

## Be Gentle 1491

### Chapter 1491

"Let's go, Ms. Luca, let's go," Tommy said coyly. "I haven't eaten dinner with you for a long time, Ms. Luca, and I don't have an appetite when I'm not eating with you. See? I've already lost weight."

While he said that, he pinched his cheeks to show that they were not as bouncy as they used to be.

Luca thought that his face was indeed slimmer. It did not seem as chubby as before.

Tommy was still a child. There should have not been any restrictions to his diet as long as it did not negatively affect his health.

As Tommy's mother, Luca felt sorry for him but could not say it.

Tommy was a good reader of character. He noticed that he had managed to evoke pity in Luca, and he continued to work his charm. "You won't want me to lose more weight, right? Please, can we have dinner together just this once?"

"Alright then." Luca's heart softened from Tommy's repeated pleadings and agreed to it.

"Yay! What do you want to eat, Ms. Luca?" Tommy continued asking questions after seeing that Luca agreed to his invitation. He even let Luca decide what to eat while Luke was neglected to the sidelines.

Luca had not thought about that question. In any case, she did not have the appetite to eat.

"What do you want to eat?" She let the child make the decision.

Tommy looked at Luca and smiled. "I'll eat anything you want to eat!"

Luca turned to look at Luke. "How about you, Mr. Crawford? What do you want to eat?"

"There's a vegan restaurant nearby that just opened recently. Let's go there," Luke said decisively. He was not surprised that Tommy gave Luca the prerogative to decide, but he was surprised that Luca asked himself to decide instead.

seemed not to care about anything, even what

her real personality like that

to wonder what would be something that she

the two other people out of the apartment. On their way out, Luca bent over, picked up the slip of paper on the floor, and clutched it in her

Luca doing that. If she had not done that, he would not have realized Luca slit a slip of paper between the door and the

that she had become a lot more cautious after that incident in her

was not far away from the neighborhood. However, it was the evening rush hour, and the streets

not to drive. Instead, the three people

holding Luca's hand. He turned his head to look at Luke next to him, thought for a bit, and took his father's hand with his

his head to look at Tommy. He noticed that his son was holding Luca's hand with his

explained, "Ms. Lina told us that there are many bad people on the streets. It's not safe to only hold one adult's hand. What if a kidnapper grabs me from the other side? It's much safer to hold the hands of both

turned her head to look at the

people were walking side by side as though they were a family

**Luca clenched** Tommy's hand tightly. She was not afraid that someone would kidnap Tommy, but she wanted to treasure the rare opportunity.

*Her* only wish was to live a peaceful life with **Luke**.

**It** did not matter if he were not the CEO of T Corporation. She would want to live with him even if he did not have a penny to **his name**.

*However*, that dream was an unattainable luxury to *her*.

Now that she had the chance to pretend that they were a family, Luca would treat it as a dream. She did not know when the next chance would **present itself**.

Luke did not pull away. He allowed his son to take **his hand**.

**The** two adults brought Tommy to the restaurant.

A waitress smiled at them and greeted them, "Welcome, **Sir, Madam**."

*When Luca* heard that, she wanted to explain that she was not the man's wife.

She was satisfied enough that she got to walk with Luke and Tommy as *a family*.

*She opened* her mouth, but before she could say anything, Luke said, "Do you have a secluded table?"

**It was** rare that such an attractive family went to dine there, so the waitress was exceptionally eager to please them. "If you wish for some privacy, we have private rooms available at an additional charge. Fortunately, they're not reserved at the moment. Would you like a *room*?"

"Mm," Luke said and nodded.

waitress grinned and led the

three people went into the private

was a new restaurant, and the furnishings were new. Tommy was delighted by the interior that looked like a cottage. "Look, Daddy! Tortoises!" He

was a pool with a fountain in the room in which were

you satisfied with this room, Sir?" The waitress

"This is good," Luke said.

hurried off to prepare the

and Luca sat on opposite sides of the table. He handed a menu to her. "See if there's anything you want to

did not take the menu. "I don't mind anything. I'll let you and

looked at her for a few seconds. Even though they were sitting at the same table, Luca remained so

ordered something for everyone. After that, the waitress said, "Sir, Madam, our dessert of the day is homemade vegan truffle ice cream. Would you like to try

"One for her, please," Luke said.

was shocked when she

## **Chapter 1492**

Looking at the waitress, Luca wondered if she should tell her that Luke was not fond of fruit juices, no matter how fresh it was.

The moment the glass was put in front of Luke, he took it and put it in front of Luca.

The waitress was surprised, but she smiled. "You're so considerate to your wife, Sir. Fresh orange juice has Vitamin C, which is good for women's skin. I'll bring you another glass."

When Luca heard that, she said, "It's fine. He doesn't like fruit juice."

As soon as she finished speaking, Luke turned his head to look at her.

How did she know that he did not like fruit juice?

Luke had never told anyone else that he did not like fruit juice. He did not say that when he was in the hospital.

The waitress nodded and said, "I see. You're so considerate, Madam. Sir, should I get you another drink?"

"It's fine." Luke sipped the glass of tap water next to him. He did not point out the waitress's mistake again.

Luca felt even more awkward as the waitress mentioned her in the same sentence as Luke. She wanted to explain, but seeing that Luke did not say anything, she did not want to make the situation awkward.

The waitress nodded and placed the glass of orange juice at Tommy's seat. "Have some orange juice, my young guest!"

When Tommy heard that, he turned his head and asked, "Ma'am, what are the names of the two tortoises?"

