

Be Gentle 1521

Chapter 1521

Tina nodded and said, "I wanted to invite you, but you said that you're not into exercise. That's why I invited Dr. Craw to go along with me."

Zoey placed her plate on the table. "Yeah, I'd rather not spend my vacation time on tiring activities like hiking. There are many more fun things to do here. I've heard there's a theme park and a karaoke center nearby, so I'd rather go to those places than hiking. Isn't that so, Ms. Lynn?"

Jenni sat down on another seat at the table. She looked at Luca, wondering how she could be up and about when she nearly drowned the day before. She thought that Luca had faked the drowning to evoke Luke's pity.

"It's up to the individual how they want to enjoy their vacation, Zoey. I'm quite surprised, though, from Dr. Craw's behavior in the pool yesterday, I thought that she's not very active. Why are you going hiking today, Dr. Craw?" Jenni asked. Luca could hear the sarcasm in her voice.

Luca was deathly pale after she was fished out of the pool the day before. Jenni could not believe that she would be up and about today.

"Everyone has their strengths. Dr. Craw looked great in her swimsuit yesterday. She must work out regularly. Isn't that true, Dr. Craw?" Tina spoke up for Luca.

Luca smiled. She did not answer the question but instead said, "It's true that I'm not good at swimming."

"If you're not good at swimming, then you shouldn't have stepped into the pool. You're lucky that Mr. Crawford was alert enough to save you, but no one can surely say the next time. Please don't misunderstand. I'm not wishing you ill will." Jenni's words were tinged with jealousy. Luca was not her superior at work, so Jenni was not afraid to offend her.

Luca only smiled and said, "Thanks for your concern. I'll be careful from now on."

"Heh," Tina smirked and began to eat.

She and Luca did not stuff herself with food because they would be hiking later. They packed some drinking water and buns before leaving the hotel.

did not walk to their destination because they wanted to conserve energy for the hike. Instead, they took the tour car so that they could appreciate the view of the mountain

what Ms. Lynn said earlier, Dr. Craw." Tina had been working in the company for a long time. Even though she did not know everyone too well, she could guess what Jenni was

quite obvious that Jenni had a crush on

mind what she said. I feel sorry for her though. She probably has a wild imagination or something," Luca said nonchalantly while looking out of the window. It was sunny, yet the wind was cooling. That was the perfect weather to go

what she meant. She nodded and said, "That's right, we ought to leave her to

when she heard Tina's

at Luca and said, "You look so charming when you smile, Dr. Craw. You ought to smile more. Don't be an ice queen. There's already an ice king in

did not mind taking a dig at Luke when he was

usually look so cold?" Luca chuckled. Tina's words usually made her smile, no matter if she was Bianca or was Luke's best secretary. She treated everyone the same. She did not join any cliques, and she maintained the same distance from everyone. That was why Luke trusted

"I can't say that you're cold, but you look very good when you smile. In fact, you remind me of... uh, the morning sun. It's bright and gentle, but not too warm..." Tina said, deliberately hiding **something**.

She did not say that Luca looked like a certain person when she smiled.

That person was Bianca Rayne, the wife of the *CEO*...

She remembered that she had not seen Bianca for a long time. According to Luke, Bianca was still traveling **overseas**.

Even though Tina suspected that it was not the case, she was somewhat glad that Bianca was not around. Usually, Bianca would come to the company once or twice every week to throw tantrums.

Bianca had been very paranoid ever since she lost her memories. She was afraid that he would have an affair with the female employees in the company. Despite Tina being an employee of Luke and nothing more, Bianca nevertheless harassed her *relentlessly*.

"**You're** exaggerating..." Luca felt a twinge of bitterness in her *heart*.

She would smile if she could.

She imagined that Luke liked her because she was pure and *gentle*.

When she returned, she decided she would be cold and distant **toward everyone**.

way, Luke would definitely not fall in love with her, and Abel's plan

car eventually arrived at the foot of Mount

Corporation had booked the entire place, and most of the employees were not interested in hiking. The place was almost totally

many people here,"

course. Didn't you notice that there weren't many people at the restaurant when we had our breakfast earlier?" Tina said while tipping the tour car. "Last night, they were enjoying the nightlife here, and they only went to bed at three or four o'clock in the morning. They're not going to wake up so early to go

went to a roadside stall and bought a map of the

do you want some drinks or something else?" The man at the

noticed that there were some trekking poles for sale. She considered that hiking up Mount Jadeite can be a considerable challenge, so she bought two of them and handed one

on, let me get a map," Tina picked up a copy of the map and prepared

"I've already bought one," Luca said.

Chapter 1522

Tina could see that the two men were here to hike up Mount Jadeite. She shot a glance at Luca. Luca did not enjoy crowded places, but two more people did not crowd up the place at all...

"Why don't we go together?" Tina asked.

Luca did not say anything. She knew that Luke would definitely be joining them the moment she saw him.

Even if Tina did not invite them, they would be hiking up the same trail anyway. It did not really matter if Tina invited them.

That was why Luca kept quiet.

"Mr. Crawford? What do you think?" Jason turned his head to look at Luke.

They did not mean to follow Luca. Luke was tired of working during vacation time, so he suggested they hike up Mount Jadeite. Naturally, as his assistant, Jason had to go too.

Fortunately, Jason enjoyed hiking.

"We'll go together," Luke said. He went to the stall to buy a map and two trekking poles, then handed a trekking pole to Jason.

