

Be Gentle 1351

Chapter 1351

The fake Bianca was not involved in any messy relationships, so Luke could manage the Crawford and Norman families with ease.

"Dad, Rainie and I will keep this a secret, don't worry," Lanie said. The three of them were not close to Bianca at all so it was not too much trouble to fool Tommy.

After the two had a chat, they returned to the living room.

Tommy waved to them happily and said, "Lanie, come! The show is about to begin."

Lanie nodded and sat on the sofa.

Luke walked to the kitchen and stood at the entrance. He did not enter and just stood there.

The kitchen was indeed very small. If he walked in, it would become more crowded so he just stood there and watched from a distance.

Luca's perception was sensitive. She turned her head and saw Luke standing there as expected.

"Mr. Crawford, are you alright?" She stopped cutting the chocolate in her hand.

"I'm fine." Luke deliberately glanced around the kitchen and said, "Your kitchen is too small. I assume you like to cook? Don't you find the place stuffy?"

"The kitchen is big in proportions to the house. It is what it is." Luca frowned unconsciously when she heard him commenting on her kitchen.

"The company provides all senior employees with a dormitory. It has one bedroom and one living room. It's also close to the company. You can consider applying for it," Luke said.

Luca did not think twice before she refused him. "My apartment is great. The company's dormitories are limited. They should go to those who need it. Mr. Crawford, if you don't need anything from the kitchen, you should leave since it's oily

frowned when he heard her drive him away. He then turned around to

it was inconvenient for Luca to live here since it was quite a distance away from the company. Besides, the security measures here were not the best. That was why he deliberately mentioned the company's benefits but did not expect her to turn him down without thinking

it because it only has one room and one living room and she wants to live with her non-blood-related

of Amur and his expression turned sullen. Although they were siblings, he noticed the possessiveness and wariness in Amur's

is there about me that he needs to be vigilant about? I'm not a

back on the sofa, looked at the fruits that Luca prepared, picked up a piece, and

watched cartoons happily. Luke sat there with nothing to do but he did not

made the fillings, the dough was done proofing. She took out the proofed dough and the croissant fillings, then put them on the

said that they wanted to make it

they were willing to participate, Luca was happy for them to be a part

kids saw her bring the things out, they all stepped forward and looked

"*Put on the gloves.*" Luca began to teach them how to make croissants.

The kids took the gloves and put them on. Tommy glanced at Luke who was still on the sofa and urged him, "Dad, come and make croissants **with us.**"

When Luke heard Tommy's words, he stood up and walked over but did not put on his gloves.

Tommy thought he was unwilling to participate so he said solemnly, "My teacher said that if you want something, you have to do it yourself. Daddy, if you want to eat croissants, you have to make it yourself."

Luke raised his brows and glanced **at Luca.**

She kneaded the dough with her head slightly lowered but the corners of her mouth seemed to rise into a **small smile.**

Eventually, Luke grabbed the gloves and put them on. In his life, he had only assisted Bianca in the kitchen. Luca was the second person he was voluntarily **helping.**

Since Tommy said so, he could only go *along.*

Luca divided the proofed dough into smaller portions and showed the kids how to shape the *croissants.*

The kids were quick learners. They knew how to do it after seeing her shape a few and followed *along.*

Luca glanced at Luke. He was more skillful than the kids as she had taught him how to shape croissants before. He started making them without paying much attention to what she was *doing.*

finally done with one of them. He looked at the croissants that Luca, Lanie, and Rainie prepared. They were all better-looking

was unhappy and glanced at the croissant in Luke's hands. It was also better than his. He could not help but mutter, "Dad, how come yours looks better than mine? I thought that you don't know how to make

I ever told you that?" Luke said calmly as he shaped another

at the croissant that Luke made and thought that it was indeed

skills had not regressed over

out loud. "Tommy, Daddy knows how to make croissants. Mommy taught him. The croissants that Mommy makes look great,

fell on the croissant made by Luca. "They're exactly the same as the ones Ms. Luca makes. They're beautiful, just like the croissants sold in

what she was doing and

a skilled chef, so making croissants was not difficult for her. She thought of the first time she made croissants

time, she did not imagine that his slender hands were

had no talent in the kitchen. The first time he made a croissant, the fillings were leaking and they were not shaped right. They looked like

time, she lamented that no one was perfect. Luke may seem omnipotent from the outside but there were still a lot of things that he did not understand, such as kitchen work. He was not as good as her on matters as such.

Chapter 1352

After an hour, the smell of croissants overflowed the kitchen.

Tommy was sitting on the sofa, holding a fruit bowl in his hand. When he smelled the croissants, he greedily sniffed it all in and said, "The croissants smell so good. Can we have lunch soon?"

Rainie turned around and said with a smile, "Ms. Luca is still in the kitchen. I'm guessing it'll take some time."

Luke glanced at the kitchen, and Tommy immediately said, "Daddy, Ms. Luca is so busy. Why don't you go over and help?"

"The kitchen is too small, she won't let me in." Luke did not have any intentions to move.

Tommy muttered, "Daddy, you're just lazy."

Luke raised his eyebrows and did not speak. The kitchen was indeed small, but it was also true that Luca did not want to have too much contact with him.

Luca was deliberately staying in the kitchen just to avoid interacting with him too much.