Madrid and Manchester," the waitress answered with a smile. After distributing the orange juice, she set the cutlery on

smiled slightly when she heard that. It seemed that the restaurant owner was a soccer fan, which was why they named the pet tortoises using famous soccer

the smile on Luca's face. Was she smiling because of the names of

to meet you, Madrid and Manchester!" Tommy greeted the two tortoises with a grin, then returned to

had placed the glass closer to the center of the table in case the boy knocked it off

that Tommy was reaching out to the glass. She took the glass and placed it in his

brilliantly at her and quietly drank his

why he did not say "Thank you" like he always did. He only grinned at her as though he was deliberately doing so. Was it because of what the waitress

did not explain it to the waitress, and Tommy seemed to have accepted

waitress left the room after setting up the

did not become any less awkward even though the waitress had left. Luca noticed that Tommy had finished half of his glass. Thinking that he liked the juice, she placed the glass that Luke had handed to her in front

"Thank you, Ms. Luca," Tommy said.

*Luca* smiled to make herself feel less awkward. She thought that the father and son were deliberately giving the waitress the wrong impression.

She averted their gaze and began to drink **her juice**.

"How do you know that I don't like fruit juice?" Luke asked while gazing profoundly at her. He was trying to probe *for something*.

Tommy did not sense the gravity of the situation. He also asked, "That's right, Ms. Luca. Daddy doesn't like milk and fruit juice. How did you *know*?"

*Luca* grinned to mask her anxiety. She tried her best to speak casually, "I noticed that you didn't seem to drink any milk or juice while we were in New York, so I guessed that you don't drink anything other than plain water and *black coffee*."

'Is that really the case?'

*Luke* noticed Luca's unnatural reaction. He did not believe her, though he did not ask any *more questions*.

**He knew** that he was not going to get any useful information from her if she was making **up stories**.

*Even so*, he could not help but think that Luca knew him very well. She even knew about his drink preferences.

**Many women** vied for his attention, but none of them knew him as well as Luca did. Other than Jason and his family members, no one knew about his drink **preferences**.

That included the impostor Bianca.

Bianca had tried to show she cared for him by bringing him a glass of warm milk to the study on most nights. She told him that he should drink milk instead of coffee, and he should rest

would finish the milk as he looked at her face, but he had never told her how much he hated

that the people from the Island of Despair did not know that about him. Otherwise, they would not have made such

Luca was from the Island of Despair, how would she know so much about his daily

not understand the woman in front of

more mysterious Luca was, the more interested

the waitress brought them their food. After eating, the three people walked toward the

was already darkening, and the cold wind began to blow. As Luca glanced at the lingering glow at the horizon, she realized that it was going to be winter

been three years since she last

remembered spending her first New Year's Day with Luke. It felt as though the fireworks display had only

## **Chapter 1493**

Tommy sounded as though Luke should have put more effort to win Luca's heart.

Luke's expression turned grim. "Who let you watch those soap operas?"

"I watch them whenever Grandma Susan watches them in the living room. What's wrong with soap operas, Daddy? Why would Grandma Susan watch them if there's something wrong with them?" Tommy asked several questions at one go.

Ever since Allison went to prison, Susan acted like the matriarch of the household.

Whenever Old Master Crawford was not at home, Susan would sit on the living room couch and watch meaningless soap operas with convoluted family plots. She did not care if what she watched would negatively affect the children's development.

Luke had never heard his son use that word before. He wondered if he should talk to Susan. She had a television in her bedroom, so it was probably better to watch it there than in the living room.

"Because they're boring," he said.

Tommy nodded. "Oh? If that's the case, I won't watch them next time. I'll find something less boring to do.

Luke patted the child's head, took his hand, and walked toward the spot where he parked his car.

"You need to work harder, Daddy. Ms. Luca is a good person. Some other man might seduce her if you don't work harder," Tommy said. He knew more about adult relationships thanks to the soap operas he watched.

Luke's expression darkened. "Why do I have to work harder?"

"Aren't you trying to make her your girlfriend?" Tommy analyzed like a little adult. "If you don't want to make her your girlfriend, why did you treat her to dinner?"

"It's just repaying the favor," Luke said, not caring if his son knew the nuance behind it.

"Nonsense, Daddy," Tommy said derisively.

raised his eyebrow. "Have you ever treated me like your

I have. I won't bother telling you all this if you're not my Daddy. If you're not trying to make her your girlfriend, why would you deliberately go to the apartment to change clothes? Aren't you trying to find an opportunity?" Tommy said. Without looking at him, any person would have thought that a mature adult had said that. "Also, When the waitress treated Ms. Luca as your wife, you didn't deny it or explain

frowned. Why was Tommy so

was doing all those deliberately. He had to become closer to Luca to test

knew that Luca was harder to read than Tia. If he did not give it his all, he would not find out the secrets Luca was

see, so you're doing it deliberately too," Luke said, ignoring what Tommy had

blinked in confusion. "What was I doing

didn't call her 'Ms. Luca' when other people were around," Luke said while gently pinching Tommy's cheek. He realized that the child was becoming more and more precocious, though he did not call his son out in front of the

Tommy was calling Luke out on his behavior, he was not going to hold back

I have any other choice? You didn't deny it, and I can't call Ms. Luca Mommy. I think she'd be shocked if I did," Tommy said with a sigh, as though he was disappointed with

realized that Tommy's character was very much unlike his elder

"*Alright*. Get in the car." Luke said while opening the car door.

**Tommy pulled** his hand away. As he stepped into the car, he said, "Sigh, I don't know when I can spend the night with Ms. Luca **again**."

"Don't even think about it." Luke closed the door after Tommy *settled down*.

Tommy *shook* his head and said, "I was hoping that I could live together with Ms. Luca in the **future**."

**Luke** sat on the driver's seat. He said nothing when he heard **Tommy's words**.

Living together with Luca?

**He** had thought about it before. After all, Luca might be the key to saving *Bianca*.

*Tommy* liked Luca very much, but Luke knew that Tommy would shift his attention to Bianca if she **came back**.

