

Be Gentle 1301

Chapter 1301

Dr. Albus was quite excited when he heard that. If the president of the Pharmaceutical Association served him wine from his personal collection, that would be something worth bragging about to his friends back in A City!

He lifted his glass and said, "Thank you for your invitation, Mr. Abel. It's an honor to have a drink with you."

Abel smiled lazily to cover up the viciousness in his eyes. He lifted his glass and said, "A toast to you, Dr. Albus."

The people around the dining table lifted their glasses. Luca knew that it would be strange if she did not follow what the rest were doing, but if she drank from the glass, she was afraid that she might fall into Abel's trap.

While she hesitated for a few seconds, the other people turned their hands and looked at her.

With no other choice, she lifted her glass and clinked it with the other glasses. The other people began drinking the precious red wine from Abel's personal collection.

Luca brought the glass next to her mouth but did not drink it. Instead, she closed her mouth and let the red liquid wet her lips.

When Abel saw that, he smiled and said, "Why aren't you drinking, Dr. Craw?"

Luca calmly put the glass down and said, "I'm not feeling very well today, so I don't think I should be drinking red wine."

Abel narrowed his gaze and nodded. "I see. Indeed, you shouldn't drink red wine when you're feeling unwell. Waiter, bring Dr. Craw some fruit juice and water."

"Yes." The waiter nodded and left the room. Soon, he returned with a glass of orange juice and a glass of warm water.

Abel smiled and asked Luca, "Fruit juice and water shouldn't be a problem, right?"

Luca looked at the three glasses of liquid in front of her. She dared not drink anything that Abel offered her.

would be very suspicious if she continued to decline Abel's

smiled gently and said, "They're no problem.

welcome. Here, let's continue drinking,"

clinked glasses with Abel with the glass of warm water. She sniffed it and did not smell anything

was not at ease yet. After all, it was within Shanks's ability to invent a sedative with no color or

took a small sip. It was not much, but the liquid was in her body

Albus tried to maintain a conversation with Abel while sipping red wine. Other than talking about his academic research, he also tried to curry favor with

nothing as she listened to

to Dr. Albus, Abel stole glances at Luca, though he did not try to bring her into the

people finished the two bottles of wine after an hour. They were visibly

frowned slightly. She did not know Dr. Albus's alcohol tolerance, but Abel should not have been intoxicated so

Was he faking it?

Abel looked at Luca and smiled. "This wine is quite strong, and I think I'm at my limit. Dr. Albus..."

Before he could finish the sentence, he slumped on the table.

Dr. Albus and his assistant **exchanged glances**.

The assistant said, "How are you feeling, Dr. Albus? I'm a little dizzy..."

Dr. Albus smiled. His face was already red from the alcohol. He lifted three fingers, but he could not keep his arm straight. "You're already drunk. Look here, how many fingers is *this*?"

"I don't get drunk so easily, it's..." Before he could finish his sentence, the assistant also slumped on **the table**.

Dr. Albus shook his head. "That's because you don't drink fine wine. *This wine...*"

As he spoke, he also slumped on the *table*.

Rhett had already passed out some time ago. Luca was the only one who was **sober**.

She glanced at the glass of water in front of her. After several toasts, she had already drunk half of **the glass**.

A while later, Abel lifted his head and looked at her.

Luca turned her head to meet his **gaze**.

surprised?" Abel sat up straight. The smile on his face gradually morphed into something savage

can tell from your breathing that you're not drunk," Luca said. The sound of Abel's breathing would be different if he were

could tell that Abel was deliberately breathing evenly, which meant that he was not drunk

do you want?" Luca asked. She did not want to beat around the bush when talking to

didn't expect that you'd come, even if you know that I've planned something for you," Abel said. He wondered if her thoughts were as calm as

if I don't want to come, you won't give me the chance to decline," Luca said while crossing her arms in front

was not yet capable enough to defy Abel's
at the three other people at the table. "They're all
Luca raised her eyebrows. "So?"
not reply. Instead, he took out a box, in which contained a
do you want with them?"
I just want them to take a nap." Abel lit the cigar but did not drag from

Chapter 1302

Luca's eyes opened wide when she heard him mention Luke. She was not afraid that Abel would do something to her, but she did not want him to harm Luke.

She was willing to sacrifice herself to save the man she loved, and she would not want to give Abel another opportunity.

"Tsk tsK tsK. I can see the worry on your face," Abel said.

Luca slowly clenched her hands into fists. "They're with me. If something happens to me, they'll definitely suspect something."

"They wouldn't suspect me," Abel shook his head and said, "I passed out before them."

Luca stood up abruptly, but she felt her head spin, and she was forced to sit down again.