After the croissants were baked, she placed the croissants on the plate one by one and then took the plate out.

Tommy kept looking toward the kitchen, and when Luca walked out with the croissants, he jumped off the sofa and walked to the dining table. He looked at the croissants and swallowed his saliva.

"Ms. Luca, the croissants smell so good." He looked at the croissants greedily and was about to take one with his hands.

Luca gently stopped him and reminded him, "Go wash your hands first."

"Okay!" The kids were obedient. They walked into the bathroom to wash their hands and then returned.

already brought out the oats that she cooked. Luke took the initiative to pick up the cutlery, planning to fill the bowls with

did not say anything about his proactiveness. She put the cooked oats in front of him and

filled five bowls of oats one by one and put them on the

saw the kids coming out of the bathroom, Luca beckoned toward them and said, "After you're done washing your hands, hurry over and

kids sat on the chairs one after another and looked at the croissants with longing in their

put the special croissant she made on the plates, then gave one to each of them before giving them their bowl of oats

the kids thanked her, they ate the croissants and

down. When she saw that Luke was still standing there, she raised her brows and said, "Mr. Crawford, come

noddled and sat down next to

table in the apartment was small. There were a total of six seats, three of which were taken by the kids. Luke sat next to her. Luca lowered her head and ate some oats, feeling

mind was all over the man next to

was another seat next to him which was closer to Lanie but Luke chose to sit beside

distance between the two of them was close. They sat side by side just like

Luca suppressed the complex emotions in her heart, reached out, and wanted to grab a croissant. However, her fingers happened to come into contact with Luke's **hand**.

As though an electric shock ran through her, she immediately retracted her hand and looked at Luke *sideways*.

Luke was also looking at her.

Luca raised the corner of her mouth and said, "Mr. Crawford, you **first**."

Luke *picked up* a croissant, put it on her plate, and **said**, "**Eat**."

Luca *stared* at the croissant in front **of her**.

He never served food to other women. *This was...*

Seeing that she did not move, Luke casually picked one for himself and said, "Eat, my utensils **are clean**."

Luca was not thinking about that. She knew that except for Bianca and the kids, Luke never served anyone else **food**.

She looked at the croissant, picked it up, and took **a bite**.

The croissant was delicious but her mind was someplace **else**.

The three children ate the croissants with joy, especially Tommy, whose mouth was filled *with croissants*.

Rainie and Luke were the most elegant

they were done eating, Luca cleaned the table. Tommy touched his full belly and said, "Ms. Luca, your croissants are so

guys took part in making them too." Luca was not sure whether to laugh or cry looking at how Tommy was

his head and said, "The fillings were made by you, Ms. Luca. I want to eat your croissants every morning. I'll

to his wish but was not able to agree to

took a sip of tea, stood up, and said to the kids, "Let's go

not want to go back. He walked to Luca's side and said, "Daddy, I'll go back later,

was clear that Tommy wanted to be with Luca. Luke cleared his throat and said, "I'll take you fishing this afternoon. Don't you want

was a little tempted when he heard that Luke was bringing him fishing. However, he was also hooked on Luca's cooking. He looked at Luke and then

he wanted to go fishing. She touched his head and said, "I'll pack the remaining croissants for you to bring home. If you are hungry at night, you can eat

heard that, he smiled and watched her take out a takeout box from the side. He invited her, saying, "Ms. Luca, would you like to come with us? It's fun to go fishing with more

him down without thinking. "I don't enjoy outdoor activities so I don't want to go. You guys have

was expected. Luke watched her put the packed croissants in Tommy's hand and said, "Let's

Chapter 1353

Luca ate alone and would not use so many dishes. Amur counted the plates and knew what had happened.

He walked out with his tray and asked, "We had some visitors?"

Luca paused what she was doing and did not intend to hide anything from him. "Mm, yes."

"Is it Luke and the kids?" Amur continued to ask.

Luca nodded. After wiping the table, she folded the rag and explained, "No one was free to take care of the kids so they came over, and then two hours later, he came too."

Amur put the tray on the table, pulled out a chair, and sat down. "Crawford Manor is so big. How could it be that the kids were left unattended?"

Luca knew that the kids wanted to be closer to her but she could not turn them down.

"Amur, they're my children. I can't say no to them. Everything I do now is for Nyla. I do all this without complaint because she's my little daughter, but at the same time, I can't only love my little daughter," she said.

Amur finished the oats and looked at her, saying, "I know, but I just want to remind you to keep a safe distance from Luke."

"Why?" Luca frowned slightly. 'Does he know something?'

"Luke told Gale and Rain to come back. The boss thinks he'll do something. Maybe it'll involve you. If you still want to go back to Nyla, be careful," Amur said. His mission for the past two days was to follow Gale and Rain.

followed them from the airport to the outskirts of A City. He only left after he learned where they were back to confirm that they were staying there and then reported the incident

Rain are back?" Luca

came back, Abel had given her some information about all the decisions and arrangements that Luke had made over the

knew that Gale and Rain were sent abroad by Luke to establish intelligence stations in various countries to facilitate T Corporation's

was not an exaggeration to say that Luke's intelligence network was present in various countries, and they were controlled and operated by Gale and

planning something considering their sudden return to A

a bad premonition. If Luke was going to do something, Abel would make a move too and it would ultimately involve

She was just Abel's chess piece...

at her worried expression and said, "I'll continue to monitor Gale and Rain. Don't

then asked, "Is this his

"**He** didn't give this order. My guess is that he wants to see what Luke is going to do before he makes a move." Amur stuffed his face with the croissants, and after a while, he finished all the croissants Luca had *left him*.

