

Be Gentle 1551

Chapter 1551

At eleven o'clock, Luca sat on the sofa bed in the playroom. From the variety of toys found inside, Luca could tell that Jack and Queenie adored the children a lot.

She considered herself lucky to have such gentle and caring parents who would share their love unconditionally with her children.

Queenie knocked on the door. Luca lifted her head, stood up, and said, "Mrs. Norman."

"May I come in?" Queenie asked while standing at the door.

"Of course," Luca said.

Queenie came into the room with a set of clothes in hand. She put it on the sofa bed and said, "I didn't find any new clothes in Bea's room, so I went through my clothes, and I found this silk gown that I had tailor-made when I was young. I haven't worn it before, so why don't you wear it to sleep tonight?"

Not only was Luca a guest, but she had helped the Normans so many times. Queenie did not want to ask her to wear Bianca's old clothes, so she searched through her own wardrobe and found the silk gown that she had not worn before.

The silk gown was pure white and embroidered with pink gardenias. Luca could tell that the dress was made entirely by hand, and it must cost a lot of money.

"This gown looks very precious, Mrs. Norman. You should keep it for yourself. I can wear anything you give me," Luca said. She did not mind wearing old clothes, especially when those clothes were hers.

Queenie shook her head. "It's just a gown. How precious can it be? Also, I can't fit in it anyway. I think that you'll look nice in this gown. It's getting late. Go take a shower and get changed. I've already placed your towel and toiletries in the common bathroom."

There was no bathroom attached to the playroom. Luca would have to use the common bathroom if she wanted to take a bath.

Queenie had maintained her figure, Luca's figure was better by virtue of being younger. Moreover, she had put on some weight because her health had

Queenie was so insistent, Luca took the gown from her hands, then went to

took a quick shower before returning to the playroom

walked past the room that used to belong to her, she noticed that the lights were off. Luke and the children should be asleep by

reuniting with Jack and Queenie, they had prepared a spacious room for her because they considered the fact that she had children. The room was big enough for two adults and

glanced at the tightly shut door, shook her head, and entered the

quite thirsty after the shower. When she opened the door and prepared to go downstairs, she saw Leia coming out of her

women exchanged gazes, and Leia frowned. "Why are

spoke softly, but Luca could sense the hostility in her

the Norman residence was her domain, and Luca was

Queenie came out of the bedroom and suffered a shock when she saw Leia outside. She quickly walked over and whispered, "Why did you come out of your room, Leia?"

"I'm dying of hunger and thirst. Can't I come out?" Leia said while frowning. She thought that Luke and the children would go home after dinner, and she did not expect them to stay **the night**.

Not only that, the woman in front of her was staying the *night too*...

Leia was extremely irritated.

"Your brother-in-law is staying here. Do you want to be discovered? Go back to your room now!" Queenie said while shoving Leia and looking at *Luca*.

Leia did not seem bothered. She had stayed in the room obediently because she knew that Luke was staying over. Seeing her adoptive mother so anxious, she said nonchalantly, "I've been staying in my room because I know that he's here, Mom. Now that he's asleep, I should come out and stretch my limbs. I was so bored inside there."

As she spoke, she walked down the stairs. "Also, *I'm starving*."

"I'll make some supper for you. Don't go anywhere. Stay in the room, and I'll bring it up for you," Queenie said while grabbing her wrist. She was quite frustrated by **Leia's capriciousness**.

"No. I don't want my room to stink. It'll be fine, Mom." Leia went downstairs, disregarding her mother's advice.

Luca did not feel like drinking water anymore. She went back into the playroom and closed *the door*.

She curled up on the sofa bed and felt sorry **for Queenie**.

she were still Bianca, she would assume the role of Leia's older sister and reprimand her for her disrespect toward their

she even wondered if Leia had any gratitude for

Queenie had done so much for Leia, but Leia remained

and flipped to her side. It was not very comfortable, so she lay on her back

bed was indeed small and

the same time, Queenie followed Leia down the stairs while frequently glancing

smirked when she saw her mother like that. "They're already asleep, Mom. You don't have to be so

be so careless, Leia. You know that they're here, but you insist on going downstairs," Queenie said while taking out food ingredients from

can't blame me. If you had said no when he wanted to come for dinner, I wouldn't have to hide in the bedroom. I was almost bored to death,"

her head when she heard that. On other days, Leia would usually be nestled in her room anyway. Why was she not bored

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"She's not 'that woman,' she's Luca. If you're not comfortable calling her Luca, you can call her Dr. Craw," Queenie said, frowning because of Leia's lack of manners.

Leia did not notice the change in Queenie's expression. She continued, "Didn't she come over during the day? Why is she here for dinner? Did she come over to steal the things from our house?"

Queenie was becoming irritated by what Leia said.

Steal their things? Luca was not like that.

That was what she thought in her mind, but she did not say that.

Seeing her mother not saying anything, Leia hugged Queenie's hand and said eagerly, "Don't blame me for being concerned, Mom. Sometimes, you have to assume the worst when dealing with outsiders like her. Dad's a very successful politician, and our home has many precious items. Also, you only have two daughters..."

Queenie pulled her hand away and said, "Alright. The macaroni's almost done. Go and wash your hands. You should go to bed after you eat."

Leia could tell that Queenie was not interested in that topic. She continued, "Mom, you haven't told me why she's here."

Queenie explained, "Luke brought her here. He said he wanted her to take my pulse and check on my condition."

