

Be Gentle 1611

Chapter 1611

That was the only way left.

Luca closed her eyes and lay down on the bed as she listened to the footsteps of the two men leaving. She did not see how many ropes he carried in his hands. However, she knew there were at least six ropes tied around her hands just from looking at the man's gestures earlier.

It had become even more difficult for her to break free now.

Luca thought she would not be able to save herself anymore. It was too difficult for her, and she did not have much energy left. She could only rest up and wait for another chance.

The next day.

Jason realized Luca did not check in at her new office. Thus, he went downstairs to look for her. It was then he found out that Luca was not in the office downstairs either.

She did not come to the office at all.

Jason knew she was not someone who would not skip work without giving notice. Hence, he called her and noticed that he could not get through to her phone.

He immediately informed Luke about this.

Luke frowned and kept silent when he heard what Jason told him.

This morning, Tommy was whining to him that Luca did not call him back after she rejected his video call request last night. She did not reply to his messages either.

Hence, the child thought she did not like him anymore and complained to him about it.

Luke took no notice as he thought Luca must be in the middle of something and that was why she did not reply to the child's messages. However, she did not ask for leave nor inform anyone that she was not coming to the office today.

Luca was fine when she left last night. Could it be that something had happened to her when she was on her way back home?

rose immediately when he thought of the possibility. He said, "Call the

startled. "Call the police? Boss, even though I can't get through to Luca's phone, the police won't make a case out of this even if we call them. Maybe she overslept and is at

he said made sense too, but Luke was certain that Luca was not that kind of

his coat and

followed behind him. "Boss, where are

heading to the apartment," said

have to attend an important meeting later.” Jason thought his boss must have fallen for her since he was so worried about

would he do that for a

left without looking back.

Jason sighed. He had no choice but to follow his boss’ instructions. He picked up his phone immediately and ordered them to postpone the

Luke drove to the apartment.

into a few workers who were carrying things. They were moving things into the unit, and they knew the passcode to the

“Is there anyone in

A worker looked at Luke, puzzled, “Sir, there’s no one inside.”

Luke opened the door and walked into the apartment. He headed to the bedroom, which was clean and tidy. Then, he glanced at the bathroom. It was **neat too**.

He walked around the place and saw no sign of **Luca**.

“Sir, *what’s* wrong?” A worker looked at him with confusion.

Luke replied, “Did you see her when you were moving things here?”

“No. No one was here when we came in.” The worker shook *his head*.

Something was wrong...

There was a thought in Luke’s mind. He trotted out of the apartment and glanced at the surveillance camera at the entrance of the apartment. Then, he headed to the *property’s office*.

The employees in the office were informed that he would be coming before he arrived. All of them gathered together and waited for him in the office.

Luke entered the property’s office. They had already retrieved the surveillance video of the entrance of the **apartment**.

The manager asked respectfully, “Mr. Crawford, we’ve pulled up the surveillance footage. What date and time do you wish to check the **footage of?**”

Luke only wanted to see if Luca had come back last night. She cared about hygiene a lot, so she always kept the house clean and tidy after getting influenced by him.

Since the house was too tidy, that meant she had not come back at all. He had to watch the surveillance footage to be assured.

“**Last** night around seven o’clock until this morning. Play it at double the normal speed.” Luke stood there with his eyes on the computer **screen**.

Double the normal speed?

was startled. Luke would not be able to see anything if he played it at double the normal

However, he followed Luke's instructions.

at the computer screen without blinking. He only wanted to make sure if Luca had come home the

was no sign of Luca after he finished watching the

nodded and walked out of the office right

employees exchanged glances with each other. "What just

left, he came to the apartment where Luca used to stay in before. He realized he was unable to walk into the neighborhood when he wanted to

had tightened the security measures after what had happened last time. Strangers were not allowed to enter without the tenant's

only park his car at the roadside. He stood at the entrance and called the chief

chief of police immediately sent two policemen after Luke asked for his help. Luke got immediately into the neighborhood with the police's

took the elevator and went upstairs. Then, he knocked on the door when he reached the door.

There was no answer.

Chapter 1612

The policeman heard him repeating the same words. When he was about to explain to him what the conditions were to classify someone as having gone missing, the other policeman grabbed his arm.

"Mr. Crawford, please give us the information about the missing lady. We'll try our best to look for her."

Luke picked up his phone and called Jason.

He answered the phone call after two beeps. Luke then ordered the person on the other end of the call, "Send Luca's details to my phone."

"Yes," Jason replied immediately. He was able to sense how nervous Luke was just by listening to his voice.

Luke received the message with Luca's details after a minute. He handed his phone to the policeman.

"She left after having dinner with me last night. She didn't go home. Please help find out where she is as soon as possible."

"Yes." The policeman noted down Luca's details on his phone and left.

The policeman who was grabbed by the arm looked at his colleague and asked with confusion, "We can't take this as a missing person case. How could you agree to help him? We're going to get scolded by the chief if he finds out about it."

The policeman rolled his eyes at him. "You're new here, right? You know nothing. He's on good terms with our chief. If he says someone's missing, no matter whether it's true or not, we still have to investigate it."

The policeman understood immediately. "Then let's trace her down first."

"Alright." The other policeman nodded and agreed.

