

Be Gentle 1431

Chapter 1431

Nina knew that she had no other choice. Jean would not give her their mother's handbag, and the nurse would not run the tests if she had to go home to bring the debit card.

She could not tell if Anna's condition was critical, and she could not afford to take the risk.

She nodded and said, "Alright, I'll borrow some money from you. When I get home later, I'll transfer the money to your bank account."

"Give me the bills. I'll go and pay," Luca said.

Nina handed the bills to Luca, and Luca went to the payment counter.

Nina turned to speak to the nurse, "My friend is paying the bills now, Miss. Can you schedule the tests for my mother?"

The nurse thought that Nina seemed trustworthy. She nodded and said, "Alright. I'll bring your mother to the next test then."

Jean watched Luca as she walked away. Instead of worrying about his mother, he smiled perversely and asked Nina, "Hey, Nina, is that chick your friend?"

"I don't care if you want to flirt with other girls, Jean, but you'd better not touch her!" Nina warned him. She knew what he was thinking.

Jean ignored her warning. To him, there were only two categories of women: those who caught his interest and those who did not.

Luca happened to belong to the former category.

you tell me that you have such a high-quality friend? Her figure is not bad, and even though she dresses modestly, those clothes aren't cheap. Mind introducing her to me?" Jean

rolled her eyes at him. "She's way out of

was furious when he heard the contempt in her voice. "What do you mean? I'm only like this thanks to your good friend

blamed his current condition

realized that she could not make Jean change his mind. He had been living in his own world for far too long, and he had an overinflated opinion of

he was nothing but a

Bianca. You should know what you did to her. Let me warn you seriously, she's way out of your league, and you can't afford to offend her." Nina wanted to make it sound serious so that Jean would stay away from

underestimate me! I'll charm that friend of yours, Nina, and she'll be your sister-in-law!" Jean was not going to shy away from a challenge. After all, if Luca were as outstanding as Nina said, he would not have to worry about money for the rest of

rolled her eyes and looked

Johann at the payment counter. After Johann spoke to a patient's family members, he went toward Luca and said, "Fancy meeting you here, Dr. Craw. Are you

*Luca shook her head and said, "No. My friend's mother is in the hospital, and I came along with my friend to see if I can be of **any help.**"*

Johann immediately understood that Luca was paying the bill on behalf of her *friend*.

*"I'm glad to hear that you're fine. I have to rush to another operation. Bye," he said and waved his *hand*.*

Luca waved back at him. Her number was called, and she handed the counter the bills and paid for *them*.

After Johann left, he took out his phone and sent a message to Luke, telling him that he had met Luca at the hospital.

Luca did not know that Johann was such a nosy person. After paying, she left with the receipt.

Nina was still waiting at the same place. When she saw Luca coming over, she went toward her and asked, "How much is *it*?"

"Not much. Here's the receipt," Luca said and handed the receipt and Anna's documents to *her*.

The costs included the resuscitation fee and the fees for the tests.

Nina had a rough idea of how much it should cost. She looked at the receipt and saw that the figure was not too far away, so she was sure that Luca did not hide any receipts from her. She smiled and said, "Thank you, Luca. I'll transfer the amount to you when I get **home.**"

"There's no rush," Luca said, though she did not stop Nina from paying her **back**.

was eavesdropping on their conversation. He went up to Luca and said, "So your name's

at Jean. She realized that she was once deceived by his fake personality, and he had finally revealed his felt sorry for Nina that her brother was like

what she was thinking. She pulled Luca behind her and said, "Why are you still standing here like an idiot, Jean? Go and check

pretended not to hear her. He stared at Luca and said, "Hey, my name's Jean, and I'm Nina's elder brother. I wanted to ask Nina for your name, but she wouldn't tell me. Can you give me your phone number? I'll contact you to pay you back for

bit her lower lip. She knew that Jean was not going to pay

also knew that. She tried to keep her disgust down and refused politely, "It's fine. Nina will pay

her elder brother, and I'd like to shoulder some of her responsibility too." Jean did not give might believe him if she had not seen how he treated Nina earlier. She was not not going to let Jean harass her, so she said, "If you want to share your younger sister's responsibility, then you can transfer the money to her, and I'll get it from her. I don't give my contact number to

Chapter 1432

"We're here," Nina said hurriedly.

The nurse came over while wheeling Anna's gurney. "We've completed all the tests on the patients, and we'll move her back to the emergency ward for now. The results will be ready in half an hour, and the doctor will discuss the treatment plan with you after that."

"Alright." Nina walked over to the gurney and helped the nurse wheel Anna into the emergency ward.

Luca walked next to Nina and held her handbag. Jean, on the other hand, followed behind them. His gaze turned perverse and sinister as he ogled Luca's body.

He could tell that Luca was in a different league than Nina.

Nina relied on Percy for money. Luca seemed independent. Otherwise, she would not have dressed so modestly.

If he could get her to become his girlfriend, he would not have to worry about money for the rest of his life.

Luca's fists slowly clenched up as she sensed the gaze behind her. However, she had to remain composed when she was with Nina.

She was not the meek little girl from before. Jean had always found ways to hurt her, but he would not be able to do so now.

If he dared to do anything, Luca would not hesitate to take away his masculinity!