"Take your pulse? When she came over earlier, she didn't take your pulse. Now that Luke invited her again and she's here, can't you tell that she must have an ulterior motive?" Leia said while washing her hands.

Queenie poured the macaroni into a bowl. "Supper's ready."

to listen to me, Mom. Luke's a charming man, and so many women wish that they could take over Bianca's position. I'm sure that woman is either eyeing Luke's riches or the things in our home... Didn't you notice? She's a hit with Luke's children. They call her 'Ms. Luca.' Who knows if she tells them to call her 'Mommy' when no one's around?" Leia said, not perturbed by the hot macaroni in

was in her room earlier, she had heard the children call Luca "Ms. Luca" in such a friendly manner. She guessed that Luca was about the same age as her, but she had to be "Aunt

words left a mark on Queenie's

of what happened earlier and realized that Luca was indeed quite close to Luke's children. Not only did they call her "Ms. Luca," but Tommy had also asked her to fill

knew that the three children usually kept a polite distance from strangers. However, they seemed to be too close to

She could not help but overthink.

it because Luca and the children had interacted many times? Otherwise, the children would have behaved

Queenie thought that Luca was a little too patient toward the

she had not kept a distance from Luke, other people might suspect that they were married, and she was the mother of the three

is Bianca's husband, and Lanie, Rainie, and Tommy are Bianca's children. I'll have to warn Luke regardless of

'*She did* save my life, but that doesn't mean she can replace **my daughter...**

'These two matters are separate.'

Leia was observing her mother quietly while she slurped her supper. She was quite happy that her words seemed to have stirred something in Queenie's *mind...*

'**Does that** Luca think she can get close to Mom? No *chance!*'

If she could make Queenie suspect something, she could ensure Luca would never step into the Norman residence again.

Leia smirked, but she remembered seeing Luca dressed in **that gown**.

Back when she was still an actress, she wanted a silk gown for red carpet events. She had her eye on Queenie's silk gown. It was white with embroidered pink gardenias, and it was perfect for her pure *image...*

She had asked Queenie to lend her the gown, but Queenie had refused to lend it *to her*.

The reason was simple: Queenie's mother had hired a renowned tailor to hand-sew the gown for her. Queenie had never worn it because of its sentimental **value**.

Leia had to hire another tailor to rush another gown for the event.

not wear the gown, and she did not want to lend it to *Leia*, yet she had given it to Luca

was not about the gown anymore. *Leia* believed that Queenie was playing favorites

before the food had settled in her stomach, Queenie urged *Leia* to go

walked past the playroom, she leaned close to the door, but she heard nothing. She pouted, went back to her room, and closed

opened her eyes and stared at the ceiling. 'The person earlier should

shook her head and closed her eyes

did the dishes and went upstairs to the master bedroom. Jack had just settled down on the bed when he saw his wife come in. "Did Leia throw a tantrum

just hungry. I cooked some supper for her." Queenie knew that Jack was not too fond of Leia, so she did not say

like that. Didn't you prepare some rations in the room for her?" Jack shook his head. When Queenie knew that Luke was coming for dinner, she had prepared a loaf of bread and other snacks

used to eating that. Also, it's raining heavily now. I can understand if she wants to eat something hot." Queenie sat in front of the vanity and applied moisturizer to her face. Leia's words continued to ring in her

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Jack shook his head and said, "No, that can't be. Luca isn't like that."

After all his years as a politician, he was a good judge of character. He did not believe that Luca was someone who would befriend the three children just to get close to Luke.

Moreover, she did not seem intimate with Luke.

"You're not thinking about this carefully enough..." After so many years married, Queenie knew what Jack was thinking without him saying it.

"Do you think that Luca and Luke are innocent just because they're not physically intimate with each other? There are some things that adults can hide but children can't, Jack. Look at our three grandchildren. They don't show any resistance toward Luca at all. It means that they're very familiar with Luca. I know what your worries are. Even though there's nothing between Luca and Luke now, who can tell what will happen in the future? Bea is still overseas, and I think we should keep an eye on Luke for her..."

"Well, I still trust Luca. Even if I don't trust her, I trust Luke. He's not that kind of man who would shift loyalties," Jack said.

Queenie also trusted Luke's character. Even though he might be involved in scandals from time to time, he had always refrained from commenting on any of them, believing that his innocence will be proven by his silence. Every time, he would turn out to be right; the supermodels and actresses were the ones to have ulterior motives.

However, Bianca was not in the country now, and no one was keeping an eye on Luke.

Any man would have been restless by now...

She trusted Luke, but she was worried that Luca might use the children to get close to him...

Once a man made a mistake, he would continue making that mistake many more times...

would be the one

of Luca's character, I hope you can find a chance to talk to Luke tomorrow, alright?" Queenie that Queenie should not worry, but it was already late, and they needed to rest. He nodded and said, "Alright, I'll talk to

nodded. She finished applying her moisturizer, got on the bed, and hugged Jack to Luca lay on the sofa bed and flipped around. She could not sleep at while later, the door to the playroom

sat up and turned on the table light. She noticed Tommy tiptoeing into the room and asked, "Tommy? It's already so late. Why aren't you sleeping

grinned when he saw that Luca was not asleep yet. "You're not sleeping either, Ms. at Tommy and asked him to go

went over and stood next to her. "Why haven't you fallen asleep, Ms. Luca? Is the bed too

"No, it's just that I'm not used to sleeping in unfamiliar environments. How about you? I know that you don't have to go to school tomorrow, but it's not healthy to stay up so late," Luca said as she gently touched the tip of *Tommy's nose*.

