

Be Gentle 1411

Chapter 1411

After he exited the call, Luke subconsciously opened the window that displayed the surveillance footage.

Luca was no longer in her office. It was likely that she was off doing research.

There was nothing to look at in the empty office. Luke turned off the surveillance and picked up the cold take-out box on the side. After he took a few bites, he stopped eating.

The delicious lunch was no longer so after it had cooled. He was always picky about food so he did not continue eating it.

Luke threw the take-out box into the trash can, took a sip of the cold coffee, and continued to work.

After half an hour.

Jason appeared at the door of the laboratory. Instead of walking in, he stood there and said to the people inside, "Hello, can you please call for Dr. Craw?"

One of the researchers heard him and said to Rhett, "Mr. Link, Mr. Doyle is looking for Dr. Craw."

Rhett looked up from the microscope, saw Jason at the door, and immediately stood up. "Dr. Craw is in the cultivation room. Mr. Doyle, wait a moment, I'll go get her now."

"Okay," Jason nodded and stayed outside of the laboratory.

Rhett walked into the cultivation room and informed Luca that Jason was looking for her.

She walked out without a second's thought and saw Jason standing at the entrance of the laboratory. She took off her protective clothing, walked over, and asked, "Mr. Doyle, what can I help you with?"

"Dr. Craw, can we step aside to speak?" Jason did not immediately explain why he was there.

and looked at the researchers in the laboratory. They were pretending to be busy with their research but she knew that each of them had their ears pricked up so that they could find out why Jason was looking for

they saw her turn around, they turned their focus back to their work as if they had received a warning talk in my office?" Luca said. Although her office was being monitored, she was certain that Jason had Luke's permission to look

and the two of them walked to Luca's office. Before they got there, he tugged on her
puzzled by his sudden

Craw, we don't need to go back to your office. Just come with me." With that, Jason turned around and walked toward

could hear the anxiety in his tone. She asked, "What
find out later." Jason did not share any

Luca was confused, she kept up with him. She could not help but ask, "Can you at least tell me where you're taking

CEO's office," Jason said as he pressed the

dead in her tracks. It was because they had reached the elevator's entrance and also because of what are we going to Luke's

When the elevator arrived on their floor, the elevator doors opened. Jason walked in and turned around. He saw that Luca had no intention of coming in and even had doubts on her face. He said, "Dr. Craw, the boss *needs you*."

He did not share what had happened to Luke and just said that he needed her. Luca had no choice but to walk into the elevator and watched as Jason pressed the button. It was indeed the floor where Luke's office was located.

Luca looked at her reflection on the metal elevator doors. She was worried and had **doubts**.

'The worry in Jason's eyes is real. What happened to Luke? Why does he need me?'

As she was still thinking about it, the elevator reached Luke's floor and the doors *slowly opened*.

There was no one outside the elevator. When Luca walked out, she thought Luke would be there but she and Jason were the only ones in the corridor.

She glanced back at Jason.

Jason explained, "Dr. Craw, the boss is in his office now."

Luca knew where Luke's office was but this was her 'first time' on the floor. She could not seem like she knew her way **around**.

She looked at Jason and said, "Please lead the way."

Jason nodded, walked out of the elevator, and led the way.

When he arrived at Luke's office, he knocked on the door, then opened it. He walked in.

Luca followed him and walked into the office. She subconsciously looked at Luke's desk but did not see Luke there. Her eyes fell on the sofa and she saw Luke lying there.

happened to Mr. Crawford?" she

heard her voice, opened his eyes slightly, and then closed them again. He knew that Jason would explain the whole situation to

"The boss has a stomach problem. Dr. Craw, you're skilled in the medical field. Can you

heard that Luke was sick, her heartstrings were tugged. She wanted to check on him but she stopped step forward now, will it seem like I care for him

suppressed her instinct to immediately go over to Luke and asked, "Did Mr. Crawford have anything

don't know." Jason shook his head. He brought him take-out but he guessed that Luke did not eat it. They were in a meeting and he did not see

was embarrassing for him to say that his boss had a stomachache because he did not eat

not hear Luke's answer and had a rough idea of what was going on. She asked, "Do you have any medicine

took medicine half an hour ago but it seems that it has no effect on the pain. Dr. Craw, please help him relieve the pain. If it doesn't work, we'll have to send him to the hospital." Jason saw that her reaction was calm and quickly stepped

don't want to go to the hospital," Luke said immediately when he heard that Jason wanted to send him to

how stubborn he was. 'The pain is overwhelming yet he refuses to go to the hospital for the sake of his

Chapter 1412

Luca watched him lying there. Although he was suffering from gastric, he still maintained a calm expression. It was not obvious that he was in pain.

She suddenly stood up and asked him, "Mr. Crawford, is there milk in the pantry?"

"I don't know," Luke said. He did not touch any drinks except for coffee.

