

Be Gentle 1731

Chapter 1731

Zoey had no idea what to say in response when she heard that.

Sure enough, jealous women were the scariest. In a comforting tone, she said, "Alright, alright. You can't just say things like that. If anyone hears you, you'll be done for!"

"Why should I be scared? Why would I be done for? Luca is a mistress but I can't say that?! Disgusting!" Jenni was so overcome with jealousy. If it had not been for her job, she would have gone to Luca and mocked her a long time ago.

Zoey had no idea what to say in response. If Luca was a mistress, did that not mean that Jenni was trying to be a mistress as well?

There did not seem to be much of a difference between them.

The elevator arrived at the floor where the laboratories were. Zoey hurriedly left the elevator, terrified that Jenni would continue pestering her and someone else would catch them. She said, "I'll be returning to my work now, Ms. Lynn."

"Wait," Jenni said as she pressed on the button to keep the doors open.

Zoey smiled ruefully as she asked, "Is there anything else I can help you with, Ms. Lynn?"

"Did you save yesterday's photo?" Jenni asked. The employee with connections to the Crawford family had deleted the photo soon after sending it. She did not have enough time to save it to her phone.

"Yes. Ms. Lynn, what are you going to do?" Zoey asked in terror. She was not going to send that photo to the press, was she?

Although doing that would cause trouble for Luca, she would get into trouble too if Luke were to launch an investigation into it.

"Don't worry, I won't send it to the press. Give it to me, I need it," Jenni said.

"Ms. Lynn, the public can't see that photo," Zoey said as she shook her head, trying to persuade her to calm

was so overcome with jealousy now that she could not calm down. She replied, "Just give it to me. Nothing's going to happen. Besides, so many employees saw it. Even if the public sees that photo, who will know that you're the one who

Zoey continued shaking her head.

saw that, she said threateningly, "So, you're not going to give it to me? Zoey Davis, don't forget who helped you get your job at T Corporation. You now rely on the salary you receive from this job to take care of your parents who are living in a rural part of the country. Did I ever ask you for anything in return? But look what's happening now. All I ask from you is a photo, but you refuse to give it to

that Jenni was bringing up past favors she had done for her, Zoey sighed resignedly and said, "Alright, Ms. Lynn, fine. But don't tell anyone you got it from me."

we're friends. Do you think I'll stab you in the back?" When Jenni noticed Zoey was relenting, she let go of the button and said, "Go do whatever you need to do. Remember to send me the photo."

her phone out and said, "I'll send it to you now. I'll delete the message after you've saved it."

said. When she saw that Zoey had sent her the photo, she hurriedly saved it and said, "Alright, you can delete the message

she had not taken any screenshots and heaved a sigh of relief before she hurriedly deleted the message. She then walked out of the

fierce glint appeared in Jenni's eyes as she stared at the two people in the photo. What gave Luca the right to do this? They both liked Luke, but it was Luca who got all the luck.

would not allow anything like this to happen once more!

the photo along with a follow-up message to Tia. [Ms. Tia, if you don't hurry up, this woman is going to bag Mr. Crawford

After doing all that, Jenni grinned gleefully. "I'm not good-looking enough, which is why I can't win against you. However, I've found someone even better-looking to win against you, Luca Craw. Don't even think about getting what you want!"

...

The sky gradually grew darker.

Luca was still working late when she thought of Nina. She texted her, asking if she had dinner.

Nina soon replied: [I've eaten.]

Thus, Luca did not send anything in reply and continued *working*.

On the other end of the line.

Nina stared at the blinking lights in front of her as she took a deep breath.

She had already arrived at Bibbler's Tale, and it was nearing the time she had agreed to meet Pierre. However, she did not feel like going **in**.

When Nina recalled how swollen Jean's face had become after getting beaten up by Pierre's men, she sighed resignedly and said, "Don't be afraid. Just head on inside. Pierre Mallory isn't some monster..."

She took one step forward, then another two steps backward.

not be a monster, but she knew perfectly well the sort of person he was. She still did not want to go in.

Soon later, her phone rang.

stared at the unfamiliar number before she answered it and asked, "What do you

voice rang out. "Nina Langdon, come on in if you've already arrived. Unless you want your brother to die under my men's hands?"

did you know I'm here?" Nina gazed at her surroundings warily. Could he have planted spies here? scoffed at her ignorance. "I can hear the background noise. Hurry inside. I don't have much patience."

up the phone when he finished

shut her eyes as she listened to the busy signal. No matter what, she had to go in. Whether or not he would hurt her family, she had to

could kill Jean, she might very well be the next person he

only people who could protect her in A City were probably Luke and Percy. However, Luke would not pay any attention to her, and she did not want Percy to

stared at the entrance in front of her and mustered up all her courage before walking

had to settle this matter between her and Pierre by herself.

Chapter 1732

Pierre was sitting on the couch with two scantily-dressed bargirls next to him.

When he saw Nina coming in, he did not act appropriately and ask the bargirls to leave. Instead, he beckoned them to feed him more beer.

As the mug came to his lips, he took a sip and raised an eyebrow as he stared at Nina. That woman was usually so haughty. However, she was now standing in front of him obediently?

She claimed to not care about her family, but in reality... How ridiculous...

"You're here?" Pierre said as he pushed aside the mug that kept coming near his lips again. He placed his arms over the two bargirls' curvaceous bodies.

Nina felt her stomach turning queasy as she watched him. She felt disgusted.

Pierre had so many women at his disposal, but he seemed to love holding on to her without letting go.

Nina's hands curled themselves into fists as she gazed at the dazed, drunken look on Pierre's face. She felt no emotion and showed no expression on her face as she asked, "What do you want, Pierre Mallory?"