Luke did not leave with the two policemen. Instead, he went into the apartment and looked at the white space while recalling what had happened here.

case had happened here, and Luca was attacked back then as well. Now, she was missing. He felt as if there was a huge mystery that was leading him to explore it deeper and deeper.

manipulating Luca? What method was that party using to manipulate her?

someone from the Island

Luca had no tattoo on her. Annette had checked Luca's body when her leg muscles cramped in the pool that time. There was no tattoo on her body that was similar to the tattoo that Bianca's

pondered over it. He could not figure out why Luca was being

began their investigation after they returned to the station. They started to investigate her whereabouts based on the details that Luke had provided them earlier. Then, they realized she did not purchase any tickets with her passport. That meant she did not take any transport to leave A

could not exclude the possibility that she might have hailed a cab to leave the

were clueless about where to start, a policeman remembered that he received a call last night claiming that a young woman was abducted into a van while waiting for a taxi at the roadside. There happened to be a surveillance camera along the road, so they pulled up the footage

clarity of the surveillance video was not the best, but they did see a woman being abducted into the van. The van drove away before the passersby managed to

could not see the car plate number or the men's

we going to confirm if this is the woman Mr. Crawford is looking for?" one of the policemen

"Wasn't Mr. Crawford having dinner with her last night? Send this photo to him and ask if she's wearing the same clothes. If it's a match, then the missing person didn't leave on her own but was kidnapped," said another policeman.

The method should be able to work, so they sent the surveillance video **to Luke**.

Luke was in the middle of a meeting. After he received the video and watched it, he was sure that the woman who was kidnapped was Luca without needing to look at it for the second *time*.

The woman in the video was dressed in the same clothes as the ones Luca was wearing last night. Furthermore, **the briefcase...**

Luke stood up.

One of the division managers who was reporting their job performance saw him standing up all of a sudden. He thought Luke was dissatisfied with his report, so he could not help but stammer, "Boss, is... Is there anything *wrong*?"

"Postpone the meeting," Luke said as he walked out.

Jason and the other division managers exchanged glances with each other after he left.

"Mr. Doyle, what's wrong with Boss?" the division manager who spoke earlier asked. They were supposed to hold the meeting earlier today, but then they were told that the meeting would be postponed. Now that they had started the meeting, it was postponed *again*.

Why was it so difficult to have a meeting?

Jason shook his head and stood up. "I'm not sure either. It's time for lunch now. Please have your lunch first. I'll inform everyone of the meeting time again. Kindly check your group chat when the time comes."

the meeting room after

the situation now, Jason reckoned Luke was behaving unusually all because of Luca. Could it be that something had happened to

Probably not...

would always run into something, she was good at self-defense. Nothing bad could have happened was pondering while keeping up with Luke's pace. He was calling someone.

sure the woman who was abducted into the car is my missing employee, Luca," Luke confirmed with the policeman through

shocked when he heard that. Luca was

the policeman confirmed her identity, he replied immediately, "Alright. We'll investigate the direction where the car was heading based on the surveillance cameras. Don't worry, We'll find Ms.

hung up the phone and glanced at Jason, who was following behind him. "Tell Percy to come to

Jason was not surprised this time. It was because he had seen for himself how much his boss cared about Luca. Hence, he was not surprised he would ask for Percy's help to look for

to Luke's office after he received Jason's

Chapter 1613

"You should've noticed something when you were driving, right? Their intention is obvious. It seems to me they've been following your woman for a long time. You must have missed them when you were driving." Percy rubbed his chin as he analyzed the situation.

Luke was good at counter-reconnaissance. He would have noticed a van following him from the office to the hotel.

Luke kept silent for a moment. He was trying to recall what had happened last night.

He was silent when he was driving, and he did not talk much to Luca. He would have noticed something if there was anything unusual.

However, he was unaware of the things around him last night.

There were only two possibilities based on the given situation. First, the kidnappers began to follow Luca at the hotel.

Still, that was unlikely to happen. After all, the kidnappers would not have known Luca's whereabouts.

The second possibility was that the driver was good at reconnaissance, so they succeeded in going unnoticed by Luke.

Luke got even more anxious at the thought it may be the second possibility.

If Luca was kidnapped by someone so good at reconnaissance, she must be suffering a lot right now. Moreover, she had been missing for the whole night. He did not receive any calls, and no one knew Luca's real identity other than him.

They still could not figure out the other party's purpose in kidnapping her.

Percy knew Luke did not notice anything amiss last night when he remained silent. Otherwise, he would have said something.

Percy said, "Although the van is slightly more expensive than normal vans, they're still commonly seen on the road. It'll be a little difficult to find out who bought the van."

his fists. "I have to find Luca as soon as possible."

worry. "I'll help you." Percy knew how much Luca meant to

woman who was missing for three years and whose life and death was unknown had suddenly come back to him. Before Luke could even immerse himself in the happiness of gaining something precious back, she

It must be tough for him.

stood up and said, "I'll send my men to investigate it. Don't rush. I'm sure we can

her would not be a problem, but it was unknown what state Luca would be in when they

had no idea how much she had suffered during those three years. He was thinking of finding out the mastermind behind her and giving her a better life. However, she was kidnapped by someone before he managed to find out

you suspecting that there's someone behind her manipulating things?" Percy suddenly thought of it. "I'm guessing that person isn't someone simple. Why don't you take the opportunity to dig up something this time?"

what Percy meant. He wanted him to spread the news that Luca had been kidnapped.

was to inform the organization behind her that she had been kidnapped. They would investigate the matter after knowing that she was kidnapped since they had put in so much effort to place her beside him.

the organization behind Luca was powerful and influential. Otherwise, they could not have done

not a bad idea to find Luca while borrowing the power of others. Luke would be able to secretly observe when the other party started their investigation. He could probably dig up

“I’ll leave this to the police,” said Luke. The news must be released from the officials to convince the organization behind *Luca*.