"I **was** worried that you can't sleep, so I'm here to exchange bed with you. I'm small, so I don't mind sleeping on this sofa bed. You're different though. You should go and sleep in the bedroom..." Tommy said while pointing at **the door**.

Luca smiled and shook her head. "It's fine. You should go to bed. You shouldn't be sleeping so **late anyway**."

"No. You should go and sleep in the bedroom, Ms. Luca. You'll be much more comfortable on the big bed," Tommy said. He was a considerate boy.

Luca was grateful for the offer, but she knew that she should not go. "I can't do that. Your elder siblings and your Daddy are all there. I can't sleep *there*."

"*Why not?*" Tommy looked at her and asked curiously.

"*Of course not*. Your Daddy and I are both adults. He's a man, and I'm a woman. Only a man and a woman who are married can sleep together," Luca explained to him, not worrying that Tommy might be too young to *understand it*.

He would have to know about it sooner or later anyway, and it was a good opportunity to educate **him**.

"Oh, if it's like that..." Tommy nodded and continued asking, "What about an adult and children then? Can they sleep together?"

"*Of course they can*. You've slept in my bed before, right?" Luca said while pinching his plump cheeks. If Tommy would grow up the same way as Lanie, his round face would eventually become sharper. She wanted to pinch his face while it was **still round**.

it then. You should come over and sleep with us. Daddy can sleep on the floor." Tommy held her hand and wanted to lead her out of

do that." Luca remained seated on the sofa

turned around and looked at Luca with puppy eyes. "Can't you accompany me,

that Tommy was only faking it, but she asked anyway, "Isn't your Daddy there to accompany you? Also, you're a big boy now. Do you still need your parents to sleep with

Luca, that's my Mommy's room. I haven't seen her for a long time, and I can't sleep because I miss her. You remind me a lot of my Mommy, so I thought of asking you," Tommy said. He blinked hard, which caused tears to appear in

"But your Daddy..." Luca remained hesitant.

said that he'll sleep on the floor if you agree to go over," Tommy

raised her eyebrows. She did not expect that Luke was still awake and had been discussing it with meant that he probably heard

did not come out of the room and catch her in the act. The only explanation was that he had other

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'Four people? Me and the children?'

Luca looked at Luke, wondering if he would sleep on the couch or the floor.

She glanced at the couch. The room was spacious enough to accommodate a bigger couch, but the bed was big, so the couch had to be smaller.

It was not going to fit Luke.

That meant that he would have to sleep on the floor.

Luca asked, "Where will you be sleeping then, Mr. Crawford?"

There was an ambiguous grin on Luke's face. Through the dim light, Luca could not tell if he was smiling.

Before Luke answered the question, Tommy rubbed his eyes and said, "Daddy can sleep on the floor. Ms. Luca, can you read me a bedtime story?"

Luca could not bear to see the child so sleepy. She went over to the bed and patted the spot next to her. "Let's sleep."

Tommy lay down on the bed. Lanie and Rainie soon followed suit.

Luca glanced at Luke again. He was looking in the direction of the bed.

She was dressed in the silk gown, which accentuated the curves of her body.

As the nightlight shone on her scattered long hair, her figure seemed to have captivated his soul.

trying to keep the lump in his throat down. He watched Luca lie on the bed and, with her gentle voice, tell the children a bedtime

a girl who enjoyed fairy tale stories about princes and princesses. Lanie did not have the habit of listening to bedtime stories, but he preferred to read science fiction stories. Tommy was about the same because of Lanie's

three children on the bed had different preferences, but Luca somehow managed to tell a story that all three of

listening to her story with great interest, and they did not make

muffled the sounds of the heavy rain outside. Luca's voice was gentle as she tried to coax the children to listened to her story, he could feel his eyelids become heavier

blanket was spread out on the floor, and a pillow was placed on top. Luca's attention had been occupied by the children since she entered the room, and she did not notice those things on

were very soft. Before Luca realized it, he was already lying on

became softer and softer. She lifted her head slightly and saw that the three children were already

slept to her right, and Lanie slept next to Tommy. Rainie slept to her left. The soft nightlight illuminated the children's faces. Rainie even seemed to be smiling, as though she was in a pleasant

satisfied when she saw that. Suddenly, she thought

carefully sat up and noticed that he was not on the

Where did he go?

Luca was wondering about that. She saw an arm raise from the end of the bed, then it went *down again*.

It seemed Luke knew she was looking *for him...*

Luca wanted to leave the bedroom. It would be hard to explain if Queenie found her sleeping together with the *children*.

However, Tommy was hugging her hand tightly. If she moved, the child might wake up. Luca sighed and lay back down **again**.

She decided that she would wake up early tomorrow and sneak back to the playroom before Queenie woke up. The decision made her feel slightly *more relieved*.

Luca was satisfied when she heard the slow and even breathing coming from the children around her. Even though Luke was in the same room, she did not feel as uneasy *as before*.

She found it easy to sleep when Luke and the children were nearby. She closed her eyes and soon fell asleep.

The next day, Luca opened her eyes when she heard some sounds around her. She looked around and remembered that she was still in the Norman **residence**.

She had designed the interior of the room. Even though she had not lived there for a very long time, she was very familiar with it.

