

Be Gentle 1681

Chapter 1681

"Okay." Rainie complied and pointed the tablet's camera at her face.

When Luca saw that Rainie had laid down, she began to softly hum a nursery rhyme.

The sound of Luca singing came from the tablet. Rainie closed her eyes and felt like she was back in the past when their Mommy would sit by their beds, either to tell them stories or sing to put them to sleep.

She had sweet dreams every night that her mother was by their side.

Rainie closed her eyes and smiled slightly. She believed that she would have a sweet dream tonight.

Luca hummed softly. She sang another song as soon as she was finished with the first. She chose some Russian nursery rhymes to avoid Rainie suspecting anything. Rainie did not say anything about it and gradually fell asleep to Luca's singing.

Luca continued to sing softly before gradually softening her voice and stopping.

Rainie did not wake up. She was already asleep.

Luca sighed and whispered, "Good night, baby."

After that, she hung up the call.

Luke was lying on the bed in the master bedroom. He did not close the door so he could hear Luca's humming.

As he listened to Luca's singing, he thought of the happy times when they used to live together. At that time, Luca was responsible for taking care of the family, which allowed him to have more time to deal with work.

As he thought about the past with Luca's soft singing in his ears, Luke gradually closed his eyes. He could smell Luca's faint scent as well. He knew that he would surely get a good night's sleep.

The next day.

woke up, she noticed that the door to the master bedroom was open and was taken

apartments as such had great sound insulation. However, that was under the premise that the doors were shut. That was why she felt comfortable humming to Rainie last

the bedroom door was wide

that meant that Luke heard her singing last night?

not that he had never heard her sing but it was the first time he heard Luca sing. Her face was flushed when she thought about that. She felt a little

unsure if he really did overhear her singing last night or if he just happened to wake up earlier, so his door was

thought, Luca walked into the master bedroom, wanting to see if Luke was

soon as she walked in, she saw Luke standing by the bed, wearing only a pair of trousers. His sturdy upper body was

down, turned around quickly, and said while blushing. "Sorry, Mr. Crawford. I saw that the door was open and thought you had

looked at her casually and said, "No. I felt a little warm when I went to bed last night so I opened the door. It was opened last night, so there was a good chance he heard her

that she was quiet, Luke said, "If you don't need anything from me, can you go out? I need

heard that, she froze. She blushed not only because she had seen Luke's sturdy upper body but also the fact that he was about to unbutton

He was about to change...

She suddenly realized that she had been reckless. She quickly said, "I'll get out *now*."

Luke looked at her flee and a smile appeared on the corner of his **mouth**.

'Luca is shy... She looks adorable when she's **shy**.'

The two of them had gone all the way prior but at that moment, she was acting like a woman with no experience. She blushed just from seeing him change.

Luke did not do it on purpose. He just did not expect her to barge in like that.

It seemed that not closing the door had an advantage. At least he knew that Luca would be shy when she faced *him*.

Luke was in a good mood. What happened the night before and this morning made it seem like everything was as how it was in the *past*.

He was more and more confident that he could solve all their problems and be with *Luca again*.

Luke picked up the clothes he had changed out of. The clothes he was wearing now were collected from the **balcony**.

The clothes he had changed out of during the day were washed by the part-time worker, which was why he had a set of clean clothes and did not have to step into the maid's **room**.

Luke came out with the clothes and put them in the basin by the **balcony**.

Luca was making breakfast in the *kitchen*.

Luke listened to the sound and movement from the kitchen as the feeling of happiness and tranquility rose from *his heart*.

He liked that feeling.

once thought that his whole life would be career-centered but after he met her, he realized that his career could be secondary. She was the most important person in his

had always enjoyed family life with Bianca. It was unfortunate that the good times did not last long. However, luck was on his side once again now that Bianca was back. He promised himself that he would seize the opportunity to find out everything and keep her by his

on the sofa and picked up the remote control to turn on

was standing in the kitchen preparing breakfast. She was stunned when she heard the morning news. 'Luke is

seemed that he intended to stay for

of what Rainie said yesterday, Luca suspected that Luke would be here for days to

'Is he doing it on purpose?'

all, the old Luke would choose to go home to accompany his children no matter how busy he was at

she thought about it, Luca grabbed up some eggs and prepared breakfast for

of breakfast were served while they were still hot. When she was about to tell Luke that breakfast was ready, he already stood up and walked

"What's for breakfast?" Luke asked.

many ingredients in the refrigerator, so I made eggs on toast," Luca

Chapter 1682

Luke was like the head of the household, coming and going at will. He kept barging into her life.

Luca looked at the closed door with mixed feelings. It was not that she did not welcome him. It was that she felt unworthy of standing by his side.

If Luke wanted to get close to her, there was no way she could refuse him. In the end, it was them who would be hurt while Abel was the biggest beneficiary.

Thinking of this, Luca felt like she was about to break down. She took a deep breath and cleaned the dining table.

She had to find something to do to distract herself from the negative emotions.

After she was done with the dishes, Luca walked to the balcony and saw the clothes Luke had changed out of. She sighed, sorted the clothes, and put them in the washing machine.

She also washed the clothes he changed out of the night before.

After Luca put the clothes in the washing machine, she stared at the machine and spaced out for a moment before she walked into the maid's room.

The swelling on her face had almost subsided. When she fully recovered, she would go back to work at T Corporation. At that time, she would lead the team from the laboratory to do the final stage of research

on the drug and also participate in T Corporation's projects. She would be busy, and it would be much more difficult to find time for her personal research.

After she experimented for a while, her phone rang.

