

Be Gentle 1701

Chapter 1701

She was not one of the socialites of A City, but she could afford to buy items from such an expensive brand. It was either she was a vain white-collar employee, or she had a sugar daddy.

She looked at Luca's exquisite face. This woman was hanging out with Nina. Madam Mallory simply categorized Luca as someone in the latter category.

"Ms. Nina, I didn't expect to see you here." Madam Mallory pulled her gaze away and it fell on Nina. She curled the corners of her mouth. It looked like she was smiling, but her smile was insincere.

"Such a coincidence, Madam Mallory." Nina forced herself to cover up the nervousness and helplessness in her. She pretended to face her calmly.

"How have you been lately?" Madam Mallory continued to ask. She must be living a tough life without her son providing for her. Nevertheless, she still wanted to strike a nerve in her.

This had nothing to do with her generosity. Sometimes, these women only dreamed of marrying a rich man so they could live their lives comfortably. They would forget who they actually were.

When she ran into Nina, the first thing that came into her mind was to walk toward her. She intended to remind her what kind of woman she was.

After all, the marriage between the Mallory and Johnston families was about to be called off. However, even if Percy called off the engagement with Madison, she would never let the woman in front of her have the chance to get back together with Percy again.

Madam Mallory thought of making Nina realize the gap between her and Percy so that Nina would stop thinking of seizing the opportunity to play up to Percy.

"Not really, but I'm pretty sure that my life is better than before." Nina understood that Madam Mallory asked the question to put her down, but she was someone who would tolerate it.

Even though things were not going well in all aspects of life, at least she was free.

Madam Mallory's expression changed when she heard that. Nina was obviously provoking her!

hear that. I was worried that you might not be living well after you left my son," said Madam Mallory. Then, she turned to look at Luca. "Who's

Nina's friend." Luca took the initiative

Mallory nodded with a look of despise in her eyes. She looked at the bag beside her. "This brand is pretty amazing, but their products are expensive. I must say that you have good

Luca thanked her without bothering whether the compliment was sincere or

didn't expect Ms. Nina to have such a capable friend. Enjoy your meal. I shall leave." After Madam Mallory mocked them, she turned around and

Nina shook her head.

Luca asked caringly, "Are you alright?"

I've already gotten used to her looking for trouble with me back then. She's just mocking me now. Well, that's alright with me," said Nina. She recalled that part of her stress had come from the Mallory family back

she was still in a vague relationship with Percy, the Mallory family had always come looking for trouble did not make a fuss out of it due to Percy's reputation. Hence, Percy's image in public was still good. The Mallory family deserved credit for helping present such a good image of him in

always give you trouble? Does Mr. Mallory know about it?" Luca asked. She was surprised to know this. She only knew that Pierre always came to look for trouble with Nina. After all, that man was interested in Nina, but she did not expect Madam Mallory to mess with Nina

know. Why should I tell him? He can't stop what his mother wants to do either," Nina replied calmly.

Luca nodded and recalled how Allison had embarrassed her in the past.

Madam Mallory must be like Allison, always making things difficult for Nina.

Nina was not someone who would tolerate something like this, but she had been beside Percy throughout those years, getting bullied by them. It was indeed difficult for *her*.

If Percy had not been kind to her, Luca would never have agreed to them being in a relationship.

The dishes were served. Nina lost her appetite once she saw the food.

"At least have some of it. Let's go back and take a rest after this," advised **Luca**.

"*Alright*." Nina nodded, picked up her spoon, and ate.

After dinner, both of them left the shopping mall. Luca headed to the apartment with the bags in her hand, while Nina walked to the taxi stand nearby.

There were barely any empty cars now as it was time for people to get **off work**.

She waited for a while. However, most of the taxis were taken by others. Nina felt a little depressed. She picked up her phone, planning to hail a ride with an app. Just then, a Mercedes pulled up in front **of her**.

Nina looked at the car window that slowly rolled down. It was Madam Mallory.

Nina, are you waiting for a taxi? Let me give you a ride," said Madam Mallory. She did not say some things because Luca was present just now. After all, she still wanted to keep her sense of pride.

would feel ashamed if someone else knew her son was madly in love with a woman

at her face. Although Madam Mallory was smiling, it gave her the chills. There was not even a hint of kindness on her face. Nina shook her head and said, "No, thank you. I've already booked a ride. It'll be here soon."

picked up your phone. How did you manage to book a ride? It's after hours now. It'll be difficult to book a ride. Get in the car. Let me send you home." Madam Mallory directly exposed

startled. It turned out this was how Percy had learned to be cunning. He got it from his mother.

have something to tell you. If you'd like to listen to me speak to you on the street, you may continue standing here as well." Madam Mallory was running out of patience when Nina refused to compromise.

one was allowed to

took a deep breath. If she did not get into the car today, she had a feeling that she would not live her life peacefully in the

she passed the back of the car and got into the car from the other side.

Mallory kept a distance away from her as if there was something dirty

noticed that Madam Mallory was trying to keep her distance. She wondered why Madam Mallory wanted her to get into her car if she despised her

Send Ms. Nina home," Madam Mallory ordered.

Chapter 1702

Madam Mallory set aside the matter, claiming that she would leave the decision to the men in the family. However, she knew the Mallory family had made their decision even if they had not announced it to the public.

She had no idea what Percy had on his mind at that time, but it was a marriage of convenience. Now that the Johnston family was in trouble, Madison would be abandoned.

The Mallory family was heartless, indeed.

Although Nina was not born in a wealthy family, she knew pretty well how heartless these wealthy families were.

