

Be Gentle 1361

Chapter 1361

"Gale and Rain are back in A City, and they're interrogating the impostor. We should find out the truth behind her disguise soon," Luke said.

Percy nodded. To think that the woman by Luke's side for the past three years was an impostor, and the whereabouts of the real Bianca Rayne was still unknown! "Now that we know that the Island of Despair isn't wiped out, we shouldn't wait for them to attack. We've collaborated with the Russian government to wipe them out, and I'm sure that they're waiting to take their revenge on us. We should make arrangements to search for their base of operations now. We can't let them have the advantage over us."

Luke nodded. The Mallory family was also involved in the previous attack on the Island of Despair. If the new leader of the Island of Despair wanted to take revenge on those who had wronged him, the Mallory family would definitely be implicated too. Luke knew that they had to cooperate to fight against them. "I'll make arrangements on my side. In any case, you shouldn't let anyone else know about it."

"Don't worry. I know what to do." Percy nodded. Luke was right; they could not afford to alert the enemy.

...

At noon, Nina left the office and bumped into Sue.

"Are you going downstairs to have lunch, Nina? Shall we go together?" Sue smiled and said to Nina.

Nina shook her head. "I can't go to lunch with you. I have something else to do."

"Don't you plan to have lunch? Look at you now. You're all skin and bones. You ought to eat your meals." Sue thought that Nina was thinking of skipping lunch, so she wanted to force her to go and eat with her.

was glad that Sue was concerned for her. She explained, "It's not like that, Sue. You've misunderstood. I have a date with someone else today, so I can't have lunch with

and gestured an "OK" sign. "I see, then it's fine. I won't disturb the two of you then. You ought to eat more today. You look better when you have some more muscle on your

yes. You don't have to worry about me. I won't make myself suffer," Nina said with a smile. The two of them went into the elevator and

parted ways at the lobby. Nina went into the

of that type would not have private rooms. However, this restaurant had private rooms for the convenience of the managers working in the

Percy's mother, had reserved a private

waitress led Nina to the private room, then closed the door behind

not help but keep her guard up when she saw the elegant woman in front of her. It was not her first time meeting Ruth, and she knew of her noble status. She sat down on a chair in front of Ruth and said carefully, "Good afternoon, Madam. How can I help you

the teacup in her hands away and glanced at

People of Ruth's social class hated women like Nina. Nina understood that Ruth hated her, but she did not think that she did anything wrong. After all, Percy was the one who insisted that she stay by his **side**.

She looked at Ruth, unperturbed.

"I still have the same question for you, but it's not exactly the same this time. I'm arranging a marriage for Percy. The young lady is from the Johnston family, and she has just returned to A City after having graduated from an overseas university. She is beautiful, intelligent, and is from a prominent family, so she is the perfect match for Percy. Do you think that he'll like her?" Ruth **said**.

Nina shook her head. "I don't know. I'm not **Percy**."

"**It doesn't** matter if you know it, but we all know that you're not suitable for Percy. I know why you've been clinging to him, so here's a check for you. You should know what to do next, don't you?" Ruth said and took out a check from her handbag.

Nina's eyes widened slightly when she saw the figure on the check. She was aware of the Mallory family's wealth, but she was shocked by how much Ruth was willing to *give her*.

"Indeed, I'm not suitable for Percy, but I can't take your check either." She put the check on the table and pushed it over. She was not enticed by the **figure**.

It was not the first time that Ruth had given her a check. Every time, Nina had refused to accept *it*.

It was also the same **this time**.

expression changed when Nina refused to accept the check. "What's the meaning of this? Do you think that you can stay by Percy's side just because you refuse to accept my offer? Let me tell you, you'd better stop dreaming. He only likes you now because you're young. Do you think that you can still be by his side in a

never wanted to be by his side," Nina said candidly. She felt horrible for being humiliated twice in a single

do you want then? Do you want to be the matriarch of the Mallory family after I die? Let me tell you, stop dreaming. Percy wouldn't want to marry you, and even if he would, his father and I wouldn't allow it," Ruth

I've told you since the first time we met that I don't care about your money, and I'm powerless to leave Percy. What you can do is convince Percy to leave me. I've met Ms. Johnston before, and she's indeed an outstanding young woman. I have no doubt that she is the perfect match for Percy, and I hope that you can arrange the marriage so that Percy will leave me alone," Nina

was not that she did not want to leave Percy, but Percy had never wanted her to

had never thought of making money from the deal, and she did not want to be by Percy's side for the rest of

All she wanted was to leave...

even more displeased when she

said that Percy did not want her to leave. To Ruth's ears, Nina's words were like a brazen taunt. She thought that Nina was saying that she was irreplaceable, and Percy's parents were helpless about

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Nina looked at her forearm and began to smile. It was red and hurt a lot, but she did not cry.

The pain on her arm was nothing compared to the agony and depression that she had stored in her heart for the past few years. In fact, it made her feel alive.

The waitress opened the door to the private room and noticed that Nina was still sitting there. She asked, "Excuse me, Miss, may I take your order?"

Nina did not stand up. She spoke to the waitress without turning around. "Yes. Please give me the lunch set."

"Alright, coming right up," the waitress replied and closed the door. The noble woman had left earlier and paid the bill. She thought that the other woman would leave too, but instead, the woman ordered something to eat.

Nina remained motionless while sitting on the chair. When the waitress came into the room again with her food, she pointed at the mess on the floor. "I accidentally dropped this earlier. Please clean it up. If the cup is broken, add it to my bill, and I'll pay for it later."