Luca glanced at it and found that the call was from a local number in A City. She did not hesitate and picked up the call. "Hello."

is this Ms. Craw?" Wanda

nervous when she heard Wanda's voice. She was worried that something had happened to Old Man Rayne. She quickly said, "I am. What's

Ms. Craw. I'm Wanda Rayne. You came to my house to prescribe a herbal concoction for my father. I wonder if you remember me?" Wanda asked cautiously. She had gotten Luca's number

at peace when she heard Wanda's tone. From her unhurried and gentle voice, it did not seem like there was a major incident. "I remember you, Ms. Rayne. Did

worry about. You don't have to be nervous. I just want to invite you to have a meal here. Do you have the time?"

was stunned that Wanda would invite her for a

assumed that it was because her grandfather had gotten better after he took her prescription. She wanted to confirm, so she asked, "This is quite

laughed embarrassedly and explained, "I followed your prescription and prepared the concoction for my dad. He slept all night without any pain and we didn't even give him a massage yesterday! Old Man Rayne got up early this morning and said that he had a good night's sleep. It's all thanks to

did not expect Luca's concoction to be so effective. Old Man Rayne only drank it once and could already see the effects. She felt bad when she thought of her previous doubts about Luca, so she thought of inviting her to the house for a meal as a

when she heard that the concoction was effective for Old Man Rayne. She was confident in her

She was happy after hearing that Old Man Rayne was feeling better.

His good health was her greatest wish.

"I'm glad that the prescription worked for Old Man Rayne. He needs to continue to take this medicine. Coupled with the massages, he'll definitely sleep comfortably every day," **Luca said.**

"Yes, yes, we'll be mindful of that. Late last night, Old Man Rayne said that he wanted to go to sleep after he drank the medicine. I wanted to use the prescription mixed with warm water for him to soak his feet in but he fell asleep before the water even boiled," Wanda replied. Before Old Man Rayne took Luca's concoction, he had to consume a lot of painkillers and sleeping pills to get a good **night's sleep.**

In the beginning, these medicines were effective but after taking them for some time, his body grew resistant to the drugs. These medicines no longer had much of an effect on his body. Even after he took sleeping pills, his sleeping hours would just become shorter and *shorter.*

She was worried that Luca's prescription would also have these pain-relieving and sleeping aid properties, so when she went to the pharmacy to pick up some things the day before, she specifically asked the pharmacist to take a look at the ingredients of **Luca's prescription**.

All of them were found to be nourishing and health-preserving herbs. There was no ingredient that supposedly helped with sleep or relieving pain. Nevertheless, it worked well for Old Man Rayne after he took it, which indicated that the prescription was real and had an effect on Old Man *Rayne's body*.

"Mm, I'm happy to hear that." Luca's tone was flat. She was suppressing the joy she felt in **her heart**.

Since the prescription worked for Old Man Rayne, he would suffer less in *the future*.

Wanda noticed that Luca was not showing much interest in her invitation, so she asked again, "Ms. Craw, if you're free today, come over for a visit. Both Old Man Rayne and I want you here."

thought of her grandfather's kind face and agreed. "Okay, I'll be there later. I'll check on Old Man Rayne's pulse

great! Where do you stay? Why don't I get a ride for you?" Wanda suggested. After all, she was the one inviting her over. She did not want Luca to have to run

declined. "No need. I'll go over by

that she insisted, Wanda knew it was not her place to say anything. She said, "Okay, see you

you later..." Luca almost called her 'Aunt' but fortunately, she held herself back in time. After she put down the call, she felt

could see her family but was not able to reunite with them. She had to force herself away from that familiar feeling, which

I had a choice, why would I do

gave a wry smile, touched her face, and stood up. She planned to leave the house once she tidied up

changed her clothes, she picked up her phone and saw a message from Luke asking if she was going to the Rayne family's

'How does he know I'm going to the Rayne family's

Chapter 1683

Marie was standing there looking like she was about to bulldoze her way in.

Luca stood not far away. She hesitated whether or not to enter through this entrance. After all, Marie knew her and the two of them already had a conflict.

It was not that she was afraid of Marie and the people around her. Luca just did not want issues to arise.

Unfortunately, the truth was that even if she did not want to cause trouble, trouble would come knocking on her door.

Marie had already seen Luca when she turned around. She ignored the security guard and roared at Luca, "Stop!"

Luca did not have to turn around to know that she was yelling at her.

She turned around helplessly and saw that Marie was walking toward her. The men behind her also walked over.

The four of them were enough to surround her.

Luca glanced at them and asked with a blank expression, "Yes?"

Marie lowered her gaze and glanced at the bags she was holding in her hands. She recognized that the brands inside were expensive, so she asked, "Are you going to the Rayne family's home?"

"What about it?" Luca asked.

"Just nice. I'm going to the Rayne family's home too. Lead the way." Marie knew that the security guard refused to let her in because Wanda had reminded the property management not to let her in. Regardless, she was determined to go in.

asked these men to help her move back into the Rayne family's home. A helpless and soft woman like Wanda would compromise when she saw these

had planned everything, but unexpectedly, she was stopped

security won't let you in, so how can I bring you in?" Luca felt uncomfortable. Among the men surrounding her, two of them were looking at her with malicious eyes.

hated being looked at

fine as long as you tell them that I'm your friend. Why are you asking so many questions?" Marie asked

mockingly and glanced at the three men. "So, I'll bring you in and you'll bring

are my friends. Aunt Wanda told me that she's changed her mind and decided to accept me." Marie hurriedly made up

a lie that Luca did

that Marie was not liked by Wanda, so she said, "Aunt Wanda? Ms. Rayne doesn't admit that you're her niece. If you bring these friends of yours into the building, it'll scare the other residents. Ms. Rayne, stop making a fool of yourself. You're not allowed to enter

you know?" Marie stared

of the men said, "What?! Your aunt doesn't want you? Why did you bring us here,

Marie glanced at the man. He was there as her support but he was now sabotaging her. She said, "Don't listen to this *woman's nonsense*."