**No one** could be his wife other than Bianca **Rayne**.

**Luke started** the car and drove away. Luca came out of a dark corner. She came out of the apartment's side door and followed Luke and Tommy from *a distance*.

Seeing the car drive away, Luca turned around and headed back to **the apartment**.

She could not help but be envious when she saw Luke walking away while holding Tommy's hand.

**She envied** Luke for being able to play the role of the child's parent, and also for the fact that they had no secrets between *them*.

the apartment, Luca closed the door and remembered Kevin Rayne, her adoptive  
been gone for

remembered that she had not paid her respects ever since she came back. She wondered if she should visit her father's grave on the coming

making up her mind, she went to the common bathroom to take the bottle of shower cream so that she could take

the bathroom, she noticed that Luke had thrown his shirt into the

for a while but eventually picked the shirt up. She noticed a red lipstick stain on

must have thrown the shirt away because he was disgusted by the lipstick

the shirt was quite new. It was a pity to throw away a shirt that had been worn less than

the shirt to the balcony and tossed it into the

went to the bathroom to take a shower. Then, she did the laundry with the rest of her

laundry was done, she hung them on

was already completely dark by

## **Chapter 1494**

Luke frowned when his mother was mentioned. "Did the lawyer say anything?" He asked.

Ever since Allison was sent to prison for stealing the antiques, Luke had always wanted to visit her, but she had always refused to meet him.

He had never gotten to meet his mother for the past three years. He stopped trying and hired a lawyer to take care of her.

Old Master Crawford wanted to say something but stopped himself. Eventually, he said, "I'm not sure how to tell you. The lawyer has arranged everything. You should go there and see what's going on."

"Mm, I know," Luke said. "I'll go tomorrow."

When Tommy heard that, he said, "Daddy, I want to visit Grandma too."

Luke could tell from his grandfather's expression that the meeting with Allison tomorrow was most likely not going to end well. He said, "No, you have to go to school tomorrow."

"But I miss Grandma. Please let me go with you, Daddy," Tommy said cooly. Even though Bianca was his favorite person, Allison had pampered him too.

That was why Tommy liked Allison.

"No, children shouldn't go to those places." Luke found an excuse to refuse.

"Alright then..." Tommy said disappointedly.

When Luke saw that, he said, "You'll be able to meet Grandma again in a few months."

person convicted of theft would receive a prison sentence of fewer than three years. Allison's case involved an extraordinarily large sum of money, so she received a sentence of more than three years with the possibility of

passed in the blink of an eye, and Allison was about to be released soon. If she only wanted to meet now, Luke could tell that she was up to no

lawyer had told him before that Allison's behavior in prison was poor. That was why she was not

alright. You don't have to be so disappointed. You'll get to see her soon. Go and shower, then go to bed," Old Master Crawford said. He stood up and declared, "I'm going to

the butler heard that, he immediately went over to support

sank deep in thought as he watched his grandfather leave the scene. Why would his mother suddenly want to meet him after

stood up and said, "I'm going upstairs,

Luke replied but did not move. He contacted the lawyer and told him that he would go to the prison to visit

replied, "Alright, Mr. Crawford. I've made all the necessary arrangements. I'll wait for you at the prison entrance

replied. He paused for a while, then continued, "Did she say why she wants to meet

lawyer hesitated for a while before replying, "Mdm. Tanner said that she would tell you when she meets you tomorrow. I'm not too sure of the reason

'He's not sure?'

*Luke thought* it was not the case. Allison must have told him not to tell Luke the reason.

Prison conditions were poor, though she had a lawyer to take care of her, so her life was still **bearable**.



**Allison must** have some other special reason to *meet him*.

"Mm, see you tomorrow." Luke did not ask any more questions if the lawyer was not willing to tell him. He ended the **call**.

**The next** day, Luke asked the driver to send the children to school while he went to the **prison**.

*The prison* was on the outskirts of A City. It was the morning rush hour, so it took Luke two and a half hours to reach there.

*The lawyer* had been waiting for him for a long time. He seemed visibly relieved when he saw Luke's car.

"Good morning, Mr. Crawford," the lawyer went up to greet him.

"Good morning," Luke said as he walked toward the gates. "Have you made all the necessary arrangements?"

"Yes, *permission* has been granted. We can immediately meet Mdm. Tanner once we're inside," the lawyer nodded and said.

**Luke** hastened his footsteps when he heard **that**.

prison, Allison was brought to the visiting room. Her eyes flashed with resentment when she

not want to meet Luke over the past three years because she could not make herself

was to blame for what happened

he had given her enough spending money, she would not have to steal Old Master Crawford's antiques, and she would not have to end up being sent to prison by her own

she had to rot in prison for three years, but she was also a shadow of her

to blame, and

hated Bianca more than she hated Luke. She would rather not meet the two of them, believing that Luke would get someone to take care of her needs while

told the lawyer she wanted to meet Luke because she was about to be

that Luke could not give her a pampered life while in prison, but things would be different once she was free. She needed Luke to provide her with

why she wanted to

watched the prison warden bring Allison into the room. Allison had maintained her figure before she was sent to prison, and it seemed like she had lost a lot of

"Mother," he called out.

## **Chapter 1494**

Luke frowned when his mother was mentioned. "Did the lawyer say anything?" He asked.

Ever since Allison was sent to prison for stealing the antiques, Luke had always wanted to visit her, but she had always refused to meet him.

He had never gotten to meet his mother for the past three years. He stopped trying and hired a lawyer to take care of her.

Old Master Crawford wanted to say something but stopped himself. Eventually, he said, "I'm not sure how to tell you. The lawyer has arranged everything. You should go there and see what's going on."

"Mm, I know," Luke said. "I'll go tomorrow."

When Tommy heard that, he said, "Daddy, I want to visit Grandma too."

Luke could tell from his grandfather's expression that the meeting with Allison tomorrow was most likely not going to end well. He said, "No, you have to go to school tomorrow."