"Thank you, Mr. Crawford," Jason said as he took it.

Luca spread the map open and studied it while the two men talked. There was nothing much to study anyway; it was only one way up.

"Let's go! Let's go!" Tina said cheerfully. She was not nervous even though her boss was there.

Luke's personality very well after working for him for so long. He might be serious when it came to working, but he was quite amiable otherwise, despite maintaining a

the map, stuffed it in the pocket of her tracksuit, and walked up the mountain with

scenery on the mountain was beautiful. The four people make frequent stops along the trail to admire the view. No one complained that they were tired, nor did anyone make any disheartening remarks. It was quite a

said nothing as she watched Tina take photos with a miniature

people would record everything they saw during their journeys. She used to be like that

traveled somewhere with Luke, she would look for someone to take a couple of photos of them together. Once home, she would print those photos and label them with the date and place. She imagined that when she was older, she would be able to share those memories with him and

that had happened to her, Luca did not want to take any more

several photos of the scenery and asked Luca, "Dr. Craw, can you help me take a

took her camera, and stood up from her resting spot. The two men were resting, and Tina was the only one going around taking

stations were available at regular intervals along the trail. They were

Tina struck a pose, Luca took several continuous shots

Happily, Tina took the camera from Luca and browsed through the photos Luca had taken of her. "It's so nice to be hiking with someone else. That saves me the trouble of bringing a tripod or a selfie stick. These photos are amazing, Dr. Craw!"

Luca smiled. "I didn't put too much effort into it."

"The angle, lighting, and timing are perfect! And you said you didn't put much effort into them? I don't even need to edit these photos. You're amazing, Dr. Craw. Why don't I take some photos of you? I'll send you the photos after we get back," Tina **said**.

Luca shook her head. "It's fine. I don't have a habit of **taking photos**."

"**What** do you mean? You don't need a habit to take photos. Alright, you go and stand over there. It's a nice view. My photography skills might not be as good as yours, but you're beautiful anyway so it doesn't really matter." Tina was quite excited to take Luca's photos.

Luca glanced at Luke and Jason. They were both looking at her.

"It's fine. I don't really want to." She was even more reluctant to have her photos taken when the two men were looking at **her**.

"*Come on*, Dr. Craw." Tina saw that Luca continued to sit there. She went over and took her *hand*.

Luca had to stand up, and Tina brought her to the gazebo. She was standing right in front of a cliff, so the view was *great*.

Tina said, "Alright, stand there and don't move. If you're not used to looking at the camera, you can look somewhere else, as long as you don't move."

With no other choice, Luca turned her head to look to *the side*.

felt awkward looking at the camera because Luke was sitting behind the

there while Tina took a few photos in a row before letting her

do you think, Dr. Craw? Not bad, right? It would be better if I brought my DSLR camera along, but it's too troublesome to bring it here,"

thought that Tina's photos were not bad, but she could see her awkwardness in those

was not that she did not like her photos taken, but she felt awkward because Luke was staring at her. Even though she was looking elsewhere, she could still feel his gaze on her

"Not bad," Luca said.

that Luca's praise was not enough. She handed her camera to Luke and said, "Take a look, Mr. Crawford. My photography skills aren't any worse than Dr. Craw's,

at the camera. In the photo, Luca was standing there awkwardly, but the scene was a

could feel his heart skip

felt like that when he looked at Bianca's photos. However, looking at Luca's photos gave him the

things had begun to change after what happened

Chapter 1523

"How about this? There's four of us, and we can split into two teams. One team will take one path, and the other team will take the other path. We'll race to see who can reach the summit first. The two paths are about equally long," Tina suggested.

Luca glanced at Luke, then at Jason. Neither of them said anything.

She said, "Sounds fun. Let me team up with you, Tina."

If she could team up with Tina, Jason and Luke would be on the other team. She would feel better if she did not have to walk along with Luke.

Tina looked at the men, who said nothing about her suggestion. She said, "No, Dr. Craw, it's better if we team up one man and one woman."

Luca looked at her, at a loss of a reply.

"Alright, I'll team up with Mr. Doyle. We've been colleagues for many years, and I can get along with him. You and Mr. Crawford can take the other path." Tina arranged the teams by herself.

She did not really have a basis for teaming up a man and a woman, neither did she want to team up with Luke. She did not want Luke to misunderstand if she suggested teaming up with him.

Before Luca could voice her objection, Jason said, "That settles it, Mr. Crawford. Tina and I shall take the left path, and you and Dr. Craw can take the right path. See you at the summit."

He quickly agreed to the decision so that Luca had no chance to object.

Tina nodded. She and Jason began walking down the left path.

standing on the spot. She looked at Luke, who was also standing there. Their eyes met, and they did not say

later, Luke said,

Crawford, are you sure you want to race with them?"

didn't say anything earlier. The race has already begun," Luke said while walking forward. After taking a few steps, he turned around and saw that she was still

like losing. Let's go," he

then, Jason and Tina had already turned a corner and were nowhere to be

no other choice, Luca began walking to catch up

on the other path, Jason praised Tina, "I didn't know that you're so good

you mean?" Tina pretended to be

giving Mr. Crawford the chance to be alone with Dr. Craw," Jason said without beating around the

do it deliberately, but the opportunity presented itself, so I went along with it. Did you think that I didn't notice that? Along the way up, Mr. Crawford was either looking at his feet when he walked up the stone steps, or at Dr. Craw. I hope Mr. Crawford will appreciate what I'm doing for him and give me a pay raise!" Tina said with a cheeky grin on her

Jason knew Tina was thinking about that. He said, "Have you ever wondered why Mr. Crawford can't keep his eyes away from Dr. Craw?"