There was a knock on the door. Then, Queenie's voice was heard. "Luke? Kids? Are you **awake?**"

Luca sat up. She planned to return to the playroom before Queenie woke up, but she **had overslept...**

Queenie was knocking on the **door now.**

woke up the other people in the room. Tommy sat up and rubbed his eyes. There was still a drop of drool on the corner of

looked half-asleep. Lanie and Rainie were not any

a wave of tenderness in her heart when she looked at the children's faces. However, Queenie's voice made

What should she do?

up and replied, "We're

sleeping on the floor the whole night...'

said, "If that's the case, brush your teeth and come downstairs for breakfast. Right, have you seen

noticed that the playroom door was ajar, but Luca was not

glanced at the woman on the bed, then went to open the door.

was taken aback when she heard that. 'Luca is in the room? They spent the night in the

hurriedly got off the bed. Her hair was in a mess, and the gown was

"I'm here, Mrs. Norman..."

you two..." In her shock, she could not complete the sentence. She had already assumed the worst-case scenario: Luke and Luca had done something in

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Queenie felt very uncomfortable when she looked at the harmonious scene presented in front of her eyes.

She went back to the master bedroom. Jack was facing the dressing mirror putting on his tie. He noticed Queenie coming in and asked her, "Are Luke and the others awake?"

"They're awake," Queenie said. Seeing how composed Jack was, she stopped herself from saying more.

Jack noticed the expression on her face. "What's wrong?" He asked out of concern.

"Jack, I think you should speak to Luke whenever you have the time. When I went over to wake them up, I found Luca in their room..." Queenie said worriedly.

Luca was an outstanding woman, and she was a good match for Luke. However, Luke was already their son-in-law. Even if Bianca had lost her memories, her love for Luke did not lessen. She would not accept it if Luke were together with another woman.

Jack stopped what he was doing and frowned. "Did they sleep together?"

"No. Luke was sleeping on the floor. He said that the children could not sleep because they missed their mother, so he asked Luca to come over and tell them a bedtime story. They might not be sleeping on the same bed, but that's because the bed isn't big enough. If the bed were big enough, who knows if they might be sleeping together?" Queenie voiced her concerns.

Even though they were not sleeping on the same bed, Jack thought that it was very inappropriate. He fastened his tie and said, "I'll talk to Luke."

"Mm. You have to. Bea might be overseas now, but that doesn't mean Luke can do whatever he wants. There's no reason for them to sleep in the same room," Queenie said. She thought that Luke should have carried out his responsibility as the children's father instead of asking Luca to take over.

Moreover, it was even more concerning that Luca managed to coax the children to sleep. It proved that Luca was very important to the children, as though she could replace Bianca's position...

nodded. He put on his coat and left

did not follow behind him. She did not want to join in the conversation

went to Bianca's bedroom. Luke had already cleaned up. Luca was in the attached bathroom helping the children wash their

you free? Can we have a chat?" Jack said. He was not going to speak to Luke about that matter in front of

nodded. He knew what Jack was going to tell

went to the balcony. Jack glanced behind him to ensure Luca and the children were not behind

to the point. Do you have any special feelings for Luca?"

immediately refuted it. He remained calm in the face of

He could not tell if Luke was telling the truth. After taking a deep breath, he continued, "That's good to know. Bea is still overseas. I hope that she still has a husband when she

understand." Luke placed his hands into the pockets of his pants. He understood

though Luke had given his affirmation, Jack did not feel relieved at all. He did not want Luke to think he was unconditionally siding

However, he had promised Queenie to talk to Luke. He said, "Bea is overseas now, and she doesn't reply to our messages. Your mother-in-law misses her. If it's possible, ask her to come back for the New Year. Her mother would like to spend the occasion with her. Also, tell her to phone home when she's free. You know, Bea sometimes doesn't listen to us, but she'll listen to whatever you say. I hope you don't mind it, but we really miss her."

Luke could tell that Jack's main point was to ask Bianca to keep in touch with *them*.

"Alright, I understand," he said.

The impostor Bianca's voice was slightly hoarse because her vocal cords were damaged. Luke might not be able to find someone who could impersonate the real Bianca's voice, but it was relatively easier to find someone with a voice similar to the **impostor Bianca**.

He decided to find someone to act as the impostor Bianca and give Jack and Queenie *a call*.

Jack grinned happily when Luke gave his promise. Things would be fine as long as Bianca was willing to talk to **them**.

He thought that it would be better for them to tell Bianca to keep an eye on *Luke*.

Bianca cared for Luke. She would not let that *happen*.

After the conversation, Luke and Jack went downstairs. Luca and the children were already sitting on the couch in the living room.

Queenie smiled at the two men. "Breakfast is ready. Let's *eat*."

sat around the dining table and ate

that, Luke, Luca, and the children left the

sat on the side passenger seat. As she gazed at the scenery outside the window, she thought of how Luke and Jack had come downstairs at the

the bathroom, she had heard Jack calling Luke for

Mr. Norman talk to you earlier?" Luca

Luke replied while keeping his focus on the road

it because of me? I shouldn't have slept in that bedroom. I hope he didn't misunderstand the situation," Luca said. Even though she could not reveal her true identity now, she did not wish to tarnish their impression

have changed her face, but no one could deny that she was

didn't misunderstand. We were talking about Bea,"

'They were talking about Bianca...'

Luca nodded.

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"Mm," Luke replied. He did not know why his daughter suddenly said that.

Rainie continued, "I dreamed of Mommy last night. She told us to be good and listen to you. She also said that she's always by our side."

Luke's grip on the steering wheel tightened subconsciously. When Rainie mentioned her Mommy, he inadvertently thought of Luca.

