

## Be Gentle 1481

### Chapter 1481

Luca reminded her of something, and Zoey said immediately, "Oh, previously, Mr. Doyle sent a message saying that when you came back to work, you should go to the president's office. Mr. Crawford would want to see you."

Luke was looking for her...

Luca nodded and put down the data that she was carrying. She took off her lab coat. "I'll go now."

"Alright. Dr. Craw. Allow me to get you a cup of coffee?" Zoey asked enthusiastically. After all, her boss was still recovering. They, as subordinates, did not even pay her a visit after she got injured. Although Luca looked like she did not mind, Zoey would still want to fawn over her a little.

"There's no need. I can't drink coffee now," Luca said as she walked out and closed the office door in passing.

Even though her wounds had healed, there were still some scabs. Drinking coffee would cause skin pigmentation.

Realizing how careless she was, Zoey apologized hurriedly, "I'm sorry, Dr. Craw. I failed to think about that."

"It's alright. Off you go," replied Luca.

Zoey gave her a response and dared not continue fawning. She turned around and left.

Luca rode the elevator up to the floor where the president's office was on. She walked out of the elevator and saw that Jason was already waiting for her at the elevator door.

"Mr. Doyle, I heard Mr. Crawford is looking for me, right?" she asked politely, unlike the others who talked in a flattering manner.

"Yes, Dr. Craw. Please." It was Luke who asked to see Luca, so Jason did not hold her up to have small talk with her this time. Instead, he guided the way in front immediately.

Luca nodded and followed behind.

her to Luke's office entrance. He knocked on the door and said, "Boss, Dr. Craw is

Luke's voice came

heard him and opened

Luca stepped into his office, she saw that other than Luke who was sitting in the office, there was another woman.

even shown up here. It was not her finding an excuse to chat with Luke. This time, he was the one who invited

frowned when she saw Luca coming

her to come over saying that he needed to talk to her. Could it be that the matter was about moment Luca saw Tia, she was confused too. Luke was alone in the office with Tia, yet he asked her to come over. Why

her how lovey-dovey

felt uncomfortable, to the extent that she wanted to

there was no excuse for her to escape. Hence, she could only bite the bullet and walk into the office while looking calm on the outside.

a seat." Luke pointed to the seat

Luca nodded and sat down. She stared at the sandalwood table **expressionlessly**.

Tia could no longer stand it. She knew Luca and Luke had gotten into a scandal before, and she also knew Luca was working at Luke's subsidiary company. However, she was even showing up at T Corporation now. Could it be that Luke had transferred her to *T Corporation*?

Even so, was she not a pharmaceutical scientist? There were no suitable jobs for her in T Corporation. Thinking that it was probably Luke's arrangement, Tia felt jealous.

*Although* the scandal between the two of them had been cleared in front of the media now, thinking that Luca would be able to work here and run into Luke anytime, Tia felt like she did not have as many chances as Luca.

*She was* already seeing Luca as her rival...

**Luca could** naturally sense Tia's unstable emotions that she was trying so hard to hide but somehow still failed. She seemed to be jealous...

*Was* there anything about her that was worth being *jealous about*...

**After Luca** sat down, she asked, "Mr. Crawford, is there any job you'd like to **assign me**?"

Luke glanced at her calm face and said calmly, "There's no job."

No job? Luca was confused. If there was no job assignment for her, then did he ask her to come up to watch them display their affection for **one another**?

Luke then introduced them. "This is Tia. She's a famous psychology professor in our *country*."

**"Ms. Tia,** nice to meet you," Luca greeted her **calmly**.

was slightly surprised. After all, when everyone greeted her, they would be incredibly passionate. The people who were being introduced to her would have faces full of admiration, and they would give a lengthy

was rare to meet someone as calm as

the first time she met Luke. Even when he was asking her for help that time, his expression was calm as usual just like how Luca was behaving

replied before looking at Luke affectionately.

in the psychology research field, so she naturally knew what kind of gaze would attract men the most. She was looking at him affectionately with some traces of admiration. Such a gaze could evoke a man's desire to

like he was unable to sense the deliberate intention in her eyes, and he went straight to the point. "Dr. Craw, I know what happened at the apartment had somehow affected you, so I think you need a

finished talking, Luca and Tia then understood what was his purpose for inviting them both

Mr. Crawford. I'm perfectly fine now. There's no need to bother Ms. Tia." Luca thanked him politely while turning him

then, she had run into Tia at the beauty salon. She knew Tia had a crush on Luke, so they were bound to hate each other.

she would refuse to have anything to do with the person she hated.

had happened at the beauty salon came into Tia's mind. She thought that since Luca and Luke were so close to each other, Luca could tell him what she had said back at the beauty salon at any time. Hence, she was unwilling to

was the first to reject, and that was for the best. After all, Tia did not want to

## **Chapter 1482**

Luca knew Tia's abilities were true. They were not just a bluff.

If she accepted Tia's therapy, what if she used something like hypnosis? Luca would probably tell her everything she knew.

She dared not to do that.

Previously, the experience of being hypnotized at the venue was still vivid. If it had not been for the noisy environment, she probably would not have been able to wake up that quickly. If she had continued to talk, she would have been on the verge of exposing herself!

Therefore, Luca was unwilling to take the risk.

When Tia heard that Luca was strongly opposed to the idea, her previous feelings of unwillingness to help Luca turned into an uncomfortable sensation.

What Luca meant was that she was good at emotional management, so she did not need anyone's help?

Tia thought in her heart, 'Knowing the enemy will help me win every battle.'

After anyone encountered a traumatic event, they would develop post-traumatic stress disorder. It was only a matter of time before the symptoms would start showing. As for how it was triggered, it was different for everyone.