Luca nodded. She knew that he would always be on her side and she felt relieved that he was monitoring Gale and Rain.

"If they do anything, don't notify him yet," she **said**.

Amur nodded. He knew what to do.

...

The other side.

Rain looked at Bianca with her head down. She frowned and said, "Is she still reluctant to talk?"

"Yes, *she* is," Gale said and then pointed to her back. "However, I *found something*."

"**What** did you find?" Rain raised her eyebrows and walked around Bianca. Her clothes had been torn by Gale's whip. She raised her brows and said, "What do you want me *to see*?"

"*Look at* what this is," Gale said as he pointed to her *waist*.

To tie up the fake Bianca, the chairs they used were supported by strips of wood on the back so that they could tie her up more *tightly*.

squatted down, took a look, then said with a frown, "It looks like a tattoo but it's covered by something. Bring

Bianca heard what Rain said, she twisted her body around in

looked at her bloody back and laughed. "Why are you so scared? Is there something about

up, watched Gale walk around with the alcohol, and suddenly

tattoo was the mark of the Island of Despair. She had used a powder that Shanks created and mixed it with water to cover it up in preparation to sleep with Luke. She was in a rush to cover it so a small part of it was exposed. However, it was impossible to remove it with ordinary alcohol or makeup

took the alcohol that Gale handed over and

groaned painfully as the alcohol stung the wounds on

no pity and kept wiping but realized that she could not wipe it off. She frowned and said, "It seems that some special materials were used to cover up this

"What should we do?" Gale asked.

thought of something, stood up, and said, "Do you remember how we sometimes had missions and needed to put on a disguise? If a tattoo is too conspicuous, we would use a special powder that we mix with water to cover

she..." Gale frowned and looked at the trembling fake Bianca. "If she's using a powder like that, does it mean she's from the Island of

Chapter 1354

After Bianca turned her face sideways, Rain did not bother trying to interrogate her any further as she knew that Bianca would not talk. She left with Gale.

Gale reported the incident to Luke and notified the others to get them the necessary materials.

When Luke saw Gale's text, his expression turned gloomy. 'The Island of Despair again...'

When Bianca was kidnapped, he had thought that things may not be as simple as they seemed. The island was in ruins and had nothing on it. Even though he had doubts, he could not prove anything no matter how many methods he tried.

Tommy was fishing with a small fishing rod that was specially prepared for him by Luke.

He yawned, looked at him with his chin on his hands, and asked, "Daddy, why did your mood change all of a sudden?"

"Nothing to worry about," Luke replied. Gale then put the phone back in his pocket. His fishing rod moved a bit and he slowly raised it.

Tommy saw him catch a big grass carp and said enviously, "Daddy, you're so amazing! You and Lanie have caught fish but I haven't caught anything."

Luke put the grass carp in the bucket and said, "Be patient."

Over the years, if he had time, he would bring the kids to fish in order to help them learn to be more patient.

Lanie had a calm temper and also liked to fish. He could fish for the whole afternoon. Many said that Lanie's temperament was like his but he did not think it was a good thing.

Before the age of five, Bianca was not by Lanie and Rainie's sides. Although everyone in the Crawford family spoiled them, without maternal love in life, their temperament became much more mature.

Bianca came back and was reunited with the kids, he could see the change in them. Unexpectedly, another incident happened so Lanie became more mature than

Tommy was different. He had been spoiled by Bianca since he was a child so he was not as mature. Luke brought him fishing to train him to be

and replied, "Okay, I don't think the fish

soon as he said that, his little fishing rod moved. He reacted quickly and immediately reeled it in. Luke stepped forward to help when he saw his hasty actions. "You're making it easy for the fish to break

his movements and successfully reeled in his pole. A bright smile appeared on his face when he saw the three fishes in the bucket. "Awesome! Daddy, let's send the fishes to Ms.

his head and said, "I'll take you home

Tommy heard that he was about to go home, he felt a little unhappy. He pouted and asked, "Daddy, it's still early. Why do you want to go back so

some work to deal with," Luke said as he packed his

heard that, he did not say anything. He was satisfied that he got to see Luca and go

packed up all the fishing gear, took Lanie and Tommy along with him, and called Rainie, who was sitting quietly by the side, to get in the car and go

sent the kids home, Luke drove

Tommy looked at the fishing gear. 'Daddy didn't even have time to put them away, he just put them down and drove away...'

Lanie bent over to pick up the bucket and a folding chair. He then said, "Let's carry the things *in*."

"**Okay,**" **Tommy** picked up some of the gear and Rainie got the rest. The kids moved the gear in together.

Old Master Crawford was sitting on the sofa and sipping tea. When he saw the three of them walk in with fishing tools in their hands, he asked, "Did you go fishing? Weren't you at **Luca's house?**"

"*We had* lunch together and Daddy took us to go fishing," Lanie said. He handed the bucket to the butler and said, "We caught *them*."