"I've thought about it before, but I don't know if my reason is correct, but if I think about it further, Mr. Crawford doesn't seem like that kind of man..." Tina said. She glanced at Jason and grinned mischievously, "We're not in the office now, so do you think you can tell me what's in Mr. Crawford's mind? Can *you*?"

Jason shook his head. "You'd better not have any sneaky ideas. If Mr. Crawford doesn't like your arrangements, who knows if he'll dock your pay?"

"Huh? That can't be, right?" Tina was surprised by what Jason said. "I don't have any malicious intentions."

"Pray that Mr. Crawford is happy with your arrangement then," Jason teased *her*.

"I hope so," Tina said worriedly, believing what Jason said was true. She had been so confident earlier, but now, she was worried that Luke might be angry with her arrangement.

Meanwhile, Luke and Luca walked along the other path. Other than the occasional water break, the two people did not have any interaction with **each other**.

She thought that the silence was quite awkward, but she had no intention of breaking *it*.

After all, Luke was not **a talker**.

Halfway through their hike, they stopped walking.

was a pile of rocks blocking the path. "That's..." Luca frowned when she saw the obstacle in their

was also frowning. There should not be any obstacles along the

Crawford, should we turn around?" Luca asked, leaving the decision to

beyond the obstacle and noticed that the path continued beyond the rocks. "I guess they must be in the middle of doing some maintenance work, and they haven't cleared the rocks yet. We can continue the hike if we go around these

did not expect anything to be blocking the path. Someone should have at least told them about it before they started the

already more than halfway up the path, and going down would require more effort than continuing toward the summit. That was how Luke arrived at

Luca nodded and said, "Alright."

the help of the trekking pole, Luke walked up the unpaved path and reached out to

surprised, though she did not take Luke's hand. Instead, she stepped onto the unpaved ground and said, "I can handle myself, Mr. Crawford. You should be

Luca did not want to take his hand, Luke did not insist. He continued walking

next to the stone path. Soon, they encountered some more rocks. They walked around them again, but they were getting farther and farther away from the stone

Chapter 1524

Luca could feel dull pain spread from her waist to the rest of her body. She had injured herself.

The pain caused tears to fall from the corner of her eyes.

Suddenly, Luke felt a twinge of pity for her. "Can you stand up?" He asked.

Luca nodded. "Yes."

Luke looked at the tree behind Luca. The vegetation was quite dense at this part of the mountain, and the trees were quite old with thick trunks. She had slammed into the tree in full force, and it must be very painful. If she were unfortunate, she might even suffer a hairline fracture.

However, she was lucky to be stopped by the tree. Otherwise, who knew where she might end up?

The forest was natural. Even though the owners of the area had taken every precaution to ensure the visitors' safety, there was only so much they could do to alter the natural landscape.

If the tree had not broken Luca's fall, she would have suffered a greater injury, or worse, rolled off a cliff.

Seeing that Luca was struggling to get up, Luke reached out. "You need help."

Luca pressed her lips together and grabbed his hand. With the trekking pole in her other hand, she pushed herself into a sitting position, then spent the next half a minute trying to catch her breath.

Luke did not rush her. He waited patiently for her to catch her breath. In the meantime, the sky became darker, and thunder could be heard in the distance.

It was going to rain soon.

Luca looked up at the sky, thinking they should not linger there.

would the path be slippery, but it would also be dangerous to be under a tree if the rain turned out to be a lightning

gritted her teeth and tried to stand up, but the pain on her waist caused her to fall forward and land on Luke's

familiar masculine scent, intensified by the sweat from the hike, assailed Luca's nostrils. Luca could feel the warmth of Luke's body on her

They were so close together...

could come to her senses, she felt someone hand her a trekking pole, which she instinctively grasped

next moment, Luke picked her up in a bridal

Luca realized what was going on, her feet were off the ground. One of her arms instinctively went around the back of Luke's neck, while her other hand held two trekking

ignored her cries of surprise as he walked toward the

Luca did not weigh much and Luke had no trouble carrying her, Luca could not stay still. She tried to squirm away. "I can walk by myself, Mr. Crawford. This'll be very tiring

wanted to keep some distance away from him, so she tried to straighten her back, even though it was tiring for her to do

on her waist tried to make her loosen her back muscles, but she could not loosen up no matter how hard she

wondered if she had been cursed. She had met with an accident for two consecutive days, and Luke had carried her like that for

If she were not cursed, why would she suffer a leg cramp in the pool, and why would she roll down a mountain?

"You're hurt, and you won't be able to walk fast. If we don't reach the gazebo in time, we'll be caught in the rain," Luke explained while keeping his gaze on the path in front **of him**.

Luca bit her lip, feeling that she had become his burden once more.

*She wanted to keep a distance from him so that she did not become a burden. She did not expect that she had not changed even after **three years**.*

She was a burden before, and she remained **a burden...**

Luca curled up a little when she arrived at that thought. She felt horrible. Luke noticed her movements. When he lowered his head to look at her, he was surprised to see that her eyes were full of sorrow and *grievances*.

They looked like Bianca's eyes whenever she was **sad...**

"Don't move..." Luke was worried that she might *distract him*.