"Yes, don't listen to my nonsense because I don't know her at all. If you're done, please get out of the way." Luca did not want to get into a row with Marie in front of the *building*.

Marie blocked her way with her hands. "You're going to the Rayne family's home, right? Then everything you have here is for the Rayne family?"

Luca glanced at the things in her hands. She felt a little helpless because she knew that Marie was now eyeing the things she bought after accepting the fact that she could not step into **the building**.

"Get out of the way." Luca's tone *was cold*.

She was disappointed by Marie's greed. She thought that Marie would have reformed in prison but now it seemed that the years she spent inside were all in vain.

If Marie was willing to turn over a new leaf after being released from prison, she would be able to find a good *job*. *Unfortunately...*

"*I brought these friends over, and I can't leave empty-handed. Since you prepared these for the Rayne family and I'm a member of the family as well, you can give these to me. I won't make a fuss and insist on going in, lest I disturb you from having a blast.*" Marie acted like riff-raff as she gave her companions a **look**.

Luca's gifts were all expensive items. Although they could not make use of most of them, they could get some money after they returned the items or resold them.

"**If you** dare to take these gifts from my hands, I'm afraid that all of you will have to go to the police station," Luca warned them.

The three men laughed and did not care about what Luca said.

indifferently seeing that they were not threatened by her

she did not have to do anything to get rid of this group of

security guard at the security booth noticed that Luca was surrounded by them. This was the person the manager had specially told him about. He heard that she had a relationship with Luke. When he saw this scene, he immediately used the walkie-talkie to tell the other security guards about the

while, a few security guards walked up to Luca's side and asked, "Ms. Craw, are these people

gave the men with Marie a cold look and said, "They're not harassing me, but they want to

Do you need me to call the police?" one of the security guards

soon as he finished speaking, one of the men on Marie's side knew that something was wrong and said quickly, "This is all a misunderstanding. We saw that this lady was having a hard time carrying these two bags by herself so we wanted to help. Isn't that

"Yes, yes." The others quickly agreed.

was on the side, glared at Luca viciously. She was jealous that Luca was being protected by these security guards despite not being a resident here.

These security guards were usually snobbish!

at her so-called friends and felt like she had lost her dignity seeing Luca being protected by the security

Chapter 1684

The men with Marie instantly backed away when they heard the security guard mention the police.

They were regulars at the police station. If they were locked up again, they would have to find someone to bail them out. It was not worth the trouble.

A man put his arms around Marie's shoulder and said, "Stop bickering. You won't be able to get in today."

Their presence disturbed the residents who came in and out of the building, so the security guard reminded them, "You won't be able to enter in the future as well. Don't come back and harass our residents. Next time, you'll be handed over to the police without a second thought."

Marie spat at the security guard and snorted coldly when she realized that she would never be able to enter the building. "What a sh*tty place! I won't come even if I'm invited!"

After she shouted that, she left angrily.

She was humiliated by strangers and denied entry. She felt like she had lost all her reputation.

When the three men saw her leave, they also followed her.

After they walked away from the building's entrance, one of the men could not help but tease her. "Marie, you said this is your grandfather's house but it seems that it's not the case. If your grandfather really lives here, why can't you go in?"

Marie glared at the man who was clearly picking a fight with her. "This is my grandfather's house! He's partial to my sister and refuses to acknowledge me as his granddaughter. What? Do you doubt my words?"

you're telling the truth or not has nothing to do with me. We accompanied you here because you said that your grandfather lives here. Since you have no money, it's fair that Old Man Rayne pays us the money you owe us. Since we can't get in, then tell me. When will you pay us back the money you owe?" The man sneered as he forced her to pay them

money was mentioned, Marie's face turned pale. Her confident composure was completely

had no money, so she wanted to ask Old Man Rayne to pay back her debt on her behalf. However, she did not expect that she was not even allowed to walk through the

pay you back. I just need some time,"

man saw through her and said, "Do you think of me as a child? I'm not that easy to fool, and I don't trust you. I want to see the money. I don't care about

her feet. She wanted to get some money too but it was not

thought of Luca and formed a plan in her head. "You want money, right? I have a way. It just depends on whether you have the guts to

not interested in your sh*tty plans." The man turned her down before he heard what she

not expect them to turn her down so quickly. She gritted her teeth and said, "If we get this done, I won't ask for a single penny. If the amount is less than what I owe you, I'll pay you back the remaining. If it's more than that, I won't take the extra. Does that sound

The men knew that she had no money to pay them back. She had been making money with her body but now that she was old and her reputation in the industry was ruined, no high-end **clients**

were willing to hire her. It would take forever for her to pay them back using her aging **body**.

The man said, "I'm certain that you won't be able to pay us the money you owe us until you die. Tell me. What's the plan you have *in mind*?"

Marie raised her lips maliciously, then moved closer to the man. "Do you remember the woman from just now? We can make some money out of her. Her clothes may look plain but they're all branded. They're worth **a lot**."

The man listened to what she said and asked dubiously, "Are you serious? That woman doesn't look rich."

"That's what you don't understand. Her outfit is all from well-known international brands. Even if you aren't familiar with women's brands, you saw what was inside the bags she was carrying just now too, right? They're all expensive supplements." Marie was sure. The supplements must be for Old Man Rayne.

She was jealous that the dying old man could take such good supplements while she still had to deal with these gangsters.

The man thought about it for a while. He looked at Marie's greedy face, then finally nodded in agreement.

