

## **Be Gentle 1741**

### **Chapter 1741**

Jean asked with concern seeing that she refused to share her troubles, "What's the matter?"

Luca shook her head, smiled slightly, and just said, "It's nothing."

Jean noticed that she had frowning eyes, and it was as though they contained endless sadness. Unfortunately, she refused to talk and instead looked at him without saying anything else.

Two glasses of cocktails arrived at the table. Luca took a sip and said, "This bartender is great at what he does. The cocktail is delicious."

"If you like it, drink more. When you can't express the sadness in your heart, you can be more free and easy after a few drinks," Jean said as he ordered Luca an extra drink without asking her.

Luca did not stop him.

Before she set off, she took a drug that would help keep her sober regardless of how much she drank. Seeing that he had ordered another drink for her, she raised her head and chugged the drink in her hand.

Jean blinked, not expecting Luca to be so bold when it came to drinking.

"Luca, it's easy to get drunk if you drink like this." He pretended to advise her but was secretly hoping that Luca would get drunk.

Luca put her elbows on the table to support her chin, blinked, and said, "I'm not very good at drinking, so it's easy for me to get drunk. However, if I don't get drunk, I can't help but think about my problems."

"What's troubling you?" Jean asked.

you can't help me even if I tell you about it." Luca stopped just as she was about to

was ill at ease. He saw the waiter bring the cocktail over and pushed the glass in front of her. "Maybe you can tell me. I studied abroad and have quite a broad range of

at him, shook her head, and said, "I'm worried about Nina. Aren't you and her not on the best of terms? Forget about it. You can't

wary when Nina was mentioned, but he still wanted to chat with Luca. Hence, he asked, "Did you get into a fight

Luca shook her head, raised her glass once again, and finished the

was sitting in the corner, saw that and quickly reported to Luke, "Boss, Dr. Craw has already had her third glass of cocktail. The drinks here are

heard what Rain said, he gritted his teeth and said, "Continue to keep a close eye on her. If Jean dares to cross the line, we'll forget about the

"Understood," Rain replied.

Jean asked, "So... What happened?"

"**I don't** think that life has been easy for you or Nina, so how did the two of you end up in this situation?" Luca deliberately avoided his question and asked him another question instead.

Jean took a sip of his cocktail when his relationship with Nina was mentioned. "Will you believe me if I say that it's not my fault?"

Luca said, "It's not a question of whether I believe you or not. I just met Nina but it feels like we've known each other for a long time, so I believe in what she says. However, after spending some time with you, you're not too bad either. At least, you took me away from that messed-up bar and didn't take advantage of me. That's why I thought I should put away any misunderstanding I had of you before and get to know you once more. However, your relationship **with Nina...**"

"I'm her brother. I would never harm her even though she has always ignored my kind will and always stands on the other side when something happens. As it went on, the crack in our relationship grew," Jean **complained**.

**Luca nodded** and acted like she believed what he **said**.

**When she** saw Jean finish his glass, she did the *same*.

Jean ordered more drinks.

*The* two drank a few more drinks. Luca said, "Sometimes, I also think that Nina is too stubborn. Two days ago, I turned her down and now I can't contact her. I even paid a visit to her apartment today but it was useless. Jean, can you help me get in touch with Nina?"

When he heard that she wanted him to contact Nina, Jean felt cornered. He could usually use Anna O'Reilly as an excuse to make Nina appear but considering that she was in Pierre's hands, she could not escape even if he wanted to be in contact with **her**.

looked at him silently and seized the opportunity to ask, "What's wrong? Did something happen happened. She's in a safe place," Jean said as he shook

that so? That means that she's mad at me! Otherwise, why would she not respond to me when I reach out to her?" Luca acted sadly and continued talking, "She's my only friend here, but she misunderstood me... I can't believe that she's not even going to give me a chance to explain

happened between the two of you?" Jean continued

I was there last time you went to Nina's apartment?"

Jean nodded.

me over to accompany her to prevent Mr. Percy from coming in. I stayed with her for two days but I had a banquet to go to one night. I drank a lot that night and felt very uncomfortable, so I went back to my apartment to rest. Next thing I knew, I couldn't contact

Jean was stupefied.

continued talking, "Maybe she thought that I didn't accompany her on purpose, but she doesn't know that I was feeling extremely uncomfortable that night. That's why I went back to my apartment to rest. I felt horrible. I went to knock on her door the next day and she didn't respond. Jean, I regard Nina as my best friend. Why is she so cruel to

was speechless. He knew that Nina was not angry with Luca for

## **Chapter 1742**

Jean took a sip of his cocktail and was in a good mood because he finally had a chance to get closer to Luca. "Yeah, she's still in A City."