"I'm **not** feeling very comfortable like this. Why don't I ride piggyback?" Luca suggested, thinking that if she needed Luke to carry her, she would rather ride *piggyback*.

She could not stand looking into Luke's eyes.

Those eyes did not have warm love like before. How she wished that she could tell him that she was Bianca!

Luke looked around and noticed a large boulder nearby. He placed her on top of it, then turned around and crouched **down**.

telling her to get

hesitated as she looked at him. A roar of thunder could be

they lingered, they would soon be caught in the rain. She slumped onto

the weight behind him, Luke said, "Hold tight. I don't want you to

uneasy. Either way, she could not avoid physical intimacy. "I'll be

not put her arms around

did not force her. He stood up, and the inertia caused Luca to lean

Instinctively, she reached around Luke's neck.

walking forward. Luca's actions did not slow

that her actions had brought the two of them physically closer. Blushing, she rested her body on his back and said

had to take a detour to go around the rocks. It started raining before they could reach the

was a drizzle at first, but it soon

Chapter 1525

Luca put the trekking poles away. She saw that Luke's hair was dripping with water. She thought of taking the paper towels from her backpack to dry his hair, but her backpack was not waterproof, and the paper towels had already turned into a pile of mush.

There was nothing she could do about that, and she closed her backpack.

Luke had always kept an impeccable appearance, so Luca was quite surprised to see that unkempt side of his. In any case, her appearance was in the same sorry state.

"What do we do now, Mr. Crawford?" Luca asked for his opinion.

Luke took out his phone. His clothes were soaked, and his phone could not be turned on. "Can you use your phone?"

Luca took out her phone from her backpack. Her phone had been enhanced by the people on the Island of Despair, so it was waterproof.

Even so, it had already turned itself off. She looked at Luke and said, "I can only turn it on after it's dry."

Without a usable phone, they could not call Jason or inform the villa staff about their predicament.

"We'll have to wait for the rain to stop," Luke said decisively. That was all that they could do.

Luca nodded. Her waist still hurt, and it would be too risky for them to walk down the mountain in the rain.

Meanwhile, Jason and Tina managed to reach the summit right before the rain started. Jason looked down the other path and waited for Luke and Luca to arrive at any time.

Mr. Crawford and Dr. Craw here yet?" Tina wondered. She had studied the map, and the two paths were almost the same distance. Moreover, Luke and Luca were in good health, so they should not have been so much slower than Jason and Tina. Could something have happened while on their

at the sky. He was not in the mood to appreciate the scenery. It would be raining

staff member saw that Jason and Tina had no intention of leaving. He went up to them and reminded them, "Are you going to stay here for long? It's going to rain, and it won't be letting up any time soon. Why don't you go down the mountain by

still waiting for our friends. They promised to meet us here," Tina said. She looked at the dark, roiling clouds and guessed that a storm

had checked the weather forecast earlier that morning, and it had said that the skies would be clear. That was why she had proceeded with the hiking

was quite frustrated. A storm on the mountain was much more dangerous than a storm on level

why don't you give Mr. Crawford a call?" Tina

not call Luke. She was the one who suggested the race, and she was afraid that Luke might

The rain started to fall the moment he took out his phone. Lightning flashed in the

Mr. Crawford and Dr. Craw are not here yet," Tina said worriedly. While she looked at Jason trying to reach Luke, she comforted herself by thinking that Luke and Luca were probably taking shelter from the

"Mr. Crawford isn't picking up," Jason said after making several attempts. Luke did not pick up the call even until it cut off *naturally*.

"I'll try to call Dr. Craw." Tina took out her phone and called Luca. No **one answered**.

"How is it?" Jason looked at her grimly.

Tina shook her head.

The staff member walked over and asked, "Are your friends not here yet? The rain is getting heavier. If you don't go now, you might be stuck here for a while."

"*What should we do...*" Tina was clueless as she stared down the other path. She asked, "Our friends are coming up from this path, and I can't reach them on their phones. Can you help us search for *them*?"

The staff members looked at each other and said, "The rain is so heavy now, Miss. We can't do that."

"**Yes.** You don't have to worry too much about it. They're probably seeking shelter somewhere. We have staff members around the clock. You should go down the mountain first, and if they show up, we'll take care of them and send them down if the situation permits," another staff member said.

Jason was silent for a while. Eventually, he said, "I think we should stay here. If the rain lightens up, we'll try our luck by going down the other **path**."

The staff member did not agree with Jason's decision. Once it started raining, it was hard to tell when it would stop. He said, "Maybe your friends have already left when they saw the sky darken. How about this? I'll give you my number, and you can go down the mountain now. If you don't find your friends at the foot of the mountain, you can contact us, and we'll search for them once the rain lightens. What do you think?"

could tell that the rain was only going to become heavier. He thought that Luke might have already gone down. Seeing that Tina's hair was scattered in the strong wind, he accepted the staff member's suggestion, and they took the cable car

...

gazebo, Luca felt her

her lips and tried to change various positions. She alternated between propping her chin and half-reclining, trying to make her waist

what she was doing. He asked, "Does your waist

little.... Luca told him the truth; she could not deceive him

rain became heavier and heavier. Luke noticed that the stone benches in the gazebo were already wet. Luca could not sit on them. He said, "Try resting your feet on

what Luke suggested, but that did not alleviate the pain at all. In fact, it hurt even more. She was frowning, and Luke could tell that she was in

at the stone table in the center of the gazebo. He wanted to make Luca feel better, and it was not the time to

don't you lie on the table?"