"Sleep. Fighting against the drug is futile. You should know that there isn't any antidote that can work against Shanks's drugs. You might as well relax." Abel's eyes gradually became bloodshot as he watched Luca struggle.

Luca was struggling because of Luke.

What was so good about that man? Why did she continue to love him even though he had caused her so much pain? It was like that with Luca as well as Kassy...

Abel slammed the table when he thought of Kassy. The three people slumped on the table shook a little, but they remained asleep because of the potency of the sedative.

Luca slowly lost consciousness and passed out.

"Come in," Abel shouted.

Instantly, two men came in through the door. One of them was the waiter who had served Luca the drinks, and the other was the man who brought them upstairs.

her over," Abel said and stood

men nodded and lifted the unconscious Luca. They walked up a flight of stairs and went into a room they

tossed Luca on the couch, then turned around and looked at Abel. "It's

Abel nodded. "Get the equipment ready."

two men quickly set up a camera and a tripod. Then, they pointed the camera

to give his orders. "Loosen her clothes

the men went over and undid the top two buttons of Luca's shirt, which caused the lingerie underneath to be visible. "Is this okay, Boss?"

Abel felt nothing as he looked at Luca's curvaceous body. Kassy was the only woman that he cared for, and every other woman was nothing more than

"Start the live stream as scheduled and put up an announcement. Anyone who can find the correct address can claim the woman as their own. Don't forget to hack into Luke's computer and give him the link to the

two men immediately started the live stream. They also executed a complicated piece of code to send the link to Luke in

sinister smile appeared on Abel's face as he watched his subordinates busy at

like to see if Luke would come and look for

If Luke came to look for her, he had something planned for him. If he did not and another man found her, she would be the one who would *suffer*.

If he told her about it, would she hate Luke for being so heartless?

"I'd love to see what the man you love would choose, Bianca Rayne," Abel muttered to himself as he looked at the **unconscious woman**.

"It's ready, Boss." The men said after setting up the *equipment*.

"**How** many people are watching the stream now?" Abel asked.

"**Not** many, but we've boosted the stream, and more people will be coming soon. We've also scattered some hints in the chat room," one of the men said.

Abel nodded. "Alright, then let's sit back and watch the drama *unfold*."

Meanwhile, Luke was working on his computer. Suddenly, his cursor began to move on its own and opened a **mysterious link**.

It was a live stream.

He narrowed his gaze. He was about to tell Jason to inform the technician when he saw the woman in the *stream*.

It was Luca...

Her eyes were closed, and her cheeks were red as though she was drunk. The top two buttons of her shirt were undone, and the ambiguity of the situation would arouse any straight man...

at the description of the stream. It said that the first man to find the woman could lay claim on her. The chatroom was filled with activity as everyone guessed where the woman might

hands slowly clenched into fists as he watched the hints flash in the chatroom. Then, he immediately gave Luca

the stream, Luca's phone began to ring, but she gave

in the chatroom were even more excited when they heard the phone ring. Many of them offered guesses about

Jason to his office through the internal

in his office very soon. "How can I help you,

find out where Luca is,"

glanced at the time and guessed, "By now, the conference should have been over, and Dr. Craw should have been back at the hotel. Are you looking

in the hotel," Luke said confidently. From the stream, he could tell that Luca was in a hotel room, but it was not the one where she

in the stream looked at most like a five-star

there? How do you know?" Jason took out his phone and prepared to dial Luca's

"Come here and see," Luke said.

Chapter 1303

Jason immediately contacted the driver and got him to wait downstairs.

Tommy saw that the adults were in a hurry. He put down his storybook and asked, "What happened, Daddy?"

Luke looked at his son. He was not sure how to explain the contents of the stream to him, so he picked the boy up and walked outside. "It's nothing."

Tommy was not so easily convinced. Luke was taking big strides, so all Tommy could do was cling onto his neck. "Daddy, did something happen to Ms. Luca?"

"She'll be fine," Luke said and hastened his footsteps. He turned his head and spoke to Jason, "Get someone more people to come along."

"Yes." Jason took out his phone and made arrangements.

Luke knew how depraved people could be. Those people watching the stream would definitely want to claim Luca, who was lying defenseless in a room, as their own. Even though the hints were limited, someone would eventually find her.

The mastermind behind this incident must have some other motive, and Luke could not tell if they would eventually announce Luca's location. He had to find her as fast as he could.

When Luke imagined how Luca would suffer under the hands of another man, his heart began to wrench.

After Jason made a call, he said, "Mr. Crawford, I asked the chartered driver earlier, and he said that Dr. Craw, Dr. Albus, and the rest did not leave the venue after the conference ended. The driver has been waiting for them outside the hotel because he received a call from Dr. Albus, saying that they had another meeting."