"I'm happy to hear that she's fine." Luca acted relieved.

The drinks were getting to his head. Jean looked at Luca with eyes full of fascination.

Luca was beautiful. She was the most beautiful woman he had ever seen. All the conditions at that moment were excellent, so he knew he had to grasp the opportunity. "Come, cheers!"

Jean ordered another cocktail for her. Although his plan was deplorable, he had to do it to win over Luca. If he had some blackmail material, someone like Luca would have to obey him.

Luca took a sip of the cocktail.

Jean was satisfied. He was surprised at how submissive she was.

"Don't stress about it. Nina is not a child. She's fine. There's nothing to worry about." He comforted her.

Luca looked at Jean. He made it seem as though he knew everything about Nina. She felt confident and held her chin.

The move was a signal for Rain to indicate that she was almost done and could retreat at any time.

Rain whispered, "Got it."

At that moment, Jean noticed that Luca had been wearing earphones, so he asked curiously, "Luca, why do you have earphones on?"

my earphones? I wore it at work and forgot to take it off," Luca explained with a smile but had no intention of taking it off. She raised her glass and changed the subject. "Thank you for telling me about Nina. I can't get in touch with her right now, so I'll need to trouble you to help me get in touch with her problem." Jean agreed. Even though he knew he could not get in touch with Nina, he needed to have a grasp over

to drink with him. No matter how well Jean could drink, he was no match for Luca, who had taken the special drug. After three rounds of drinking, he was

"Luca, you're so beautiful."

to his compliment, smiled, and pretended to be drunk. "I can't drink anymore. That's it for

also there. I didn't expect you to be so good at drinking. You're not bad. You can even compete with me." Jean burped, called for the waiter, and then handed over his credit card to settle

looked at Jean's bright red face and felt a lot of emotions in her heart. After all these years, his rotten roots had not been

that he liked her, but in the end, all he had in his mind were dirty

in Russia where it's a norm to drink. That's where I trained myself to drink," Luca explained as she took her

and raised his thumb in praise. "Impressive. You're the only woman I know who can drink as much as me. You deserve to be admired by

finished speaking, Luca fell on the table and pretended to pass

not want to hear what Jean said nor did she want to respond to

*Jean* shook her arm. "Luca? Are you drunk?"

Luca closed her eyes, motionless.

Jean muttered to himself, "Looks like she's drunk. That's good. I'll get a room in the hotel above. If you don't mind, I'll bring you up."

Luca kept quiet.

*Jean* took her silence as consent. After all, that was what he wanted as well.

The waiter returned with the bill and his credit card. After he settled the bill, Jean staggered over and tried to carry *Luca*.

*At that* time, Rain pretended to walk past and took **a look**.

"Dr. Craw?" she said.

**Jean** looked at the woman next to him and asked, "Who are you?"

**Rain ignored** him and stepped forward to pretend to confirm Luca's identity. "It's really you, Dr. Craw! Why are you so drunk? Dr. Craw, I'll take you **home**."

*As soon* as Jean heard that, he knew that his plan to roll in the hay with Luca was about to be intercepted. He quickly blocked Luca from Rain and shouted, "Who are you? Does she know you? Why do you want to take **her away**?"

subordinate. Who are you?" Rain asked. She glanced at the messy table and said, "You got Dr. Craw drunk, right? What's your intention of getting her

not many people in the bar and because Rain's voice was very loud, many suddenly looked

was flushed after drinking. He felt like he was losing his reputation in front of the crowd. He explained, "I am also friends with Luca and we bumped into each other tonight. What's wrong with two friends catching up over

don't think your intentions tonight are just to drink with her. I heard that you want to take her to the hotel upstairs? Take a good look at yourself! You want to bag Dr. Craw?!" Rain replied. Although the bar was not high-class, it was obvious that there was a certain difference in status between Jean

dumbfounded by her words. He was about to ask the waiter to help prove that Luca was drinking with him voluntarily when Rain picked up the

are you doing?" Jean

Craw is drunk, so, of course, I'm going to take her home. I can't leave her here with a toad like you," Rain said. She then picked up Luca's arm and intended to

positioned himself in front of her. "Luca was drinking with me. I should be the one sending her

Do you think I don't know what you want to do to her?" Rain said and left

glanced at Luca and got anxious. He threw all caution to the wind and made

looked at his raised hand, blocked it, and held his hand with

felt pain and shouted, "Ah, ah, let go

## **Chapter 1743**

Luke was disdainful because of Luca's interaction with Jean.

Rain saw everything clearly, and she reported to Luke without missing a single detail.

That was why his expression was ugly.