The butler took the bucket with a smile on his face, and then took all the tools in *their hands*.

Old Master Crawford was puzzled when he heard what Lanie said. 'Didn't Luke go on a date with Bianca? Why did he suddenly go to pick up **the kids?**'

He glanced at them again and did not see Luke. "Where are **your parents?**"

Lanie replied, "Mom went on a trip and Daddy is busy with work."

Old Master Crawford found it strange that Bianca and Luke went out on a date but Bianca suddenly went on a trip and Luke went to the company to work.

"**Did he** say where your mother is going?"

listened to Old Master Crawford's question, shook his head to indicate that he did not know anything, and then said nicely, "Grandpa, why don't you ask

Crawford nodded and found the

didn't pack her suitcase when she left today and now she's on a

...

The other side.

drove to the villa. Gale and Rain were not surprised when they saw him. After all, he wanted to know as soon as possible whether the fake Bianca had come from the Island

the powder arrive?" he asked. After spending such a long time on the Island of Despair, he knew what material was needed to wash off

"It's on the way," Rain replied.

"Where is she?" Luke walked inside.

in the basement." Luke walked inside as soon as Rain finished speaking. She hurriedly followed and curiously asked, "Boss, it's been three years. Didn't you notice

one could be error-free. Luke did not find out for three years. 'Had fake Bianca always been so cautious but accidentally let it slip this

Chapter 1355

After he entered the basement that was not well ventilated, a strong smell of blood overwhelmed his nose. Luke frowned and walked in.

He was obsessed with cleanliness. He was not a fan of situations as such in the past, but now, he could not wait to confirm his suspicions.

The closer Luke got to Bianca, the heavier the bloody smell was. It was clear that Gale had not held back.

The sound of his footsteps alarmed the woman tied to the chair.

The fake Bianca immediately raised her head, thinking it was Gale who was back to torture her again. When she saw Luke, she saw some hope. "Luke, you believe me, right? I don't know anything."

Luke looked at her face, which was exactly the same as the love of his life. It was dirty. His gaze became darker.

"Where's the tattoo?" His tone was cold with no trace of sympathy.

When she heard that, Bianca closed her eyes to hide her despair.

Rain walked behind her and pointed to the spot. "Here."

Luke walked behind her and felt no pity when he saw her bloody back. He looked down and saw a colored tattoo.

It was just a small corner and it was still unclear what kind of tattoo it was.

"When will the materials be available?" Luke asked.

check in with them." Just as Gale took out his phone, it rang. He said, "The materials are ready. I'll go up and get

said to Luke, "Boss, I'll prepare the

Luke stared at the tattoo on

and Rain left the basement one after another. Bianca wanted to look at Luke, but the injuries on her back made it difficult for her to

were tears in the corners of her eyes as she said, "Luke, why don't you believe me? I got that tattoo

random? Why did you want to cover it, then?" The bloody smell irritated him

don't think you would like it, that's why..." Bianca replied, "Luke, I'm uncomfortable. Will you loosen the knot? I want to apply ointment on

to her beg for mercy but

bit her lower lip and said, "I'm feeling sick. I don't know what happened, but Luke, I really love you. You have to believe me. If I had wanted to hurt you, would I have waited for three years? If I didn't love you, I wouldn't have stayed by your side for so

Luke kept quiet.

did not know that there was only one door in this room, Bianca would have thought that he had left. She wailed when she did not receive any sympathy

listened to her cry and did not move. All he did was stare at the

Five minutes later, Rain walked in with *the potion*.

Luke reached out his hand and said, "Give it to **me**."

Rain did not pass the potion to him but walked behind Bianca and said, "Boss, I know you like to stay clean. Let me do this *for you*."

She picked up the medical cotton, put it on the potion and wet it, then wiped the **tattoo**.

The potion had a high concentration of alcohol. Rain's actions were not gentle. The potion came into contact with Bianca's wounds, making her cry out **in pain**.

"**This sound** is really unpleasant," Rain muttered as she wiped *hard*.

The tattoo appeared little by little after she wiped it. Eventually, the entire tattoo was revealed. Rain stared at it, and after several seconds, she turned around to look at Luke.

Luke was staring at the tattoo as well.

The tattoo on her body was similar to the previous logo of the Island of Despair, except that the details had been changed slightly.

"*This is* really the Island of Despair..." Rain put the bowl aside and told Gale who had just walked **in**.

Gale quickly walked behind Bianca and frowned when he saw the tattoo on her body.

"The details are different," he said.

nodded and reminded him. "Don't forget, Robert is dead. The rule on the Island of Despair is to change the logo once the leader has been changed. This is very close to the prototype. She's from the Island of

was almost certain when he saw the tattoo. He quickly walked past Bianca and when he arrived outside the door, he ordered, "Make her tell the truth no matter

worry, I'll take turns with Rain. She won't get it easy. We'll find out more about the real Bianca soon."

Gale agreed to his orders. Even the people from the Island of Despair were not without their

them to interrogate Bianca. He nodded and left the

a picture of the tattoo with her

you doing?" Gale wondered after seeing what she

Island of Despair still exists, they must not have been quiet in the last few years. I want to go online to see if anything has happened over the years. Maybe it can give me some clues," Rain

nodded and looked at Bianca, who was close to dying. 'It's only the first day. Is she

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Chapter 1356

Rain swiftly helped Bianca change.