Nina went into the emergency ward with Anna. While they waited for the test results, Anna woke up. She looked at Nina and said nothing, then she looked around the ward for Jean.

When she saw Jean, she asked, "Where's my handbag?"

that she was concerned about the money inside. He pointed at the handbag and said, "Your handbag is with me, Mom. Don't worry. No one touched the contents

Anna was relieved to hear that.

both angry and humiliated when she heard their conversation. To them, was money more important than a

can't use that money," Anna nodded and said

stopped speaking after that. Then, she closed her eyes and fell asleep. She was relieved as long as no one touched her

her head away and

always wanted to solve her family's problems, but she was helpless against situations

that she was feeling down. She handed the handbag to Nina and

comforted by Luca's warm smile. Sometimes, an empathic smile was better than a thousand words. Luca had seen the situation in Nina's family, yet she did not pass judgment or try to comfort her with empty

familiar with that feeling. It was as though Bianca was standing next

hour later, the doctor came to the ward with Anna's

Nina's expression gradually dropped as she listened to the **doctor**.

Anna's condition was deteriorating. The liver transplant three years ago had been a success, but it was starting to give her **problems again**.

In the worst-case scenario, she would require a second transplant.

When Luca heard that, she asked, "Is a transplant the only solution? Aren't there any less *intrusive methods*?"

"We'll treat the patient with non-intrusive methods for now. If her condition doesn't improve, we might have to consider another transplant," the **doctor said**.

Nina remained worried even though the doctor said that a transplant might not be *necessary*.

After everything that had happened to her in the past three years, her optimism was nowhere to be seen. What was left was *endless pessimism*.

"That's good to hear, Doctor," Luca *said*.

"I'll prescribe her some medication for now. If the medication works, she'll be taking that for the long term. If her condition continues to decline, we can still arrange for a transplant. I'll leave the decision up to you," the doctor said.

Luca sneaked a glance at Nina. Her expression remained wooden, as though she could not accept the *fact*.

Anna had relentlessly bullied Nina over the years, and the only reason why Nina cared for Anna was their blood ties. Now, Anna needed her help *again*.

what you say,"

can go and apply the inpatient procedure with the patient's documents. Then, hand the receipt to the nurses' station, and someone will come and bring her to her room," the doctor said and handed Nina the

Anna had to be hospitalized, it meant that Nina needed to come up with

the form and said, "I'll

trouble you," Nina said and nodded. She had not a single cent on

went to the payment counter and settled the payment. Then, she gave the receipt to Nina. Everything after that was none of

not want to be a nuisance to them, so she told Nina that she would be

heard that, he went to her eagerly and said, "I'll send you back, Ms.

about it. If you have time, you should spend it on your mother," Luca said as she glanced at Anna on the bed. She could tell that her complexion was

liver problems would be reflected in

was quite perplexed. A liver transplant patient would have to return to the hospital regularly for check-ups, and the doctor would diagnose any problems and treat them as soon

Chapter 1433

Jean could only relent.

He did not want to spend his own money, but Nina did not have any money with her either.

Seeing that Jean had nothing else to say, she took Luca's hand and led her out of the ward.

The two women went to the basement parking lot without saying a word. After they got into Nina's car, Nina broke the silence. "I'm sorry that you had to see that."

"It's fine," Luca said as she fastened her seatbelt. "Every family has its own problems. I can understand that."

Nina sighed as she stepped on the gas pedal. She said, "That brother of mine isn't anyone decent. I think he has his eye on you, so you ought to be careful. Let me know if he starts harassing you. I'll give him an earful."

"He can't harass me," Luca said. She was not going to hold back.

She thought that Nina had nothing to apologize for. After all, her brother was irredeemable...

If she had not appeared at the hospital today, Jean would not have set his sights on her.

"In any case, you'll have to be careful. He's been a different person ever since he got out of prison. Even I have to be wary of him," Nina said. If she did not, Jean might have looted the mansion clean.

smiled. "Maybe he needs a

him to a few places, but he's greedy and lazy. He can't do anything well, so I eventually gave up," Nina said with a

arrived at Luca's apartment. Luca said thanks to Nina, then stepped

Nina's car leave, she slowly returned to

the days when she and Jean were studying overseas. Jean back then was sensible and respectful, and she did not remember if he had any

Things were so different now...

personality had totally changed. She would not have recognized him if not that his face was the catalyst that caused

did not think she had to be sorry for what happened to Jean. However, she thought that she owed Nina so much. Jean would not have revealed his true colors if that incident had not happened, and Nina would not have to suffer so

Luca sighed...

After leaving Luca's neighborhood, Nina went back to the mansion. She hesitated for a long time before linking the bank account with Percy's money to her banking app, then transferred the money she **owed Luca**.

She was very unwilling to access the bank **account**...

She tried to save up to repay Percy the money he spent on her. Unfortunately, Anna's illness would eat up a large portion of her *savings*.

Nina looked at the debit card in her hand dejectedly. It seemed that she would not be able to leave Percy **for now**.

Earlier, she was quite at ease. Once she had enough money, she would be able to break up with Percy, *but now*...

She could not be relieved when she thought that she would have to stay by that *man's side*.

Even so, she could not neglect Anna at the hospital. She knew that she could not rely on Jean.