Luca remembered that Tina was responsible for replenishing the drinks in the pantry. Although Luke did not drink them, many guests came to visit. They might not all drink coffee, so there were always a variety of drinks prepared for the guests.

She said, "I'll go check it out."

Luke did not make a sound. Luca walked out of the office and toward the pantry.

When she walked into the pantry, she happened to bump into Tina, who was putting milk in the refrigerator. She asked, "Hello, is this milk?"

Tina turned her head to look at her, nodded, and handed her the milk in her hand. "Would you like some?"

"Yes, thank you." Luca took the milk and looked for a cup for Luke from the sterilizer.

Seeing this, Tina asked, "Are you a guest?"

She did not recall meeting Luca.

Luca shook her head and pointed her finger down. "I'm a new employee. Um, do you have a new cup?" discovered this when he was hospitalized in

was so exquisite as though she went through plastic surgery. She looked beautiful no matter the angle one looked at her

a little embarrassed by his staring. She said, "Milk is good for your stomach. If you haven't eaten, milk can fill your

up and took the cup of milk but had no intention of drinking it. He felt a sense of warmth from the touch of

thought he was worried about the cup, so she explained, "I bumped into your secretary in the pantry. She told me that this cup is new and no one else has

milk warm?" Luke could feel the warmth of the milk through

I warmed it up in the microwave. It's good for your stomach."

was holding the glass and sipped it slowly as if tasting a

temperature of the warmed milk was just right. It was not too hot. It was warm and somewhat comfortable to drink. He was not sure if it was an illusion but he felt his symptoms getting a

there, waiting for Jason to come back with the

later, Jason walked in. He was panting a little while holding a bag in his hand. "Dr. Craw, I bought the needles but the pharmacy doesn't have the brand you requested. I bought them all, so see if there are any suitable

Chapter 1413

"Yes." After Luke sat up, he stood up.

Jason wanted to step forward to help him but Luke glared at him. "I'm not disabled yet."

Jason immediately let go and stood there. He knew that Luke was in so much pain that even his brows were tightly knitted together, but after Luca arrived at the office, the expression on his face returned to normal.

Jason stroked his chin and wondered. 'Would he rather suffer in silence to save his dignity?'

Luke stood up and walked to the lounge.

Luca brought the dry needling tools and followed behind him.

Jason was going to follow along but received a call from Tina. He had no choice but to say, "Boss, I'll answer the call first."

"No need to follow me in," Luke said as he walked into the lounge.

Luca followed him in.

Jason watched as the two of them walked into the lounge. He could not help but wonder. 'Doesn't he suspect that Luca is from the Island of Despair? Isn't he worried that she'll hurt him if I'm not around?'

He thought about it for a while and shook his head. Luca was not a fool. It was not the best choice to make a move on Luke in the office. Thinking of this, he felt relieved and walked out of the office.

walked into the lounge and closed the door. The moment she turned around, she met

glanced at the door behind her and explained, "You have to take off your clothes for the treatment. You may be seen by others if anyone opens the

nodded, took off his jacket, and asked, "Should I take it

her head quickly and said, "No need for that. Only your chest needs to

said that, her face felt a little warm. It was something normal but she could not help but feel shy. Dry needling required the patient to undress. It was a normal

patient was Luke. Luca instantly felt that there could be an alternate meaning to what she

she was struggling about how to feel, Luke's hands quickly undid the buttons of his shirt. Every time he unbuttoned one, his firm muscles

to be dumbfounded. Her eyes moved with his movements until he unbuttoned the last button. His entire chest, as well as his abdominal muscles, were

She swallowed the flood of saliva.

figure was as good as ever. Even though he was busy with work and did not have much time to work out, he was still not out of shape. Three years had passed but his chest and abdominal muscles were

would get out of shape due to work stress and various family factors, but the person in front of

Luca was sure that Luke was favored by God. From the moment she fell for him, she thought that God had put extra work into him, making him the perfect man that he **was**.

Luke saw her standing one meter away from him with a dumbfounded expression. He raised the corner of his mouth and asked, "Dr. Crawford, you're standing so far away. How are you planning to do the *dry needling*?"

Luca came back to her senses. She regretted agreeing to do dry needling for him to relieve his pain. Worst-case scenario, he could just go to the hospital and the doctors would have many ways to help him alleviate *the pain*.

However, it was too late for her to leave. She could only bite the bullet. "Mr. Crawford, please lie down."

Luke lay flat.

Even when he was lying down, she still felt tempted. Luca felt absurd thinking of the days and nights that they had *spent together*.

It has been so long but she still **remembered everything...**

Luca adjusted her emotions before opening a pack of needles and cotton swabs. She kept telling herself that those things were in the past. She was treating Luke now, so there was no romance *involved*.

It was something normal and she could not afford to overthink, lest Luke noticed that something was wrong with her...

When she thought about that, she looked into Luke's eyes and said with a serious expression, "Mr. Crawford, I'm about to **start**."