He acted fast by asking the police to write a press release and announce the news that Luca had been kidnapped. Then, he asked the police to inform the public that they were looking for the people who were at the scene yesterday to provide *testimonies*.

Luke sat opposite Percy. They were facing each other after Luke was done doing everything. They were waiting for the police to make **the announcement**.

“Look at how troubled you are. Do you want to go for a drink tonight?” Percy **invited**.

“Is it me or you who’s troubled?” Luke went straight to **the point**.

Percy was at a loss for words after Luke questioned him like that. He was indeed worried about his plans not going well. Now, there were more things to do and he had to *wait longer*.

He could wait, but he was afraid Nina could not wait any *longer*.

Percy refused to force Nina to stay beside him, so he planned to wait until the problems here were solved until he contacted Nina.

However, as time went by, he was even more afraid of losing her.

“Since I’m helping you investigate this, you won’t mind drinking with me, right? You can just sit there if you don’t want to drink,” said *Percy*.

“Sure.” Luke agreed.

Although Luca’s matter was important, they were without clues now. All they could do was to wait.

released the news through their official channels half an

the news in the evening. After confirming with Jason that Luca was really kidnapped and did not come to the office for work, she told Nina

Nina heard what Sue told her, what Pierre said to her came across her mind.

told her that he would lay his hands on the people

Jean were still recovering in the hospital. They were fine. The nurses did not inform her about anything else either. Could it be that the person he was talking about was

immediately searched online after she hung up the call with Sue. She watched the video of Luca getting abducted into

her off guard, so Luca could not put up a

was not able to defend herself when it happened so suddenly. It did not matter how good she was at self-defense.

the news released by the police calling for people who were at the scene to help in their investigation and to head to the police station to make a statement. She called Pierre right away without

able to get through to him, but he did not answer the

her teeth. In her mind, Pierre did it intentionally. She made another call to ask Pierre about it. She wanted to know whether he had anything to do with

time, her call was hung up in

Chapter 1614

Bibbler's Tale?

A bar?

Nina frowned after she hung up the phone. Luca was kidnapped, yet Luke was drinking at a bar?

Although it was normal to drink at the bar, he had to attend to his business partners, after all. However, should he not be prioritizing finding Luca at a time like this?

Nina suddenly thought that something was wrong when she thought so.

Luca was not Binaca, and there was no need for Luke to be responsible for her, not to mention look for her.

Nina found her keys, shook her head, and closed the door. She thought of what crossed her mind just now, and she thought it was because Luca was similar to Bianca, so she had such thoughts.

Bibbler's Tale.

Percy drank a mouthful of liquor and watched Luke put his phone back in his pocket. Then, he asked, "Any news on Luca?"

"Do you think I could sit here calmly if it was about her?"

Percy nodded. "That's true."

Luke did not stop him as he looked at the man who seemed to want to get drunk. After all, someone was on her way here to convince him.

As he watched Percy down more and more drinks, he thought he might speak his thoughts later.

Percy touched his face when he noticed Luke staring at him. He asked, "Is there something on my face?"

"No." Luke shook his head.

me. Come on, drink a little. You're pathetic too. Your wife was kidnapped again right after you found out that she came back. Sigh, I feel sorry for you." Percy had drunk too much, so he

touched a raw nerve of Luke's. Even so, he did not mind what Percy said. After all, he could not talk reasonably with an almost drunk person. He reminded him calmly, "Don't tell others that Luca's real identity

and he made a gesture of pulling a zip across his mouth. It meant that he would keep it a secret, and he would not tell anyone about

hour later, someone pushed the private room's door

came in and saw Percy sitting there. She unconsciously stepped out.

person she wanted to see now was Percy

Luke called out to stop her. "Didn't you say you have something to tell

snapped back to her senses and looked at Luke helplessly. She refused to throw another glance at Percy. She did have something to tell Luke, but she did not plan to tell Percy about

would have chosen to tell Luke about it on the phone instead of coming here if he had told her that Percy was here

mind coming out? I'll tell you about it." Nina made a

drunk, and his eyes were blurry. He looked at her quietly without doing

was heartbroken to see how much she wanted to

"It's crowded out there. Are you sure you want to talk about it there?" Luke asked, and he turned around to glance at his friend who had been drinking so much because of Nina. He would try his best to help him.

After all, Percy had helped him and Bianca a lot too.

Nina bit her lip and hesitated for some time. She walked in and closed the private room's door after considering that Luca's matter was much *more important*.

"**You can** sit there." He pointed at the seat that was the farthest away from Percy.

Percy glanced in the direction where he pointed and glared at him.

Luke was helping Nina avoid him!

Nina glanced at the seat. Indeed, it was the farthest away from Percy.

There were two empty bottles in front of him. It looked like he had drunk a lot. Sitting far away from him could make sure she was safe.

Percy secretly sneered when he saw her sitting down obediently. She had never been so well-behaved with him.

Luke looked at Nina. "Do you want **a drink?**"

"I quit drinking," replied Nina. She was addicted to drinking when she was together with Percy back then. It was because alcohol could numb her feelings, so she often numbed herself with **alcohol**.

However, she did not need that anymore.

