

## **Be Gentle 1501**

### **Chapter 1501**

After the security guards left, Luca opened the box and took out all the equipment. She started the installation process.

She was familiar with the equipment, and it did not take much time for her to assemble everything.

After she was done, Luca took out the skincare products she brought back from Allison's villa and checked the brands one by one. There were only two of them that were from brands she did not know.

She decided to start with these two products.

Luca casually ate some bread that she bought on her way back and started analyzing the components.

It was not a difficult task but it would take some time. She worked until midnight and finally got the component analysis report of the two products.

One of the serums included bleach, an alcohol mixture, and an unknown chemical.

Luca frowned. Except for the unknown chemical, the other ingredients were very cheap. 'Why would Allison use a product like this?'

She looked at the ingredient list and instantly understood that although the serum was harmful to the skin, it was the kind that could show amazing effects with one use. What Allison did not know was that the effect could be achieved only because the irritating chemicals were causing damage to the surface of the skin.

Luca knew that Allison would not take her skincare lightly. She might not have known the ingredients in it and was tricked by its effects.

She looked at the other chemical substance, then at the time.

It was already three o'clock in the morning.

After she thought about it, she continued to extract the chemical substance to see if she could find something.

could not find out what kind of chemical substance it was although she worked until the first break of dawn. Luca wrote down the combination of chemical substances and recorded

then yawned and headed for the

into her at the elevator and noticed how tired she looked. He was concerned and wanted to check on her. "Dr. Craw, did you not sleep well last

touched her face and replied, "Is it

look dreadful. Um, and you have dark circles." Rhett reminded

smiled helplessly. When she realized that it was time to work, she had no time to put on makeup and just hurriedly washed up before she left

ate breakfast on the

it was because this matter involved Luke's mother, so she went all out and stayed up all night just to analyze these

was the only one she was willing to go to the ends of the earth

looked at Rhett and asked, "By the way, I'll show you a report. Have a look and see if you recognize this a piece of paper from the briefcase and handed it to

it. The elevator reached their floor and Luca saw that Rhett did not realize they were supposed to get off the elevator, so she tugged on his sleeve and reminded him. "We're here, let's get off the

**Rhett came** back to his senses and said quickly, "*Oh, okay.*"

**The** two stepped out of the elevator without noticing that someone in the corner was taking a photo of them with a phone.

*Luca* looked at Rhett and asked, "Do you know this *chemical combination*?"

"It looks familiar. It looks like a research project my professor is doing, which involves a similar combination of elements." Rhett frowned as he recalled what he **remembered**.

*Luca asked*, "Do you still remember whether the research on this type of substance shows that it's good or bad?"

*"I remember* that it's bad. It has a certain effect on the human body, so it was advised to have minimal contact with it. However, I'm not 100% sure. Dr. Craw, where did you find out about this kind of substance?" Rhett asked. Those in pharmaceuticals generally did not come into contact with these chemicals, so it was normal for them not to know about this.

*"A skincare* product. I want to find out more about what's going on. Can you help me?" **Luca asked**.

*"Of course, I'll go ask my professor now."* Rhett agreed without hesitation and used his phone to take a picture of the information on **the paper**.

Luca nodded.

**She** went to her office, put her things away, and then gave Jason a call on the internal line. "Mr. Doyle, is Mr. Crawford in the **office now**?"

"He's around. Dr. Craw, do you want to see Mr. Crawford?" Jason asked.

*"Yes, I have something to report to him. It's about Ms. Tanner,"* Luca *said*.

a minute, I'll check with him," Jason replied, put his phone aside, and left the special

listened to the sound of his footsteps that got farther and farther. She waited

a while, Jason came back, picked up the phone, and said to Luca, who was on the other end of the phone, "Dr. Craw, Mr. Crawford wants you to come up

go up right away," Luca said while she picked up the documents and went to the top

passed by Jason's office, she asked, "Mr. Doyle, do you need to inform Mr. Crawford that I'm boss is waiting for you inside. You can just knock on the door and go in," Jason said with a smile on walked to the entrance of Luke's office, and knocked on

A low voice came

open the door of the office and saw Luke sitting on the executive chair. He was working on the documents. His focused appearance made her feel bad for

years ago, Luke would always bring work home so that he could accompany her as much as possible at that time, when she saw how hard he worked, she could never bear to

I have something to report to you." The moment Luke looked up and met her gaze, Luca immediately snapped out of it and looked at

## **Chapter 1502**

Luke listened to her explanation and asked the question that Allison was most concerned about, "Can her skin be cured?"

Luca stayed silent for a while and told him the worst-case scenario, "Even if we find out what the chemical substance is, the condition of her face may not be reversed. It's been too long. All I can do is guarantee that the skin on her face will no longer deteriorate. It would be very difficult for it to return to its original appearance."

Luke nodded and understood the logic behind her statement.

If Allison had not been stubborn and insisted on standing against Luke, her situation would not have progressed to where it was now.

"Mr. Crawford, the other skincare products used by Ms. Tanner are all well-known brands except for this serum... I think someone deliberately harmed your mother," Luca said.

Luke nodded. During that time, his attention was on Bianca and T Corporation. He did not know much about Allison's situation, but if someone had deliberately plotted against her, he would be able to investigate it even though three years had passed.

Luca was puzzled seeing him nodding without saying anything else.

She wanted to remind Luke about the two sisters who had served Allison before.

However, she was Luca, not Bianca. Hence, it was not her place to say anything.

Luke noticed that she seemed hesitant to speak and asked, "Do you have anything else to add?"

"No, Mr. Crawford. I'll report to you when I find out more about the chemical substance. I'm going to head back to my office now." Luca picked up the documents and stood up.

