

Be Gentle 1451

Chapter 1451

"Why do you want to stay in a hotel? Isn't it better to stay in the apartment? Mr. Crawford has specially made arrangements for you. I can also take care of you while you're recuperating," the maid said after hearing that Luca wanted to move to a hotel.

Luke had told the maid to prepare Luca's daily supplements with the ingredients in the kitchen cabinet.

Luca smiled and said, "I don't think it's very appropriate. I'm feeling a lot better now, and I don't need anyone to take care of me."

The maid smiled and said nothing.

If Luca stayed there, the maid would be slightly busier. If she did not, Luke would not blame the maid either. After all, Luke did not have time to care for petty matters.

A while later, the police officer came back and said, "Pardon me. Your briefcase has been sent to the forensics department, and the investigation is still ongoing, so I can't return the documents to you yet. We'll call you in two days so that you can pick up the documents."

Luca felt a little troubled upon hearing that.

If she could not retrieve her identification documents, it meant that she could not move to a hotel yet.

"Can't you do me a favor? I really need the documents," Luca said.

"I'm really sorry, Miss. I have to follow the rules," the police officer said.

Luca was not going to throw a tantrum there, so she left with the maid.

the police officer watched her leave, he went to the superintendent's office, knocked on the door, and went inside. "Sir, I've already detained her identification documents, just as

the forensics department had already completed the investigation on Luca's briefcase the day

to prioritize valuable items first, though they did not find anything valuable in Luca's briefcase. After the investigation, they returned the briefcase to the police station so that its owner could come and retrieve

superintendent had received orders from Luke to detain the

very well. Don't tell anyone about this. You may leave. Also, close the door behind you." The superintendent was satisfied with what the police

The police officer nodded and left, closing the door

the police officer left, the superintendent gave Luke a call and told him everything that

knew that Luca would go to the police station to retrieve her identification documents, so he had called the superintendent

that Luca wanted the identification documents to check into

was supposed to get closer to him, but it was curious that she was trying to distance herself

Without her identification documents, Luca could not check into a hotel and had to stay in Luca's **apartment**.

Back at the apartment, Luca thought of taking **a bath**.

She opened the closet and was *stunned*.

The maid had bought several sets of clothing for her and had placed them in the closet. When Luca opened the closet, she saw that it was filled with *Luca's clothes*.

Luca rarely stayed in the apartment, so the closet was quite small. There were quite a number of suits inside, and there was not much space for anything else.

Luca could see that the maid had stacked up Luca's clothes to make space for her clothes.

Luca's and Luca's clothes were placed together, as though they were **living together**.

Three years ago, it was the same situation in their closet at Crawford Manor. Half of the closet was filled with Luca's clothes, and the other half was her *clothes*.

That was the proof that they lived together.

"*Ms. Craw*, I've prepared your bathwater," the maid said as she stepped out of the bathroom.

to her senses. She hurriedly took out a set of clothes from the closet and closed the door, as though she was afraid that someone might notice

maid noticed Luca's odd behavior and wondered if there was something scary in the closet. Why did Luca seem so flustered and

the evening, Luca noticed that the maid laid three sets of cutlery on the

we have a guest today? Why is there another set of cutlery?"

Sir has requested it," the maid said with a smile. "I'll have to go home later tonight, and I'll only be back tomorrow morning. There's enough food in the fridge. If you don't want to cook, I can prepare tomorrow's breakfast for you, so you only have to heat it in

fine. I can do it myself." Luca did not think that she was so

she was feeling better, she did not want to trouble the maid if she could do it

Craw," the maid replied and went into

looked at the three sets of cutlery and knew what was going

an hour later, Luca came into the apartment while holding

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Tommy shook his head and said insistently, "You should stay here, Ms. Luca. Daddy said that you can stay here for as long as you want. It's okay."

Luke owned many properties, and many people could stay there for as long as they wanted, but she did not want to stay there.

Luca could only try to appease the child for now. "By the way, you must be hungry, right? Let's have dinner."

Tommy's eyes sparkled when Luca mentioned food, and he forgot that he was halfway convincing Luca. He rubbed his stomach and said, "Yes, Ms. Luca, I'm hungry. What's for dinner tonight?"

Luke stood some distance away and watched the exchange between Luca and Tommy. He was a little disappointed that Tommy had forgotten about the important matter.

It seemed that Luca knew exactly what Tommy liked. The boy would forget about everything else once someone mentioned food.

However, Luke did not reprimand the boy. After all, he was still only a child.

Luca was secretly glad that she managed to shift the conversation topic. She was Tommy's birth mother, so it was natural that she knew what Tommy liked.

Even though she was gone for three years, she realized that she still understood the child quite well.

Luca took Tommy's hand, stood up, and led him to the dining table. "I don't know. The maid cooked dinner tonight, but I'm sure that it'll be delicious."

Tommy was slightly disappointed that Luca did not cook dinner tonight, though he understood that it was because she was injured. He smiled, nodded, and said, "I'm sure that Mdm. Gardner's cooking is very delicious too!"

The maid came out of the kitchen with a tray of food. She smiled when she heard Tommy's praises. "Have a taste, Master Tommy."

only Luke would stay in that apartment, and he would not eat his meals there. It was the first time the maid cooked for Luke and his

Luca says that it's delicious, I'm sure that it's delicious!"