...

to the entrance of the Rayne family's home and looked back. No one was

shook her head helplessly. She did not expect to bump into Marie. She rang the doorbell, and after a while, Wanda came to answer

you're here." Wanda saw Luca and a kind smile appeared on

a little late. Something happened on my way here," Luca said. She did not mention anything about being stopped by Marie at the

and said, "You're not late. Come in! I don't know what you like to eat so I just prepared some

like A City's home-cooked food," Luca said. 'Especially the meals I used to make

a pity that her Grandpa could no longer cook

Luca was just being polite, so she said, "I heard from Luke that you're from Russia. You're probably not used to A City's home-cooked food,

shook her head and said, "I was only in Russia for a while and still see my home as A City. I like the food here more than the food there. Home-cooked food is delicious. The dishes you made last time

Chapter 1685

When Luca said that Old Man Rayne needed them, Wanda was persuaded. After all, Luca knew better than her what nutrients Old Man Rayne needed.

She took one of the bags and said, "Thank you, I'll take these. You can take the rest back."

Luca looked at Wanda's slightly sallow complexion and remembered that in the past, she was always a graceful woman. After she got divorced, she spent a lot of energy taking care of Old Man Rayne. She had no time to take care of herself. That was why her current physical condition was not the best.

She continued to persuade Wanda, saying, "Please take these too. I'm sure you've been putting in a lot of effort taking care of Old Man Rayne. You need to take care of yourself too. These are for conditioning your body and external use. I promise, these are much better than the cosmetic products you see on TV."

Wanda was touched by what she said. "In that case, I'll accept your gifts and—"

Before she could finish speaking, Luca shoved the bag in her hand and said, "Just take it. I don't need these things."

"Okay, okay." Wanda was moved by what she said. She believed in Luca, so she accepted both bags of gifts.

Luca glanced at the time. There was still some time before their meal. She said, "Mm, is Old Man Rayne upstairs?"

"Yeah. He knows that I invited you over for a meal today and has been happily talking about it the entire day," Wanda said. Luca was the savior of the entire Rayne family.

Luca smiled shyly. Even though she was not Bianca, she was overjoyed that Old Man Rayne still liked her. "Can I go up? I want to check Old Man Rayne's pulse, and if possible, I'll play a game of chess with him?"

that Old Man Rayne's favorite pastime was playing chess. It was boring for him to play chess alone. He would only play when someone who knew how to play visited the

know how to play chess? That's great. Go up, then. My father likes to play chess with others.

Unfortunately, no matter how hard I tried to learn it, I still can't play well. Old Man Rayne doesn't want to play chess with me," Wanda said. She placed the two bags on the coffee table for now, held Luca's hand, and walked toward the stairs with

not enjoy being in close contact with others but Wanda was her aunt, so she was not

two went upstairs together and Wanda took her into Old Man Rayne's room. "Dad, guess

Man Rayne was basking in the sun with half-squinted eyes. When he heard Wanda's voice, he opened his eyes. They lit up when he saw Luca. "Ms. Craw, you're

Rayne and Ms. Rayne, call me Luca." Luca listened to how they addressed her and did not want to put a distance in the relationship between them, so she told them to address her

Luca. Come here and sit down." Old Man Rayne was sitting under the sun on a chair by the window. When he saw Luca, the wrinkled smile on his face grew like a blooming

and sat on the chair opposite him that he

felt a little embarrassed with what was happening. "Dad, Luca said she wants to check your pulse. Oh, by the way, she can play chess. Do you want to play a game with her

sounds wonderful! Wanda, go and get my chessboard. I didn't expect that someone would play chess with me today." Old Man Rayne completely ignored the part where Wanda mentioned that Luca wanted to check his pulse. All he thought about was playing chess

"Okay, I'll go get you your chessboard now." Wanda nodded, turned around, and walked **out**.

Luca's mood was influenced when she saw Old Man Rayne's smiling face. "Old Man Rayne, can I check your pulse first?"

"**Okay.**" Old Man Rayne readily agreed and reached out his hand for her to take his pulse.

Luca put her fingers on his **pulse**.

When Wanda came in with a chessboard, Luca was done checking Old Man Rayne's **pulse**.

"**Luca, how** is my father doing?" she asked.

"It's still the same as the last time I checked. Old Man Rayne's body needs to be conditioned for a long time. Do be mindful," *Luca said*.

"*Sure, sure. I'll follow your prescription and take good care of him.*" Wanda put the chessboard on the table between the two and said, "Dad, Luca, have fun playing. I'll go prepare our meal."

Old Man Rayne set up the chessboard, waved his hand, and said, "*Go ahead.*"

at Old Man Rayne who was deeply immersed in the game of chess. She shook her head with a smile and left

On the other hand.

listened to his subordinates as they reported to him that Luca had bumped into Marie at the entrance of the community where the Rayne

were done reporting, Luke's gaze appeared deep. It seemed that Marie was exhausting all means to move into the Rayne family's house. He said, "Keep watch of the situation and

it," the subordinate listened to his command

put aside his work and texted Wanda: [Is Luca with

quickly replied to him: [She's here. She's playing chess with Old Man Rayne

[Marie was making trouble at the entrance of the community today and pestered Luca. Did she mention this to

a while, Wanda called him and asked in a blank tone, "Luke, you said Marie came to cause trouble? She picked

didn't come alone and brought some gangsters with her. She was stopped and made a big fuss. The security guards almost called the police," Luke said. He did not tell her that his subordinates saw the

Chapter 1686

When it was about time, Luke sent a car from the company to pick up Luca. At the same time, he informed Wanda that the car was on its way to the villa.

After she ate with Old Man Rayne, Luca glanced at the time and saw that it was getting late. She said, "Thank you for your hospitality but it's getting late. I have to head home."

Wanda quickly said, "Luca, leave a little later."

"No, I have some things to attend to." Luca shook her head. She was satisfied being able to spend the entire day with her grandfather. She did not want to overstay her welcome.

Moreover, now that Old Man Rayne had finished eating, it was time for him to rest. Her presence would only affect Old Man Rayne's rest.