"Okay," Luke looked at the suspicious blush on her face and did not **say anything**.

that he had a good physique and many women could not get enough

hated it when these women looked at him and would not allow them any chance to misunderstand. Luca, just like those women, blushed when she saw

difference was that Luke did not feel disgusted but instead was happy to let her watch if she wanted a tingling pain in his lower abdomen. When he reacted, Luca had already started the

at her. Her face was still blushing red but she was sharp with her movements. He only felt the slight sting of the needle and then there was no

quickly put in the remaining needles then breathed a sigh of relief. She stood up and said, "Mr. Crawford, you'll feel more comfortable after half an

lay flat, motionless. When she was doing the treatment, her hand touched his muscles but he did not feel offended

did not cross any boundaries and it was clear that her intentions were just to help him with the dry

that she was skilled in dry needling but did not expect to be her patient one

you feel uncomfortable, do tell me,"

looked at her and replied, "Did you do it at the wrong spot? Why would I

Chapter 1414

Luca sat on the sofa and felt as though the air around her solidified slightly.

Luke was lying there, unable to do anything. Furthermore, his chest was bare. If someone came in at that moment and did not see the needles on his acupuncture points, they might misunderstand.

Luca wanted to find something to do to distract herself but she did not have her phone with her.

Her gaze fell on the bookshelf on the side. It was not a bad idea to spend half an hour reading a book.

Luca pointed to the bookshelf and asked, "Mr. Crawford, can I read the books on the shelf?"

"Go for it," Luke said. There were various types of books on the shelf. They were not for display as he had read them all.

Luca stood up and picked an architectural design book on the shelf. When she was sitting down, she heard him ask, "You're interested in architectural design?"

She was startled. If there were a pile of books up for choosing, her first choice would be books related to architecture.

After all, her previous dream was to be an architect. If she was not kidnapped, she would not have become who she was today.

Luca felt a little melancholy. She wanted to admit it but decided to shake her head and say, "I don't have much interest in it. I took it at random."

Luke's gaze was deep as he said, "My wife loves to read such books."

felt her heartbeat speed up suddenly, and the next second, she heard him say, "These books were all prepared

glanced at the books on the shelf. Although there were other types of books, there were indeed many books on architectural design. In the beginning, she did not think too much of it. After all, T Corporation started as an architectural design firm and gradually developed into other

after she heard what he said, Luca's mood was a

put on a fake smile as though nothing happened and said, "I didn't expect Mrs. Crawford to be so interested in

her reply and did not continue

he did not want to talk, Luca would not make herself unwelcome. She opened the book and started reading, but all that she thought about was how the fake Bianca would not be interested in these books. After all, there were not many women who were interested in

told her that these were for

have only recently discovered that she was a fake. 'What does it mean when he said that he had prepared these

not figure it out. She shook her head and shifted her focus on

Luke was lying on the bed, he noticed her body language but chose to keep

very sensitive with time. About half an hour later, she stood up and said, "Mr. Crawford, the time is up. I'll remove the needles for

up his phone and glanced at it. It was exactly half an hour

She had not checked the time before nor after the treatment but had an impressive sense of time. Only a few people could *do that*.

"Mm," he replied in a low voice. His doubts toward her grew further.

Luca put down the book and walked over. She was much calmer than before when seeing his muscles **again**.

She was already mentally prepared so when she saw the sight again, she did not blush like before. She quickly pulled out the needles and then asked him, "Do you still feel *pain now*?"

Luke sat up and frowned.

Luca was worried and asked, "Does it *still hurt*?"

"No," Luke shook his head. His attention was on her just now so he did not pay too much attention to the pain. Thinking back, it seemed that the pain was relieved not long after Luca started the *treatment*.

He did not feel any more pain. "It doesn't hurt *anymore*."

Luca *breathed* a sigh of relief. She held all the needles and threw them into the trash can. "I'm glad to hear that it no longer hurts. Mr. Crawford, your stomach is weak. It's best if you eat on time and drink less coffee in the future."

Luke remembered that Bianca used to tell him to drink less alcohol and **coffee too**.

However, since she was kidnapped, no one had cared for him or controlled him like that anymore.

Luke was not annoyed with Luca's nagging. On the contrary, he had a familiar feeling. Maybe because her voice was similar to **Bianca's...**

him looking at her and turned around. She realized that she had said too much. She covered her mouth and said, "If all is well, I'll leave

nodded and began to button his

Luca fled the lounge.

reach the elevator's entrance, she had to pass the reception room. Jason bumped into her when she passed by. He quickly called out to her and asked, "Dr. Craw, are you

nodded and said. She gazed inside and saw a woman sitting

like she came

boss..." Jason checked in on Luke's

best that you ask Mr. Crawford. I still have some work to attend to. I'll return to my post," Luca said and left

a lot for her to escape Luke's good looks. Whenever she saw Luke's sturdy figure, she could not help but think of the

okay." Jason was a little puzzled looking at Luca's

stood up. She saw Luca and her gut feeling kicked in. She asked, "Mr. Doyle, who

"It's Dr. Craw," Jason replied.