The waitress looked at the mess on the floor and noticed that Nina's arm was red. She thought that it was not an accident.

In her mind, she had already made up a fantastical story. The young woman sitting in front of her must be the mistress of the noble woman's husband. That made the waitress look at Nina with contempt.

However, the waitress did not say anything because she was still on the job. Instead, she nodded and said, "Alright, I'll clean it up later. Enjoy your meal, Miss."

The waitress left the room and closed the door after that.

at the food in front of her and picked up a fork. She ate the food in big bites, seemingly unperturbed by the pain in her

she did not feel hungry at all, she finished half of the plate. Then, she took the napkin and elegantly cleaned

she ate, the waitress did not come into the room to disturb

stood up and looked at the teacup on the floor. It was chipped, like

left the room and went to pay at

cashier noticed that Nina's arm was scalded and said, "Miss, you ought to put some ointment on your arm. Otherwise, it might leave a

fine." Nina left the restaurant after paying

to herself. Even though the restaurant staff did not say anything, she could notice that their reactions toward her were different from

I can't eat here anymore,' she thought. 'It's a pity though. The food here is

the company, Nina tried to cover the injury on her arm, but Sue happened to notice it. She grabbed Nina's arm and asked her, "Didn't you say that you went on a date? What happened to your arm? It's so red. Were you

"**Mm**, it was an accident," Nina pulled her arm away and said softly. She did not feel happy that her friend was concerned about her, but instead, she felt as though nothing could change her mood, and she was nothing but a lingering phantom.

She knew that Sue thought that she went on a date with Percy, and she did not offer to explain **herself**.

"**You're too** careless... Was it you or Percy?" Sue felt sorry for Nina. The injury **looked painful**.

"It's my fault," Nina said.

Sue shook her head. "You're so bad at lying, Nina. You can't possibly hurt yourself on this part of your body. Was Percy violent to *you*?"

Sue hated men who deliberately injured women. Thinking that Percy might be the one who caused Nina's injury, Sue wanted to get even *with him*.

Nina could see that Sue was about to and hunt down Percy. She shook her head and said, "It's the waitress. She accidentally spilled the milk tea when she was bringing it over."

"*Really?*" Sue asked, still feeling suspicious. She thought that Nina was covering up for *Percy*.

"*I'm telling* you the truth. I haven't washed my arm yet, and you can smell the tea if you come close," Nina said as she lifted her *arm*.

"**Nah, it's** fine. You didn't have to cover up for the waitress though," Sue said as she took a close look at Nina's arm. It was very red, and it would definitely leave a scar. She needed to get Nina some high-quality ointment.

worried that you'd pick a fight with the waitress," Nina said with a sigh. "It's not too serious, and I don't want

kind, Nina. You can't just let it go when the injury looks so serious," Sue said. "You'll have to find some ointment for your arm. See, blisters are forming

not seem to mind the blisters. "It's fine. If it's too painful, I'll wash it with cold

won't do. It'll be a pity if you have scars on your forearm, and you won't be able to hide them in warm weather. Right, I know a medical researcher, and she might have something for you. Let me ask her." Sue suddenly remembered

had told her that Luca was a genius medicine maker. She was able to produce her own herbal concoctions that could not be found in

have to trouble anyone," Nina said. She was not concerned about

and contact her," Sue said insistently while sending a message

opinion of Luca had changed completely since the dinner. She did not hesitate to ask her

moment, Luca was resting in her office. When she read Sue's message, she immediately replied: [I have something for scalds. I'll give it to you after

received Luca's message. In her reply, she invited Luca for dinner. Then, she said to Nina, "Come to my house for dinner tonight, Nina. My friend has just created an ointment that's good for treating scalds. She'll be coming over

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Luca was happy that Sue was so hospitable toward her. She took out the ointment from her handbag and asked, "Who's the one who needs medical attention?"

"She's a friend of mine. She's sitting inside," Sue said. They went into the living room and saw Nina sitting on the couch. "This is Nina Langdon, my friend and my colleague at work. Nina, this is Dr. Luca Craw."

Luca looked at Nina and, for a moment, did not know how to react.

She had checked on Nina's condition ever since she returned. At first, she was relieved to find out that Nina was still together with Percy. After all, Percy could protect her.

Now that she looked carefully at Nina, she could tell that Nina was not happy.

Nina had lost a lot of weight, and she was nothing more than skin and bones. Tears welled up in Luca's eyes as she looked at Nina.

"Nice to meet you, Dr. Craw." Nina smiled weakly when she looked at the unfamiliar face. Earlier, Sue had told her briefly about Luca, and she could tell that Sue admired the woman.

She roughly knew who Luca was, and she had heard about Luca's scandal with Luke.

At first, Nina did not have a good impression of Luca.

"Nice to meet you," Luca said and nodded slightly. She noticed that Nina's exposed forearm was red, and several blisters had formed on it.

She quickly handed the ointment to Nina. "This ointment is an antiseptic and a painkiller. You should use it."