Nina was a free woman now. She was no longer living life without being given a title. She was bound to no man.

nodded and waited for her to

silent as he continued

took a deep breath. She breathed in the air and could smell the alcohol. It was familiar to her, yet it disgusted her so much

said, "I saw the news, and I know Luca has been kidnapped. I think it has something to do with

Luke unconsciously looked at Percy when he heard

not say anything. He furrowed his brows unconsciously when he heard her mention his

he kidnap Luca?" Luke asked slowly. If Pierre was the one who did it, Percy would not let him get away with it even if Pierre was his

the one Luke cherished most in his life. No matter who wanted to lay their hands on her, they would have to pay for what they did. However, things were not clear

it. Pierre came looking for me last night. He told me he would lay his hands on the people around me if I didn't listen to him." Nina recalled what he told her that night. Her body shivered unconsciously at the thought of

remained silent, and Percy sat up straight. He did not expect his brother to do something

Nina was his ex-lover. How dare he have such

"My mother and brother are still in the hospital. They're fine. But Luca went missing that same night. Besides that, she had also previously offended him to protect me, so I

what she meant. Pierre was a vindictive man. However, when Luca was defending Nina, he was there to defend

Chapter 1615

"I don't want to be around him." Nina shook her head as she looked at the slightly drunk man. Although he had never pestered her during this period, a drunk man could do anything. She was unwilling to keep him company.

Luke frowned. "His driver is not here yet. It's not appropriate for him to drive after drinking so much. And he's helping to look for Luca too. You know that. If Pierre is the one who did this, then Percy will be the quickest one to find out about it. Otherwise, we won't be able to get any news on Luca later. What if it's really Pierre who's behind this? He has the whole night to transfer Luca somewhere else."

What Luke said was reasonable.

Nina hesitated for a moment. She was not worried about what Percy would do to her after he got drunk. She was more worried about Luca.

She was partly responsible for it if Luca was really kidnapped by Pierre. After all, if it had not been for her, Luca would not have gone against Pierre.

"Fine..." Nina sounded helpless.

Percy, who was narrowing his eyes, looked like he was drunk. However, he was just a little tipsy. He was not completely drunk. At least, he could understand what they were talking about.

He said to himself, 'Luke Crawford is a true brother.'

He knew Percy was still in love with Nina. Hence, he made this arrangement.

"Then I'll leave him to you. Ask the manager to put it on my bill when you're about to leave." Luke left the private room after that.

Nina stood still for a while. There was an awkward silence in the air. Then, she turned to look at Percy. "Are you done drinking?"

"Aren't you tired standing here?" Percy answered her with another question. It was rare to see him curling the corners of his lips into a smile.

There was a wave of burning anger in Nina's heart, but she did not know why she could not release it. She had no idea how and where that anger came from.

was tiring to stand for so long. However, she was able to think more when she was
you going back?" she

smiled and pointed at the remaining half a bottle of wine on the table. "I'll go back when I finish

was stunned. She clenched her fists. He still wanted

much will keep you from getting down to

you mean finding Luca? I have nothing to do with this. And I'm just offering my help as a friend. Nina, how long have you known Luca? Yet you're so concerned about her? You've known me for so long. Why don't you care about me?" Percy made fun of her. It seemed like he was jealous of Luca, but he was not that childish to really be jealous

Nina rolled her eyes and turned around. "Finish your drink quickly. I'll drive you

replied to her with a hum, sounding a little lazy. "Why don't you finish it for me? Then I can go back."

don't drink." Nina clenched her fists. She turned around without noticing the gleam that flashed across the man's

not drunk at all. When Nina standing with her back to him, he was too lazy to pretend that he was drunk.

remember you used to love having a few glasses of wine. Why did you change?" Percy suddenly panicked. It had only been a few months, yet her habits had already

change if he kept her waiting for a

No way! He had to hurry up and settle the matter.

Nina felt a lump in her throat when she heard him ask this. She still had her back against him. "Percy, don't you know that I didn't like to drink back then and I drank only because I had to?"

Percy frowned. She had to drink?

"Previously, I was in pain when I was with you. I suffered every day. Even though I took pills, they still couldn't relieve my pain. Hence, I had to numb myself with alcohol. That's why you think I loved to drink. Well, I'm free now. Why should I drink again? Just because it tastes good? I've been drinking for years, and I feel obligated to tell you that I don't think alcohol tastes any good. It's just that sometimes, alcohol is a good thing. At least, it made me forget my identity, my situation, and my pain back then." Nina took a deep breath and spilled everything out.

She did not have the chance to say these things until after they separated. Today, he had given her a chance to pour it *out*.

Percy felt a sudden feeling of annoyance when he listened to what *she said*.

Was it that painful for her to be *with him*?

He gave her whatever he could give her—his love and tenderness. All that was lacking was a presentable **title**.

Did she not see his efforts?

How could she say she used to numb herself with alcohol?

Percy was annoyed, but he could not get angry now. Nina had been avoiding him as much as she could. What if he got mad and did something irrational to hurt her again? It would be even harder for him to pursue her in *the future*.

Nina did not hear him say anything. She turned around and saw him picking up the bottle to drink it.

gulp, gulp. Soon, he downed the remaining contents in

the bottle down, stood up expressionlessly, and said,

thought he was going to play dumb, but she did not expect him to act so

it be that what she said had upset him and it made him decide to be a good man who would never torture her again?

That was impossible...

had always been egocentric. He would never care about how she felt.

him leave and followed behind him

drunk three bottles of wine and was slightly staggering. However, he did not ask Nina to help him. Instead, he walked out of the bar all by

quickly kept up with him when she saw that he was about to fall.

promised herself that she would never get close to Percy again after she

she could only comfort herself and say that she approached him again because she was forced

out of the private room, and a sharp-eyed waiter helped him up. "Mr. Mallory, are you leaving?"

Chapter 1616

Percy stood there, looking disheveled. "Send me back. It'll be inconvenient to drive mine."

Nina thought for a moment. Indeed, she had to use her car tomorrow. She would have to hail a ride and drive her car back if she drove Percy home with his car.