Chapter 1415

Previously, Tia said that she treated the fake Bianca with hypnosis, but since Luke found out about the truth, he thought that things were not that simple. Perhaps Tia could be an entry point for investigating the Island of Despair.

Otherwise, how could everything be so coincidental?

Luke believed that the fake Bianca faked her madness. Otherwise, there was no good explanation as to why she appeared out of the blue and did not remember anything from the past.

As long as she acted crazy enough, no one would ask her about the past.

After Tia appeared, she used hypnosis to soothe her emotions. Around the same time, the fake Bianca happened to lose all memories of the past.

Luke was skeptical and thought that someone had conceived a well-laid-out plan and was plotting against him.

Since the fake Bianca was planted there by someone from the Island of Despair, Tia could be involved as well...

Luke sat in the executive chair, squinting his eyes while he thought about it all.

Jason thought he did not want to meet Tia, so he said, "Boss, if you don't want to meet her, I'll send her on her way."

Many came to T Corporation every day and wanted to see Luke. He was well versed at shooing away unwanted guests. If Tia was not involved with the fake Bianca, he would have sent her away on the excuse of not making an appointment.

"No, let her in," Luke said. 'It's time to investigate Tia.'

"Got it!" Jason said.

said, "By the way, have Tina bring in two cups of

as he finished speaking, Luca's instructions sounded in his ears. He changed his mind. "No, get me a cup of coffee and a cup of

attended to his

Tia heard that she was about to see Luke, she stood up happily, smoothed out her skirt, smiled, and followed Jason to Luke's

Crawford, long time no see." Her attitude was

did not react even when he noticed the effort she put into her appearance. Except for Bianca, other women were the same in his

There was no difference between them...

to the seat opposite him and said, "Ms. Tia, please have

and nodded, then sat across from

As soon as she sat down, Tina came in with the coffee. When she thought of putting the coffee in front of Luke, he said, "The coffee is for *our guest*."

Tina nodded and wondered when did Luke prefer warm water over *coffee*.

However, she did not say anything and politely put the coffee in front of Tia. She then placed the warm water in front **of Luke**.

After Tia thanked her, her gaze fell on Luke again. She smiled and said, "Mr. Crawford, I'm sorry if I've interrupted your work by **coming unannounced.**"

"No worries." Luke's voice was flat without any **fluctuations.**

Tia was used to it. After all, the person in front of her was Luke and not **anyone else...**

She checked in on him and said, "I heard Mr. Doyle mention that you're not feeling well. What's **the matter?**"

"It's an ongoing issue, nothing to worry about," Luke said, "Ms. Tia, is there anything I can help you **with?**"

Tia wanted to go on with the conversation about Luke to show him that she cared deeply for him but felt that he seemed reluctant to talk about his health. As such, she had no choice but to go straight to the subject. "I haven't been able to contact Mrs. Crawford for a while now so I wanted to check in with you."

"It's okay, Bea's emotions are very stable now but she's not in the country. That's why she has been uncontactable," Luke **said.**

He did not expect that someone outside the Crawford family would ask about Bianca.

had prepared an ironclad excuse. Whenever someone asked about the fake Bianca, he would use this reason and no one had doubted him

not in the country... No wonder it always goes to voicemail when I call her." Tia suddenly realized that it was strange to look for Bianca at Luke's office. She was worried that he might overthink and explained, "Previously, I noticed that Mrs. Crawford's mood wasn't stable so I thought to check in with her regularly to help her manage her anxiety. It's time for the next round of treatment but she didn't show up and I haven't been able to contact her, so I was worried if something had happened

to her explanation, nodded, and said, "Thanks for taking care of

he said that, Tia's remarks undoubtedly escalated the suspicion in

fake Bianca's disappearance, no outsider had come knocking. Tia was the first person to do so. If she was worried about the fake Bianca's situation, she could call him directly when the fake Bianca could not be reached. There was no need for her to come to the

However, she came in person...

some cases, face-to-face conversations would allow him to obtain more information than phone conversations. He thought that it was likely that Tia was involved with the Island

Mrs. Crawford's therapist, so it's my responsibility. I would like to ask when will Mrs. Crawford return to A City?" Tia continued to ask, wanting to hang around Luke as much as

"Bea is studying abroad and she's very happy now. She has no plans to return to A City for the time being. If she returns and feels the need to see you, I'll be in contact with

felt a little lost when she heard

Chapter 1416

"Recently, a French restaurant opened near the International Center. I heard great things about it. Why don't we go and try the food tonight?" Luke said. Although he was inviting Tia, he still had no expression on his face.

Tia immediately became excited when she heard his invitation.

In the past three years, she had frequently appeared in front of Luke because she liked him.

Tia has always felt that only she could be worthy of a good man like Luke. This time, he had finally asked her out alone. Although she thought that women should be reserved, at that moment, she threw that notion out of the window. Maybe Bianca going abroad to study was a good thing.