Chapter 1526

It was the first time that Luca had to lie outdoors with no regard to her image. She wondered if she would have to spend the night with Luke here.

If the rain continued, it would not be very convenient for Jason and the others to find them...

After lying for some time, Luca thought that the hard stone surface was quite uncomfortable. She slowly flipped to the other side and happened to meet Luke's gaze.

She was surprised. When did he start looking at her?

"Are you uncomfortable?" Luke noticed that she was not lying still. Perhaps it was caused by the injury on her waist.

"No, it's just that the surface is quite tiring to lie on. I just wanted to change sides," Luca half-closed her eyes to avert his gaze.

Lying on the other side was a little easier on her back, but her clothes were wet, so it was not very comfortable.

She did not mind the wet clothes too much, but she knew that Luke was a clean freak.

Even though Luke was sitting there calmly, Luca could guess that he was seconds away from freaking out.

"Mr. Crawford," Luca called out softly.

"Mm," Luke replied. He was not in the mood to talk.

"Why did you come to Mount Jadeite today?" Luca asked. She thought that it was quite awkward if they did not say anything. She also wanted to know if he had instructed Tina to invite her.

If that were the case, what did he want from her?

"Exercise," Luke said. As busy as he might be at work, he would find some time to exercise.

Luca did not want to lose out in any aspect of his

at Luca and saw that her eyes were still half-closed. Was she suspecting that he had deliberately arranged the

he had not arranged for them to meet up. He did not know that Tina was going to Mount Jadeite

only event he arranged was the swimming competition the day before. He did not expect that Luca would recover so quickly from

someone who had suffered a leg cramp and nearly drowned would be out of commission for one or two days. He was surprised that Luca was already fit enough to go hiking the next

for a bit and realized that it might have been a

a little to find a better position but realized that Luke was still looking at her. Immediately, she

rain became heavier. Gusts of wind battered the gazebo, and

clothes and hair were still wet. If this went on, she thought that she

wind in the fall was not as comfortable as that in

discreetly reached behind her and tried to massage

was not as comfortable as someone else doing it, but it did bring some relief to the discomfort on her what she was doing. He

Luca watched him walk around the table and stop behind her. Thinking that he wanted to leave, she immediately stood up. "Where are you going, Mr. Crawford?"

Luke sat down on the stone bench next to her and said as though issuing a command, "Lie down."

Luca looked at her, hesitated for a few seconds, and finally lay down.

Her back was still facing him...

Her clothes were dark-colored. Even though they were soaked through, they did not show the skin underneath. In any case, she had already given birth to four children for Luca, so he had already seen whatever there was to see...

Luca tried to keep that thought in mind so that she did not feel so **awkward**.

The next moment, she felt Luke's warm palms wrap around her waist.

Instinctively, she tried to dodge.

"**Don't** move," Luke said softly and continued to wrap his palms around her *waist*.

Luca dared not move. All the muscles in her body were tautly stretched, and her attention was focused on the pair of palms around *her waist*.

Even though her clothes were wet and cold, she could still feel the warmth from his **palms**.

Luca was massaging her back. He was not doing anything **else**.

"**Is** this the part where you hurt yourself?" He **asked**.

voice that came from her back made the tips of her ears grow hot. His fingers were exactly on the spot she had bumped into the tree. The massaging made her a lot more

Luca replied very softly. Her voice was

knowing that he had found the right spot, Luca lessened the strength on his fingers. He did not know the extent of the injury, so he was not going to press too

continued to massage Luca without saying a

that it would be another half an hour before her phone was dry enough to be

did not stop for the next half an hour, and Luca was becoming more and more embarrassed. The moment Luke's hands stopped, she immediately

it hurt anymore?" Luke noticed the deftness in her movement. He would have thought Luca was faking her injury if he had not seen her crash into the tree with his

feels a lot better..." Luca realized that she had moved a little too quickly and wondered if Luke thought she

down on the stone bench. After stretching her back muscles too abruptly, they began to hurt

Luke did not say anything.

sky began to darken. Luca looked at her phone and tried to turn it on to no avail. Perhaps it had been soaked in the rain for too long, and the internal parts were still

not know what time

at Luke and noticed that he was wearing a wristwatch like he

Chapter 1527

Luca had drunk from the bottle earlier...

Luca saw that Luke had gulped down more than half of the water in his bottle. She could tell that he was thirsty and tired. She thought for a while and said, "Mr. Crawford, I mixed some glucose in my bottle. Do you want to drink from this?"

Luke looked at her and said nothing.

"But I already drank from it. It's okay if you mind it..." Luca thought he did not want to drink from the same bottle as her. When she was about to keep it in her backpack, Luke opened his mouth.

"You should save it for yourself," he said.

He thought that Luca needed more nourishment than him because she was hurt. They only had two bottles of drinkable water between them, and looking at the heavy rain outside, they might have to spend the night there.

That was why Luke did not want to take the bottle from her.

"Alright then..." Luca thought that he was disgusted by the offer. She did not say anything and put the bottle back into her backpack.

The strong wind continued to blow. Luca felt that her tracksuit was already dry, but the undershirt...

The undershirt was not going to dry. The contrast between dry and wet made it more uncomfortable than ever.

Luca had the urge to remove her undershirt, but they were outdoors, and Luke was watching...

She had to bear with it.