Master Tommy is very fond of you," the

smiled and pulled a chair. "Let's sit

sat on the chair and waited for the food to be

next to him. Luke went over and sat down on the chair

rectangular dining table was not as big as the table in Crawford Manor. They were sitting quite close

maid served all the dishes, she said, "Sir, Ms. Luca, Master Tommy, please enjoy dinner. I've also made some custard pudding, and it's cooling down in the fridge. It should be ready for eating after you've finished

You may leave," Luke said. He remembered that the maid was taking the rest of the

maid nodded, went back to her room, picked up her handbag, and

was Tommy's first time eating the maid's cooking, but he seemed to enjoy it very much. Occasionally, he would fill up Luca's plate with more food, as though he was taking care

Luca was glad to see that the boy was so caring. She said, "I can do it **myself**."

"**I'm** a big boy, Ms. Luca. I should take care of you when you're injured," Tommy said insistently.

Luca wanted to say something but stopped herself, feeling glad that the boy was so mature. Before she went missing, the adults at the dining table had to help him eat.

He used to be a picky eater who loved snacks more than *proper meals*.

Tommy had changed so much in those three years. He was behaving like a little **adult now**.

"**Let him** do it," Luke said impassively. He thought that it was a good thing that the child cared **for others**.

Luca paused. Tommy put another piece of fish on her plate. "You should eat more fish, Ms. Luca. That way, your wound will heal faster."

"*Okay*, thank you," Luca said with a smile. She had to hold back the urge to kiss Tommy's **cheek**.

Luke watched Luca eat slowly and elegantly. He asked her a question, "Did you go to the police station earlier **today?**"

"**Mm**, yes," Luca said while nibbling the fish delicately. She was already mentally prepared for Luke's questioning, and she had to pretend that she was unperturbed even though her mind was on high alert.

"**The police** said that they need my documents for a few more days," she **added**.

though she disagreed with what the police were doing, she was helpless if the police decided not to give her

she do, throw a tantrum at the police

was not going to do something that would embarrass

"This isn't Russia. The police do things

know," Luca said, though she began to wonder if Luke had a hand in the investigation. Could he have told the police to detain

was the reason for him to

was already suspecting her, but it seemed that he wanted her to be close

he hoping that she might accidentally

a chill course down her spine. Abel was a formidable adversary, and Luke was even more so. She had to be extra careful if she were to do

not want Luke to find out the truth behind her

Luca did not wish for Luke to be hurt, she did not want to die like how the impostor Bianca did either. Nyla was still waiting for her on the island, and the little girl's future would be ruined if she did

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"Mm." Luke shot a glance at her, picked up the stack of plates and cutlery, and went into the kitchen.

Luca turned her head to look at Tommy. He was looking at her with a grin on his face.

"Ms. Luca, from now on, you can let Daddy do all that," Tommy said.

'From now on?' Luca blinked.

Luca hoped that she would have nothing more to do with Luke...

"Your Daddy shouldn't be doing household chores," Luca said while patting the child's head. Luke should be sitting in his office, leading his company to greater heights, and stimulating the economy of the entire A City.

Tommy shook his head. "Why shouldn't he? He's also a normal person. Everyone should know how to do household chores."

Luca had no reply to the little boy's statement. He was correct: Luke was only a normal person, and doing household chores should not be beneath him.

However, she did not wish to see his hands stained with grease.

Luke was her crush in her younger days, the father of her children, and was once her husband...

He should not be doing the housework, even though he was doing it for her.

"Luca Craw." Luke's voice was heard from the kitchen.

"Huh?" Luca came to her senses and replied.

"Come here for a while," Luke said.

got up and went into the kitchen. She noticed him standing in front of the dishwasher and studying

"What's wrong, Mr. Crawford?" She asked.

don't know how to operate this," Luke said as he turned around and looked at her. The dishwasher was a new model, and he had not studied its

surprised that a mere dishwasher managed to stump

over and explained, "This dishwasher is a new model. The controls are hidden behind a panel so that the grease and smoke in the kitchen won't get to them. Let me do

stepped aside, and Luca stepped in front of the dishwasher. She had observed the maid operate the dishwasher, so she knew where the controls

some buttons, and the dishwasher hummed

so that's where the controls are,' Luke

dishwasher also sterilizes the plates. You can leave them inside after it's done," Luca said and turned her head around, meeting Luke's

was then that she realized that the man was standing so close

had to do was slightly lift her head to take in those masculine

could feel her cheeks heating up. If she continued to stand there, she would soon become

was so sharp and fragrant. It was such a familiar

She would be lying if she said that she did not miss him. How she wished that she could hug him and find safety in his **embrace**.

However, she could not do that.

"**Well...** it's not surprising that you don't know how to use a dishwasher. After all, you always have someone else to do your dishes," Luca said as she turned around and walked two steps away. That was perhaps a safe distance.

Luke could see that she was flustered. Her cheeks were flushed as though she had drunk two glasses **of wine**.

"*You* seem embarrassed, Dr. Craw," he said with certainty.

Luca instinctively touched her face and said, "No. The ventilation fan isn't on, and it's quite warm in here."