The stubborn look on her face and her refusal to make any compromises, despite her current situation, interested Pierre.

It was Nina's stubbornness that had always attracted him to her.

"Look at where you are now, yet you're still unwilling to concede. Nina Langdon, does the word 'scared' not exist in your dictionary?" Pierre might appreciate her stubbornness, but a woman who was too stubborn would not be cute anymore.

Sometimes, she would do good to learn from the women surrounding him. One would only get benefits if one learned to get on a man's good side.

her back. It was not that she did not know what it meant to be scared, but that she could not show even the slightest bit of fear in front of him. Otherwise, the man would

Mallory, my time is extremely precious. If you're going to spout all this nonsense, I think it'll be better if I leave," she said coolly while staring at him. Pierre's flirtatious movements might not be directed at her, but they still made her feel disgusted and

scene from many years ago came back to haunt her.

her entire body go cold when she recalled that scene. She forced herself not to succumb to the urge to interest in toying with her vanished when he saw the cold look on Nina's face. He initially planned for her to come here so she would understand that she was nothing more than a plaything to him. He hoped she would drop her attitude when she saw that she was not someone

it seemed that Nina was not taking this type of warning seriously at all.

was furious and let go of the two women's bodies. He stared intently at Nina the way a predator stared at its

going to leave? Aren't you afraid that your mother and brother are going to fall and get hurt?" he asked with his eyes narrowed, trying to hint at something.

at him as his threats rang in her ears. If looks could kill, she would have already murdered Pierre several million

when he saw the sharp look she gave him and began feeling gleeful now that she was getting oddly accomplished whenever he could control Nina's emotions this way.

mug of beer," Pierre ordered the bargirl sitting on his left.

The bargirl gave Nina a quick, contemptuous gaze as she grinned and said, "Okay, Mr. Pierre."

The woman moved seductively as she picked up the mug and poured out a mug of beer.

Pierre stared at the mug and said unhappily, "Fill it to the brim."

The woman continued filling the mug when she heard that.

Nina stared at the beer that was about to flow out from the mug. Deep within herself, she knew that it was for her.

The bargirl carefully picked up the mug that was filled to the brim and placed it in front of Pierre. "Mr. Pierre, the mug is full *now*."

Pierre did not touch the mug. He had specially prepared the mug for Nina because he knew that the woman would be here tonight.

"Why are you giving it to me? Give it to her," Pierre said coolly, sounding as if he were blaming the bargirl for not reading the situation properly.

The bargirl hurriedly handed the beer to Nina. "This drink is for you from Mr. **Pierre.**"

Nina glanced at the mug briefly. Instead of accepting it, she turned to look at Pierre and asked, "What is the meaning of **this?**"

"Drink up," Pierre said immediately, not bothering to waste any **words.**

Nina did not say anything in reply.

his point, Pierre said, "Don't think you'll be able to discuss anything tonight if you don't drink this."

other words, he meant that if she wanted to continue talking to him, she would have to drink this mug of beer. Nina frowned. She did not want to drink this mug of beer, nor did she want to talk to Pierre.

she had been forced to make an appearance here tonight. Ever since she stepped into this place, she had put herself into a position of being coerced. She would not have the autonomy to make any choices

not say anything as they stared at each

tell from the look in his eyes that he did not feel even the slightest bit of fondness for her. She could not understand why he was threatening and pestering her in this way.

a deep breath and picked up the mug that was filled to the brim with

reminded her. "Don't spill a single drop, or you'll have to drink another

you're inhumane!" Nina cursed as she picked the mug up and drank its contents.

golden-yellow liquid traveled downward and burned her stomach. She did not have anything to eat for the whole day, and after downing the mug of beer, her throat, esophagus, and stomach all felt terrible.

was an enjoyable thing, and drinking when feeling sad was to eliminate sorrows. In those contexts, alcohol was a good

was not a good thing in this scenario, where she was being forced to drink

Pierre watched Nina down the beer in one go, he purposefully applauded her and said, "I didn't expect you to be such a good

Chapter 1733

Nina felt her consciousness fading when she heard that. To remain conscious, she clenched her hands into tight fists so her nails would dig into the flesh of her palms. "In your dreams! Pierre Mallory, why do you think I dared to appear here? It's because it's that time of the month for me. So you can continue dreaming about doing whatever your heart desires with me!"

"What?" Pierre did not get the message and knotted his brows together as he asked.

The bargirl sitting beside him got the memo and whispered to him, "Mr. Pierre, she means a woman's time of the month."

Pierre immediately understood everything. His brows were furrowed together. He wanted Nina, but not under these circumstances.

Nina glared at him. She seemed to want to say something else, but the drugs paralyzed her and rendered her unable to say even another word aloud. Finally, she lost consciousness and collapsed to the floor.

Pierre ordered, "Put her on the couch."

When the two bargirls heard him, they stood up and walked toward Nina. Nina had a petite frame, which meant the two bargirls only needed to exert a little bit of strength to pick her up and place her on the couch.

As Pierre stared at the unconscious woman, there was no sign that he was going to do what he had just threatened to do to her previously. All the excitement he felt had vanished after hearing what she said just now.

"You two, go check if what she said is true," he said.

The two bargirls had astonished expressions on their faces as they said, "Mr. Pierre, is it necessary for us to check something like that?"

"What? Are you saying that I should go instead so I can lose interest completely?" As Pierre stood, he said, "I'm going to the washroom. You two conduct a check on her. This woman's very calculating. There's a 90 percent chance that she's lying to me."