She transferred some of the money to another bank account, then kept the debit card at a safe place before going to *Anna's house*.

packed Anna's toiletries and some of her other personal belongings, then went to the

for Anna's room at the front desk, then went to the room carrying two bags of Anna's belongings. She had only opened the door when she heard Anna yelling, "Can't I stay in a private ward? I want to stay in a

nurse said that the deposit is only enough for a three-bedder," Jean said gruffly, which exacerbated Anna's irritation. When he saw Nina come into the ward, he stood up and said, "What took you time to pack up," Nina said impassively and placed the bags on

glanced at her and ordered imperiously, "You've come at the right time. Go and pay up. Let the doctor know that I want to stay in a private ward. I'm not going to stay in this dirty three-bedder with other

private ward cost more than double the three-bedder Anna was in now. Nina was not going to let Anna have her way this time. "Jean's house is a hundred times dirtier than this, and I haven't heard you complain about it. You even help him clean

tell that Nina was not going to obey her. She yelled more loudly, "That's not the same! We're family, and a little bit of dirt won't hurt. I'm in the hospital now, and it's full of germs. I won't want to get sick with something

get sick with something else, the doctors can cure you. You're lucky to have a bed here, so don't be so picky. In any case, I can only afford a normal ward," Nina

had paid for Anna's private ward. Since then, Anna thought that she

Chapter 1434

Usually, Nina would eventually relent. Now that Nina had thrown the documents and bills at her, Anna realized that Nina was not going to yield.

Even though she was not willing to stay in a ward with other patients, she did not want to die either.

She began to gulp mouthfuls of air and pretended that she was in agony. "Nina... you ingrate!" She said as she pointed a finger at Nina.

Nina remained impassive as she looked at her mother. "It's either you stay in this ward, or you can leave the hospital!" She said insistently.

Jean could hear the determination in her voice. He shoved her away and said, "Get lost! Do you want to see your mother die of anger?"

Nina stumbled backward, though she managed to regain her footing. Jean took the opportunity to ring the bell at the front of the bed.

The nurse quickly came in. "What's wrong?" She asked.

"Get the doctor. My mom isn't feeling well!" Jean said.

The nurse immediately stepped out of the ward and called for Anna's doctor.

The doctor came in and saw that Anna's face was pale. He got the nurse to help Anna lie flat, then drew the curtains for an examination.

calmly outside the curtains. She was not worried at

was also standing there, looking at her. He could not help but curse when he saw her that way, "I won't forgive you if anything happens

she wants is to stay in a private ward. There's nothing wrong with her," Nina said, feeling a little defeated. None of her family members cared about her

father had moved to another city under the excuse of a job because he could not stand Anna and Jean. He lived a frugal life with minimal wages, and he did not care what happened

and Nina were like leeches. They mercilessly exploited her, but Nina could not get rid of

his fists, preparing to teach his younger sister a lesson. Before he could say anything, the curtains

"How's my mom, Doc?" Jean asked.

doctor put his stethoscope away and said, "She's fine. Her blood pressure was slightly high because she was emotionally agitated. Now that she's calm again, her blood pressure will return to normal in no time. You'll have to make sure that she doesn't get agitated

to sound weak. "Doctor, I don't think the air in the ward is good for my health. Can I be moved to a private

glanced at Nina and Jean. He was roughly aware of the patient's condition, and the patient had thrown a tantrum when the nurse brought her to the

"There is a shortage of private wards now. If the patient's condition isn't critical, we recommend that they stay in a normal ward," the doctor said.

*"Isn't my condition critical enough?" Anna asked. She thought that she deserved special **treatment**.*

*"Your condition is stable. Let's leave the limited resources to those who really need it," the doctor said. To ensure that she had no other excuse, he said, "If you need anything, you can ring the **bell**."*

Anna looked at the other two patients in the ward, feeling quite humiliated that the doctor was not on *her side*.

Nina saw that her mother had almost calmed down. She went over and picked up the documents from **the bed**.

Anna did not say anything.

After Nina packed up, she said, "I'll hire a care worker for *you*."

Jean grabbed her shoulders when he heard that. "Aren't you supposed to take care of Mom yourself? A care worker won't **do**!"

"I need to go to work so that I can earn money. If you think that a care worker can't do a good job, why don't you take care of Mom yourself? It's not like you have anything else to do at home," Nina said while giving him the side-eye. He did not contribute anything, yet he was *so demanding*.

taken aback when he heard Nina's suggestion. "Do I look like I have

don't have money, and you don't have time. Why don't you keep your mouth shut?" Nina could not be bothered to be civil toward her brother. She turned around and left the

thoroughly humiliated, and he had nowhere to release his anger. He turned to look at Anna on the bed and said, "Mom! Can't you teach her

I'm like this, Jean. I wish I don't have to worry about the two of you," Anna said weakly. Her blood pressure was still

tried to absolve himself from any blame. "You don't have to worry about

you're already an adult, but you still can't bring a decent girlfriend home. I wonder if I'll still be alive on your wedding day," Anna said with a sigh. She could not bear to scold her son, but she was worried about his

not like the fact that Jean was a jobless bum. The women he brought home had unsavory worry, Mom. You'll soon have a decent daughter-in-law!" Jean

only saying that just to make me happy, right? Those women only want our money. You'd better not have any relation with them," Anna

nodded. "I'm not interested in those women anymore, Mom. I have a new target now. I've heard that she's a doctor. Not bad,

Chapter 1435

The next morning, when Luca prepared to go to work, she saw Nina's car parked in front of her apartment.