Luke did not pursue the topic. He said, "The kitchen alone is more spacious than your apartment. I won't usually come here. You can continue to stay **here**."

"I'll leave after I get my ID," Luca said insistently.

Luke could tell that she was trying to keep a distance from him. Would she behave like that if she planned to get close to him?

Luca felt awkward being stared at like that. She explained, "This is your house. If I stay here for too long, other people might suspect something. I'll leave after I get my documents back."

Luke did not understand what she was doing. Was she playing hard to get?

Tia was also trying to get close to him, but Luca was doing the exact opposite. What was Luca's **plan**?

"*If you* don't feel comfortable with the arrangement, I can convert this apartment into an employees' dormitory, and you'll be the sole occupant," Luke said as he walked around her and left the *kitchen*.

there in a daze. His movement stirred up a breeze that carried

Employees' dormitory?

high-end apartment developed by T Corporation was too lavish to be an employees' dormitory. It was close to the city center, and it was near to the workplace, shopping malls, and other

dishwasher made some slight noises. It was not loud, but it made Luca return to

walked out of the kitchen and noticed that Luke and Tommy were standing at
waved at her. "Ms. Luca, Daddy said that you need more rest. We won't take up any more of
Luca nodded and replied, "Alright."

Ms. Luca." Tommy waved again and left the apartment with his
walked toward Luke. He was looking into her eyes, and she could not tell what he was
this apartment is too luxurious to be an employees' dormitory," she said
at the two adults and did not say

your research is successful, the product will bring massive profits to the company. T Corporation has
never pinched pennies on anyone who can contribute to the company. It's within reason to let you stay
here,"

Luca was still trying

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Sue became anxious when she heard that Luca had signs of concussion. She said, "The symptoms might
be gone, but you can't be too careless. No, you need to rest more. Where are you staying now? I'll come
to visit and bring you some supplements."

Luca hurriedly said, "Don't worry about it. It's nothing too serious. I'll be back to normal once the wound
on my forehead heals. You don't have to waste money on me. Right, Sue, I need to ask you a favor."

"What is it?" Sue asked.

"There's a cordon around my apartment, and the police have detained all my identification documents. I
don't have a single penny with me now, so, um... can you lend me some money?" Luca said.

"Money? How much? I'll transfer it to you now," Sue replied without any hesitation.

Luca hurriedly explained, "I need cash. I don't have my debit card with me, so I can't take out any money
from my account. How about this, I can transfer money to you through my banking app. Can you
withdraw the cash for me?"

"How much cash do you need?" Sue said, still confused.

Mobile payments were becoming more and more common. She did not understand why Luca would
rather bring cash with her.

"I need twenty thousand dollars. I'll transfer it to you. Can you help me with that?" Luca said. She need
not have done that if she had her debit card with her.

can help you, but why do you need so much money in cash?" Sue asked. Twenty thousand dollars was a
large sum, and people would not usually walk around with that much

need it for an emergency. It's quite urgent. I'll transfer the amount to you now, and you can withdraw it
at the bank..." Luca would rather not trouble Sue to go to

about it. I happen to have some cash with me, and I can hand it to you now. Where are you staying?" Sue thought that she could use the chance to pay her a visit and give her some

don't have my ID with me, so I'm staying at Mr. Crawford's apartment near Century International. I don't know the block and unit number, so I'll find that out and get back to you," Luca said. She wanted to give the money to the security guard's

the security guard died because of her, and she felt immensely guilty about causing the family to lose their

dollars was not a lot for a white-collar worker like her, but it was a large sum for the security guard's

near Century International? Don't worry about it. I know where it is. I'll leave now, and I should be there in thirty minutes." Sue knew which apartment unit it

quite surprised that Luke would let Luca stay in that apartment. Luke owned many apartment properties in A City, but that particular one was his private space. He usually did not bring anyone

"Alright." Luca did not stop her from coming over immediately. After all, she wanted the money as soon as possible so that she could give it to the security guard's family.

Half an hour later, Sue and Nina appeared at the apartment at the same time.

"This is the place, right?" Nina asked as she looked at the address plate. She did not know that Luca was injured, and she would not know about it if Sue had not told her.

"Yes, it is," Sue said confidently. She was involved in the interior design of the apartment, so she was very sure about **it**.

Nina rang the doorbell.

Luca heard the bell ring and saw Sue and Nina through the security camera. She opened the door and said, "You're here."

She was not surprised that Nina was there.

Back then, she was best friends with Nina and Sue. Even though the impostor Bianca was not close to them, Sue and Nina remained very *good friends*.