As the two bargirls watched Pierre walk toward the washroom, they had no choice but to check if Nina was lying.

moments later, Pierre returned from the washroom and asked, "So, what's

she really is on her time of the month..." the bargirl

expression appeared on Pierre's face. He had anticipated that Nina would turn him down and rather choose death than obey him, which was why he specially prepared a drug for her. He had thought that he had prepared for all possible scenarios, but he did not expect her to have one last trick up her

That was a miscalculation...

furious. He gazed at the unconscious woman in front of him and ordered, "Take her to my car."

appeared on the bargirls' faces. One of them said, "Mr. Pierre, why don't you get the servers outside to do that? Both of us are girls. It'll be a little difficult for us to carry

had an ugly expression on his face as he took out a stack of dollar bills from his wallet. He did not want any of the men outside to touch

had already tolerated enough during the years Nina was together with Percy. He was no longer willing to see any men stand beside her and come into any form of physical contact with her.

two carry her to my car, all this cash will be yours," he said

sparkle appeared in the bargirls' eyes when they saw the stack of money. Without discussing it between themselves, they both said, "Alright, Mr. Pierre. We'll make sure we carry her to your

heard that, he strode ahead of them and pushed the door open so he could leave.

The two bargirls hurriedly pocketed the money and picked up Nina so they could leave. They would never be able to earn such a large tip even if they accompanied customers to drink for the entire *night*.

They both carried Nina and followed Pierre. They heaved a sigh of relief when they placed the unconscious woman in *his car*.

Pierre gazed at the unconscious woman and fastened the seat belt for her so that she would not bump or scrape herself when still unconscious. Finally, he closed the car door and drove off into the **night**.

As the two bargirls stood by the curb and watched the car leave, one of them asked, "Oh, right. Mr. Pierre had quite a bit to drink as well, didn't he? Will he be alright driving in this *state*?"

"Why are you so worried? It's not like this is the first time he's driving after drinking. Even if he gets caught, the police will avoid him when they realize who he is," the other bargirl *replied*.

"You're right. And we've already earned more than enough today. Come on, let's go split the money between us," the bargirl stopped worrying about him and left with her companion.

When Percy finished working, he drove over to Nina's apartment.

He counted the number of floors in the apartment and noticed that the lights in Nina's apartment were not switched on.

"Is she asleep?" Percy asked in a low voice as he picked up his phone and tried sending Nina a text.

The morning after the night he slept with her, he had secretly taken her phone, unlocked it, and unblocked his number. Then, he had deleted any traces of evidence he left behind so she would not find **out**.

He knew Nina's habits. If she were asleep, her phone would be on silent. Thus, even if she were asleep now and he sent a text, he would not have to worry about waking her up.

Percy waited for five minutes and still did not receive a reply from Nina.

she really is asleep," he said as he gazed at his phone with a gentle look in his eyes.

want to see you," Percy continued saying as he took out a copy of Nina's keys from his pocket. Luke had used his connections to help him get this set of keys.

he had not made sense of his feelings for Nina and did not think too much about them, chalking them up to feelings of possessiveness. However, he realized after that he was not being possessive. Nina had taken ownership of his heart and feelings.

no one had told him what he should do if he was in love with someone. Thus, for a long time, he made a lot of mistakes and hurt Nina. Although she chose to stay with him, the damage had already been done and they still separated in the end. He had no idea how he should make things up to

now, he still felt like he was in the wrong.

he felt, the more he wanted to treat Nina

had just been doing it the wrong way all this

and pondered for a long time before he finally decided to put the keys away. "Never mind. You must be tired too. I'll let you rest well today."

off after he finished

The next day.

woke up, he realized that Nina had not replied to his text. He wondered to himself if he had been blocked

Chapter 1734

"Use anything you like. I haven't touched any of the products before," Luca replied. After a few times, she had come to terms with the fact that Luke would abruptly appear at her apartment to have meals with her and stay with her...

Luke took out a suit that had never been worn before from the maid's bedroom and walked into the bathroom.

Soon after, he finished washing up and walked out.

Luca was sitting at the dining table. When she noticed that Luke's tie was crooked, she said, "Mr. Crawford, your tie isn't tied properly."

Luke lowered his head and looked at his tie. He had done it on purpose. Walking over to her, he said in a low voice, "Help me."

"I'm not good at tying ties. You should do it yourself," Luca said as she lowered her eyes, her hands clenching into fists unconsciously.

There was a moment when she wanted to reach out and help him put on his tie properly.

However, she immediately returned to her senses. She knew she could not do that.

Luke glanced at the breakfast spread on the table. She had prepared an English-style breakfast today, and there were plenty of different dishes. He grabbed a slice of bread and said, "My hands are greasy. Help me."

A confused look appeared in Luca's eyes. She had no idea what the man in front of her was trying to do.

It seemed like he was acting so shamelessly just so she would help him fix his tie.

of bread he was holding had a layer of butter slathered on top of it, and it was true that he would not be able to fasten his tie unless he washed his hands clean because the tie would

her head resignedly. As their eyes met, she put on a reluctant expression on her face as she helped him fasten his tie.

she deliberately kept her distance from him, she could feel Luke's body leaning forward slightly. It seemed like he was trying to close the distance she had placed between

wanted to get it done as quickly as possible, but it had been a while since she last helped anyone fix their ties. Moreover, longer ties like his were not as easy to tie as Tommy's and Lanie's shorter ties. The more she wanted to speed things up, the more she struggled with tying it

panic," Luke said in a low, comforting voice when he sensed her

down slightly. Soon, she managed to tie a beautiful Windsor

she said as she took a step backward, heaving a sigh of relief when she saw the beautiful knot.

took a look at the tie and nodded in satisfaction. "Well

stunned, and she felt her face turning red because of what he had just said. She pulled a chair out and said, "Let's have breakfast, Mr. Crawford."

sat down and noticed that Luca had chosen a seat far away from him. He did not say anything about more she avoided him now, the more difficult it would be for her to escape in the future.