Gale had hit her hard. Bianca could not even struggle and could only lie on the bed feebly.

After Rain helped her change her clothes, she thought about it and stuffed another pill into her mouth.

Bianca grabbed the bed plank with her hand and stared at her. "What did you feed me?"

"It's just a pill that makes you weak. It's okay, you won't die." Rain patted her face and stood up. She decided to be more cautious after she thought it through.

Making sure that Bianca had no strength to do other things could ensure that she would stay in the room obediently.

When Bianca heard what she said, her gaze turned fierce and her strength was gradually drained. She could only watch Rain close the door and leave. The last sound she could hear was the sound of the door locking.

They were giving her time to rest, but it was to torment her more later on.

Bianca was lying on the bed and thought that her bones were aching from the wooden planks. Her hands hung by her sides weakly.

...

At night, the bustle of A City gradually quieted down.

was sitting in the living room, holding a pot of hot tea. Sitting next to her was Amur. Their eyes were fixed on the

writing programs to attack T Corporation's system to make

why they chose to proceed at this time was that Luca felt that Abel would make a move in a little while. She asked Amur to take action when she knew that Luke had just come back and had a lot of work to attend to in the

crisis could only be minimized by fixing the

typed on the keyboard and after a while, he removed the pen drive and manually turned off

she saw his series of actions, Luca asked, "Already

their company's computer system has been attacked. I disconnected the network within three seconds so they won't be able to track my IP address," Amur took a sip of hot

his work. Seeing that the computer had been turned off, she said, "Thank you for your hard work. Do you want to have a midnight

glanced at the clock on the wall, then shook his head and said, "It's getting late. You still need to go to work tomorrow. You should get some

persuaded Luca to take a rest earlier but she insisted on waiting for him to finish the work

already so late. You should get some rest as well." Luca glanced at the time. Indeed, she had to get up early for work the next day. Since he did not want any snacks, she stood up and walked to

Amur watched her walk into the bedroom, his gaze long and far-reaching. What he did was not to help Luke but to help *her*.

Even if he did not agree with Luca being involved with Luke, he would help her no matter what she wanted to **do**.

The other side.

Luke was lying on the bed but was awakened by the ringing of **the phone**.

He picked up the phone and glanced at it. It was a call from the company. He knew that something must have happened for them to call him so *late*.

Luke pressed the answer button. After the other party reported on the matter, he sat up, put on his jacket, and walked out of the *study*.

Even if the fake Bianca was now under his control, he did not choose to return to the master bedroom to rest.

One was to not arouse any suspicion. Secondly, he was obsessed with cleanliness and would not move in if the room had yet to be thoroughly **cleaned**.

After all, in the eyes of outsiders, he and Bianca had been sleeping in separate beds for so long. The sudden changes would not be easy to explain.

Luke quickly walked downstairs. It was late, so he did not alarm Zander and the others but chose to drive to the company on his own.

in T Corporation were brightly lit. When Luke returned to the office to take charge of the situation, all the staff in the Information Technology Department were already there. Several of them were sitting in front of computers, dealing with

on?" His mood was gloomy when he saw how busy they were. He did not get the full picture via the phone conversation. All he knew was that T Corporations' system had

scenario was the same as that of the

department manager of the Information Technology Department wiped the sweat from his forehead. Even though the air-conditioning in the company was adequate, he was still very nervous facing

department had always been fine. When the security system was attacked, he knew that the matter was beyond his hands so he immediately notified

company's system was attacked by an unknown IP address. Now, there are huge loopholes in the system. Our staff is working hard to fix them," the department

watched the garbled codes on the computers. He frowned and asked, "Did you trace the other party's IP

other party is cunning. After he accidentally triggered our security system, he cut off the network in just ten seconds. We have no way to track it," the department manager

thought that the other party had triggered the security system, but he did not know that it was Amur who planned it and deliberately revealed the flaws to

made a promise to me that this security system was stable and safe at the beginning of the year, but it was so easily breached now. I need a detailed explanation on this." Luke looked at the manager who lowered his

thing he needed was a useless employee. If the manager could not provide a reasonable explanation, he could pack

Chapter 1357

Luke had a gut feeling that the incidents in A City and New York were not as simple as they seemed.

When they were in the New York branch, the employees there were not able to do much other than upgrade and repair the company's system because they had no way to track the other party's IP address.

This time, he assumed that they could not track the hacker as well.

Luke picked up his phone and called Percy Mallory.

After the phone rang five times, he heard Percy's lazy voice. It was obvious that he was still half-asleep. "Why are you calling so late?"

Luke did not feel sorry for waking him up and asked, "Did you recently get to know someone well-versed with computers?"

Percy held his forehead and glanced at the woman resting on his right. She had taken some sleeping pills, so the vibrations from his phone earlier did not seem to have disturbed her.

He carefully pulled out his hand, got up, and walked to the balcony. "He works in our company now. What's the matter?"

"My company's system was hacked. I need some help to track the IP address," Luke said. He disturbed Percy in the middle of the night because he thought that Percy would know someone who could deal with this matter.

The more he thought about the two incidents, the more he felt that something was wrong, so he asked Percy to help.