By now, the Normans must be suspecting Luca.

Luke had deliberately planned that. When the children asked him to invite Luca to tell them a bedtime story, he did not object.

He wanted the Normans to see the scene in the bedroom.

Luca's true identity was still under suspicion. Luke hoped to protect the Normans. After all, Jack and Queenie were Bianca's birth parents.

Even though Luca had cured Queenie's illness, he could not help but think that Luca had deliberately approached them.

That was why Luke came up with that plan.

"That's not fair, Rainie. I didn't dream of Mommy." Tommy did not sound too happy.

Rainie smiled and patted Tommy's head. "Mommy told me to take good care of you."

wish I could dream of Mommy too." Tommy crossed his arms in front of him like a little adult. However, he soon grinned when he remembered that Luca had hugged him to sleep the night before. "Ms. Luca hugged me to sleep last night. I slept very

and gently pinched Tommy's

sense that among the three of them, Tommy was the most fond of Luca. Perhaps it was because he was the first to know Luca. Moreover, Luca had saved

As for Lanie and herself...

a glance at her twin brother. Lanie was sitting there coolly, unwilling to join in

Lanie did not say anything, Rainie could tell that he did not hate Luca. It was just that he did not know how to express

the past three years, the woman who had impersonated their mother did not give them enough motherly love, and that had made Lanie's personality even more aloof than

onto the driver's seat and said, "Daddy, when are you bringing us to go on a vacation? You should bring Ms. Luca along

see." Luke did not give a direct answer. "Go back to your seat.

He was not too happy that Luke did not agree

'Sigh, I want to go on a vacation with Ms. Luca...'

Rainie could sense that Tommy was unhappy. She took out a piece of candy from her pocket. Queenie had given it to her before they **left**.

"**Here**, have some candy," she said as she handed it to Tommy.

Tommy immediately smiled when he took it. "You're the best, Rainie."

Luke glanced at the three children in the rear-view mirror. He swore to protect them, for they were the children of his most beloved **Bianca**.

Back at Crawford Manor, Tommy excitedly told Old Master Crawford about what happened at the Norman residence. The old man was entertained by **Tommy's stories**.

Luke went upstairs to settle some company *matters*.

Even though all the T Corporation employees were still on vacation, the company's operations did not stop. He had to deal with the business emails he received in his mailbox, as well as the reports from the different subsidiary companies.

Without Jason's help, Luke would have to spend more time than usual dealing with them.

While he was hard at work, Old Master Crawford came into the study. "Luke, are you free for a chat?"

Luke stopped working and nodded. "Please have a *seat, Grandfather*."

Master Crawford sat on the chair in front of the other desk. Bianca used to sit in that

bought the desk and chair for Bianca when she first started her company. He wanted them to be able to work together in the

from Tommy what happened last night. Did Luca sleep in the same room as you?" Old Master Crawford asked. Tommy had told him everything, including the part where Luca told them a bedtime story and coaxed them

Crawford felt obligated to speak to his grandson

sleep on the same bed,"

do you have feelings for her?" Old Master Crawford asked out of concern. Now that he knew Bianca was an impostor and the real person was nowhere to be found, he wished for Luke to find another wife to take care of the children. However, Luke had to handle the matter with the utmost care. Old Master Crawford did not want to see Luke's reputation ruined. Worse yet, T Corporation might be affected

have any feelings for her, Grandfather." Luke immediately denied it. He could tell what the old man was thinking. "Sleeping in Bianca's bedroom made the children miss their mother. I only asked to help the

Master Crawford frowned. He did not believe what his

that Luke remained impassive, Old Master Crawford sighed and stood up. "In the family, only you and I know what happened to that impostor. I'm not against you looking for a new mother for the children, and I'm happy that the children seem to accept her. She's a good candidate, but you'll have to make sure you don't let anyone get any dirt on you. Also, the Normans don't know about Bianca,

don't." Luke could sense a ripple of emotion in his heart when his grandfather

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Old Master Crawford was not too worried, even if Luke did not tell him much. He had already reminded his grandson what to do, and he trusted him to do it well.

After Old Master Crawford left the study, Luke stared at the computer screen for some time before deciding that he should deal with the important matters first.

He gave Percy a call and asked him to find someone for him.

Luke needed a person who could impersonate voices. That person would use the impostor Bianca's voice to call Jack and Queenie.

After Luke received a reply from Percy, he gave the person an audio recording of the impostor Bianca's voice and her detailed information.

He sent the mail and continued to work.

There was a reason why he had an audio recording of the impostor Bianca. When they first found her, he had recorded her voice and contacted a voiceprint expert to verify that the woman was indeed Bianca Rayne.

The expert could not find anything out. The reason was simple: The impostor Bianca's vocal cords had been damaged, and her voice might as well belong to another person. There was nothing the expert could do with the samples.

Luke gave up after that, though he kept the recording on his computer. He did not expect that it would come into use again.

After the expert impersonator received the information, she sent a message to Luke, telling him that she would study the information and carry out her mission in two days.

Luke was not too worried. After all, that person was Percy's recommendation.