After Wanda heard that Luca had something to do, she knew that it was not her place to ask her to stay. Hence, she said, "In that case, wait here for a little longer. Luke has arranged for a driver to come over. He should be here any moment now."

"Mr. Crawford arranged a driver for me?" Luca was stunned. She did not expect Luke to arrange a driver for her.

"Yeah. Don't let the driver come for nothing. Don't worry, just sit down and wait for a while. I'll go to the kitchen to cut some fruits for us." Wanda persuaded Luca to stay for a while longer and walked to the kitchen.

Old Man Rayne was sitting on the sofa in the living room. He looked at Luca with a smile on his face and said, "Luca, your chess skills are not bad. Although you're still miles away compared to me, it's fun to play chess with you. Come over for dinner more often and play chess with an old man like me."

She could not bring herself to turn down Old Man Rayne's request. "Okay."

Wanda brought out the cut fruits from the kitchen. Just as she placed it on the coffee table, her phone rang. She glanced at it and said, "Luca, the car has already arrived at the community's entrance."

Luca heard her and stood up. "Okay, I'll head off now."

you wait for the car to come in? I'll just let the security guard at the entrance know," Wanda

her down. "Don't worry about it. It's just a few minutes away. I'll walk over. The food you made tonight was so delicious and I had so much. It's good for me to walk it off."

reckoned that even if Luca left now, she would not bump into Marie and the others. She knew Marie well. Marie would not have the patience to wait at the entrance for the entire

walk you out,"

two left the house together and when they reached the entrance of the villa, Luca stopped and said, "Ms. Rayne, this is good

walk you to the community's entrance." Wanda continued to

her hand, shook her head, and said, "I'll just walk there by myself. Old Man Rayne's concoction should be ready soon. You'd better go back and watch it so as not to overcook it. Otherwise, the effects of the concoction will

as Wanda heard that, she gave up on sending Luca off because Old Man Rayne's concoction was still simmering on the stove. "Okay. Be careful and pay more attention to your

was in a trance. She felt as if she had gone back to the past when her family would tell her all kinds of caring words before she went

the villa, walked to the gate of the community, and saw the ostentatious but

Mercedes-Benz was low-key because the model was common in the area. There were always several such cars in this community. It was not the most luxurious car

However, the license plate number was high-profile. Luca looked at the car plate and guessed that it was the car that Luke sent.

Before she walked over, the driver had already spotted her. He got out of the car and opened the door to the backseat for her. "Dr. Craw, I'm the driver Mr. Crawford sent to pick you *up*."

"**Thank you.**" Luca got into *the car*.

The driver closed the door, returned to the driver's seat, and *drove away*.

Marie, who was standing on the opposite side of the road, saw Luca being picked up. She spat on the floor angrily. "Ugh! Someone picked her up at this time? Why is her life *so easy*?"

The man who stood there with her looked in the direction the car was leaving. His eyes narrowed as he said, "This woman... Are you sure you want to *provoke her*?"

"She's so rich. If we don't rob her, who else will we rob?" Marie's eyes were full of resentment. 'How could a stranger enter the Rayne family's house but I'm *turned away*?'

"**The car** she got into is a Mercedes-Benz," the man said to remind her.

"*What's* wrong with a Mercedes? She can afford the gifts, so she can surely afford to sit in a Mercedes. Didn't you see that she took a taxi in the morning? Maybe this car is a rideshare." Marie said nonchalantly.

"**That license** plate is special. It doesn't look like she booked a ride. I'm afraid that you can't afford to mess with her," the man said.

"It's just a woman. Are you afraid of her?" Marie provoked the man.

help of these men, she could not do anything to Luca. If she wanted to get money, she needed their

insist on making a move on that woman, we'll do it. Anyway, the whole thing is planned by you. We're just here to collect the money. If there's a problem, you'll bear the responsibility." The man managed her expectations and made it clear that whatever happened next would have nothing to do with him and his

was a little scared when she heard that they were washing their hands off the matter. However, she thought about her debts that she could not repay by herself and bit her lip. She agreed, saying, "Okay, I'll take all responsibility. I don't believe that she can make a fuss out

...

sitting in the car, looking at the scene that kept going backward outside the car window. She could not help but ask, "Do you know why Mr. Crawford sent you to pick

know. I'm just the driver," the driver

heard that, she

why would a driver know what Luke is thinking?' She asked because she was eager to know Luke's intention for

shook her head, lowered it, and laughed at

passed her apartment complex

was stunned. "Uh, why didn't

Chapter 1687

The front desk receptionist of T Corporation had gone home. The security guard was the only one who was left.

Luca did not bring her employee card but the security guard recognized her and swiped her in.

Before she arrived at the elevator, Luke called. Luca answered, and his low voice said, "Come to my office."

"Okay," Luca responded, put the phone back in her pocket, and took the elevator to his office floor.

The lights on the floor were bright. When she walked out of the elevator and walked past Jason's office, she saw that he was still working overtime. The entire T Corporation was working hard for the Europe project, while she was the only one who had nothing to do.

Jason looked at her and smiled politely. "Dr. Craw, why are you here?"

"Mr. Crawford asked me to come," Luca replied. She noticed that Jason's desk was full of stacks of documents. As Luke's assistant, he had to deal with many documents to begin with. She did not have to think much to know that there were going to be more documents on Luke's desk.

"Oh, in that case, the boss is in the office. You can head in," Jason said.

Luca thanked him, and when she continued to walk forward, she heard him say, "By the way, the boss doesn't seem to be in a good mood today. Do be mindful."

'Luke is in a bad mood?

'Did something go wrong at work? Otherwise, he wouldn't be in a bad mood.'

