"What... What are you... doing..." Solomon had some trouble speaking with his neck being choked like that.

"Just testing the drug." Luka glanced at the man's face. The venom would take some time to work. It seemed that she had to stay for a while longer. "Why don't we wait and see if the venom works before we talk?"

Solomon shuddered for a moment. The force applied to his neck was so strong he could not break free. He knew what would happen if he did not administer the antidote in time, so he begged. "Please don't. Let's... Let's talk about it."

As he said those words, he signaled his lackeys with his eyes.

Luca noticed the slight changes in her opponent's movements, so she tightened her grip. "If you dare do anything funny, you might just endanger someone's life."

Solomon shuddered once more. She was just a frail Eastern woman, but the force on his neck was so strong that he could not move at all. Feeling the pressure, he had no choice but to surrender. "Alright, alright, I won't do anything. What do you want? We can negotiate."

Luca tilted her chin toward the man who had his back turned toward them and said, "Tell your men to let go of that person."

Solomon frowned as a vicious look flashed across his eyes. "You came here to save him?"

"Just cut the crap. Do you want to die?" Luca showed the side of her that no one had ever seen before—violent and sinister. It was the complete opposite of the gentle and tender woman she was.

Solomon hinted at his henchmen with his eyes. His life was way more important despite how unwilling he was. He said to them, "Let him go."

man who brought Luca inside was very unwilling to do so. "We wasted so much effort just to get this man under control. It'll all be for nothing if we let him

cut the crap and let him go!" Solomon barked. If his life was not in Luca's hands right now, he would have given him a tight slap on the

henchman had no choice but to cut their hostage loose. He wanted to get an opportunity to save Solomon, but Luca was staring at him, so he had no chance

the man was free from his bonds, he removed the cloth from his mouth and stared at Luca in bewilderment. "Why are you

should be asking you that, Amur." Luca was familiar with his silhouette, but she did not expect it to really be

was in America and not on the Island of Despair, was he

was on duty, he would have used his phone and seen the message she left him. Why did he not reply to

Amur's blue eyes showed confusion.

here so that he could stay by her side and protect her in the future. To do that, he had to finish the mission Abel gave

he did not expect that he would run into her. If they escaped from this place, how was he going to explain

He did not want to lie to **her**.

Luca then said to him, "Grab that bottle."

"*Mm.*" Amur walked forward and grabbed the bottle she pointed at. Those three men were no match for him. If it were not for their dirty tricks, he would not have ended up **here**.

Luca watched as he put the bottle in his pocket and said to him, "Did you come here to take something too?"

"**Yes.**" Amur nodded. He glanced at the two other men. Their boss was being held in a chokehold, so they dared not act brashly.

Luca then said, "Grab your stuff and follow *me*."

Now that they had met each other, Amur knew he could not run away from her. Hence, he did as she told him to. He walked to the corner of the room and took a medicine bottle.

Luca narrowed her eyes as she looked at Solomon. "Looks like you sell more than just snake venom. What **is that?**"

Solomon bit his lip. The injected venom was acting faster than it would through a blade wound. The color on the corners of his lips was beginning to darken.

"**It's** alright if you don't tell me. I'm just thinking, you guys wouldn't dare call the police, right?" Luca noticed that the house was full of illegal paraphernalia, so they would not be stupid enough to report to **the police**.

"I'm done," said Amur.

gave him a light kick and said, "Since you're taller, can you hold him

nodded and circled his arm around Solomon's neck right away. "Solomon Snake, come with us if you want

in despair. He might have a chance if he was up against the woman alone, but with Amur alongside her, he had no choice but

go." Luca looked at the two other men with a sharp look in her eyes. "You had better prepare the antidote if you don't want him to die. Don't try to follow us, or we'll bring him further

The men looked at him

follow. Prepare the antidote and wait for me." Solomon held his breath as he gave the

walked away with Amur and Solomon

through two alleyways when Solomon could not help himself but say, "Guys, I think this is far enough. I don't think I can go back if we go any

feel his strength slowly seeping away from him. If they walked through another alley, he might not be able to go back to administer the antidote in

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Amur nodded but he did not mention what mission it was.

