

Be Gentle 1671

Chapter 1671

"Enough with the chit-chat. Go in quickly. Time is of the essence." Johann already knew that Leia was back. He was, however, surprised that she was brought to the hospital again.

Previously, her attending doctor told her that her condition was much better after she took Luca and his medicine together.

However...

Johann believed that this matter had nothing to do with Luca. Maybe Leia did something that led to the current situation.

After all, this woman was something else when it came to causing trouble to others.

Johann had seen a lot of dry needling treatments but he noticed that they could not make the patient better at once. After all, it was more of a long-term treatment. Even so, Luca's dry needling skills seemed to be more miraculous than others.

Her treatments seemed to work just fine.

As she walked in, Johann said, "Dr. Craw, can I go in and watch as you perform dry needling?"

Luca was stunned but nodded and responded, "Not an issue."

Johann followed behind her.

Queenie watched the two walk in but still felt very anxious. She also wanted to go in to check on Leia, but she was afraid that she would cause trouble by doing so.

Luca walked in and saw Leia lying on the bed. She seemed to have lost consciousness. She did not open her eyes even when others came in and out.

same time, her body was full of tubes. The machine was ticking to show her current

could tell that the doctor and nurses had given Leia first aid in a race

glances with Johann and pushed a cart

the medical equipment on it and took out a set of dry needling tools from

looked at her tools and thought that they looked a little different from the dry needling tools on the market. He could tell that her tools were not for

did not say anything because he trusted Luca, so he just observed her

meticulously sterilized the needles one by one as she explained, "I'll sterilize these needles before they're used.

Johann nodded and replied, "I know some experienced practitioners would have a set of spare needles with them. When they see ordinary patients, they'll use those disposable needles that can be found in the market for treatment but in some special cases, they'll use their own set

skilled practitioners, needles have souls," Luca said. In ancient times, needles were a tool to save people. Back then, everything was monotonous and could not be compared to how much dry needling had since treatment was monotonous, it

as she finished sterilizing all the

a needle was about to be pricked into Leia's flesh, the ER doctor standing outside the door came in and looked at the situation inside. he stuttered, "Uh, can I come in

"Yes but you're not allowed to speak," Johann replied on Luca's **behalf**.

Luca nodded, looked at the two of them, and said, "Doctors don't see gender, **right?**"

"No, it's all the same." Johann knew what she **meant**.

Luca first checked Leia's pulse, then took a look at her facial features. Finally, she undressed her. She pressed on the important weak points and carefully observed Leia's expression.

When she pressed on some of the weak points, Leia's expression would change slightly. Her brows would wrinkle.

Luca would tell what was happening from these slight changes in her expression.

Johann was not well versed in dry needling but he had a basic understanding of the weak points on the body. He looked at the places where Luca pressed and thought that a few were not the weak points he knew...

Nevertheless, her movements made Leia react.

'Could it be that these are special **spots?**'

After Luca thought about it, she started treating Leia. When the long needle was inserted into Leia's body, the experienced Johann could not help but feel a little pain.

The needle was so long...

the needles one by one. Leia did not cry out, possibly because she was in a

her prick the needles into Leia's head after she pricked the needles at a few important weak points on

doctor could not sit still. It was important to know that there were many weak points on the head. If the needle was positioned wrongly, it would endanger

a step forward and intended to remind Luca but Johann shot a glance at him. He shook his head, signaling him not to

doctor had to hold back the

inserted the needles carefully. She knew that if she made a mistake, the damage might be irreparable. Hence, she was extra careful when

three needles were pricked into the top of Leia's head, she then inserted needles into Leia's lower

The whole process took 20 minutes.

a sigh of relief and said, "I assume you drew some blood for a test when she was admitted? When will the report be

situation is urgent so the process has been expedited. We'll likely get the results in a while," the ER

Luca nodded, "We'll wait, then."

his chin. After Luca finished the treatment, he was able to ask the question in his heart. "Uh, Dr. Craw, what weak point does this needle correspond to? I don't seem to have seen this weak

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Johann glanced at Luca, understood the situation, and said, "Don't worry. As doctors, we'll protect the privacy of patients. The privacy measures requested by the patient's family will be adhered to strictly."

Luca listened to his serious tone but knew that what he just said could not be trusted. After all, he reported everything to Luke.

However, Johann's medical skills and ethics could still be trusted.

Luca glanced at the time and felt that it was almost time. She pulled the needles from Leia's body, then carefully sterilized them and put them back into her kit.

When she was done, she helped Leia button up her clothes so that she would not be embarrassed when she woke up.

"When will she wake up?" Johann asked.

The ER doctor thought she was asking him, so he quickly replied, "Her situation is a little serious, so it's hard to say. The earliest will be around half a day."

Luca shook her head and said, "It won't take that long. She'll wake up within half an hour."

The ER doctor was shocked and responded, "Are you sure?"

Luca saw the disinfectant hanging on the wall, walked over, and squeezed out some. She washed her hands and said, "I'm sure. Her indicators have stabilized now and her situation is not too critical. After dry needling, she'll wake up soon."