The sky continued to darken. The light in the gazebo and along the mountain path gradually lit up. Luca felt forlorn when she looked at the lights.

to rise, and visibility was low. The lights in the distance were but a

could only hear the sounds of wind

not say anything. She did not say anything

how people in ancient times passed their time. The people who knew how to read could read some books, but what about the common folk? Did they turn off the lights and go to bed once the sky at Luke. There was nothing in the gazebo to entertain them, and she could not find any conversation topic. It was as though they were in two

so close to each other, yet so

sense Luca looking at her. He turned his head to look

was surprised. She quickly turned

it was too late. Luke could tell that she had been looking at him. Earlier in the afternoon, they stopped talking to each other after Luke refused Luca's offer of

He wondered if she misunderstood her.

he remembered that he would not drink from a bottle that someone else had drunk from. Bianca was the

offered him her drink, he refused the offer not because he was disgusted by her germs, but because he thought she needed it more than he

Luke sensed that he did not really mind sharing the same bottle with **Luca**.

'Why is it like this...'

He realized that, given another set of circumstances, he would take the bottle from Luca and drink from it without any resistance...

Luke was quite surprised by that thought. It had only been a few months since he started interacting with Luca, but he had fully accepted her presence in **his life**!

He could not believe it...

Luke gazed at Luca intently, thinking and pondering what she had done to make him accept her so readily.

Was it because her eyes were like Bianca's, or was it **her voice**?

He immediately rejected that thought. If that were the case, the impostor Bianca looked exactly alike. However, he had never once cared for the impostor in three years.

Was it because her cooking tasted like Bianca's, and that had made him accept **her**?

Luke could not find the answer. Suddenly, he asked, "Can *you* sing?"

Luca was taken aback. 'Wait, is he talking to me? Did he just ask me if I can **sing**'?

She turned around to look at the man. From the dim light cast on Luke's face, she could see that he was focusing on **something**.

been looking at her with that

could he be thinking when he gazed at
you sing?" Luke asked again. He remembered that Bianca had a gentle and clear voice, and he loved her
This time, Luca heard the question clearly. She did
something for me," Luke said, as though he did not hear her
"... " Luca was speechless.
continued to stare at her. "You grew up in Russia. You should know some Russian folk
nodded. Eler had sung songs often while they were in captivity. Other than training, eating, and
sleeping, there was nothing else to do on the Island
loved to sing songs from her hometown. After listening to them a few times, Luca could pick up the
melody. Eler praised her voice and taught her all the folk songs she
That was why Luca knew.
at Luke. He seemed determined to get a song out of her tonight. With no other choice, she began
singing one of the songs that Eler taught her. She even made sure that she pronounced the
lasted for about three minutes. As Luke listened to her sing, he felt like a child being coaxed to sleep by
his mother's

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Luke listened to her earnest explanation. It was as if she was trying to cover up something. However, he
was not able to verify what she said, so he did not say anything.

It was getting darker. Luke glanced at the time on his watch and found that it was already 11 o'clock.

Luca's stomach started to gurgle. He immediately looked at her when he heard the sound.

Luca touched her stomach, embarrassed. The sound came from her stomach. She never thought that
after a few months of living a comfortable life, her stomach would become so sensitive.

"You're hungry?" Luke stood up, wanting to see if he could find anything to eat nearby.

There was a lot to eat in the mountains. Before it rained, he did not expect to be trapped here for so
long.

"No, Mr. Crawford. Where are you going?" Luca saw him walk to the pavilion and stood up as well.

"I'll head out to have a look. When we walked past the area today, I seemed to see a fruit forest," Luke
said.

Luca also remembered that there was a fruit forest with seasonal fruits hanging on the trees. However,
it was not on the side of the mountain road but deep in the mountain. The rain was not as heavy now
but the mountains at night were full of unknown dangers, especially on such a rainy and foggy day. One
had to be careful when walking on the mountain road.

"Mr. Crawford, it's dangerous to go in like this, especially when we don't have a flashlight. It's not a good idea to go look for food now." She tried to persuade him to change his mind.

Luke frowned. If he left the mountain road, there would be no lights. It was indeed dangerous, but considering that she was hungry...

When he thought about how she was hungry, his subconscious reaction was to find something for her to eat.

He had always been omnipotent. In a situation like this, all he could think about was to take immediate action to find food for her.

"It's fine," Luke said.

took out a water bottle that she had not drunk from all afternoon from her rucksack. "Mr. Crawford, I still have glucose water. Don't go, the mountain is quite scary at

that to dissuade Luke from going to look for food, she could only show her weakness. His clothes were finally dry. If he went out and got under the rain again, she was afraid that his clothes would be wet the entire

the fog on this mountain was so thick that the wind was

heard that she was scared, Luke could not bear to leave her here alone while he went to the mountains to find something to

desperation, he gave up the idea of going to the mountain to find food for

the bottle cap, thought about it, and then summoned up the courage to ask, "Would you like to drink some? If you're hungry, you're likely to lack sugar. Having some sugar will keep the

her hand over the water bottle again, and this time, he did not say

took the bottle, then raised his head and poured some into his mouth. He did not drink much, just

his movements and breathed a sigh of relief. Even though he did not touch the mouth of the bottle, at least he accepted

he handed the water bottle back, she also took a sip. When she thought about how the night was long, she did not dare to

this, Luke frowned and asked, "Is this

"Yes, it's enough." Luca tightened the lid and put it back into her rucksack. "I used to go for training, so starving *is common...*"

"Training?" Luke frowned. He thought that she was good at fighting, which was where her agility came from. Now, it seemed that her agility was not all from practicing martial **arts**.