Halfway through breakfast, Luca's phone rang. She glanced at the caller ID and noticed it was a number she did not know. However, she could tell from the numbers that the person calling was either rich or **royalty**.

Luca might know who it was.

When he noticed Luca was not answering the phone, Luke asked, "Why aren't you answering the phone?"

"Do you know whose number this is?" Luca asked as she extended her phone toward him. There was only one seat between them, which meant he could see her phone if she reached it out to him.

Luca immediately recognized the number. "That's Percy's number."

"**Mr. Mallory?** What is he calling me for?" Luca was initially worried that it was a call from Abel, but now that she knew it was from Percy, she answered the call and put him on loudspeaker. "Good morning, Mr. Mallory."

Percy did not bother with greetings and immediately asked, "Is Nina with you?"

"**Nina? No**, she's not with me. What's going on?" Luca had a confused look on her face as she exchanged looks with Luke. Deep down, she had a feeling that something was very wrong.

"**Nina** is missing," Percy said, "She might have been missing since last night."

He recalled what had happened when he went over to Nina's place last night. Nina was usually a night owl, so she would be awake whenever he dropped by. However, last night, the lights were switched *off*.

If he had chosen to head upstairs and take a look then, perhaps he would have realized what was going on earlier.

spoke to Nina on the phone during the day yesterday, so she should have been fine during the day. Don't worry, Mr. Mallory. Nina's brother has been discharged from the hospital, so perhaps she's gone to the apartment nearby," Luca said. She reckoned that Nina was just

she had no enemies, and there wasn't anyone who would want to hurt her intentionally.

Luca thought of Pierre.

check it out." After Luca's reminder, Percy began wondering if Nina had returned to her mother's apartment. Thus, he left Nina's apartment and immediately began racing toward his next destination.

Luca heard the busy signal, she said worriedly, "Mr. Crawford, I think Nina is in trouble."

do you say that?" Luke asked. He did not have any relationship with Nina, but she was friends with Luca and also in a relationship with Percy, which meant he cared about her too.

received a call from Nina yesterday morning, and she sounded really dejected. But she didn't say what was going on when I asked her about it. I didn't continue asking questions because I was really busy and had to end the call quickly." Luca recalled. She would never be able to be at peace with herself for the rest of her life if anything happened to Nina.

has happened to her, Pierre would definitely be the person behind it." Luke knew about how Pierre was constantly pestering Nina and instantly concluded.

I'm also worried about the rest of the Mallory family and the Johnston family." Luca voiced out her worries, "Mr. Mallory's mother came to speak with Nina previously and spent the whole conversation hinting to Nina that she should stay away from Mr. Mallory. Mr. Mallory has been meeting Nina almost every day lately. If the Mallory family has been spying on Nina, they probably already

saw the worried look on her face, he said comfortingly, "If Nina really is missing, I'll go look for her with Percy. Have some breakfast first."

nodded and continued eating her breakfast

Chapter 1735

"Nina's not here?" Percy squinted and looked behind the door to confirm whether Nina was really not here or if she was just avoiding him. He wondered if Nina had gotten Jean to lie on her behalf because she did not want to see him.

He thought about it for a few seconds and felt that it was impossible.

Jean was the kind of man who wanted to make a fortune off his sister. He would never help her to hide. If Nina was here, Jean would offer her to him with both hands.

"She's not here, Mr. Mallory. Nina has been living with you for the past few years and now looks down on our old house. How can she be here?" Jean said innocently. He spread out his hands to indicate that she was not there.

He used these subtle movements to hide his panic.

He thought that Pierre would just be having a chat with Nina. He did not expect him to be hiding her.

A promiscuous woman came to the door and held Jean's hand, "Darling, who is it?"

"A friend," Jean explained cheerfully. He wanted to pull out his hand but the woman held it tightly.

Percy glanced at the provocative woman, frowned, and said, "If Nina comes back, call me."

"Okay, Mr. Mallory." Jean was secretly relieved when he saw that Percy did not push further.

Between the two Mallory brothers, one of their auras could make someone breathless without lifting a finger while the other was barbaric in his ways.

It was best not to piss off either of them.

it happened, the two brothers were fighting for Nina. Jean could not do anything about it.

woman watched Percy leave, her face unable to contain her excitement. "Honey, is that the CEO of Mallory Corporation? I've seen him on the news. You know such a powerful

tell you? It's just that you didn't believe me before this. I not only know Percy but Pierre as well. The two brothers are deeply in love with my sister. Do you believe me now?" Jean said cheerfully. He was pleased that he had won himself some brownie points in front of

believe you, dear. You're so high-toned." The woman looked at him

she has to choose one of the two. Why can't my sister take both men into her arms?" Jean said. If the two agreed to share, he would not have such a

Percy Mallory is a good choice. He's the CEO of Mallory Corporation," the woman said

Mr. Pierre is more generous to me, his future brother-in-law." Jean disagreed. He was happy to side with whoever gave him the most

the door with his arms around the woman. The matter of Nina's disappearance was

mind, Pierre loved Nina, so she would not be in danger. At most, she would just physically suffer a little if she did not obey him.

she went with Pierre's every command obediently, she would not suffer and would be the happiest woman in the

that was what Jean thought. He was not at all worried

back into the car and texted Luke: [She didn't go back to Anna's apartment. I'm going to look into Nina's schedule

After a while, Luke replied: [Arrange it immediately.]

After Luca cleared the table, she heard Luke's cell phone ring. "Did Mr. Mallory text you? Did he find *Nina*?"

She tried to call Nina just now but her phone was switched off.