The ER doctor nodded. Indeed, the equipment showed that Leia was getting better.

washed her hands, she glanced at the instrument and said, "If it's possible, she should be hospitalized now so that her condition can stabilize. After that, you can approve her discharge from

that Leia's condition had improved, the ER doctor nodded and went out to arrange for her to

sighed and said, "Dr. Craw, you've surprised me once again. You made her feel better just by using a I can't cure her." There was some frustration in

was not upset because she could not cure Leia but because Queenie was the one who was affected when Leia's health

to protect Queenie but she could not

current stage, there's no way to cure her. Even if she goes for an organ transplant in the future, she would still have to take anti-rejection drugs for life. It's good enough that she can stay alive,"

nodded. That was true. She considered it a win that Leia

relapsed and her condition got worse but it was not the worst it

needs to take my concoction to condition her body. It may be because she took too much of the other doctor's medicine, so her body became desensitized to the ingredients," Luca

"I agree," Johann nodded.

Luca picked up the phone, wrote a prescription, and sent it to Johann via text. "I remember that the hospital has a decoction service, right? Get someone to prepare this prescription. When she wakes up, she can drink it."

"I'll do it now." The hospital had more than enough herbs. On top of that, the herbs that Luca listed were not hard to find, so he made the necessary arrangements **immediately**.

Luca glanced at the time. Almost two hours had passed since she arrived, waited for Leia's first aid to end, and then **treated her**.

She thought of Luke. Two hours had passed. Was he still waiting for her in the parking lot?

Luca could not bear to keep him waiting for too long, so she said, "Dr. Park, Leia's situation should be stable now. If all is well, I **think...**"

"**You** want to leave, don't you?" Johann responded. "Go ahead. Luke's still waiting for you in the underground parking lot. Don't make him wait too long. You know that he doesn't have much *patience*."

Luca was stunned that Johann knew that Luke was in the underground parking lot.

Luke did not have much patience when it came to waiting for others, other than when he waited for her **former self...**

"*Don't* look at me like that. After you called me, I told Luke about it. You know that I'll tell him anything about the Norman family," *Johann explained*.

Luca understood what he meant. She nodded and glanced at Leia. Fortunately, she had not woken up yet. If she woke up and found out that Luke had learned of her return to A City, she would be terrified.

Leia received a scare in her current state, she would most definitely fall into

her to you. I'll head off now,"

frowned after he glanced at Leia, who was on the hospital

doctor, it was his duty to save patients but he was a little unwilling to take care of such an annoying

all, she made such a fuss and refused to take her medicine. All the efforts of the medical staff, as well as the medical equipment they used when examining and treating her, were

touched his chin and wondered in his heart how one could be so

as Luca walked out of the emergency room, Queenie immediately stood up and stepped forward. She looked nervous as she asked, "Luca, the doctor came out just now and said he was going to hospitalize Leia.

reassured her, saying, "Ms. Norman's condition is much better now but she has to be hospitalized because of the onset of the illness. She'll be able to leave the hospital after the drug has taken effect and all her indicators have reached

Queenie heard that Leia was doing much better, she breathed a sigh of relief and followed after her. "I'm glad to

she's okay for the time being but you still have to take good care of her. I've written another prescription based on her current condition. She can't be stubborn and stop taking the medicine anymore." Luca reminded her. Although she did not like Leia, as a health care personnel, she did not want her efforts to

set of needles in her hand was custom-made for her by Shanks. It was designed according to her fingers so that when she worked with the needles, she would have the best

Chapter 1673

When Queenie thought about how Luca might take Bianca's place and that her darling daughter might lose the man she loved, Queenie strongly suppressed the idea of visiting Luca even though she took pity on her after learning Luca was injured and hospitalized.

She did not visit her for all the reasons mentioned.

"I'm fine." Luca listened to her concern and remembered that when she was hospitalized, she had hoped that Queenie would come to visit her.

However, who was she to ask Queenie to visit her?

Everything was in her head.

A warm current rushed through her heart now that Queenie expressed her care for her.

She was caring for her...

"You're fine? Your face still looks a little swollen. Are you sure you're okay?" Queenie looked into Luca's eyes, which she had always found familiar.

Luca was doing her best to help Leia but she thought about Luca as the enemy before this and did not even go to visit her when she was hospitalized.

Queenie felt guilty.

She should not have done that. Luca did not want these things to happen either. Maybe she had nothing to do with Luke and the kidnappers just made a random decision to kidnap her.

"I'm fine. The swelling will be completely gone in two days," Luca said.

Queenie nodded. The ER doctor approached, so they stopped talking.

to their conversation for a while before turning around

ER doctor explained everything, he looked at Luca's back and sighed. "Where did you find such a talent? She seems

looked at Luca and said, "She's very capable and treated me as well. She just appeared out of thin air and saved my life. Without her, I might be lying in bed waiting to

ER doctor looked at Queenie. 'Waiting to

looked healthy and did not seem like someone who was seriously ill

took the elevator to the underground parking lot. She found Luke's car from memory. As expected, he had not left and was leaning on the car door, smoking

he smoked, it was mostly because he was troubled. Luca wondered what was bothering
walked over and said,

Luke saw her, he put out the cigarette with his fingers and threw it into the trash can next
saw that, Luca frowned slightly and reminded him. "You can hurt yourself easily by

Luke said. He looked at her and asked, "Are you done with what you came here to

Luca glanced at his finger. It seemed to be a momentary thing, and the lit cigarette did not hurt him. It seemed that everything was

The Luke she remembered did not snuff out cigarettes this **way**.

How savage...

"Let's go, then." Luke walked around the front of the car and went to open the passenger door for Luca.

She leaned over and noticed that Luke's hand was covering the roof as though he was afraid that her head might hit *it*.