Nina took the white, unlabeled tube and looked at it. "I've heard from Sue that you made this yourself."

could tell that Nina was wary. She explained, "Mm, I made this myself. It's entirely made of herbs, and even people with sensitive skin can use it without any

smiled and said, "You can't find it

Nina nodded and said, "Thank you."

welcome." Luca's heart wrenched when she heard Nina's distant reply. Even though Nina sounded calm, she could sense the melancholy in her

that Nina's condition had not become better over the past

"Quickly use the ointment, Nina. It's not going to become any better if you only use the ice pack. Alright, I'll go and cook dinner. The caretaker had to leave earlier, so it'll take a little longer. There are drinks and snacks in the fridge, so you can help yourselves with that. Make yourself at home,

that the caretaker and Jason were not in

could guess why Jason was not home yet. Amur had deliberately launched an attack on T Corporation's company network, and they must still be busy

though she knew the reason, Luca asked, "Where's Mr.

know? He has to work overtime today because something happened in the company," Sue said. She thought that Luca would have heard about

shook his head. "I don't know. Watson isn't in the same building as T

"That's true. I guess that's why it didn't affect you." **Sue nodded.**

Luca saw that Nina was applying the ointment on her arm. She stood up and said, "You're going to cook dinner soon, right? Why don't I help *you*?"

"Huh?" Sue was surprised. "You're a guest. I can't possibly ask you for help."

"Don't worry about it. You said that you wanted to taste my cooking, right? This is a good opportunity," Luca said as she walked toward the kitchen.

Sue considered that she would be making a mess in the kitchen because Jason and the caretaker were not around. She walked into the kitchen and said, "How about I help you *then*?"

"Alright," Luca nodded and said.

Nina slowly applied the ointment to her arm as she watched the two women walk into the kitchen. She sank deep in *thought*.

For some reason, she thought that Luca's silhouette looked *familiar*.

Jason had not returned after the three women finished their dinner. Luca was curious to find out whether they could solve the *problem*.

She knew that Luke was capable, but his employees in **T Corporation...**

She wondered if she had given him too much trouble.

about to leave when Nina said that she wanted to leave too. "Dr. Craw, you didn't drive here, did you? May I send you

surprised. She said, "Our houses are in opposite directions, aren't they? I can catch

her head and said insistently, "It's fine. It's already so late anyway, so it won't take too long to travel in opposite directions. I have to thank you for your ointment. My arm doesn't

rubbed her arm, surprised that the swelling had gone down so

than thanking her, Nina wanted to send Luca back because she did not want to go home so

She would rather not face Percy...

"That's a good idea. If Nina wants to send you home, you shouldn't refuse. After all, we're all friends that it would be rude if she continued to refuse, so she sat in Nina's

her address to Nina, Nina inputted it into her navigation app and started

a whiff of the air freshener in Nina's car. Her tastes were quite similar to Nina's, and they had used the same brand of air freshener three years

air freshener smells quite nice," Luca said. She remembered that she and Nina used to be close friends, and she could clearly remember the times they

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Percy did not seem satisfied with Nina's answer. "You didn't tell me that."

"I forgot," Nina said impatiently. She did not forget, but she did not want to report everything to him. That made her look as though she were his pet.

She was human, not Percy Mallory's pet.

Percy spoke nothing for the next three seconds. He thought that she was behaving erratically because she had something on her mind, so he said, "Alright, it's good to hear that you're eating your meals. I'll be back late because I have some work to do. Remember to go to bed early. If you can't sleep, take your sleeping pills."

Nina was not sure how to feel after hearing his words of concern. "Mm," she replied and ended the call.

Luca watched Nina take off her Bluetooth headset. She asked, "Was that your boyfriend?"

'Boyfriend?' Nina was taken aback, then she chuckled self-deprecatingly. Many people thought that Percy was her boyfriend, but he was actually not. What bound them together was a shameful transaction.

"No," Nina said, thinking that it would not be too long before Percy would be out of her life forever.

Once Percy was officially engaged to Ms. Johnston, Nina would automatically leave. Even though she had been his illicit lover for many years and her heart had already gone numb, she still had her principles.

She did not mind that she was unhappy, but she was not going to linger around and bring unhappiness to other women.

never going to find happiness if she clung to

that reply, Luca was even more sure that she did not enjoy a healthy relationship with Percy. Perhaps that was the main cause of her

at the destination and looked around her. "Is this

nodded, unfastened her seatbelt, and took out her phone. "Can I add you as a friend on

was quite surprised by the question. She did not expect Luca to ask that after their first meeting, though she did not oppose the idea. "Sure," she nodded

adding each other to their contacts, Luca opened the car door. Before she stepped out, she said, "Drive safe on your way back. Send me a message when you reach home. It's getting

was caught in a daze as she watched Luca close the door. Bianca used to say the

had the urge to talk to Bianca. It had been a long time since they contacted

that thought, Nina dialed Bianca's number. The phone rang for a long time, but no one picked it

...

Two days later, the IT department of T Corporation finally managed to fix all the flaws in the network security system. At the same time, they also upgraded the servers' operating *system*.

The department manager gave Luke a detailed report in the CEO's **office**.

While fixing the flaws, they also found traces of attacks from other IP addresses in the network logs. The department manager dared not keep it a secret from Luke, so he reported that to him as well.

Luke's expression darkened when he heard that. "Are you telling me that none of you discovered all those attacks on our network?"

The manager kneaded his hands together nervously and tried to explain, "The attacks didn't activate the alarms. In any case, they didn't **succeed**."

"Won't it be too late if they succeeded?" Luke retorted, unhappy that the manager was trying to find excuses. The attacks might not have caused any harm to the company because they did not manage to access the top-secret information, but they exposed significant flaws in the company's **security system**.

The security system was supposed to be perfect, but those attacks managed to sneak past it undetected. One could imagine the number of flaws in *that system*.

"*You're exactly* right. Our staff has already upgraded the system and fixed its flaws. Next time, the system will automatically trigger an alarm once it detects an unknown IP address." The manager could tell that Luke was unhappy, so he tried to appease **him**.

T Corporation paid him a high salary. He did not want to lose the *job*.