Luke did not say anything. After he reacted with a hum, he continued to look at his documents.

Luca walked to the entrance of the office, she heard him say, "This is not that urgent, so don't stay up late because of

did not look back but touched

an all-nighter, her skin condition must be very bad, not to mention the dark circles under her

Luca think that I rushed this to please

not dare to think too much and hurriedly left with the files. She ran into Jason in the

are you done?" he asked with

and replied, "It was a simple update with Mr. Crawford on the analysis done

Jason looked at the dark circles under her eyes and said, "Dr. Craw, the dark circles under your eyes from staying up all night is obvious. If the task is urgent, Mr. Crawford will tell you. If he didn't say anything, you don't have to work overtime for it.

Luca smiled and replied, "I know."

Jason checked in on Allison. Considering that she was about to be released from prison, if her condition did not get better, Luke may never hear the end

"Terrible." Luca was honest.

*When Jason* heard her reply, he sighed and shook his head. "That's it, the Crawford family will never *have peace*."

Luca knew what he meant.

As the mistress of Luke's father, Allison had always lived the life of a socialite. Her favorite pastime was competing with Susan Armstrong. Now that her face had become as such, she would be ridiculed and the two would get into a catfight upon her return to Crawford Manor. In that situation, Luke would be caught in **the middle**.

"**Mr. Doyle**, I'm going downstairs first," Luca said.

*Jason nodded*. He realized that he should not have discussed Luke's family affairs in front of her, so he said, "Dr. Craw, don't take what I said just now to **heart**."

"I understand." Luca knew what he **meant**.

In the afternoon, Rhett went to Luca with some updates.

Luca looked at the chemical composition report and frowned. The materials used to synthesize the chemical substance were very cheap. It was nothing close to *being high-class*.

**However**, such an inexpensive chemical substance could neutralize the alcohol, bleach, and fluorescent agent in the **serum**.

*That was* why when consumers used the product on their faces, they would not feel uncomfortable and the effect **was immediate**.

Moreover, this chemical substance was comparable to a drug. It was just as addictive as many **psychotropic drugs**.

precise, the skin would become dependent on this chemical substance. Once the consumer stopped using it, the skin would be dehydrated, the fat layer and the epidermis layer would separate, and there would be a strong reaction. Eventually, the consumer's skin would end up like Allison's

was that it

if consumers used the serum again, the fat layer would no longer plump up and be able to support enough, it's irreversible." Luca sighed helplessly after she read

Craw, there are not many chemical factories using this chemical substance. Cosmetics manufacturers would not dare to use it because once it's detected, they would be fined. What beauty product did you find this substance in?" Rhett

product that has no name, no address, and no production and sanitation license code," Luca said. Proper cosmetics research and development companies would not dare use such things but there were always unscrupulous businesses that used the substance to obtain

put it into production but products as such were not generally marketed and sold in the market. Looking at the exquisite packaging, their target market should be

girls who served Allison before were probably one of the sales

not know how many people were using this unregistered skincare product. She filed a report and sent it to Luke's mailbox. She then sent another copy

After a while, Johann called her.

I didn't expect you to find out about the matter so quickly. The blood analysis report just came

## **Chapter 1503**

"Dr. Craw, are you free now? If possible, I'll go to your company. Let's discuss Ms. Tanner's treatment plan," Johann said.

Allison's current state was not something that could be solved by cosmetic surgery. She needed medication.

"Mm, I'm free now. I'll see you at Cafe Perfecto below T Corporation in 20 minutes." Luca thought that this matter should be attended to sooner rather than later. If she found a treatment plan for Allison earlier, Allison might be saved from another day of suffering.

After they agreed on the time, Luca let Rhett know and went downstairs.

She sat in the corner of Cafe Perfecto and ordered an americano.

Johann walked toward her as soon as he stepped into Cafe Perfecto. He noticed how haggard she looked and reminded her. "Dr. Craw, you don't have to go all out like this next time."

"I'm fine." Luca took a sip of coffee. This was her first cup of coffee that day. It was effective at helping her stay alert and awake.

"Look at the dark circles on your face. On top of that, you're drinking coffee to stay awake." Johann laid it all out and said, "You should know that overconsumption of coffee will affect the body."

"I don't usually drink coffee." Luca smiled. She felt warm knowing that someone cared about her. "Yesterday, I was thinking of trying my luck and didn't expect to spot the serum. When I saw the composition analysis, I knew it was not quite right and continued to study it. It was dawn before I knew it."

"I'm envious of Luke for having an employee as great as you." Johann deliberately mentioned his jealousy to liven up the atmosphere.

As soon as he finished speaking, Luke's voice sounded. "If you're envious, you can also come work for T Corporation so that you can also have such an excellent colleague."

two looked in the direction of the voice together. They did not notice before this that Luke had walked into

overheard the conversation between

awkwardly and replied, "Are you kidding me? I'm a doctor. I can't do anything except for surgery. What position would I hold in

can buy you a hospital," Luke sat in the other chair with Johann on his left and Luca on his

applauded and replied, "Sure enough, you have deep pockets and can easily afford a hospital. Are you planning to make me the

you want to, that position is yours," Luke said with a blank

don't want to." Johann picked up the menu on the side and ordered a glass

Luke ordered an americano.

said cheekily, "Can you not? The both of you even ordered the same

at the cup of americano that Luca was holding in her hand. He was not the biggest fan of americano but when he saw Luca drinking it, he suddenly had the urge to try the iced americano from Cafe

Luca was also looking at him. She was well aware that Luke hated drinking americano. He had even mentioned it before. However, this time...