He was not a gentleman to everyone. Luca realized more and more that he was treating *her differently*.

Could it be that Luke was really interested in *her*?

Luca's mood was mixed. She buckled her seat belt as if nothing had *happened*.

Luke closed the car door, went around the front of the car, and got into the driver's seat. He fastened his seat belt and asked, "How is *Leia*?"

"There's no major problem after we rescued her," **Luca replied**.

"**Does she** need an organ transplant?" Luke asked. When Johann mentioned Leia's condition to him, he had mentioned something. Otherwise, he would not know so *much*.

"Dr. Park didn't tell you?" Luca looked at him.

Luke was not bothered that he was exposed. His expression did not change one bit as he said, "He doesn't tell me everything. He tells me some things when he thinks I need to know about **them**."

and nodded before falling deep in

that Luke had his intelligence network in A City and the personnel involved in these intelligence networks were from all walks of life. Johann was one

difference was that his relationship with Johann was more of a friendship compared to his relationship with the other intelligence

"Her condition has gotten much worse but she has yet reached the point of needing an organ transplant. There's a shortage of organs, so doctors won't put her on the list

she feel much better after getting an organ transplant?" Luke asked as he drove out of

if she'll have to take medicine for a long time, it'll be much better than the current situation. However, there are more who desperately need an organ transplant."

thought of the black market. It seemed necessary to have his men keep watch so that Leia would not have the opportunity to make a wrong

was a selfish person and cared for no one but herself. She might obtain the organs she needed by disgraceful means without regard for Jack Norman's

such, he had to keep a

Luke's frown and asked, "You seem to be thinking about

was thinking about Leia." Luke did not hide it. After all, there was nothing

person is ill and desperate, will she do something she knows is illegal just to

Chapter 1674

Luca nodded. She was relieved that Luke was going to have a chat with Jack and Queenie.

After all, Leia did not have the money to buy the organs she needed from the black market. She was only worried that Queenie would not want to see Leia suffer and give her the money to do so.

If she did that, Jack would be impacted badly.

After Luke drove Luca back to the apartment, he received a call from Jason and hurried back to the company to deal with work.

Luca returned to the apartment and turned on the TV. The economic segment happened to be playing. She opened the refrigerator and heard the news that Pierre's company was in the final stages of signing a contract to collaborate with a well-known foreign company.

Economists pointed out that if this partnership was successful, Pierre's company would become one of the top ten companies in A City at record speed that many young entrepreneurs could not even hope of achieving.

Luca frowned when she heard what the economists said. She picked up the phone and searched for the overseas company that Pierre was going to partner with.

She found it odd after she read about it.

It was not a well-known company but its capital was surprisingly strong. She read further, and the corners of her mouth twitched when she saw the corporate legal person shown on the webpage.

Abel was making a move.

on the current situation, Abel had already roped in Pierre. If the partnership was successful, Pierre's company would go close

thought about how Pierre treated her prior, she swore to herself that she would not let him off easy!

that to herself and switched off the

In the hospital.

opened her eyes slowly, not knowing what was going

Queenie saw Leia wake up, she immediately rushed forward and asked with concern, "Leia, how are you feeling

looked at her mother and remembered that she had fainted. She asked weakly, "I'm in

you fainted at home from pain, so I sent you to the hospital. I'm glad you've woken up. You scared me..." Queenie wiped her tears as she spoke. She only had one daughter by her side now, so Leia was especially precious to

glanced around and saw that she was indeed in a hospital. There was monitoring equipment by the

tone was furious as she shouted, "Why did you send me to the hospital? Didn't you ask Luca to

"*You had* already passed out. I was worried, so I sent you to the hospital. Luca couldn't rush over in time. She suggested that I send you to the hospital and I went with her suggestion," Queenie explained. She did not mind Leia's aggressive tone after considering the discomfort she **was in**.

"I don't want to stay in the hospital. Ask her to come over to our place. After all, I won't die from this illness right now." Leia knew that she fell ill because she did not take Bianca's medicine. Even if she was not a big fan of Luca, she had to admit that she was indeed capable.

Therefore, she thought that as long as Luca was willing to save her, she would *be fine*.

"**Luca came** to the hospital and treated you with dry needling. Otherwise, you wouldn't have woken up so soon." Queenie knew Leia had misunderstood Luca. Luca helped her time and again, so she could not bear to see Leia continue to **accuse her**.

Leia snorted coldly and said, "Do you believe in everything she says? If she had really treated me, I wouldn't have to stay in this *horrible hospital*."

Johann walked in from outside the ward and said, "Ms. Norman, if you're not satisfied with our hospital, you can go through the discharge procedures any time. But in your current situation, if you remove the instrument and needles, you may not even be able to make it to **the elevator.**"

Leia opened her mouth in surprise when she saw Johann. She looked at Queenie and uttered, "How did he get *in*?"

"**Leia, your** primary doctor is Dr. Park. He's an expert in this area. Enough with the nonsense." If she were not worried that Johann would tip off Luke, she also hoped that he would treat Leia.