Luca realized that she had said too much and quickly said, "I'm interested in such things so when I have time, I'll participate in training camps. Mr. Crawford, I'm sleepy. I'm going to **bed now**."

She avoided the topic with the excuse of being sleepy. She knew she had said *too much*.

Luke looked at Luca lying on one of the benches. She did not say a word and it seemed like she *was asleep...*

The long stone bench was by the edge of the pavilion. It was just enough for one person to lie down on. The rain was not so heavy that it would splash in, so it was alright.

Luca lay down on the bench and kept an eye on *Luke's movements*.

After lying down for half an hour, she opened her eyes and glanced around. Her gaze finally settled on Luke.

He was leaning against the railing and had his eyes closed.

On nights like this, there was nothing else to do but **sleep**.

Luca felt safe seeing that he was still here. She went back to closing her eyes to see if she could nap for a **while**.

It was midnight, and the temperature on the mountain gradually dropped. Luca woke up from the cold. She could not stand it, so she sat up and curled up into a ball. She hugged her shoulders to try to warm her body.

sportswear that she wore for mountain climbing was not too thick. The cold weather on the mountain was making

Luke's voice suddenly entered her

over. The man who had been leaning against the railing had opened his

because of my movements? Or did he wake up from the cold

Luca said softly as she stroked her

here." Luke saw that she seemed to be very cold while sitting there alone. He felt

himself that it was only tonight that such an exception would be

at him, a little confused. 'What is Luke going to do? Is he going to hold

the past, whenever she told him that she was cold, he would scold her for not paying attention to what she was wearing. At the same time, he would take off his coat and put it

this moment, Luke was also wearing sportswear and did not have a

thought about it and walked over. The rain was not as heavy as before they fell asleep. It should stop raining when tomorrow

her phone was almost dry. In the morning, she could notify Jason and the others to come and

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Luca leaned against Luke and silently endured the pain she felt in her heart.

The scene was what she had dreamed and hoped for countless nights. Now that she was able to curl up beside him, those dreams had come true.

However, she was still unhappy.

What Luca wanted was not his indifferent attitude. Even though the temperature of his body could warm her body, she was not close to getting the warmth and love from his heart.

She initially thought that Luke's concern toward her was real.

However, it seemed that it was all fake. His attitude was cold, and she knew she had no grounds to ask him to treat her warmly.

"Get some sleep. It's going to be dawn soon," Luke said with his eyes closed.

Luca did not know how he knew she was not asleep. She leaned against him and closed her eyes.

At dawn, the rain stopped.

When the rain stopped, the birds in the forest flew out. Luca opened her eyes. When she heard the birds chirping, she knew that the weather was clear.

Luca raised her gaze. She wanted to take a look at Luke's side profile before silently leaving his embrace. After all, she had received his warmth for about two hours. It was enough for her to remember it for a long time.

The moment she looked up, she met Luke's eyes.

had woken up and had been looking at

Crawford, you're awake..." Luca stood up immediately but she moved too fast and the pain in her waist shocked

She frowned and held her waist.

her actions and reminded her. "Be

said that, he took out his phone and tried to turn it on but the phone did not respond. He looked at Luca and asked, "My phone is dead. Can you turn

nodded and looked at the rucksack that she had casually put aside yesterday. She picked it up, opened it, and took out

pressed the power button, her phone lit up. "My phone can be used. I'll notify Mr.

to inform the staff and take the cable car up the mountain. Have them clear the rocks," Luke instructed. The staff could only go up the mountain after clearing the rocks in

was not in the best situation to go down the mountain. If he carried her down the mountain, it would be fine at first but after a while, it would be too much for his body

best way was to find someone to clear the rocks on the mountain road. Then, he would carry her up the mountain and they would take the cable

nodded. The moment her phone was turned on, she called

The phone rang for a second and was *immediately answered*.

Luca guessed that Jason and Tina were probably going crazy from not being able to get in touch with Luke for *one night*.

"Dr. Craw, is that you?" Before she could speak, Jason, who was on the other end of the phone, *asked anxiously*.

"It's me. Mr. Crawford and I are fine." Luca let them know they were okay to reassure them and then relayed *Luke's words*.

After Jason heard her, he immediately said, "Okay, stay where you are and don't move. I'll make the arrangements right away. Dr. Craw, if your phone has enough battery, can you share your live location?"

Luca glanced at her phone battery and felt bad. "That won't work. My phone only has 50 percent of battery left. Anyway, we're not far from the mountain but we don't know how many rocks there are on the mountain road. Please have the villa's person in charge bring more workers to clear them **up**."

"Okay, I'll arrange it right away," Jason said and gave Tina a gesture to indicate that the two *were fine*.

Luke took Luca's phone and said to Jason, "Get a doctor on standby *as well*."

"Doctor? Boss, are you and Dr. Craw injured?" Jason was immediately concerned.

"I'm fine. Arrange it right away." Luke finished speaking and ended the call. He glanced at Luca's phone and found that her phone seemed a little different from the phones in the market.

It was a phone with two front cameras...

her phone and put it in

did you buy this phone? It seems to be of good quality," Luke said. His phone was also drenched in water but her phone could be turned on after a night while his phone was not at all

helped me make some tweaks to it," Luca held the phone and explained

Luke did not say anything.