Tia had seen the live scene of Dr. Thomason hypnotizing her. She was a hundred percent sure that Luca had post-traumatic stress disorder. She was merely suppressing it well and it had not erupted.

Normally, people with post-traumatic stress disorder would rely on a specific someone after realizing that they had developed a disorder. Some of them depended on their parents or spouse, while some relied on their psychologists.

It depended on who was keeping them company the most.

began relying on someone, they would pour their hearts out and confide in that person unconditionally. When the time came, the person who was being relied on would be able to know everything about

past three years, Bianca's mental condition had deteriorated. It was also because she would purposely mislead the psychologist during the progress of her therapy that it caused her to have mood swings. She became unruly and wilful, completely different from the Bianca she used

completely different Bianca could not get Luke to be interested in

was it possible for her to study abroad without the slightest response

the thought crossed Tia's mind, she immediately changed her attitude of being unwilling to help Luca. Before Luke spoke, she said enthusiastically, "Ms. Craw, did something happen to you back

just witnessed a crime scene," Luca replied frankly, acutely noticing Tia's changes.

not unwilling to grant Luke's request before? Why did her attitude change now?

looked at Luke. Then, she turned to look at Tia the next second. What the hell was this

and expressions were not those that one who heard the mention of a crime scene would show. Instead, she nodded as if she understood. "Actually, among my patients, some of them have witnessed a crime scene while some were the victims themselves. A few were just bystanders, but there's no exception as they all developed post-traumatic stress disorder. And based on the relevant data analysis, the onset of the disorder is different for each of these people who witnessed the scene of an accident. 95 percent of them were traumatized, which is also known as post-traumatic stress disorder in psychology. I remember that you attended a psychology seminar before and you were invited by Dr. Thomason on stage for hypnosis treatment. From what you said when you were being hypnotized, I could tell that you have suffered from psychological trauma."

did not say anything. She knew she had a mental illness all along.

began ever since she got caught and was sent to the Island of Despair.

*Tia saw* that she was not reacting and continued, "Of course, just like how one's body can get sick, the mind can also suffer from various kinds of problems. The most important thing is that we can face all of these. It just so happens that I think I can help you."

Luca was not moved by her words even after listening to Tia, even if Tia kept on telling her that she would *help her*.

**Tia** was in love with Luca, and Luca happened to be involved in a scandal with Luca, so Tia would never help her sincerely.

**Even** if Luca was breaking down and needed someone's help, she did not need Tia's help right at this moment.

*It* was because her instinct was telling her that Tia was up to *no good*.

**Luca** shook her head. "My affairs are just minor things. There's no need to trouble you and waste your time. If the day comes, I'll pay a *visit*."

**Tia's** smile faded away. Luca rejected her.

Very few people would turn *her down*...

**Tia was** unconvinced. She looked at Luke, saying, "Mr. Crawford, if she's unwilling, I can't do anything either."

Luke watched with a cold expression as they talked to each other. Tia must have had something in mind when she changed her mind about helping **Luca**.

*Luca* had always been unwilling to do things.

reason for her unwillingness must

invited both of you here today. The most important thing is to let the both of you get to know each other," said

understood what he meant, so she continued what he was going to say. "I know what Mr. Crawford is saying. How about this, Ms. Craw? We can add each other on Instagram. It's not for the treatment. Let's just be friends. We can share interesting stories when we're free, or maybe our thoughts. There's no harm."

knew that even if she rejected Tia's help, she would not be able to run away from her request to

if it was not in front of Luke, one could not be so impolite in the adult

could only agree to add Tia as a friend on Instagram. After both of them had approved the friend request, Luca stood up and said, "Mr. Crawford, thank you for your concern. Since there are no other matters, I'm going downstairs to

did not make her stay this

at both of them. Her smile did not reach her eyes. She turned around and

was so much bitterness in her

looked like he cared about her on the outside, but in fact, he was testing her

was suspecting if she had anything to do with the Island of Despair, and that was why he was sounding her out

## **Chapter 1483**

Tia's words were stuck in her throat.

Luke would have to attend a meeting in five minutes, which meant if she wanted to appear as an understanding person, she had to take the initiative to leave.

"Sure," replied Luke.

Tia rose as well and said, "Mr. Crawford, since you have things to do, then I'll leave first."

"Oh, sorry to be troubling you with Dr. Craw's affair," Luke mentioned Luca again, and he seemed to be very considerate toward her.

Tia was inwardly upset. He invited her over today yet every word that came out of his mouth was about Luca. She was just someone who came to help.

It made her feel like an outsider. She was in love with Luke, and needless to say, this sort of situation would naturally upset her.

"It's not too much trouble. From what I see, Dr. Craw's situation seems to be quite serious. I'd love to help if possible. Then I can write in it my lesson plan," said Tia. She was a part-time psychology professor at A University.

"Sure." Luke did not say anything more. He arranged the documents on his table as if he was in a hurry to attend the meeting.

Tia knew she should not continue to disturb him, so she left his office.

After Jason watched Tia going farther away, he walked into Luke's office, closed the door, and said, "Mr. Crawford, they've left."