After all, Johann was famous in A City and even in the whole country. Many wealthy businessmen from other cities sought him for surgery and medical treatment. They had to book him months in advance even if they were **loaded.**

he's..." Leia thought of Luke and did not continue talking. He was Luke's friend. Now that he saw her, did it mean that Luke knew that she was back in

that case, she would have to be sent back to

did not want to leave. The panic and worry in her

knew what she was afraid of, so she immediately reassured Leia. "Don't worry, I've signed a doctor-patient confidentiality agreement with Dr. Park. He won't say

was still frightened and said, "Even if you've signed an agreement with him, he'll still tell him. When that happens, he will definitely send me back to New York! Mom, I don't want to go back to New York. I want to stay by your side. When I feel better, I can take good care of you and

heard her and restrained his smile, pretending to be serious as he said, "Ms. Norman, although I don't know who you're talking about, do put your trust in me. I'm a doctor with ethics. Once the patient has signed an agreement, I'll oblige by it. I will never disclose your condition to those who

this, Leia looked at him

her. "I'm a man of integrity. Plus, I've signed

not have to tell Luke anything because he already knew about Leia's situation. There was not much for him

him and reluctantly chose to

Chapter 1675

Leia did not care about her body's indicators because she did not understand the reports.

All she could think about was whether she could go for a transplant.

After she found out that she was ill, she started her research and found a lot of information. Many data showed that those who were like her in the later stage of the disease would usually choose to go for a transplant operation to save their lives. In modern science, such transplant operations had been done many times. Most patients could survive.

As such, Leia planned to go forward with this plan.

After Johann finished explaining, she asked, "Dr. Park, I'm in such poor health now. Can I join the queue for an organ transplant?"

Johann was startled. 'She wants to wait for an organ transplant?'

"Yes, Dr. Park. I know that many patients can lead normal lives again after going for a transplant. Leia is still so young, and it's sad that this disease will trouble her for the rest of her life. Can you put her in line for an organ transplant? That'll give her a chance of having a more comfortable life," Queenie chimed in.

Johann refused, saying, "Our country's medical system has certain evaluation standards for patients waiting for organ transplants. Based on Ms. Norman's current situation, although her indicators are not the best, as long as she takes her medicine and recuperates, the symptoms can still be managed. She doesn't meet the requirements."

disappointed when she

she could not go for an organ transplant, she had to take medicine for the rest of her life. She had to take such a bitter concoction every day and would not be allowed to go anywhere. She could not drink nor

popped up in her mind when she heard Johann say that she did not qualify to wait for a transplant in her

"Is there no

a transplant is used as a last resort when there's no other way. Although the operation is common in the domestic medical field, there are still plenty of various situations that can occur. As long as the treatment is followed through, Ms. Norman can still live like a normal person. Don't overthink it. I'll do my best to help you," Johann said. He saw Leia's wandering eyes as though she was thinking about

was suspicious about what she was thinking about at this moment since Luke had reminded him about it prior. However, he did not expect her to want to go for a transplant.

Johann left, Leia sat up and looked at the machine on the bedside, then at the needle on the back of her hand. She made a decision that she could not live like this for the rest of her

Queenie's hand and burst

Queenie was overwhelmed by her cries. She held her in her arms as her heart ached. She comforted Leia in a soft voice, saying, "Okay, don't cry. Everything will be fine. If you keep crying like this, I'll be *sad too*."

Leia's voice was hoarse, and she said with tears in her eyes, "Mom, why is fate so unfair to me? The man I like doesn't like me and bad things keep happening to me. In the end, I was exiled abroad. Others think that I lived a glamorous life abroad, but that wasn't the case at all. The living expenses Dad gave me weren't enough for me in New York so I had to work part-time day and night. My body was ruined because of that. The doctor said that I can't be cured. I'm a good-for-nothing. What's the point, then? It's better for me *to die!*"

When Queenie heard that, she immediately reassured her. "Leia, don't say that. I'll help you find a way. I won't let you live like this for the rest of your life. Don't worry, I'll definitely find the best doctor to **treat you.**"

"**Mom**, do you really want me to recover?" Leia raised her gaze and looked at Queenie with tears in her eyes. She was an actress. Even though she had retired for many years, she could still act. At that moment, she wanted Queenie to promise to help find her a suitable organ. Hence, she pretended to be **miserable.**

"*Yeah*, as your mother, how can I let you suffer? You're my precious daughter. Don't worry. Even if I have to travel all over the country, I'll find a way to cure you." Queenie took out a tissue and slowly wiped her **tears.**

Seeing that Queenie was distressed, Leia felt a little bad. Since she had achieved her goal, she said, "I have a friend who said that human organs are sold on the black market and can be bought as long as you have the money. I was in New York for the past few years. All the money I earned there was used to support my day to day and I have no extra money to buy organs for my surgery. I have to get better soon and work to earn money so that I can afford the organs I **need.**"

Queenie listened to her plan with a shocked expression. 'She wants to buy organs on the black market for a transplant?'

she was not familiar with the law, she knew that black market transactions were not allowed in the country. However, the profits were tempting, so even if there were various crackdowns and bans, there were still people who were willing to take risks to make a

"Leia, it's illegal." Queenie reminded her.

from Leia's eyes again as she uttered, "I know, but I have no

father will suffer if you go through with this plan." Queenie thought of Jack, who had always been law-abiding and honest. If others found out that Leia illegally bought organs on the black market, he would definitely suffer the

know, Mom. You don't have to worry about this. I don't plan to use Dad's money, so even if someone finds out, Dad won't be implicated. I need to take care of my body and then go back to work to earn money. Don't worry, I'll be strong." Leia changed her tactics and tried to confuse Queenie into thinking that she did not want to drag the Norman family or Jack

she had wronged Queenie and the Norman family before, Queenie still loved her all the same. Naturally, she did not want to see

Queenie sighed.