If there was no Johnston family, would Percy have abandoned her so heartlessly when he became tired of her?

Nina's heart was in dismal at the thought of it. She did not know what happened to her. After all, she was not Madison. She had never gone through these. However, the sorrow in her heart was getting bigger endlessly.

"You seem to take it lightly. If the daughter of the Johnston family has feelings for Percy, are you still going to separate them?" Nina asked.

Madam Mallory sneered with a faint smile on her face. "We can't take into account the feelings that Madison has for Percy. Percy is the one who's deciding all of these now."

Nina looked at her heartless expression. She had the sudden urge to ask if he had made such decisions back when they were still together?

Was the engagement between the Mallory and Johnston family also Percy's decision?

If it was his decision, then why did he still mess with her at that time...

Mallory noticed the emotions in Nina's eyes and mocked her, saying, "Why? Why do you look sad when I brought up Madison? Aren't you hoping that they're not on good terms? Now that the Johnston family is in trouble, their relationship is about to end. You should be happy, right?"

could not help but frown when Madam Mallory thought Nina was the kind of person who would enjoy watching misfortune befall on others.

had never wished for anything all along. She did not hope that Percy and Madison could spend the rest of their lives happily together, nor did she hope that they would

Madam Mallory looked elegant and graceful, she was rotten

"You can't read my mind. How do you know whether or not I wish that they're not on good terms? Am I not allowed to wish that they can spend the rest of their lives happily together and never come out to hurt anyone again?"

Madam Mallory was pissed off with what Nina said. She narrowed her eyes and looked at Nina. Was this woman really that

don't care what you say. Today, I'm here to remind you this. Don't think you'll have a chance even after Percy calls off the engagement with Madison. I'm telling you, that'll be impossible!"

thought of the possibility of getting back together with him. If you came here just to remind me, there's no need to do so. Let me tell you about my strength. I'll never go back to the same place. Someone like your son might be out of my league, but I have no intention of crossing the class barriers either. If you have nothing else to say to me, please stop the car at the road junction in front there. Thank you." Nina refused to look at Madam Mallory's face anymore. She had seen enough after all these years. She would run out of patience if she looked at her one more

it was for Percy to have a mother

Mallory only thought that Nina did not know her place when she heard her talking scornfully.

conversation had ended. Nina did not look like she still had Percy on her mind. Madam Mallory sneered and said to the driver, "Stop at the junction in

"Yes, *Madam*." The driver followed her instructions and stopped the car at the **junction**.

Once the car stopped, Nina could not wait to push the car door open and get out. She could not stand to stay in the same space with Madam Mallory for **another minute**.

Once the car door was closed, the driver drove away without considering *her safety*.

Nina took a step back unconsciously and looked at the car that drove away. She shook her head. If she refused to listen to Madam Mallory's warning and approached Percy, the car would not be driving past her side. Instead, it would have immediately run over **her body**.

Nina stroked her arms. She was getting goosebumps on her arms because of her fear of the Mallory family.

...

On the other hand.

Percy was working in T Corporation's office the whole day. After knowing that Luke ran into Nina when he went to Luca's apartment to enjoy hotpot, he regretted that he did not follow him **there**.

After dealing with his work, he drove to the villa and saw Madison at the villa's entrance.

Madison had been waiting for Percy all this time. Since the Johnston family had gotten into trouble, he no longer showed up in front of her. Although they did not have the chance to see each other often, Madison could feel something was clearly wrong.

still able to hold back herself from looking for Percy after Nick convinced her. However, after she heard the conversation between her father and her elder brother, she could no longer endure it.

not allowed to go into Mallory Corporation without Percy's permission, so she chose to wait for him did not expect that she could finally see him.

looked at Percy, who was in his car. Madison walked to the front of his car. Keeping her good manners, she smiled at him.

frowned. He did not expect Madison to come

was the villa he stayed in together with Nina. After Nina left, he moved out too. He thought he was going to finally finish handling these problematic matters and get the chance to start over with Nina again, which was why he moved back

had only just moved back here, yet Madison had come looking for him. It looked like the Johnston family had constantly sent people to keep an eye on him

stood there and looked at Percy. She did not say anything, and Percy did not intend to get out of the a deep breath. She could not do anything to this man. She eventually broke the silence. "Percy, I'd like to talk to you."

looked around him. There was no sign of any reporters or outsiders

pushed the car door open and walked toward her, maintaining an arm-length distance. He tried to stay as far away from her as possible. "What's the

Chapter 1703

Percy breathed out a swirl of cigarette smoke and looked at the pitiful Madison. He did not feel any pity for her, though.

The woman who could make his heart race and break his heart was not the woman in front of him.

Madison listened to his heartless words and said broken-heartedly, "I know you don't like me. You've always been in love with Ms. Nina, right?"

Percy did not answer her.

Madison then said, "If you really want her so badly, why did you agree to our marriage back then? You gave me hope and now you're taking it away. Percy, do you think it's right of you to do that?"

"There's no such thing as to whether it's right of me or not. It was someone else in the Mallory family who agreed to this marriage. It wasn't me." Percy passed the buck and got away squeaky clean.

"So it has always been someone else who made the decisions for you. You've been reluctant the entire time, right?" Madison was in despair. She could barely see hope when she listened to such irresponsible words coming out from this man.

She thought she could convince him to promise that he would help the Johnston family to overcome the crisis by playing the role of a delicate woman. Even if Old Master Mallory refused to help them, Percy was the one in charge of the Mallory Corporation now. As long as he was willing to help, all the difficulties would be resolved.