**She glanced** at her cup. 'Is it because I'm *drinking it*?'

In an instant, she denied her thoughts and kept persuading herself not to **overthink**.

"*Cough*, cough. Okay, I'm done joking around." Luke looked at Johann coldly and that made Johann feel as though the pores all over his body were shrinking from the coldness of his gaze. He immediately changed the subject. "Dr. Craw, let's discuss the treatment plan?"

"Yeah." Luca nodded and handed him the composition analysis report. "These are all the ingredients, among which the fluorescent agent and the bleach have the highest percentage. I believe it's also why she continued to use *this serum*."

**Fluorescent agents** and bleaching agents could instantly improve the skin's fairness, which was why Allison kept using **the serum**.

"**This...**" Johann looked at the ingredient analysis report and was a little speechless. "The person who created this serum is planning to rob and kill the *consumers*?"

If the human body absorbed too much of this substance, it might easily cause cells **to mutate**.

All of them were carcinogens.

Luca nodded and took out a prescription. "These are some herbs that I prescribed. Although they won't help much in terms of repairing the skin, grinding it into powder and then adding water to make a mud mask can prevent her skin from deteriorating. I'm not a medication expert, so Dr. Park, I'll leave that to *you*."

at the list and was not sure where to start. He said, "Give me a night to think about

Luca nodded and looked at Luke. "Mr. Crawford, I have something else to

"What?" Luke replied.

said earlier that it would be of little significance to perform surgery, but I still want you to find a specialist in cosmetics surgery to perform surgery on Ms. Tanner,"

from Allison's personality, if she was told that she could not have surgery to solve her skin problems, she would make a big fuss and blame Luke

even think that he was unwilling to treat her and the resentment in her heart would continue to

he found a cosmetic surgery specialist to perform surgery and treatment on her, even if it did not work, she would not continue to complain

Craw's proposal is a good one. With Allison's current skin condition, it's meaningless and ineffective. However, she won't give up on it. Having a cosmetics surgery specialist treat her will help her understand that these treatments are pointless and she'll stop bothering you." Johann agreed with

he did not have much contact with Allison, he knew how

Luca nodded.

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Luca nodded. With their help, there was no need to worry too much about Allison.

Johann touched his chin and smiled cheekily. "Luke, you're being too polite today, I'm not used to it."

Luca gave him a cold stare but did not answer. "Get the bill."

The waiter hurried over to take the banknotes in his hand when he heard Luca.

"Keep the change," Luke said.

Luca drank the last sip of her coffee and lowered her eyes. Luke's obsession with cleanliness remained unchanged. He never asked for change because he felt that the banknotes that others touched were dirty.

Since there was no need for change, that was the tip for the waiter. He happily thanked Luke, "Thank you, Sir."

Luke stood up and looked at Luca. "Let's go up."

Luca nodded. Since the boss had given an order, she could not continue to laze around in the cafe so she stood up.

Johann saw that they were leaving and found it pointless to stay there alone, so he stood up as well. Suddenly, he remembered something and asked, "Luke, T Corporation is organizing an employee trip?"

Luke glanced at him and said, "Mm".

Johann followed behind him and asked curiously, "Where are you traveling to this time?"

Luke did not answer and just walked out.

his head and asked Luca, "Dr. Craw, are you going on the

we're going to B City." Luca nodded. She felt a little disconsolate when she thought of Amur, who was still in B

not sure if she could get in contact with Amur after arriving in

City? It's a wonderful place. Why don't I go with all of you? I'll pay for my own expenses, of course," Johann said, "I haven't traveled for a long time. Dr. Craw, would

Luca could answer, Luke asked, "What are you going

a vacation. What else would I be there for? It's fun to hang out with friends," Johann said with 'Friend?'

his gaze sharpened. 'The friend he's referring to is

is a team-building activity for T Corporation. Are you sure anyone has the time to spend with you?" he asked, isolating the other party with

T Corporation's employee trip, if I'm on the same high-speed train with all of you, I can travel with Dr. Craw, right?" Johann looked at Luca with a smile. "There are two acquaintances with me and that's always better than traveling

is planning to book out the entire high-speed train," Luke said as he stepped out of the cafe and walked toward the entrance of

train?" Johann opened his

T Corporation had deep pockets, there was no such need to book out the entire high-speed train.



**'There** are so many seats on the high-speed train. Does he have that many employees in T Corporation? Maybe he does not want others to disturb him... For example, people like myself...'

"Dr. Park, I'm going to work." Luca looked at him being dumbfounded and could not help but feel a little sympathetic.

*She could* tell that Johann did not really want to go on a trip with them. She thought that he was just trying to tease Luke.

'Is there any point in using me to tease *Luke*?'

Luca felt that it was unnecessary but she did not want to say anything. After she bade farewell to Johann, she planned to *head back*.

**When he** heard that, Johann smiled and said, "Okay, Dr. Craw. Make sure you get some rest. Let's have coffee together when you have **the time**."

*Luke* was not too far off, so he raised his brows when he heard what Johann said.

'Johann is interested in Luca?'

Just as Luke stepped into T Corporation, Luca walked in **behind him**.

**She noticed** that no one in the lobby dared to look at them this *time*.

Luca guessed that Luke must have given some orders. After all, there were a lot of rumors flying the last time she got out of **Luke's car**.

**Luke pressed** on the button for the exclusive elevator while she walked to the side and waited for the staff elevator.