"Mm," Luke replied. From what the driver said, he was sure that Luca was in the hotel where the conference was held.

people got into the car, and the driver floored the gas

"Continue watching the stream. Report to me if there are

Jason replied and turned on the

though the adults did not tell him anything, Tommy could guess that something serious had happened from their serious and worried expressions. He could guess that something must have happened to

was silent, though he prayed in his heart, 'Please be okay, Ms.

was the evening rush hour, and the roads were congested. It took them an extra half an hour to reach

some strings and found out where Dr. Albus and the rest were. The group of people rushed to the

me, Sir." The waiter at the door stopped Luke when he saw him trying to barge through

to meet the people inside," Luke

people inside are passed out after drinking. Please don't disturb them," the waiter

Luke said impatiently. Meanwhile, the hotel manager rushed over, reprimanded the waiter, and opened the door

Inside, Luke could see Dr. Albus, his assistant, Rhett, and Abel slumped on the table. They were indeed **drunk**.

Luke frowned when he saw Abel. 'It's him...'

The private room was quite small, and Luke did not see Luca inside. He turned to one of the bodyguards and ordered him, "Search for any secret doors."

The bodyguard nodded and stepped into the room. He swiftly searched the walls and said, "No secret doors here, Mr. *Crawford*."

Abel listened to the sounds they made and thought, 'You didn't disappoint me, Luke Crawford.'

Even though his eyes were closed, he could discern the anxiety in Luke's tone. He could tell that Luca was more than an employee **to him**.

If Luca were only a regular employee, Luke would not have been so anxious, and he would not search for her **personally**.

Even though her face was totally different, Luke still had affection for her. Abel could tell that Luke did not only love Bianca's face but **her soul**.

Luke frowned when he heard that. He said, "Check the security feed."

The hotel manager replied, "I'm sorry, Mr. Crawford. This is the VIP floor, and there are no surveillance cameras here so that we can guarantee privacy to our guests."

"Without the security feed, how should we know where they brought her?" Jason said with a *frown*.

smiled discreetly as he slumped on the table. That was the reason why he chose this hotel to carry out his

were much easier for them without surveillance

Jason's phone and handed it to the manager. "Is this one of your

took the phone. He was visibly surprised when he looked at the

"Yes," he replied.

know which room it is?" Luke continued

the furnishings, it should be one of the rooms upstairs." The manager nodded, surprised that something like that could happen in his hotel. Not setting up surveillance cameras in the VIP floors was his idea. He knew that certain influential people would use his hotel for illicit dealings, and it was a popular

if something serious happened, it would spell bad news for the hotel, and if word got out, the hotel's reputation would be ruined, and he might lose his

dared not hide anything from them. He brought the people upstairs, hoping that they could resolve the issue as soon as

the manager closely, while Tommy followed along and remained

knew that he should not trouble the adults when things

Chapter 1304

Luke went over to the couch and gently tapped Luca's face. "Wake up."

Luca gave no reaction, as though she did not know that her life was in danger.

If he had not discovered the live stream in time, or if he had chosen to ignore it, she would definitely have been violated.

The manager could discern which floor the room was. If the manager or one of the waiters had seen the live stream, Luca would not have been so lucky.

Luca's face was flushed, but her body temperature was normal. He looked at her for a while before he reached out, buttoned her shirt, and picked her up in a bridal carry.

Luca was not heavy, so it did not take Luke much effort to carry her out of the room.

Tommy breathed a sigh of relief when he saw his father come out with Luca. "Daddy, is Ms. Luca okay?"

"She's okay. She's just drunk," Luke said.

Tommy nodded, though he remained worried.

Luke carried Luca toward the elevator. Jason remembered that the three other people were still knocked out downstairs, so he asked, "Mr. Crawford, what about Dr. Albus and the others?"

"We'll talk after they wake up," Luke said.

He had many suspicions, the biggest of which was the fact that his cursor clicked on the link to the stream by itself.

as though someone deliberately wanted him to know what happened to

someone had planned this, including hacking into his computer, what was their

person plan to make Dr. Albus and the others drunk

mastermind plan Abel's sudden appearance, or could it be that Abel was one of

remembered that Luca was also drugged during the party back in A City. Abel was absent during that event because he had to attend to another emergency, but the only common factor behind both incidents was

elevator arrived, Luke walked inside while ordering Jason, "Get the technicians to strengthen the company's network security, especially my

Jason nodded.

had been wondering why Luke would be watching a stream while at work, and it was specifically Luca's stream. Now that he knew that someone had hacked into the company network, he took out his phone, gave a call to the IT department manager, and told them to get to the bottom

Luke got into the car and returned to the

at the hotel, Luke did not bring Luca back to her room. Instead, he carried her to his

followed behind him quietly. It was only after Luke gently placed Luca on the bed that he asked his father softly, "Daddy, did Ms. Luca pass out because she was

"Mm." Luke nodded as he placed the back of his hand on Luca's forehead. The temperature remained **normal**.