"Okay, I won't provoke him," Luca said. Even after many years, she still knew how to avoid the minefields around Luke.

to the office entrance and knocked. "Mr. Crawford, it's

"Come in." Luke's voice sounded.

took a deep breath, pushed the door, and walked in. He said, "Close

obediently closed the office door. The moment the thick door was closed, the two of them

sound of him typing on the keyboard went on. Luca stood at the door and watched him type on the keyboard. She guessed that he was not dealing with documents but rather, discussing work with others. She did not make a sound and stood there like a wooden

Luke said, "Sit. Don't stand there."

did Luca move. She sat in the seat opposite him. She looked at the man who was busy discussing with others and did not say

a while, Luke closed the chat and looked at Luca after he finished assigning work

was also looking at him. She lowered her gaze the moment their eyes

gaze was deep with a hint of indifference. After looking into his eyes for a while, it seemed as though he was able to see through her

did you ask me to come here for work?"

Luke stared at her for two seconds, took out two black folders from the pile of documents, and handed them over. "The company's translator is facing some health issues and is still on leave. I need you to translate these two documents."

It turned out that he needed her to help with **translation work...**

Luca breathed a sigh of relief. She picked up the folders, opened them, and glanced at the contents of the documents. Both documents were in Russian. They were fairly thick with a lot of pages. "Mr. Crawford, when do you need these two documents?"

"The sooner the better," Luke said.

Luca nodded and held the document in her arms. "I'll finish them as soon as possible. If there's nothing else, I'll go out and get on with **the task.**"

"**I still** have something to say," Luke **said.**

Luca was stunned at how direct he was. Right after she stood up, she sat down again and waited for him **to speak**.

"**Aunt Wanda** said the medicine you prescribed worked for Old Man Rayne?" Luke asked.

"**Yes. As** long as he keeps taking it, Old Man Rayne will feel much better," Luca said. She felt a little regretful after learning about how Old Man Rayne had been suffering from this chronic disease for too long and even missed the best timing for treatment. Even if she treated him now, he may not be able to recover. She could only help him manage the symptoms.

After all, Old Man Rayne was old. If he started treatment, it would be very risky **and painful**.

Luca did not want to see Old Man Rayne having to suffer at his age.

"That's wonderful. Also, be careful of Marie in the next few days," Luke said.

Luca suddenly looked at him.

noticed the surprise in her eyes and asked,

do you know something?" Luca

stopped you at the community's entrance today," Luke

changed. 'He's still following me?' She felt uncomfortable when she thought about how his previous concern and warmth toward her were all fake. He was still following her. She knew she had wronged Luke but she could not control her emotions the moment she heard that. "Mr. Crawford, if you don't trust me, you don't have to

the disappointment in her eyes, as well as the faint trace of sadness. He explained nonchalantly, "My men who are tasked to protect the Rayne family coincidentally saw

Luca was stunned...

not monitoring and tracking her but was protecting the

emotions in Luca's heart turned into guilt and sadness after

it was only right for Luke to get his men to follow her. After all, she was Luca, not Bianca. On top of that, she approached him with bad intentions when she came to work at

I thought that—" Luca subconsciously apologized, thinking that she should not have thrown her temper at

Chapter 1688

Luca paused his gesture while he was turning the pages of the document. Then, he continued to read the documents as if nothing had happened. "We have to speed up the progress of the project. We'll need a regular Russian translator, and we can't afford any unforeseen circumstances on your part anymore."

Luca, who read between the lines, knew that he had only sent someone to pick her up because he wanted to ensure the company's project would go on as scheduled.

After all, translating was an essential job for overseas projects like this.

Luca nodded. She stood up with the document in her arms and said, "I got it. I'll try my best to translate these documents."

"Okay." Luke did not lift his head to look at her.

Luca was upset. The person in front of her was aloof. That was his true colors, but she could not help herself from being unreasonable. She was hoping that the man in front of her could spare a little warmth for her.

However, given her identity and background now, she could not ask for it.

There was an awkward silence again because of the few simple words he said. Luca carried the folders in her arms and grasped them tightly as she watched the man do his work. She took a deep breath and said, "Mr. Crawford, if there's nothing else, I'll go out to work first."

"Alright." Luke did not make her stay.

Luca left the office with the folders in her hands. She had just closed the door when she saw Jason walking toward her. He saw Luca and asked, "Dr. Craw, has the boss arranged a job for you?"

"Yes, some translating jobs," said Luca while she held the folders in her arms.

Jason shot a glance at the folders. He recognized the two folders. "I was the one who arranged these two folders. They're quite thick. It's going to be tough for you."

no big deal. Haven't you eaten yet?" Luca noticed the lunchbox he was carrying in his hands.

and answered, "Not yet. Everyone on this floor is working overtime. We haven't eaten yet. But this one is for the boss. You've just come out from there. Is there anything unusual about

unusual. He's the same as always," replied Luca. His tone of voice did not change even when she was

I'll send over the lunchbox first. Oh, the renovation work for your office has just been completed, and the tools you need have all been arranged. You can use the office anytime you want," Jason

nodded and headed to the office.

pushed the office door open and switched on the lights. She looked at the decorations inside. Clearly, it was just a temporary office, but Jason had decorated it like it was an office for long-term use.

the office, sat down, and switched on the laptop on the

working for a while, Tina stood at the door and knocked on it. She looked at Luca with a smile on her face. "Dr. Craw, may I

lifted her head. She was focused on handling the documents and did not notice Tina's arrival. Luca rose and asked, "It's you. Of course, you may come in. What's the matter?"

came in. She noticed that the office was lit up when she was passing by. She knew that it must be Luca who came back to work. Hence, she came here to take a look. Sure enough, it was her.

