

Be Gentle 1461

Chapter 1461

Nina was becoming irritated when Percy insisted on not coming back to the mansion. Is he staying away from her because he had found another woman?

"I'll wait for you. Just come back when you're done with your business." After that, she ended the call.

Percy was a little confused. He knew that everyone had their limits, though Nina had never spoken to him so aggressively before. It made him wonder if that was Nina's true personality.

It was the first time that she was impatient toward him.

Percy put his phone away. Who could have told her that he was still in the country?

He had deceived Nina for the past few days because he was busy dealing with his business, not to mention that Ms. Johnston, the young woman that his mother was trying to match him with, was pestering him twenty-four seven.

He had to keep himself away from the mansion so that Nina would not be caught in the crossfire, and he only planned to go back after he dealt with the matters at hand.

He was about to succeed in his plan when Nina called him.

Now that she had already found out, he could not keep himself away from her any longer.

The internal telephone began to ring. Percy picked up the receiver and asked, "What is it?"

His assistant was taken aback. Percy sounded as though he was not in a good mood. "Mr. Mallory, Ms. Johnston is in the lobby now. She said that she wants to meet you."

"Tell her that I'm not in," Percy said. He was not going to let that woman pester him anymore. If she knew that he was in the company, she would cling to him and not let go.

have thrown her into the Pacific Ocean and let her sleep with the fishes, if not that the Johnstons were quite

assistant wanted to remind him that Ms. Johnston was

Mallory and Johnston families were joined by marriage, the resulting conglomeration might be the biggest in A City or even

though Percy and Luke were good friends, they were nevertheless business competitors. That was why Percy's mother had arranged the

not made myself clear?" Percy said. On other days, he might entertain Ms. Johnston for a while, but today, he had to finish his work so that he could go back to talk to

I'll send someone downstairs to stop her from coming up," the assistant

Percy continued to work busily.

his work by half-past eleven. He left the company and drove back to the

that she would wait for him. The lights in the mansion were on by the time Percy stepped out of she would want to discuss her mother's hospitalization with him. From the look of things, he had a feeling that she wanted to talk to him about something

Nina knew that he was still in the country, she might have also found out about Ms.

could not help but smile when he thought of

If Nina was angry because of Ms. Johnston, it meant that she was jealous and she cared **for him**.

That was why Percy was happy.

He went through the door and into the living room. Nina was sitting on the **couch**.

The television was on and filled the cavernous living room with noise. The place did not feel as desolate as it *used to*.

"I'm home," Percy said.

Nina was lost in thought, and she did not hear the door open over the noise from the television. That was why she did not notice Percy coming into the mansion.

She came to her senses. She glanced at the man, then at the clock hanging on **the wall**.

It was already midnight.

She guessed that Percy must have settled that woman in bed before coming home. After all, that was what he did to him at the start of their **relationship**.

After making out in bed, he would leave the mansion **around midnight**.

Nina did not know if she should feel happy. Her insistence had made him leave that woman and return to the **mansion**.

that it was quite ridiculous for her to behave that way. She was supposed to be the illicit mistress, but she was behaving as though she was his legally married wife. The truth, however, was that Percy was going to marry someone

not going to be

made some pudding earlier. I thought you might like it," Nina

his eyebrows, quite surprised that Nina did not get to the topic. He was not in a hurry anyway, so he nodded and went into

he came out with a portion of the

that Percy liked sweets, so she had asked the maid to make some pudding for him. That was all that she could do

down on the couch next to

took a deep breath. She did not smell the perfume of another

the years, she had gotten familiar with Percy's unique

wondered if Percy had taken a shower before leaving that woman so that she would not

was not in a rush to talk. After Percy finished the pudding, she took out a debit card from her pocket and handed it to

Percy frowned. "What's this?"

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In the face of Nina's desperate cries, Percy's expression remained cold.

Nina's insistence on leaving stoked the fires of anger in Percy's heart.

"I've already told you from the start that only I get to end this relationship. Don't even think that you can get rid of me that easily!" Percy said while gripping Nina's lower jaw. He did not offer to explain what he had been doing.

Nina pushed his hand away and stood up. "You still don't know how to respect me, Percy Mallory. I'm not your slave, and we've never signed any contract. If I want to end this relationship, you have no reason to refuse!"

She had not consented to start the relationship. Now that she wanted to end it, he did not allow it either.

What was she to him? Did he want to keep her by his side until she was old and useless?

Nina did not understand. She did nothing wrong, yet Percy wanted to treat her that way.

"I don't agree with it. If you insist on leaving, you'll eventually return to me crawling on your knees." Percy's gaze had been warm when he first returned to the mansion, but now, it was ice-cold.

From Percy's harsh words, Nina could guess that he must have known what happened to her family.

Jean and Anna had gotten into a lot of trouble over the years. Percy had been the one to bail them out when she had no solution to their problems.

"I won't. Tonight will be the last time you'll see me. You might not want me to leave, but you can't hold me back either. Please, Percy, just let me go. It'll be easier for the both of us if you just let go." Nina closed her eyes, feeling exhausted by the conversation.

Percy became angrier when he heard again that Nina wanted to leave. He abruptly stood up.