If he could lend a hand, that would indicate that her father and elder brother had made the wrong guess. It was not Percy who deliberately set them up and let them fall into the trap.

However, now...

Madison felt even more hopeless.

indeed," Percy said generously. He had long ago planned to mess up the marriage. Now, he had only yet to make it public. He had no problem

Madison heard him admitting it himself, her tears streamed down. "So that's how it is. It seems like you've been trying hard to cut off our ties, and you even risked putting the Johnston family into hell!"

expressionless even when his plan was exposed. He refused to make any explanation and just said, "If the Johnston family had managed their business well, I wouldn't have succeeded no matter what I did. Your brother fell for it only because he can't manage the business well. He was desperate to hand over a perfect business report. Is that my

her tears. She knew her elder brother messed up the family business when he took over it. It was an if Percy had not set him up, their family business would not have faced such a crisis.

know he's bad at running the business, and you set him up. We were still engaged then. How am I supposed to face the Johnston family after what you've done?" Madison asked hysterically. She could not be bothered with her image

wind made her feel dizzy, and Percy's confession made her fall into despair. She was defeated.

your business. There's no such thing as family ties in the business world. Not to mention that we don't even have feelings for each other. If it weren't for your elder brother's greed or his foolishness for not doing his research, he wouldn't have lost so much money. You only have yourself to blame for insisting to be together with me. I had warned you before. Did you forget about it?" Percy reminded her

knew the Johnston family was willing to unite with the Mallory family through a marriage of convenience, Pierre already had a fiancée at that time. Hence, he knew it would be

found Madison after he knew about it. He told her that he was already in love with someone else and he would never

Madison insisted on being together with him. She claimed that Nina was not good enough for

Percy persisted in rejecting her, but she was arrogant and domineering. She used her status as the daughter of the Johnston family to force him. He had no choice but to agree to the marriage.

He had already warned her then. If she refused to listen to him and ignored his refusal, then she would have to bear *the consequences*.

Madison took two steps backward and recalled the warning he gave her back then. How long had it been? Before she became his wife, she already had a taste of the **consequences**.

She was unconvinced.

Madison took a step forward. Once Percy pinched out his cigarette, she took the advantage to stand on her tiptoes and kissed him on the lips.

Percy did not expect she would suddenly do such a thing. Madison was decent and gentle all this while. She would never do such unrestrained moves.

Hence, she caught him off guard.

Percy pushed her away forcefully.

Madison smiled bitterly. "Am I that disgusting to you? You still don't want me even if I freely gave myself to you?"

"I'm in love with someone else, and it has always been her. It has never changed." Percy gave her a cold stare. Madison's scent was on the corner of his lips. He could not wait to rinse his mouth now.

she's just an ordinary woman. She's not pretty, and she has an elder brother who's a gangster. Also, she has a sick mother. You won't get any benefits if you're together with her. What's the point of insisting on being together with her?!" Madison yelled and questioned

Johnston family and she had put in so much effort to make Nina avoid Percy as much as she could. However, it did not change his mind at all.

made her feel defeated and frustrated.

useful to me back then, but did I fall in love with you?" Percy questioned her. "I love her. It's pure love without any relationship of mutual benefits between us. So, it doesn't matter who she is, I'll still like her. Ms. Johnston, I'll ask the company's PR to issue another press release. Prepare

time, the Mallory family had gained huge profits and benefits from the Johnston family's matter. Hence, if he issued a press release to tell the public about his relationship with Madison and their engagement, the Mallory family would not stop

longstanding problems in the Johnston family had also played a part in the matter of them making such bad investments. It would take more than just money to solve it. Thus, the Mallory family refused to have the Johnston family be a drag on the Mallory

into the car after that. Madison was left shaking in the cold wind after failing to make Percy take pity on her.

watched Percy leave heartlessly. She clenched her

what it felt like to fall for a heartless man. She recalled the reminder her university senior gave her

was really getting married to Percy, she must leave herself a way out. Otherwise, when she regretted it in the future, she would realize that she had no way

step back did not work, and it was more unlikely to take a step

Chapter 1704

It looked like Madam Mallory's plan to break them up had failed...

Nina felt a dull pain in her heart at the thought of this. She lay down on her bed and pondered why she felt this. Had she not stopped being in love with Percy?

Why did she feel heartbroken when she saw him kissing another woman?

Nina touched her chest, and tears ran down her face. Her heart ached so painfully that she could barely take it. Perhaps it was the after-effects of taking too much medicine, or maybe she was sick.

The doorbell rang. Nina wiped her tears and sat up on the bed. It was still early. Who was it who came?

She walked to the living room and looked through the peephole. No one was outside the door. It seemed like the person knew she would check the situation outside through the peephole, and that was why they hid on purpose.

Usually, it would be someone unwelcomed by her.

"Who is it?" Nina asked.

There was no sound from outside the door.

"I know you're out there. I'm going to call the police if you don't speak," Nina said in the direction of the door.

"It's me." Percy's voice sounded.