I just happened to see you coming here to work even though it's already late. It must be tough on you. Oh yes, I'm going to get some coffee. Do you want some?" she asked. Everyone in their department had to work overtime during this period, and most of them relied on coffee to keep themselves awake.

Luca shook her head. "It's alright. I'm not used to drinking coffee at *night*."

"But you'll have to work late. Are you sure you don't need it?" Tina looked at the two folders on her table. Although there were only two, each folder was thick.

"Can you please get me a glass of juice if that's okay with you?" Luca said. It had been a long time since she drank *coffee*.

She was already a light sleeper. If she continued to rely on the coffee to make her stay awake, her sleeping quality would become poorer.

"Sure. Wait a minute." After knowing that Luca preferred juice over coffee, Tina turned around and walked out of the office. After a while, she brought her a glass of juice.

She placed the glass of juice on the table and explained, "It's too late at night now. There's only grape juice left. Dr. Craw, you don't mind, **right?**"

"I'm fine with anything." Luca picked up the glass of juice and took a sip. The juice was prepared in the morning and it was already nighttime now, so the taste would naturally have changed.

Still, it did not matter. It was just a drink to quench her thirst.

Tina looked at the two folders and reminded her, saying, "Dr. Craw, you can actually bring these documents back to translate. After all, you're still on sick leave. All you have to do is complete these folders in time. Boss wouldn't say anything about where you do your *work*."

Luca flipped the page of the document and said, "I'd better stay in the office to do the work. It's related to the project, after all. It'd be best if I don't bring important information and documents out of the *office*."

Tina thought what she said made sense too. She glanced at the swelling on Luca's face that had not recovered. She said in a caring manner, "Alright. Try not to get too tired, then. Your face hasn't fully recovered *yet*."

will." Luca touched her face unconsciously and smiled at

did not say anything more. She left there holding her cup of coffee in her

to translate the documents.

piles of documents, and the difficulty level was much higher than the previous documents that were given to her. Moreover, she had not been working for quite some time, so her progress was a little

was eleven o'clock at night, Jason and the others had already gotten off work, while she was still sitting there doing her

got off work, he glanced at her when he was passing by her

she was still busy at
to be serious and responsible when she was working. She was still the
on the office's door. Luca's gaze moved away from the laptop screen and fell on him. "Mr.
get off work," Luke said. Given the time now, it would be almost 12 when they returned to the
at the time on the computer screen. It was already

C hapter 1689

Luca smiled as she shook her head. It seemed like she had been receiving too much special treatment from Luke. She was getting more and more discontented. It was not like she was related to him. Why should he wait for her?

Luca carried the two folders and switched off the lights when she walked out of the office. After she turned around and glanced at the dark office, she closed the door and headed to the elevator.

Luke was waiting for the elevator.

Luca pondered over it. No one would use the executive elevator, so the elevator should be on this floor.

Why was he not in the elevator yet?

Luca looked at the man's figure as her heart raced uncontrollably. She pulled her gaze away and headed to the elevator for employees.

Luke saw her coming over her and pressed the elevator button.

The doors slowly opened. Luca, who had her back facing him, heard the sound too. She did not turn around.

Luke walked into the elevator and looked at Luca, who was still waiting for the elevator. He spoke, "Come in."

Luca did not move.

Luke repeated what he said, "Luca, come in."

After her name was called, Luca then realized that the voice she heard just now was not her imagination. It was him calling her to get into the elevator.

She glanced at the elevator which was only on the tenth floor and thought if she insisted on waiting for the elevator, she would be pretentious.

She turned around and walked carefully into Luke's executive elevator.

other than a few honored guests who occasionally came to visit, Luke was the only one who used
when the cleaner was cleaning the elevator, she would usually spray his favorite scent in it. That was
why there was his favorite scent in the

breathed in the familiar smell. The anxious feelings in her heart were slowly calming

Luke pressed on the basement floor.

was about to remind him. "Mr.

difficult to hail a ride at this hour." Luke interrupted

her mouth silently. Did that mean he was going to send

it. Let him send her home, then. It was not far away anyway. It would only take him around ten

elevator brought them down to the basement. Luke walked out of the elevator and walked in front of her. Luca followed behind

their paces were consistent all the way over. They kept a certain distance from each other too. Luca looked at the man's tall figure, and it brought her back to

distance between them had never been so far away before.

no matter how many things Luke had to carry, he would always hold her hand and give her enough sense of

was secretly missing the sense of security that he gave her back then. When she looked at his hand in his pocket, she even thought of taking the initiative to hold his hand.

hand slightly stretched forward at the thought of this.

Luca immediately withdrew it back when she realized what she was doing. She broke into a **cold sweat**.

How could she have such thoughts?! If she did that, Luke would never understand why. Perhaps he would even **reject her**.

Luca was secretly rejoicing. It was fortunate that she was quick enough to come back to her senses. Otherwise, she would have no idea how to explain it later.

Luca held the folders with both arms and palms under her armpits.

Winter was just around the corner. Her hands were freezing. Even though she was wearing multiple layers of jackets, she could still feel that her hands were unusually *icy-cold*.

It was probably because she had freaked out just *now*...

Luke, who was walking in front of Luca, had been relying on other ways to observe Luca.

He could not turn his head around and hold the woman's hand either. Hence, he could only rely on the other details to observe her. After a while, he suddenly turned **around**.

Luca was startled by him that she trembled with fright for *a second*.

"Mr. Crawford, what's the matter?"

Luke could clearly see how her body had trembled for a moment. He could not help but frown. "Why are you wearing so few layers?"

Luca listened to his tone which carried a hint of reproach and explained, "I didn't expect that I'd still be outside at this hour."