He was a head taller than Nina. Nina took a step back.

no expression on Percy's face, not even anger. That made it even more

you want?" Nina asked, a little afraid. She knew that Percy had a lot of blood on his hands. Was he going to

knew that if Percy could not obtain something, he would rather

that her life was about to end, Nina did not feel sad. Perhaps death would be a better option than to be his plaything for the rest of her

when he saw the calm smile on Nina's face. What was she

next moment, Percy picked Nina off

do you want?" Nina was slung over Percy's shoulder, and her vision was upside down. She could not see

you want to leave me? I'll make sure that you can never leave," Percy said coldly as he carried Nina up

was rushing into Nina's head. Before she could process what Percy meant, she was thrown on the

"Ugh..." Nina groaned in agony.

she could catch her breath, Percy was already onto her. Nina closed her eyes in despair. She finally understood what the man

is the last time, Percy Mallory." She did not struggle. Her eyes remained closed no matter what the man

Percy grunted when he saw that Nina did not resist or cooperate. "Don't even think about it, Nina Langdon. You belong to me, and you won't ever get to **escape!**"

Nina closed her eyes in despair. There was only a singular thought in her mind: No matter what he did to her, she was going to **leave!**

Moreover, she would never return, no matter what might happen to her!

An hour later, Percy put on his clothes and coldly glanced at Nina lying on the bed. "I'll pretend that I didn't hear what you said earlier. If you mention that to me again, I'll make sure that you regret it."

Nina stared at the ceiling with a **hollow gaze**.

Percy was not gentle at all. He thought that Nina would not leave if he exhausted her.

However, she would leave the mansion if it meant that she had **to crawl**.

Percy did not hear her reply, and he thought that she was in one of her moods. When he leaned closed to check on her, he noticed that her face was stained **with tears**.

He did not expect to be so violent earlier.

Indeed, he let his anger get the better of him, and he might have injured her. He felt a little sorry for Nina, so he said, "Just stay here. I'll deal with the *Johnstons*."

Nina did not say anything. She did not say a word even until he left **the mansion**.

'The Johnstons?

'The Johnston family in A City?'

did not expect that Percy's fiancée was from such an influential family. If Percy married the Johnston daughter, the Mallory family would be pushed to

That would be nice...

nice that Percy got to marry the Johnston daughter, and it was nice for her to choose to pushed herself up. Even though she was sapped of her strength, she could still move. She cleaned herself up in the bathroom, then opened the closet and took out a Percy had opened the closet, he would have found out that Nina had already packed her did not take any of the branded clothing that Percy gave her. The clothes in her suitcase were those that she bought with her own the clothes that suited her bad for Percy, he left in a hurry and did not open the and left with the suitcase was already past midnight. She did not drive Percy's car. Instead, she left the mansion in the Volkswagen she bought she had a budget car. That saved her from leaving the mansion on her

Chapter 1463

Luca held her phone in her hand while she slept, in case someone took her phone away and read the messages inside. Any sound or vibration her phone made would wake her up.

She clenched her phone tightly when she felt the vibration, and she woke up to find that it was a message from Nina. Something must have happened to her if she sent a message so late in the night.

Luca immediately replied: [I'm not asleep yet. Why aren't you sleeping?]

Soon, she received a reply from Nina: [I can't sleep, and I want to find someone to chat with. Are you free now?]

Luca immediately sat up. After what happened at the exhibition, she was sure that Nina was unable to sleep because of Percy.

Knowing Nina's personality, she might have even talked about it with Percy. Luca guessed that the conversation did not go well.

Luca sent a reply: [Where are you now? Let's talk face to face.]

Nina's heart warmed when she saw how quickly Luca replied to her messages. She would rather not trouble her, but she really needed a shoulder to lean on now.

She sent Luca the location of her hotel.

After receiving the location, Luca replied: [I'll go over now. Can you do me a favor?]

[Alright, I'll order a cab for you.] Nina knew that Luca did not have a car. She opened the app and ordered Luca a cab.

She would drive to pick Luca up from her apartment, if not that she had no strength in her legs.

[OK]. Then got out of bed and changed her

opened the bedroom door. The maid had left a nightlight on for her. Luca thought it was a good opportunity to test whether the maid was one of

walked out normally. She did not mask her

one of Luke's subordinates would be very sensitive to sounds. They would know that Luca

deliberately went around the living room twice, then headed toward the

just placed her hand on the doorknob when she heard the maid behind her. "Are you going somewhere, Ms.

around, looked at the maid, and

late at night. Where are you going?" The maid continued asking. She woke up when she heard the sounds in the living room earlier, and she had been keeping an eye on

did not seem to be doing anything major, so she came out of her room

friend is staying in a hotel alone now, and I'm worried about her. I'd like to accompany her,"

so late. Why don't you go tomorrow morning?" The maid frowned and

It was not safe for Luca to go out so late at night. Moreover, there was the possibility that Luca was going out to carry out her master's orders. If the maid let Luca leave now, Luca might reprimand her **for it**.

"My friend is emotionally unstable. I have to go now," Luca said as she opened *the door*.

Seeing that Luca insisted on going out, the maid said, "It's not safe to go out so late at night. Why don't you wait for me for a while? I'll get changed and accompany *you*."

Luca looked at the maid with an ambiguous smile. "Are you worried about my safety, or are you worried about someone else's safety?"

The maid was taken aback. "I don't understand, Ms. **Craw**."

"Mr. Crawford knows who my friend is. If he blames you for anything or suspects anything, tell him to ask that friend of mine. I'm still on sick leave for the next two days, so I'll be staying in the hotel with her. That shouldn't be a problem, right?" Luca *said*.