She was sensitive with numbers, so she remembered Nina's license plate. She walked up to the car and knocked on the window.

Nina rolled the window down. When she saw that it was Luca, she unlocked the car doors. "Good morning, Dr. Craw. I'm going to T Corporation to give my quarterly report, so I'm wondering if you want to hitch a ride."

Luca did not reject the offer. She nodded, went to the other side of the car, and sat inside.

After Luca fastened her seatbelt, Nina started the car and drove toward T Corporation.

"Are you worried about something?" Luca asked.

Nina brushed her hair and said awkwardly, "You noticed it?"

"I can see that you were thinking about something. If I hadn't recognized your license plate, you probably wouldn't have realized that I left the apartment," Luca said. She knew that Nina was waiting for her, but Nina did not realize Luca was outside. That was why Luca thought that Nina's mind was occupied with something.

Nina sighed and said, "I'm worried about you. That useless brother of mine seems to have set his sights on you. I didn't lie to you when I said that I have to go to T Corporation to hand in my quarterly report, but I'm also worried that he might stalk you. That's why I waited for you here, and I can give you a ride too."

Yesterday, she had received a call from the care worker.

After Nina left, Anna and Jean discussed how to trick Nina so that they could obtain Luca's phone number and address. The care worker was employed by Nina, so she had the obligation to tell her employer what was going on.

Luca said. She knew that Nina was concerned

probably don't know that my brother isn't an honest person. He has friends who can find out where you live if they want. If he hasn't changed, I'm genuinely worried about you," Nina said worriedly. None of that would have happened if she had not offered to send Luca

be very troublesome for Luca if Jean set his sights on

generally useless, but he had friends who were gangsters. Most of his money was spent on those people, and Jean had always said that he was "exploring

were up to no good. If Jean asked for their help to find out where Luca lived, they would definitely succeed, and Luca would

telling me. I'll keep an eye on things." Luca could tell that Nina was concerned about

"Also, if he managed to harass you, you must let me know. I'll help you wherever

Luca smiled and nodded.

didn't sleep well last night, right?"

taken aback, though she admitted it. "Yes, I didn't sleep well. I can't stop thinking that my mom needs another

"Why? Who was her donor the first time?" Luca knew the answer to the question, but she had to pretend that she did not know.

"My brother was the donor. Back then, my mom didn't agree to the donation, and she said that she wanted to find a liver on the black market. Eventually, my brother managed to persuade her to accept the donation, and that was how they could proceed with the operation so quickly," Nina said.

Luca nodded. Nina continued, "To be frank, my brother didn't donate the liver because he wanted to save our mother. Instead, he could have his sentence reduced if he agreed to the operation. My brother was sent to prison because of a crime he committed, and he'd rather lose half of his liver just so that he could get out early. You must find my family **very ridiculous.**"

When Luca heard that, she had the urge to give Nina a **hug**.

Luca shook her head and tried to say some words of comfort, but Nina continued, "It's been so many years, and I'm already used **to it.**"

Luca could see the sorrow on her face. Was she really used *to it*?

If she had already gotten numb from how her family treated her, she would not look so sorrowful...

Nina parked the car at the T Corporation basement parking lot. When she was about to get out of the car, she noticed the car parked opposite **hers**.

"That car..." She frowned.

"What's wrong?" Luca looked in the direction of Nina's gaze.

"It belongs to Tia..." Nina remembered the car clearly. She had visited Bianca when Bianca had just been discharged from the hospital. Nina remembered seeing Tia come out of that car.

was a limited edition car that Nina had read about in a magazine. After knowing that Tia owned one of those cars, Nina had wondered why a psychologist could afford that luxury car, and she had gossiped with Sue about

not changed her car since

her eyebrows as she looked at the

read the tabloids two days ago? Tia is the rumored mistress of Mr. Crawford," Nina explained. She thought that Luca did not know who

Luca nodded.

rubbed her chin and mumbled to herself, "Why would she be at T Corporation so early? Isn't Bea traveling overseas now? There shouldn't be any need for her

her handbag. She felt uneasy when she heard

though she was mentally prepared that Luke might eventually fall in love with another woman, she could not help but be disappointed when that thought became

I'm going upstairs to clock in," she

Let's go together. I need to go to look for Mr. Crawford." Nina turned her gaze away from the car and went to the elevator lobby with

Chapter 1436

Jason remained smiling. "It's nothing more than a dinner between friends."

"And I nearly fell for it." Nina stopped walking. "Your boss must be planning something, isn't he?"

"How would I know what Mr. Crawford is doing?" Jason did not confirm it or deny it. He tried to shift the topic.

From Jason's response, Nina was even more sure that Luke was planning something. Otherwise, the scandal would not have broken out so abruptly.

After all, if he were really interested in Tia, he would have made his move a long time ago.

Nina was present during several of Tia's consultation sessions with Bianca. Luke was there too. That woman could not keep her eyes away from Luke.