Moreover, if T Corporation fired him, he would not be able to get a job elsewhere. He needed to make sure that Luke was appeased.

you one day to raise the security rating of the system by two," Luke said. He was not in the mood

frowned when he heard that. "I'm afraid that one day won't be enough,

personally test the system tomorrow. If there's no improvement to the security, I expect your resignation letter on my desk the day after." Luke gave his

that there was no wiggle room in Luke's orders, he had to agree

after that, Jason brought Adrian into the office. "Mr. Crawford, Mr. Daley wants to talk to you

and said to the manager, "You

The manager left with his head drooped and a frown on his face. If he could not get the job done by today, his future would be quite bleak. He cursed the unknown hackers under

went over and sat down in front of Luke before Luke said anything. He was a guest and not an employee, so he was not too bothered by

found a few things after two days, but it might not be much, and I'm not sure if the information will help," Adrian spoke before Luke or Jason

you find?" Luke asked. Adrian might be a genius, but there was not much he could do, given

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Luke looked at the photo on his phone. Luca's neighborhood was included in the circle.

"Of course, it might only be a coincidence," Jason said.

Luke nodded. He would think of that problem later. Instead, he looked at Adrian and said, "Thank you for your hard work."

"Don't mention it. You want to upgrade your system, right?" Adrian asked.

Luke nodded.

"I can help you," Adrian said, offering his services. Luke was Percy's friend and commanded a considerable influence in A City. It would be a good idea if Luke would owe him a favor.

Luke could tell what Adrian was thinking. He asked him, "What do you want?"

"I don't know what I want yet, but it won't be something major. You don't have to worry about owing me a favor," Adrian gave his promise.

Luke thought for a while. Then, he stood up and extended his hand, "Deal."

"Thank you," Adrian stood up and shook hands with Luke. "I'll need access to your company's mainframe."

"Mr. Doyle will bring you there," Luke said.

trouble you, Mr. Doyle," Adrian turned around and spoke

noddled and led him to the IT

back on his executive chair. He looked at the photo on his phone and sank into deep

brought Adrian to the IT department, Luke summoned him back to the CEO's office. He knocked on the door and went inside. "How may I help you,

want to go to Watson," Luke said. The hacking incident in New York was related to Luca. Now, Adrian had narrowed down the area where the attack on T Corporation originated to include Luca's neighborhood. Luke could not help but suspect that the attack was also related

too suspicious to be only a

reminded him, "Mr. Crawford, you have an important international teleconference in twenty minutes. You'll have to be present to discuss the contract with the other

words, Jason did not want him to go to Watson

other choice, Luke had to cancel his plan of

to Crawford Manor at night. He had not been home for the past two days because of what happened to T Corporation, and the children were very excited to see

"Daddy! Daddy!" They called out to Luke, which made his stress and lethargy vanish into **thin air**.

Old Master Crawford was sitting on the couch. He asked him, "I suppose you've dealt with everything that happened in *the company*?"

"It's dealt with," Luke said. He knew that Old Master Crawford had several confidants working in the company, so he could not hide anything from his grandfather.

Old Master Crawford did not intervene because he was confident that Luke was capable of handling **it**.

"That's good to know." Old Master Crawford nodded in satisfaction. There were no negative reports of the incident, and the share prices were not affected. It seemed that Luke had perfectly overcome *the challenge*.

"Tch," Susan muttered disapprovingly. She thought, 'What's so hard about that? It's just repairing computers, isn't it? Any intern could have done that. Louis would have been able to solve the *problem too*.'

Old Master Crawford heard that. He glared at Susan and said, "Don't think that it's easy to fix the problem. If it were you, you wouldn't be able to *solve it*."

Susan put her teacup down and said, "Of course I can't do it. I'll have to leave it to the young people to handle things like these. Louis would be able to solve it though."

Old Master Crawford knew that Susan was complaining that he did not give Louis the chance to prove himself, though he knew that Louis had insisted on leaving T Corporation and starting his own studio.

"What are you talking about? I offered Louis the opportunity to work in T Corporation, but he didn't want to *stay*."

Susan had no retort to that. She could only glare at Luke as the resentment in her heart grew.

Master Crawford turned to Luke and asked him, "Where did Bianca travel to, Luke? Is she so engrossed that she can't even call home? Does she still care about the children or treat this place as

unperturbed when his grandfather mentioned Bianca's name. Gale and Rain had been interrogating Bianca non-stop for the past few days, but Bianca's mouth remained shut. Of course, that was expected for anyone from the Island of Despair, which showed no mercy to

me earlier today. She said that she's having a lot of fun, and she would be extending her vacation for a few more days,"

wrong with her? Her children are still young, and she's neglecting them!" Old Master Crawford's expression darkened. Luke had not returned home for the past two days because he was busy with the work at T Corporation, but Bianca had taken the opportunity to go

long as she's happy,"

her, Luke. That's ridiculous!" Old Master

could sense that the atmosphere was getting awkward. She tugged Tommy's shirt sleeve and said, "Tommy, don't you have something to

remembered what he wanted to say. He went in front of Luke and said, "Let's go upstairs, Daddy. I have to show you

"What trophy?" Luke asked.

school had a chess tournament today, and I won first place. The teacher gave me a trophy as a prize!" Tommy

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"Get Sean to prepare the car. I'm sending Tommy to the hospital." Luke immediately made a decision.

The caretaker nodded hurriedly, turned around, and went to inform the driver.

Luke picked Tommy up and went downstairs.

Tommy opened his eyes groggily when he realized that he was in Luke's arms. "I feel horrible, Daddy," he said with much difficulty.