The maid did not expect that Luca would suspect her. In order not to blow her cover, she could only say, "Of course, there's no problem with that. I'll tell Mr. Crawford tomorrow morning. If you want to stay at the hotel, how about I pack up your clothes for *you*?"

"I've *already* packed up," Luca said while pointing at the bulging backpack on her back. Her phone rang. She looked at it and said, "That's all I have to say for now. The cab is already waiting for me downstairs. You should go and rest. If you don't want to report this to Mr. Crawford, I can let him know about it tomorrow morning. He won't blame you."

"Ah, alright..." the maid nodded.

Luca walked out of the apartment, closed the door, and calmly headed to the **elevator**.

From the exchange earlier, she could tell that the maid was one of Luke's subordinates.

After the maid watched her leave, she immediately gave a call to Luke, not caring that her call in the middle of the night would disturb *his sleep*.

all, the matter concerned Luca. Luke would be angry if the maid reported it late to

listened to what the maid had to say. Then, he said, "Has she discovered

hesitated. "I don't

what you're doing. Report to me when she returns," Luke said and ended the

the maid did not think so, Luke was sure that Luca had discovered the maid's

Luca was a smart person.

reached Nina's hotel. She felt sorry for her when she saw her sitting in the lobby waiting for

immediately stepped up to her. "Are

fine," Nina smiled weakly and said. She wanted to stand up, but she found it hard to move her legs. "Can you help me

happened?" Luca frowned but reached out

grabbed her hand and stood up. She walked toward the elevator with

Chapter 1464

Tears welled up in Nina's eyes when she saw that Luca came prepared.

She thought that Luca was worried about her, and that was why Luca wanted to stay over for a few days...

Luca thought that Nina was reluctant to let her stay there. She said, "If it's not convenient for you, I can book the room next door. I don't have my ID with me now, so I might have to borrow your ID to book a room."

Her concern for Nina was genuine, but she was also using Nina for her convenience.

She would have to go and take the antidote in two days. It would not be very convenient if Luke's subordinates tailed her.

Nina said, "I'm happy that you're willing to accompany me. Thank you so much, Luca."

She was genuinely touched by Luca's gesture, and she called her "Luca" instead of "Dr. Craw."

Luca smiled and put her backpack away. "What would it be? Can you still sleep?"

Nina shook her head. "I don't think I can sleep."

Luca could see the sorrow in her eyes. Even though she had missed out on what happened between Nina and Percy for the last three years, she could guess that Nina was not used to the sudden breakup.

"I have an idea. How about we drink some wine?" Luca suggested with a smile. It was easier to release one's feelings after taking a glass or two, and it would be easier to fall asleep as well.

However, alcohol was bad for health. If it were not the case, Luca would rather drink wine to help her sleep rather than take sleeping pills.

nodded in agreement, though she glanced at Luca's forehead and shook her head. "You still have a wound on your forehead. You shouldn't drink

you want to drink?" Luca

want to, but the wine isn't going to be good for your wound," Nina said. She wondered if Luke would blame her if something happened to

stopped herself after arriving at that thought. 'Why would Luke

Nina quickly discarded that thought. Even if Luke was a scumbag, Luca was not that kind of

drink wine. I'll just drink grape juice," Luca suggested. Grape juice looked similar to red wine, and it did not have alcohol. That would not ruin the

agreed. She could not seem to clear her thoughts, so it might be a good thing to numb herself using

Nina agreed to it, Luca called for

they were staying in was quite high-class, so room service was available around

minutes later, an attendant brought the drinks to their room. Luca decanted the red wine and let it stand for ten minutes, then handed a glass to Nina. "Here, this is for you. You don't have to worry about getting drunk. I can take care of

took the bottle and glass, poured herself a glassful of wine, and clinked glasses with Luca. "A toast to you, Luca. This is to celebrate us becoming

"*Cheers!*" Luca smiled and clinked her glass of grape juice with **Nina's glass**.

She remembered the times back in school when she had just become friends with Nina. During their lunch break, they would go to the cafeteria, get themselves a cup of fruit slushy each, then chat about teen girl problems.

So many years had passed in the blink of an eye. They led different lives which carried a different set of **problems**.

Nina downed the wine glass after glass. She only wanted to intoxicate herself.

Her alcohol tolerance had improved ever since she became Percy's lover. It took her two bottles before she felt slightly dizzy.

"Luca... I think... my head is spinning," Nina said as she put the glass away. Her gaze was unfocused, and her face was **bright red**.

"You're drunk, Nina," Luca said.

"Drunk? Am I?" Her hand was unsteady as she placed the glass on the table. She looked hazily at Luca and said, "I think I'm ready to go to **sleep**."

"**Let** me help you to the bed," Luca said as she propped **her up**.

There were two single beds in Nina's room. Luca helped her sit down on one of the beds, and before she could do anything else, Nina's head had already found the pillow, and she was fast *asleep*.

Luca shook her head helplessly. Fortunately, Nina did not throw tantrums after drinking. She only wanted to *sleep*.