Nina was startled. Why was he here? She could not help but feel uncomfortable at the thought of the news article she read just now. She took a deep breath and leaned behind the door, trying to chase the man away. "You're not welcomed here. Please leave."

let me in," said Percy. He knocked on the door, not afraid that he would be disturbing the neighbors in the early

a considerate person and afraid of troubling others. If the knocking on the door really disturbed the neighbors, it might be helpful to him.

leaned on the door, feeling the strength of his knocks. It seemed like he would not give up until he

her courage and chased him away. "Stop knocking on the door. If you keep knocking on it, I'll call the estate manager and I'll call the police too. Then, you'll be the one

not care about her threats. Instead, he said, "You can call the police, but this is my apartment. The police officers can't chase me away even if they

Nina was startled. When she rented the apartment, did the agent not tell her that the owner had been living abroad for quite a long time? That was why the owner was renting it at such a

owner of this apartment. It was me who asked the agent to rent it to you. The police officers and security guards can't do anything to me. I even brought the documents along with me. Nina, no one is going to stop me from getting inside." Percy leaned on the door. Even though he could not see the situation in the house, he could imagine Nina leaning behind the

a habit of hers. She would lean against the door with her back when she met someone she refused to let into the house. It was as if she could hold the door with that skinny body of

her eyes desperately. She had fallen into Percy's trap

she first rented the house, she had her suspicions. She had wondered if it could be Percy's arrangements. After all, the location was good and the rental was cheap. However, the agent managed to dispel

did not expect that she was still unable to outsmart

Nina pressed her body against the door. Then, there was the knocking sound from the other side of the door again. "You've changed the passcode. I can't get in. The estate manager will break the door lock when they come. Not only will you be disturbing the others this way, but you'll be embarrassed too. Nina, open **the door**."

Percy convinced her without doing anything violent. He did not want to scare the *woman inside*.

She was a coward. However, she could stand up for her friends bravely. She would go the extra yard to help her friends, and she could tolerate everything for her family.

A timid woman like her could always surprise him at crucial *times*.

Perhaps, that was what made her **shine**.

Nina listened to the sound of the knocks on the door. If he kept on knocking on the door, it would disturb the neighbors no matter how good the soundproofing was. If she called the police, the police officers could not do anything to him either...

Percy was much scarier than the evil Pierre when he was stubborn...

Nina opened her eyes hopelessly when she realized that. She opened the door, tried her best to suppress the hatred in her heart, and pretended to be calm. "Percy, what do you want from **me**?"

"Let me in," said Percy. He lifted the bag in his hands. "I bought you breakfast."

The door was opened. It was pointless if Nina continued to struggle. She turned around and walked into the house.

Percy followed behind her. He noticed that it was a little messy as if it had been days since she last cleaned the house. His gaze fell on the coffee table. There were a few empty bottles on it.

She had been drinking...

a gleam in Percy's eyes as if he was slightly dissatisfied.

already warned her not to drink too much when Percy brought her to the hospital for a medical check-up. Her health would be easily affected if she continued to drink. He did not expect that she would still drink after they separated. She looked carefree on the outside and claimed that she never touched alcohol anymore. However, she was actually drinking alcohol behind closed

say that you've quit drinking?" Percy asked. He looked at those empty bottles. He could not tell whether Nina drank it on different days or she finished drinking them all at

was a little shaken up yesterday morning. I couldn't sleep at night, so I drank some alcohol. Why? Is it illegal to drink?" Nina tidied her crumpled pajamas. It had been a long time since she drank. If it had not been for her getting too much information about Percy, she would not have numbed herself with alcohol.

she left him, she had lived a carefree life. However, once she heard about him, she would suddenly feel lost and

she could not control herself last night and drank some alcohol.

the breakfast on the dining table. "Do you have honey water at

seldom drink. Are you done here? Thank you for the breakfast. I'm going to get some sleep. Please leave if you have nothing else to do here." Nina could not wait to get him out of the

was hard for her to

to pretend as if nothing mattered to her and she did not care about his scandals when in truth, she was actually uncomfortable about them.

Chapter 1705

"I'd like to talk about us," said Percy.

"Us? Aren't we just strangers? Percy, can you please get out of my life? If you love her, you should just stay together with her. But you're back to messing with me now. What are you up to?"

"Her?" Percy frowned. He was eager to know what was on her mind.

Nina sneered and said, "The daughter of the Johnston family, Madison. Didn't you kiss her on the street last night?"

"Who told you that?" When Percy heard her mentioning Madison, he could not stop himself from getting angry. People who knew him would know that his relationship with Madison was something that was done against his will. Now that the Johnston family was in trouble, it was easy to know that he was going to break up with Madison sooner or later.

Hence, was it true that Nina had never cared about him? Was she simply not using her brain?

"The photo of you and Madison kissing on the street is all over the news now. Percy, I beg you. I've been your secret lover for years, and I'm sick of it. Let's just end this since you're not in love with me. I don't have feelings for you either, so stop looking for me. I'm afraid I'll kill you if you come again!" There was despair in Nina's eyes, and her eyes welled up.

She really could not stand Percy torturing her like this.

What did she do wrong to suffer all these...

Percy said in a cold voice, "I don't know what you're talking about. Nina, after everything I've done, do you still can't see who I'm in love with? You said I'm not in love with you? Let me prove to you how much I love you!"

Nina widened her eyes. Did he just say that he loved her?

was as if her brain had been glued. Percy lifted her before she managed to find out what

cried out in surprise and punched his back. "Percy, are you out of your mind?! Put me

not crazy. Since you have the guts to doubt my love for you, then I'll show you how crazy I am over you!" Percy felt himself getting out of control. He got carried away when he heard what Nina said to reject

lifted Nina and walked into the bedroom. Then, he put her down on the

not gentle. Nina's head fell on the mattress. She was stunned, and as she watched the man lean closer to her, she pushed against his chest with her hands. "Percy, what are

to show you how much I love you!" Percy grabbed her hands and subdued them single-handedly. He wanted to be gentle at first. He wanted her to feel how true his love for her

the woman refused to listen to him and insisted on pushing him away. It annoyed him so much, so he decided to teach her a

her face away. They were grown-ups. She knew what the man wanted to do, and she was fighting against him. "Percy Mallory, you'd better stop it. Otherwise, you'll regret

are you going to do to me?" There was burning anger in Percy's eyes. What a foolish woman you for raping me!" said

"**You'll** agree to it later." Percy knew her well, and he knew every inch of her body. Besides, he would really hate to hurt her.