Luke stopped arranging his things. There was no meeting to attend later. It was just that after the matter was done, he refused to talk to Tia anymore. That was why he arranged for Jason to come in and say that.

asked, "Boss, are you suspecting that Dr. Craw and Ms. Tia are people from the Island of Despair? What's the purpose of

one of them was sent from the Island of Despair, then that would still be fine. However, if both of them were from the Island of Despair, was the other party not afraid of tipping

are flaws in their way of doing things, but I can't just point straight at them and claim that they're people from the Island of Despair. And their hostility for each other isn't fake, so I'd like to wait for them to confront each other so I can reap the benefits. Perhaps, their conversation will give the show away," replied

He did this all on purpose.

he saw Luca's reaction at the venue last time, this thought came into

was being hypnotized, who was the man and the children she mentioned? He was curious

thought that he was the man she mentioned, but the number of children did not match up. The number she mentioned

and he had only three kids

was secretly cursing in his heart, saying that women's hostility originated from men.

obvious that Tia was hostile toward Luca because of Luke, but he was uncertain if Luca's hostility toward Tia was because of

because when the other women were busy throwing themselves at Luke, Luca wished to distance herself away from

Hence, Jason dared not to be certain of it. He was slightly doubting whether Luke's plan was going to work or not...

**After** Luca left Luke's office and went back to her office, she did not say anything. She put on her lab coat right away and brought the data along with her into the laboratory.

The researchers in the lab greeted her.

**What happened** just now had been suffocating her heart. She was unable to pull herself together, so she simply responded in a muffled voice.

**After** she sat down, she looked at the data. She was feeling a little irritated. Her efficiency of reading the data slowed down too.

*Rhett noticed* her behaving unusually and came over to ask out of concern. "Dr. Craw, are you alright? Are you feeling uncomfortable?"

**"No."** Luca shook her head and gave him an assuring **look**.

"I've checked this data over and over again. If you're worried, I can check it again. Perhaps you can go back to your office and take a rest?" Rhett thought she was forcing herself to be in the office, so he thought of taking the initiative to handle matters and let her rest.

Luca pulled herself together and said, "I'm just lost in my thoughts. I'm fine. Off **you go**."

Rhett saw her perseverance. He kept his eyes open and went back to his seat, where he continued with *his experiment*.

**Their research** had reached an important stage. Once they passed this stage, they could call for volunteers to perform clinical trials.

herself to focus and finally finished reading the data. There was indeed no problem with it. Then, she started to lead the team to continue with the

then, her phone rang. She finally snapped back and glanced around her before she realized it was her researchers were looking at her because of the phone's

apologetically. As her mind was preoccupied, she did not even notice it was her phone ringing.

not even notice it was her phone's

it out and glanced at it. It was

held her phone as she walked out of the

saw this and gossiped with Rhett. "Mr. Link, did you notice Dr. Craw hasn't been herself today?"

and explained. "She probably hasn't rested well. After all, such a serious thing happened to her. Any normal person would

I saw the news on the papers. That scene was so bloody that even the reporters were afraid that their drafts would get rejected, so they pixelated the photos right away. And the photo was still red. I heard that the victim's blood even flowed out to the living room's corridor. How much blood can a person lose? There was so much blood at the crime scene. The guard probably hardly had any blood left in him." The

reminded them, "It's working hours now. Don't mention this in front of Dr.

## **Chapter 1484**

There was fear in Nina's voice. Luca could not just sit idly by.

She glanced at the laboratory and made a decision at that moment. She walked toward the office. "Don't open the door first and block it with the cabinet. Wait for me."

When Nina knew Luca was coming, she felt calmer. However, Perrie was no angel. A thought came into her mind and she said worriedly, "No, don't come over. I'll barricade the door with the cabinet first. If he can't get in, he'll probably stop after a while."

Perrie Mallory was the second young master of the Mallory family. Only a few in A City were able to deal with him, so she dared not to call the police either.

It was because she knew that when the police heard it was Perrie, they would certainly leave him alone. They might even think of a way to open the door for him and welcome Perrie in.

Luca would probably fight with Perrie if she came here.

Nina did not want her best friend to get into trouble because of her, so she stopped Luca after she thought about it for a few seconds.

She was so frightened that she did not know who she should look for help from. She called Luca when she came into her mind. Nina was unwilling to drag Luca into this.

Luca knew what she was worried about. Perrie was famous for being ruthless. Although he was not as cruel as Percy, he only appeared that way. Many were still scared of him.

He was a vindictive man as well...

"Don't worry. There's nothing Perrie can do to me," said Luca. If it was about fighting and martial arts, she was sure she was pretty good at them.

Even though she had never fought with Perrie, she had faith in herself.

Nina heard that Luca was coming, she got anxious. She truly did not want Luca to mess with a man like Perrie. "Luca, if you must come, bring Mr. Crawford along



walked back into the office, as she was taking off her lab coat, she switched on the phone's speaker and put it on the table. She paused for a moment when she

she was not talking, and she said in a hurried tone, "Luca, please don't come here alone. Please ask Mr. Crawford to come

a few people in A City were able to stop Perrie's crazy behavior, then other than Percy, the other person would certainly be Luke Crawford.

she ask Luke to

was hesitating. Luke was probably together with Tia

you hear me?" Nina realized Luca was still not talking, so she

you. But I think Mr. Crawford is busy now, and I'm too embarrassed to ask him. I'll go alone. Remember to protect yourself, and don't open the door for him until you hear me." Luca told her as she did not plan to ask Luke to

he was dating Tia now. Even if they were not, she was in no position to ask for his

immediately when she heard what Luca said. "You don't have to ask him. I will, and both of you will come together. Let me call Mr. Crawford."

could say anything, Nina hung up the

**She** thought that if Luke was willing to help, that would be best. After all, Perrie would have to show some respect *to him*.

*However*, if she were to ask Luke to come along herself, then she would rather fight with Perrie.

Luca stopped thinking about this. After she took off the white-colored lab coat, she asked Rhett to ask for leave on behalf of her. The reason was that she was not **feeling well**.