If Tia said she had no feelings for Luke, Nina would not believe it.

When they were about to reach the CEO's office, Nina asked again, "Ms. Tia must be in Mr. Crawford's office now, right? Are you sure that it's okay for us to barge in?"

"Mr. Crawford said that it's okay," Jason said with a smile.

When Nina heard that, she took a few steps forward. The door was ajar. Nina knocked on the door and said to the man inside the office, "I'm here to deliver the quarterly report, Mr. Crawford."

Luca, sitting in the office, nodded and pointed at the seat opposite him. "Come in."

inside. She glanced at Tia and sat down next to

were placed opposite Luke's work desk. Tia was sitting on one, and Nina was sitting on the

could not help but feel nervous when she saw Nina walk

knew that Nina was good friends with Bianca. If Nina was nosy enough to tell Bianca that she had a private dinner with Luke, Bianca might take the next flight back to

she only had the chance when Bianca was

"Good morning, Ms. Langdon," she said.

Nina nodded politely, then turned to look at Luke. "Mr. Crawford, is it a good time for me to present my

Luke said. He was the behind-the-scenes boss of Brilliant Architecture. Brilliant Architecture was not a subsidiary of T Corporation, and Nina would deliver the quarterly sales report to him every

took out a document from a folder, looked at the woman sitting next to her, and reminded her tactfully, "Ms. Tia, I'm about to discuss company secrets with

Tia blushed when she heard that.

Her mind was occupied with Luke, so she was not paying attention to details. Now that Nina had to remind her to leave, she felt **quite embarrassed**.

She hurriedly stood up and said, "I'm sorry, excuse me."

Luke and Nina did not say anything, though the latter smiled at her politely. Tia could not tell if the smile **was genuine**.

Tia picked up her handbag and walked briskly toward the door. Then, she turned around, looked at Luke, and said, "Mr. Crawford, I hope that you can attend the conference."

After that, she left the office, and Jason closed *the door*.

'Conference?' Nina became curious, so she asked, "Mr. Crawford, if you don't mind my asking, what conference *is it?*"

"**It's a** psychology conference." Luke was willing to give her the long answer this time. "In two days, there will be a psychology conference and exhibition in A City. Renowned psychologists from all over the world will be **gathered here**."

Nina nodded in understanding.

Despite moving to A City, Tia's international reputation did not decrease. She must have been invited to the **conference**.

Nina could guess why Tia wanted to invite Luke to the **conference**...

"I don't think T Corporation is planning to venture into this industry, right? Why did she invite you? Don't tell me that you've become interested in psychology?" Nina asked a barrage of **questions**.

to Percy, she was not afraid of

said that the conference will be helpful to Bianca's condition," Luke said. Tia had always used that excuse to get closer to him, but he did not call her out on

condition..." Nina realized that Luke did not sound as intimate whenever he referred to Bianca. She continued, "Bea has lost her memories for so long. I think it's a good thing if she can regain her memories. Right, how has Bea been recently? I haven't seen her update

tapped on the keyboard and reminded her, "Ms. Langdon, aren't you here to present the quarterly question reminded Nina of her objective at T Corporation. She began to present the quarterly report without wondering why Luke had suddenly changed

she was done, she left Luke's

not stop thinking about how Tia had invited Luke to the

there really something going on between them while Bianca was away? Judging from Luke's attitude toward Tia earlier, that did not seem to be

that she knew about the conference, she was quite interested in attending it. Her mental state had been declining lately, and she might find something at the conference or the exhibition that would help

gave a call to Sue to ask if Sue would accompany her to the

Chapter 1437

"Mm, I'm done. I want to ask you something, and I hope I'm not disturbing you," Nina said as she looked at Luca. Luca looked so different in her work clothes.

She even had a feeling that any man could be charmed by someone like Luca...

"Don't worry about it. Should we go to my office?" Luca shook her head and said.

Nina smiled. "It's nothing important. There's a psychology conference and exhibition in A City this week. I'd like to go, and I'm wondering if you're interested."

'Psychology conference and exhibition?'

Luca was worried about Nina's mental health. It would be a good idea if she went there. She nodded and said, "Let's go, but wouldn't it be hard to gain access to the conference if you're not a psychologist? If I recall correctly, the conference is held once every two years, and it's not easy to get an invitation. We'd probably be visiting the exhibition instead."

"Don't worry. I have a way to get an invitation," Nina said.

"Alright, I'd love to go if you can get us an invitation," Luca said and nodded.

Nina was happy that Luca agreed to go with her. "See you then!" She said and left.

Zoey had been eavesdropping on their conversation. After Nina left, she said, "Dr. Craw, is that young woman Mr. Percy Mallory's... friend?"

She wanted to say "illicit lover," but she realized that Luca seemed to be very close to that woman, which was why she changed her words at the last moment.

at her. "You seem to be interested in

heh. I've read about their relationship in the tabloids, and I happen to remember it. Mr. Mallory is an outstanding man, and he rarely appeared in the papers. That's why I remember it very well," Zoey explained, seeing that Luca was

turned around and left without answering

her chin as she watched Luca leave. She wondered if she had

was engrossed in a discussion with the other researchers. By the time she finished the discussion, it was already fifteen minutes past office

remembered that Tommy was waiting for her for dinner, so she asked Rhett to tidy up the documents before clocking out and leaving

waited in the elevator lobby, she sensed that the doors of the CEO's personal elevator behind her turned around and saw Luke

Crawford?" Luca was surprised. The CEO's personal elevator was running on a different system from the other elevators, so the elevator should not have stopped there even if Luca pressed the button to go
explanation was that Luke had deliberately wanted to stop at

"Are you going home?" Luke asked.