"What happened to you?" Nina asked worriedly as she stepped through **the door**.

fine, don't worry," Luca said with a smile. She noticed that both of them were carrying shopping bags in their hands. "Didn't I tell you not to bring anything? I can't finish

won't have a band-aid on your head if you're fine. I've heard it all from Jason. Dr. Park said that you're slightly anemic, and I've gotten you some iron supplements. You don't have to finish everything in one day. Just take it whenever you're free. There's also something for your skin. You're already very beautiful, but it's good to take some supplements for your face and figure. Please take these." Sue ignored Luca's refusal and placed the two shopping bags on the

also put the shopping bags on the coffee table and said, "You don't tell us anything. I wouldn't have known anything if Sue didn't tell me. I was looking forward to you joining me at the exhibition tomorrow

too. If you go to the exhibition with that injury on your head, I don't want to be responsible for what would happen to

her promise to Nina and said, "Don't worry, it's only a minor injury. It's not going to be too much trouble. I'm still interested in the exhibition tomorrow. I'll go

glanced at Luca's forehead and shook her head. "That's

been sleeping well lately, and the sleeping pills don't really work. If there's a conference about improving one's sleep quality, I'd love to join it." Luca guessed that Nina would not go if she did not

knew that Nina would benefit greatly if she joined the international conference and exhibition. That was why she wanted to go with

been suffering from insomnia too?" Nina could see that Luca was in good spirits,

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Nina could not help but discreetly praise Luca's kindness. She said, "Alright, let's go to the conference first. Then, we'll hand the money to the security guard's family."

Luca smiled at her and said, "Thank you."

It was about time to leave. Sue and Nina said goodbye to Luca so that she may rest.

Luca looked at the supplements on the coffee table, thought for a while, and picked out those that were suitable for middle-aged and old women. She kept away the rest according to their storage instructions.

Tomorrow, she would bring the supplements along with the cash to the security guard's house.

The next day, Nina arrived at the apartment in her car. When she saw the shopping bag in Luca's hand, she smiled and said, "You're so kind, Dr. Craw."

"You gave me too many supplements yesterday. I can't finish everything," Luca explained.

Nina did not mind it. She was glad that their supplements could help some other people. After putting the bag in the trunk, they got into the car and drove toward the conference venue.

After driving some distance, Nina began to frown. "Luca, did you notice that the vehicle behind us is following us?"

Luca glanced at the rearview mirror. She had not noticed it earlier. "Continue driving. Keep a constant speed."

"Mm." Nina nodded and continued driving.

Luca observed the vehicle behind them and concluded that it was indeed following them. She told Nina to drive faster.

what Luca told her to do, and the vehicle behind them also drove faster, though it maintained a constant distance

Are they planning to abduct us?" Nina frowned. The vehicle behind them was an old,

calm, pay attention to their speed, and take the major roads. If they don't overtake us, they probably won't have any chance to do anything to us,"

was quite nervous. It was the first time she had encountered this

tried to keep calm as she continued

the truck behind Nina's car, Jean was sitting in the

driver said, "Bro, I think your sister

Keep following them," Jean said with a nonchalant grin. He had gone to Nina's mansion the day before, and the maid told him that Nina was not

with the maid and found out that Nina was going to some conference

that Nina did not have many friends in A City, so he took a gamble that his sister was going to the conference with

not expect that it was

By tailing Nina, Jean also found out where Luca lived. He continued to tail Nina because he wanted to see where they were going, and he hoped that he could strike up a conversation with Luca.

"*Why are* we still following them after you've found out where that chick lives? Let's go and have a drink," the driver *said*.

Jean slapped the side of the driver's head. "Why are you talking so much? Shut up and drive. Once I sleep with that woman, all of you won't have to worry about money *anymore*."

"*You said* that she's a doctor, right? Is she really that rich?" The hooligan sitting in the side passenger seat asked.

"*What do* you know? Doctors nowadays are rolling in money. She's probably a popular one who gets invited to other hospitals too. Don't you know that they get a fat paycheck just by sitting there for a couple of hours? Right, they might be on retainer for some major corporation too. There are so many ways for them to make money," Jean narrowed his gaze and said. He saw Luca coming out of a luxury apartment while dressed in branded clothes, and he guessed that Luca was not a mere wage earner.

"*That makes* a lot of sense, Bro," the hooligan in the side passenger seat said. He began to fantasize, just like what Jean was doing.

Their leader would strike it rich if he managed to get Luca to be his girlfriend. His lackeys would reap the benefits too.

Luca kept a close eye on the truck behind them. It kept a distance from them and had no intention of *overtaking*.

"**When did** that truck start to follow us, Nina?" She *asked*.

Nina shook her head. "I don't know. I happened to notice it after we went past several intersections."

"Don't worry. We'll just keep driving to the venue. Park in the open-air parking lot instead of the basement. They won't do anything to us if we're at a crowded place." Luca suggested because she did not know what the people in the truck behind them **wanted**.

"Alright, no problem." Nina nodded.

arrived at the venue ten minutes

was high up in the sky, and most drivers parked their cars in the basement. There were many spots in the open-air parking

their car in a spot near the road. There were more

noticed that the truck followed them into the

was preparing to get out of the car when Luca placed a hand on her shoulder. "Wait a second. We'll see if those people are getting out of

Craw, should we call the police?" Nina was

Luca looked closely at the truck parked not far away from them. She could see that someone was also sitting in the side

not see if any people were sitting in the back seat, so she could not tell how many people in total there were. There were at least two people, but they might be four or five

waited for a while and saw that the people in that truck had no intention of getting out. Luca unfastened her seatbelt and said, "If anything happens later, run into the crowd and don't look

tell that Luca was prepared for danger. She nodded and took out a can of pepper spray from

women stepped out of

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After they sat down, more and more people filled up the lecture hall.