After what had happened at the apartment, this would be the best reason to ask for a leave. Luke would not know about it either. After Luca was informed that her leave was approved, she left the **company immediately**.

*She took* the elevator and came to the ground floor. When she was about to hail a taxi, a Bentley stopped in front of her.

*She* recognized this car. It was *Luke's*.

*When Luca* thought if she should just turn around and leave, Luke pushed the car door open and got out of the car. He stood up straight and was staring at Luca.

"Dr. Craw, where are you going?" *Luke asked*.

"*I'm* not feeling well. I'd like to go to the hospital. I've already taken leave," Luca said, but she was secretly wondering. Was he not talking to Tia upstairs? Why was he down here at this time and even driving his car?

**Could** it be Nina? Before she hung up earlier, she told her that she would inform **Luke**.

If he was truly going to Nina's apartment, then Luca had just shot herself in the foot by telling him that lie just **now**.

"Get in the car," said Luke.

stood there. She had just lied, and her eyes were shifty. She was quietly blaming herself for responding too quickly.

always unable to calm herself down whenever she ran into

Luca was feeling frustrated, she heard him speak again, "You're bringing Nina to the hospital, right? Let me send you

her head once he finished talking. She confirmed that she was going to Nina's place. She got into the car

the location," said Luke. He did not think much after he received Nina's phone call. However, what surprised him was Nina telling him that she had informed Luca as

Luca only got to know each other not long ago. Even so, both of them got along like sisters, just like Bianca and Nina back then. Their close relationship astonished

fastening her seat belt and telling him the address of the neighborhood where Nina

"There?" Luke raised his eyebrows.

him a confused look. There were many districts in A City. The neighborhood that Nina was staying in was considered high-end, but it was nothing compared to the districts and locations of Luke's

anything wrong with that neighborhood?" Luca asked, but she already had an answer in her heart. They might be thinking the same thing.

Let's go." Luke did not tell her Perrie had a property in

## **Chapter 1485**

It was because he had heard her conversation with Nina and found out about the whole matter that when Nina called him for help, Luke did not have to spend much time trying to figure out what had happened. He agreed immediately.

Luca only remembered about Luke after she took two steps forward. When she turned around, he was already out of the car and closing the car door.

She said, "Mr. Crawford, let's go up now?"

Looking at her being truly worried about Nina's situation, Luke nodded his head and entered the apartment with her.

Luca walked into the elevator and pressed the button instantly. As she watched the number on the elevator screen slowly going up, she could not stop herself from thinking about Nina.

They were told that the security measures in this district were pretty good, so Luca had no idea how Perrie managed to get in.

Could it be that he entered in Percy's name? Judging from how much Percy cared about Nina, if he knew Perrie did such a thing, he would skin him off.

While Luca was thinking about this, the elevator had reached the floor. The moment the elevator door opened, she heard the sounds of knocking.

"Nina, I know you're in there. Get the hell out!" Perrie yelled without caring if he would disturb the neighbors. He knocked on the door but there was no response. He even kicked the door.

Luca shot a glance at Luke. There was no expression on his face. It was uncertain what he was thinking about.

She dashed out of the elevator and pushed the man who kept knocking on the door away.

did not expect he would be pushed away by a woman. After he regained his footing, he narrowed his eyes as he looked at the woman who was much shorter than him. From his gaze, he looked like he wanted to pick a fight. "Who are

friend. Please don't disturb her. Otherwise, I'm going to kick your \*ss!" Luca said while staring into his gloomy eyes. She

Perrie laughed scornfully. Her? Kick his \*ss? That

you to know your place. Get lost!" Perrie came here looking for Nina today. Although the woman in front of him had already got on his nerves, it was not up to the point that he would lay his hands

the police if you're not leaving." Luca took her phone out of her pocket. Although that sounded stupid, Luke was still behind her. She had better not do anything with him

she could only threaten

had never been afraid of the police. He stopped knocking on the door and said, "Oh? I didn't know that the police also dealt with matters like this. I'm just pursuing Nina. Tell me, what can the police do to me?"

Luca was stunned. "Pursuing her?"

doesn't want her anymore and I can't put up with how pitiful she is, so I'm here to pursue her. I'm showing mercy on her. Why? Does this have anything to do with you? Or are you just jealous and that's why you came to mess things up?" There was a malicious smile on Perrie's

knew Nina had moved out from Percy's villa, he could not wait to take action.

*He had* given her a chance to escape back then. This time, no matter what Percy was doing, Perrie refused to miss the opportunity. Hence, he wanted to pursue Nina.

It was just that this woman was way too difficult. She rejected him and even refused to see him.

Perrie had never been rejected this way.

"Well, *you're* just imagining things. My friend doesn't want to see you. Please leave immediately and don't ever disturb my friend again!" Luca looked at the cheeky smile on his face as she pulled a long face and *warned him*.

Perrie laughed, taking her seriousness lightly. He thought that she was just pretending. "You're just jealous, right? Never mind, it's not like I can only be with one woman. If you're willing to, we can—"

**Luca** could not help but lift her hand and slap Perrie right on his face.

*Perrie* was stunned after getting slapped in his face. He widened his eyes in disbelief, staring at the person in front of **him**.

"Who are you?" He had never been slapped by a woman before. It was three years ago since the last time a woman dared to do anything to him. That person took advantage of the fact that she was Luke's woman and did that to him *daringly*.

How dare this woman...

"**Once** isn't enough, huh? If you wanna mess around, then get out of here. Go mess around in another woman's house. Don't disturb my friend here." Luca stood up straight as she faced Perrie's gloomy **expression fearlessly**.