"Mm." Luca maintained some distance **between them**.

"**You're** a little late today," Luke said. When he was about to go off work, he looked at the security feed and realized that Luca was still in her office.

"*I'm sorry*, I was in a discussion with the other researchers earlier..." Luca thought he was unhappy that Tommy had to wait at her apartment.

"I'll send you home," Luke said without any hint of accusation in his voice.

"**It's** fine. I can catch a cab," Luca said insistently. She did not want to have too many interactions with him.

He suspected that she was an agent of the Island of Despair, and he had a budding relationship with another woman. It was inappropriate for her to be so close to *him now*.

Seeing that the elevator doors were about to close, Luke held the door open and stared straight into her eyes. "Prepare some extra food."

Luca understood what he meant. He wanted to have dinner in her *house again...*

"Alright," Luca said.

Seeing that Luca had no intention of going into the elevator, he said, "I'm picking up Tommy, so it's along *the way*."

should pick up Tommy first while I go to the supermarket. It'll be faster if we go separate ways," Luca said. The elevator doors behind her opened, and she walked inside without turning

Luke saw that, he pulled his hand away, and the elevator seemed to be very busy today. She was not in her office during watched the numbers on the digital display tick down until it reached the basement parking lot, where he stepped out. From the conversation earlier, he could sense that Luca was trying even harder to were from the Island of Despair, she would have known what happened to the impostor Bianca, and it was understandable that she wanted to the same time, if she were from the Island of Despair, her reason for applying for a job at Watson must be to get closer to him. It would not make sense that she was avoiding him found his car and drove that Luca was working overtime, he told Sean to pick up Lanie and Rainie, while he would pick up Tommy original plan was to bring Luca along and see if he could find out something from her, but she had avoided him at Tommy's school. Most of the children had already out of the car and saw Tommy sitting on a stool, so he waved at

Chapter 1438

Luke snapped out of it and opened the car door. Tommy got in the car and voluntarily closed the door. After Luke got in the driver's seat, he suggested, "Daddy, what do you think of equipping Ms. Luca with a car?" "Why?" Luke asked. "You're so busy with work. If Ms. Luca is equipped with a car, she can pick me up so you don't have to!" Tommy said with a grin. Luke knew what was in his son's mind. He exposed Tommy and said, "You know what? Why don't we give her an apartment near your school? That'll also be convenient." "Yes! I want to live with Ms. Luca! It'll be convenient to go to school!" Tommy started making plans to live with Luca. Luke glanced at his son from the rearview mirror. Tommy often spoke from the bottom of his heart, which meant he really wanted to live with Luca. "In the future, not only will I be able to eat Ms. Luca's cooking for dinner but Ms. Luca can also make breakfast for me. That sounds like heaven!" Tommy did not realize anything and continued talking about his plan. Luke reluctantly reminded him. "She won't agree, nor will Great-grandpa." Tommy stopped chattering and asked, "Why?"

"She's not our maid," Luke said. He did not realize that among those who he said would disagree with the plan, he did not include himself.

"That's true... It'd be great if I were Ms. Luca's child." Tommy covered his cheek with his hands and looked distressed.

that Tommy liked Luca but it was not a good thing that he relied on Luca so

was from the Island of Despair, they would be on opposite sides. The more Tommy liked her, the more Tommy would not understand what he would have to do in the

to wonder whether it was a good thing or a bad thing that he was letting Tommy keep in contact with her for him to get close to Luca and investigate the

still felt sorry for not being able to live with Luca, while Luke's head was filled with Luca. He did not have the headspace to comfort the

On the other side.

bought the groceries for dinner, she returned to the apartment. She thought that she had some time before Luke would arrive with Tommy so she planned to clean the apartment a little then prepare

held the vacuum cleaner and was about to start cleaning from the guest bedroom. She was taken back when she reached for

guest bedroom was prepared for Amur. To ensure that it was well-ventilated, she would never close the door completely and always left a gap. At that moment, the door of the guest bedroom was

Someone had quietly come in...

it was not Amur. If it was him, he would have let her know when he came

put down the vacuum cleaner, went to the center of the living room, picked up the fruit knife there, and walked to the guest bedroom. Instead of rushing to open the door, she shouted to whoever was inside, "I know you're inside,

She held her breath and stared at the door.

There must be someone inside...

Luca heard a very soft sound after she spoke. It was the sound of shoes touching the floor. Although the person inside tried not to make a sound, she still heard **it**.

The door opened slowly...

Abel, who was wearing a hat, came out from the room.

Although she was familiar with him, Luca did not let her guard down. She stared at him and did not ask stupid questions like how he **came in**.

In the Island of Despair, everyone was trained to pick *locks*.

The door lock of this apartment would take Abel only two seconds to open the door without damaging *the lock*.