Tommy continued, "If she's drunk, why would she be so calm?"

Tommy had seen his uncle Louis being drunk before. Louis usually caused a commotion when he was **drunk**.

He had also seen his father drunk. Even though Luke was a lot more composed than Louis, he was nevertheless restless.

To him, Luca was not drunk. Instead, she had **probably fainted**.

Luke tucked Luca in and said, "Don't worry. She'll be **fine**."

The entire incident was deliberately planned, but the mastermind did not intend to harm Luca. Otherwise, they would not inform Luke or leave only ambiguous hints in the stream.

If the mastermind truly wanted Luca to be violated, they could have announced her **exact location**.

That was why Luke guessed that Luca would eventually wake up, and the drug would not have any long-lasting effects.

Luke could see the worry in his son's eyes. He patted his head and said, "Are you hungry? If you are, I'll order room service."

Tommy nodded. He did not have the appetite to eat, but he was nonetheless hungry. "Ms. Luca said that she would cook dinner for us if **she's free**."

Luke had picked up the phone receiver when he heard that. He paused for two seconds, took a deep breath, and ordered two steaks through the phone.

steaks were soon brought to the room, and Tommy ate one. After that, he walked over to Luke's room. Luca was still passed out on the bed, and Luke was sitting next to the bed and looking

eat too, Daddy. The steak won't be delicious when it's cold,"

felt Luca's forehead again, and the temperature remained normal, though her face was still as red as ever. She continued to sleep and gave no

that Luke did not hear him. He repeated,

Luke stood up so that Tommy did not have to worry about him. He went to the table and ate the steak that was quite tasteless, given his current

dinner, Tommy returned to the bedroom and lay down next to Luca, waiting for her to

not say anything when he saw that. He sat on the couch and started a teleconference with the staff of the IT

technicians found that all the computers in the company were infected by a virus, and there was a risk that company secrets might be

still investigating the source of the virus and how it infected

to the report with a sullen expression on his face. He said, "After you remove the virus, I want a report on the origin of the virus and how you would strengthen the defenses of the company network, and I want it by

immediately passed on Luke's orders to the rest of the

Chapter 1305

"Let her rest for a little longer. If she hasn't woken up by tomorrow, I'll know what to do. You should go to bed," Luke said to Tommy.

Tommy nodded, though he could not be at ease when he saw that Luca was still unconscious. "Can I sleep beside Ms. Luca?" He asked.

"You can't," Luke refused without any hesitation.

"Why not?" Tommy protested. "I'm worried about Ms. Luca, and I hope that I'll be the first person she sees when she wakes up."

"That won't be good for you. If you don't listen to me, I'll bring her downstairs," Luke said coldly.

He knew that Tommy was worried about Luca, and the boy would not sleep if he lay by her side.

That was why he insisted on Tommy sleeping in his room.

When he heard that Luke was going to bring Luca downstairs, Tommy knew better than to challenge his father's authority. "Please don't. I'll go and sleep in my room. I hope you can get well soon, Ms. Luca."

Then, he turned around and left.

Luke saw that Tommy kept on turning his head back to look at the bed, though he did not take pity on the boy.

After Tommy left, Luke tucked her in. Then, he went to take his laptop from the coffee table and sat on the couch in the room. He continued to work while waiting for Luca to wake up.

Soon, he received a phone call from Jason.

call went through, Jason said, "Mr. Crawford, Dr. Albus and the others have woken

How about Abel?" Luke

heard that he woke up too,"

Dr. Albus with you now?" Luke asked

is. Should I hand the phone to him?" Jason looked at Dr. Albus and the others. After they woke up, they did not know what happened, and they did not see Luca in the room. They tried calling her to no avail, so they returned to

him the phone," Luke said while changing a pose, though he knew that the woman on the bed would not wake up no matter how loudly he

handed the phone to Dr. Albus. "Mr. Crawford wants to talk to

did not know why Luke wanted to talk to him. He took the phone and said courteously, "Good evening, you drink with Abel?"

the conference, Mr. Abel sent someone to invite us upstairs for a drink. We didn't have any good reason to refuse, so we accepted the invitation," Dr. Albus explained, wondering if Luke was

"Did everyone go together?" Luke asked.