Percy enjoyed the night breeze and looked back at the bedroom. Nina was still asleep.

early in the morning. I can't call him now. I'll give him a call tomorrow and have him go to your company." Percy agreed. After all, they were good friends who would take care of each other when they were

Luke let out a soft hum.

almost fully awake now. He was aware of what had happened in the New York branch so he joked.

"Who did you offend recently? Why are your company's systems frequently getting

most important thing now is to track the IP address. When the person arrives, have him mention your name and the front desk will know what to do." Luke did not answer his ridiculous question before he ended

was slightly displeased by the busy tone on the other end of the call. However, he ignored it because they had been close friends for 20

walked back to the bedroom holding his phone. He closed the balcony door, turned around, and found that Nina was

frowned and asked in a soft voice, "Did I wake

her head. She was awakened suddenly, not because of him. She looked at him and saw that he had his phone in his hand. She asked, "What

Luke asked me for help." Percy put his phone on the bedside table. When he was talking on the phone just now, he noticed that the battery level of the phone was at 50 percent. After he plugged in the charger, he returned to

when she heard his reply and lay down again. "It's not a big deal,

don't like you talking about other men," Percy lay down and hugged her waist

"..." Nina looked at the ceiling for a while. Her face was warm from his breath. She was talking about his close friend, not random men.

Ever since Bianca lost her memory and their friendship drifted apart, she had stayed away from Luke's **affairs**.

She just casually asked to try to divert the panic from abruptly waking up from her dream.

Since losing Bianca as a friend, she had fewer and fewer people to open her *heart to*.

For three years, Percy had been asking her to be with him but she had not felt happy. There was less and less to talk about. Sometimes when she was listening to him talk, she wondered if she was alive.

Percy watched her open her eyes to look at the ceiling, then raised his hand to cover *her eyes*.

She obediently closed her eyes, and Percy's voice sounded by her ear. "Go to sleep, there are still a few hours before **dawn**."

Nina gave a soft hum and did not *speak anymore*.

A few hours later, it was dawn.

Nina felt the man next to her sit up. Instead of opening her eyes, she continued to pretend to sleep.

Over the years, there were multiple occasions when she would wake up from a dream in the middle of the night. She was never able to go back to sleep for the whole night. When she could not fall asleep, Percy would notice it and order her to continue **sleeping**.

made perfect. She was getting better and better at pretending to be asleep. Even her breathing could be controlled as evenly as when she was asleep. Naturally, he did not notice it

left the bedroom, *Nina* slowly opened her eyes, got up, and washed

sat in front of the dressing table, covered her dark circles with concealer, changed her clothes, and went

in the villa had already prepared breakfast. Percy was sitting

walked over and looked at the energetic man. She took a sip of milk and asked, "Are you going back to the office

heading to T Corporation first." Percy changed his itinerary and planned to go to T Corporation to see what was

Crawford and Mallory families were both well-known families in A City. What was happening to T Corporation made Percy

to T Corporation and might happen to his

when she heard his reply. She took a sandwich and ate it in

his breakfast quickly, planted a good morning kiss on *Nina's* forehead, and left

at herself and touched the place where he had kissed. She did not know if Percy realized she had put on a thick layer of

Chapter 1358

There was no reason other than making sure that *Nina* ate her meals. He had noticed that she would barely eat her breakfast after he left the house.

The maid breathed a sigh of relief when she saw *Nina* continue eating. "Miss, Sir really cares for you. He saw that you're losing weight, and he asked your mother for the recipes of your favorite dishes. Please eat more. You need to put on some weight."

Nina chuckled dryly when she heard that.

If Percy truly loved her, why would he want to control every aspect of her life?

Percy could not give her what she wanted. She could not feel Percy's love when that was the life he gave her.

After Nina ate the two sandwiches, she stood up and said, "I'm done."

The maid nodded and said, "Will you be coming home for dinner tonight, Miss? Sir asked me to make pork chops for you tonight. He said that it's your favorite."

Nina paused. 'Pork chops...'

Indeed, her favorite dish used to be the pork chops that her mother made for her. Come to think of it, it had been many years since she ate that.

she could not bring up any feelings of nostalgia when she reminisced about

had forced herself to eat two sandwiches, and her stomach was uncomfortably bloated. She wanted nothing more than to throw up in

Miss? Don't you want to eat pork chops? Shall I make grilled fish fillets instead?" The maid noticed the change in Nina's expression and thought that she was in the mood to eat something

chops are fine. I'll be very busy at work in the company today, and I don't know if I'm coming home for dinner," Nina

make pork chops for you then. If you can't make it for dinner, I'll keep them in the fridge, and you can heat it in the microwave," the

left the dining hall, and

wanted to throw up, but she could not do it downstairs. If the maid found out about it, she would tell

went into the bathroom and hurled into the toilet. After she threw up everything she had eaten earlier, she felt a little

had always ordered her to eat all sorts of nutritious food, but he did not know that Nina did not want to eat that at all. Forcing her to eat would only cause her stomach discomfort, and she would eventually throw up all the food that

Perhaps that was why she had been constantly losing *weight*.

Nina washed her mouth and looked at her emaciated figure in the mirror. All that was left of her was a skeleton in a sack of skin. She did not know what charms she had such that Percy would not tire *of her*.