The other side.

heard the busy tone, Jason quickly hung up and contacted Villa Almira's person in charge. The person in charge was very frightened when he heard that his big client was stuck on the mountain because of rocks blocking the way and that someone

Villa Almira was luxurious, as long as Luke gave an order, it was easy for Villa Almira to be inspected by the relevant departments or even go

arranged for porters and called

an hour later, the group reached the top of the mountain. Jason pointed them to the right way and said, "It should be this road since it's covered with rocks. Go down and see what's

that Luke would not fumble around. If he said that there were rocks, there would definitely be rocks and they must be in the way, causing them to not be able to walk on the normal mountain paths. It would explain the

group went down in a mighty manner, and after they walked for about 200 meters, they began to find some gravel on

Chapter 1530

This incident was the staff member's fault, and the manager knew that they were in the wrong. He said with a smile, "Villa Almira takes protective measures as such seriously. These stones are an accident. Don't worry, I've already got someone to go down with food and water. They'll look for Mr. Crawford and the others starting from the fork in the road."

Jason showed no reaction toward the arrangement, and the manager was stumped.

The manager could only urge the porters to move faster when he saw Jason's temperamental reaction.

An hour later, the stones on the mountain road were cleared. Jason looked at the figures in the distance and hurriedly ran down. "Boss."

When he got closer, he realized that Luke was carrying Luca.

"Dr. Craw, are you alright?" Jason asked with concern. He knew that the situation was bad and Tina was in big trouble.

"I'm fine," Luca said. She would not have to be carried by Luke if he had not realized that her waist was still hurting.

Jason did not know when Luke had started carrying Luca on his back, but he knew that it was tiring to carry someone up the hill. He quickly said, "Boss, why don't you let me take over? I'll carry Dr. Craw on my back."

He had no other intentions than to ease Luke's burden.

Luke glanced at him and replied coldly, "No need."

With that said, Luke kept going.

When they got to the top of the mountain, Tina saw them and knew that the idea she proposed had caused this trouble. She immediately apologized. "Boss, Dr. Craw, I'm sorry. I didn't know things would turn out like this..."

Luca noticed the guilt in Tina's face. Indeed, if she had not suggested taking two separate paths, she might not have gotten hurt and she would not have been stuck on the mountain for a night.

the decision to divert from the original mountain path was not made by Luke alone. She had agreed to it as

she got injured and was shivering cold and starving last night, it had given her the chance to feel Luke's body temperature

was not too warm, his body temperature was enough

shook her head to indicate that she

still felt guilty and blamed herself. After she saw Luke put Luca down, she immediately stepped forward to

the cable car down the mountain and send her to the hospital for a check-up," Luke immediately ordered

manager did not dare to delay for another second. After all, Luca had an accident in Villa Almira. If Luke wanted to make a big fuss, Villa Almira would be the party to suffer. He agreed immediately and arranged for them to go down the mountain by cable

the manager's arrangement, the ambulance had already arrived and was waiting at the foot of

Luca stepped out of the cable car, she was carried into an

at Luke and said, "Boss, I want to tag along with the ambulance and take care of

the one who came up with the idea, so she would take full responsibility for what had happened.

and Tina left with

Several of T Corporation's employees started gossiping when they saw **this**.

Luke glanced at the employees and left on a sightseeing car. Instead of following Luca to the hospital, he chose to return to the hotel.

Even so, it still led to a mountain of **gossip**.

After all, Luca and Luke had spent the night together in the mountains.

Jenni listened to the gossip and felt furious. She immediately took out her phone and texted Tia. She told her everything that had happened in the past two days.

She had gotten closer to Tia but she did not consider her a **friend**.

After all, the other party did not regard her as a friend either and just wanted to use her to find out more about Luke.

Tia and Jenni both liked Luke, so Jenni shared the information that she **deemed fit**.

She did not want to tell Tia everything that had happened yesterday as she did not want to be harassed by Tia and have her ruin her vacation. However, she could not hold back the jealousy she felt in her heart when she thought of how the two had spent a night in the deep mountains. She even heard from the staff that Luke had carried Luca up the mountain. She ended up telling *Tia everything*.

She worked for T Corporation but she was not Luca's boss, so there was nothing she could **do**.

She left it to Tia to deal *with Luca*.

"Ms. Lynn, what's the matter with you? Why do you look so mad?" Zoey was a little slow and did not know about Jenni's intense feelings for **Luke**.

She knew that Jenni was interested in Luke but what she did not expect was that her feelings for him were *so strong*.

snapped out of it and subconsciously held her phone tighter. She did not want Zoey to see her texts

I just envy Dr. Craw for being able to get the boss' attention," she smiled and

felt weird when she heard Jenni's reply. Then, she thought about it. Many people in the company adored Luke, but Jenni did not seem that keen on the surface. She thought that Jenni probably envied Luca for having the opportunity to be alone with

spending a night alone doesn't mean anything,

T Corporation and A City knew that their boss had a soft spot for

could change certain things, at least until now, she had never seen Luke so eager toward

Craw is injured. The boss is just making sure that his employees are taken care of." Zoey

that Jenni was jealous but she still had to say something to appease her no matter what she thought of the

snorted coldly and walked toward the

On the other hand.

taken to the hospital by ambulance. After taking a CT scan and DR, the doctor confirmed that there was no bone fracture. Her muscles were injured but they would heal after a few days of

soon as Tina heard that Luca had no major issues, her uneasy mood finally relaxed