Dr. Albus replied. He looked at Jason uneasily, but Jason did not

"What happened after that?" Luke continued to ask.

"We drank quite a bit, and we passed out. We only woke up half an hour ago. What happened, Mr. Crawford?" Dr. Albus was not used to Luke's interrogation, and he wanted to know what had happened.

"You only woke up half an hour ago?" Luke repeated Dr. Albus's statement. Luca was still unconscious even though the others had woken up.

"Yes." Dr. Albus was thoroughly confused. He could only answer what he was asked.

"Did all of you wake up together?" Luke asked.

"Yes. All of us drank about the same amount of wine, so we woke up at the same time..." Dr. Albus realized that there was something wrong with his answer. He was a pharmaceutical researcher, so he knew about the effects of alcohol on one's body.

Despite drinking almost the same amount of alcohol, the people should have woken up at different times because of how their bodies metabolized alcohol differently. Why did they pass out and wake up at the same time?

"Did something happen, Mr. Crawford?" Dr. Albus asked after realizing that something **was amiss**.

"Hand the phone back to Mr. Doyle," Luke said *coldly*.

Dr. Albus did what he was told.

Jason took the phone and placed it next to his ear. "Any further instructions, Mr. Crawford?"

"Contact Johann to take their blood samples. I want to know if there's some other reason that caused them to pass out and wake up at the same time," **Luke said**.

what Luke meant. He nodded and said, "I'll go and make

the call, glanced at the unconscious woman on the bed, and continued to work on his

Dr. Albus was feeling quite uneasy. He asked Jason, "Mr. Doyle, were we drugged? Otherwise, how could we pass out and wake up at the

looking for Johann's number in the address book when he heard that question. He chuckled and said, "How would I know? You're the biology expert. You should know better

Albus had no retort

they were truly drugged, it would have been a

call went through, Jason briefly explained the situation to Johann, to which Johann replied that he would make arrangements immediately at

Jason ended the call, Rhett asked him, "Mr. Doyle, do you know where Dr. Craw is? Did she return to the hotel

expected that Luca had returned to the hotel because she did not drink any alcohol. That was also why they were not worried when they did not see her after they woke

that they realized that they might have been drugged, they began to worry for of the three people, only Rhett was worried about Luca. Jason said, "Dr. Craw is fine, did not tell them about the live stream. The fewer people who knew about it, the less drama there

Chapter 1307

Even though Luca said that she was fine, Tommy was worried because he could tell that Luca's condition was not back to normal yet.

He followed behind her out of the bedroom and to the exit. "I think you should continue resting here, Ms. Luca. If you don't want to sleep in Daddy's bedroom, you can sleep in mine," Tommy said.

"I'm fine. I just need to go back to my room and take some medicine. Don't worry," Luca said as she pushed herself out of the suite.

She knew the type of drug that Abel had used on her. Even though the initial effect was gone, it took the body some time to fully rid itself of the drug. Luca did not want to wait, so she would rather take the antidote.

With the antidote, her body will recover quickly.

As Tommy watched Luca leave, he went over to his father's side and tugged his shirt sleeve. "Daddy, is Ms. Luca really okay?"

"She'll be fine." Luke remained impassive as he watched her leave.

He saw her teeter when she first stepped out of the bed, and he was reluctant to let her leave. He managed to control his urges well, so he did not let his feelings affect his expression.

After all, he was known for remaining composed.

"You didn't think so last night," Tommy pouted and said. He remembered how anxious his father was when he was searching for Luca. It was very different from his expression today.

Luke could tell that his son was being precocious for guessing what he was thinking. He tousled Tommy's unkempt hair and said, "Go and wash your face."

know!" Tommy said. "Wash your face, brush your teeth, and eat your breakfast.

did not reply. He went back to his

though Luca had left, her scent lingered in the air. She had stayed there for an entire

some inexplicable reason, he thought that she smelled nice. His expression sank as soon as that thought appeared, and he went into the

took Luca quite some effort to return to her room. She sent Rhett a message, telling him that she was not feeling well, so she would not be attending the conference today. Then, she found her stash of medicine and ate a

was quite exhausted after doing all that, so she reclined on the bed and half-closed her

while, her phone began

at her phone screen and saw a long string of numbers. She closed her eyes again, answered the call, but the other end of the call, did not care that Luca did not speak. "How do you feel now, Bianca did not reply. As she listened to Abel speak with the hint of a smile, his detestable face appeared in her "Tsk ts," Abel exclaimed, "Why, are you angry? This is only the appetizer, and things will only get worse from now on. If you're already angry from this, you're not going to last very long."

"Stop talking nonsense and bring it," Luca said with a harsh tone. She was not going to beg for mercy.