"But I miss Grandma. Please let me go with you, Daddy," Tommy said coyly. Even though Bianca was his favorite person, Allison had pampered him too.

That was why Tommy liked Allison.

"No, children shouldn't go to those places." Luke found an excuse to refuse.

"Alright then..." Tommy said disappointedly.

When Luke saw that, he said, "You'll be able to meet Grandma again in a few months."

person convicted of theft would receive a prison sentence of fewer than three years. Allison's case involved an extraordinarily large sum of money, so she received a sentence of more than three years with the possibility of

passed in the blink of an eye, and Allison was about to be released soon. If she only wanted to meet now, Luke could tell that she was up to no

lawyer had told him before that Allison's behavior in prison was poor. That was why she was not

alright. You don't have to be so disappointed. You'll get to see her soon. Go and shower, then go to bed," Old Master Crawford said. He stood up and declared, "I'm going to

the butler heard that, he immediately went over to support

sank deep in thought as he watched his grandfather leave the scene. Why would his mother suddenly want to meet him after

stood up and said, "I'm going upstairs,

Luke replied but did not move. He contacted the lawyer and told him that he would go to the prison to visit

replied, "Alright, Mr. Crawford. I've made all the necessary arrangements. I'll wait for you at the prison entrance

replied. He paused for a while, then continued, "Did she say why she wants to meet

lawyer hesitated for a while before replying, "Mdm. Tanner said that she would tell you when she meets you tomorrow. I'm not too sure of the reason

'He's not sure?'

*Luke thought* it was not the case. Allison must have told him not to tell Luke the reason.

Prison conditions were poor, though she had a lawyer to take care of her, so her life was still **bearable**.

**Allison must** have some other special reason to *meet him*.

"Mm, see you tomorrow." Luke did not ask any more questions if the lawyer was not willing to tell him. He ended the **call**.

**The next** day, Luke asked the driver to send the children to school while he went to the **prison**.

*The prison* was on the outskirts of A City. It was the morning rush hour, so it took Luke two and a half hours to reach there.

*The lawyer* had been waiting for him for a long time. He seemed visibly relieved when he saw Luke's car.

"Good morning, Mr. Crawford," the lawyer went up to greet him.

"Good morning," Luke said as he walked toward the gates. "Have you made all the necessary arrangements?"

"Yes, *permission* has been granted. We can immediately meet Mdm. Tanner once we're inside," the lawyer nodded and said.

**Luke** hastened his footsteps when he heard **that**.

prison, Allison was brought to the visiting room. Her eyes flashed with resentment when she

not want to meet Luke over the past three years because she could not make herself

was to blame for what happened

he had given her enough spending money, she would not have to steal Old Master Crawford's antiques, and she would not have to end up being sent to prison by her own

she had to rot in prison for three years, but she was also a shadow of her

to blame, and

hated Bianca more than she hated Luke. She would rather not meet the two of them, believing that Luke would get someone to take care of her needs while

told the lawyer she wanted to meet Luke because she was about to be

that Luke could not give her a pampered life while in prison, but things would be different once she was free. She needed Luke to provide her with

why she wanted to

watched the prison warden bring Allison into the room. Allison had maintained her figure before she was sent to prison, and it seemed like she had lost a lot of

"Mother," he called out.

## **Chapter 1495**

However, the problems were only limited to Allison's face and neck. She did not feel unwell at all.

The doctor concluded that the wrinkles posed no threat to her health. However, she could not stop new wrinkles and cracks from appearing on her face.

The doctor wanted to refer her to a plastic surgeon, but prison inmates were not permitted to undergo plastic surgery procedures, not even if her son had a lot of money to hire the best plastic surgeon.

Since the wrinkles and cracks were not life-threatening, Allison eventually gave up on trying to fix them.

Luke frowned and looked at the lawyer.

The lawyer explained, "The doctors said that there's nothing wrong with Mdm. Tanner's health, and they can't find a rational explanation for what happened to her face. That's why it's been left untreated."

Luke turned his head toward Allison. He could not bear to look straight at her even though he had seen his fair share of bloody scenes.

"Why, my son? Are you scared?" Allison smiled ominously. She was her own horror movie.

Luke frowned. He was not scared, but he was not used to his mother's face being like that. He remembered that she looked glamorous before she was sent to prison.

He was mentally prepared to see Allison in a sorry state, but the truth was beyond his expectations.

find a doctor to cure you once you're released," Luke

isn't a disease. It's all your fault!" Allison roared as she glared at Luke's handsome face. He had inherited half of his genes from

However, she had become...

to stare daggers at Luke while touching her face. "Why did I even give birth to you, Luke Crawford? You've ruined

even harder when he heard that. Did she want to meet him after three years so that she could yell

wiped the sweat off his forehead. He had seen the gradual changes happening on Allison's face for the past three years. He had even asked Allison if she wanted Luke to hire a dermatologist for

However, Allison had refused every request.

that she finally met Luke after three years, that was how she treated her. Should she be afraid that Luke would

not expect Luke to do that, though he had once sent his own mother

time is limited, Mdm. Tanner. Do you have something important to tell Mr. Crawford?" The lawyer

**Even though** Allison still had a lot more to say, she had to hold her tongue for now. She would be released from prison soon, and she would return to a life of luxury, but **her face...**

*She* dared not even look into the mirror. How was she going to face *other people*?

*Allison glared* at Luke resentfully and said, "I'll be out soon. Get a doctor for me as soon as possible and *fix this*."

**Luke looked** at her face and said nothing.

*He* wondered how proficient a plastic surgeon must be to save Allison's face.

The wrinkles had already affected the subcutaneous layer of her skin. Only a chronic disease could have caused **that**.