Meanwhile, Luca returned to the apartment, showered, washed the gown by hand, and hung it on the clothesline to dry.

into something comfortable, stuck a medicated plaster on her back, sat on the couch, and looked at the gown on

did not know if she should return the gown to

happened earlier in the morning, she was reluctant to face Queenie. Even though nothing had happened between Luke and her, she could tell that Queenie had misunderstood

be a meek person, but she was very protective of

must believe that Bianca was still overseas, so she was still on

She returned to A City to carry out Abel's plan, but the plan did not

only reason she approached Queenie was that she could not bear to watch Queenie suffer. After treating Queenie, she thought she would stay away from

realized that it was not so easy to stay away from someone related

not help but be concerned about Queenie's

felt horrible for being stuck in such a predicament. If she had a choice, she would rather return to the Island of Despair and live her life in suffering. The island might be brutal and merciless, but she had to worry about fewer

was still deep in thought, her phone vibrated. The message was a long string

She picked up a pen and paper and began to decipher the code. She completed the task about fifteen minutes later. In summary, the coded message was a mission, instructing her to steal T Corporation's tender for Stillwater International's project...

Luca frowned. She used the phone to search for information about Stillwater *International*.

According to the official website, Stillwater International had a development project in the Maldives. T Corporation was hoping to collaborate with them...

If the collaboration was successful, T Corporation's international presence would **grow greatly**.

Luca thought for a while and replied to the message in code, asking who was the person who gave her the **mission**.

She suspected that it was not from Abel.

As far as she knew, her mission only involved pharmaceutical research and not **property development**.

If Abel wanted to bring Luke down, he should have sabotaged T Corporation's pharmaceutical arm.

Soon, Luca received a short message. After deciphering, the message only *said*, "Boss."

Luca gave Abel a call. No one answered.

She knew that Abel was deliberately **ignoring her**.

Even though the sender of the message did not say who the "Boss" was, Luca knew that Abel was behind it. Did he change his mind and want to topple T Corporation as soon as possible?

raced. There could be another possibility. One of T Corporation's rivals might have paid a lot of money to steal their

lost in thought, she received another message. The other party urged her to accept the

knew that she had no other choice but to accept

sending the message, she continued to research the project using her laptop. She wondered if she could somehow

gave her the mission was deliberately making her life difficult. Luke was distancing himself from her, and she had no way of accessing his top-secret

she could not finish the

Abel possibly do to her? If he summoned her back to the island, she would have to abort her main

hoped that the mission failed. Even if what awaited her back at the Island of Despair was endless torture, it was better than harming Luke with her

...

Luke left with Luca and the children, Queenie received a phone call from the hospital, saying that Leia's medical report was

Queenie brought Leia to the hospital.

Chapter 1558

"Hospitalized? It's that serious?" Queenie realized the seriousness of the matter when she heard that Leia had to be hospitalized.

The doctor nodded and replied, "Mrs. Norman, you don't have to worry. The situation can be controlled once we find out what caused it and come up with a treatment plan."

Leia picked up the report on the table and looked at the results of the diagnosis at the end of the report. Her expression was glum as she said, "Did you make a mistake? I'm as healthy as can be. How could I have gotten infected with this disease?"

The doctor pushed his glasses up the bridge of his nose. He had encountered similar situations prior. Patients were sometimes unable to accept the harsh truth when they find out about their condition. Everyone wanted to be healthy and free from illness, so it was normal for them to need some time to process the news. "Ms. Norman, please calm down. We can find out more after you're admitted and go through some examinations. The matter should be treated sooner rather than later. You're lucky that you found out about it before there were symptoms."

There were many who were unable to detect the chronic failure of their organs in time. By the time the symptoms appeared, it was already too late.

Queenie looked at Leia with tears welled up in her eyes.

Treating Leia was not an issue, but she was unable to accept that Leia was suffering from this disease at such a young age.

Leia could not accept it either. She was so young and was not ready for a life where she had to take medicine long-term

"You must be mistaken. I'll not be hospitalized." She refused them directly.

"Leia, please be good and be admitted to the hospital. We can find out more after you get checked." Queenie was sad but did her best to persuade Leia.

reluctant to be hospitalized. On top of that, Luke would find out that she had returned to A City. She could not afford to be admitted and thought of

it were not for Luca's comment, Queenie would not have brought Leia to the

Queenie's arm and said, "Mom, isn't Luca a doctor of some sort? What if we got her to prescribe medicine

had thought of Luca too, but she

she realized that Luca and Luke might be somehow romantically involved and overthought it, she no longer

Leia, saying, "Even if Luca prescribes herbs for you to condition your body, we still have to find out what's going on. My dear, let's get you admitted. I'll ask the doctor to get you a VIP ward. We can get Luca's help after we find out more about the root

mother and daughter did not say anything, the doctor knew what was going on. After all, Queenie had made a request when she made the appointment. They did not want too many medical staff to participate in the

knew that Leia was a star and presumed that she was unwilling to be hospitalized and receive treatment because she did not want the reporters to find out about it.

was no longer popular and had a lot of negative news surrounding her. The reporters would not be bothered to report about

Although he was not entirely sure, the doctor shared his advice. "Ms. Norman, we take the confidentiality of our VIP patients very seriously. All our medical staff is highly trained and they keep their work confidential. No one will know that you're in this hospital, don't **worry.**"

Leia was still resistant. She glanced at the checklist and confirmed with the doctor. "Can you make sure that except for the medical staff members who are responsible for treating me, no one else in this hospital will know that I'm **here?**"

The doctor was stunned. The request she made was a little difficult. After all, she was not in the best condition. It was likely that doctors from other departments would contribute to the treatment plan. What was more, nurses were all on shift duty. In certain situations, nurses would also be transferred between different departments to help out...