"Heh heh, I won't hold back then. By the way, what happened yesterday was really exciting. I didn't expect Luke Crawford to be so worried about you. Are you sure that nothing happened in his room?" Abel said.

Luca gripped her phone tightly. Abel had planned the incident yesterday to find out what Luke thought **of her**.

If Luke had not come, she would have been violated by another man. Even if he did come, things were not **any better**.

"Hey, say something. Do you think that I won't do anything just because you keep quiet? What happened yesterday proves that Luke isn't as loyal to his wife as everyone says. There might not have been any scandals in the three years he's with the impostor Bianca I've arranged for him, but after you appeared, he can't seem to hold back his urges anymore. Why do you think this is the case: Is it because you're a really charming woman, or has he always been a playboy?" Abel did not stop talking.

Luca thought that Abel was *very annoying*.

She did not answer Abel's question. Instead, she said, "Is there anything else? If not, I want to **rest**."

Abel was not angry at the disrespect Luca showed her. In the entire Island of Despair, only Luca and Shanks dared to use that tone against him. It was a refreshing change from the flattery he usually received.

Also, he found Luca really interesting.

"**That's all** I have to say, but I hope that you can remind Luke Crawford that he'll have to watch his back from now on."

ended the call after

Luca's hands drooped weakly.

What did Abel want with her?

rang. Luca frowned, though she pushed herself off the bed and went to answer

was a hotel attendant with a meal cart. "Good morning, Miss. This is room service. Here's your order any breakfast..." Luca

Crawford ordered it for you. Let me bring it inside," the attendant said as he pushed the cart into her room. "You can push the cart back into the corridor once you're done with your meal. We'll get someone to clean it up. Enjoy your

attendant left and closed the door behind

not feel very hungry. The food on the cart was not

to lie on the bed. After pondering for a moment, she sent a message to

Chapter 1308

"When can you find that out?" Luke asked.

"It'll take at least two days," Johann said as he closed the folder. He was quite interested in what they found.

A mysterious substance was found in all three blood samples, and it had knocked out the three people at the same time. Then, the three people woke up at the same time. As far as he knew, no known sedative could achieve that.

"That's too slow." Luke was not satisfied.

Johann shrugged. He knew that Luke wanted both speed and precision, but between the two, he could only choose the latter.

"There's nothing we can do about it. That is a rare substance, and if someone had created it in the lab, I have to say that I'm really impressed."

Luke shot a glance at Johann, which caused him to shudder.

"Don't look at me like that. We doctors have to be rigorous in our research. You'll just have to wait. Right, I heard that Dr. Craw was there too. Is she alright?" Johann asked out of concern. Jason had told him briefly what happened the night before.

"She's fine." Luke felt a twinge in his heart when he heard his friend being so concerned about Luca, but he did not think too much about it.

"I'm glad to hear that she's fine," Johann said with a smile, then continued, "Right, should I take a blood sample from her?"

"Aren't three samples enough?" Luke said nonchalantly while he flipped through some documents.

Johann rubbed his chin and said, "It's enough, but I heard from Jason that Dr. Craw did not wake up even after the other three people woke up. If someone had drugged Dr. Albus and the others, they must have drugged Dr. Craw too, and the drug might be different from the other three people."

thought what Johann said made sense, but it would be too late to take a blood sample

that Luca would not be so careless anymore. She must have already taken the

"Hey, say something," Johann said.

find anything on her,"

Johann thought that Luke did not want Luca to go through the pain of having needles inserted in her. He knew that the thought was a little exaggerated, but he believed that it might be the

could tell that Luke had some feelings for Luca, though Luke was not at liberty to express it because of the

"She took the antidote," Luke said.

"Antidote? What antidote?" Johann was confused.

sitting on the couch reading a book, and he explained on behalf of his father, "Ms. Luca said that she was going to take the antidote after she

did she get the antidote?" Johann thought for a while and asked, "Don't tell me that she invented it

"Mm." Luke nodded.

Johann remembered Luca's herbal concoction and believed what Luke said. He gave up on the idea of taking a blood sample from her. "I guess I can't do anything about that. Can you tell me Dr. Craw's **room number?**"

"What do you want?" Luke stopped flipping the document and looked at him.

"I want to pay her a visit. At the same time, I hope that I can study her antidote." Johann was curious about Luca's research. Luke said that she made her concoctions without using company resources, so the pills and powders were considered her private property, and Luke did not know anything about them.

Johann had always been curious about Luca's personality. She concocted so many different types of medicines not found in the market, yet she had no interest in selling them.

"*Uncle Johann*," Tommy opened his mouth before Luke could say anything, "Ms. Luca needs to rest. Don't disturb her."