"*Why* aren't you speaking?" Seeing that Luke was silent, Allison thought he was unwilling to help her. She pointed a finger at him and yelled shrilly, "You're the one who caused all this. If you won't find me a doctor, I'd *rather die!*"

**Luke thought** that Allison's reaction was understandable. After all, she was a vain woman.

"*I'll find* a doctor for you," **he said**.

*Allison* calmed down a little after hearing that, though she was worried that he was only paying lip service. "Don't even think of deceiving me. I won't leave this place with this face. If you lie to me, I'll let the whole world know that you're an ingrate."

hated being threatened. His gaze instantly turned cold. "I can only bring a doctor here for a consultation. The treatment can only begin after

first, Allison did not want to agree to that. However, she thought for a while and realized that there were many things she could not do while in prison, so she had to agree to

heh, fine. I want the best plastic surgeon and dermatologist," she chuckled coldly

first year, the condition of her skin had deteriorated quickly. The second and third years were about the on her face were numb to the repeated cracks that appeared. Even if new cracks appeared, she would not feel

not reply to her. He stood up and walked toward the

that Allison had achieved what she wanted, so there was no reason for him to linger

also stood up when he saw

him, "If he hasn't arranged a doctor for me in two days, you have to call him and remind him! I need the doctor to fix my

lawyer agreed while wiping the sweat off his forehead, though he was unwilling. He was not paid enough to

## Chapter 1496

After Luke left the prison, he gave a call to Johann. He found out that Johann was performing consultations at the outpatient department and had no operations scheduled, so he made an appointment with him and went over to the hospital.

Johann had already informed the nurse at the registration counter that Luke was coming, so Luke went straight to his room.

"Let me deal with this patient first!" When Luke walked in, Johann was telling the patient to turn around and take a deep breath.

Luke leaned on the wall. "No rush."

After checking the patient's vitals, Johann scheduled an X-ray for him. After the patient left, Johann closed the door and grinned, "You don't look like you're not in a rush."

If Luke had nothing urgent, he would usually find Johann after work.

After all, Johann was one of the most popular doctors in A City. Luke had to have something incredibly important to take up Johann's precious consultation time.

Luke looked at Johann for a short while and said, "I need your help with something."

"You rarely sound so polite," Johann raised his eyebrows and said as he returned to his seat. Usually, Luke would directly tell him his request and not be so tactful.

"It's about my mother. After she was sent to prison, her skin began to crack. Now, her face is full of scars," Luke said.

Johann frowned. "Do you have a photo?"

That's from three years ago. Things have gotten even more serious since then," Luke said while showing Johann a photo on his phone. The lawyer had taken the photo three years ago, but Allison told him that she did not want Luke

looked at the photo closely and rubbed his chin. "That's very serious. Didn't she see

want to meet me. Also, the doctors didn't find anything wrong with her health. None of the common treatment methods

can't solve this problem with common treatment methods. It's just that it has gotten so serious, yet it doesn't affect her health. This isn't some ordinary skin disease. I'll have to perform a thorough examination," Johann said. He was not an expert in dermatology, but he could see that it was not an ordinary

She finally decided to meet me because she wanted to have it fixed. Come with me to meet her tomorrow if you're free," Luke

I can also bring some equipment to take a blood sample. I can't say that I'm confident in treating her though, it's the first time I've seen something like this. Why don't you get another person to come along too?" Johann said. He had a hunch that Allison's symptoms were caused by a drug or a

need some help performing the examination or even running

an expert in diagnosing diseases from symptoms exhibited by the body. If the patient's symptoms were caused by something external, he would need an expert in that

Luke did not take long to guess the person Johann had in

also thought of asking Luca for

Johann nodded and said. "Luca is a better expert than me

**Johann rarely** admitted his admiration for another person's skills. Luca was such an individual.

Luke gazed at him grimly.

Johann rubbed his cheek and asked, "What's wrong? Is there something on my face?"

"Do you have feelings for Luca?" Luke asked. Somehow, he was not very happy when he considered the possibility that Johann might have a crush on Luca, as though Luca was someone very dear *to him*.

**He** did not quite understand that feeling though. Bianca should have been the person dearest to him. He was not going to change his affection for Luca just because Bianca *was missing*.

"No, no! Don't even think about it!" Johann quickly denied it when he sensed the hostility in Luke's gaze. "All I have for Dr. Craw is genuine admiration for her professional work. I believe she will be able to help your mother."

"Mm." Even though Johann denied it, Luke did not change what he *thought*.

*He could* still feel that Johann had some other feelings for *Luca*.

Johann was peerless in his field of expertise. He did not get any other doctor to be his assistant, and he would never use another doctor's opinion in his **diagnoses**.

*Even so*, he had never made a mistake. Many fresh medical graduates wanted to be his assistant, but he rejected all of them.

*Despite* being a loner, he was quite popular in the hospital. Everyone genuinely admired *his skills*.

let her know. You'll just have to go to the prison tomorrow. I'll get the lawyer to make arrangements,"

I'll adjust my schedule now," Johann

that Johann had agreed to it, Luke

already lunchtime by the time he returned to T

did not immediately return to his office. Instead, he went to the twelfth floor, where the laboratory was. He knew from daily observation that Luca usually stayed in her office during lunchtime while Rhett would get lunch

guessed that Luca was in her office, just

down the corridor. Everyone else was in the cafeteria, so there was not

walked in front of

for a few seconds before knocking on the door. Johann was right; without Luca's help, there might be no way to

Luca's voice was heard

opened the door and saw Luca sitting in front of her desk browsing some documents. "Are you free now?" He

## **Chapter 1497**

Luca tried to read Luke's expression, but he did not express any emotion on his face.

"Should I prepare anything?" She knew that she could not refuse, so she asked him more questions, hoping to find out what he wanted from her.

"No," Luke said and left her office. He did not give her any chance to ask any more questions.

Luca was speechless as she watched the door close. Judging from Luke's attitude, he did not seem like he wanted to ask her out on a date. If that were the case, why else would Luke ask her out?