**If** he dared to throw a punch at her, then he would be the first to start it. She would be defending herself if she fought with *him*.

was utterly furious, so she could not be bothered about the fact that Luke was still standing in the elevator and had yet to

did not make his way over, Luke could still hear their conversation and the sound of that slap.

Perrie in his face. Did she come here not knowing who Perrie

famous for being vindictive. Only a few people could run away from getting into trouble with

Luca had just simply slapped him. Luke was unsure if he should tell her about it, but he was impressed with Luca's

idiot b\*tch!" Perrie changed his mind after he got slapped in the face. He did not want to force Nina to come out now. He only wanted to slap the woman in front of him. The woman did not spare him when she hit him. There was still a burning pain on his face now.

lifted her head and looked up. She noticed that he was already clenching

like him would certainly take revenge for getting slapped in public.

his hand. Right as he lifted his hand and planned to repay the slap that she had given him, Luke's voice at Luke in surprise as he watched him walk out of the

## **Chapter 1486**

"Did Percy ever tell you about his plans?" asked Luke.

Perrie's expression changed to dismay. Indeed, he was merely just someone who followed the orders given to him in the Mallory family. Perrie had a wild personality, and he did not care about handling the affairs of the Mallory family. Basically, he was not involved in the family's plans.

He only followed what Percy said. He had no idea what he was planning this time.

Although many of the plans were executed by Perrie, it was still Percy who took the credit. He did not care about it at first, but he held some resentment after Luke said that.

He looked at Luke's calm expression as if he knew what Percy's plan was.

Could it be that there was something he did not know about and Percy had another plan?

"Luke, you've been minding your business in the past. Are you doing this today for the woman in there or the woman out here?" Perrie was suppressing the anger in him because he could not seem to figure out if Percy really had another plan. He dared not to act recklessly now.

His gaze fell on Luca as he stared at her from head to toe. After looking at her carefully, this woman was totally different from Bianca. Although Luke had freed himself from misery, he was not even that attentive to Bianca.

It looked like the relationship between these two was not what he thought it was. Regardless, the woman in front of him was his cup of tea.

Perrie suddenly had a terrible idea in mind. Since the woman in front of him dared to slap him in his face, then he would let her have a taste of regret.

No one was ever left unharmed after putting their hands on Perrie!

Luca felt as if Perrie was looking at her as though she was his prey. Even if he did not say anything, she knew that he was up to good with that stare.

slapped Perrie, and this man would make her pay for it sooner

was not afraid

was standing there, looking at Perrie closely. With Luke around, it naturally made Perrie not dare to put his hands on

to Perrie but did not answer him. Instead, he asked calmly, "Are you still going to stick around?"

sneered, and he touched his face where Luca had slapped him. It seemed to have swollen up. This woman was much stronger than other women, but she was wild enough. He liked

He leaned slightly closer to Luca and warned

had completely offended him this time.

heard that as well from behind the door. Even though everything was taking place outside the door, she did not have to take a look to know that Perrie must have said that to Luca.

would not dare to say that

did not mind his words. She waited until he left before she knocked on the door and said, "Nina, he's gone. You can come out

me move the cabinet away first," Nina replied. Right after she said that, there were noises of furniture being moved

a while, the door opened.

When Luca watched Nina walk out of her apartment, she asked caringly, "Are you *alright*?"

"I'm alright. I'm perfectly fine." Nina shook her head, indicating that she was fine. She glanced at Luke, then looked at Luca again. She thanked them both. "Thanks for everything today. If it wasn't for the both of you, I don't know when Perrie would stop messing around here and **leave**."

*Luca* let out a sigh. Luke was the one she should be *thanking today*.

If she had scared Perrie away herself, he would probably come looking for Nina again in the future.

**However, it** was different since Luke showed up. Perrie did not have the guts to do anything more, and what he said just now was intriguing **as well**.

Did he know about Percy's plan?

"The one you should be thanking the most is Mr. Crawford," said Luca. She was just being honest. She had nothing else in *mind*.

*Luke did* not care whether others thanked him out of sincerity or not. He would not feel much about it. However, when he heard what Luca said, it was inevitable that some sort of feeling flashed across his **heart**.

*It was* light and quick. It was gone before he was able to know what it *was*.

**Nina** nodded at Luke. The conversation between him and Perrie had made her even more puzzled. However, every time she thought of Percy, there was a surge of pain in her heart, so she might as well not think about him anymore.

She would not feel upset as long as she did not think about it. With that thought in mind, Nina did not question more about it. Instead, she said, "Thank you for your help, Mr. **Crawford**."

Luke kept his hands in his pocket. It was time to go back after settling the matter. His gaze fell on

knew what he meant when he looked at her. She looked at Nina and said, "Nina, if there's nothing else, I have to go

coming in for a cup of tea?" Nina invited them when she saw them leaving. After all, they had just helped her. It would be unacceptable if she did not at least serve them a cup of

her head. "No, I have to go back to do my

work," Luke added right after Luca said

only nod and say,

was about to leave, Nina came forward and held her hand. "Luca, you just slapped Perrie. Please be extra careful these

worried that if anything happened to Luca, she would die of sheer

if it had not been for her, Luca would not have offended that

worry." Luca patted her hand instead.

as they interacted. Nina was this close with Bianca too

Luca and Bianca had completely different appearances, Luke found the scene of Nina being best friends with Luca similar to when she was best friends with

## **Chapter 1487**

Jean thought since she was being straightforward, he would not beat about the bush either. He said directly, "Transfer 20,000 dollars to me now to pay for Mom's medical bills."

"20,000 dollars?" Nina raised her eyebrows.

"You know how expensive the new medicine is. 20,000 dollars is cheap enough. Including the cost of the nursing expenses as well as the food expenses, we need money to pay for all of that," Jean said without feeling an ounce of guilt for demanding such a huge amount of money.