Luke gently stroked his head and said, "I'm bringing you to the hospital."

Tommy nodded and closed his eyes again.

Luke brought Tommy into the car and gave Johann a call.

After Sean parked the car at the hospital, Tommy was immediately wheeled into the ward, and several doctors and nurses immediately set to work. Tommy's temperature had already reached 104 degrees. The doctors discussed and agreed to Tommy's medication, then took a blood sample for analysis.

Johann watched the nurses hook Tommy up to an IV drip and take a blood sample. He asked Luke, "Why did Tommy have a fever suddenly? Did he catch a cold?"

"No," the caretaker who came along said. "Master Tommy had a slight cough two days ago, but we gave him some cough syrup, and he was fine. He suddenly had a fever earlier tonight."

Johann nodded and said, "Sis went through a lot when she was pregnant with him, so he naturally has a weaker constitution than other kids. It's normal that he'll occasionally catch a fever. He'll be fine after some rest."

thought that there must be something behind it. Otherwise, the other doctors would not have gotten Johann to personally attend to

remember the time when Bianca was hospitalized?" He

at him, then at the child on the bed. "Are you suspecting that Bianca is involved somehow, and that's why you brought the kid to the

children were ill, Luke would usually call Johann to go over to Crawford Manor. Johann thought that Luke was overreacting to Tommy's illness, but after Luke asked that question, he thought that Luke's worries were

nodded. After knowing that the impostor Bianca was a minion of the Island of Despair, he tried to recall what she had done, including the time when she was hospitalized for a month. Everything seemed to point to a bigger, more nefarious

after the blood test results are out. There isn't anything going on tonight, and I'll urge the lab technicians to get it done as soon as possible." Johann could empathize

Luke nodded.

blood test results were out some time after midnight. The report showed that everything was normal, and Tommy's fever had subsided after taking

might be only a regular fever," Johann tried to comfort

was already very late at night, and the caretaker and the driver had already gone back to Crawford Manor. Luke sat on the chair next to Tommy's bed and touched the child's forehead with his hand. "How is the investigation in

After returning from New York, Luke had been occupied with the hacking incident in T Corporation, and he did not have time to follow up with Johann about the faulty DNA test from three years **ago**.

He took this opportunity to ask Johann about it.

Johann shook his head and sighed. "I've asked the hospital director about it, and he told me that the security footage from three years ago had been erased. It'll be very difficult to investigate an incident from so long ago, and all we have are the test records. We can't find anything useful **from there.**"

The hospital management did not expect that the DNA test samples were *swapped*.

After all, not everyone could go into the laboratory. Even the hospital staff needed the appropriate access card to go inside.

"*What about* the lab technicians who were on shift that night?" *Luke asked.*

"We haven't found the shift records of that night. You shouldn't put too much hope into that. Some of the lab technicians have left over the years, and even if they knew who was on shift that night, they probably won't remember what happened."

Luke knew that investigating the incident was practically impossible, but at least he knew that the Island of Despair was behind it, and the real Bianca was still in their hands.

His phone began to ring, and he answered it immediately. Gale was on the other end of the call. "Boss, the woman wants to **meet you.**"

The impostor Bianca had kept her mouth shut over the past few days of interrogation. Finally, she said that she wanted to meet Luke, and Gale and Rain were relieved to hear **that.**

Tommy was still in the hospital, and Luke could not leave right now. He said, "I'll go over first thing in **the morning.**"

replied and ended the

could guess that the urgent call so late at night must be related to the impostor Bianca. He asked, "Are there any

put his phone away. "She wants to meet

to say something but stopped himself. He patted Luke's shoulder and said, "I'll be in my office tonight. You can come and find me if you need someone to talk

and sat back down on the chair to look

next morning, he got a caretaker from Crawford Manor to come over and take care of Tommy while he drove the car to the mansion in

Rain had been waiting

here, Boss," Rain said with a smile on her face. Thinking that the impostor Bianca was willing to speak to Luke, they would be able to find out more information about the Island of Despair and rescue the real

did she suddenly change her mind?" Luke asked as he walked toward the

don't know. Gale was interrogating her when she suddenly said that she wanted to meet you,"

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Bianca's eyelids fluttered, and she said, "Even if I tell you that I don't know anything, you wouldn't believe me, right?"

Luke was furious when he heard that, and he could feel the fires of anger burning in his chest. The woman had deceived him for three years and made him miss so many opportunities to find the woman he loved.

"You have your plans, Luke, and I do too. I thought I loved you, but I didn't expect that you're so cruel to me!" Bianca complained as she lay helplessly on the bed.

"Give me the whip," Luke said.

Bianca shuddered when she heard that Luke was going to use the whip on her. She could withstand normal whipping, but Rain had treated the whip with a particular drug that would cause her veins to hurt and itch. She wanted to scratch her wounds, but she did not have the strength.

"Here is it, Boss," Rain said as she handed Luke the whip.

Bianca shuddered. She knew that the man in front of her showed no mercy toward her, so she did not try to evoke his pity. Instead, she said, "If this is how you're going to treat me, then you can't blame me for what I've done to you."

Luke narrowed his gaze. Killing intent flashed in his eyes.

Bianca wanted to push herself up, but she was still under the drug's effects, so she had to continue lying on the bed. "Your youngest son must be ill now, isn't he?"