She could not think of a reason...

However, she was quite relieved that Luke did not ask too much of her.

The next day, Luca went downstairs at half-past seven in the morning. True to his word, Luke's car was parked next to the neighborhood entrance, and he was already waiting for her.

As she approached the car, Luke got out of the driver's seat and opened the door on the other side for her.

"Good morning, Mr. Crawford," she greeted him.

"Good morning. Let's go," Luke said tersely.

Luca bent over slightly and stepped into the car. When she wanted to close the door, she found that Luke had already closed the door.

Silently, she fastened her seatbelt while watching Luke walk around the car.

returned to his seat, fastened the seatbelt, and

that he did not turn on the navigation app, which meant that he was quite familiar with the destination. After a while, she could not hold back her curiosity anymore and asked, "Mr. Crawford, where are we

"The prison," Luke said truthfully.

was discreetly shocked when she heard that. She tried to guess the reason Luke wanted to bring her to visit a prison. She knew that he was not going to detain her - After all, if he really wanted to do so, he would not have sent her to

was afraid that she might see someone she knew in the prison, for example,



tried to contact Amur again for the past few days, but Amur remained uncontactable. That only made her more anxious than

I need your help," Luke said. Even though he had told her where they were going, he did not tell her the reason

felt a little relieved when she heard that he wanted her to help, instead of bringing her to meet someone she knew. Perhaps Luke had a friend who was injured in prison and needed medical

Queenie and the impostor Bianca, it was not surprising that Luke and Johann trusted in her

said. He did not tell her any more details, and she did not ask for them

any case, she would find out about it when she

Luca was born and raised in A City, she had never gone to visit the prison other than visiting

*The world* outside those prison walls was a free and democratic one. Things were the opposite within those walls. The prison inmates were bound by *strict rules*.

Only criminals would be sent there.

**Ever** since she was abducted to the Island of Despair, Luca had lost contact with Marie. However, it would be several more years before Marie would be released.

**In any** case, she was not very close to Marie anyway. After Luca returned, she did not bother catching up with her.

*Luca* walked next to Luke. They met up with the lawyer, and Luca realized that Johann was *there too*.

"Good morning, Dr. Park," she greeted him.

*Johann* waved at her. "Good morning, Dr. Crawford. Have you had breakfast?"

"I have," Luca replied with a smile. She enjoyed Johann's presence; his jovial attitude could light up any room. "How about you, Dr. Park?" She **asked**.

"Of course I have. We have a major task on our hands today," Johann said. He noticed that only Luke's car was parked by the roadside, so he asked, "Did you come here in **his car**?"

"Yes," Luca said and nodded.

"*Sigh*, that man is playing favorites. He asked me to come, but he didn't want to give me a ride. It took me two and a half hours to get here. How tiring!" Johann grumbled though he maintained the smile on his face. "When are you going to treat me equally, Mr. Crawford? You could've brought me along. Your car can definitely fit another **passenger, right?**"

a cold glance at him. "I know you love driving, and I don't think you'd be happy sitting in

shrugged. He had bought a new car recently, and he was quite fond of driving it. He only said what he said earlier to make fun of Luke. He continued, "That's not necessarily true. I'd be happy to sit at the back if there's a beautiful lady in the car. I won't give you any

was inexplicably unhappy when Johann mentioned Luca, but he did not show it on his lawyer said, "I've made the necessary arrangements, Mr. Crawford. You can go in after you sign and signed on that it was the standard form for visitors. She and Johann signed their names on their respective the lawyer brought them to the visiting expect that I would get to make a day trip to the prison again," Johann Luke did not say anything. not say anything either. She guessed that Luke should know more than her, but she was not going to ask anything when Luke was lawyer stopped in front of the entrance of the visiting block and spoke to Luke, "Mr. Crawford, Mdm. Tanner doesn't want to meet you. She only wants to meet Luca heard "Mdm. Tanner," she knew that she was going to

#### **Chapter 1498**

Johann nodded and said casually, "It seems that you've been paying attention to Mr. Crawford." Johann had no particular intention when he said it but Luca read into it. She lowered her gaze to look at the cyan floor tiles and replied softly, "I noticed it by accident." Johann did not notice the change in her tone. All he was thinking about was Allison's situation. The prison guard took them to the visitation room. Luca did not prepare anything and walked in empty-handed, but Johann brought a bunch of equipment that was packed in a medical kit. The guard asked him to open the box so that he could check the equipment inside. Johann cooperated and opened the box for him to inspect. After the inspection, no contraband was found so the prison guard walked Allison out. Luca looked at the other door where a frail-looking woman was led out by the guards. The woman had her head lowered, so they could not see her face. Luca noticed her thin arms and noted that the woman seemed malnourished. Her skin looked sallow and pitted. In the past, Allison lived an exquisite lifestyle, so it made sense that she was not used to being in prison. However, Luca did not expect her to look so hard-pressed. Allison looked like someone who was sick all year round and could not absorb any nourishment no matter what she ate. Luca frowned with confusion. 'Why does she look so terrible?'

not the kind of person who would ignore things like this. He would have done something if he saw his mother in this

although the food in prison was not as good as the outside world, it was not terrible enough to make someone

down." The guard gave Allison a light push, causing her body to sway a little. She

Allison stared at the guard viciously.

roared. "Why are you looking at me?! Hurry up. You have work

retracted her gaze, turned her head slowly, and looked at the three people sitting across

was startled when she saw Allison's face. However, after seeing many horrifying things in her life, she was still fairly calm on the

Johann was shocked at his core.

photo Luke showed him was a photo from two years ago. At that time, although Allison's face had lesions, those injuries were far less serious compared to what she looked like at this

like an old wicked witch. The wrinkles on her face were better described as ravines rather than wrinkles. There were too many wrinkles that they looked like rolling hills. It was hard to see

you here?" Allison said in a dissatisfied tone when she recognized that it was Johann who had come to

*She knew* that Johann had top-notch medical skills but he was just a surgeon, not a dermatologist or an *aesthetician*.