Although she was disgusted by the strong alcohol smell on him, she wanted to rest early today. Hence, she pulled out her keys and pressed the button.

The car that was parked on the roadside beeped at once.

Nina said, "Come on, get him into the car."

The waiter chose not to say anything and helped him get into Nina's car since Percy was one of the bar's VIPs.

She took a deep breath and looked at the man in the passenger seat. Then, she got into the car.

She forgot to remind the waiter, who immediately placed Percy in the front passenger seat. She had no choice but to give up on the idea. She would save herself the trouble of moving him to the backseat.

The air in the car was filled with a strong alcohol smell when she closed the door.

It was so strong that Nina was worried the traffic police would think that she was drunk driving if she breathed in a few more puffs. She opened all the car windows.

"It's nighttime. I'm cold." Percy mumbled as he lifted his hand, trying to close the window.

Nina rolled her eyes. Back then, he was never this talkative after drinking. He was so talkative today, and it annoyed her. "You stink of alcohol. I'm just trying to get some fresh air."

Percy listened to what she said and fell silent for a moment.

Nina thought he would finally stop talking, he spoke again, "You never used to think that I wasn't good used to..." Nina paused for a moment. Indeed, she never used to think that he was not good enough. It was because she thought she was not good enough. She laughed at herself and said, "Do you know why? Because you were my financial support at that time. Who was I to think that you weren't good enough? But things are different now. I'm free, and I have the right to think

was unhappy to hear that, but he could not be bothered to talk that much. He might as well just close his eyes.

did not hear any reply from him. She wondered if she had gone too far with her words, but did it even matter if she was mean to

was not short of women who admired him, and she never knew how to please him. There were still many women out there who were willing to flatter him with compliments to please

ask her to stop the car anytime he wanted if he was unhappy with

this would be their last time seeing each other if nothing unexpected happened again. All was fine as long as he never showed up in front of

dead silence in the car. Nina was breathing the air that carried his smell, and she told herself to focus on driving.

Percy's phone rang.

that it was the Instagram message

lazily pulled his phone out of his pocket and glanced at it. Then, he typed a few words and put it back into his pocket without saying

not hold herself back any longer and asked, "Any news on

"No," Percy spoke calmly, "They said Pierre never left the house *today*."

"What do you mean? Him not leaving the house doesn't mean that he's not a suspect. If he's the mastermind behind this, there's no need for him to leave the house. Besides, he didn't leave the house today but he was running around last night. It's probably because he's the mastermind and no one can find out what he did last **night**."

"I know how to do this. You don't have to worry about it." Percy felt a pain in his head when he listened to her words.

Nina was suddenly so talkative when she used to be quiet back then. Percy was having mixed **feelings**.

This was her true nature...

She was talkative, and she talked about something over and over again. She was completely different from the good and quiet Nina who used to be with him.

Was he wrong for keeping her beside him?

Percy was feeling a little upset for taking so much time to realize this. Things would have been different between him and Nina if he were able to realize some things as early as Luke did.

She was destined to be his woman no matter how many times she tried to escape from *him*.

"Don't defend him just because he's Pierre..." Nina hit the brake and stopped in front of the red light. She shot a glance at the man beside *her*.

Percy had been upset all this while. He got even more depressed when he heard her say *that*.

He replied, "Nina, is that what you think of me?"

Nina fell silent when she heard the anger in his voice.

had done a lot of things before, and she knew about all

heard from others about what he had done, but she had no idea if that was the truth. Therefore, she had never judged him for being the kind of person he

had always been prejudiced against Pierre when it was about

never mentioned all those things Pierre previously did to her. He would only take the blame on behalf of his brother even after he bullied her in the

had enough of it as it often happened. She never thought about asking him to seek justice for her

still believed that Percy would always take Pierre's

at her side profile, feeling disappointed. It turned out that this was her impression of him.

that he had done enough, but it seemed like she still had many misunderstandings

like he had to do better in the future.

Nina was very concerned about Luca after talking with her. Things would probably be easier for him if he started with

into Luca's kidnapping case. I won't let Pierre get away with it if he's the one behind this." He promised her at once. Never mind him, but Luke definitely would not let Pierre get the chance to

are you staying now?" Nina changed the subject of conversation. The traffic light had turned green. Up ahead was the villa they had stayed in before, while Percy's private villa was on the

Chapter 1617

The maid hurriedly came to open the door after a while.

Percy held his phone and tried to ask the maid not to open the door. The door was still opened in the end. He sat in the car and put his phone back into his pocket.

Maybe he should have told her that he was still staying in the villa they used to stay in.

He dismissed the servants at the villa after she insisted on leaving. There was only one maid left there who was responsible for occasionally cleaning the house.

Percy sat in the car and listened to the conversation between Nina and his maid.

"Hello, your young master is in the car. He's drunk, and his legs are not working now. Please come over and help him into the house." Nina did not forget to taunt him when she was talking to the maid.

Percy wanted to show her that he could walk, but she had a soft rather than hard temperament. It was better for him to pretend to be weak now.

The maid shot a glance at the person in the car. It was indeed her young master. She walked over and hurriedly pushed the door open.

"Young Master, are you alright?" The maid thought he was drunk and he fell, that was why he could not walk. She touched his legs.

Percy gnashed his teeth and said, "I'm fine."

"Uh..." The maid watched him get out of the car unhappily. He stood there. Apart from his hand that was placed on the car door to support him, his legs were working fine.

"He'll fall after taking two steps. You'd better help him. Otherwise, the news of the young master of the Mallory family getting drunk and breaking his leg on the street will be on the front page of the newspapers tomorrow." Nina took a few steps back as she said that.