Gale and Rain exchanged glances. They did not know what Bianca was talking about.

you say?" Luke's eyes widened slightly. Did Tommy's fever really have something to do with

been feeding your son a special type of cookie, Luke. I made them myself. Your twins didn't want to touch them, but your greedy little boy ate a lot of them. He should be having a fever by now." After Bianca's initial plan of keeping Rainie away from home failed, she began to carry out her

Old Master Crawford did not like her, she would pretend to be a caring mother so that the old man would stop making her

was not easy to be a caring mother because the children did not cooperate with her. That was why she obtained some drugs from her contact. If one ingested the drug over a period of time, they would be down with a high fever, just like what happened to her after she took

as the children were ill, she could take care of them, and Old Master Crawford's opinion of her would

Lanie and Rainie did not want to eat the cookies she baked, and Tommy ate them all. She was happy that at least one of the three children was willing to eat her

was much easier to take care of one child than three, and Bianca continued to feed those cookies

going according to plan until Luke brought her to the mansion. In any case, she was glad that she had carried out the plan because that gave her a bargaining

"What do you want?" Luke said.

go, and your son will be okay. Otherwise, his fever won't subside until his brain turns into goo! Heh heh..." Bianca said hatefully. A lump of clotted blood choked Bianca, and she coughed violently a few

"You depraved woman!" Rain pointed at her and cursed.

Bianca laughed coldly. "Aren't we all? We're all from the Island of Despair, right? You're just as depraved as I am. Whatever you're doing to me now, I'll make sure that I'll return the **favor someday!**"

Rain was livid when she heard what Bianca said. She wanted to snatch the whip from Luke's hand and use it on Bianca.

She had watched Tommy grow up, and she adored the little boy. She felt sorry for Tommy for being exploited by the impostor Bianca's *nefarious plans*.

Gale knew what Rain was thinking. He grabbed her arm and shook his head.

Luke threw the whip on the floor and said, "Take good care of her. Make sure that she *suffers*."

As Bianca watched him leave, she said, "No one outside of the Island of Despair can save your son, Luke. No one knows the components of the drug! Heh heh heh, if you don't let me go, your son will eventually turn into *a vegetable!*"

Luke hastened his footsteps. He got into the car and drove toward the hospital.

His car had only left the mansion when he received a call from the caretaker, saying that Tommy's temperature had risen again, and the doctor asked him to go over as soon as possible.

Upon hearing that, Luke floored the gas pedal.

was hiding in the bushes. He watched Luke's car leave and wondered if Luke was plotting something with Gale and Rain. Otherwise, Luke would not have appeared at the

sneaking into the mansion to investigate, but he knew that Gale and Rain were formidable opponents. It was not a wise choice to alert them of

...

arrived at the hospital, Tommy was already hooked up to an IV drip. He was not asleep, and his eyes were bloodshot as though he had just finished

feel horrible, Daddy," Tommy said as he curled up on the bed. He felt that his body was on fire, and he did not know how to describe how he was feeling except

boy. You'll be okay soon." Luke's heart wrenched when he saw his

first returned from the Island of Despair, Louis had told him what Bianca endured to give birth to the boy. She had to deliver the baby while single-handedly keeping T

suffered a lot, but she believed that Luke would return, and she had brought the child safely to

felt helpless as he watched his youngest son suffer, and he did not know where Bianca was. He stroked Tommy's head and said, "I'll go and look for Uncle Johann. Be a good boy and stay here. I'll be

Tommy nodded, and a tear appeared in the corner of

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Johann could not yet tell the severity of the child's fever. However, Luke seemed to think that it was a very serious matter.

Luke nodded, though he had his doubts.

If the impostor Bianca's fever was caused by a special drug from the Island of Despair, and only the Island of Despair had the cure for the drug, how did Luca manage to alleviate the effects of the drug when Bianca was in the hospital?

Could Luca be also from the Island of Despair? Luke remembered how she had given Bianca a herbal concoction to suppress the effects of the drug, and he also considered the fact that the hacker's location was near Luca's neighborhood.

Whatever Luke was thinking, Johann had also thought about it. However, he was more concerned about Tommy's condition, so he searched the database on his computer for Luca's prescription.

Luca had given them two prescriptions, and he had recorded them in his database for future research.

He looked at the prescription and rubbed his chin. "This is the prescription that Dr. Craw gave Bianca last time. The ingredients are entirely natural, but I can't guarantee that it'll achieve the same effect if we don't know the drug that Bianca used on Tommy."

In other words, Luke had to call Luca over.

Luke thought that he could not afford to waste any time. He took out the phone and gave Luca a call.

At that moment, Luca had just clocked in at her office. She was about to don her lab coat and go into the laboratory to continue her research when her phone began to ring. She furrowed her brows when she saw that the call was from Luke.

Rhett knocked on the door to her office. The door was ajar, so he popped in and told her, "Dr. Craw, the report from yesterday's tissue culture experiment is ready."

"I'll go over in a while," Luca nodded and said. She hesitated for a while before deciding that she should answer the call. After all, Luke would not call her unless it was

morning, Mr. Crawford," she

not beat around the bush. "Tommy is in the hospital now, and his condition is quite peculiar. Can you come to the hospital for

heart skipped a beat when she heard Tommy was in the hospital. However, she reminded herself of her identity now, and she composed herself before saying, "What happened? What did the doctors

has a high fever. The blood test shows that everything was normal, but the fever keeps coming back. The symptoms are very similar to Bianca's fever last month,"

noticed that he said the name "Bianca" as though he was saying the name of

became anxious when she heard that Tommy was suffering. Remembering that Bianca had tried to abduct Rainie so that she could gain some respect from Old Master Crawford, Luca wondered if this was also

not sit still anymore. She said, "I'll go over to the hospital now, Mr. Crawford. Let me know where I can meet you. Also, I'll need all of Tommy's test reports. Dr. Park should be at the hospital, right? Please ask him to send the reports to me as soon

me know what reports you need, and I'll get him to prepare them for you," Luke handed the phone to

took the phone. Before he could say anything, Luca rattled off a list of tests. Other than the usual blood test, the hospital had not performed the

After Luca finished telling him the list, Johann replied, "Alright, we'll go and *make arrangements*."