She chuckled self-deprecatingly. She did not think that any man would fall in love with her, let alone Percy, who used to date supermodels and celebrities. Somehow, she was an exception.

She imagined what Percy must have gone through just to take revenge on her.

Nina reapplied the makeup on her face and slowly walked down the stairs to get ready to go to work. She was surprised to see the man sitting in the living room. "Why are *you here?*"

Jean was not in a good mood. He said, "Mom asked me to come and check on you, Nina. Do you know when was the last time you were **home?**"

Nina looked at Jean, who spoke and acted like a hooligan, with genuine disgust. Every time she went home, her mother would ask for money from her and talk about nothing *else*.

She was willing to take care of her mother, who was plagued with poor health. Unfortunately, she had to pay for Jean's expenses *as well*.

Back then, Anna needed a liver transplant, and Nina's blood type was not a match. The family placed their hopes on Jean. Nina pulled some strings so that Jean could be released a few months early from prison, and he donated a part of his liver **to Anna**.

had thought that her life would be better after Jean was out of prison; at least her mother would not be always abusing her. She realized that she had been

stint in prison did not change Jean's attitude for the better. He was still as lazy as ever. Nina managed to find him a job, but he quit after

that Anna would discipline him, but instead, Anna indulged and pampered him, saying that he was the only son, and he had saved her life by donating a part of his liver. Whenever Jean wanted money, Anna was more than happy to give it

parents were retired, and their pensions were not enough to cover Jean's voracious appetite for

was why the three other people in Nina's family treated her as

given them money repeatedly, and she realized that she could not escape that fate. Jean would only ask for more and more money to gratify himself. A few days ago, an escort had scammed a huge sum of money from

and Jean did not tell her about that, but she was very aware of what was

and Anna should have run out of money but now, which was why Jean came to look for her. He said that he was concerned about her, but she could tell that they only wanted her to go home so that they could ask for more

at his brother, slumped on the couch, and huffed, "I'm very busy lately. I'll go home and visit Mom when

Chapter 1359

Jean remained seated there with his legs crossed. He had no intention of standing up. He raised his eyebrows in the face of Nina's fury. "What's the matter with you? I'm only telling you the hard facts. The salary you get from that company is less than what you get from Mr. Mallory in one night. You've been doing this for three years. Why are you still acting like you're offended?"

Nina was trembling with rage. If she had a knife in her hands now, she would not hesitate to plunge it into his heart.

There was no familial love to speak of. If she had not realized that by now, she would have lived her life in vain.

Jean remained nonchalant even though Nina was furious. "Don't be angry. Everyone in A City now knows that you're Percy's mistress. It might not be a glamorous thing, but no one can deny your ability

to stay by his side for so long. Listen to my advice and quit that stupid company. The company belongs to that b*tch Bianca, right? Have you forgotten what she did to me? It's ridiculous that you're still working for her!"

Clearly, Jean had not learned his lesson. Nina glared at him coldly.

All he knew was that he was sent to prison because of Bianca, but he had forgotten about what he did to Bianca.

Nina was disappointed that the years he spent in prison did not teach him a lesson. He had not repented, and he only blamed other people for what happened to him.

He was sent to prison because of what he did, and Nina thought that he fully deserved it!

Nina wanted to crack open his skull to see if maggots had eaten his brain. Otherwise, she could not explain why he could not discern right from wrong.

"I don't have money for you. Get lost right now!" She said angrily as she pointed at the door.

humiliated by Nina's treatment of him. He stood up and said, "I'm your elder

brother isn't like this!" Nina said as she took a step back. She was disgusted by how he acted and the clothes

Jean clenched his fists. He wanted to slap her, but he remembered that she was Percy's

could not get physical on her because he relied on her for money. Otherwise, if Nina tattled on him to Percy, he would have

matter what you think. I'm still your elder brother. You used to love me and respect me when I was in my prime, but I'm sure that you find me an embarrassment now because I went to prison, don't you? How cold-hearted you are, Nina!" Jean said

you in your prime? Was it when you returned to A City? Jean Langdon, if you're a man, then stop blaming other people for your faults. Our family wouldn't end up like this if only you could reflect upon yourself. Look at you now. What else can you do other than eat, sleep, and go to nightclubs? A woman had cheated you of your money once, and history has now repeated itself because you never learn. Why can you man up and take responsibility for yourself?" Nina roared at him when her arms crossed in front not hope that Jean would listen

nonsense!" Jean blurted, feeling humiliated by those

was Marie Rayne, and now there's that woman. How many times has it been? You should know very well! When are you going to learn your lesson? You've been cheated of all your money, yet you still want to pretend to be rich. I'm also human, Jean, and I'm not your personal ATM. Stop asking me for money when you don't have money!" Nina said mockingly. If she had her way, she would have disowned her

Even if she had distanced herself from the family, Anna and Jean would still find her and ask for money.

Jean had enough of it. He punched the air with his fist, but he dared not touch **Nina**.

Percy had told him that he could not hurt Nina if he wanted *money*.

"*That's utter* nonsense, you stupid girl! When have I asked you **for money?**"

"Isn't that the reason you're here today? You're here to tell me that the family needs money, aren't you?" Nina was not afraid of Jean's physical threats. In fact, she even hoped that Jean's fists would land on *her*.