Nina in, she said, "Alright,

something as though replying to her. She flipped over and stopped making

went to the other bed, lay down, and turned off the

rest of the night passed without any

day, it was already eleven o'clock when they woke up. After all, they slept

was surprised when she looked at

would be able to wake up at around seven o'clock no matter how late she slept. However, she slept soundly, as though she was also under the influence

up and prepared to get out of bed. She heard Nina groan,

turned her head to look at Nina. Nina happened to open her eyes and look

morning, Luca," Nina said. Even though she was drunk, she still remembered what happened the

Luca replied to the greeting with a smile. She felt as though they were friends on

Chapter 1465

Nina moaned comfortably. "Where did you learn this technique, Luca?"

"I devised it myself. How does it feel?" Luca looked at Nina's face and planned how she could make her life more comfortable. If what Nina said were true, Percy would not let her go that easily, and he might be able to find her by today.

"This is great. You're so amazing, Luca. You're well-educated, gentle, and caring, not to mention you're a great cook. You even know how to give great massages too! Any man would be very lucky to marry you," Nina praised. At the same time, she thought of Bianca.

Luca's personality reminded her of Bianca before she lost her memories.

It was understandable that Luke was interested in Luca. Women like her deserved to be loved and pampered. Any man would want their wife to be like that.

Luca smiled but said nothing. She continued pressing certain spots on Nina's temples to make her feel better.

She was not as amazing as Nina said. She imagined that Nina would hate her if Nina knew that her hands were stained in the blood of the innocent.

The Bianca from before could withstand all external pressure and remain by Luke's side. That was because she believed that one day, she would be as outstanding as Luke.

The Bianca now could only use those external qualities to cover the darkness inside. That alone took almost all her strength. How was she going to be more outstanding?

Ten minutes later, the doorbell rang.

Luca stood up and said, "That should be the room service. You should go and wash up."

stood up lazily. The massage had improved her headache. Her muscles were still slightly sore, but that was the extent of

into the bathroom and closed

to answer the door, thinking that it was the room service. She opened the door without looking through the peephole, and she was surprised when she saw the person standing

standing outside the door was none other

also surprised to see that Nina was not the person who opened the door. He glanced at the room number again to make sure he was not at the wrong room, then asked,

don't know her. You must be at the wrong room." Luca knew that Nina was not willing to talk to the man. She wanted to close the door, but Percy held it

checked into this room with her ID. She must be inside," Percy said coldly. He did not expect that Nina was staying with another

Luca, she was a woman. If she were a man, Percy would not hesitate to

you? Why should I let you in?" Luca tried to

looking for Nina. You'd better get lost if you don't want any trouble," Percy said

When the maid woke up earlier that morning, she found that Nina was not in her bedroom.

The maid searched the room and noticed that a suitcase was missing, and most of Nina's daily clothes were gone. She guessed that Nina must have run away and contacted Percy.

Percy tasked his subordinates to search the hotels and homestays throughout A City and eventually found the hotel Nina *was in*.

When he received the information, he immediately rushed over to the hotel.

"Nina and I have our rights. What can you do to us? Also, Nina didn't sign any contract with you, so what right do you have to take her away? Oh, right, I remember that you have a fiancée, right? Don't think

that you can take advantage of Nina. She's not that kind of person. Be a gentleman and leave." Luca did not feel threatened by Percy's presence. She only hoped that Nina would not come out of the bathroom before she drove that man away.

She did not understand why Percy would not let go of Nina when he was going to marry another woman. Did he not know that Nina was not going to be **forever young**?

"I'd rather not get violent on you," Percy slowly clenched his hands in fists. He would have already thrown a punch if not that the woman might be Nina's **friend**.

Luca raised her eyebrows. Was he planning to *fight her*?

If it were three years ago, Bianca would not have been able to beat anyone in a fight. Things were different now, and she was no longer a pushover. Not many people on the Island of Despair could beat her in a fight, and she thought that she was evenly matched with Percy.

"Are you sure you want to fight? If you manage to defeat me, I'll let you do whatever you want," Luca *said*.

She had just finished speaking when Nina stepped out of **the bathroom**.

already heard Percy's voice. She did not plan to step out of the bathroom until she heard that Luca was going to fight

"Stop it, Percy Mallory," Nina said.

turned his head to look at her. "Come home

that I've left, I'm never going back," Nina said while standing in front of Luca. She knew that Percy would not hesitate to beat up a woman if she

was sure that Percy would never hit

did not become violent the night before, even though he was furious. That was why Nina thought that she could

have to protect me, Luca. He's not going to take me away,"

became even angrier when he heard that Nina did not want to go back. He wanted to reach out and grab Nina, but Luca blocked his

doesn't want to go with you, don't even think of taking her away," Luca said

at Luca gloomily, thinking that the woman was being

Chapter 1466

The door slammed loudly in Luca's face. She wanted to kick down the door in her anger, but she stopped herself from doing so because Luke was just next to her. She turned around and looked at the man leaning against the wall.

"What is it, Mr. Crawford?" Her tone of voice changed from agitated to composed in one second.

"I'm here to see if you lied to me," Luke said. He could sense the sudden change in Luca's attitude.

Luca seemed to be a different person when she stood up for Nina. Bianca was like that too. Whenever she heard that Nina was in danger, she would try to stand up for her no matter how weak she was.

Luca also wanted to protect Nina. However, she exuded an aura of might instead.

In any case, Luca's fearless spirit when she tried to protect her friend reminded him of Bianca.

"I have no need to lie to you," Luca said, wondering if that was the only reason why Luke came to look for her.