"So you were carrying out your mission at that place?" Luca asked again.

"Yes," Amur replied and nodded

Solomon was a well-known black market dealer, but he was different from others. His products were popular, but he had a terrible character.

There was a kind of drug that Abel sought after.

However, Solomon was not the original seller, so it was quite difficult to get the goods. After a few trials and tribulations, Abel managed to get information that Solomon had a customer who wanted the same drug, hence he ordered a batch of them.

That was an opportunity for him, so success would have to depend on whether their plan worked out or not.

Luca smiled as she listened to Amur's explanation. There was no reason for him to lie. In that case, Luke's poisoning had nothing to do with Abel.

She breathed a sigh of relief. Then, she could not help but tease Amur, "Amur, you should not have been tied up like that."

Even though the three men were huge, they were still no match for Amur even after banding up.

"I was careless." Amur went silent. He had the same ideas as Luca, that was why he was caught and subdued.

Luca walked to the side of the road and waited for a cab.

"Don't let your guard down no matter what, you understand?" she said.

nodded. If he knew this was how he would run into Luca, he would have been

"Where's your place?" Luca asked.

replied with the name of a

seeing that name from a map. She frowned. It was a hotel, but the facilities were not good. "Why don't you come over to

"But..." Amur wanted to say no.

then. Since you were caught, you must have some wounds on you, right?" Luca glanced at him from top to

wore a black long-sleeved shirt and pants, so she could not see any wounds on him. After all, black was the best color to hide

knew how many scars and injuries he had under that

was genuinely worried about his wounds. Besides, she could explain herself better if she brought Amur along with

saw the serious expression on her face and

never had the heart to reject Luca's

taxi came from the distance and Luca hailed it. Both of them got into the cab and headed to his hotel. After that, Amur checked out of the hotel and they rushed over to her

extended her hand and Amur handed her his documents. She helped him check into a

They then stepped into the elevator.

Amur's room was on the same floor as Luca's. She said to him, "Get a change of clothes and I'll come over in a bit to apply some medicine on *you*."

"**Thank** you." Amur felt a surge of warmth in his heart when she said those words **to him**.

After they arrived at their floor, Luca went back to her room, took some medicine and bandages that she had brought with her, and rushed over to Amur's *room*.

She knocked on the door and Amur invited **her inside**.

At the same time, Dr. Albus walked out from the room next door and saw her silhouette. He did not greet her. Instead, he frowned and thought to himself, 'Whose room is this?'

Luca checked Amur all over and asked him, "Did they give you any sedatives?"

"**They** didn't manage to," replied Amur. They wanted to give him a shot of sedatives to keep him under control but did not do so because she showed up at the right **time**.

It seemed like Luca saved him once *again*.

Luca opened the bottle of medicine and said, "Take your shirt off. Let me have a *look*."

Amur did not hesitate and took his shirt off for **her**.

He had plenty of wounds, but most were just flesh wounds while the rest were bruises and internal hemorrhages. She pursed her lips and applied the medicine on him.

As she did that, Amur did not make the slightest *sound*.

quick in treating him. After she was done, she said to him, "You'd better get some rest in the next few days. I'll leave the medicine here. I can help you if you need me

thank you." Amur looked at the bandages that were wrapped all over his body before wearing asked, "By the way, where's my the bottle from his pocket and handed it to her. "This is Luca shook the half-full bottle. It was enough for you want this for? Also, why are you in America?" asked My antidote is not perfect just yet, so I need some ingredients to make it complete. The company sent me to do this. Alright then, rest well. I'll be going back to my own room," said did not think much of it. After she left, he took out his phone and sent a text to the people on the Island of Despair, telling them he had completed his nothing about running looked at his inbox and noticed that he had not replied to came to America after leaving A City. He then kept a low profile and waited to get his hands on that bottle of medicine. He put in a lot of effort just to obtain held his head in frustration after he thought about Luca saving him to protect her, but things always happened the other way around. He felt like

Chapter 1298

Luca brought Tommy back to the hotel room.

The child started to yawn the moment Luca closed the door. She turned around and saw the sleepiness in his eyes. "When is your Daddy coming back?" She patted his head and asked him.