I let Leia suffer?' Disregarding the part where she could drag their family down, Leia would face difficulties in finding a job in her current situation. Furthermore, there was also Luke to take into

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On the other hand.

Luke got two calls when he was dealing with urgent company matters.

One of the calls was from Johann, who told him that Leia had the idea of illegally buying organs from the black market.

The other call was from Allison's lawyer. He received a notice confirming that Allison would be released from prison next Monday.

The coming Monday was four days from then.

Four days later, Allison would be released from prison. In her current situation, she would definitely cause trouble when she returned to Crawford Manor.

Luke hung up after he told the lawyer that he would arrange for someone to pick her up from prison.

He called Johann after and asked, "Do you have any good plastic surgeons to recommend?"

Johann knew who he was asking for and immediately said, "The best has already said that your mother's face can't be fixed with surgery. There's no way to cure her even if we can get a good doctor. If someone says she can be cured, he or she must be a swashbuckling liar."

Luke was silent. Allison had been using Luca's concoction.

The lawyer conveyed her words and told Luke that the herbal medicine did help her face but it could not smooth the wrinkles. Even though there were no new creases, Allison was still not satisfied.

They all knew that Allison's face could not be saved, so she was stirring things up because she refused to accept the fact...

Luke hung up the phone and wondered what kind of arrangement he should make for Allison so that she would not cause any more trouble when she got out of prison.

more difficult than finishing the current

Deep into the night...

was working on the antidote, the main door was

paused for a moment and hurriedly put away the things. The person who came in was probably Luke. She did not want him to see too

as she finished packing, Luke arrived at the

did not close the door so when he came over, he happened to see Luca holding a glass tube in

Luke asked, "What is this?"

glanced at the tube in her hand and said, "This is a private research of

did not say anything and just stared at

thought that he might have misunderstood. Perhaps he thought she had taken the company's research outside the office, so she explained, "This research has nothing to do with the company's research. It's purely a topic I'd like to understand more

you didn't bring the company's research out from the office. Don't be nervous,"

nodded, held the tube, and wanted to walk out the door. However, Luke was blocking her so she could not go out. She said, "Uh, Mr. Crawford, can you let me

Luke turned sideways.

Luca walked past him and smelled alcohol on him. She blinked.

He was not a casual drinker because he would not be able to handle his work efficiently if he *drank*.

'Did he have to socialize?'

Luca thought to herself, then looked at him. "Mr. Crawford, have you been **drinking?**"

"*I was* a little upset so I drank some wine," Luke said. He would not share his emotions with people he did not care about. However, Luca was not an **insignificant person**.

Luca blinked again.

'*He* didn't drink at a social event but drank by himself... Is there something on his *mind?*'

She did not continue to ask. She put the potion in the disinfection cabinet, stood in the kitchen, and thought about it. She then picked up a cup.

Luke sat on the sofa when he noticed that Luca had not come out of the kitchen despite having gone in for so long.

After a while, Luca walked over with a glass of honey water. She put the glass in front of him and said, "Alcohol hurts your stomach. If you don't mind, you can drink some honey *water*."

Luke stared at the honey water in front of him for half a minute, then he grinned.

Seeing his smile, Luca wondered, 'Isn't he in a bad mood? Why is he **smiling for**'

smile on Luke's face was not a sad

are you okay?" Luca looked at his expression and did not understand why he reacted as

wife got amnesia, she would prepare a glass of honey water whenever I came back from drinking. She would also use this kind of transparent glass to let me drink it. She would say that alcohol hurts my stomach, so I must drink honey to neutralize the effects. No one has made honey water for me for many years. Thinking of the past, I couldn't help but feel nostalgic." Luke looked at her deeply. He wondered how long it would take to understand what had happened to Luca in the past few

would it take for the couple to be truly

heard what he said and thought of

time Luke came home after socializing, no matter how much he drank, she would make him drink a glass of

not like the taste of honey water, so sometimes, she had to coax him to

time, their lives were just like honey water—plain and light, but sweet and the good times were all left behind in the snapped out of it. She could not afford to indulge in the beauty of the past because her current life was and said, "I heard that you and your wife are affectionate toward each other. It like to use honey water to cure a hangover?" Luke asked as he held up the her head and said, "There are thousands of ways to cure a hangover, but my family prefers using honey

Chapter 1677

Luca blinked. She thought that it would take a lot of work to get Luke to share his worries with her. She did not expect to achieve her goal so easily.

Her few words made him admit that he was facing some troubles.

"What happened?" Luca continued to ask cautiously.

She was worried that Luke would be unhappy and stop sharing.

It was not that she wanted to spy on the secrets in his heart but she could not bear seeing Luke drinking to ease his worries.

Luke stared at Luca for a while.

Luca felt awkward. She almost thought that there was something on her face, or that he was confused from drinking and the alcohol got to his head, so he stopped talking.

Before she could speak, Luke said, "My mother... You've met her."

"Yes." When Allison was mentioned, Luca had a rough idea of what happened. She had heard that Allison was going to be released from prison but she did not ask in detail about when.

She knew that Allison should be getting out of prison soon seeing Luke's current state.

"The damage on her face is permanent and can't be fixed. If she were to spend a lifetime in prison, she may be able to accept the fact. But she's going to be released next Monday. The lawyer called me to arrange for her release from prison." Luke sighed helplessly.