With Luke's help, it was no wonder that Percy managed to find Nina so quickly. Luca had left the apartment in a cab the night before, and Luke would be able to identify the car using the surveillance camera.

With the license plate, Luke would be able to track down the driver and the cab company the car belonged to. From there, he would be able to find where Luca had gone.

"Mm, indeed. You don't have to lie to me about something so minor," Luke said knowingly, which caused Luca's heart to skip a beat.

She said, "I have no need to lie to you about other things either. You've approved my sick leave, so how I choose to spend my time is none of your business. Don't you think so?"

"I believe that you're right," Luke said and nodded.

nothing wrong if I choose to spend my personal time with my friend, right?" Luca said while paying attention to any sounds in the room. She did not hear any loud noises, which meant that the two people in the room were trying their best to control their

nothing wrong, but you're injured," Luke said

a child, and I can take care of myself. Also, you're not my guardian." Luca thought that Luke was

have found out something. However, if he suspected that she had some relation to the Island of Despair, he would not talk to her like that. It was as though he cared for her

say that you can take care of yourself, but you've drunk wine," Luke

you know that I ordered wine?" Luca said with a frown. Why would he snoop on her every detail? Did he suspect her

to see your room service order list," Luke

that's the case, you would have seen that I ordered grape juice too," Luca reminded

understood what she was implying. She drank grape juice instead

that the man did not continue to reprimand her, she said, "Mr. Crawford, I am only your employee, and I have my rights and freedoms. I know that you've let me stay in your apartment because you care for me, but I don't need that now. I'll stay by Nina's

said "I'll stay" instead of "I want to

difference meant that Luke could not influence her

Luke was familiar with the nuances of language, so he understood what Luca was trying to say. He nodded and said, "Alright, but Nina will eventually return to Percy's side."

"I don't think so," Luca said confidently. From this incident, she knew that Percy would not be able to provide for Nina for the rest of her life.

*The difference between them was **too big**.*

Luca thought that they would be able to overcome those differences and find happiness with each other, but it had been three years without any progress. It only proved that Percy had no intention of being together with Nina forever.

Even if Percy had not grown tired of Nina after three years, no one could tell that Percy would eventually be tired of her.

When that happened, Nina might not be young anymore, and she would not be able to turn back time.

That was why Luca supported Nina's decision to leave Percy for good.

While she was in A City, she was willing to support Nina through this *difficult period*.

"Shall we make a bet?" Luke placed his hands into his pockets. He seemed more casual than serious.

"What are we betting on?" Luca frowned. She was not used to Luke's attitude.

"I bet that Nina would not be able to leave Percy," Luke said.

stake?" Luca continued to

don't know yet, but the loser would have to obey whatever the winner says. What do you think, Dr. Craw?"

skipped a beat as she looked at Luke. She could not tell what Luke

seemed very different today. On other days, he would not pay attention to other people's affairs, but today, he wanted to make a bet

Furthermore, the stakes were excitingly high...

had never obeyed anyone. If he lost the bet, he would have to obey her. Luca could tell that he was quite confident of

"Are you too chicken?" Luke chuckled.

felt her knees grow weak when she heard that chuckle. On an impulse, she agreed to the

chicken? I'll take you on the bet. You'd better not regret it,

immediately regretted it as soon as the words left

She had been too impulsive...

seemed to have charmed her into agreeing to the bet. It was too late for her to go back on

Chapter 1467

Luke knew all that, but Luca did not.

That was why Luca was doomed to lose right from the start.

Seeing how confident Luke was, Luca began to wonder if she had fallen into Luke's trap.

If she really lost the bet, what would Luke make her do? Would he force her to tell him all the secrets of the Island of Despair? When she thought about that, she regretted her impulsive decision even more.

Just when she was thinking if she should rescind the bet, the room door opened, and Percy stormed out.

Luca was shocked by Percy's reaction. She instinctively glanced into the room. Nina was sitting on the couch, and Luca could not see her expression clearly.

Percy, standing at the door, shouted into the room. "You'll eventually return to me, Nina Langdon!"

Then, he walked away in big strides.

Luke also left, following behind Percy.

After Luca watched the two men leave, she quickly went into the room and closed the door. In case the two men would return, she also bolted the door firmly.

"Are you okay, Nina?" Luca asked out of concern as she sat down on the couch.

not control her tears from falling. She immediately leaned over and hugged Nina. "Don't say anything, Luca. Let me hug you for

Luca said while stroking Nina's back. She could feel

can cry if you want to. I'm here for you," she said

heard that, she did not hold back anymore. She fell into Luca's arms and bawled her

felt sad when she heard Nina cry without any inhibitions. She wanted to cry

left the hotel angrily and got into his car. Luke followed him and sat on the side

slammed his fists on the steering wheel, but that did very little to calm him down. He turned his head and roared at Luca, "Keep an eye on your

knew that Luca was behind that, so he thought that Luca was

fact, he thought that Luca was the one who had convinced Nina to leave

did not offer an explanation or a rebuttal to Percy's accusation. He said innocently, "It's not like Nina doesn't want to go back to you because she fell in love with Luca. It's because of your plan. If you can tell her what you've been planning, she'll definitely return to you without any

tell her," Percy said. Only Luke and Jim knew his plan. If more people knew about his plan, he ran a higher risk of being exposed. That was why Percy did not tell Nina even when she left

"If you don't tell her anything, you can't blame her for not trusting you. You've always known that Nina doesn't want to be the third wheel in someone's relationship," **Luke said.**

"**Shut up!**" Percy became more and more frustrated as he listened to Luke's explanation. He could make any woman listen to him, except **Nina.**

"You're letting Nina control you. Even if she doesn't want to return to you now, she'll definitely forgive you once it's all over." Luke seemed to be talking a lot today.