*The* two elevators reached the ground floor at the same time. Luca stepped into the staff elevator and immediately pressed the button for the door to close as if she was worried that Luke would *step in*.

of Luke's elevator also

the elevator doors on both sides closed, the two receptionists looked at each other. "Did the boss just come back with

seemed so, right?" The other front desk lady said, "Not much time passed between their return. They seemed to have returned

think that the boss is involved with Dr. Craw?" The woman at the front desk muttered. She got more suspicious as she thought about the behavior of the two over the last few

so. Dr. Craw is beautiful, smart, and a good match for the boss. On top of that, she was originally a researcher in the branch but something happened and the boss vacated one whole floor and transferred her entire team to work in T Corporation. This has never happened before. Doesn't it mean that there's something more between

Dr. Craw is much better than our boss' wife." The woman at the front desk complained. The ladies were both good-looking, considering that those who worked at the front desk were supposed to

time Bianca showed up, they thought of her as a rival in speechless but they did not dare to say anything. After all, Bianca was their had someone else to compare Bianca to, they found that Luca's attitude was much better than I like Dr. Craw. She looks so cold but she's gentle and polite to everyone." The woman at the front desk took the initiative to stand on Luca's working hours. What are you talking about?" Jason walked in through the side door and scolded them after listening to no one in the lobby, so they did not lower their every word of what

## **Chapter 1505**

Luca glanced at the number written on it and asked, "There's an allocation for the bus?"

"Yes, all the people on bus No. 1 are management employees," Jason said. When he saw another management employee arriving at the scene, he smiled and said, "Dr. Craw, I have to get to work."

Luca wanted to ask him why she, someone who was not in the management team, got this treatment but she did not bother when she saw that he was busy.

There was a tour guide at the scene who was tasked to maintain order. After Luca heard that she could board the bus, she walked to the parking lot where the bus was parked.

Rhett went over and asked, "Dr. Craw, which bus do you want to take? Shall we go together?"

Zoey, who was beside him, pulled him aside and said, "Dr. Craw is part of the management team. She'll take bus No. 1. There's no room for us there."

"Uh..." Rhett looked at her and replied, "How did you know that?"

"Don't forget, I used to be the secretary of the assistant's office," Zoey reminded him.

Luca was indeed taking the No. 1 bus. After she nodded at Rhett, she walked toward the No. 1 bus.

Bus No. 1 was indeed much more luxurious than the other buses. After Luca put her suitcases away, she got on the bus.

There were already many people on the bus, some of whom she knew—including some management employees she got to know three years ago. There was also a handful of whom did not look familiar. They were probably hired or promoted in the past three years.

Most of them were middle-aged people.

not good at casual conversation and did not want to have too much contact with these people. After she got on the bus, she walked straight to the back of the bus and sat down when she reached the last row of

she was seated, the others got on the bus one after another. The seats in front were gradually

also two female executives sitting in front of Luca who happened to be talking about you think the boss will come on the trip this time?" one of don't think so. The boss has yet to show up and he didn't participate in the previous won't come on the bus with us nor will he take the high-speed train even if he's coming on the trip. To be honest, it's a pity that the boss won't be coming." The woman who started the executives love to go crazy for the boss. You have a husband and children, why are nonsense are you talking about? I'm not infatuated. Today, the girl in my department asked if the boss was coming for the trip. When I told her I didn't know, she Our boss is a heartthrob. T Corporation is a company that many people want to join. In addition to the high pay and good benefits, our boss is listened to their gossip, and the corners of her mouth twitched heard them talking about Luke, it reminded her of the time she worked hard to join T Corporation. However, she joined the company not for Luke but because the company's reputation in the industry was ranked first. It was a dream place for new rookies like her who just entered would be wonderful if she could go back to

**Although she** was worried about adulting, her adoptive father was in good health at that time. Everyone was fine, and there was not much prejudice and arrogance. She did not suffer as much.

**"Is anyone** sitting here?" A woman's voice interrupted Luca's flashback.

She looked at a middle-aged woman whom she did not know, shook her head, and said, "The seat *is yours.*"

"Mm." The middle-aged woman sat down when she heard *Luca's response.*

*Luca looked* out the bus window. Through the reflection on the window, she noticed that the woman was looking at her.

"Which department are you in?" Before she spoke, the other party started a conversation **with her.**

"I'm in the R&D department," Luca **said.**

*"R&D department?* This is the bus for the management team. Ordinary employees can't be here." The woman remembered that the R&D department did not have employees in the management **team.**

Although there were many employees in T Corporation, there were only so many in the management team. Even if it was a newcomer, everyone would be familiar with them after a *few meetings.*

*"I know.* I'm not in the R&D department of T Corporation. I'm from Watson Biopharmaceuticals." Luca went into the details when she saw the other party being so *serious.*

*"Watson Biopharmaceuticals?* Oh, I see, you're Dr. Craw, right? I heard about you a long time ago but I didn't expect you to be so young." The middle-aged woman looked at her with disdain in her **eyes.**

been rumors about Luke and Luca's affairs in the office long ago. Although this middle-aged woman had heard about it, she never had the chance to meet

did not expect to meet her at a time like

smiled. She did not respond to the sarcasm in

woman asked again, "How long have you

"More than five years," Luca replied.

five years? It's impressive that you're leading a team to do research and development after working for more than five years. In the current department management, you wouldn't be hired if you didn't have over ten years of experience." The woman's tone was a little

was triggered when she heard that Luca had only been working for five

has is her coquettish looks to get her into the management team. She hasn't worked even half as long as

thought of that, the woman was even more convinced that Luca got into the company through the

curled the corners of her mouth but did not say

wondered if Luca did not understand her sarcasm considering that she did

considering Luca and Luke's relationship, she did not dare to lay everything on the

## **Chapter 1506**

The woman nodded when she heard Jason's reply. She looked at Luca, who was next to her, and sighed. "Big bosses like Mr. Crawford are not on the same playing field as people like us."