Tommy shook his head, indicating that he did not know.

Luca did not want to keep Tommy up when he was already so tired. She decided to let Tommy sleep first while informing Jason about it.

"If that's the case, let's go to bed," she said. Then, she went to the bed and pulled the blanket back.

Tommy grinned happily and clambered onto the bed.

After Luca tucked him in, she said, "You can sleep first. I'll go and take a shower before sleeping. Is that alright?"

"Yes, Ms. Luca." Tommy closed his eyes obediently.

Luca dimmed the lights and went into the bathroom with a new set of pajamas and her phone. She sent a message to Jason, telling him that Tommy was resting in her room, then took a quick shower.

After taking a shower and changing her clothes, she stepped out of the bathroom. Tommy did not move, and Luca guessed that he had already fallen asleep.

Luca got on the other side of the bed. After she lay down, Tommy moved closer to her.

She lowered her head slightly and looked at the pair of big eyes. Those innocent eyes looked very much like Luke's eyes, and Luca could imagine that they would be incredibly soulful after Tommy grew up.

She was reminded of her daughter Nyla. Her eyes were like that too.

aren't you asleep yet?" Luca asked as she stroked

waiting for you to come and sleep with me." Tommy clung to

softly. "Alright, let's

Luca, did you beat all the baddies?" Tommy nuzzled against the pillow. His eyes were transfixed

stopped stroking his back. When she looked into those round and big eyes, she could help herself but pinch his cheek. "Yes, the baddies have all run away. You don't have to be

not afraid if you're with me, Ms. Luca," Tommy smiled and

very brave, Tommy," Luca said as she patted his head. She was happy that Luke had done a good job in educating the child in the past

later, the boy was still as innocent as ever, but he was not

amazing, Ms. Luca, but why can't you tell anyone that you're a hero tonight?" Tommy

nodded. "No, you can't tell

not?" Tommy asked curiously. Before Luca could reply, he continued, "Oh, I know, if other people know that you're a hero, they'll come and disturb you, but you don't want to be disturbed. Just like that time

pleased that Tommy was understanding. "That's right, so I'm relying on you to keep it a secret for me. It's already late. You

Luca's arm tightly and closed his eyes. "Good night, Ms.

"Good night." Luca lowered her head and kissed Tommy on the *forehead*.

Meanwhile, after Jason received Luca's message, he informed Luke **about it**.

"Is she already back at the hotel?" Luke asked. There were several people in the private room, though he was the noblest and most attractive of them all.

"She's already back," Jason said.

Luke glanced at his phone and found that Luca did not inform him about it, as though she was trying to avoid him. In fact, she told Jason that Tommy was in her room instead of telling **him directly**.

He also received two more messages from his subordinates. One of the messages was a photo.

Luke zoomed into the photo. He narrowed his gaze when he looked at it carefully.

After his two subordinates lost Luca's trail, Luke asked them to stake out for Luca at the hotel. It was unexpected that Luca came back to the hotel with another *man*.

Even though the screen was small, Luke could tell that the man was Luca's younger brother.

"**What** did she say when you asked her to babysit Tommy?" Luke *asked*.

Jason replied, "Dr. Craw said that she had to go to meet a friend, and it's not convenient for her to bring Tommy along."

Luke put the phone away and took a sip of whisky. Was Amur the "friend" she mentioned?

seemed plausible, but Luke thought that there was something fishy

next morning, Luca woke up when the alarm

Tommy sleeping next to her, her sleep quality improved by

felt safe with him

helped Tommy wash up in the bathroom, she prepared to bring him downstairs for breakfast. When she opened the door, she found Amur

you awake so early, Amur?" She asked

didn't sleep well, so I might as well stay up," Amur replied with a smile. He glanced at Tommy and could tell that Tommy was her youngest child. Indeed, the boy looked a lot like

looked at the man in front of him and asked, "Who is this, Ms.

name is Amur. He's my younger brother," Luca said. "Amur, this is Tommy, my boss's

did not have a good impression of Luke, but he could not bring himself to hate the cute child. He smiled and greeted him, "Nice to

to meet you, Uncle Amur," Tommy said, though he continued to ask, "Ms. Luca, why doesn't Uncle Amur look like you? He doesn't look like your younger

noticed that Amur's ethnic features did not look like

Luke asked the same question when he first met

Chapter 1299

Halfway through breakfast, Dr. Albus and the others also arrived at the restaurant.