That was why Luca and Percy thought that he was acting abnormally.

Percy had no other choice. He would have to do what **Luke said.**

"**That woman** of yours is quite peculiar." Now that Percy had found a conclusion, he began to talk **about Luke.**

"What do you mean?" Luke asked.

"**Don't you** think she reminds you of someone when she was protecting Nina? The Island of Despair has sent someone who looks exactly like Bianca to deceive you. Now, you have a person who behaves just like Bianca by your side. Do you think that it's part of their plan?" When Luca confronted Percy earlier, he had the same **sensation.**

Back then, when Bianca spoke up for Nina on the cruise ship, she had protected Nina against himself and Pierre with her frail **body.**

"I noticed it," Luke said.

to be careful then." Percy started the car after he calmed down a little. "Don't fall into their

Bianca not only because of her looks but also because of her personality. That was why the impostor Bianca did not manage to reignite Luke's love or interest, even though she looked exactly like the

Luca's personality was very similar to Bianca's. Percy was worried that Luke might fall

Luke said. No one could

true even if Luke had no idea where Bianca

good to know," Percy said. He looked indignantly at the hotel entrance. "I'll send someone to protect Nina at the hotel. Should I keep an eye on your

conversation with Nina earlier, Percy guessed that his family might have

did not say it, so he was

my own people," Luke

subordinates were enough to protect Nina, but Luke needed someone more powerful to keep an eye on Luca. He had to send someone

"Alright," Percy said and drove away.

Chapter 1468

Not long after Nina had just entered the bathroom, the doorbell rang.

Luca went to answer the door. This time, she cautiously looked through the peephole to check on the situation outside. She only opened the door after making sure that Percy had not returned and it was the waiter who came to deliver food.

After the dining cart was pushed in, she requested the waiter to send two ice packs over. She wanted to reduce the swelling in Nina's eyes.

"Miss, the ice packs are in the interlayer of the dining cart." The waiter smiled and replied.

Luca raised her eyebrows, opened the interlayer drawer, and glanced at it. There were indeed two ice packs inside. She did not request the waiter for them before this, but they were already prepared in advance. No matter how silly she was, she knew what was going on.

Percy knew Nina would cry after he left, so he asked the waiter to prepare these.

This man knew Nina well.

Usually, a man would only be attentive to the woman he loved. Could it be that he was serious about Nina?

However, if he was serious about Nina, why would he accept the marriage arrangements of his family?

Luca had always thought that Percy and Luke were the same types of people.

Although they were aloof and focused on authority, they were never the kind of people who would make compromises when it came to their relationship. Even if the match arranged for them by their family was perfect and the women were able to help them achieve great progress in their career, they would not agree to marry a woman they were not in love with.

Otherwise, Luke and she would not have experienced those days back then.

if Percy had fallen in love with Nina, he would not have accepted the Warner family's daughter. There must be some misunderstanding here. Percy must be hiding something from

Luca was deep in thought.

saw her staring at the ice packs without saying anything. He asked in a respectful tone, "Miss, is there anything else

all. Thank you." Luca took a bill out of her pocket as the

accepted it happily. "Miss, enjoy your

pushed the dining cart into the living room. Nina happened to walk out and asked, "Lunch is already it's here. Come and eat." Luca smiled and beckoned to her.

came forward. After all that crying, she was feeling slightly calmer now. She picked up her lunch and ate and ate too. While she ate, she said, "When you finish your lunch later, put the ice packs on your eyes for ten minutes. Then I'll massage them for you. It can reduce 80% of

Nina looked at her in admiration. "Luca, just in case you don't feel like working at Watson one day, do tell me. Let's partner up and open a beauty salon. You have such amazing massage techniques, so there'll definitely be a long queue of rich wives in our beauty

laughed playfully and replied, "When the time comes, I'll be in charge of receiving the customers and you'll handle the money,

"I'm good at that!" Nina smiled as she spoke. All of a sudden, Bianca flashed in her mind. Back then, they had made a similar promise with each other. Bianca was good at cooking, so she joked that if she wanted to change careers in the future, they would partner up and open a homestyle restaurant. Bianca was a fantastic cook, so she was pretty sure that it would be a popular business.

After lunch, Luca took the ice packs out from the interlayer drawer of the dining cart.

Nina was surprised. "You even prepared these in advance!"

"**It wasn't** me." Luca hesitated for three seconds, but she still decided to tell her about it. After all, it was Percy's kind thoughts. Even though Luca thought that Nina was out of Percy's league, Nina needed to know about a man who was so attentive in *doing things*.

After Nina heard about it, an inexplicable look of sadness flashed across *her eyes*.

Just when Luca was thinking that it would have been better if she did not tell her about it, Nina had already laid down. She said, "Come on, let's get the swelling reduced quickly so we can go out earlier."

Luca handed the ice packs to her.

Nina did not care about how cold they were. She placed them on her eyes right away.

After half an hour, the swelling around Nina's eyes was almost reduced. After that, both of them tidied themselves up a little before going out.

There was a shopping district near the hotel. Both of them discussed for a moment and decided to take a stroll **there**.