"He hasn't found her," Luke said and frowned slightly. He was instructing Rain and Gale to investigate Nina's movements from the day **prior**.

He asked them to find out both Nina and Pierre's schedules.

It was highly possible that Nina was under Pierre's *control now*.

Luca saw that he was busy on his phone and knew that he was occupied trying to find Nina, so she did not make a **sound**.

After Luke gave the orders, he put away his phone and said, "It's getting late. I'll give you a ride to the *office*."

"Okay," Luca nodded and agreed because she was worried about **Nina**.

If there were any updates about Nina, she would find out as soon as possible with Luke by her side. Even if she did not go to work, she could not do anything about the **current situation**.

If Nina was with Pierre, it may be fruitless even if she went to look **for Pierre**.

all, with what happened prior, Pierre had learned his lesson and would not be so stupid to let others find out where he was

Luca's car to work. His phone did not ring throughout the

pursed her lips as she knew that it was not an easy matter to deal with. There would not be any updates any time soon, but she could not help but get worried since there was no news

they arrived at the company's parking lot, there was still no

not want to ask questions, so she got out of the car in an

sense her worries and melancholy, so he promised her. "If there's any news, I'll notify you as soon as

was stunned. She did not expect him to make such a promise to her. She nodded and said gratefully, "Thank you, Mr.

Luca's gaze was deep. "Nina is your friend and also my wife's

filled with emotions when she heard what he said. She

On the other hand.

woke up and immediately noticed that she was lying on a big soft bed. For some reason, she felt sore all over

was wary when she was reminded of Pierre. 'Could it be that Pierre has such a unique taste that he was willing to make a move on me even though I'm on my

Chapter 1736

Nina breathed a sigh of relief. Although she was imprisoned by Pierre, she was glad that her clothes were changed by the maid in front of her.

He did not stay, which meant that he did not touch her.

Nina suddenly felt alive, and the despair in her heart disappeared. She grabbed the sheets and looked at the maid. "I want to leave."

When the maid heard that she wanted to leave, her expression did not change. "Ms. Nina, breakfast is ready. Do you want to eat here or in the living room?"

Nina frowned. Although Pierre did not hire a few burly men to keep guard of her, the maid in front of her was not easy to deal with as well.

She repeated herself, "I said, I want to leave!"

The maid looked at her with a frown. Many women wanted to be with Pierre for the rest of their lives and were willing to do so even if they would not be acknowledged in public.

The woman in front of her was an exception.

The maid remembered that she was carried in by Pierre yesterday and realized that she might be here against her will. Nevertheless, she said sternly, "Mr. Pierre said that you'll be staying here for the foreseeable future. This is your home now. My only duty is to serve you well. I can't make a decision on other things beyond that."

fuming when she heard that. She got out of bed and found that her shoes were gone. The only thing that was around was a pair of new slippers beside the

on the new slippers and got out of bed. "Where's my

The maid pretended not to understand when she saw that Nina wanted to pack up. "When you came yesterday, you didn't have anything on you. We have everything you need in the villa. You can use them as you

take me as a fool. I didn't choose to come here. You're falsely imprisoning me. If you don't let me leave, you'll be sent to jail when my family and friends find me." Nina warned her. She opened the drawer of the cabinet in the bedroom but did not see

had probably hidden everything because he did not want her

did not continue to look for her things and planned to leave immediately. Although she did not know where she was, as long as she could escape, she could find her way

know if your friends will find you but trust me when I say that you won't be able to leave," the maid told turned her head and looked at her. "What do you

villa, there's no one else apart from me and you. However, outside the villa, there are people hired by Mr. Pierre stationed there. You can't leave unless you get Second Young Master's approval," the maid said. Percy did not plant any guards inside the house because he wanted Nina to be happy, but it was a different

The outside of the villa was surrounded by skilled security guards from his security company. Others could not get in, and she could not *get out*.

Nina's eyes widened when she learned how determined Pierre was to trap her here for his entertainment.

She got lucky because she was on her period, but that would only last for five days. If he was willing to drug her to force her into submission, he would surely drug her again to get his way **with her**.

"Damn it!" She clenched her fists and shouted in *anger*.

The maid was surprised that Nina did not wish to go along with Pierre's commands. Nevertheless, she did not have the slightest sympathy. After all, this was work. Personal emotions were not worth mentioning. On top of that, she did not know what had happened. She just thought that Nina was someone who did not know chalk from **cheese**.

A woman who was chosen by Pierre did not have to worry about food and clothing. Even if they broke up, their lives after that would be smooth. The maid had no idea why Nina was resisting **Pierre**.

The maid was not bothered that Nina was angry. She nodded and said, "Ms. Nina, it seems that you don't want to go out for breakfast. I'll bring breakfast to your room, then. Please **wait**."

Nina stopped the maid. "Wait a minute. I can stay here but can you please return my things to me?"

"You didn't bring anything with you when you came in yesterday, so I don't know where your things are. If you need anything, let me know and I'll prepare it for you," the maid said. Pierre had instructed her as such.

want a phone," Nina said without a second thought. Even though she did not have her phone with her, she still remembered a few important phone

ask them for help in critical moments as

maid shook her head and replied, "That's not possible. Second Young Master said that we can give you everything except for a

a computer, then!" Nina continued talking, "If you can't give me that, you can get

can get you a computer, but I need to remind you that there's no internet connection. If you want to watch any TV series or play any games, I can help you download them," the maid said. Pierre had it all planned out to ensure that Nina would be trapped

looked at the maid, who would not budge no matter what she said or did. She was

to herself that she had to escape no matter what. However, she did not have a phone or computer. There were people keeping guard outside too. It would be difficult for her to

Nina had stopped talking, the maid smiled and said, "If it's alright, I'll go and bring you

you let me go, I'll never touch any of the food here." Nina intended to protest with

Chapter 1737

Nina was so stubborn that she did not even bother to look at the breakfast on the coffee table.