*Allison was* dissatisfied with Luke for asking Johann to treat her, so she looked to the other side.

Allison was even more dissatisfied when she saw that the woman in front of her was young and looked nothing like a senior doctor. "Luke brought both of you here to make a fool *of me?*"

**Johann shook** his head and answered, "Ms. Tanner, Luke brought us here to treat you."

"*You two?*" Allison looked at them with disdain. "One of you is a surgeon and the other one looks like she just graduated from university. How can any of you help with my plastic **surgery?**"

'Plastic surgery?!'

*Luca* raised her eyebrows. Even if Allison insisted on going for surgery, she would not be able to look like she used *to*.

"**Ms.** Tanner, your face can't be saved with plastic surgery," Johann said helplessly. It seemed that prison had not changed Allison's bad temper. She was more difficult to deal with than before.

Allison's eyes widened as she yelled, "What nonsense are you *spewing?!*"

**She** touched her face and firmly believed that plastic surgery could return her to her former **glory**.

the doctor at the prison said there was no way to solve her symptoms, she did not ask to see Luke because she planned to find a plastic surgeon to fix her face after she got out of

scared when she heard Johann say that plastic surgery would not solve her problems. She would never allow herself to leave prison with a wrecked

nonsense are you talking about? You're a surgeon, so you know nothing about plastic surgery!" Allison continued to deceive herself by denying

out his hands helplessly and said, "Your skin is comparable to that of an 80-year-old. It's experiencing a constant loss of moisture and there's peeling on the skin's surface. Even if you go for the medical route to help you replenish moisture and fill in fat, it'll not keep up with the rate of loss. To be in the situation that you're in, there's something wrong with your body's function. Luke asked us to come over and do a check-up for you. Ms. Tanner, please cooperate with us so that we can find the root of the problem. After we find a solution, your body will eventually recover and you'll be

to him and did not believe him whole-heartedly. However, she had hope when she heard that she would her throat and was just as arrogant as before when she said, "Go ahead, do what you need to

out a tool to draw blood and said, "First, I'll draw a tube of blood and take it to the hospital for

here did a blood test and they haven't found any problems. They even said that I'm in great health. What do you think you can find?" Allison continued to pick on Johann verbally but she still reached out her hand and motioned for him to draw her

elegantly. He did not react with anger when faced with her provocation. Luca kept silent and watched as Johann drew her blood

couldn't find anything before, it doesn't mean that we can't find anything now. Moreover, there is more equipment in the hospital and there are more tests that we can run. You'll know if we can find something then," he

snorted and watched him draw two tubes of blood. He then held the cotton swab against

## **Chapter 1499**

Allison's pulse was steady, and there seemed to be nothing wrong with it.

Luca stared at the peeling skin on Allison's face and asked, "Have you taken any special medication or used any uncommon products before you arrived at the prison?"

Allison smiled contemptuously and said, "I only take big-brand health supplements. Are these considered special medications?"

"Can you tell me what you consumed?" Luca guessed that her condition had something to do with her lifestyle before she went to jail.

"There's no problem when others take it, so why would it be a problem when I take it? All of the skincare products and cosmetics that I use are branded. You can't afford them." Allison did not forget to show off as she spoke.

Luca reacted neither haughtily nor humbly. She did not humor Allison but instead asked, "Can you tell me the brands that you use? Also, does this only affect your face?"

Allison frowned and replied, "Yes, it only affects my face. It was three years ago, so I don't remember the details. I don't remember anything. I'm not allowed to use those things here. I think my skin is used to the good stuff so when I came to prison, my skin didn't adapt to my surroundings. Maybe that's why it became like this."

One's skin would get worse if it did not get the nutrients it deserved, but it would not deteriorate to the state that Allison was in.

Luca noticed that she was extremely uncooperative. She exchanged a look with Johann and said, "I found nothing."

"Okay." Johann nodded in response.

Since Allison was on the topic, she asked, "By the way, if my skin turned into this because I was not allowed to use skincare products, can I sue the prison?"

The lawyer was dumbfounded when he heard what she said.

prison? Because the prison didn't allow her to use

was the first time he had heard of something so

Tanner, calm down. Aren't the doctors treating you now?" The lawyer answered her with a smile on my skin became the way it is now because of this, I'll take these people to court!" Allison would not not worried that she would offend the prison guards by saying such

saw that they had done everything they were supposed to do, he whispered in the

lawyer nodded, looked at Allison, and asked, "Ms. Tanner, that's it for today. You still have a few minutes left. Do you want to see Mr.

relationship with him was done the moment he sent me to jail!" Allison said in a

listened to her ruthless words. Although Luke had done something to hurt her, he was in

years, Allison had refused to forgive Luke. Luca felt sorry for the man waiting

had been in jail for three years without realizing that she had done

**The lawyer** listened to her and could not help but sigh in his heart. Luke's mother thought of herself as something. She was being punished by law for her wrongdoing yet she shifted all the blame on Luke using the excuse of him being *unfilial*.

Even so, she was still shameless enough to ask Luke to get a doctor to treat **her**...

**After they** were done talking, Allison was taken back to her cell by the guards. Luca and Johann walked out together.

Luke stood outside the door and asked, "What's going *on*?"

"I **drew** her blood. We'll know more after the blood test. I want to make it clear that the blood test is only one of the steps. If we're lucky, we'll find something, but if we're not, we may not find anything," **Johann said.**

*Luca reminded him, "Remember to do the toxicology test. However, I think this may not have to do with poison."*

"Tell me more?" Johann looked at her.