'Look, as soon as she's gone, Luke noticed me and even asked me out. This is the moment many women dream of!'

"Sounds good." Tia nodded. She had a wide smile on her face. She was unable to hide the joy in her heart.

Luke glanced at the time. It was almost time to get off work, and he said, "I still have some work to attend to. Why don't you go to the reception room and wait for me? When I finish the work on hand, we'll head over. "

Tia wanted to go back and dress up before going for dinner. However, compared to leaving T Corporation with Luke and going to dinner together, she preferred the latter.

What was more, she had already dressed up for Luke and her current outfit was suitable to dine in a high-end restaurant.

"Okay, I'll go out. I won't disturb your work." Tia nodded, the smile on the corners of her mouth still there.

left, Luke sent Tina a text to ask her to book a private room in a

had no interest in Tia, he did not want others to watch while he was

quick. After five minutes, she sent Luke the news that the reservation

got off work, Luke put on his jacket and left

they passed the secretary's office, the secretaries in the room noticed

of Luke's secretaries, Nana immediately started gossiping. "Did you see that? The boss just left with

saw! Who is that woman?" Zoey came upstairs to submit a document and happened to see this scene, so she

recall that she's a well-known therapist. She's on the cover of this season's Urban Woman. If I remember correctly, her name is Tia." Nana's gossiping ability was equivalent to her working capability. She stuck her head outside the corridor and saw that Luke and Tia were already

turned her head around to look at Tina, then continued gossiping. "Tina, I seem to have heard you mention to the boss that you've booked a private room. The boss asked you to book a private

room. She did not consider this as gossip because when she updated Luke, everyone in the secretary room could hear her. "Yes, the boss asked me to book a private room in that newly opened

"Oh my God! The boss is having dinner with Tia!" Nana exclaimed while covering her **mouth**.

They had always thought of their boss as an ice cube. He usually treated other women coldly. If he had a business meeting with a female client, he would always bring Jason along.

However, he asked Tina to book a private room *this time*.

The private room only had two seats, which made it clear as day that Luke was going to eat alone with **Tia**.

No Jason and no other **business partners**.

Nana realized that and said, "Mrs. Crawford is still abroad now and the boss is *doing this—*"

Tina interrupted her and said, "Perhaps the boss has something to talk to her about. If I remember correctly, Tia is Mrs. **Crawford's therapist**."

Nana realized that she had said too much. It was taboo to gossip about the boss in the workplace. She got so excited that she said too much. She really should not have.

She nodded and said, "Yeah, I would've forgotten if you hadn't mentioned it. Okay, let's pack up and get ready to get **off work**."

listened to their discussion and could not help thinking about other things in

arranged for her to work as an assistant downstairs and keep watch of Luca's every move. At first, she thought that her boss was having an affair with Luca. Eventually, the news reports clarified the incident and made it clear that the two were just colleagues. However, with his recent arrangement, she felt that the relationship between the two was not as simple as a normal boss-subordinate

always thought that her boss was interested in Luca so she followed Luke's instructions and monitored Luca while maintaining a good relationship with

However...

had been working in T Corporation for so many years and been through a range of situations. Luke was the kind of person who did not want to be close to any woman. However, he booked a private room to have dinner with

of this, smiled, and put the file on Nana's desk. "Nana, please give this file to Mr. Doyle tomorrow. I'll go took the file and put

hurried downstairs and returned to the

packed up and clocked out. She happened to bump into Luca. Knowing that she came down from the CEO's office not too long ago, she could not help but ask, "Dr. Craw, you just came down from the CEO's office. Did you see

pressed her fingerprint on the device, and when she heard the machine notifying her that she had successfully clocked out, she asked, "What should

Chapter 1417

Luca looked at the numbers on the elevator and kept thinking in her heart about whether Luke had truly moved on.

Although she knew that it was hard for him to take care of their three children while managing T Corporation, when she thought about a woman appearing next to him to replace her former position, she still felt very sour.

However, Luca knew that even if she was sour about it, it was pointless. After all, she was no longer Bianca and she could not tell him that she was once Bianca.

Zoey saw that Luca kept silent and her expression was calm with no waves of jealousy. She thought a woman with an indifferent temper like her was not interested in these gossips, so she said, "Dr. Craw, do you know Tia?"

"I don't know her." Luca's reply was short and simple. There were no fluctuations in her tone as well.

Zoey was sure that she had no interest in Luke's affairs, so she said, "I heard that Tia is Mrs. Crawford's therapist. Maybe the boss is treating her to a meal to thank her. You joined us a little later, so you don't know this but back then, Mrs. Crawford harmed herself. It was Tia who cured her."

Luca kept listening to Zoey going on and on. She learned Tia's identity and was not interested in other things.

When the elevator arrived at their floor, the doors slowly opened and other T Corporation employees were standing inside. Zoey shut her mouth immediately and walked into the elevator with Luca.