Then, Luca ended the call.

Sitting in front of his computer, Johann began to order the tests in the hospital system and used his authority to assign them the highest priority. If what Luke said was true, Tommy was poisoned, and it was considered an emergency.

Luke looked at his phone and looked at the words "Call Ended" for a few seconds. He sent a message to inform Luca about Tommy's room number, then put his phone back in his **pocket**.

After ordering the tests, Johann snapped his fingers. "It's done," he said.

"*Are they* all regular tests?" **Luke asked**.

"No. Some of them are toxicology tests. I've put the tests on high priority, and the nurse will attend to Tommy soon. Do you want to accompany him?" Johann said. Usually, the hospital would not perform toxicology tests during a regular examination. If the regular tests could not provide any useful results, toxicology tests needed to be *done*.

"*Mm. I'll* return to the room for now," Luke said as he stood up. He knew that Tommy was very ill and needed him **the most**.

Shortly after Luke returned to Tommy's room, the nurse came in and prepared to take a blood sample. After that, she wanted to bring Tommy to another room to perform some tests.

Tommy squirmed uncomfortably and protested. Luke picked him up and carried him, while the caretaker followed behind with the drip *bottle*.

had given high priority to Tommy, so the tests were done in no time. After Luke returned to the room, Luca came in through

Luke carefully place Tommy on the bed, so she asked, "Has he done the

but the report will take a while." After Luke tucked Tommy in, he turned around and looked at obviously tired. She probably did not let's wait." She watched the caretaker hang the drip bottle on the rack, then looked at the little boy on nurse measured Tommy's temperature with a thermometer. Luca asked, "What's is improving after receiving some medication. It's 99.5 degrees now," the nurse was not completely asleep. When he heard Luca's voice, he opened his eyes and said, "Ms. Luca? Is Luke nodded.

went up to the side of the bed, and her heart wrenched when she saw that Tommy's face was pale. "Yes, Tommy, I'm

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Luca continued to hold Tommy in her arms until the drip bottle was dry. She did not let go even after the nurse removed the needle.

Tommy was quiet in her arms. Under the effect of the sedative, he eventually fell asleep.

The caretaker gently reminded Luca, "Ms. Craw, it'll be quite tiring to carry Master Tommy like that. Shall I do it instead?"

"I'm fine." Luca felt that her arms were slightly numb, but she insisted on carrying the child. She freed one of her hands to cover him with the blanket.

Old Master Crawford rushed to the hospital after he knew that Tommy was sick. He got the driver to fetch him there, and he was surprised to see the scene when he went into the room.

"She is..." He had only seen Luca in photos, and he did not immediately recognize her.

"Grandfather, this is Dr. Craw," Luke said.

"Nice to meet you, Dr. Craw." Old Master Crawford knew that Luca had helped Bianca and Queenie before, and the three children adored her. He was not going to look down on someone so capable, but he could not understand why Tommy was sleeping in her arms.

Did she coax Tommy to sleep? That was supposed to be the job of his father. Why would she be the one to do that?

Old Master Crawford might not like Bianca after she lost her memories, but he respected Luke's choice did not force him to divorce her. He wondered if Luca was trying to gain the children's favor so that she could replace Bianca in the Crawford family.

He had that suspicion because so many women had tried to do the same thing over the years.

as Old Master Crawford was concerned, marrying Bianca was Luke's choice, and Luke ought to take responsibility for

to meet you, Sir." Luca thought that she should be more respectful toward the old man, but she could not stand up because she was carrying the child in her

was relieved to see that Old Master Crawford was still in good

though there had been some misunderstandings between them, she was grateful toward Old

Master Crawford in the house, her three children would probably be bullied by the other people in the family. Luke was busy at work, and he could not be constantly looking after

What's wrong with Tommy?" Old Master Crawford

at the child in her arms. He was sleeping soundly, and one of his hands was gripping Luca's arm as though he was worried that she might

all she could do in the daytime. At night, she would not hesitate to lie down beside

explained, "Master Tommy was throwing a tantrum earlier, and Ms. Craw managed to calm

Master Crawford knew that Tommy adored Luca, but he could not understand why Luca was here at you, Ms. Craw. How is Tommy's condition?" Old Master Crawford asked out

Luke replied, "Tommy's fever has subsided, but his condition is unstable, and his fever might return. That's why I asked Dr. Craw to come over to check on **Tommy**."

"How did he become like that? I know that Tommy was coughing a few days ago, but how did it become so serious?" Old Master Crawford asked, confused.

"We don't know yet," Luke said.

Old Master Crawford walked over to the bedside with the help of his walking stick. His heart wrenched when he saw Tommy's face. "Did Dr. Park say anything?"

"They had just performed a series of tests on Tommy, Grandfather. Let's not rush them. They can only diagnose Tommy's condition after the test results are out," Luke said.

Old Master Crawford knew that there was no point in rushing them. He went to sit down on the couch and waited for the test results.

He looked at Luca, who was hugging Tommy as though she were his mother. Then, he was reminded of Bianca, who was traveling and having fun somewhere. "How about Bianca? When is she coming home?" **He asked**.