Nina had already known that her brother was hopeless. Fortunately, she had been keeping her eyes on him.

"I'll transfer 5,000 dollars later. That's all," said Nina.

Jean replied with a higher pitch, "5,000? How is that enough?"

5,000 dollars was just enough for Anna's medical bills. It was not nearly enough to cover the food expenses and his living expenses.

"Yes, it's not enough. I'll transfer the money for Mom's food expenses and nursing expenses to Aunt Susan. If Mom wants to have anything, Aunt Susan will get it for her," said Nina.

Jean bit his lip. Anna mentioned that Nina seldom went to the hospital, so she did not know much about what had happened.

"5,000 isn't enough to pay the medical bills. The medicine is expensive," he said. He had no money left, so he could only take some money from Nina. After all, money was not a problem for her.

"I've asked how much Mom's treatment costs. 5,000 dollars is enough. As for the extra 15,000, I'm not going to give it to you. If you'd like to watch Mom die, then you can take the 5,000 for yourself," Nina said heartlessly. Although Jean had turned into a bad person, he still cared about Anna.

It was because he knew that if he wanted money from Nina, he would need Anna to do that.

was gone, Jean could not get money from Nina anymore. Hence, he would not dare to take the 5,000 for the nursing expenses, Nina dared not give the money to

all, he was not like he used to be. He was unscrupulous. Nina had to transfer the money  
his intention was exposed, Jean

it, and she paused for a moment when she was transferring the money. How hilarious it was. Her  
biological brother was scolding her with such

B\*tch... Hah.

heart was almost numb. She eventually transferred the money. "I've transferred the money to you.  
Mom's life is in your hands, so it's your choice to make. And times have changed. I'm broke, and I can't  
afford to pay for your extravagant spending habits. Jean, get a

Jean hung up the phone angrily. He refused to listen to Nina's

He would not believe that unless the Mallory family went bankrupt. Only then would Nina be  
to the busy tone of the call, smiled bitterly, and put down the phone.

she transferred the 5,000 dollars, she transferred another amount of money to the care worker, Aunt  
Susan, for the nursing expenses and Anna's food expenses.

Even though it was tough for Nina, she did not let Anna suffer. She was paying for the most expensive  
set meal in the hospital's canteen for **Anna**.

...

On the other hand.

*Luke and Luca got into the car after they left the apartment.*

**While** Luke was driving, he did not mention anything about Luca's silly lie.

**Luca** was reassured when she did not hear him asking her if she wanted to go to the hospital.

**However, for** Nina's sake, she could not help but ask, "Mr. Crawford, regarding what you said just now  
about Mr. Mallory's plan... Is it about Mr. Mallory and Nina's future **plans?**"

**Luca** was not one who gossiped, but for Nina, she could not stop herself from gossiping about it. After  
all, it was an open question for Nina whether she would still be alive or dead in the future. Hence, Luca  
wanted to take the opportunity to know more about it. She could then probably advise Nina **too**.

"I'm not sure." Luke knew she was curious, but he did not tell her.

Only a few knew about Percy's plan, so Perrie did not know about *it either*.

**Luca knew** he refused to talk about it, so she took the hint and did not ask again.

have you known Nina?" Luke suddenly asked. As far as he could tell, Luca met Nina through Sue Carter.  
Both of them only knew each other not long ago, but their friendship was developing a little too fast.

was so fast that Luke even thought for a moment that the two of them had known each other for years.



long ago." Luca looked down. She had been expressing too much concern for Nina in front of him. Ordinary people would not have doubted that, but Luke was not an ordinary person. His doubts were not completely

she was his suspect now.

care about her a lot." Luke did not show that he was doubting her words.

a good person. I like talking to her." Luca tried to use some other reason to explain why she was so close to

up to something?" Luca continued to

paused for a moment and shook her head. "Is there anything Nina has to make me do

speechless. What she said was indeed true. Nina was just an ordinary woman. What purpose could she serve

be that Luca wanted to get closer to Nina to obtain the trade secrets of Brilliant? Luca did not have to. Brilliant was just a small company. Even if one of their employees was awarded the International Design Award and they became the hottest company, it was unlikely for Luca to want to steal any secrets from them.

was no way Nina could obtain the trade secrets of T Corporation. She was not even interested in Mallory Corporation's secrets.

## **Chapter 1488**

Luca's guess was correct. The rumors were already spreading by the time she reached the laboratory.

While working on their research, the researchers in the laboratory were talking about how she had left the building and returned with Luke.

They were still talking when Luca entered, and they were embarrassed because they did not manage to stop themselves.

She heard the last part of their conversation, though she walked back to her position without showing any expression on her face. All the researchers in her team were male; several female researchers had applied for an interview, but Luca rejected them all.

She thought that men were less prone to gossip, but it seemed that her preconception was wrong.

Most men were not like Luke, who showed no interest in gossip.

"You can continue talking," Luca sat in her seat and put on goggles.

The researchers looked at each other. None of them dared to say anything.

Rhett came out of the cultivation room and saw that Luca was already back. He said, "You're back, Dr. Craw. Why don't you rest for a little longer?"

"I'm fine. Mr. Crawford brought me to the hospital, and they gave me some medication. I feel a lot better now," Luca said.

The researchers knew that Luca was directing those words at them. They lowered their heads in embarrassment.

Rhett saw that she did not look unwell, so he did not ask any more questions.