Zoey didn't say much because there were so many other people in the elevator.

After Luca left T Corporation, she stopped a taxi and returned to her apartment.

The other side.

Luke arrived at the French restaurant. He handed the car key to the jockey and asked them to help park the car. He then walked into the restaurant with Tia.

were not too intimate nor close, even when they were in the

kept looking for topics while Luke replied with few words, but to her, it was good enough that he responded.

little bit of proximity made Tia feel sweet. Looking at Luke's arm, she even had the urge to grab it. She wanted to make the people in the restaurant think that she and he were

did not do it because she still had to maintain

waiter led the two of them into the private room. Luke handed Tia the menu and asked her to

was familiar with what Luke liked to eat. She ordered what Luke might like. After ordering, she asked, "Mr. Crawford, have a look and see what else you would like to

"It's fine," Luke said.

was ecstatic. He did not order anything else, which meant that everything she ordered was

Luke would think that they shared the same

waiter brought a bottle of red wine over and poured them a glass each. Tia raised her glass. She behaved elegantly and leaned forward slightly. "Mr. Crawford, shall we have a

his glass and clinked

night, Tia was looking for topics. She covered everything from world news, economics, to her hobbies. She was hoping that Luke would share a little more about

Luke was also cooperating with her but he was not probing any further even though he was suspicious.

What he had to do was slowly gain Tia's trust so that he could obtain information later *on*.

Tia was not the same as the fake Bianca. Aside from occupying the position of Mrs. Crawford, the fake Bianca was relatively weak in other respects. Few media outlets paid attention to her.

No one would question it if he said that she was studying *abroad*.

However, Tia was different. She had a certain social status and was also an excellent therapist. Her every word and action would attract the attention of the media.

He could not forge a behavioral record for Tia, so he could not use the same method of how he used to deal with the fake Bianca on Tia to get a *confession*.

Luke cooperated with her non-stop conversations and drove her home after **dinner**.

Tia glanced out of the car window. They arrived at the gate of her own home, and Luke had no intentions of getting out of **the car**.

She was a little disappointed as she was hoping that something else could happen tonight.

However, if it was so easy, it would not be like **Luke**...

Tia smiled and opened the car door, then glanced at Luke before she said, "Mr. Crawford, thank you for your company tonight. I haven't had dinner with anyone in a **long time**."

In addition to expressing gratitude, her words also indicated that she was *single*.

She was hinting at him.

and said, "You're welcome. Thank you for this. Let's have dinner again some other

Tia exalted when she heard him say

was not an ordinary man who would casually extend an invitation. However, what he just said meant that there was a chance for

different from others. He was very busy and would not

happily got out of the car. After what he said, even if their relationship did not progress further tonight, she had no regrets in

On the other side.

for Tommy. After the meal, she watched cartoons with him for a while. At nine o'clock sharp, the

to open the door and found that the person standing outside was not Luke but

not think too much of it if it were a normal day. Luke would pick up Tommy only when he was free and Zander would pick him up when he was not

However...

said rang in her

Chapter 1418

Luca could guess why Luke did not tell the people from the Crawford household. He should want to protect Tia's reputation...

She heard the elevator doors open and watched Sean and Tommy go inside. Before the doors closed, Tommy peeked out of the elevator, waved at Luca, and said, "Bye-bye, Ms. Luca!"

Luca forced a smile and waved back at him.

After the elevator doors closed, she closed the door of her apartment.

She could not stop herself from thinking that Luke was currently at dinner with Tia while the people in his family knew nothing about it.

She sat down on the couch. A commercial was playing on the television. She was irritated by the noise, and she switched off the television with the remote control.

Before Luca returned to A City, she was already mentally prepared that Luke would have had an intimate relationship with the impostor. She even guessed that they might have had another child.

She did not feel sad. After all, Luke was also a victim of Abel's deception and could not be blamed.

However, she found out that Luke did not even touch that impostor Bianca. He had kept a wary distance from her.

She was quite happy when she found out about it. Even though Luke did not know the truth behind the impostor's identity, he could sense that something was amiss. That way, she remained the sole recipient of Luke's love.

Now that Tia suddenly appeared, and what Luke was doing to her...

Luca would be lying to herself if she said that she was not jealous or sad.

even imagined the eventuality where Luke and Tia's relationship would improve, and they might even heart wrenched in agony when she imagined another woman in Luke's

up her phone and searched the Internet for information about

to find an article about Tia on Wikipedia. Even though someone else might have the same name as her, Luca could tell that the woman in the article was the same one she had seen

down and carefully read

was done reading, she concluded that Tia was an

Luca had not been abducted by Abel and had continued to advance her career in A City, she might not even be as popular

she first started the company, the people there called her "Mrs. Crawford" and not "Mdm.

her phone away. She knew that she was very capable, but she realized that Tia was more suitable for

Luca decided to marry Tia one day, Luca guessed that Old Master Crawford would not object to

though the smile was not happy at

morning, Luca got out of bed and looked at herself in the mirror. It was the second night in a row that she did not sleep

She picked up the concealer and began to apply it to her *face*.