The maid did not say anything. She did not think that she needed to worry because Nina would certainly eat when she got extremely hungry. If Nina refused to eat, she would just report it to Pierre.

After the maid left, Nina put on her shoes and opened the bedroom door.

There was no one at the entrance. She walked to the end of the corridor and arrived at the stairs. She went down the stairs without a second thought.

After she arrived at the living room on the first floor, she found that there was still no one around.

Nina did not wander around. Her goal was clear, so she walked directly to the door.

She walked out of the door and saw the garden. It was not big. Nina turned around and glanced at the villa. She had been in the architectural design industry for so long, so she knew at a glance that she was in a small villa in the suburbs. It was not luxurious, but it was perfect as a vacation home.

It was away from the hustle and bustle of the city. Others might not find out where she was being held hostage. As for the neighbors...

This kind of suburban villa was mostly busy only during the holiday season. As such, Pierre allowed her to walk around the villa because he knew that no matter how much she tried to ask for help, no one would find her.

Nina was desperate. She saw someone when she arrived at the gate of the villa.

When the security guard saw her approaching, he said with a straight face, "Ms. Nina, please go back in."

"Who are you to imprison me? I want to leave! Open the door!" Nina tried to fool him with her tough tone.

the other party was hired by Pierre, who had given him a set of instructions. "Ms. Nina, please don't make things hard for us. Mr. Pierre has instructed that you're not to leave the

clenched her fists. Two security guards were standing at the gate. If she went rampant, she would not be able to get out and it would only alert

that it was not worth it to

most important thing for her was to escape, but she could not risk alerting Pierre. She was afraid that if the man got angry, she would not even have the right to walk around

Nina cursed softly and walked to the garden beside the

saw that, the security guard reminded her not to mess around. "Ms. Nina, we have men guarding the surroundings. Don't bother trying. You can't

turned around and glared at him. These security guards were as annoying as

had thought about going over the wall but it was just a thought. She knew that she would not be able to do so without some equipment. After all, she was

around and could not find a way to escape. With no other options, she returned to the bedroom and locked

noon, the maid opened the door and came in with

sat up when she saw her. "How did you

"**I have** a set of keys so that the door can be opened in the event of an accident," the maid *explained*.

Nina glanced at the bunch of keys in the maid's hand and suddenly felt hopeless.

The maid put the plate down, glanced at the breakfast that was not touched, frowned, and persuaded her. "Ms. Nina, sooner or later, you'll find out that the boss is doing this to show his love for you. I don't want you to suffer, so please have a bite of *something*."

"Get out!" *Nina* screamed. She would not usually treat others like this but her personality had undergone a 360 change because of Pierre.

The maid knew she was angry and said nothing. She picked up the breakfast tray and **left**.

Nina heard the sound of the bedroom door closing. She lay back down on the bed and did not even bother to look at what the maid had brought in for lunch. She just stared at the ceiling **dumbly**.

After learning that Pierre had not touched her, she felt like she survived a disaster.

That disgusting, hopeless feeling was instantly **swept away**.

She suddenly thought of Percy. She did not feel the same way after he **touched her**.

Her heart was full of helplessness...

The huge psychological difference had *Nina* deep *in thought*.

...

On the other hand.

was worried about *Nina's* situation and worked absent-mindedly all morning. However, she still did not hear

promised that if there was news on *Nina*, he would notify her as soon as possible. However, she still had not gotten any

seemed that *Nina's* whereabouts had not

worried but could not ask Luke what was going on, so she had to endure the anxiousness

was lunch break, Luke walked into her office. She anxiously stood up and asked, "Mr. Crawford, is there any news regarding

and Rain are still investigating," Luke

and Rain were his right-hand men who he brought back from the Island of Despair. Luca knew that he was trying his best to track down Nina's whereabouts, but he could not find her yet as the person hiding her was

As they spoke, Percy walked in.

any news from your men?" he asked, his expression worried and his tone

I haven't found her yet." Luke was quite surprised by his appearance. However, after he thought about it, he knew that Percy's feelings for Nina were no different than his feelings for

Chapter 1738

Listening to Luca's analysis, Percy frowned even more.

Whenever Jean faced him, he was always submissive. It was the same when he saw him that day.

If they did not employ special means, it was difficult to find out more.

However, Jean was Nina's brother. He did not want to use those special methods to extract a confession from Jean if it was not necessary. If he did so, it might alert Pierre.

"Jean acted normal. There was nothing out of the usual," Percy said.

Luca shook her head and replied, "You can't get information from him through normal means. Why don't I give it a try?"

She was in a hurry to find Nina, so she offered to help.

She had an organization behind her, but to be on the safe side, she could not make use of those resources. As such, she could only help through these means.

"No." Luke objected without a second thought. He knew that Jean had bad intentions toward Luca.

If she took the initiative to approach Jean to investigate this matter, she would be sending herself into the tiger's mouth.