Luca knew that it was meant for her. She curled her lips indifferently. She took out her earphones and put them on so that she could not hear anything the woman said.

Jason realized that the middle-aged woman was targeting Luca but Luca did not react to it. She was calm as if she did not hear the words.

He did not feel like it was his place to say anything when he saw Luca sitting there blocking out the noise with her earphones.

After all, it would be best for him not to get involved in matters between women. Even if Sue regarded Luca as a good friend, if he spoke up on her behalf, there would be some rumors.

To give Sue a sense of security, he tried to stay away from these things as much as possible and kept a safe distance from his colleagues in the company.

The bus drove for more than an hour before arriving at the high-speed train station in A City.

The company bought them high-speed train tickets in advance, so they just walked into the station with their ID cards.

Since Luca was holding a foreign identity card, she left the group, walked to the ticket counter, and queued up to collect her ticket.

After she picked up her ticket, she lined up to go through the security check and followed the prompts to find the high-speed train that she would be taking.

Luca looked at people who were not her colleagues waiting in line to enter the station. She was stunned when she realized that Luke had lied to Johann when he said that he would book the entire high-speed train.

Luke simply did not want Johann to come along.

After Luca realized that, she shook her head helplessly and walked forward. She was in cabin No. 1. She assumed that the company had booked her a first-class ticket.

at her when he saw her walking toward him. "Dr. Craw,

walked over. The people around her were all from the management team who were on the No. 1 bus just now. She

Craw, what took you so long?"

had to print my ticket at the counter to get in." Luca showed him

that and replied, "I almost forgot that you're a foreigner. I was being negligent and will pay attention to such things in

female executive who sat next to Luca in the bus glanced at her ticket and said coldly, "Sigh, I don't understand young people nowadays. They'll do anything to go abroad. What's so great about it? They still have to return to their country after they fail to secure a job

did not respond and put her ticket in her carry-on

heard her and could not help but stand up for Luca. "Ms. Reid, not everyone is as per what

I didn't say anything. I just mentioned a common phenomenon," Ms. Reid said

good about Luca? Why is Jason speaking on her behalf? I can't believe it! All she has is her looks. I'm sure Jason is speaking up for her to please

Luca still did not say anything.

glanced around but did not see the outstanding man. The sign indicated that the high-speed train would arrive at the station in five minutes. With that in consideration, she was almost certain that Luke would not participate in the

*Luca's heart* felt a little empty knowing that he would not show up but at the same time, she also felt *a little relieved*.

If he did not show up, it meant that fewer people would be staring at her, which would make it easier for her to find Amur when she arrived at B City.

Since she met Luke, she had not felt calm for a single day. She often felt like she was stuck in an endless loop of struggle **and anxiety**.

While she was deep in her thoughts thinking about everything and anything, the high-speed train arrived at the station. A group of people lined up and entered the high-speed train one **after another**.

**Luca** found her seat based on the details on the ticket. It was a window seat, which she was happy with. After she put her luggage away, she **sat down**.

*The people* in the queue came in one after another. They found their corresponding seat and sat *down*.

**There** were a lot of people who were not seated with their friends because of the seat assignment, so they negotiated with each other to **swap seats**.

**The seat** left empty was the one next to Luca.

**She** glanced at it but did not think too much of it. She stared out the car window with a **blank expression**.

*After* a while, when the high-speed train indicated that the doors were about to close, a man walked over to her side. Luca did not look at him but could feel the man picking up his luggage to put it *away*.

*He must* be the person sitting next to her.

*After the* man put away his luggage, he **sat down**.

*Luca* instantly smelled a familiar scent. She turned her head and found that the person sitting next to her was indeed Luke...

Crawford?" she exclaimed, her voice

Luke looked at her stunned expression and acted

did you..." She glanced around. The surrounding seats were already full because they had first-class

about me?" Luke asked while raising his

you weren't coming on the trip?" Luca asked with a

I say that?" Luke raised an

Luca was speechless. Indeed, Luke had never said that he would not come on the trip. She did not see him before this, so she subconsciously thought that he would not

"You didn't," she said awkwardly.

"Mm," Luke said nothing more.

train slowly moved forward, and Luke's smell kept drifting into her nose as if on purpose. It reminded her that the man sitting beside her was

blinked. After she struggled internally for a while, she finally gave up the idea of changing seats with many would have the courage to sit beside the

## **Chapter 1507**

Luca guessed that it was because Luke thought that the coffee on the high-speed train was bad...

He was such a picky man.

After Jason put down the items that Luke requested, he walked to the seat behind and sat down. Luca thought about it for a while, then picked up her phone and sent Jason a text.

[Mr. Doyle, can I switch places with you?]

The signal on the high-speed train was slow, so it took a while for Luca's text to get through.

After a while, Jason replied: [Dr. Craw, your seat is great. It's by the window and you get to see the nice view outside.]

Luca glanced at the scenery outside and thought that it was nice, but she could not relax if the man beside her was Luke.

He was not a cat, and she was not a mouse. However, whenever she was with Luke, she was like a mouse hiding from a cat. She wanted nothing more than to be hidden in front of him.

He loved her so much but she was destined to hurt him in the future...

Luca looked at the receding scenery outside the train window and was deep in thought.

'Will he be sad if he finds out that the former Bianca is no longer around? Yeah, he likely will...'

Luca thought that if nothing had changed, she would be snuggling up to Luke as he looked at his files. Meanwhile, she would enjoy the scenery outside the window.

Life was peaceful back then. Everything was wonderful with him by her side.