Another hand of his caressed her face slowly.

Nina felt a shudder running through her. The man knew her body well. She would not be able to handle it if this continued...

"**Don't** touch me. I don't want a man who has slept with another woman before!" She defied him.

Percy paused for a moment as his eyes darkened. As someone who never bothered to explain himself to others, for the first time, he explained himself to her, "I've never touched any other woman other than you. And she was the one who forced a kiss on me. She's also responsible for releasing the news. I've already let the PR department issue the press release. You'll know what's going on an hour later."

Nina was startled. Did she force a kiss on him?

Percy was kissed against his **will**?

She refused to believe that, but the man's gestures did not allow her to think more about it. Her body's reaction was more honest than her words. She could not help falling into his **trap**...

She still had feelings for Percy...

An hour later, Nina looked at the news posted on Mallory Corporation's official website. It was about Percy clarifying the news regarding him and Madison kissing on the street. Then, it was news about him deciding to call off his engagement with **Madison**.

He was fast. He dropped a bombshell when the reporters were busy reporting how lovey-dovey **they were**...

let out a sigh and looked at herself in

not be able to go out if she did not disguise

left after he finished his business with her as he had something else to do. He came so suddenly and left so quickly. However, before he left, he told her that he would be coming again

way. She should not allow him to take advantage of her

gave Luca a call. When the call was answered, she asked, "Luca, can I go over to your place to sleep tonight?"

I don't have any extra rooms left..." Luca said. Although Luca did not come here to spend the night last night, his personal belongings were all in the maid's room. It would be inappropriate for Nina to

have to sleep on the bed. As long as you agree to it, I can sleep on the couch or the floor. It was comfortable sleeping on your couch yesterday afternoon," said Nina. Percy would not be able to do anything to her if Luca was

never his opponent on all

the guest. How can I let you sleep on the couch or the floor?" Luca frowned. She had no idea why Nina would make such a

Was it because of Percy?

Chapter 1706

[You're not feeling well? What's wrong?] Sue asked caringly.

[It's nothing. I just want to take a rest for a day or two. You don't have to worry about it. If there's any important work that needs my attention, I'll head to the office to handle it.] Nina replied. She had always asked for leave too when she was together with Percy.

However, she had never delayed her work at the company because of her absence.

Sue replied: [Alright. Take good care of yourself. You can come over to my place if you're struggling with anything. I can take care of you.]

[Don't worry. I've asked Luca to come here to keep me company.] Nina replied. She had always been sick and weak in Sue's impression.

Still, she used to be healthy and was nothing like this now. Now, she had to take pills to make her sleep. She would often catch a cold if she was unlucky.

The reason why she ended up like this today was that she met the two brothers of the Mallory family.

Nina pondered and picked up the concealer to try and cover the hickeys on her neck.

She thought of Percy, then Pierre came into her mind again. She wondered if she had done anything to offend the Mallory family in her past life, which was causing her to suffer so much in this life.

Luca packed a few clothes and hailed a ride to Nina's apartment.

Nina had informed the guards at the entrance in advance, so everything went smoothly when Luca came in. When she reached the door, she knocked on the door and said, "Nina, I'm here."

Nina heard her voice. She quickly checked herself in the mirror a few times to make sure the hickeys that were left on her neck were concealed. Then, she went to open the door.

"Luca, come in!" Nina invited her to come in. She thought that Percy would not do anything to her if Luca was here.

was not disgusted by him, Percy had taken advantage of her, after all. She refused to let this happen

It was uncertain and confusing...

walked into the apartment and was surprised to see how messy it was. She was unable to recall that Nina was such a messy woman. "Why is it so

been busy and forgot to clean up. Let me clean up now." Nina looked at the mess. She was so busy concealing the hickeys that she forgot to clean the place

embarrassed for showing Luca the messy side of

her head and said, "Let me do it."

no. You're the guest. I'll do it. Please wait for a while. I can clean up real fast." Nina endured her sore body and got ready to

grabbed her hand and said, "Are you sure you have the stamina to clean

her eyes with a surprised expression on her face. "What do

pointed at her neck. "Here. You didn't blend it well. I saw

her neck unconsciously. How did that happen? She was pretty sure she had concealed them carefully. How could Luca find out with just a glance? "It's a mosquito bite. Don't get

Let me clean up for you." Luca smiled and shook her head. She cleared the empty packets of snacks on the coffee table away and threw the bottles into the trash bin.

As Nina watched Luca clean up for her, her legs could no longer support her. She sat on the couch.

She felt very uncomfortable...

After Luca finished cleaning up the trash, she carried the trash bag and put it in the dumpster in the corridor. Then, she picked up the vacuum cleaner and began to clean the floor.

Nina said hurriedly when she saw her, "Luca, you're the guest. How can you do these for me?"

"**It's** been days since you cleaned the floor. I'm a little particular about cleanliness. If you'd like me to make myself comfortable here, then just let me do it. Otherwise, I'm leaving." Luca could see how tired Nina was from her eyes, but she did not question what **actually happened**.

It was not hard to figure out that Percy had begun his pursuit. It seemed like he had slept with Nina but it did not win her heart as he had *hoped*.