"If she was poisoned, it would've affected her whole body and not just her face. Ms. Tanner is fine everywhere else except for her face. Her skin is rough and sallow but she's not sick," Luca explained her **thoughts.**

"**Yes,** it doesn't look like it's poisoning. If it was because of drugs, the affected areas would be more than just the face." Johann agreed **with her.**

**Luca** looked at Luke and said, "Mr. Crawford, did Ms. Tanner live with you before **this?**"

"**No,** she had her own villa." Luke shook his head.

*"Has her items been cleared from her villa?" Luca asked.*

are servants who clean the place regularly, but I told them to keep everything," Luke said. Although Allison previously stayed in a villa that was not under his name and it was currently unoccupied, he still kept the villa squeaky

to go take a look and see if I can find anything," Luca said. If her belongings had not been cleaned up and if Luca was lucky, she might be able to find the skincare products that Allison used

take you there now."

the box and said, "Okay, go ahead. I'll take the blood sample and go run some

They walked out of the prison together and then got into their

drove back to the city center, bringing Luca to the villa where Allison

in her heart when she looked at the villa in front

disappeared, Allison was afraid that she would be left out of the will, so she cut ties with the family and took a sum of money from Luke's account. She then bought the villa and enjoyed her life

plotted against Old Master Crawford to maintain her

not expect her to be so

Luke parked the car, he opened the code-locked door and pushed it open to let

## **Chapter 1500**

He had only been in Allison this villa once or twice, and he did not pay too much attention to the furnishings.

However, Luca seemed to be familiar with Allison's villa. She knew what was there without Luke having to tell her.

Luke said nothing and continued to observe Luca.

After she walked into the beauty room, she stood there and took a few glances. The skincare products on the shelf were not dusty because of the regular cleaning. However, she thought that the products were likely expired.

"Mr. Crawford, can I take these?" Luca pointed to the bottles and jars on the shelf. There were several well-known international brands that she was familiar with. As for the others, although the packaging looked premium, she was unsure what brands they were.

"Do you suspect that these caused my mother's skin to deteriorate to such an extent?" Luke asked.

Luca nodded. To be cautious, she said, "I have such suspicions, but I'll know more after I analyze the ingredients."

"You can take all of these," Luke said. These skincare products had expired, so Allison would not be able to use them even after she was released from prison.

With his consent, Luca found a bag in the beauty room and put all the products in the bag.

"Anything else you need?" Luke asked.

Luca thought about it for a while. She reckoned that she would not be able to find what Allison ate before this. On top of that, the food would not likely be the real culprit of why her skin was aging so rapidly.

She shook her head and said, "These are all used on the face. We'll find out more after the test."

Luca nodded. After Luca grabbed the skincare products, they

went back to Luca's car and noticed that he was headed to T Corporation, so she did not say

"Do you want to study these in the

lab?" Allison remembered that all her research equipment was in her apartment and that the police had not released the crime scene. She looked at Luke and said, "Mr. Crawford, can you help me get all the equipment from

my apartment?" Allison remembered that the equipment was ordered by Abel on the internet in advance. If she had to place another order, she was afraid that it would not be delivered

in time. Considering Allison's situation, the earlier she could diagnose her, the earlier she could prescribe the right medicine to

her. Luke could easily help get the equipment out of her apartment but he did not say too much in front

of her. Luca nodded and reminded him, "If you can take it from my apartment, can you help send it to

my apartment?" Allison had a lot of equipment. It would be difficult for her to move all of them to Luke's apartment

felt as if she knew that he had a way to get her everything that she needed. He did not explain anything and agreed without saying anything

they arrived at the office, Luca took the elevator from the underground parking lot to the ground floor instead of going in through the company's

one saw her getting out of the car with

*After Luca* returned to the floor where the research labs were, she placed Allison's skincare products in the office cabinet and called Rhett. She thought of asking him to help fill in a request for *leave*.

*Rhett touched* the back of his head and said with confusion, "Dr. Craw, weren't you working off-site today? Why do you need to prepare a leave application **form**?"

*"Off-site?" Luca* raised her brows. "Who told *you that*?"

"**Mr.** Doyle. He specifically ran to our floor and told me that you'd be working off-site in the first half of the day and you'd return to the office later," Rhett told her everything even though he **was puzzled**.

*Considering Luca's* reaction, it seemed that she did not **work off-site**.

They were doing research, so they did not work off-site often.

'**What's** more, if Luca was working off-site, she could have just let me know. Why did she get Jason to relay the message?'

**Jason was** Luke's subordinate, so he thought that Luke had something to do with *it*.

**Rhett thought** of the gossip circulating in the company. At first, he chose not to believe it but he gradually wondered if Luca and Luke had something going on.

*"Oh, I see."* Luca snapped out of it. She sighed helplessly in her heart when she saw Rhett's expression. It seemed that Luke had left orders for Jason and got him to inform the department of her *whereabouts*.

**Rhett came** back to his senses and asked cautiously, "Dr. Craw, do you still need me to apply for leave on your behalf?"

Please let the others know that we'll have a meeting in ten minutes,"

Rhett nodded and left

up the documents on her table and left her office carrying her

The floor of the CEO's office.

into the CEO's office with a cup of coffee and placed it carefully on

Crawford, how is Madam doing?" he

haven't found anything yet and will be running the research soon." Luke took a sip of the coffee and thought of Luca's request. He said to Jason, "Luca's apartment can

I'll inform them now." Jason understood what he meant and nodded



after the apartment is released following the relevant processes, move all of her equipment to my apartment." Luke felt that he might have not made it clear enough so he said,

I'll attend to it now," Jason said. After he left Luke's office, he quickly attended to Luke's

Luca returned to the apartment after she got off work, she saw two men in security guard uniforms standing at the door of her apartment. When they saw her walk in, they smiled and greeted her, "Ms. Luca,

you are..." Luca looked at