She spent the entire night thinking, and she finally accepted the fact that it might be a good thing if Luke decided to marry **Tia**.

That way, he would stop giving attention to her, and Abel's plan would fail.

Luke would eventually stop looking for her, and no one would be disappointed or sad. It was a good choice if Luke chose Tia **over her**.

Luca looked at her eye bags in the mirror and covered them with concealer.

After she was done, she thought that her face was still missing something. She forced a smile on her face, but that smile was filled *with sadness*.

Luca sighed. She might have accepted the fact, but she could not stop herself from being *sad*.

After putting on makeup, she went into the kitchen and prepared a simple breakfast for herself.

She did not turn on the television because she was not in the mood, so she missed out on a news report *about Luke*.

In Crawford Manor, Old Master Crawford was reading the newspaper. The headline of the gossip section was about Luke again.

Last time, Luke was in the headlines because of a certain Dr. Craw, and Old Master Crawford did not know who it was. This time, the subject of the scandal was someone **he knew**.

"Is Luke up yet?" Old Master Crawford asked **the butler**.

be up by now," the

Crawford stood up with the help of the walking stick and picked up the newspaper. "Get the driver to send the kids to school today. Tell Luke to come to my study after he's done with

"Yes," the butler replied.

Luke came down the stairs, he did not see Old Master Crawford at the dining table. He knew that his grandfather woke up earlier than he did, and his grandfather would sit at the dining table and read the newspaper. It was rare that he was not there

He asked the butler, "Where's Grandfather?"

Master Crawford is in his study, Sir. He requests that you meet him there after you finish breakfast," the butler relayed the information to

Luke nodded.

he went to

on the door and, after receiving consent, walked in. "Is there

sat down, Old Master Crawford said, "You said that you were working overtime yesterday night, but I see this in the newspaper today. What's

if Luke had to work overtime or have a business dinner elsewhere, he would phone home to tell them not to wait for

said very clearly that he was working overtime and not attending

Chapter 1419

Old Master Crawford thought that Luke had been careless.

Even if he had feelings for that woman, he should have waited until he divorced the impostor Bianca.

Luke carried T Corporation's public image. Now that the scandal had broken out, he might be known as a disloyal person.

"I'm indeed interested in her, Grandfather, but it's not like what you think," Luke said. He explained that he had invited Tia for dinner because he suspected she had connections with the Island of Despair.

Old Master Crawford was not relieved even after hearing that.

His concern was not that Luke was not interested in Tia, but that Luke was still searching for the Island of Despair. In other words, Luke had not given up on looking for Bianca.

It had been three years, but Luke's affection toward Bianca had not decreased. That was not normal.

Old Master Crawford began to worry. If Luke could not find Bianca, was he going to stay single for the rest of his life?

Luke was at the prime of his life. That should not be the case.

"Never mind, I can't stop you if you want to continue to look for Bianca, but how are you going to handle this incident? If you don't take care of your reputation, it might affect T Corporation's share prices. There are several directors planning something behind your back, and they might take the opportunity to dethrone you." Even though Old Master Crawford was retired, he was very aware of what was happening in the company.

Luke knew the directors Old Master Crawford was talking about and what they were planning.

had been looking for the perfect opportunity to replace Luke with

Louis had expressed no interest in taking over T Corporation, Susan had always hoped that he could do

Those directors were loyal to Susan.

deal with it. As for those directors, I know what they're planning," Luke

Master Crawford was relieved to find out that he did not neglect his work at T Corporation even when he was looking for Bianca. He nodded and said, "It's about time for you to go to work. I've already asked Sean to send the kids to

nodded. He stood up

the way to the garage, he gave a call to Jason, asking him to settle the

received the call, he knew what

gave a call

an early riser. She was very excited to find out that she was in the headline of the gossip section. Even though she was not very happy that she was called Luke's mistress, she was pleased to appear in the public eye

It would be even better if Bianca saw the **news**.

She hoped that Bianca would fight with Luke, and Luke would see Bianca's true **colors**.

Unfortunately for her, Bianca was traveling overseas, and she did not reply to any of Tia's messages.

While Tia drank her morning coffee, she waited for Luke's call to discuss *the matter*.

She knew that Luke would want to suppress the issue. After all, the scandal might negatively affect T Corporation's *reputation*.

While Tia fantasized about the possibilities, she replied to some messages from her *friends*.

She said that Luke was nothing more than a friend, and the dinner was purely for business, but she was ecstatic on the *inside*.

Her phone began to ring, but the phone call was from Jason instead of Luke.

She felt a little disappointed.