Percy glared at her. Would she still say something like that if he really broke his leg?

The maid immediately held onto Percy once she heard that. She dared not to let go as she was afraid that he might fall if she did not pay attention. She might lose her job too.

as she watched the maid follow Percy closely step by step. She closed the door of the passenger seat and got into the driver's seat. Then, she hit the accelerator and drove

dashed off without staying for even

stopped and turned to look in the direction that she

maid stopped walking too and was puzzled. "Young

her hands off him right away. "Don't hold onto

maid could smell the alcohol on him, but he did not look like he was drunk based on the

alright." She moved her hands away stiffly. Then, she consciously maintained a certain distance

as Nina's car disappeared from his sight. He turned around and ordered the maid, "Tell Pierre to come here

Master? Alright." The maid was wondering why Percy could not inform his brother himself and ordered her to do it instead. However, it would be unwise to ask about it. She would just follow her boss'

...

The following day.

her eyes and sat up straight. Then, she glanced out the window. It was

feel her head spinning. She must have bled too much last night. Hence, she was a little weak

Luca let out a sigh and looked at the iron balls chained to her feet. It became even more difficult for her to escape after what had happened **last night**.

The room's door was pushed open.

Luca saw the two men come into the room one after another with masks on their faces. Each of them was carrying a bag in their hands.

She saw that one of the bags was from a pharmacy. A gleam flashed across her eyes. That should be the merbromin that they bought for her. They were going to dress her wound after hitting her last night.

She reckoned that she was quite valuable to the person who was behind this judging from how carefully they had been treating her. Still, she had yet to figure out what that person wanted *from her*.

The man threw the bag filled with the medicine on the **bed**.

Luca lowered her head. She was able to see clearly which pharmacy it was from where she was.

There were not many outlets of this pharmacy in A City. Although she did not memorize A City's map, she would be able to narrow down the scope if she could inform someone that this pharmacy was nearby.

The man took povidone and some cotton swabs out of the bag. He rolled his sleeves and said, "I'm going to sterilize your wound. Don't shout if you don't want to die."

Luca remained silent as she watched the man pour some povidone onto the cotton swab and apply it to her forehead.

He was not gentle at all. He deliberately made it even more painful when the wound was still hurting.

Luca frowned.

Another man saw this and said, "Be gentle. That person probably has his eyes on this woman's appearance. You'll leave a scar if you're **careless**."

man tried to be more gentle as he muttered, "How

won't feel that way when you get the money," the other man

man sterilized her wound, he poured some merbromin on another cotton swab and helped her to dress

did not even make

her wound, the other man took some food out of another bag. "There's only bread and milk. You can starve if you refuse

have it." Luca was not that stupid to starve herself to protest against them. She needed to fill up her stomach now. That way, she would be able to think of a way to save

divided the bread and handed it to

forward and took a bite. The bread was dry, and it tasted awful. She forced herself to take a few more bites, then she said, "It's too dry. I need

man opened the milk and handed it to

it troublesome for you to feed me like this? You can release me and let me finish my meal first. Then you can tie me up again," said

Eat." The man did not listen to

of you while I'm alone. What are you afraid of? I have iron balls chained to my feet. I won't be able to take down both of you." Luca continued to say. Feeding her was something that would test their patience. They would not have the patience to do

man shot a glance at his partner and said, "Well, untie her, then. We'll tie her up again when she finishes eating."

Chapter 1618

"This is what I need." Luca was calm. She knew that pissing off the kidnappers would not do her any good. Nonetheless, she wanted to fight for more opportunities to see if she could find out more information from them.

The man rolled his eyes and mocked her. "You're being kidnapped, you're not on vacation."

"I know. You can let me die of thirst and tell your boss that I died because I was too weak to withstand your beatings." Luca looked at the hideous mask on his face without any fear.

"Will you die if you drink two fewer glasses of water? Do you think I'm a three-year-old child?" The man pinched her chin. If he was not afraid of hurting her again, he would have already taken action.

"I was beaten until my forehead bled yesterday and I'm very weak now. You can refuse to meet my demands. However, when the person behind you asks you for a handover, you need to figure out how you're going to explain it to him." Luca still appeared tough even though her chin was being gripped by the kidnapper.

The man listened to her threats. His eyes could be seen through the mask. His gaze was gloomy and terrifying. "What I hate most in my life is being threatened, especially by women."

When the other man heard him, he patted him on the shoulder and said, "Forget about it. Money is more important."

"I've kidnapped so many people and it's the first time I've met someone with so many demands. How are you okay with it?" The man turned around to look at his companion. He was a kidnapper, not a butler.

"I've kidnapped many and it's not the first time I've seen a woman act so calm. If you don't want to do it, I'll do it," another man said angrily as he was too lazy to talk to Luca.

Luca listened to their conversation and thought to herself that these two men were habitual offenders. Once she escaped, she was determined to remember all of their details so that she could assist the police and stop them from harming others.

The men ignored Luca and walked out.

looked at the closed door and kept track of the time in her

they had to keep guard of her, she was not going to make things easy for

a while, Luca estimated that 15 minutes had passed. She stood up and walked to the bathroom attached to the

a lot of effort for every step she took. As soon as she took a step, the iron balls would roll, be dragged against the floor, and make a loud

few seconds, the door of the room was pushed open and a man walked in. "What are you

not turn around. She walked toward the direction of the bathroom and said, "I want to go to the

man squinted and watched her walk step by step with difficulty. He did not pity her. "Don't you dare try up. I can't even go to the toilet? What, do you want me to relieve myself on the bed? Will you clean me up, then?" Luca knew that these men only cared about money and did not want any trouble, which was why she said what she said.

man was a little impatient as he listened to the sound of the iron balls grinding against the floor. He stood by the door, watched her walk into the bathroom, and warned her. "Don't close

don't close the door, won't you see everything? It's just a bathroom. What can I do? Moreover, I have these two iron balls on my feet." Luca pretended to struggle as she dragged the iron balls into the

The man saw that she needed to put in some work to move the iron balls and wondered if she was really as agile as others said she was.