"*Why* are you here?" Luca asked. Even when she was face-to-face with him, she did not show any *respect*.

Abel smiled wickedly. He was not irritated by her attitude. She was Luca, a woman with thorns. He would be surprised if she showed him some respect.

He opened the door behind him and said, "I've prepared a wonderful gift for you!"

blood the moment the door opened. She frowned instantly and said, "You killed someone in grinned. Based on the smell of blood alone, she could tell that the person inside was dead. She knew Abel

on earth are you doing?!" Luca was impatient. 'He killed

would be okay if he let her handle it but if Luke came over, the bloody smell in the entire room could not be

she could tell was that Abel killed someone here because she did not smell any blood before she entered

as soon as the door of the guest room opened, the smell of blood wafted around. Luca was overwhelmed with the thought about Luke's arrival and how Abel was deliberately pushing her into a 'What does he want from me?!

too slow, I'm not satisfied." Abel glanced at the body behind him and said as he was leaning against the wall. "So, I'm here to speed things

noticed that the body was wearing the uniform of a security guard and presumed that he was one of the apartment's security

picked a person at random and killed him in her house. He could have done it without leaving a drop of blood but he made more than a dozen wounds on the victim's body, letting the blood flow all over the place. The air smelled of

me a lot of trouble," Luca said while clenching her fist

Chapter 1439

"What do you want?" Luca stared at him.

Abel shook the vase in his hand, raised his eyebrows, and said casually, "Are you planning to greet Luke while conscious?"

Fainting was the best explanation for the mess in front of her. Luca knew that only if she fainted could she hide everything. She agreed to Abel's plan because she had no other choice.

"Let's do it by the door," she said as she returned the fruit knife to its original position, then walked to the door.

Abel smiled and walked over with the vase.

He smiled innocently even though he had just murdered someone. Luca suddenly became angry. She stretched out her hand and said, "I'll do it myself."

"Luke is very smart. If you do it, it might make him notice some clues. I'll do it," Abel said.

Luca stood there firmly and watched as Abel raised the vase, preparing to smash it on her.

"By the way, your research is interesting. Tell me next time about the kind of drugs you're researching." After he said that, the vase in his hand fell on Luca's head.

Before Luca had time to tremble at his words, he smashed the vase on her head, which made a loud sound. She lost consciousness after that.

Abel looked at Luca who fell on the floor and smiled wantonly.

Luca, Bianca...

He threw the vase and left swaggeringly without cleaning the scene of the crime.

arrived at Luca's apartment with Tommy, he smelled blood the moment he stepped out of the
is there a strange smell?" Tommy also smelled it but because of his young age, he could not tell what it
noticed that Luca's apartment door

stopped and glanced at the doors of the other two houses. They were all closed tightly. The smell of
blood was likely coming from Luca's

window inside the house was not open, the smell of blood could only waft from the
Luca...

quickened. He stopped in his tracks and told Tommy, "Stand here,

Tommy noticed his serious expression and stood

walked to the front of the apartment and saw Luca knocked out in the hallway. She had

smell of blood drifted over. He lowered his head to look at Luca and it seemed that her forehead was
hurt. Thankfully, the bleeding was not much. The smell of blood was not from

down and put his hand underneath Luca's nose. Fortunately, her breathing was
likely that she was attacked and then

not ignore the strong smell of blood. He went past Luca and walked into the room. He followed the
direction where the smell of blood was wafting out, which was the door of the guest

The open bedroom door allowed him to see the scene *inside clearly*.

Luke took out his phone, called the ambulance, then called **the police**.

There was a police station near Luca's apartment. The police arrived sooner than the ambulance. After seeing the situation inside the house, a young policeman could not help but vomit on **the spot**.

Not long after, the ambulance also arrived. The accompanying ambulance staff confirmed that the person wearing the security uniform in the guest bedroom was dead and carried Luca into the **ambulance**.

Luke handed his business card to the police and said, "If you have any questions, give this number a call and you'll be able to reach me."

The police knew who the man in front of him was and did not dare to intercept him. He said, "Okay, Mr. Crawford. We'll handle it, but we may need you to go to the police station to make a statement. I'm sorry to trouble **you**."

"Okay, just let me know when." Luke finished speaking and *walked out*.

Tommy stood by the elevator obediently, looking at Luca who was being carried out on a stretcher.

"Ms. Luca, Ms. Luca, what happened to you?" His voice was *choked*.

Luca did not react at all.

"Doctor, what's wrong with my Ms. Luca?" Tommy raised his head and looked at the medical staff beside him with tears in his big, round *eyes*.

"Hey buddy, the patient is in a coma now. We're going to take her to the hospital for an examination." The medical staff looked at the child who looked as though he was about to break into tears and felt pity toward **him**.

over and stooped to pick up the

medical staff recognized the person in front of them and asked, "Mr. Crawford, are you going to the hospital with

"I'll follow behind you," Luke said.

"Okay."

elevator arrived, the medical staff moved the stretcher into the elevator. Luke carried Tommy and they went downstairs

moment, Tommy could see Luca more clearly. His tears fell like a waterfall when he saw the wound on her forehead. "Dad, Ms. Luca must be in

did not say a word and hugged

the elevator reached the first floor, the medical staff took Luca into the ambulance while Luke drove behind the ambulance and followed them to the

He notified Johann in advance.