She focused on her work until it was lunchtime.

knew that she would be at the center of attention if she went to the cafeteria. To avoid trouble, she asked Rhett to take away some food

Rhett agreed to it immediately.

to her office and studied the data collected over the past few days. She did not care that the surveillance camera was capturing her every

was sitting in his office. He frowned as he looked at the computer

was in the frame. She was studying some documents, and she looked like she was going to skip

she's so thin. She doesn't eat her

was taken aback when he realized that he had that thought in his head. He did not understand why he thought of that. Luca's mealtimes should not be any of

on the door was heard. Luke minimized the security feed and said,

came in through the door with a lunch box in his hand. He handed it to Luke and said, "Your lunch, Mr.

put it on the table," Luke nodded and

put the lunch box on

the entire company is talking about how you and Dr. Craw had returned in the same car," he

"Mm," **Luke** replied impassively. He had already expected that to happen. Moreover, he did that on *purpose*.

"Now, should we let Ms. Tia know about it?" Jason **asked**.

"She has eyes in the company. She'll know about it," Luke said. Letting Tia know about it was part of **his plan**.

**Jason wondered** if he should praise Luke for his shrewdness...

*The plan* was sure to put Luca in a tough *spot*.

*Anyone* could see that Tia had a crush on Luke. Luke's plan involved letting Luca come into contact with Tia and letting Tia know that Luke and Luca shared some sort of relationship.

**Tia would** definitely misinterpret something, and she would confront Luca about it.

**The** tales from earlier that morning were still circulating in the company. If Tia knew about it, she would definitely treat Luca as a *rival*.

"**Enjoy** your lunch, Mr. Crawford. I'll be downstairs." Even though Jason felt sorry for Luca, he was not going to say anything.

**Luca** might have saved his daughter's life, but her identity remained mysterious, and he dared not take her side. He did not want to disrupt Luke's plans and miss out on the opportunity to *save Bianca*.

*After* all, Bianca was Luke's true *love*.

"*Wait*." Luke suddenly remembered that Luca was still in her office and had not eaten lunch.

looked at him. "Is there anything else, Mr.

stared at the lunch box for several seconds. Eventually, he shook his

Jason nodded and left the office.

nearly asked Jason to buy a lunch box for Luca. He wondered why he had that thought; he could not bear to see her working through lunchtime without eating. After all, she should not sacrifice her health for

the words stopped at the tip of

were other reasons why he helped Nina, and he had deliberately stopped at the building entrance. Those were part of his plan, but sending Luca a lunch box was not part of his

That was why Luke stopped himself.

...

found out about Luke and Luca traveling in one car. In order to confirm her suspicions, she also asked her informant about the time

have been in a meeting at that time, so why did he travel somewhere else with

Unless...

fires of jealousy raged in Tia's heart. She guessed that Jason and Luke were in cahoots to deceive her, and that was why Jason had told her that Luke had a meeting, when instead Luke had wanted to go out with

## **Chapter 1489**

Tia assumed that something must have happened in Luca's past for her to be so afraid of blood, and the murder incident at her apartment only deepened that fear.

Anyone who had a fear of blood must be hiding a dark past.

Tia thought of dredging that dark past and telling Luke. Luke would definitely stay away from Luca after that.

Arriving at that thought, she clenched her fists and picked up her phone.

Sophia knocked on her office door. "Ms. Tia, your next client is waiting for you in the consultation room. She has an appointment with you."

Tia stopped typing on her phone. 'I know," she said impatiently.

"Are you going over now?" Sophia asked. Usually, patients would not mind waiting for their doctor, but Tia's next client was someone they could not afford to offend. That was why Sophie was so nervous.

"I'll go over in a bit," Tia said impatiently. She was typing a message to invite Luca out for lunch.

"Ms. Tia, I don't think you should let the client wait for too long?" Sophia said. She dared not open the door without Tia's permission.

That was one of Tia's hard-and-fast rules.

Losing her patience, Tia opened the door and said, "The client doesn't have to wait if she can't wait. We have so many consultants here. Can't you arrange another one for her? I'm busy now."

Sophia tucked her head into her shoulders and said, "But Ms. Tia, the client is the wife of the mayor."

could not afford to offend the wife of the mayor. If they did so, they would probably find it hard to survive in A

taken aback. Her mind had been occupied by fantasizing the illicit relations between Luke and Luca, and she had forgotten about such an important

realized that she had to attend to the client immediately and personally. "Pour her a cup of coffee. I'll pack up a bit and

noddod and said. She turned around and went to

hurry, Tia quickly finished the message and sent it to Luca. She put her phone on the table, picked up her briefcase, and left

was half an hour later when Luca saw Tia's

declined the invitation without giving it a second

knew that Tia had a crush on Luke, and there must be some ulterior motive for inviting her to dinner. Maybe she wanted to find out more about Luca's thoughts, or maybe she wanted to declare

either case, Luca did not want to be

[I've been quite busy recently. Maybe another time. Thanks for the invitation

the phone away, she saw Zoey come in with a stack

"What's that?" Luca asked.

"These are insurance policy documents, Dr. Craw. The company bought travel insurance policies for everyone for the trip to B City, and we just received the policies today. This one's yours." Zoey handed the topmost document *to Luca*.

**Luca took** the document and looked at it.

*B City* was quite far away from where they were. Not only did Luke bring all the employees there, but he also purchased travel insurance for anyone. He was quite generous *indeed*.

"Mm, thanks." Luca put the document in her *drawer*.

*Zoey smiled*, then went away to distribute the documents to the *other researchers*.

**Luca stayed** for a little longer after office hours to finish the experiment on hand. When she was about to leave, she received a call from **Tia**.

She answered it and said, "Hello."

"**Hi, Dr. Craw.** I'm Tia." Tia's voice was heard.

Luca was taken aback. She thought she had declined the invitation, but it looked like Tia was not going to give up **so easily**.