'Looking at how she's acting now, it doesn't look like it...'

Luca closed the bathroom door after she dragged the two balls **in**.

She did not stay in the bathroom for long. A minute later, there was the sound of flushing from the bathroom and she dragged the iron balls out **again**.

The man squinted and stepped forward to check the rope behind her. He found that there was no loosening or signs of *wear*.

"Don't try anything." He warned her again.

"How could I try anything in my current situation?" Luca slowly walked back to the bed and sat down *on it*.

Her calm appearance was as though she was there as a guest. She did not make any noise except for these disturbances. The other times, she was not *particularly bad*.

'Is she not at all worried about the situation she's in?'

"You're so calm. Aren't you worried?" the man could not help but *ask*.

smiled and said, "I have nothing to worry about, but you guys... You're the ones who

do you mean?" The man's heart skipped a beat when he heard what she said. He had a bad feeling but he could not show it

find out eventually. I heard that you've kidnapped a lot of people. Since you're safe and sound now, all of the jobs you did before this were successful, right? The police never bothered you?" Luca leaned on the bedside leisurely.

was still a little dizzy after she bled the

"We're professionals, and the police are useless. They can't do anything to us," the man said rudely while he expressed his contempt for

and said, "Yes, the police can't do anything to you. However, you kidnapped me. Now, other people besides the police are after

"Who?" the man answered her subconsciously.

a friend of the Crawford and Mallory families. Mm, there's also an organization behind me. When they find out that I'm missing, they'll search for me. No matter where you hide me, they'll find me in the end. By then, misfortune won't be upon me but you." Luca calmly mentioned all the people who could

not sure about the Crawford and Mallory

hope was that Luke would help find her because as long as he was involved, Percy Mallory would certainly help

Chapter 1619

Luca was certain after she saw him evade her question.

It was Pierre!

"Didn't you find out more before you kidnapped me? I was rumored to be romantically involved with Luke Crawford. Also, I work in T Corporation. If I don't show up to work, they'll know that I'm missing and call the police." Luca reminded him in a casual tone.

The man knew that Luca's kidnapping had been announced on the news.

The kidnappers thought that even if a passerby who was around when they kidnapped her called the police to report it, it would take a long time for the mindless police officers to find out Luca's identity.

They never expected that on the second day of the kidnapping, the police already knew who Luca was and issued a notice.

'Could it be... that what she said is true?'

They had been involved in multiple kidnappings of prominent figures but they had never dared to provoke the Crawford and Mallory families.

Everyone in their line of work knew that the businesses those two families were involved in were clean but their connections were not only from the law enforcement.

The families also had connections with criminal organizations.

Therefore, the kidnappers were not that stupid.

Before they kidnapped Luca, they knew that she was working in T Corporation but they did not put too much thought into it. After all, a company as big as T Corporation must have many employees. If something happened to an employee, Luke would not be bothered to handle it himself.

why the kidnappers did not further

not expect to kidnap a woman who was involved with

looked at him in silence, thinking that the kidnapper must be very nervous after he heard what she said. She was going to try harder to

fine if you're not afraid of the Crawford and Mallory families, but what about the organization behind me? Are you really not afraid?" She threatened

asked subconsciously, "What's the organization behind

and acted indifferent as she said, "The organization behind me is something you wouldn't dare to provoke. But I won't tell you. Just you

panicked after he heard what she said. However, he thought about it for a

an ordinary woman. How could she have a powerful organization backing her? Does she think that we're in a

with my head. You're just a woman who knows nothing. You said you have an organization behind you? Pfft! I'm not afraid of you," the man straightened his posture and

her eyebrows and responded, "If I were you, I would quickly get the person who wants me kidnapped to come and pick me up so that I can get the money. Then, I'll leave A City as soon as possible. Else, I won't let you go after

man was frightened by her words but was unwilling to admit it. He braved himself and said loudly, "Stop trying to lie to me. Let me tell you this, if you continue to talk sh*t, you'll get what's coming for you. You're a pretty woman, and I'm sure you're not a virgin. Even if my partner and I force ourselves on you, no one will know. If you don't want to suffer, shut up and

Luca shook her head and did not say anything else.

She just wanted to know who wanted to have **her kidnapped**.

The man walked out in anger. After he closed the door, another man looked at him and asked, "What happened, Eric? Did that woman mess with *you*?"

"What are you talking about? How could she have messed with me when her hands and feet are tied?!" The man named Eric took a swig of beer to boost *his courage*.

He was taken aback by what Luca *said*.

"Why are you so mad, then? I told you that this woman is troublesome yet you still went out of your way to fulfill her demands. Tsk tsk, you asked for it," another man said with a smile on his *face*.

"Derek, we might be in trouble," Eric said as he looked at *Derek*.

Derek frowned and responded, "What trouble?"

Eric told him everything Luca said.

"Are you sure this woman isn't bluffing? Maybe she just wants to escape, so she's threatening us. How can a foreign woman have so much power and be involved with the Crawford and Mallory families?" Derek expressed his *disbelief*.