Otherwise, Nina would not have asked her to come over to be her shield.

Nina felt embarrassed when she looked at Luca who was helping her clean up the apartment. Indeed, she was not in the mood to do the chores these days. She was planning to hire a cleaning lady to clean the place up for her a few days later.

She did not expect Luca to do it for her.

After she finished cleaning up the apartment, Nina poured a glass of juice for her. "You must be tired, right? Drink some *juice*."

Luca took the glass of juice from her, knowing that it was freshly squeezed. She could not help but make fun of her. "You didn't leave the juice here to spoil, right?"

"No way. I bought this when I was on my way back home yesterday. It's still fresh." Nina picked up another glass of juice and took a sip. "Sweet and *fresh!*"

smiled and took another sip. When she was about to ask about Percy's matter, her phone

glanced at her phone. It was Luke who was calling

he calling her at this hour because of work?

you picking up the call? Answer it!" Nina also saw the phone that was left on the coffee table. The caller ID displayed 'Mr. Crawford' when the phone screen lit up.

was no term of endearment, it was merely a respectful remark—Mr.

was really different from

are you? The cleaning lady told me that you're not in the apartment," Luke asked her whereabouts right away without greeting

Nina's apartment. Something came up and that's why I'm here. I couldn't wait for the cleaning lady to arrive." Luca was startled. Did he call her only because the cleaning lady could not find

never exchanged phone numbers with the cleaning lady

the cleaning lady could not find her in the apartment, she should have called Jason instead. How did Luke know

wanted to know what ingredients she should buy today." Luke continued to ask. He was not worried about Luca going to Nina's place

worried just now because he was afraid that she would suddenly go missing again, and that was why he called and asked for her location

Chapter 1707

"What happened? What did Luke say?" Nina asked caringly. Ever since she had addressed him impolitely as Luke in front of Luca, she took it casually after that.

"The cleaning lady couldn't find me and she didn't know what ingredients she should buy. That's why she tried to reach me through him," Luca explained without mentioning that there was something wrong with his tone.

Nina remembered that her fridge was empty and there were no ingredients. Naturally, there was also no cleaning lady who helped her to buy ingredients. She suddenly felt embarrassed.

Nina stood up and said, "That reminds me of my empty fridge. Wait for me. Let me get some ingredients now."

"Nina, there's no need to. Let's dine somewhere else." Luca grabbed her hand. She could feel Nina's condition after having been medically trained for a long time.

For example, she could feel that Nina's legs could hardly walk now.

Nina nodded when she said that. "Alright. If you're too lazy to go out, we can order takeaway. After all, there's nothing much to do in the office these few days. Besides, you're still on leave. Let's experience the fun of being a homebody. "

"Alright." Luca nodded. She could get along with Nina naturally when she was together with her. She liked this kind of stress-free friendship.

Nina's phone rang right after Luca said that. She picked it up and glanced at it. Her expression suddenly changed.

"What's wrong?" Luca asked.

is being discharged from the hospital." Nina handed the phone to Luca. "He's getting discharged today."

it great if he's getting discharged from the hospital? You have one less person to take care of, and you have one less thing to be burdened with," said Luca. After all, when Jean and Anna were staying in the hospital at the same time, Nina had to pay double the amount for caretaker expenses.

rather spend that amount of money rather than him getting discharged from the hospital." Nina was troubled. Once Jean was discharged from the hospital, he would definitely go around causing trouble. He requested to stay at her place in the message he sent to her, claiming that his body was still weak and he needed someone to take care

she not know about

must have heard that she was renting a unit in a high-end apartment, and that was why he wanted to get a slice of the cake. He did not want to stay in that old

really stayed here, he would not have to pay for anything, and he would be spending Nina's

he's asking me to let him stay here." Nina's fingers tapped on the screen quickly as she turned down Jean's request. "Am I crazy? He shouldn't even think of

"Yeah." Luca nodded. It would only bring misfortune to Nina if Jean stayed here. She disagreed with it too.

After Nina sent the message, Jean called her not long after that. He yelled at her, "Nina, do you have any conscience left in you, you b*tch? I donated my liver to our mother. I'm still very weak, and the doctor wants me to get discharged. Who's going to take care of you if you're not doing it?"

Jean was loud. Even though Nina did not turn on the speaker, Luca, who was sitting beside her, could hear it **clearly**.

Nina was annoyed. There was no need for her to be nice to him since he was rude to her. Besides, she was angry with what Percy had done to her this morning. She had yet to release her negative emotions. "Why are you yelling at me? You're already an adult. Can't you take care of yourself after you've recovered from surgery? Did you come to take care of me when I was admitted to the hospital last time? Am I not doing fine now? Oh, you need someone to take care of you, right? Then go ahead and look for those girlfriends of yours. Just have them spend our mother's money to take care of you. I don't have any extra rooms for you here. You're still thinking of staying here? Not a **chance!**"

She ended the call right after she **said that**.

Nina was glad that she listened to Luca last time. She chose an apartment that was more secure and safe. Now, even if Jean wanted to come in, he would have to ask for her permission. Otherwise, he would only be standing outside the entrance. It was useless.

Jean would have already brought his stuff and moved in here if she were staying in a normal apartment.