Queenie knew that it was not an easy request. However, it was urgent to get Leia hospitalized as soon as possible. She wanted the doctor to lie. "Of course, that's what you get as a VIP *patient.*"

The doctor saw Queenie's look and had no choice but to nod. "Yes. If there's no problem, I'll go get the paperwork done for you in person. Don't worry. No one except for me knows that you're going to **be hospitalized.**"

"Okay, keep it a secret," Leia said *nervously.*

The doctor nodded, turned around, and walked out of the consultation room to *admit her.*

Half an hour later, Leia was admitted to the VIP ward.

At the same time, Luke received a call from Johann.

"*Leia* is back. Do you know about that?" Johann said. Just a while ago, he saw an admission form that had Leia's name on it when he was discussing something with a doctor.

asked about it, the doctor hesitated and finally admitted that it was Jack Norman's daughter, Leia

asked Johann to keep it a

would most definitely keep it a secret from other people but not from Luke. Although Leia's incident did not affect him at the time, he did not have a good impression of Leia after hearing about the incidents

know," Luke replied and asked, "How did you find

admitted to the hospital. I took a look at her report. Her liver and kidneys are in chronic condition. The cause of the failure has not yet been found. Something is seriously wrong with her. I looked at the comprehensive report. She has gynecopathy issues. Her temperament most definitely matches the issues she has." Johann was vicious with his words as he criticized

Leia had done before, like her current condition, had sickness written all

to his words and raised his brows. It seemed that Queenie invited Luca over the day before because of Leia's health

"Keep observing them," he said.

Do I need to report to you on it?" Johann

Chapter 1559

"I'm free today, let's have a look," Johann said as he stood up and left his office.

The next day.

Leia's test results were out. Her liver and kidney functions were chronically failing but the doctor could not find the root cause yet.

Leia widened her eyes when the doctor told her about her situation. She asked, "You mean that I had to go through all those examinations but you still haven't figured out what's wrong?"

"Sorry, I'll arrange an expert to consult on your situation and see if there are any examinations that we might've missed." The attending doctor apologized helplessly. Generally, the root cause of organ failure would be found after a detailed examination.

There were very few cases like Leia who went through a round of examinations but the doctors failed to find anything.

It was not to say that it was impossible. There was a one in 10,000 chance that the situation would occur. To find out the root cause, they had to do more in-depth examinations, and these required face-to-face and ongoing consultations with experts.

"Consultation with an expert? Does that mean that more people will be involved?" Leia asked with a frown on her face. Yesterday, she had more than 20 tubes of blood drawn. She thought she would find out the reason the next day but she was disappointed. The conclusion they arrived at was the same as before.

"There are only a few experts in our hospital. If necessary, we will contact experts from overseas," the doctor replied.

sure that you're a qualified doctor? This is such a big hospital but you still have to ask foreign doctors for help? I just came back from overseas. Before I came back, I did a check-up but they didn't find anything wrong with me. However, when I came to you, you told me that there's a problem with me. Even so, you didn't find anything after drawing more than 20 tubes of blood from me? What can I expect you to find?" Leia was furious. She did not think there was anything wrong with her

the examination reports in front of her made her believe that there was no way someone would fake the reports just to trick

doctor felt helpless after being bombarded by her series of questions. It was the first time he had encountered a situation like Leia's in his many years of medical practice. He was speechless, but at the same time, he also found the

tried to stabilize her mood. "Ms. Norman, please trust us. We'll find out the cause and make sure that you get the necessary

the time you find out the cause, my liver and kidneys will be ruined! There's no need to continue this conversation. Discharge me from the hospital right now. I don't need quack doctors like you to treat me," Leia said. She did not trust that these people would be able to cure her, and there was the risk of being discovered by Luke. She wanted to get Luca's

The doctor was a little angry after being called a quack doctor but he still maintained his composure. "Ms. Norman, please

don't trust you. Get me discharged from the hospital now!" Leia said

doctor took a deep breath. He wanted to treat her but there was no point for him to insist and persuade her since the other party was unwilling. "Okay, since you insist on being discharged from the hospital, I'll prepare some disclaimers and agreements for you to sign before your discharge. You can leave after you sign

them to me." Leia rolled her eyes and thought it was a waste of time for her to be

She felt as though she was in prison in the Norman Residence because she was not allowed to go out at all. However, compared to the Norman Residence, the hospital made her feel unhappy and joyless like a real **prison**.

Queenie walked in and heard Leia shouting about wanting to be discharged from the hospital. She quickly asked, "What's wrong? Why do you suddenly want to be discharged from the *hospital*?"

Leia wanted to leave the hospital and head straight to the Norman Residence so Queenie could not say anything about it but she did not expect her to come over to the hospital *so early*.

She stepped forward, grabbed Queenie's hand, and said in a spoiled manner, "Mom, I had more than 20 tubes of blood drawn from me yesterday but they still couldn't find anything. It's so frustrating! This is a big hospital but the doctors here aren't very good. Please bring me **home**."

"They found nothing? Doctor, what does that mean?" Queenie asked, her tone was soft and worried.

The doctor shook his head helplessly. 'There's such a stark difference between those who are blood-related and those who are **not**.'

Leia could not even learn half of Queenie's gentleness. The difference was so big that others could not help but **sigh**.