Luca nodded. She was not in the place to comment on this matter.

the first time she had seen Luke so depressed since she returned to A

not ignore Allison because he still saw her as his mother. However, it was also because of this affection that it made his life

Allison, who cared about her image, would never accept that the wrinkles on her face could not be back to Crawford Manor. Once she moves back, Crawford Manor will have no peace. On my side..." Luke was helpless. On the one hand, was his affection for his mother, and on the other, were Allison's unreasonable

be great if spending money could revert her appearance to

listened to Luke's helpless tone and wanted to

she could not. At that moment, she was no one

it certain that your mother will move back to Crawford Manor?" Luca asked. If she moved back, it would result in a big fight between Allison and Susan that even Old Master Crawford could not

did not want to see

between the two people would affect the living environment of

hoped was that their three children could grow up in an environment full of family affection and kindness instead of cheating and lying. That would not set the best

"Yes." Luke confirmed.

The reason Allison moved out before was that she had taken his **money**.

Later, she relied on the company's shares and the pocket money he gave her to maintain her good life.

However, after she went to jail, *everything changed*.

The shares in her hands were still there and the dividends went into her bank account every year.

However, considering her lavish lifestyle, it would not take long for her to squander the **money**.

Therefore, she would opt to go back to Crawford Manor so that she would not have to pay for the villa's expensive water and electricity bills while also being able to get everything she wanted when she asked for it. Although Susan was around, it was better than living a poor life *outside*.

With the current condition of her face, she would not dare to go out. Thus, she would naturally be more comfortable in Crawford Manor.

However, her comfort would bring the war to Crawford Manor.

Luke sighed again.

As he sat in front of the woman he loved the most, he did not want to pretend to be strong. That side of him was only for outsiders to see.

Luca could see the fragility he *occasionally showed*.

Hearing his sigh, Luca shook her head helplessly and said, "South Korea's plastic surgery technology is better than A City's. If you can't find a doctor here, you can ask Ms. Tanner to try seeking treatment in **South Korea**."

She knew that this was just a way to temporarily disengage Allison. After all, her face had to undergo a lot of surgeries. If she went proceeded with that suggestion, it would take a lot of **time**.

could also bring some temporary peace to

about it. I'm not going back tonight. I'll sleep here," Luke said. He missed her more than ever after a night

her mouth and wanted to say something when she heard him say, "I've had too much to drink. I'm surprised that I was able to drive startled. 'Luke drove over thought someone else had sent him here. She did into a cold sweat when she thought of him driving the car on the road alone after drinking. People who drank were slow to respond, and at the same time, they would pursue a sense did not want to let him leave after she knew glanced at the time and said, "You can sleep in the master bedroom looked at her with blurry eyes. "What about you? Do you want to sleep was some teasing in his deep voice. Luca's face turned red. She did not know why Luke said such a thing, but he had been drinking, so she could not tell the truth from the don't joke around. It's more comfortable for you to sleep in the master bedroom after drinking. I'll just sleep in the maid's room," advantage of being drunk to make fun of her. Even though he was initially depressed, his bad mood was slowly dissipating upon seeing

Chapter 1678

Despite that, Luca did not do as he said nor make use of the opportunity.

'What's her intention?'

Luke stood up and walked steadily. Although he had been drinking, he paid attention to the amount he drank. Compared with the usual amount of alcohol that he usually consumed, he was only slightly drunk. It was not an issue.

He only acted drunk to put on a show for Luca.

However, Luca did not respond to his flirting even after he said so much. He was unsure of what she was planning.

Luke could not wait to find out Luca's plan so that he could work out corresponding responses to keep her by his side.

In any case, he found nothing even after he looked into it. Even so, he told his men to keep investigating.

They had not even found out the organization that was controlling Luca behind the scenes.

Luke was getting more frustrated.

He walked into the master bedroom. There was a faint and elegant scent in the room. It belonged to Luca. With her scent and after drinking some wine, he knew he would get a good sleep that night.

stood at the entrance of the maid's room to eavesdrop. She was relieved to hear Luke open and close the door to the

hint had shaken her to

given by Abel was to approach Luke and become his woman to obtain corporate secrets. If she had agreed to his request, the two might already be in bed, going all the

However, she chose to flee.

not sober. Although he flirted with her, she was certain that all he was thinking about was her former

not want to do that. She was unwilling to blindly carry out Abel's mission, so she

On the other hand.

not peaceful in Crawford Manor that

Crawford was sitting on the sofa while Susan Armstrong was sitting opposite him. Louis Crawford and Yuri Dunn were sitting on the sofa at

Their expressions were serious.

"Okay, you've gathered everyone now. What do you want to talk about?" Old Master Crawford had a rough idea but he still asked **her**.

Susan glanced at her son and daughter-in-law before going straight to the topic. "Dad, I'm sure you've received the news. That good-for-nothing woman who stole your things is going to be released *from prison*."

"*Don't* call her that. It's rude," Old Master Crawford scolded Susan with a grim expression. He knew that Allison was going to be released from prison, and he was prepared for Susan to have a chat with him about this. However, he did not expect her to involve Louis and Yuri. "No matter what she did, she's still Luke's mother and the grandmother of the three *children*."

Susan frowned, snorted coldly, and said, "Yes, she's related to them, but that has nothing to do with me. I can't be bothered to play nice with her. That damn woman is so greedy that she stole from her own home! She even told the thief to hurt my precious granddaughter. Sparing her life is the furthest I'll *go*!"