Luca saw that the event staff on the stage were still making preparations for the lecture. She lowered her head and read the pamphlet in her hands.

The conference covered many aspects of the study of psychology. It would benefit her greatly if she could attend all the lectures.

A while later, Nina gently bumped Luca with her elbow. "It's Tia."

Luca lifted her head and looked in the direction where Nina was looking. She saw an impeccably dressed woman entering the hall while surrounded by several men in suits. One must be a distinguished figure in the field if they could enter the hall while being escorted.

"Mm," she replied softly.

"This is strange. Where's Luke Crawford?" Nina asked.

"Mr. Crawford? Is he supposed to come?" Luca was surprised. It would not have been surprising if Luke attended an economics conference, but they were at a psychology conference.

"I don't know if he's coming, but I know that Tia invited him," Nina said, knowing what Tia's motives were.

Luca did not say anything as she looked at Tia, thinking she was a good match for Luke.

"Looks like Mr. Crawford didn't fall into her trap," Nina continued.

trap?" Luca said. She could tell that Nina

mean, Mrs. Crawford is traveling now, isn't she? Tia must be trying to use this opportunity to flirt with Mr. Crawford. I'm guessing that she was the one who hired a journalist to start the scandal. It couldn't have been such a coincidence,"

the socialites of A City, Luke rarely got himself involved in scandals. Usually, the paparazzi would not stake out

them, it was better to hound some celebrities with more entertainment

being a coincidence, someone must have hired a journalist to stake out at the restaurant, and that person must be

remembered the previous scandal with him. No one had hired the journalist, but they were caught on

Tia did not hire a journalist, Luca thought many people paid attention to Luke,

remembered reading a public survey. Women with office jobs were asked their ideal husband. Luke Crawford was in the first

not out of the ordinary if Tia liked

was lost in thought, the lecture

started with the basic factors and symptoms of insomnia. When Dr. Thomason talked about psychological factors, he took some time to elaborate on using hypnotherapy to alleviate sleeping problems. In fact, he had devised a set of hypnosis techniques that worked better in alleviating anxiety than

Someone in the audience raised their hand and asked for a live demonstration.

Dr. Thomason thought for a bit and agreed to it. "Alright. I happen to bring my equipment with me as well. I need a volunteer to help me with the demonstration. Ideally, they will have to be suffering from sleeping problems or anxiety. Is *anyone willing?*"

Many people in the audience raised their hands.

Dr. Thomason was one of the leading figures in the field of psychology, and his hypnotherapy techniques were well-known. It was hard to schedule an appointment, and many people wanted to take the opportunity to try **it**.

Dr. Thomason was caught in a dilemma. He did not know who to *pick*.

He discussed briefly with his assistant and decided to pick a lucky audience member through drawing lots.

The numbers were already prepared for a later event. Dr. Thomason took out a slip of paper from a cardboard box, unfolded it, and read the number written on it. "Number thirty-six!"

Everyone turned around to look at their seat number, hoping that they would be the lucky one.

Nina looked at her seat number, then at Luca's seat. "It's you, Dr. Craw!" She *said excitedly*.

"**Huh?**" **Luca** turned around and looked at the back of her seat. Indeed, she was sitting on *number thirty-six*.

She did not know why she was so lucky. There were hundreds of seats in the hall, but she was the chosen one. The people around her were looking *at her*.

only stand up. She felt awkward being stared at by hundreds of

Miss! Please come up to the stage," Dr. Thomason

not move. She requested a microphone and said, "Good morning, Dr. Thomason. I'm not suffering from anxiety. You can pick

Thomason continued to extend his invitation. "It's okay, Miss. You can try my techniques even if you don't have anxiety. My hypnotherapy techniques are very effective in alleviating stress. Why not give it a try since you're the lucky

Luca saying that her sleep quality was not good. She said excitedly, "Didn't you say that you sometimes have trouble falling asleep? Why not try it? It might be

looked at her and smiled

she sometimes suffered from sleeping problems, but she knew the reasons, and she did not want to tell them

Dr. Thomason had extended his invitation twice, and everyone was looking at her, it would be rude for her to continue to

other choice, Luca went up

assistant looked at the woman walking up the stage and whispered to Tia, "Ms. Tia, that's

Tia said nonchalantly. She was not in the mood because Luke was not

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"Ms. Craw, what color do you see in front of you?" Dr. Thomason kept the bronze medallion away and asked.

"Red..." Luca replied softly. Her eyes were closed.

"What is this red thing then? Is it a wall, or..." Dr. Thomason continued to ask guiding questions.

"Blood... so much blood..." Luca replied. She was unconscious.

Some members of the audience exclaimed in surprise.

Dr. Thomason remained composed. He continued asking, "Imagine stepping past this curtain of blood. What else do you see?"

Luca was silent for the next half a minute as though mentally traveling beyond the curtain of blood. She spoke slowly, "I see... a man... and four children."

Dr. Thomason continued, "That's the main cause of your stress in your daily life. Can you see the man's face clearly?"

"Mm," Luca replied uneasily. Her hands slowly clenched into fists.

"And that man is..." Dr. Thomason asked.

Luca paused for a while and replied, "He is the man I love..."