She wanted Luke to call her to discuss how to solve the problem, but *now*...

disappointment lasted for only one second. After all, Luke was so busy with work, and it was not surprising that he asked Jason to handle it. Arriving at that thought, she answered the

Mr. Doyle," Tia said with a

the greeting, "Good morning, Ms. Tia. Have you read

read it just now, and I was thinking of giving Mr. Crawford a call to see if he has another solution. After all, there was nothing between us, and I don't want other people to misunderstand us, especially Mrs. Crawford. I'm sure that she'll be emotionally agitated if she reads the news article,"

not mean to create a scandal with

glad that you're willing to cooperate with me, Ms. Tia," Jason said. "How about this? I'll get the PR department to prepare two statements. I'll send you one of them, and you can post it on your Twitter account. Is

was the solution to the problem, and Tia agreed

she hoped that everyone would think of her as Luke's secret lover, it was not the time yet. She could not let Luke be known as a disloyal

call ended, Jason immediately informed the PR department to prepare

sitting in the driver's seat. She was driving because Jason had

Chapter 1420

Earlier, Tia had tried to give the impression that the situation was not like what everyone else thought. However, Sue could tell that she hoped that Jason would misunderstand her.

Tia had also mentioned that she was worried about Bianca being emotionally agitated after reading the news.

However, she hoped that Bianca could read the report and lose her temper with Luke.

Sue knew exactly what Tia was thinking.

Jason could only stare at Sue, at a loss for a reply.

After arriving at Brilliant Architecture, Sue stepped out of the car. Before she left, she said, "You'd better not let Bianca know about this. She won't be able to accept the news!"

Jason nodded. He did not tell Sue that the woman that was thought to be Luke's wife for the past three years was an impostor. Sue still thought that Bianca was traveling overseas.

"Come home early today so that we can go to the supermarket. We need to buy supplies for our daughters' birthday party the day after tomorrow," Sue said.

"Yes, my dearest wife," Jason said and playfully saluted her.

The people in the PR department worked very efficiently. They soon prepared two statements.

Jason first sent a statement to Tia and told her to immediately post it on her personal Twitter account.

Luke's side of the story, Jason scheduled the post to go up in an

was not interested in social media. The statement would be posted on T Corporation's official

...

clocked in at her office, she prepared to go to the lab. This time, she would bring her phone along with she took out her phone from her handbag, she habitually opened the messaging app to see if Amur had sent her

not get any messages from Amur. However, she saw that the company chat group was very lively. The people were talking about the scandal involving Luke and

from the chat group that Luca knew about the newspaper headline. A reporter had seen Luke and Tia enter the restaurant, and he had taken a photo of

though Luca had already made peace with the fact that Luke might be interested in Tia, she was not too happy to see

was about to lock her phone and put it in her pocket when she saw a new message pop up in the chat group. [Have you seen Ms. Tia's Twitter account? She has posted a statement saying that the dinner yesterday was only between friends. It's not like what the reporter

added: [I told you so. Mr. Crawford won't be interested in her. She's been Mrs. Crawford's psychologist for many years, and if Mr. Crawford has feelings for her, he would have asked her out sooner. It won't take three years for the scandal to break

already released her statement. Why hasn't Mr. Crawford said anything yet?] Someone still did not believe

Another employee replied: [Don't you know? A gentleman would let the woman release her statement first before he releases his. That way, he can protect the woman's dignity. They only had dinner and *nothing more*.]

[Why would they have dinner without anyone else? Usually, Mr. Crawford would bring Mr. Doyle along to business dinners. Moreover, this happened when Mrs. Crawford was traveling overseas. I'm pretty sure there's something more to it.]

As they continued discussing the issue, one of the managers voiced out: [Don't you all have work **to do**?]

Instantly, the activity in the chat group *died down*.

Luca closed the messaging app and searched for Tia's account on Twitter. She saw the statement that Tia posted five **minutes ago**.

The statement provided a concise account of what happened the day before and emphasized that it was only a normal dinner between friends. Tia and Luke had been acquainted with each other for several years, and nothing was going on **between them**.

The entire statement sounded very formal.

Luca guessed that Luke must have gotten the PR department to write the statement and sent it to Tia to publish it...

She could understand why Luke wanted to draw a clear boundary with Tia. Even if they had something going on between them, it was not the time for the relationship to be public.

Not only would the reputation of T Corporation be affected, but Tia would also be known as Luke's illicit mistress.

Luca did not want Tia to take on that

Luca thought about it, the more her heart wrenched. She looked at the ceiling and not want her tears to fall

later, she felt a lot better. She put the phone in the pocket of her lab coat and left the forgot that Luke was observing her

strange...' Luke thought as he looked at Luca on the computer screen. What was she

remembered that Bianca would tilt her head upward whenever she wanted to cry. He asked her why, and she had said that it was because she did not want her tears

Luca want to cry? Why would she want

Luca entered the laboratory, she focused her attention on the experiment. The other researchers were discussing the scandal, but she did not participate in

she heard them talking about things that she did not want to hear, she removed herself from the laboratory and went to the cultivation room. When it was time to go off work, she came out of the cultivation room and

not see Luke today. Sean was the one who picked up Tommy at