Dr. Albus was surprised to see someone else sitting at Luca's table. He went over and greeted her, "You're up early today, Dr. Craw."

"Mm. It's a good habit to sleep and wake up early, Dr. Albus," Luca replied. She could tell that Dr. Albus was going to pry into her personal matters again.

Dr. Albus smiled. He looked at Tommy, then at Amur.

Rhett had told him in the elevator that Luca was babysitting Tommy because Luke was away for a business dinner the night before.

He was not surprised that Tommy was together with Luca, but he was curious about the presence of the other man at the table.

He looked at Amur a little more closely and thought that Amur was quite handsome. "And this is?" He asked.

"This is my younger brother. My parents adopted him," Luca elaborated because she knew that he was going to ask that question.

"Oh, so he's your younger brother. He's quite handsome," Dr. Albus said with a smile. "Dr. Craw, aren't you from Russia? Why would your younger brother be in New York?"

Tommy did not like Dr. Albus. He replied, "That's because he's traveling, just like us, Grandpa Albus."

'Grandpa? Am I that old?' Dr. Albus was shocked. Tommy had never greeted him before.

Dr. Albus was angry, but he dared not say anything about it. He smiled and said, "That makes sense, Little Mr. Crawford. I won't disturb you anymore. I'll go and have breakfast."

Luca nodded. She picked up a paper napkin and wiped some sauce from Tommy's mouth.

that the boy had been impertinent, but she did not think that he did the

quite ridiculous that Dr. Albus was such

took a sip of milk and frowned. "I don't like that person at all, Ms. Luca. Why did he come to New York with

very smart," Luca said with

Tommy poured.

vibrated. He glanced at it and said, "I'll have to go. I have some other business

then. Take care." Without looking at Amur's phone, Luca could guess who was looking

someone from the Island of Despair could make Amur's expression turn

picked up his phone, and

to eat her breakfast. She noticed that Tommy's place was still half full and guessed that Tommy did not have the appetite. "It's not good to waste food, Tommy," she

to eat your cooking, Ms. Luca," Tommy said. After eating Luca's food, everything else seemed tasteless by

can't cook now because I'm rushing for time. If you eat some more, I'll promise that I'll cook for you when I'm free,"

"Alright!" Tommy happily agreed.

Luca smiled and continued to eat.

After breakfast, there was still some time before she had to leave. She planned to deliver Tommy back to Luke. Right when she stood up, she noticed Luke and Jason enter the **restaurant**.

"Alright, you should go," Luca said.

This time, Tommy did not cling to Luca. He walked over to Luke's side and said, "Good **morning, Daddy!**"

Luke nodded. He looked at Luca and walked toward *her*.

Luca was uneasy when she saw the man walk toward her. Did he want to speak to her? Dr. Albus and the others **were around...**

However, she could not make up an excuse and leave the scene. That would be *too suspicious*.

Luca tried to remain calm as she looked at the man in front of him. His familiar masculine scent made every cell in her body tremble. "Good morning, Mr. Crawford." She had no choice but to greet *him*.

"Good morning." Luke nodded and stared at her for a few seconds. "Accept my friend request."

Luca was speechless. She thought that Luke had forgotten about it. After all, he did not mention it at **the hospital**.

"*Why?*" Luke continued asking, seeing that she did not speak. "*Is it inconvenient?*"

"*No,*" Luca said and shook her head, "The request expired."

heard that, he took out his personal phone, unlocked it, and tapped a few buttons. "Alright, you can accept it now. If you need to let me know something about my son, you can tell me

words, he did not want her to contact

took out her phone. She stole a glance at Jason and noticed that he was also looking at her without any intention

no other choice, Luca could only accept Luke's

you went out last night, were you going to meet with your younger brother?"