Yuri remembered that incident. She was horrified that night, thinking she was going to lose Thea. She nodded in agreement.

Old Master Crawford snorted coldly. He knew that Allison was not worth defending after what she did. He said impatiently, "Okay, if you have anything to say, just *say it*."

"I'll get straight to the point, then. I heard that the woman will live with us after she's released from prison. I don't agree with that, and neither does Yuri." Susan crossed her hands in front of her chest and firmly opposed.

After Allison was imprisoned, she was finally able to enjoy the feeling of being the only lady in the house. She would never allow Allison to return and take her **place**.

"She's Luke's mother. She'll be a part of the Crawford family even after a hundred years have passed. Why can't she live here?" Old Master Crawford frowned. He hated dealing with drama involving women the **most**.

peace for a few years but it was broken following the news of

he did not enjoy dealing with such things, Allison was still Luke's mother. As the head of the family, he still had to redress the

can only be part of the Crawford family after she's dead!" Susan's words were unfiltered and mean. Louis, who was listening to the ordeal on the side, frowned

"Mom, stop talking," he said.

was fuming. Louis was not helping her case and was even trying to calm her down. She gave him a stern look and shouted, "Shut up if you don't

his mouth and hesitated to say another word. Although he had something to say, he could not bring himself to fight with

had no choice but to obediently shut his

added, "Dad, I'm not discriminating against her. Many studies have shown that those who committed a crime and went to prison rarely reform. I'm worried about the kids. I don't want her to come back, lest one day she goes crazy and hurts

Master Crawford snorted coldly and said, "Are

Chapter 1679

Susan was stunned. 'Give me the ownership of a villa? How tempting...'

Nevertheless, no matter how luxurious the villa was, it would never be as palatial as Crawford Manor. If she and Louis moved out, although they would hire servants, they would not have as many servants as in Crawford Manor.

Moreover, if she moved out and let Allison move back in, she would undoubtedly be handing the throne to Allison with both hands.

She was not that stupid. Although the free villa was indeed tempting, Susan held back.

Although Old Master Crawford's health was going strong, she believed that he would not have many more years left to live. If she moved out and gave Allison a chance to please Old Master Crawford, it would not be worth the loss.

Therefore, she chose to stay in Crawford Manor.

"Forget it. I'm just raising my concerns but since you don't care, forget about it. I hope Allison's face isn't too ugly. Otherwise, my Thea will be miserable and have nightmares every night," Susan said.

Old Master Crawford snorted coldly, stood up, and left with his cane.

After Susan saw him leave, she glared at Louis and his wife. "It's all your fault! You've failed me."

Louis replied helplessly, "Mom, what's wrong?"

"Look at your grandfather! He doesn't care about Thea's quality of life. He only cares when it comes to Luke and his family. If you're willing to have more children, Old Master Crawford will pay more attention to you too! That'll bring me honor as well!" Susan had been urging Louis and Yuri to have a second child throughout the years, but Louis had not once reacted positively.

give her various excuses over and over again. Susan had heard all the versions

was not sure what was in Louis' head. If he had more children, they would get more attention from Old Master Crawford. After his death, they would also benefit from getting a larger portion of the

did not share the same

Grandpa is right. The Crawford family is being held together by Luke. We have to be considerate and agree to Allison moving back in. There are servants at home to take care of her so Luke can devote more energy to his work. As such, the Crawford family and T Corporation can grow bigger and get better."

Louis

Why are you so affectionate with her? After you see her face, I don't know if you'll still want to acknowledge her as your stepmother. You've disappointed me. If others didn't know, they'd think that you're Allison's son!" Susan glared at him with a look

thought that she was being unreasonable but he did not say

all, it was not his first time witnessing a fight between these two women. After a few years of calm, it seemed that Crawford Manor was going to be a battlefield

"Mom, you said that Allison's face has

remembered that in the past, Allison had fair skin and always dressed so well that she did not appear to be 50 years old at

she was imprisoned, Yuri thought that her complexion may become a little duller. She never thought that Allison would be described as

it's terrifying. I heard it through the grapevine. It's hard to describe it. She just has a terribly wrinkled face now. It's even more wrinkled than the face of a 90-year-old old man. Anyway, when the time comes, you should keep a close eye on Thea. Don't let her be scared by the woman's terrifying appearance," Susan

"I see. I'll keep a close eye on her." Yuri nodded. She wanted to help Susan so that Allison could not move back into Crawford Manor but they did not expect Old Master Crawford to be so **determined**.

From what they knew of him, Old Master Crawford should be furious that someone stole from his home. It did not make sense that he would so easily forgive **Allison**.

The conversation they had earlier did not end up how they expected it to.

Rainie stood at the stairway and overheard their conversation. She **seemed confused**.

'They mentioned that... Grandma's face has become scary?'

Rainie suddenly remembered the witch she saw in storybooks and was a **little scared**.

'Did Grandma turn into that?'

Lanie told her that everything in storybooks were fake, including how witches would eat people. However, if her grandmother looked like a witch, would she eat *them*?

When she thought of that, Rainie immediately went upstairs and opened the door to Tommy's *bedroom*.