The temperature in A City during the day was still fine. It was mainly because the difference in the temperature between day and night was large. She did not expect that she would still be outside at this hour *today*.

did not say anything more. She was still outside at this hour because of him, and she was wearing such thin

be warmer when you get into the car later," said Luke. He trotted to his car and opened the door of the passenger

suppressed the tremor in her heart as she watched him open the car door for her. She bent her body and got into the car.

closed the car door and walked past the front of the car. He did not start the car immediately when he got into the driver's seat. Instead, he switched on the heater in the

from the world's top luxury car, it only took a while for the temperature inside the car to rise to the temperature that one's body was comfortable

Luke felt it was sufficient did he start the car and drive

minutes, the car reached the entrance of the neighborhood.

was about to get out of the car but Luke swiped the card right away and drove into the neighborhood.

thought, 'He's not going to sleep

the thought in mind, but she did not

asked, "Did the cleaning lady get some groceries

was because he would often come to the apartment and spend the night, so Luca got the cleaning lady to buy more ingredients. If Luke did not come, then the ingredients would probably be wasted. Still, if he spent the night in the apartment, she would be able to put ingredients

another serving when you're making breakfast tomorrow morning," said Luke. He parked the car at his exclusive parking

noded as she listened to him. She knew that he would be staying here tonight after what he

Chapter 1690

"It's alright. Let me take the maid's room," said Luke. He unbuttoned the two buttons on his shirt, pulled off his tie, and headed to the maid's room.

It seemed like he was looking for clothes to change into.

Luca felt helpless when he rejected her offer. She had no choice but to take off the coat. Something came into her mind, and she habitually reached her hand into the coat's pocket to check if anything was in it.

It was a habit of hers. Sometimes, Luke used to put little things in his coat. For example, a lighter or some other things. Hence, she made it a habit to check his pockets before she put them in the washing machine so that the things would not get ruined after soaking in water.

Luke held another clean shirt and walked out of the room. He happened to see what she was doing.

Their eyes met. Luca was afraid that he might misunderstand her, so she explained immediately, "Mr. Crawford, I just wanted to check if there was anything in your pocket. If there was nothing in it, I was going to leave it on the balcony. The cleaning lady will be here to wash it tomorrow."

"Mm." Luke did not expose her little habitual action. It was what Bianca used to do back then.

It had been three years. Everything else about her had not changed even a little when she was with him, except that she was disguising her identity.

"I'll go take a shower first," said Luke. Then, he walked into the shared bathroom.

As Luca watched the bathroom door close, she helplessly put his clothes into the laundry basket on the balcony. When she touched the coat just now, she noticed that the material was not suitable to be washed with the washing machine. Therefore, she thought of personally washing Luke's clothes for him tomorrow.

Luca brought in the laundry that was thoroughly dry after she left the clothes in the laundry basket.

Then, she separated the laundry. She hung Luke's clothes back into the maid's room, while she took her clothes back into her bedroom.

She also brought the two folders into her bedroom.

was here. It would be inconvenient for her to do her work in the living room, so she had no choice but to do it in the bedroom.

closed the door, she sat down in front of the dressing table. Luke got her the dressing table after she moved in. She thought it was of little use. After all, she preferred dressing up casually. The dressing table was like a decoration

did not expect the dressing table to become her workstation

on her laptop and downloaded the documents she had sent to herself via

she was about to continue working on translating the documents, someone knocked on the bedroom

tensed up and sat still without moving. She asked right away, "Mr. Crawford, what's the

Stop working," Luke said. He saw that her bedroom was still lit and reckoned that Luca was

was already late at night. He could not bear to see her staying up late to work

got it." Luca looked at the translated documents and wondered, 'Can he see what I'm doing when the door is

hesitated for half a minute, then switched off the laptop.

it did not seem to be too urgent, she would just resume work tomorrow, then. Besides, she had to wake up early to make breakfast for him tomorrow morning. She should not take the risk of waking washed up and turned off the lights to get some rest.

Throughout the entire time, Luke was standing at the bedroom door. When he saw the lights switching off in the bedroom, only then did he switch off the lights in the living room too. Then, he walked into the maid's room.

Someday, he would hold Bianca in his arms again.

He surely would...

The next day.

Luca woke up and glanced at the time. She immediately sat up, rushed into the bathroom, and washed up. Then, she headed to the kitchen to prepare **breakfast**.

Last night, she was worried she would not be able to wake up, so she deliberately did not take any sleeping pills. She did not expect that she would still wake up slightly late today.

Usually, if she did not take the pills, she would wake up on time even if she did not set an alarm. Sometimes, she could even get up earlier than usual. It was an exceptional case today.

It was probably because she slept well and that was why it happened...

Luca did not think further as she knew the peace in the depths of her heart came **from Luke**...

She opened the fridge and looked at the ingredients the cleaning lady bought. She quickly decided what to make for breakfast, then started preparing.

After Luke woke up, he wanted to head to the bathroom. When he saw that the bedroom door was left open, he knew Luca had woken up. She was probably in the *kitchen*.

He turned around and walked toward the kitchen.

Before he reached, he heard noises coming from the kitchen. Luca was **making breakfast**.

Indeed...

when he saw her waking up early in the morning to prepare breakfast for him.

was the kind of daily life activity that he missed the most. It was also what he liked the

did not disturb the woman who was busy making breakfast. Instead, he turned around and walked into the

Luca finished preparing breakfast, she carried the food out of the kitchen. Luke was already sitting on the couch watching the business

It was his everyday routine.

looked at his figure. She was truly impressed with him. Although he was the owner of the apartment, he no longer stayed here anymore. Still, he could sit on the couch and watch the news comfortably.

breakfast is ready," she called out.

could smell the fragrance of the food earlier. He had been waiting for her to call out to him. He slowly rose and headed to the dining table when he heard

be great if she could change the way she called

placed his serving of breakfast in front of him, then she placed the cutleries before

down, picked up the cutleries, and was ready to eat.