"*Do you* have to settle the medical expenses if he's discharged from the hospital?" Luca asked again.

her head. "I've put enough money in his account so they can just deduct the money from it. I've previously asked the doctor too about how long he'd have to stay in the hospital, so I put a certain amount in. After handling the discharge procedure, there won't be much money left in the account for

him. I'm sick of going to the hospital to visit him. All we did was fight with each other once I got there. It's annoying."

how screwed up Nina's family was, so Nina made no secret of it and told Luca

her head. She was suddenly reminded of Marie when she thought of Jean. She asked, "Oh, I heard that your brother was in a relationship with a woman named Marie

looked at her, puzzled. "How did you know about that? Who

Crawford brought me to his father-in-law's place, which is the Rayne family, to treat Old Man Rayne. There was a woman named Marie making a scene outside the villa. Mr. Crawford mentioned her to me, saying that Marie is his wife's elder sister but they have no blood ties. I heard that she was together with your brother for quite some time," Luca explained. She only wanted to tell Nina that Marie had got out still the same even after she was sent to prison. Jean was the same too. She was afraid that both of them would get together again to hurt Nina.

to Luca. Although she was curious why Luke would tell Luca so much about Marie, she did not ask about the details. She nodded and said, "Yes, she was the one who made my brother like this. And there's my mother too. She used to be avaricious, but she made money using just and ethical means. But Marie scammed her, stole an apartment unit from my mother, and aborted my brother's child. Since then, my mother changed into a different person. She thought it was alright as long as she had money with her. Then, she slowly became like how she is now. She keeps asking for money from me and never stops spoiling my brother. Sometimes, I wonder if it weren't for Marie, would my family be able to remain peaceful, even if it's just on the outside? Marie was like a ticking bomb. She detonated everything in our family and made everyone show their true colors. Tell me, isn't a family like that scary to

"I'm sorry." Luca apologized.

Chapter 1708

Nina chose an Italian restaurant nearby, added some dishes to her cart, and showed it to Luca.

Luca added another dish.

Nina saw it and said, "How is this enough? I'm treating you to this meal, so please order a few more dishes."

"I'll leave the decision to you," Luca said.

Nina ordered several dishes before she submitted the order. "I always eat alone. Now that you're with me, I finally have the opportunity to eat more dishes."

"You ordered so many. I doubt we can finish everything," Luca said. The dishes they ordered were enough for three or four adults.

"What does that matter? I'm overjoyed that we're sharing a meal," Nina said. Her phone rang and she pressed to answer. "Hello, who is it?"

"Ms. Langdon, I'm calling from your property management. There's a man at the door who claims to be your brother. We dare not let him go in without your consent. He has been wandering here. Can you kindly deal with it?" the man on the other end of the call said.

"Don't let him in." Nina's mood turned sour as soon as she heard that Jean was loitering around her residence.

"We didn't let him in but he's making a fuss at the gate. It's not a pleasant sight. Are you his sister? Why don't you come out here and deal with him?" the man suggested. He felt a headache coming when he saw how insistent Jean was on staying in the area.

"He doesn't want to leave, right? Give him an ultimatum. If he doesn't leave, have the police take him away." Nina was ruthless. Although the property belonged to Percy, it was the only place that made her feel safe. She was not planning to move just yet.

would never let Jean in to ruin her

your brother? Would that be a good idea?" the man

comes in, I'll make a complaint. For the rest of the matters, you can decide for yourself." Nina finished speaking and hung up the

by her side and touched Nina's head to comfort

want what's left of my peace to be ruined by him. Luca, do you think that I'm ruthless?" Nina asked with her

you did the right thing. It's not like Jean doesn't have anywhere to live," Luca said. She rubbed her head again and continued, "He's an adult and can take care of

She felt a little better with Luca's comfort. Since she was a child, she was told that Jean was the only boy in the family and as his sister, she should give in to her

had never thought that Jean should ever give in to his

when she rejected Jean, she inevitably felt a

was glad to have Luca's comfort. Her guilt minimized following her

taken care of him enough. Luca, thank you for reminding me of that." Nina's eyes became filled with tears as she felt the warmth of

Half an hour later, the delivery man called and said that the food had arrived. He was at the entrance and needed a pass to bring **it in**.

Nina was too lazy to go downstairs to pick up the food. Besides, her legs were sore, so she gave him the passcode.

After a while, the doorbell rang.

"**It must** be the delivery man. I'll open the door." Nina stood *up*.

Seeing how weak she was, Luca took her hand, stood up, and said, "I'll go open the door. Why don't you go wash your hands and get ready to *eat*?"

"Okay." Nina nodded.

Luca went to open the door. She presumed the delivery man was at the door, so she did not check on the situation outside through the peephole. She opened the door and was stunned when she saw two men *outside*.

The one standing at the door was the delivery man while the other *was Jean*.

"**Dr.** Craw, you're here too!" Jean had bribed the delivery man and asked him to bring him up. He did not expect to bump into the woman he had been thinking of day and *night*.

When he was hospitalized, he had asked Nina to bring Luca to **visit him**.

However, she always responded by saying that she was not close to Luca. As such, he never saw Luca when he was hospitalized and his heart itched when he thought of the woman he liked.

not expect to see her here. He thought that it was an unexpected and

delivery man breathed a sigh of relief and said, "I'm glad you know each

said proudly, "Of course, we know each other! This is my sister's house. Come, give me the

delivery man handed the food to Jean. He was merry when he thought about how he had made some extra cash from this order, so he said, "Miss, your takeaway has been delivered. Enjoy

that, the delivery man quickly

stood at the door and stared at Jean. She knew how he

the takeaway. You should leave." Luca persuaded him. If Nina saw him, she would be in a

has had a bad day. Luca wanted to make Jean

since Jean found a way to get in, he naturally would not leave so easily. He said sullenly, "Dr. Craw, I still have your takeout in my hands. How could you shoo me away like this? Is this how you treat your

at the takeaway and said with a blank expression, "If you're hungry, you can take the takeaway

chasing me out?" No matter how stupid Jean was, he knew that he was not welcomed. If it were someone else, he would have pushed them and rushed in but the woman in front of him was his prey and target. Jean did not want to shed all pretenses of cordiality

Chapter 1709

Nina glared at Jean. She did not expect him to use such a despicable method to sneak in. "Jean, you're so shameless."