"**Hello. Is** there anything?" Luca sounded cold and distant, a stark contrast from Tia's enthusiasm.

had just sent off the mayor's wife. When she returned to the office and saw Luca's reply, she was not quite happy about it, so she gave Luca a call to invite her

a mature adult. She should know Tia's implications behind the invitation

invited you for dinner earlier this afternoon, and I saw your reply. I was wondering if you'd agree if I asked you over the phone," Tia said. "It's nothing much. A friend's younger sister was thinking of venturing into pharmaceutical and health sciences in college, but I'm not too familiar with that industry. That's why I wanted your professional opinion

not say anything about Luke or psychological counseling so that Luca would agree to

that it was only an excuse. She replied, "I got my degree overseas, so I don't know anything about the colleges here. Moreover, I graduated so many years ago, and I don't think I'll be of any help. I can hook your friend's sister up with my assistant if you want. He graduated this year, and he should know more than I

did not expect Luca to find another excuse to decline the

is that so? But my friend's sister is thinking of studying overseas, Dr. Craw. How

could finish her sentence, Luca said, "Excuse me, I have a call coming in. Please wait for

okay." Tia was not very happy that she was interrupted, but she could not reprimand

Luca was only a stranger. Tia could not do anything

immediately ended the call after

## **Chapter 1490**

Alarm bells rang in Luca's head. Her hand on the doorknob was shaking slightly.

If the slip of paper was on the ground, it could only mean that someone had been there. Even though the security measures at the apartment were much better than her previous apartment, Abel would definitely have a way to sneak in.

There were very few things in the world that could stop Abel.

Luca took a deep breath. What should she do if the person inside was Abel? She would not mind it if it were her apartment, but she was in Luke's apartment...

Luca had probably installed surveillance cameras in the apartment. If Abel was inside, would Luke be able to see him through the security feed and therefore find out his plans?

If he could, she would be free.

Luca did not know what to make of the situation. Eventually, she took a deep breath, braced herself, and opened the door.

She was mentally prepared to see Abel behind the door.

The moment she opened the door, she heard sounds from the television. Instantly, her mind went blank.

It sounded as though someone was watching a cartoon.

Luca rushed into the living room. When she saw Tommy sitting on the couch, her wildly beating heart gradually calmed down.

'Thank goodness it's not Abel. Luke won't discover anything just yet...'

was immediately taken aback. Why would she be glad

heard the footsteps, he turned over with a grin on his face. He leaned on the couch and said, "You're back, Ms.

noded. She looked around the living room and saw no one other than

are you here, Tommy?" Luca put her briefcase near the couch. She thought Luke was careless to leave the child alone in

brought me here, Ms. Luca," Tommy said with a grin. "When we got here earlier, we couldn't get you on the phone, so Daddy and I came in by

noded after hearing the explanation. The apartment was locked by a passcode, and she did not change it. That was why Luke was able

she thought it was wrong to keep the child there by

Daddy leave after that?" Luca said while patting the child's head. She did not expect that Tommy would come, and there were no snacks or fruits in the

replied and pointed toward the bathroom. "Daddy is taking a shower inside. When he went to pick me up from school, a lady deliberately bumped into him and smudged some lipstick on

relieved when she heard that Luke did not abandon the

could not help but chuckle imagining Luke's reaction when the woman bumped into him. She was used to such antics from other women who tried to get close to

that Luke was a clean freak. He would change his clothes and take a shower whenever another person left a mark on his clothes or body, as though those people would spread a contagious virus

"Ms. Luca, are you angry?" Tommy asked worriedly when he saw that she was not saying **anything**.

Luca shook her head. "I'm not angry."

*"I thought you're angry when you didn't reply. Daddy said that he let you stay in the apartment, and we shouldn't have come in without your permission."* Tommy leaned closer to Luca and grinned. "Daddy couldn't wait any longer though. He really wanted to take a *shower*."

**He knew** that Luca adored him, so he hoped that his smile would make Luca forgive their transgression.

Luca smiled and stroked the boy's **head**.

It was only after Tommy's reminder that she realized Luke had given her the apartment, and they should not have come in without her **permission**.

**"It's alright,"** Luca said. The apartment was much closer to Tommy's school, and Luke still had some clothes there. It was not surprising that they would visit **her**.

*"I'm glad that you're not angry,"* Tommy said with a grin. Immediately after that, his stomach began **to growl**.

**It was** not very loud, but Luca heard it anyway.

She raised her eyebrows and looked at the child. "Are **you hungry?**"

*"A little,* but don't mind me. Daddy will be taking me home for dinner soon," Tommy said. He missed Luca's cooking, but Luke told him that Luca was still recovering from the injury and was not in the condition to **cook**.

Tommy did not throw a tantrum and remembered what his father *said*.

don't have any ingredients here either,"

Rhett had bought lunch for her, she left it in the office and only ate it at about four o'clock, when she began to get hungry. She was still full after work, so she did not go to the supermarket to

she had finished the food the maid had left

at Luca with his innocent eyes. "Aren't you going to have dinner, Ms. Luca? Why don't you come

that it was not appropriate to accept their invitation. "It's fine. I don't think I should go

be bringing Tommy back to Crawford Manor to have dinner. She had no reason to go

asked while clinging to

"I'm not hungry," Luca said.

the bathroom door open. Luke

not take his shower in the bathroom that was attached to the bedroom because Luca was staying there. Instead, he used the

noticed that the set of clothes he had changed into was from the maid's bedroom. She did not expect that Luke was so considerate about

She stood up and greeted Luke. Tommy was still clinging onto her, and he said, "You're done showering,