"And the children?" Dr. Thomason could tell that Luca was unwilling to talk about the man, so he shifted the topic.

the people I love..."

are they doing?" Dr. Thomason

very sad. I'm... also very sad. One of them is a little girl wrapped in iron chains. I want to save her..." Luca said

Thomason exchanged glances with his assistant, then continued asking, "Is the man your husband? Who else is he? And those children, whose children

Luca did not answer. She jolted awake as though she had suffered a

did not expect that Luca would regain control of her consciousness from that question. In any case, he did not want the live demonstration to drag on for too long. After Luca stood up, he began his analysis.

"Luca saw a wall of blood, which means that she is subconsciously afraid of blood. The people she saw must be somehow related to her as

in the audience raised his hand and asked, "Usually, what kind of relationship would it

have an intimate relationship with the patient. In the demonstration earlier, Ms. Craw said that the people she saw were those whom she loved. I'm guessing that they must have done something to cause Ms. Craw agony, but of course, that's a preliminary guess. You may return to your seat, Ms. Craw," Dr. Thomason

face was still pale. The scenes from the hypnosis session were still fresh in her mind. She nodded, stepped off the stage, and returned to

she had not snapped herself out of the hypnosis in time, she might have divulged that the man was Luke realized that she was placed in a perilous situation earlier. Even though Dr. Thomason was wrong in his analysis, she did not correct

Dr. Thomason watched Luca return to her seat, he continued his lecture. The hypnotherapy session had failed earlier, and he had to find an explanation for it. "Everyone here knows that my hypnotherapy sessions guide the patient to face their fears directly because that's the most effective way of treatment. In the session earlier, I've shown Ms. Craw the source of her stress. Next, I shall continue with my

Nina saw that Luca's face was pale. She asked out of concern, "Are you okay?"

"I'm fine," Luca said and nodded.

Nina reached out, held her hands, and **said nothing**.

What they did not know was that Luke was sitting in the last row of the hall. He had seen Luca's reactions throughout the hypnotherapy session.

He had come to the conference, but not together with **Tia**.

Luke wanted to spy on Tia and see the people she interacted with. He did not expect to see Luca being hypnotized on **stage**.

He guessed that the wall of blood referred to the murder case in *her apartment...*

Why would the murder case cause her fear and stress? He and Jason had guessed that Luca had a hand in plotting the murder *case*.

Why would an accomplice of a murder case be afraid of *it*?

Was he mistaken?

Luke sank deep in thought as he looked in Luca's direction. She also mentioned seeing a man and four children...

information Luke had on her, she was not married, and she did not bear any children. Who could the man and the four children

that Luca would not lie when her subconsciousness took over. She must be telling the

What secrets did Luca have?

to pique Luke's curiosity. Somehow, he was not very happy when he knew that she had a man she

could not understand why he felt that way. It should have been normal for Luca, a single woman, to love

to her senses at the end of the lecture. Seeing that the crowd was shuffling out of the hall, she prepared to stand up when she heard a female voice call out, "Mr.

she turned around and looked toward the source of

It was Tia.

was rushing up the stairs. Luca looked toward where she was heading and saw Luke sitting in the

She was surprised to see Luke.

he see the part where I was hypnotized?'

to recall what Dr. Thomason said earlier. She breathed a sigh of relief when she realized she did not say

Chapter 1458

Luke remained impassive despite Tia's eager hospitality. "When does your lecture start?"

"In about half an hour," Tia stayed as her gaze remained glued on Luke. She wished that he would look at her as well.

"I'll go around and have a look at the exhibition. I'll be back later," Luke said, turned around, and headed toward the exit.

Tia quickly followed behind him. "Let me give you a tour. I know this place very well."

Luke stopped walking and turned around to look at the stage. "Your lecture is coming up soon. Shouldn't you stay behind and make preparations?"

Just as he finished speaking, Tia's assistant came up to her and said, "Ms. Tia, I've already downloaded your presentation into the computer, but there seems to be some problem with the layout. Did you make any changes?"

Tia was angry and flustered, but she could not reprimand her assistant in front of Luke.

She maintained her composure and said to the assistant, "I'll go and take a look. Right, reserve a front-row seat for Mr. Crawford."

"Alright." The assistant nodded at Luke, then left with Tia.

Without Tia bugging him, Luke quickly left the hall. From afar, he noticed Luca and Nina strolling around the exhibition, and he walked toward them.

Luca did not look like she was in the mood for strolling.

Nina noticed Luke first. She tugged Luca's sleeve, then they went up to Luke. "I didn't expect to see you here, Mr. Crawford."

impassive, even though Nina looked like she wanted to interrogate him. "Just walking

You're here on a date, right? What would Bea think of this?" Nina frowned and reminded him about

though Bianca was traveling overseas, Nina was helping her keep an eye

Nina was suspecting that Bianca did not want to travel overseas. Perhaps Luke had gotten tired of her and sent her

reputation would be affected if he divorced Bianca. Sending her away was the perfect excuse for him to do whatever

that Nina was speaking up for Bianca, Luke casually placed his hands in his

"Why aren't you saying anything? Are you feeling

didn't do anything that betrays Bea's trust," Luke said calmly. He looked as though he was not guilty

at Nina and gently tugged her sleeve. The man was the center of attention wherever he went, and people were beginning to crowd around

grunted coldly and softened her tone. "It doesn't mean that you won't do anything to betray her trust in the future. Let me tell you, I have my eyes on you. I'll tell Bea the moment I catch you doing

raised his eyebrows. He knew that Nina could not manage her relationship problems, yet she wanted to meddle in other

He shot a glance at Luca. Color had returned to her face, and she looked a lot better than when she was on the **stage**.