Although Jean was a coward and Luke was confident that he could protect Luca, Luke was unhappy when he thought of how she may be taken advantage of by such a man.

what had happened, she still had not learned her lesson. She had been in danger several times because of Jean, yet she still

was surprised to hear

not understand why he would

Crawford?" Luca called out to him. There were doubts in her

realized that his reaction was a little big. He unconsciously changed his posture and explained, "Jean is not a good person. It's too dangerous for you to

protect myself. The most important thing right now is rescuing Nina. Mr. Crawford, don't worry. I'll do what I can and not push it." Luca listened to his worries, her heart was touched and at

circumstances would a person like Luke, who isn't emotional, express his concern

did not dare to think

that she insisted and considering that this matter had nothing much to do with him, he knew he could not stop her. Hence, he reminded her. "Jean is interested in you. Luca, if you insist on getting close to him to investigate this matter, it'll be just like sending a sheep into a tiger's

about this. I believe in my ability. Jean won't get what he wants so easily. At the same time, since Jean is interested in me, I can get more out of him if I go, no?" Luca said. If she approached him, maybe she could tear down Jean's walls and find out about Nina's

doesn't necessarily know where Nina is." Luke reminded her. He thought that it was too big of

If Jean was not fooled by her and told Pierre about it, he was worried that Pierre would work with Jean to deal with Luca.

"We have to do something, no?" Luca had already made the decision. No matter what Luke said, she would not change her mind.

Seeing this, Luke went silent.

Percy knew what Luca meant to Luke. Even if he thought Luca's proposal was feasible, he still left the decision in *Luke's hands*.

It was very difficult for him and Nina, but it was even more difficult for Luke and Bianca. They knew each other's identities and had to continue to hide and pretend not to know. Nevertheless, they loved each other deeply.

Luca looked at the two men who did not speak and came to a decision. "Mr. Crawford, Mr. Mallory, I've decided to approach Jean. I once heard Nina mention that after Jean was released from prison, he would go to a bar to drink every night. I'd like to ask you to help find out which bar Jean will be **in**."

She planned to have a chance encounter with Jean. Since it was a chance encounter, she had to act a little so that the other party would not **notice**.

That way, she could find out more from Jean.

Percy glanced at his friend, whose expression was as cold as ice. Nevertheless, Luke did not continue to *object*.

He said, "I'll find someone to find out which bar it is and tell you. There'll be people around to protect you. If something goes awry, they'll step in to help *you*."

Luca wanted to tell him that she did not need protection since she would just be facing Jean. She was on the losing end last time because she was not as strong as him.

were different now. She could easily knock down two Jeans as long as she paid more attention during the

nodded. Seeing that Luke still did not say anything, the plan was

around, walked out of the office, and instructed his subordinates on the next

Luca were the only ones left in

looked up at the man's expression. He looked serious as if he was still dissatisfied with the decision

was Luca, not Bianca. She took a deep breath and assured him, saying, "Mr. Crawford, don't worry. I won't put myself in

Rain to protect you." Luke's voice was stiff. Since she insisted, that was the best he could

that he gave in, Luca nodded in agreement and

Luca's and Percy's people protecting her, Jean would not be able to have things his way no matter how cunning he

was still mad because of the danger she opted to put herself in, so he said, "Let's go. Let's

Chapter 1739

However, he was well aware that Pierre would never compromise because of her actions.

Percy was worried that if Nina hurt herself like that, Pierre would double his efforts...

"I'll find out Nina's whereabouts as soon as possible," Luca said. Her gaze was as firm as her tone.

Percy looked at Luca and nodded.

Into the night.

Luca got off work, dressed up, and was on stand-by in the apartment. She was ready to head out as soon as she found out which bar Jean was in.

After a while, Percy texted her a location.

Luca glanced at the bar and frowned.

Although this bar operated with a license, it was also infamous in A City. Those who frequented this bar did not go there to drink.

Everyone who went in had an ulterior motive as the bar had in-house hookers and pimps.

The men were the ones who paid for the hookers, while the women who went in were voluntarily selling themselves.

This bar was not a fancy one either.

Luca frowned. She did not expect Jean to frequent this kind of bar. If she was incapable of protecting herself, she would be shredded to pieces as soon as she entered the bar.

She guessed that Luke's previous objection was because the bar that Jean went to was not a proper place.

thought that the most important thing at hand was to find Nina. She dressed up to go to the bar. It was a 360 from how she

sent Rain the location, she went downstairs to get the taxi and headed straight to later, the taxi stopped in front of the bar. Luca waited in the car and confirmed with Percy's men that Jean had entered the bar. She handed the money to the driver and got out of soon as she got out, she caught the eyes of the men by the door. They were ready to approach who came here were mainly regulars. It was the first time they had seen such a beautiful woman at the bar.

noticed the excitement in the eyes of the men watching her. It was as if they would come up to ask for her price as soon as she stepped into the

could not help but feel disgusted in her

the Island of Despair, many men were obsessed with her but she was relatively lucky. Abel tortured her all the time but he gave strict orders not to let those men touch her. As such, she remained

not go in straight. She stood at the side of the road, waiting

men were disappointed when they saw that she did not go in and wondered if they should approach her. After all, it was a rare opportunity for them to meet such a

of the men walked over confidently and said, "Hello, do you want to go in for

not even bother to look

man touched his chin. He was unwilling to give up and said, "If you don't want to drink, we can go straight to the hotel opposite to have a rest. For one night, I can pay you whatever

The man was so bold because the women who were in the area were not expensive.

Luca glared at him coldly and said, "*Scram!*"

The man clenched his fists. He was unwilling to give up. He wanted to say something but backed off when he met her gaze. He could not do anything but walk into the bar while feeling embarrassed.

A BMW was parked opposite the bar. Luke was inside watching all this secretly. His unhappiness quickly spread to his *entire chest*.

If he had not known what Nina meant to Luca, he would not have agreed to **her plan**.

After ten minutes, Rain arrived.

She saw Luca and did not go over to say hello. She **just nodded**.

Luca nodded as well as if to return the greeting. Then, the two walked into the bar together.

The eyes of the men at the entrance who were still looking at Luca lit up when they saw them walk into the bar. They had never seen two high-quality women walk into the bar at the same time.