Luca nodded. "Yes."

out that Solomon was not related to Abel, she guessed that the two people who tailed her were

nodded, took Tommy's arm, and

around and winked at Luca. "Remember our promise, Ms.

breathed a sigh of relief and nodded as she watched Luke

Albus and the others finished their breakfast, the chartered car brought them to the conference

car, Dr. Albus continued to try to pry information from Luca, but Luca only gave him

Chapter 1300

Amur's eyelids drooped. He nodded and asked, "Boss, did you deliberately ask her to come to New York?"

Abel narrowed his gaze. He put a cigar into his mouth and lit it.

Amur's head remained lowered, even though the cigar smoke stung his nose. He wanted to know what Abel was truly thinking.

Abel shot a sideways glance at Amur and suddenly brought the glowing end of the cigar a fraction of an inch away from Amur's face. If Abel moved his hand slightly, the cigar would leave a scorch mark on Amur's skin.

Time seemed to freeze at that instant. Amur did not move or flinch even though he could smell something burning.

Abel maintained that pose for a full half a minute. He pulled his hand away when some ash dropped on the floor. "All you have to do is follow my orders and not ask any questions," he said coldly.

Amur's hands clenched into fists. He hated himself for being not strong enough to protect Luca. If only he were stronger and not under Abel's control!

"Why are you still standing there?" Abel asked coldly at him. He found it amusing that Amur felt aggrieved.

It seemed that Luca had done a good job in converting the siblings to her side over the past three years.

Abel would eventually show Amur how foolish he was to be loyal to Luca.

When Amur heard that, he turned around and left.

...

the full-day conference, Luca and the others prepared to return to the hotel. While they were leaving, a man

boss would like to invite all of you for dinner," the man said with

frowned. She was about to say that they were not interested when Dr. Albus said, "May I know who your

Mr. Abel, the president of the Pharmaceutical Association. May we have the pleasure of your company tonight?" The man

was interested to meet the president of the Pharmaceutical Association. He was resentful because he was not invited to the dinner party, and he was happy to have the

course. It's our honor to attend the dinner with the president of your association,"

sank when she heard Abel's name. She could guess that Abel's motive behind the invitation was Luke or

go. I'm not feeling too well, so I want to go back to the hotel," she

man said, "Dr. Craw, Mr. Abel is very interested in your research, so he really would like to meet you.

Also, the dinner would only be upstairs, so you don't have to travel too

The man was implying that Luca had to be in attendance.

If that were the case, Abel would be unhappy if Luca did not attend the dinner. When Abel was unhappy, he would make himself happy again by tormenting other people.

When Dr. Albus heard that, he could tell that Abel wanted to meet Luca more than him.

If Luca did not go, he was afraid that he would not be able to meet that influential **person**.

Dr. Albus also tried to convince her. "If the dinner is only upstairs, then there's no reason for you to decline, Dr. Craw. It's an honor to meet the president of the Pharmaceutical Association. If he likes what you're doing, it's another way to obtain funding. Isn't that good?"

Luca gave him the side-eye. 'Getting funding from Abel? Are you **joking**?

'Don't you know that Abel has a pharmaceutical company in *A City*?'

Shanks had been leading the research department of that company, which was why the company had enjoyed record profits in the three years of *its existence*.

Knowing that Abel wanted to meet her, Luca could only nod and agree to the invitation. She would have to be **wary later**.

The people went upstairs together, and the man brought them to a private room.

knocked on the door, and Abel's voice could be heard from within. "Come

man opened the door and waited outside. "This way, please,"

Albus was very happy about the treatment he received. He smiled and went into the

behind him. Her gaze wavered when she saw Abel sitting at the dining table. "Good evening, Mr. Abel," she greeted

looked at Luca. He smiled and nodded. "Long time no see, Dr. Craw. I've heard that you're here in New York for the conference, and I've been wanting to invite you for a drink. I'm very happy that you've accepted my

remained impassive. She nodded and said, "It's an honor to meet you again,

Albus did not want to be left out. He said, "That's right, Mr. Abel. It's an honor to meet

pleasure too. Have a seat and make yourselves at home." Abel stood up and gestured at

sat around the

across Abel and casually swept her gaze across the