"*After the* test results came out, we still couldn't find out what is causing Ms. Norman's organ failure. We have to conduct more in-depth examinations but Ms. Norman doesn't believe in us and demands to be discharged, so I'm going to prepare the documents now. As soon as Ms. Norman signs the papers, she can be discharged," the doctor said. With such a difficult patient, he would rather discharge her as *well*.

minute, don't prepare the documents yet. Will you be able to find out the root cause if we continue to do other tests?" Queenie disagreed with Leia's decision to be discharged from the hospital. She thought of it as Leia throwing

can't guarantee that. After all, the probability of this situation is one in 10,000. For many patients, we're able to find out the cause after conducting these basic examinations, but for some, it's a little more complicated. One or two examinations may not help us find out more. We need to screen for various diseases," the

glanced at Leia. She was stubborn and insisted on leaving

is the report out yet?"

doctor picked up the report on the coffee table and said, "These are

thank you. Leia won't be getting discharged from the hospital for now. I'd like to get another opinion. Would that be alright with you?" Queenie asked. With these test results, Luca should be able to advise on how to help

you can," the doctor said. "In that case, I won't prepare the documents for the time being. If anything happens, just ring

"Okay, thank you." Queenie thanked him.

the doctor left, she picked up the reports and glanced

Chapter 1560

"Aunt Queenie, good morning." Luca looked at the experimental equipment not far away from her. She was tired from doing experiments last night and fell asleep on the bed in the maid's room.

"Luca, did I wake you up?" Queenie felt a little bad when she heard Luca's hoarse voice.

As it was almost in the afternoon, Queenie did not expect that Luca had not woken up yet. Queenie had always been reluctant to disturb others, so she was a little embarrassed to have disturbed Luca's rest.

"No, I'm already up," Luca said. She stood up and walked to the experiment table, then put the experimental specimens away.

She was researching the drug from the Island of Despair. However, without the specific drug and only a diluted version on hand, it was a little difficult for her to analyze the ingredients and content.

After she was assigned the additional task, she knew that she had to hurry up and finish her research.

Even if she could not get out of the grasps of the Island of Despair, she hoped that Eler and Amur could.

Luca researched the drug not for herself but it was because Nyla was still on the Island of Despair. She could not be so cruel as to ignore her child just for her happiness.

If she could do that, she would not be the person Luke fell in love with in the first place.

"Mmm." Queenie glanced at Leia and felt strange. Although there was a distance between them, a familiar feeling arose in her heart every time she heard Luca's voice. Luca's voice was soft and gentle. It was similar to Bianca's voice before she lost her memories...

Luca knew that Queenie called her because something had happened, so she took the initiative to ask, "Aunt Queenie, what's the matter?"

"It's about Leia..." Queenie took a deep breath. She had to get Luca's help on the matter so she jumped straight into the topic. "Her examination reports are out. Do you have time now? I'll send them over to you. I'd appreciate it if you can help take a look."

knew that after her reminder, Queenie would take Leia to the hospital for a
with the status of the Norman family, the hospital would have provided the test
was well aware of Leia's condition even though she had not seen

it's better for me to come over to the hospital. Let me know the ward that you're in," Luca said. She could not bring herself to ignore Queenie's

Queenie told her Leia's ward number.

Luca replied, "I'm going over now."

watched as Queenie ended the call and asked, "What did she say? Is

did not want to admit that Luca was capable, Luca found out about her condition just from taking her pulse, so Leia could only pin her hopes on

because the hospital had yet been able to determine

to come. Leia, be mindful of your attitude toward her when she comes later." Queenie urged her. After all, she had begged Luca to

with my attitude? Mom, aren't you also suspecting that she's having an improper relationship with Luke? My attitude is to protect Bianca," Leia

"**How do** you know that?" Queenie frowned.

"**I heard** what you said to Dad and saw that he went to have a chat with Luke. Ugh, Bianca has a big heart. She left her husband and went abroad to study abroad, giving other women the opportunity to enter his life. Moreover, she knows that you're not in good health but she still refuses to come back to accompany you. Unlike me, who tried every means to come back just to be by your side as soon as I heard that you're not in good health," Leia ranted about **everyone**.

Queenie felt helpless when she heard what Leia said.

She knew what Leia came back for. However, with **Bianca...**

She felt helpless about Bianca's current situation. Queenie did not know what to say when she thought about how Bianca had yet to reply to her text that was sent in **the morning**.

"Okay, stop with this nonsense. It won't be good if others hear you," Queenie reprimanded her with a slightly stern *expression*.

Her tone was not serious, but from Leia's point of view, it was clear that Queenie was defending **Luca**.

Leia felt disdainful toward Luca in her heart. All she did was give Queenie a few packs of medicine and it was enough for Queenie to defend Luca and abandon her, Queenie's own daughter...

Ugh...

An hour later, Luca arrived at the hospital. Leia had gotten impatient from waiting for **her...**

When Luca pushed the door and walked in, Leia lowered her gaze and muttered in her heart. 'She's moving like a turtle! Ugh, she looks like she's unwilling to be here...'

seemed that if Queenie had not asked her, Luca would not

saw Luca walk in, she stepped forward to greet her. "Luca, have you

heart felt sour when she saw how eager Queenie was. She assumed that she was doing it because of might be unwilling to see her if Leia was not in poor

Where are the examination reports?"

her a thick stack of examination reports. These were all the reports from the examinations that Leia did yesterday. They drew more than 20 tubes of blood, all of which were used for various tests. However, the cause was not mentioned in the stack of

took the reports, and Queenie dragged her to

on, don't stand. Sit," Queenie

down and quickly flipped through the

looked at her reading speed and wondered. The speed of the doctor reading the reports earlier was not as fast as Luca's

quickly read the entire stack of reports, glanced at Leia, and then