Eric took his phone, opened the browser, and searched for the keywords 'Luke Crawford and Luca Craw'. The results instantly came out.

woman is rumored to be involved with Luke Crawford," he

way. Let me have a look." Derek immediately picked up his phone and read the news from this

never paid any attention to gossip news. When they read the comments on the news report, it seemed that it was a big deal

panicked and said, "We've never dared to provoke the Crawford family. What if Luke Crawford finds

also a little scared. "Bah, what are you afraid of? I don't believe that Luke Crawford would have the time to care for this one woman considering that he has plenty more women

was still worried. "Why don't we call that person to deal with the woman? The police are so efficient this time around. It must have been because the Crawford family is putting pressure on them. If we hand over the woman to him, we can get the money and leave A City to avoid

hesitated. "We might get a lot less money that

more important, money or our lives? If we end up getting locked up, we won't be able to enjoy our money." Eric picked up the phone and decided to call

acquiesced. After all, their lives were

on the sofa, glanced at the incoming call, and hung

over to him with two glasses of red wine and handed Pierre

Chapter 1620

"Of course, your wedding gift will be different from other people's. Let's put it this way. You can have whichever of Mallory Corporation's subsidiaries you fancy. We'll go through the transfer procedures. You can build your career and won't have to work for me anymore," Percy said.

"Subsidiary? I don't want any of them, Brother. I'm happy with how things are now. I get to take the company's dividends and occasionally do what you tell me to do. My life is leisurely." Pierre turned Percy down when he heard that he wanted to give him a subsidiary company.

Even though Percy was his brother, he would never hand over Mallory Corporation to him.

What he wanted most was Mallory Corporation, not any of its subsidiaries. Nevertheless, he was not stupid. He knew that if he said something, he would be turned down. Maybe he would even reveal something, so he chose to keep it to himself.

Percy listened to Pierre, who positioned himself as a hands-off shopkeeper. If he had not investigated him and found out something a few days ago, he would have believed him.

However, after knowing what he knew, he did not believe that Pierre's ambitions stopped there.

That was why he trusted Nina when she said that the person who kidnapped Luca was probably Pierre.

"What's the matter?" Pierre asked with a smile on his face when he saw that Percy was not speaking. Just as he finished asking the question, his phone rang again.

Pierre glanced at the caller ID and hung up the call once again.

"Nothing. Are you alright? Your phone keeps ringing." Percy glanced at his phone and asked as though he had something in mind.

Pierre explained with a smile, "It's nothing. My friends are asking me out to go drinking."

fine to drink wine during the day. If you want to go all out, you should leave it until the evening,"

obediently in front of him. "Brother, you're

don't want any of the subsidiaries? Aren't you afraid that your father-in-law will criticize you for lazing around?" Percy

was like this before he agreed to marry his daughter to me. I'm sure he won't have any complaints. It's not that I have nothing to do. His daughter can live a good life with my current income, so I might as well spend more time with her,"

took a sip of wine and shook

"Brother, you can give me something else. I don't want any of the subsidiaries. My fiancée is different from the Johnston girl. She's clingy and needs someone to accompany her all the time. She's not as considerate as the Johnston girl, who understands that you're sometimes incomprehensible and allows you to focus on your

Johnston girl was mentioned, Percy acted distressed and said, "Sigh, I'm so busy with work yet you're unwilling to share some of the burdens. I get a headache whenever I think about what's happening at

suddenly thought of what Luke had mentioned prior. Since they were on the topic, he asked, "What's the matter? Brother, are you not satisfied with the daughter of the Johnston family? She's good-looking and is a perfect match for you. What are you thinking? Why do you look

Percy smiled and said nothing.

continued talking, "Could it be that you still have that woman in your

"Who?" Percy asked rhetorically.

Pierre lay it all down. "You know who I'm talking about, Brother. You don't have many women to begin **with**."

Percy did not have any women at all. Nina was the one who had stayed by his side the longest.

"*She?* She's not a good match. Although she's beautiful, she's not worthy. She can't accept that I have a fiancée, so she broke up with me. What's the matter? What did you mention her for?" Percy acted indifferently.

Pierre pressed on his phone and put it in his pocket. "Before, the old man was worried that you wouldn't be able to let go of that woman and wouldn't accept his arrangement. Brother, it's great that you have such **thoughts now.**"

"What? It seems like you look happier than the old man about me having such thoughts." Percy looked at the uncontrollable smile on Pierre's face. It seemed that it was true that Pierre wanted to make Nina his woman.

*Nina used to be his woman. Pierre was his younger brother, so he should never have such **thoughts.***

*If outsiders did not know about what had happened, Percy would be the embarrassed **one.***

*If Pierre got together with his ex, would that not be *indirect cheating*?*

It seemed that the things that happened over the years had made Pierre and Percy's relationship weaker and weaker.

think that she isn't worthy of you. I'm glad you can think that way now." Pierre cheered. It seemed that what Luke said was not entirely

Nina refused to date him because of Percy, what Percy just said was enough to make her give
gave up on Percy, he would have

was deep in thought, his phone, which he had just put in his pocket, rang once

watched as Pierre took out his phone and then ended the call. He had received three calls and did not pick up any in front of him. It was indeed

ask you one last time. You really don't want any of the subsidiaries? If you think one is not enough, I can give you two," Percy

need, Brother. I'm serious, I'm happy enough working by your side." Pierre looked serious when he did not know what he knew, he would have

getting so many calls. I know you're very busy so I won't keep you here. Go home. I have to go back to the company after I pack up as well." Percy politely asked Pierre

head off, then." Pierre wanted to call that person back but he did not want to do it in front of