Johann wanted to say, "I'm not going to disturb her." The man behind the desk continued to read the documents as though he did not hear what **Johann said**.

Johann thought for a while and realized that what Tommy said made sense. Luca needed the rest now, and it was not appropriate for him to look *for her*.

"**Alright** then. I'll let you know when I get the results."

Luke pressed a button on the internal phone and said, "See the *guest off*."

Soon, a secretary came into the office and said to Johann, "This **way, please**."

Johann glanced at Luke, muttered under his breath about Luke's domineering personality, and left.

Luca felt a lot better after taking a pill. When she opened her eyes again, an hour and a half at herself. She had not washed up since the night before, and she could even smell herself

got off the bed and went to take a shower. When she came out of the bathroom, she was slightly surprised to see the meal cart. Then, she remembered that Luke had ordered breakfast for her, saying that it was part of

not smile at all. She pushed the cart next to the couch and

was a sumptuous spread, but the food had already gone cold, and it was not appetizing at

not want to waste the food. She took a few bites and could not eat anymore, so she covered the plates

The doorbell rang.

to open the door. Amur was standing

do you know that I'm here?"

wagged the phone in his hand. "I found

was a tracker in every phone issued by the Island of Despair. Two phones could sense each other in close

Chapter 1309

He realized that Abel would not hesitate to harm Luca if it meant that he got his revenge against Luke.

If Luke had ignored the stream, someone else would have found Luca. Amur dared not imagine what would happen to her if that were the case.

Luca's eyelids drooped. Even though she was fully unconscious throughout the entire ordeal, thinking about it now made her feel afraid.

A few years on the Island of Despair had hardened Luca's heart, but even so, she could not help but feel afraid of what Abel had done to her.

If taking revenge on Luke involved harming her, she would have to be more careful in the future.

"Amur, you should return to the island after you've completed your mission," she said.

She had a feeling that Amur would be harmed if he continued to stay by her side. She might be implicated as well.

"I'm not going back," Amur shook his head and said. Now that Abel had done something like that to Luca, he was not going to leave her alone in A City.

"No. I don't know what Abel is planning next, but I know that if you continue to stay here, you'll be involved as well. Go back and help me take care of Nyla," Luca said. Other than the siblings, she was also very worried about Nyla.

"My mission now is to protect you by your side," Amur told her the truth. "The drug that I stole from Solomon is developed by a criminal organization in New York, and Abel wants the recipe so that Shanks could make an even better drug to sell."

Luca did not say anything. She nodded, indicating for Amur to continue.

knew that I wanted to stay by your side, so he gave me the mission. Once I complete it, I can stay by your side without having to rush back to

was conflicted after hearing what

she raised her doubts. "That drug should have been very difficult to obtain. How did Solomon get his hands

has a regular buyer, and he's only the middleman between the buyer and the organization. I managed to find out about that, so I tried to obtain it from Solomon,"

how headstrong Luca could be. If he did not tell her the truth, she would insist that he return to the when she heard that. Even though Solomon was only a minor character in the illicit dealing, Amur probably could not afford to offend the criminal organization

was lucky to obtain what he wanted from Solomon, but would he be lucky enough to escape from him by his side, she had to be wary of Abel as well as the

offended Solomon and stole the drug from him. The criminal organization won't let you off that easily. Solomon and his gang have seen your face... No, you'll have to return to the island. It's safer for you there," Luca

though Amur was a proficient fighter, he could not possibly fight against an entire

Abel was not stupid. He would rather sacrifice Amur than go against the **organization**.

Amur knew Luca's worries. He shook his head and said, "I've already dealt with it yesterday. You don't have to worry."

When Luca heard that, she turned on her laptop and searched for Solomon's name in the *browser*.

There was a news report saying that Solomon and two other men were found dead in *an alley*.

The local police knew Solomon's background, and they attributed his death to a *gang conflict*.

Luca knew that Amur would not leave a trace, so the police would not be able to track him **down**.

"Dead men can't speak," Amur said.

Luca frowned. "But you only killed him **yesterday**."

"Mm." Amur nodded.

"**I'm** still worried that he told the organization about it after you let him go the day before yesterday. What would you do?" Luca did not know that the drug was so highly sought after. If she did, she would have killed Solomon right there *and then*.