"She won't be coming home any time soon," *Luke said*.

Old Master Crawford was unhappy to hear that. He thought that Bianca was prioritizing her own gratification over the children's health. "That's no way to be a mother! When a child is sick, they need their mother the most, yet she's still having fun somewhere!"

Luke could not tell Old Master Crawford that Bianca was an impostor. Before he got to the bottom of the matter, it was best to keep it a secret. After all, he could not afford to let the enemy know what he knew.

"*Bianca* has been taking care of the children for the past three years. I thought she deserved to have some time off," he said.

skipped a beat when she heard

mean that she can neglect her children! How can she have the mood to travel when her son is sick?" Old Master Crawford said

didn't tell her," Luke

Crawford frowned hard, thinking if Luke had pampered Bianca too much. Otherwise, there was no reason to let her continue her trip without telling her about what happened

was quiet as she listened to the conversation between Old Master Crawford

that Bianca was traveling. Even if Bianca did not care about the children, she should at least pretend that she

Luke said that he did not

the impostor Bianca had planned for Tommy to fall sick, she would not have been traveling during this

Bianca had no medical skills, but she should know when the drug would

she had abducted Rainie so that she could gain some respect from Old Master Crawford. It was the perfect opportunity for her to pretend to be a caring mother, so why was she not around to take care of

capricious as she might be, she would not disobey

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Two hours later, Tommy's full test report was ready.

Johann came into the room with a stack of paper. Luca asked, "Is that the test report?"

"Yes, Dr. Craw. Indeed, there are abnormalities in some of the tests. Take a look," Johann said while handing the stack of paper to Luca.

It was only then that Luca let go of Tommy.

Tommy had already fallen asleep in her arms. She gently placed the little boy on the bed without waking him up.

Old Master Crawford observed her careful actions. Compared to Bianca, Luca looked more like the child's mother.

The child was willing to get close to her, and she was willing to take care of the child.

However, no one could deny the truth. Bianca was the birth mother of the three children. It did not matter how Luca treated them.

Old Master Crawford stole a glance at Luke. He was also observing Luca's actions.

After Luca tucked Tommy in, she took the document from Johann's hands and briefly browsed through it. "We'll have to do a bacteria culture test. I suspect that Tommy ate something wrong, and he's down with a bacteria infection."

Luke frowned slightly when he heard that.

that Tommy's fever was caused by the impostor Bianca's

Tommy ate in the past few days was prepared by the household cook, except last Sunday, when they went over to your house. What could have possibly caused the bacterial infection?" Old Master Crawford raised his

he pampered the children, he was quite strict when it came to matters concerning their health. He did not allow the children to eat junk food even if they begged him for it, and the caretakers and driver knew better than to disobey

sense that Old Master Crawford was suspecting her. She said, "It's true that I made some croissants for the children that day, but the ingredients were freshly bought from the supermarket. If there's something wrong with the food, then all three children

paused for a while and looked at Luke. "All three children and Mr. Crawford ate the croissants. Tommy shouldn't be the only one

knew the cause of Tommy's sickness. After Luca finished explaining herself, he added, "There's nothing wrong with the food last Sunday. Tommy might have sneakily bought and eaten some unhealthy food when no one was looking. The most important thing now is to diagnose the infection so that the doctors can treat

Master Crawford frowned. He did not look very

tried to ease the tension in the room. "That's right, Luke. I'll get a nurse to collect a sample so that we can perform the bacteria culture test. It'll take a day before we get results. In the meantime, the nurse will take Tommy's temperature every half an hour. Don't

Johann leave, then turned her head to look at the child on the bed. She would only know what caused Tommy's fever the next

wanted to stay behind to take care of Tommy, but Luke and Old Master Crawford were in the room. She was only an outsider, and she had no reason

*Even though Old Master Crawford did not say it, she could tell that he was not pleased with her presence. To him, Luca had no relation to the family. If she was too eager, he might think that she had an *ulterior motive*.*

There was no choice but **to leave...**

"Mr. Crawford, if the test results are only ready by tomorrow, I should return to the company and continue my work," Luca said, trying hard not to show that she was *worried*.

Luke stared at her. "Aren't you going to give Tommy a prescription?"

"I'm not taking the risk; the child's body is weak. I can only do that after the bacteria culture test report is out," Luca said, taking into consideration Tommy's condition.

Tommy was her son, and she knew his physical condition very well.

Luke thought what Luca said made sense; it was better to err on the side of caution when the cause of Tommy's fever was yet known. He nodded and said, "*Thank you.*"

"**Don't** mention it. Tommy is a good boy." Luca turned around and looked at Tommy again. His body temperature had returned to normal, and his face was a healthy color. His lips were dry and slightly cracked, so she said, "The fever might return again. When he's awake, you should feed him warm water. If he's sleeping, you can dab his lips with a moist *cotton swab.*"

"**Yes,** Ms. Craw. I'll do that for him," the caretaker *said.*

Luca nodded at Luke, bowed slightly to Old Master Crawford, and left *the room.*

Master Crawford stood up and walked to the side of the bed with his walking stick. He sighed as he gazed at the

to drink coffee. Go and buy some coffee for me," the old man said to the

put away the glass of water in her hand and left the

caretaker left, only Old Master Crawford and Luke remained in

Master Crawford did not beat around the bush. "Luke, are you hiding something from

could tell that he would not be able to hide the truth from his grandfather for much longer. He nodded but did not

it?" Old Master Crawford

can't tell you yet," Luke

Master Crawford knew that Luke had a reason for doing so. He nodded and stopped asking him

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