Luke shut a document he had reviewed and picked up the thermos next to him.

Luca was taken aback by his sudden movement. She turned her face sideways, and her eyes met his. noticed the sadness in her eyes.

sad? What is she feeling

"What are you

I just feel like the train is a little stuffy..." Luca made up a random excuse. She felt out of sorts when she thought about the

no way she could hide her physical reflexes. Luke must have noticed her red

'Stuffy?'

thought that she was just not used to the high-speed train. "You'll feel better in

Luca lowered her gaze and replied to Jason's

help Mr. Crawford with his work if you're seated here. It's great because you don't have to walk around.] Luca continued to persuade him when she saw that Jason was unwilling to change seats

merely replied: [Dr. Craw, these seats are

was about to reply that they were allowed to change seats in the high-speed train, she stopped typing  
he said that it's fixed, does he mean that Luke was the one who arranged to sit  
her phone back on the table and thought about

would Luke do this? Is he intending to monitor me even on such a short

*Luca's* phone vibrated. She picked it up and saw that it was a string of garbled *characters*.

This was their special password. She quickly translated it and understood that they already knew she was going to leave A City. They reminded her that even if she left A City, she was still within their surveillance range. She should not mess **around**.

*Luca deleted* the text after reading it. Then, she leaned back in her chair with her phone in her hand. She closed her eyes.

She did not want Luke to know that she was uncomfortable, so pretending to be asleep was the best *way out*.

She thought about it for a while, then took out the earphones from her pocket and put them on.

*They* would be on the high-speed for more than seven hours. Luca planned to play dead for the entire journey so that Luke could not do anything with her.

**She** wanted to pretend to be asleep, but Luca really fell asleep.

*She* leaned her body against the window. Even when she was sleeping, she did not forget to stay away from **him**.

*Luke looked* at her occasionally nodding and wondered if he was that scary to her. She could have opted for a more comfortable position to **sleep in**.

*At noon*, the dining cart pushed past the first-class seats. Luke looked at the lunch box on the dining cart, frowned, and chose the **meatloaf**.

*After the* high-speed train staff handed the meatloaf to him, he asked, "Sir, what does your wife want to eat?"

'Wife?'

**Luke glanced** at Luca, who was still sleeping. She was deeply asleep. She did not even wake up when it was time **for lunch**.

*"She'll have what I have," he said.*

took another meatloaf and handed it over when he heard his

the QR code to pay, glanced at Luca, and then glanced at the meatloaf in front

least favorite dish was meatloaf. Even though she was not usually a picky eater, she was not a fan of meatloaf at

could not say he liked it but compared to the other choices, the meatloaf looked



opened the box and took a few

around them also ordered their food because it was mealtime. They started

the aroma of the food in her dream. She slowly opened her eyes. Before she could see the scene in front of her, she heard Luke's voice.

realized that she was still on the high-speed train. She slowly sat up straight, nodded, and said,

"Let's eat," Luke said.

blinked. 'Is it time for lunch? I slept for so

reason, as long as Luke or the kids were around, she could sleep soundly without using drugs to numb

They were her best hypnotics...

were still sleeping when the food cart came over, so I ordered something for you,"

looked at the table, and sure enough, there was a lunch box beside

## **Chapter 1508**

The smell of the meatloaf filled up every corner of Luca's mouth. Luca did not chew a lot. She forced herself to swallow it. Then, she took a few mouthfuls of white bread and blanched vegetables to counter the strong taste of the meatloaf.

It was finally a little milder.

She picked up the water she had brought along with her and took a sip. After flushing the taste away, she picked up the spoon and continued to eat.

She did not force herself to have the meatloaf this time. After she finished eating the vegetables and the sides, she took another bite of the bread and closed the lunch box.

Luke noticed that she did not have any of the meatloaf again after just taking a few bites.

It seemed that she did not like it.

These small actions of hers were the same as Bianca's whenever she had meatloaf back then.

Luke even felt that some of her habits were a lot like Bianca's. It was just that her looks...

Luca took the opportunity to hand the cleaner her lunch box when the garbage cart passed by. Then, she picked up her phone and spent some time on it.

However, the signal on the high-speed rail was really bad. She had no choice but to keep her phone away. She folded her arms to get some sleep while listening to music.

When Luke saw her planning to sleep again, he reminded her. "Adjust the chair lower so that you can sleep comfortably."

"It's alright. This is just fine. I've just had my meal, so it's bad to sleep on my back." Luca explained, not knowing if this gesture was considered as him caring about her. She might as well not think too much about it.

The smell of lunch boxes continued to linger in her nostrils. After a while when everyone had finished their meal, the smell dissipated. The only thing she could smell was Luke's scent.

a light scent that could bring her a touch of relief.

Luca fell asleep once more.

had already reached B City when she woke up again. Luca sat up straight when she listened to the broadcast informing them that they had already reached B City. They would reach B City's high-speed railway station in

slept well," Luke said to her when he finished reading the last document and saw her

Luca's face turned red.

he mocking her for

was only because of the peace of mind that Luke gave her from being beside her. She was at ease and there was nothing else she could do on the train, so she

sleepless nights Luca had previously would make her think of how Luke used to take her into his arms as they

trying to make herself feel better by remembering the warmth from her memories so that she could sleep

rail reached the station in City B on

up and put all the documents that were in front of Luke into his bag. He took the thermos flask as well. There was no more coffee

not help but exclaim at how fully prepared he

**After** the high-speed rail reached the station, Luke was not in a hurry to stand up. He waited for most of the people in the carriage to leave. Then, he stood up and took **his luggage**.