"You brat! What are you talking about? I'm your brother!" Jean narrowed his eyes, his deep gaze focusing on the two of them who were guarding the door. He was thinking about how to get in.

He would not get in if he could not figure something out. He decided to force his way in. As soon as he got in, she would not be able to drive him off!

After Jean made up his mind, he insisted on barging inside.

Nina knew what he was up to and warned loudly, saying, "Jean, if you dare to barge in, I'll call the police!"

"Why? This is my home!" Jean stopped. He was a regular at the police station and was a little afraid of the men in blue.

"I didn't buy this place, I'm renting it. Also, you don't have a lease contract so how can you say it's your home?" Nina was worried that Jean would bump into Luca if he dashed in so she stood in front of Luca to protect her.

Luca held Nina's hand and told her that she could handle it.

Nevertheless, Nina insisted on protecting Luca.

Jean squinted and replied, "What's yours is mine! Get out of the way and let me in so we can have a good meal together. I'll live here in celebration of my discharge. Otherwise, you'll have to rent another apartment for me here!"

"On what grounds? Why are you demanding me to pay rent for the place you want to live in?!" Nina yelled at him out of dissatisfaction. Since all the neighbors had gone to work, she was not afraid of losing her reputation by arguing with him!

grounds that I'm your brother and everything you own is mine! This is what our mother said. Nina, if Mom knows how you're treating me now, she'll be pissed!" Jean was unwilling to return to the crappy

in that apartment was horrible. Every woman he brought back looked down on him for staying there. On top of that, Anna O'Reilly was not around, so no one cleaned the apartment at

did not want to go back. Nina lived in a spacious, bright, and high-end place. If he brought someone back, they would definitely think highly of him. No matter what, he was going to make sure that he

to Mom, then. There's a house for you to live in but I'm guessing that you're dissatisfied with how old the house is, right? You lost the new house, so who can you blame? If you don't leave, I'll call the security guards and the police. Let's see what you can do then!" Nina gripped the door frame tightly and said, "You're trespassing and Mom is still in the hospital. Don't expect me to go to bail you out from the police

was raging when he heard that. He dumped the takeaway on the ground and was about to push

you doing?!" Percy's voice sounded from the side. Jean stopped and looked at him, bewildered.

at Jean's raised hand, frowned, and repeated, "What are

quickly withdrew his hand and explained, "Nothing, Mr. Mallory. Why are you

apartment is mine. Do I need to report to you every time I'm here?" Percy continued. He noticed that Nina's eyes were red. He guessed that she was in an argument with Jean before he stepped

was always like this. Whenever she got into a disagreement with others, no matter if she could win the argument or not, she would always get teary-eyed out

He felt pitiful toward her.

Jean thought that the apartment was rented by Nina and that her relationship with Percy had come to an end. However, since Percy had provided her with a place to live, it seemed that something was going on between the two. He thought of **Pierre Mallory...**

If Percy was still with Nina, what was the deal with Pierre? Did he want to fight with his brother for a woman?

Jean figured that he could not afford to piss Percy off, so he quickly explained, "Mr. Mallory, I was discharged today and the house is messy since no one has cleaned it up in a while. That's why I plan to stay here for a few days. Once my mother recovers and is discharged from the hospital, I'll move back *there*—"

"*What* nonsense! If you move in, you'll never move out!" Nina ruthlessly exposed him. Everyone knew what kind of person Jean was, so there was no need to be polite.

Jean glared at Nina. He was pissed that she *undermined him*.

"*What nonsense* are you talking about, I—"

Jean was interrupted by Percy. "This is my apartment. No one is welcome if they're not **invited**."

Jean was stunned, but he eventually nodded shamefacedly. "Okay, I didn't do it intentionally. I'm going to leave now. By the way, Mr. Mallory, I assume you haven't eaten lunch yet? This is for you."

After he said that, he put the takeaway in Percy's hand and then bade Luca goodbye. "Dr. Craw, if you have time, let's go for a movie. Bye-bye!"

No matter how unwilling he was, he did not dare to cause trouble in front of Percy. After all, Percy was someone of status. If Nina could keep hold of him, Jean could enjoy a good life in years *to come*.

happy when he thought of Percy's announcement regarding the cancellation of his wedding with the Johnston family's daughter as it meant that Nina stood a better chance.

became the wife of one of the Mallory brothers, he would benefit from it

watched Jean leave, Nina looked at Percy and asked with a frown, "What are you doing

was worried you'd be hungry," Percy said. He noticed that Luca was behind Nina. He raised an eyebrow and wondered why she was

the takeaway from Percy's hand and said coldly, "I have hands and feet. I won't starve to death. You can shooed Jean away for you and that's how you talk to me?" Percy looked at her takeaway and said, "The least you can do is to treat me to a meal. You ordered so much food. The two of you can't finish them did not give it a second thought before she turned him down. "This is the takeout I ordered. Why should I share the food with you? Also, I don't like eating with strangers.

said that, she took a step back and shut the

not choose to continue knocking on

Luca was there. He had always maintained a cold and distant image in front of outsiders. He had no intention of making