When Luca walked into the bar, she noticed several men following **behind her**.

She exchanged glances with Rain, and they sat in separate **seats**.

Luca sat at the counter, the most conspicuous spot, while Rain chose the booth. The reason why was that she did not want Jean to see that someone was accompanying Luca.

Although he was interested in Luca, Rain's presence would make him *more vigilant*.

That was why the plan was for them to sit in separate seats.

on the Bluetooth earphones so that they could

the target person is 45 degrees behind you. Do as you see fit," Percy's men

replied with a hum and ordered

Jean would be sure to notice her as soon as she made

bartender put the drink in front of her and whispered, "Miss, you don't look like someone who would come to this kind of

times when they're forced to face reality, no?" Luca's words caused a commotion among the several men around

that mean she needs money? If I can pay her, I can get this beautiful woman and spend a wonderful night with

is not a high-class place," the bartender said honestly. He knew the rough pricing of the hookers in the for the reminder." Luca raised her glass and took

she did not intend to leave, several men gathered around

became very lively all of a sudden. Luca did not push these men away but also did not pay any attention to what they

men did not give up. They continued to try to chat

noticed the situation on Luca's side and asked curiously, "What's

Chapter 1740

The woman looked in the direction Jean was walking to and knew that he had been bewitched by Luca.

She was jealous when she saw Luca. 'She's beautiful, but who isn't if they're willing to spend a little money?!'

"B*tch!" The woman scolded as she knew that Jean would not return to her. The big fish she finally caught had gotten off the hook. The woman stood up, finished her drink, and turned around to leave.

Luca was still paying attention to Jean even when she was surrounded by the men. She knew that he saw her when she saw him stand up.

Jean came over with an eager gaze. He changed how he would usually greet her to get closer to Luca. "Luca, why are you here?"

Luca acted surprised. She looked at Jean and said, "I have a lot of things stressing me out, so I just picked a bar at random to drink, but these people..."

She looked helplessly at the men around her, acting like she did not know anything.

Jean did not have much doubt and believed her. "Of course, you wouldn't know since you just returned to A City but this bar is not just for drinking. You want to drink, right? I'll take you to another bar."

Luca went along with his wishes. After all, there were too many wolves eying her in this bar and it was not easy to have a conversation here. Rain told her through the earphones that sometimes, men fought for a woman in this kind of place. She told her to be careful not to cause a scene.

It was not a bad idea to head to another location.

Luca nodded and pretended to look inadvertently at the other corner. She saw that Percy's men and Rain had already stood up. They got the bill and were

waiting for her, so she turned her head and walked over to

Luca's seat. After all, there were so many men around her and it was only a matter of time before they fought for her. He asked, "Luca, don't you want

Luca smiled gently and replied, "I have a glass of wine that I need to pay for. I'll go settle the bill

Luca heard that and said quickly, "Miss, I'll settle the bill for you. Come with me. I'll take you to a better bar

Luca gave the man a vicious look and said rudely, "No, this is my friend. I'll settle the bill

Luca told him that, Luca did not fight to settle the bill and left it

Luca, she was not on the best of terms with Jean, so it would not be as easy to manipulate him for information. Hence, she deliberately had him settle the bill for her so that they could

Luca's and his bill before turning to Luca, saying, "It's too messed up here. Shall we go

Luca nodded in agreement, and the two left the bar

As they walked out of the bar, Luca asked, "Why did you say this bar is messed up?"

Jean looked at how innocent she seemed and gave an indirect reply, "Everyone who goes in this bar is into **something dodgy.**"

Luca showed a surprised expression and said, "Something dodgy? I didn't *know that...*"

"**Why** did you come here?" *Jean asked.*

Luca had already prepared a reply as she anticipated that he would ask such a question. "I was walking around the neighborhood and when I saw a bar, I felt like **drinking.**"

"Why did you suddenly want to drink. Is there something on your mind?" After listening to her explanation, Jean's doubts were almost gone.

Initially, he was a little suspicious about why she appeared at the place where he was. 'Could it be that her superficial beauty was obtained by selling her body?' After he spoke to her, however, he believed that she did not know what the bar was **infamous for**.

Jean took Luca to another nearby bar.

Luke sat in the car and was stark raving mad when he saw Luca walking side by side with Jean. He immediately picked up his phone and instructed Rain to keep a close eye on Luca.

walked into the bar, Luca found that it was a normal one. There were not as many people here as the bar they were

guessed that Jean was eager to craft a good image in front of her, so he chose a bar

way, why were you at that bar just now?" Luca asked intentionally after they sat down at one of

showed that he was stunned by her question. He could not tell her that he went to drink with the woman he hooked up with the night before. His mind was spinning quickly as he thought of an excuse. "My friend brought me there. The environment in that bar is not the best and I'm not a big fan of it. When I feel like drinking, I would usually go to bars like these. The bartenders in this bar are good. You should try

you going to buy me a drink?" Luca blinked and pretended to be

course. I invited you here, so it's my treat," Jean said. The bar drinks were not cheap but he got some money from Pierre, so he was feeling

picked up the menu and ordered a glass of the cheapest cocktail. Jean noticed that, so after the waiter left, he asked, "Luca, why didn't you order a

familiar with cocktails. I'm okay with anything as long as it contains alcohol. I don't need to order an expensive one. I just need it to relieve my worries," Luca explained, "Nina told me that you've just recovered and your mother is still in the hospital. It's not easy for you to have to fork out so much money. To be honest, I'm happy enough that you're willing to accompany me for

liked her more and more when he thought that she was being kind to his wallet. His feelings for her doubled. Although he did not understand why Luca had such a bad attitude toward him before, it seemed that her attitude toward him now was not the same as

Maybe it was because of Nina.