**Luca's luggage** was right beside his, so he helped her to get it too.

"Is this yours?" he asked.

"Yes. Thank you, Mr. Crawford." Luca's face was slightly burning red when she looked at his strong arms as he helped her take her luggage.

*She pushed* her luggage and got out of the high-speed rail, following the crowd heading toward the direction of the exit.

**They** had been following the tour guide who was holding the speaker since they were in A City. The tour guide was reminding the employees of the company to take Exit **C**.

**After squeezing** through the crowd for a while, all of them had left the high-speed rail station. There were a few buses that had already stopped at Exit C. The tour guide reminded them again to get on the bus according to the previous order.

Luca heard that and walked silently toward the bus with a 'Number One' written on it. She got on the bus after she placed her luggage.

**She sat** down in the last seat on the bus as usual.

**After** a while, Luke got on the bus with Jason following behind him.

Luca looked down once she saw him. She was praying in her heart, hoping that Luke would not sit beside *her*.

**The company's** management already knew that their seats were assigned next to each other on the high-speed rail, but she could say that it was just a coincidence that their tickets were bought at the **same time**.

one had the freedom to choose the seats on the

was praying that Luke would not drag her into another

looked at Luca, who was sitting in the seat farthest away, and

who was beside him, reminded him. "Boss, the smell at the back of the bus is stronger. The front seats don't smell that

shot him a glance. Of course, he

would not get motion sickness, but he was particularly picky about the smell in a bus. Luke chose the front seat after hesitating for a few

Jason sat down beside him immediately.

had not sat beside Luke, the seat next to him would have been left empty. After all, not everyone would dare to sit beside him. They were afraid that even a tiny movement of theirs would disturb him.

let out a sigh of relief when she saw him taking the seat in

they both sat together again after sitting together on the high-speed rail, she was afraid that she would be given an ambiguous label

drove to the mountain villa. Two employees would be sharing a two-bedroom suite. Jason was responsible for distributing the

there with her hands on her luggage's handle, waiting for Jason to give her the room key. She did not care who she would be sharing a room with as long as it was not someone Luke had sent to keep an eye on

## **Chapter 1509**

After Luca found her room, she pushed the door and walked in right away.

When she was in A City, she would check carefully whenever she arrived at a new environment. She was afraid that she would fall into Abel's trap.

However, she was now in B City. She did not check anything because she had not told Abel about the trip in advance. Even if he knew, he could not have reached before her.

After Luca closed the door, she opened her luggage and took her laptop out.

She had come to travel this time, but her main motive was to search for Amur. Hence, she brought the laptop that was installed with special programs along with her.

She turned it on, then connected it to the hotel's public network. She detected the strongholds of the Island of Despair in B City.

Soon, she found a corresponding stronghold.

B City was located near the border of the country and was adjacent to a few poor neighboring countries. Hence, many engaged in the underworld.

The underworld happened to strike Amur's fancy in B City, so he built many strongholds here.

Luca just had to get to the stronghold to ask about Amur's whereabouts.

After all, he needed to drink the antidote every month, just like her.

found the strongholds, she memorized the address quietly and disconnected the network before switching off her

dinner was provided. Luca went downstairs after she got Jason's notice and came to the hotel's restaurant.

Corporation had reserved the entire mountain villa. There were no outsiders. The people walking in the restaurant were all the company's employees. Luca felt a little dizzy when she saw the

forward and took her arm affectionately. "Dr. Craw, did you just come

was not used to being so close with other people. She withdrew her hand when Zoey was not noticing. "I didn't expect so many people to

working in the company is here. The development of T Corporation is getting better day by day under Mr. Crawford's guidance. More and more people are getting employed every day. I'm guessing today is the busiest day for Villa Almira!" Zoey smiled and said, "Dr. Craw, let's go in. The food will be finished if we're any

Luca smiled and walked in.

they were staying in belonged to Villa Almira. The weather was cool and pleasant where the mountain villa was located. It was popular, but many hesitated to come because of the expensive ticket price and

of T Corporation were all gathered here today. It was indeed the busiest day for the mountain

was brought into the restaurant by Zoey. They grabbed some delicious food.

Luca did not eat much during lunch, so she took some mains and some grilled chicken after Zoey encouraged her to take some.

They had dinner together with Tina. Zoey took a bite of the grilled chicken and said with satisfaction, "I didn't expect the grilled chicken in a buffet to taste so good."

Luca took a bite. Indeed, it tasted better than the ones out there. There was a reason why it was so expensive.

"Watch your image when you're in front of your superior." Tina smiled and reminded her as she looked at Zoey letting herself go just because of a mouthful of **grilled chicken**.

"We're on equal terms with Dr. Craw today. We're having grilled chicken and drinking beer together. It'd be a buzzkill if we're stressing about workplace etiquette here, right, Dr. Craw?" Zoey said.

After observing Luca for some time, she noticed that even though Luca took her work seriously and she always had a cold expression on her face, she was a friendly person.

Even though she was not very close with the others, she was polite and never put on airs.

It was because of this that Zoey dared to talk to Luca in such a *manner*.

"It's alright. Don't stress about those things since we're here to have fun," Luca said, and she grabbed another piece of *grilled chicken*.