Luca arrived at the hospital, Johann did a basic inspection and then arranged a series

as the nurse pushed Luca to go for a check-up and asked calmly, "When will she
a while. The wound isn't too deep but we're afraid that there is congestion or concussion, so we have to
first check to see if there's internal bleeding. If there isn't, she should be able to wake up tonight,"

Luke nodded.

Chapter 1440

Luke knew that waiting here would not make the results come out any sooner. He carried Tommy and
went upstairs with Johann. They waited for the results in his office.

"I happened to be on duty today and asked the nurse to buy some peanut butter oats. Both of you
should have some. One is young and the other has gastric, it's not good for both of you to starve,"
Johann said while taking out the reheated peanut butter oats from the microwave.

"Thank you, Uncle Park," Tommy took the bowl of oats and thanked him.

Johann put another bowl in front of Luke. He could not help but ask, "What's going on? Didn't you
mention that Dr. Craw was trained in self-defense?"

"I'm not sure," Luke took a mouthful of oats and shook his head. "We'll find out more after she wakes
up."

Johann noticed that Tommy stopped after taking two mouthfuls of oats. He was concerned and asked,
"Tommy, why did you stop eating?"

"I'm worried about Ms. Luca." Tommy's tiny face was filled with melancholy.

Luke put down the bowl and touched his head. "She'll be fine."

Tommy pursed his lips and said, "The oats don't taste good."

When Johann heard what he said, he asked patiently, "What do you want to eat? I'll have someone go
buy it?"

Tommy shook his head and replied, "I want to eat Ms. Luca's cooking... Dad, Uncle Park, what should we
do if Ms. Luca can't wake up?"

Johann muttered in his heart. He originally thought that Tommy had an unusual attachment toward
Luca, but now it seemed that it was all because of Luca's wonderful cooking.

okay. Trust me. Be a good boy and finish this bowl of oats." He comforted

looked at him with a serious expression. "Uncle Park, will you do your best to save Ms. Luca if I finish
was speechless. It was his job to save lives. Whether Tommy finished the oats or not, he was going to
top of that, Luca's wound did not look serious. It would not be

there were risks that he had just mentioned to Luke, he would still save her. It was not Tommy's place to
negotiate

considering that Tommy was doing it because he was worried about Luca's situation, Johann nodded and agreed. "As long as you finish the oats, I guarantee that Dr. Craw will be

heard his reply, he picked up the bowl and gobbled up the

glances with Luke, and they both ate their bowl of

the three of them having oats in Johann's office, the nurse was worried that they would not have enough to eat. She took the initiative to send over some snacks from the

soon as they finished eating, Luca was done with all the check-ups and sent to the ward because of still in a coma when they sent her to

Johann instructed the nurse to clean Luca's wound while he went through the reports. He breathed a sigh of relief and said, "No blood spots were found in her head. Her situation is not too serious. She'll recover soon enough if the wound is treated properly and doesn't come into contact with water for two *days*."

"**Why hasn't** she woken up?" *Luke asked.*

"**It may** be because of a concussion. My suggestion is for her to stay in the hospital for observation for one night and have another CT scan the next day. If all goes well, she can be discharged by tomorrow," Johann said while thoroughly checking the report once **again**.

There would not be any major problems if there were no blood spots found.

"**Uncle** Park, does this mean that Ms. Luca is not in a life-threatening situation?" Tommy asked. He did not understand the CT scan **reports**.

"**She'll** be fine. Maybe she'll wake up in the middle of the night." Johann gave a rough **estimation**.

Patients who fainted from accidents wake up at different times. Some could wake up in a short time, but some may have to sleep for one night before they woke *up*.

Tommy said immediately, "I'll wait for Ms. Luca to wake up before I *leave*."

"No." Luke refused immediately.

Tommy looked at Luke with his eyes widened. "Why not? Dad, Ms. Luca is in the hospital alone. She's sad and helpless. How can you be so cruel?!"

Luke listened to the child's cries and replied in a cold tone, "You have class tomorrow. I have notified Zander and he'll bring you home later."

"No, I'm going to wait here until Ms. Luca wakes up." Tommy *insisted*.

there and watched the two of them staring at each other. He thought about it for a while and thought that it was pointless for them to keep arguing like this, so he said, "How about this? If you're worried that no one will know when Dr. Craw wakes up, your daddy will stay with her and you'll go home with Zander

held his breath, his displeasure toward the situation was displayed on

at Johann but said

that moment, Zander happened to walk in and respectfully said, "Young Master Luke, I'm here to pick up Little Young

I don't want to go back." Tommy went with a gentler approach when he realized that his previous approach was

here with her, you have nothing to worry about. She'll be discharged tomorrow." Luke's heart softened when he saw how insistent Tommy was to stay with Luca.

Can I see Ms. Luca before I leave, then?" Tommy had no choice but to compromise when he saw that Luke would not budge.

He was just a kid...

can. Zander, take him to visit her then send him back to Crawford Manor," Luke

quickly and then asked, "Young Master Luke, what

here tonight, don't worry about me. Tomorrow, you'll be responsible for sending the kids to school," Luke