Luke said to Nina, "Nina Langdon, instead of worrying about what I'm doing, why don't you worry **about Percy?**"

'Percy?'

"What's wrong with Percy?" Nina blurted without any hesitation.

"Don't you know he's with another woman now?" Luke said.

Nina's body teetered, and she took a step back.

Luca immediately supported her by holding her arm. Seeing Luke say that to her best friend, she said, "Mr. Crawford, I don't think it's appropriate for you to air their personal matters **in public**."

"Ms. Langdon doesn't wish to see Bea bullied, so she's keeping a close eye on my personal life. I'm only giving her a reminder," Luke said as he looked at the two women.

Luca had always been cold toward the people in the company, but her relationship with Nina **seemed different**.

Bianca used to be Nina's best friend. She would stand up for Nina without hesitation whenever Nina needed *help*.

He seemed to have caught a hint of Bianca's personality in Luca when he saw how Luca said **and acted**.

A public announcement was heard. Tia's lecture was going to start *soon*.

took several deep breaths and grinned. "Mr. Crawford, Tia's lecture is starting soon. I'm afraid that she won't be in the mood to give her lecture if she doesn't see you

"Thanks for the reminder," Luke said.

not a nosy person, but from how Nina had been so protective of Bianca, he thought that she should know what was going on with Percy

his way of dealing with the woman his mother was trying to match him with, but Luke thought that he should let Nina know about

he helped both Nina

watching Luke leave, Luca looked at Nina worriedly, "Are

Nina took a deep breath. Ever since she met Percy's mother, she knew that this day would though she had been by Percy's side for a long time, she knew her place very well. The difference in their backgrounds meant that their relationship would not that someone with a matching background had appeared in Percy's life, it was time for her, the illicit lover, to always dreamed of leaving Percy. She had also thought of the multiple ways she could leave. Perhaps one day she would save enough money to pay Percy back. Perhaps Percy would eventually tire of her and dump her. Perhaps, he might find true any case, their relationship was doomed to

Chapter 1459

The mansion belonged to Percy, and she was only an outsider. Once their illicit relationship was over, what right did she have to remain there?

Moreover, she was emotionally unstable now. She was afraid that she might confront Percy if she went back, and she would only be humiliating herself.

Luca knew the reasons why Nina was unwilling to go back. She nodded and said, "Alright, let's go together. I don't think I have the courage to face that family myself."

Nina looked at her, feeling slightly confused. "It's not like you wanted it to happen. To be fair to you, you didn't kill the security guard. You have nothing to be guilty about."

Luca laughed dryly. There were so many things that Nina did not know...

"Yes, I didn't kill the security guard, but the thief wouldn't have gotten into my apartment if I had better locks," she said while inputting the address into the navigation app.

"Nobody wanted that to happen," Nina said.

Luca nodded, started the car, and drove toward the security guard's house.

It had been a few years since she last took the wheel, so she drove very slowly. Nina did not rush her.

Their minds were occupied with different things, so neither said anything throughout the drive.

an hour later, Luca parked the car at the side of the road. According to the navigation app, the security guard's house was at the end of the

"Are we here?" Nina asked.

should be the place." Luca looked out of the window and did not see any

nodded, unfastened her seatbelt, and stepped out of

also stepped out of the car. She handed the car keys to Nina, took out the bag of supplements from the trunk, and wore her

"I'll go with you," Nina said.

not stop her. She thought that Nina needed something to distract

women walked down the alley and found the house. There was no wake because the security guard's body was still with the

knocked on the wooden door. "Is anyone

later, a middle-aged woman came to open the door. Her eyes were bloodshot. "How can I help you?" She

"Um, can we talk after we go in?" Luca said while lifting the bag in *her hand*.

The middle-aged woman could see that the two women were not bad people. She nodded and opened the door fully.

"Come in."

Luca and Nina went inside.

After the middle-aged woman closed the door, Luca said, "I'm Luca Craw. I'm the owner of the apartment where your husband used to work. I'm paying a visit to you today to check if you're **okay**."

"**Huh?**" The middle-aged woman did not understand.

Luca did not explain herself. She handed the bag of supplements to her, then took out a thick stack of banknotes from her backpack and stuffed it in the middle-aged woman's hands. "This is a little something from me. I hope that you can *accept it*."

The middle-aged woman had never seen so much money before. She was quite flustered. "No, I can't take your money."