"*He won't* tell anyone," Amur said confidently. "The organization trusts Solomon to keep the existence of the drug a secret. That's why they tried to search for me after I stole the drug instead of informing the *organization*."

a sigh of relief when she heard

the only people who knew that Amur had stolen the drug had died, she had nothing else to worry about. In any case, she had no sympathy

must have lived a life of crime. It was perhaps a good thing that he was

said, "Now that I've completed my mission, I can stay by your side. You'll also have an extra

then." Luca knew that Amur was a stubborn one. She stopped convincing him to

realized that she really needed

Her strength alone was not enough to guard against Abel's plot and protect Luke at the

that Luca had agreed to it, Amur went to the bathroom and retrieved his phone. "You still look tired. You should

Luca was indeed feeling tired after the conversation. She saw him out, then lay on the bed, took a sleeping pill, and fell

she opened her eyes again, she did not know what time

Chapter 1310

Luke held Tommy's hand, and the two people went into the room and sat on the couch.

The room was quite spacious, but once Luke stepped inside, Luca felt the space shrink.

Even though it was quite cramped, she thought that it was inexplicably homely.

Now that the father and son had staked out the couch, Luca could only sit on the swivel chair and look at them.

Tommy was the first to break the silence. "Ms. Luca, have you had dinner?"

"I was about to," Luca shook her head and said. She might still be sleeping if she had not been woken up by the doorbell. After taking the antidote, she had to sleep for long periods to recover.

Tommy looked at the time, and his expression suddenly became stern. "You shouldn't eat dinner so late, Ms. Luca. That's not good for your health."

Luke glanced at the meal cart in the room. He noticed that there was still some breakfast on it. It must have been the room service he had ordered for her, and she did not eat much.

"Have you been sleeping the entire day?" He asked. When Luca opened the door earlier, her hair was in a mess as though she had just woken up.

"I took a sleeping pill," Luca explained.

Luke nodded. Tommy tugged his shirt sleeve and whispered to him, "Daddy, you should order some food for Ms. Luca."

Luca heard that, she quickly said, "It's fine. I'll go downstairs and find a

restaurants are all closed by now," Luke said. He stood up and walked over to

only just woken up and had not made the bed yet. A corner of the blanket was untucked, and there was a slight depression on the mattress. He thought that if he placed his hand on the bed, he could feel the warmth of her

looked away. Then, he picked up the phone receiver and ordered a steak

sat on the chair while kneading her hands. After she saw him put the phone receiver down, she said, "I don't need any special employees' benefits,

around and looked at her. "Who told you that these are

was at a loss for words. He was the one who told her in the message that those were employees' benefits. If they were not, what are

what Luke was thinking right

that she was silent, Luke returned to the couch and sat next to Tommy. Ever since he first met her, he thought that she seemed familiar, especially when

she did not speak on most occasions. Most of the time, she was

that was how she behaved in front of

Luke broke the silence and said, "After Dr. Albus and the others returned to the hotel last night, Mr. Doyle arranged for them to go to the hospital and have their blood samples taken."

"What about it?" Luca's heart skipped a beat when she heard that. She knew that Luke would want to get to the bottom of the matter. He probably was not going to do it for the company, even though the company might suffer huge losses after the network was hacked.

He looked like he was doing it for her...

Luca stared at his impassive face. Was it a hallucination?

Luke felt an odd sense of familiarity when their eyes met. He composed himself and said, "There's a mysterious substance in their blood."

Luca nodded. She knew that even though Shanks was a genius in inventing drugs, he could not invent a drug that would leave no trace in the human body. The drug would have to be slowly ejected from the body after it had taken **effect**.

"Did Dr. Park say what it is?" She asked, pretending that she was oblivious.

"They're still analyzing it," Luke said as he looked at Luca's calm face. Anyone would have feared for their lives if they encountered such a harrowing incident, but Luca seemed **unfazed**.

She was angry after he told her what happened, but that was the extent of *her reaction*.

The doorbell rang once more. Luca thought that it was the room service, so she stood up and went to open *the door*.

Luke noticed that she was walking normally. She had probably recovered by **now**.

the door and was slightly shocked when she saw the person standing outside. "Amur, is there here to visit you." Amur was a head taller than Bianca, and he could see what was in the room. He frowned when he saw Luke and Tommy sitting on the couch. "You nodded. Thinking that it would be suspicious if she asked Amur to leave now, she said, "Come walked into the room and nodded at Luke and Tommy. "Good evening, Mr. Crawford," he said evening." Luke returned the greeting. He was not too surprised because he knew that Amur was also staying in

two men exchanged gazes, Luca could sense the intangible hostility knew that Amur had never liked Luke. He thought that Luke's failure to protect her had caused her to be abducted to the Island of

the past three years, Luke had never found her or even suspected that Luca was Bianca. To Amur, that was a sign of

how much Luca had tried to convince Amur, his impression of Luke had

can sit on the chair," Luca said to Amur while pointing at the

was not interested in sitting on the same couch as Luke. He did what Luca told