Tommy was reading a book when he heard the door open. He looked at his sister with a confused expression and asked, "Rainie, what's the matter **with you?**"

"Brother, do you have Mom... Ms. Luca's contact number?" Rainie *asked*.

but Daddy said that Ms. Luca is recovering from an injury and I'm not allowed to disturb her," Tommy said. If Luke had not warned him, he would have called her

said, "Can you lend me your

you have one as well?" Tommy wondered. Luke had given each of them a kid's

is out of power and I need it urgently now. Can you lend me yours?" Rainie wanted to contact Luca through Tommy's account because Luke was away, so no one else could answer her

their mom, so she wanted to talk

gave her the tablet generously, and said, "Here you

Rainie took the tablet and brought it to her

closed the door, turned on the tablet, and logged into

not have many friends on Facebook, so she easily found Luca's profile. She thought about it for a second and

Luca did research, she would use a tablet to record the data for convenience. When Luke came, she did not put the tablet back in the master bedroom. Hence, when the video call request sounded, she heard

this hour, the only person who would video call her

Chapter 1680

"You know about prison?" Luca looked at Rainie's expression with a gentle gaze. With consideration that Luke was still sleeping in the master bedroom, she spoke to her in a soft voice.

"Yes. Daddy said that those who did something wrong will go to prison to reform themselves. Grandma did something wrong and was put in prison so we haven't been able to see her for the time being." Rainie's voice was soft. She seemed to be familiar with the concept.

Luca was stunned. She did not expect a child to know so much.

That was understandable. She was not around when they were young, so the role of a grandmother occupied a certain position and weight with the twins.

Even if Allison took no notice of them after they grew up, they still remembered her as a grandmother who loved them.

Luke would surely give them an explanation following her sudden disappearance after she went to prison.

However, Luca did not expect that he would be entirely honest and not make up any excuses for Allison.

"Yeah, your grandma has rehabilitated, so she's going home to reunite with you." Luca smiled slightly as she soothed Rainie's emotions. She guessed that Rainie had not seen Allison for too long and was anxious when she found out that she was returning home.

After all, when they were in Crawford Manor, there were a lot of wars caused by Allison.

"But Ms. Luca, Grandma Susan said that Grandma Allison has become very scary now. I'm scared." Rainie's memories of Allison had already become blurry. Besides, after Allison moved out of the manor, the two had little contact.

was why she got scared when she heard Susan talking about

she heard what Rainie shared, Luca understood that the child was afraid and that was why she was

thought of Allison's face and knew that the kids would be afraid when they saw her. Rainie was a girl, so she would be even more afraid. She coaxed her and said, "Don't be afraid. Her appearance has changed a little but no matter how she changes, she's still your grandmother. Isn't that so?"

Luca, why did Grandma's face become scary? Is it because she did a lot of wrong things?" Rainie asked. She once read a fairy tale in which the witch looked terrible because she did a lot of bad

at the child's frightened expression and sighed. Even though she was preparing Rainie, it would take a long time for Rainie to get used to Allison's face after

grandmother is sick, and that's why she became like that. Rainie, you don't have to be afraid. No matter what your grandmother becomes, she's still your most respected grandma. No matter what happens, she still loves you the most, okay?" She

nodded. She understood what

what her grandmother became or looked like, she would never hurt her—just like their Mommy. Even though Luca had changed her appearance, she was still staying by their side to protect

their Grandma loved them just like

saw Rainie nodding, and the anxiety in her eyes dissipated a little. She glanced at the time and found that it was getting late. Rainie should be in bed by

She said, "Rainie, don't worry. I'm here. Whatever happens in the future, I'll do my best to *protect you*."

"Thank you, Ms. Luca." Rainie smiled sweetly. She felt safe when her mommy said that she would protect *her*...

"Don't worry about it. It's late. Little Princess Rainie should go to rest." Luca coaxed her again.

Rainie nodded and asked, "Ms. Luca, can I add you on Facebook? I used Tommy's tablet to call you *this time*."

"Of course, you can," Luca said. She knew that Luke had registered Facebook accounts for the children. It was convenient, and they could reach out to him through Facebook if something happened. "I'll add **you**."

"Okay, Ms. Luca." Rainie picked up her tablet, and when she saw Luca's friend request, she cautiously accepted *it*.

When she saw that they were officially friends on Facebook, her smile was broad and sweet. She asked, "Ms. Luca, is Dad with you..."

Luca was stunned at how she knew about it. "No..."

Before she completely denied it, Rainie said, "Ms. Luca, you don't have to deny it. We all know that Dad is with *you now*."

"How do you know?" Luca asked helplessly. Luke was not the kind of person who reported to the children wherever he went and what he *did*.

was kidnapped, he took the kids back to Crawford Manor because there were many adults there—including many maids and butlers who could take care of the kids. The arrangement made him feel more at ease while he was at

said that he's going to be busy recently. To save time, he may not come home sometimes. Tommy was worried that Daddy would not rest well and Daddy told him that he would rest at Ms. Luca's house. Ms. Luca, is Daddy asleep?" Rainie

drank a little today so he's already in bed," Luca said helplessly. She was surprised that he explained all that to the kids. Was he not afraid that they would misunderstand the

she had not spent much time with the children, she could feel how much they missed their

their mother so much, so how could they accept their father spending time with other

carefully observed Rainie's expression. She was just smiling, and nothing seemed off

she was their mother, she was almost certain that they had no

it mean that they don't object to Luke spending more time with

Luca could not figure it out...

when she heard Luca's reply. Her father was resting, so she did not continue with the topic. Instead, she said, "Ms. Luca, can you