"*It's fine*. Treat it as compensation for your husband." Luca had already expected that the woman would not take the money, so she already knew what to *say*.

middle-aged woman blushed. "You don't have to lie to me and tell me that it's compensation. We've contacted the management company, and they said that my husband broke standard protocol in handling the matter. He should have called the police and informed the owner instead of going into the apartment unit without permission. They said that they would not compensate for any losses, and they even said that we might be held responsible if the owner decides to press charges. I don't believe that you're the owner or that you're compensating us. Ah, I know, you must be here because of that news report. I know that you're a good person, but I can't accept your money. It's my husband's fault that

woman began to sob. She tried to shove the things in her hands

welled up in Luca's eyes. She said, "Please take the money. You still have your parents and children to take care of. I hope the money will make your life easier. Your children still have to go to school. You don't wish for them to drop out,

woman was stunned, after which she cried even more

also chimed in. "Yes, Ma'am, crying won't change your current situation. You have to take the money. Please stay strong for your parents

woman agreed to what Nina said. She wiped her tears

hesitated for a few seconds before asking, "Can you tell me who

owner of the apartment your husband met with the accident. Don't worry, I won't pursue this matter. Also, I have to thank your husband for sacrificing his life to protect my property. I'll also tell the management that. Please take the money for now,"

middle-aged woman became even more reluctant to take the money when she heard that Luca was the apartment owner. She shook her head and said, "No, it's all my husband's fault. If he had been more careful, he wouldn't have dirtied your apartment. Even if you don't mind it, I still can't take

sighed and said, "I have medical research data worth millions in my apartment, and your husband sacrificed his life to protect my research. The money here is but a fraction of what he saved me. Please

Chapter 1460

Even though Nina was not willing to be together with Percy, she had to admit that he took very good care of her.

She had a stable job, but the salary could never satisfy her mother and elder brother's voracious appetite for money.

"Many people are suffering. We usually don't see the suffering around us because we're too focused on our lives," Luca said, feeling quite emotional.

"Mm." Nina agreed with Luca, though she was not in the mood.

Seeing that Nina was quite dejected, Luca guessed that what happened in the security guard's house triggered some unhappy memory in Nina's mind.

She felt sorry for her best friend, and she held back the urge to give her a hug.

When she was Bianca, they hugged each other quite often, no matter if they were happy or sad. However, she was not Bianca now...

Luca drove the car back to Luke's apartment, parked the car by the side of the road, and ordered a designated driver from the app on her phone.

Nina came to her senses after the car stopped. She glanced out of the window and said, "Oh, we're already here. You should go back."

"In a while. I've ordered a designated driver for you. She'll be here in a few minutes," Luca said.

"I'm not drunk. I don't need one," Nina said while rubbing her forehead. She was only distracted because she was thinking of something, and she did not need someone to drive her car for her.

"You're not in the condition to drive now," Luca said disapprovingly.

sighed. In any case, the designated driver was almost there, so they sat there

arrived three minutes later. As Luca stepped out of the car, she looked at Nina and said, "If you're harboring any questions in your mind, you can just ask them. Don't keep it all to

and waved her hand. "Alright, I
a call when you reach home," Luca said, still feeling worried
should go home." Nina stepped out of the car, waved goodbye to Luca, then sat in the
stood at the entrance. She watched Nina leave before going back to
saw her and said, "Welcome back, Ms. Craw. Did you have
bad," Luca said impassively. She did not show any emotion toward the maid's
guessed that the maid was only showing concern because Luke asked
nodded, seeing that Luca was quite calm. She continued asking, "Do you want
a glass of warm water. I haven't taken my medicine for today," Luca

The maid went into the kitchen and poured a glass of water for Luca. Then, she took out her phone and
sent Luke a message: [Ms. Craw looks normal. I can't tell what she's *thinking*.]

After sending the message, she returned to the living room with the glass.

Luca took the glass, poured several pills from the medicine bottle, then swallowed *it*.

"How do you feel today, Ms. Craw?" The maid asked out of **concern**.

"**The** wound doesn't hurt as much anymore," Luca said as she put the glass on the table. She stood up
and said, "I'm going to rest. I feel a little tired."

"*Alright. I'll* wake you up when it's time for dinner," the maid said with a smile.

Luca went into the bedroom, closed the door behind her, and sat on the bed.

She felt that she was being spied on when she was living in Luke's apartment. Even though the maid
seemed like a normal person, Luca guessed that she was one of **Luke's spies**.

Luke had many capable people under him. Despite being Luke's wife, she had never met them all.

Luca did not know if the maid had been taking care of the apartment, or if Luke had tasked her to spy on
Luca. She also did not know what the maid's real capabilities **were**.

Abel wanted her to get close to Luke as soon as possible, but he did not consider her **situation**.

had no one to turn

remembered that she would have to go and take the antidote in two days. She had to find an excuse to
leave the

already an adult, but she still had to come up with excuses to leave the house, and at the same time not
let the maid follow

and lay on the bed. The medicine caused her to

was woken up by Nina's message. The message had caused the phone in her hand

that she had arrived safely at home and told Luca not to worry. After Luca read it, she continued after Nina sent the message, she planned to rest for a while. However, she could not forget what Luca told her earlier, so she gave a phone call to

call was picked up after five rings. Nina felt dizzy when she heard Percy's

you now?" She said while clenching her fists to control

quite happy to answer Nina's call. After all, it was rare that she called him. "I'm still on a business trip overseas, and I'll only be back in two days. Did

gotten someone to keep an eye on Nina, and he knew that an emergency happened in Nina's