After Nina's suggestion, both of them came to a beauty salon and were planning to get a facial. After getting some recommendations from the beautician, they entered a two-person room, purchased a beauty package, and got their *facials*.

Nina had her eyes closed and felt satisfied as the steam opened the pores on her face. She sighed and said, "One of the happiest moments of being a woman would be this particular *moment, right?*"

so comfortable." Luca closed her eyes as she

getting a facial could make one leave all their troubles behind, it seemed like Nina was not thinking about Percy's misbehaviors anymore. Luca seemed to have forgotten about Luke and Abel's matter

both of them were enjoying their time, a voice came from the

we've prepared a deluxe twin room for you. This way, please." A beautician's

opened her eyes, and so did Nina. They listened to the voices coming from

I'll get two luxury beauty packages today. Do it right. If I think it's done nicely, I'll get an annual pass here," Tia

sure. We'll certainly provide you with the best service." There came the beautician's voice and Nina exchanged glances with each other. Tia was the one who got involved in a scandal with Luke, this woman's voice was similar to hers as there came noises from next door

I brought you here today to experience this luxury beauty package. Don't say I'm not treating you well next time." There was a sense of pride in Tia's

Chapter 1469

After Nina heard it, she nodded her head. It was indeed Tia.

Was Tia the only beautiful woman? As a woman, looking from an aesthetic perspective, Tia was not that pretty.

She was only good at dressing up herself and covering all of her flaws. She was cautious even when she was walking normally, controlling her tendency to out-toe.

It was only because Tia was rich, which made her look glamorous in the eyes of others. Who knew if she was good-looking after her makeup was removed?

The beautician saw her keeping silent and asked curiously in a soft voice, "Miss Langdon, do you know her?"

"She's famous, everyone knows her." Nina and Luca exchanged glances and went back to closing their eyes without planning to say anything much.

The beautician was someone who knew how to judge situations. When she realized the other party refused to talk about it, she did not continue to ask.

Nina and Luca did not continue their conversation, while the chattering next door went on and on.

After Tia had chosen the beauty products, she lay down to enjoy the massage service provided by the beautician.

Sophia did the same. She moaned comfortably as the beautician massaged her.

She thought Sophia was just a country girl who had not seen the world, so she said, "Sophia, it's been a while since you came out to work. You just don't understand that you should treat yourself better. Women must take good care of their skin so that we can attract a few more minutes of attention from those men."

I understand, but I can't afford such high expenses with my pay,"

knew how much was her pay, so she did not have to pretend to be rich in front of her.

shot a glance at her and said with frustration, "If you'd like to live a better life in the future, you must be willing to spend on yourself. As a woman, being beautiful is an advantage. Once you become beautiful, a good man will have his eyes on you. You can then hold a glamorous wedding. Are you still afraid that you'll be broke in the future?"

with her, but deep down in her heart, she was wondering what kind of logic that

was able to have such spending power like Tia, of course, they would not need to worry about anything else—not to mention a man's wealth. Would it not be better to live in style

was already rich enough, yet she still wanted to throw herself at Luke Crawford even when he was brushing her off. Were all the facials that she had done for

Sophia would only dare to say these to herself. She dared not to say them out

will need to find good husbands eventually. Even though these words sound irritating, it's the honest truth for people like you. Take good care of yourself, then you'll be given the right to choose instead of waiting for others to choose you in the future. Tell me, do my words make sense to

"**Yes**, Miss Tia, you've got a point. It's no surprise that Mr. Crawford likes you so much." Sophia appeared to seemingly agree with her.

Sophia was Tia's assistant, so she knew what her boss wanted to hear **most**.

Speaking of Luke Crawford, Tia put on a smile. "Oh, don't be ridiculous. Luke and I are just *close friends*."

"**Mr.** Crawford isn't interested in psychology stuff but he still found time to come to your seminar. Ms. Tia, I think the feelings Mr. Crawford have for you aren't just as simple as the feelings between friends," Sophia continued to say.

Although Luke had left the seminar after listening for only five minutes, Tia was still talking about it endlessly.

She thought that it must be the privilege Luke had given to her. The only reason he merely managed to listen for five minutes was that something urgent came up in the company and he had to **leave**.

"**I'll** be angry if you continue this nonsense. What if others misunderstand us again?" Tia smiled as she denied it. She had no intention of getting mad at Sophia. "Let me simplify this for you. We women must take good care of ourselves so that we can live a better life in the future. Sophia, do you **understand?**"

Nina, who was at the next door, could not help but smile after she heard that. She said, "Nonsense. If women have to depend on men, our lives will be ruined."