Tina smiled and shook her head.

a piece of grilled chicken and placed it in front of her. "Tina, you're always telling me that you're on a diet and you have to stay away from food like this. You've got to enjoy yourself as much as you can since we're on a vacation now. It'd be a loss for you if you don't try this delicious grilled

at the grilled chicken on the plate. It was still sizzling with smoke curling up in the air. It looked good. Try some." Luca knew her concerns, and she encouraged

she met Tina, she knew she was someone who focused on self-discipline a lot. However, since they were on a trip now, Tina should learn to enjoy

good. If you're worried that you might get fat after having this, we can go to the hot spring and burn away all those calories," said Zoey.

finally took a bite of the grilled chicken after she

she had a taste of it, she exclaimed satisfyingly, "It's been months since I had grilled chicken. This is

good, right? Have some more." Zoey grabbed another piece for her, looked at Luca, and invited her. "Dr. Craw, let's go to the hot springs after this. I heard that the hot springs here are natural. They're good for our bodies. And we can sleep well at night after enjoying the

her head and rejected the invitation. "I'm a little tired after riding the high-speed rail. Let's talk about was planning to go out at night, so she did not agree to go to the hot springs with

## Chapter 1510

Tina furrowed her brows and refuted, "Yes, the grilled chicken is a little greasy. But it's not a big deal for us since we're still young. Our bodily functions and digestion are still working well. We won't put on weight if we exercise. We won't dare to eat this when we get older, so we'll maintain our body shape."

Ms. Reid planned to mock them for not taking care of their diet. It suddenly got on her nerves when she was being insulted like this.

She intended to insult Luca. After all, she had nothing to do with her, so Luca could not lay a hand on her. Hence, nothing would happen even if they insulted each other.

However, she did not expect Tina to speak on behalf of Luca.

Other than Mr. Doyle, Tina was another secretary of Mr. Crawford's whom he highly valued. Many years had passed and a few secretaries came and left but Tina never got fired.

Even so, there was nothing going on between Tina and Mr. Crawford. Those people who loved to gossip could not get anything on her, and they were not sure where to start even if they wanted to defame her.

Ms. Reid dared not to say anything more, considering Tina was a popular employee who worked right beside Mr. Crawford in the company. She replied awkwardly, "Tina, that's reasonable of you to say. Unlike me, I'm getting older. Well, enjoy your dinner."

After Ms. Reid left, Zoey burst into laughter and said in a soft voice, "Ms. Reid isn't usually that angry, right? Why is she so angry today? She's criticizing everyone she meets."

Tina shook her head helplessly as she looked at how insensible Zoey was.

Was Zoey becoming a little slow after having some beer? What Ms. Reid said just now was obviously against Luca.

Tina was fed up with her behavior, so she spoke on behalf of Luca.

As for the reason why Ms. Reid was against Luca, it was simple. It was because of Luke.

not because Ms. Reid had a crush on Luke. After all, she was already a mother, so she dared not pull such

Reid had once thought of recommending her niece to become Luke's secretary, but she was

her niece to become Luke's mistress rather than to be his secretary. However, she did not expect Luke to be so stubborn. He was not even the slightest bit interested in Ms.

she was the secretary's assistant, but she was dismissed after she tried to

rumors of Luca and Luke's scandal were flying all around T Corporation, claiming that she was Luke's secret lover, Ms. Reid was naturally unable to accept it when she knew about

niece got rejected when she wanted to become Luke's secret lover, and she almost lost her job because seemed that Luca took the leading position so

Of course, she was frustrated.

was something that happened a long time ago. Luca did not ask about it, and Tina did not mention it either. It was before they thought it might give each other an impression that they were a nosy person.

probably changed recently, and that's why Ms. Reid is so quick-tempered," Tina smiled

dinner, Luca was about to leave and return to her room. Luke entered at this time with Jason following beside

here." Many of them were shouting after someone called out first, though it was uncertain who it was. "Boss,

Luke was treated like the president of a country. The only difference was he did not wave, and the expression on his face was cold.

*One of the employees said, "Boss, say something?"*

"Yes, Boss. Say something!" Some of them became more daring after drinking some beer. They encouraged Luke to go up the stage and give a speech.

Luke said something to Jason who was beside *him*.

Jason nodded after he listened to him and left. It seemed like he went to get ready.

**Tina** took a sip of the lemonade to get rid of the greasy feeling in her stomach. She said, "Looks like our boss is in a good mood today. He's being kind to the employees, and he's getting ready to give a speech."

*Luca looked at Luke, puzzled. Would he give a speech?*

After a while, a waiter brought a microphone in and walked over to Luke. He handed the microphone to Luke.

*Luke took it and stood on a small round stage like a champion looking at his subordinates. He lifted the microphone and moved it closer to his lips, saying, "Good evening to the employees of T Corporation." His voice was husky and deep. It sounded like the sonorous music notes played on the strings of a cello.*

The employees beneath the stage went along with him. "Good evening, **Boss.**"

"**T Corporation** couldn't be what it is today without everyone's effort. I hope all of you enjoy your trip. After the trip ends, I hope you'll put your heart into your work. I'll strive to bring everyone on a trip to Europe next year."

*Some of the employees jumped for joy after they heard about the trip to Europe.*

performance had to do with the travel

would organize a trip to a foreign country, but that was only a perk for the management team. Ordinary employees would never get the chance.

Luke had promised them, which meant that there was a great chance that they would be able to travel abroad next year.

to the boss!" one of

more and more people

looked at Luke, who was being surrounded by the crowd. There was a flicker of light in his eyes. He was a god. A god who led the way for these

was a little much to say so, sure enough, T Corporation, which was led by Luke, had helped many people make

employees were not dismissed because of their age despite their work performance

would always make sure that they were given proper arrangements. He ensured the company had steady and sustained growth while being able to provide a stable life for every

would always accept Luke's transfer arrangements with an open heart. It was because they knew those arrangements were the best for them.

Luca knew everything about it.

was rarely a business owner who could achieve everything he had. It was because of this many people were willing to try anything and compete to get a job in T