How she wished that those fists would end her life. She had enough of being everyone's punching bag!

"When have I said that?" Jean said while shooting a glance at the maid, who was hiding in the dining hall watching the *drama*.

"*Fine*, you've never said that. I've already transferred this month's living expenses to Mom's bank account, and I'm sure that the money is enough for the two of you. I'm very busy. Leave now," Nina **retorted**.

Jean nearly popped a vein when he heard that. He would rather not talk to his younger sister, but there was no more money in the household, and his mother had forced him to beg for money from *Nina*.

it unfair that Nina got to live in a luxurious mansion, while his living conditions were a lot

Percy were not living together with Nina, he would have moved into the mansion with his parents and lived on Nina's

pointed an accusatory finger at Nina. "Very well, you damned girl. One day, you'll pay for

he left the house in a

breathed a sigh of relief and fell sitting on the

left the house early in the morning. She was glad that he did not need to see the

if Percy were in the house, Jean would not have been so rude to

sat on the couch and caught her breath before standing up again. She looked at the maid, who was still hiding in the dining hall, and said, "Don't tell Sir about what happened just

know anyway. He'll check the security feed," the maid reminded

Chapter 1360

"Where are you now?" The tone on the other end of the call was not friendly. Nina was nervous when she heard that.

The other person was Percy's mother and the matriarch of the Mallory family. It was not the first time that she had called Nina on the phone, but there must be a reason why she was calling Nina today.

"I'm on my way to work, Mrs. Mallory. Is there anything?" Nina answered as she opened the car door.

"That's 'Madam' for you, Nina. I want to talk to you about something. When are you free?"

Nina smirked self-deprecatingly. Should she feel honored that Mrs. Mallory wanted to meet her at her convenience?

That was such a respectful gesture!

Nina knew very well why Mrs. Mallory wanted to meet her. "How about noon today? I have some free time during lunch.

Mrs. Mallory replied, "Alright, noon it is. We'll meet at the restaurant under your office."

"Yes, Madam." After Nina gave her reply, the other party ended the call. She chuckled dryly as she listened to the busy tone on the phone.

Jean, Mrs. Mallory... everyone was looking for trouble with her.

Nina started the car and drove out of the mansion. She did not plan to tell Percy that his mother wanted to meet her.

she hoped that Mrs. Mallory would intervene and end the relationship between Percy

...

brought a man named Adrian Daley to T Corporation. Before they could identify themselves, the receptionist brought them to the guest

came into the lounge, and Jason followed behind him, carrying a laptop in each of

up and introduced the man next to him. "Adrian, this is Mr. Luke Crawford. Mr. Crawford, this is Adrian Daley. He's a genius at

to meet you." Luke shook hands

his glasses slightly and said, "Mr. Mallory has told me what happened. You want to track down the attacker's IP

IT department said that there's no way of tracking them down, so I'd like to trouble you to do that for me," Luke said. He waved his hand, and Jason placed the laptops in front

attacker terminated the connection immediately after the alarm was raised, then it'll be very difficult to track them down. I can still give it a try, but if I can't track them down, I don't think anyone else in the world would be able to," Adrian said. He turned on the laptops and found that they were already connected to T Corporation's

you," Luke said. The IT department had identified several flaws in the network security system after the attack, and they were busy repairing them. Luke did not hope that they would be able to identify

"Don't mention it," Adrian said as he went to work.

Tina knocked on the door and came in carrying a tray with a few cups of coffee on it. She smiled gently and placed the cups on **the table**.

As Adrian typed deftly on the keyboard, Percy stood up and said, "Adrian doesn't like any distractions whenever he's at work. Let's go somewhere else. I also have something to discuss with *you*."

Luke nodded, and the three people left the guest *lounge*.

Percy went into the CEO's office, sat down on the couch, and crossed his legs. "Your company network has been attacked for two consecutive weeks. Why are you so unlucky?" He said teasingly.

Luke did not reply to the question. He was deep **in thought**.

Cleaning up the mess left at the subsidiary company in New York was relatively easy. However, the head office was the one under attack this time. If the attackers had gained access to their top-secret documents, dealing with the fallout of the attack would make Luke very busy for a *while*.

"**Why aren't** you saying anything? Why do you think they're attacking you? Is it for financial gain?" Percy *said*.

"**I don't** know," Luke shook his head and said. That was the truth because he had no idea who was attacking **him**.

The attack on the New York subsidiary company had taken them by surprise, but they managed to correct the mistakes in time. The attackers would have no use for the stolen information because Luke changed the company directives after he realized that the documents were leaked. The top-secret documents in the attacker's hands were nothing more than trash.

time, the attacker had alerted the IT department to the attack. Even if they managed to gain some top-secret information, they would not be able to capitalize

hacker would be so stupid as to peddle useless

thinking that whatever was happening to T Corporation was a cause for worry. T Corporation had grown steadily over the past few years, and no other company dared to

that T Corporation was under attack, it signified the fact that someone might be planning to make a move on the other corporations. Percy could not afford to keep his guard

something that I have to tell you," Luke said as he stared

it?" Percy said as he reclined on

an impostor." Luke did not beat around

What do you mean?" Percy did not understand. "She's

Someone has impersonated her," Luke said and took a sip of

perform a DNA test on her?" Percy could only find