Luca smiled when she heard Nina say *that*.

days, women still had to be independent. It was more reliable than just depending on a man. She understood that well, so even when Luke appeared to be so in love with her back then, she still adhered to improving herself. She attended law courses and took qualification exams just to strengthen her capabilities.

a woman was capable would she have the confidence to stand in front of

and Luca were also doing the luxury package. All of them started their facials at about the same time. When they were checking out, it was difficult to avoid running into Tia. Tia recognized Nina and Luca. She was wondering when both of them became

knew Nina well. Back then when she was defending Bianca's interests, she looked like she was looking for trouble with every woman who showed up beside Luke. Previously, Tia had tried to please her to get closer to Luke, but she refused to

when Bianca was studying abroad, Nina was showing up around Luca as if she was monitoring Luke on behalf of

did not like

for Luca, the woman who had a scandal with Luke previously, Tia hated her even

at the both of them, greeting them in a smarmy manner. "What a coincidence. Did both of you come to get facials too?"

was wearing her sunglasses, and she rolled her eyes. It was obvious that they had just finished their facials but Tia had put on her foundation and makeup again. It seemed like she did that just because her bare face did not look great at all. Nina smiled and replied, "Yes. After all, we women have to constantly improve our looks to attract a man's attention. For the sake of a better life in the future and to become a young mistress easily, I came over to get a facial treatment. I have to take care of my skin when I have the

Chapter 1470

Speaking about bubble tea caught Nina's interest. She nodded her head as she walked in the direction of the bubble tea shop arm in arm with Luca.

In the beauty salon, Sophia shot a glance at Tia. The look on her face was terrifying.

"Ms. Tia..." She reminded her in a soft voice. "The people in the beauty salon are looking at us."

As Tia watched Nina and Luca leave arm in arm, she turned around and asked the staff working in the beauty salon. "They were in the room next to us all along?"

"Yes, Miss." The beauty salon manager nodded her head and replied. She did not expect something like this to happen and wondered if she should renovate the beauty salon to improve the soundproofing.

Tia took a deep breath, suppressing the emotions that were about to explode within her. "When did they start their facial session?"

"Probably ten minutes earlier than yours," the beauty salon manager replied in a soft voice.

Tia staggered. Then it mean they had heard everything she told Sophia.

She knew Nina had it in for her because of Luke, but at least she did not have the dirt on her back then. That was why Nina could not do anything to her. However, Tia had just personally handed her the advantage.

When she was doing her facial just now, even though she denied having thoughts about Luke, she still talked a lot about Luke with Sophia.

The tone of her voice was also filled with admiration.

Tia glared at Sophia and handed the credit card. "The bill, please."

wait for a while, Miss." The beauty salon manager accepted the card hurriedly and swiped the card for signed her name on the bill and took her credit card back, she hurriedly walked out of the salon in her heels.

who was nearby saw this and let out a sigh. "Manager, the woman said she wanted to get an annual pass but now..."

get a commission when a customer applied for an annual card. The manager knew why she was behaving that way. She patted her shoulder and comforted her. "Based on the situation now, I don't think she's coming back here anymore, much less apply for an

I could get another regular customer." The beautician was still sighing. Just because Tia had said that she was going to apply for an annual pass, she was extraordinarily careful when she was giving Tia her facial

paused for a moment and asked in a soft voice, "By the way, what did she say in the

showed some doubts and replied, "Manager, aren't we not allowed to talk about the customer's private situation, do you think she's coming back here? I think it's time to improve the soundproofing of the rooms." The manager

noded and replied, "She was talking about Luke Crawford, the big boss of T Corporation in A

that you mention it, I remember. She's the woman who got involved in the scandal with Luke Crawford."

The manager suddenly realized it, but based on Tia's temperament and style, she was not even close to what the papers had been describing her—an elite who was warm and

like her managed to hook up with

Competition between women had always existed. Even if the manager was not interested in Luke Crawford, she would still think that Tia was unworthy of *him*.

...

The next day.

Luca was still on leave. Due to the affair, Luke had approved her a week of sick leave.

She woke up early and accidentally woke Nina up **too**.

Nina saw her packing her stuff. She yawned and asked curiously, "Luca, you're going out?"

"Yes, something came up and I have to go out. It's still early, get some sleep," Luca said as she carried her bag and wore her **shoes**.

"Where are you going? How about letting me send you there?" It was hard for Nina to fall asleep again once she woke up, so she thought of accompanying *Luca*.

Luca was going to get the antidote today. Of course, she could not let Nina come along with her. "There's no need. I'll be back soon. By the way, I got you breakfast. If you don't feel like sleeping anymore, just inform the hotel reception and they'll *deliver it*."

"Oh, Luca. That's sweet of you. How great would it be if you were a man? I'd definitely marry you!" Nina acted like a spoiled child. With Luca's company, the trauma that Percy caused her had faded by a lot. Maybe it had not gone away, but since there was someone to distract her, she was feeling much better **now**.

"If I were a man, I wouldn't be leaving a beauty in the hotel room alone to go out. Alright, see you later." Luca tidied herself and *smiled*.

becoming like how she used to be in front of her

you soon." Nina waved at her.

went into the elevator and reached the ground floor. She noticed a few people sitting in the hotel lobby. These people were different from the ones sitting here yesterday, but after she came down, their attention was all on

they were skilled, they tried to look at her by doing various actions.

Luca was able to notice that they were professionals. Even so, she was not too bad

was being watched by so many people, Luca walked out of the hotel as if nothing had happened. She picked her phone up and got a driver using a ride-hailing

she was waiting, Luca already noticed that two people who were sitting in the lobby had gone missing. They probably knew that she was going out, so they went to get the car and were ready to tail

Luca started walking forward.

to walk until she reached a big supermarket. She went in. It was early in the morning, so it was considerably crowded in the supermarket. Most of them were elders who came for grocery shopping after their morning

that those people were probably following her. She walked past the elders one by

who were following her dared not act quicker, afraid that they would knock into the elders and cause trouble. They tried to weave their way through the crowd, but because of their bulky figures, they were unable to move nimbly like Luca. It did not take long before they lost