Luca sat up straight and put on her seatbelt.

"You don't have anything to say?" Luke asked.

Luca wondered what was there to say. 'Am I supposed to tell him what I discovered?'

She nodded and said quickly, "After talking to Jean, I'm sure that Nina is in Pierre's hands and she shouldn't be in any danger now. We can focus on investigating Pierre. We can start with—"

Luke interrupted her and said coldly, "Rains is aware of all that you mentioned. She's taking action now."

Luca was astounded, nodded, and said in a neutral tone, "Oh."

Luke was infuriated when he thought of how Jean took advantage of Luca. He stopped talking, stepped on the accelerator, and drove off.

Luca could tell that he was speeding and pursed her lips. Even if he did not say anything, she could tell that he was fuming.

When Luke was angry, it was best not to say anything. What was more, she was not Bianca. She was just an employee of his. It did not seem right if she tried to comfort him.

The green light ahead turned red. Luke slammed on the brakes so hard that he almost rushed past the zebra crossing.

Luca frowned. If he had not stepped on the brakes in time, the consequences would have been unimaginable...

what's the matter with you?" she

expression was cold. 'She's asking me what's the

was Bianca, so, of course, she knew what was wrong

wanted to uncover the truth and asked her if she had lost interest in him. However, his past experience told him that Luca's estrangement was a last resort and she still had strong feelings toward

fine." Luke turned his face away to look at the

drive slower? I drank a little too much and my stomach is not feeling the best," Luca said pitifully. Her stomach was churning as Luke was driving

had taken the drug so she would not get drunk. However, she felt sick since the liquor in her stomach had not been discharged. Nausea came in

stunned. He was trying to vent his unhappiness but forgot that she had

"Mm." His reply was stiff.

her eyes. He was driving very fast just now and the ride was a little bumpy. She did not want to talk anymore as she felt that the booze in her stomach would come out as soon as she

felt pity at how distressed she looked, and his anger gradually

why she did all of that was because of Nina. She was a kind person, so she would do her best to help when Nina encountered a situation

should give her his full understanding and

The red light turned green. Luke did not drive as crazily as before. It was a smooth ride, and they arrived at the **apartment safely**.

"**We're** here." He reminded her softly as he looked at the woman resting on the chair with her eyes *closed*.

*Luca was sensitive toward his mood changes and knew that he was no longer fuming.*

**She opened** her eyes, unbuckled her seat belt, and said to him, "Mr. Crawford, thank you for sending *me back*."

**Luke** nodded, unbuckled his seat belt, and said, "You're welcome. It's on the *way, anyway*."

*Luca watched* him open his car door, the implication being that he would sleep at her place *that night*...

**She had** no intentions of stopping him *either*.

**Luca** opened the car door and the two walked into the apartment building together. When they reached their floor, she opened the door and turned on the lights.

**Luke walked** straight to the maid's room like it was **his room**.

Luca retracted her gaze. She had too much to drink and her stomach was still feeling uncomfortable. She went into the kitchen and made herself a glass of **honey water**.

The honey water was sweet and light. She sat on the sofa and tasted it slowly. Luke came out, saw her drinking, and asked, "What are you **drinking?**"

"**Honey water,**" Luca said, "Would you like to have *some?*"

"*No,*" Luke was not a fan of honey water. He sat on the sofa and looked **at Luca**.

*Luca felt* a little awkward being stared at by him. She turned to look at him and asked, "Mr. Crawford, is there something on my face?"

did you drink?"

"Not a lot..." Luca said.

been keeping an eye on you." Luke reminded her to tell the truth. Rain had counted exactly how many glasses

stunned and had to explain herself, "I forgot how much I drank. I just know that I drank a little too much. After all, Jean is such a cunning person, if he doesn't drink enough, I can't manipulate him to tell me

looked at how calm she was as she explained herself. He knew that Luca did not like to drink. If it were not for Nina, she would not have drank so

Crawford, the cocktails are nothing to me...I took the drug to help me," Luca explained, not wanting to worry him too

drug does work, but your stomach is hurting too," Luke said. Luca's drug was able to keep one's brain alert without being affected even after ingesting a lot

concentration of alcohol in the blood would not decrease because of

she drank still needed to be excreted through the metabolism of the

finished the honey water and put down the glass. "I haven't had a drink in a long time, so my stomach can't take it. I'll be fine after drinking something

you're not feeling well, don't act like you are. I've made an appointment with Johann. I can take you to the hospital at any time for an IV drip." Luke had already made

was surprised. She did not expect him to trouble Johann just because she drank a little too

touched her head, feeling embarrassed. She nodded and agreed.

## **Chapter 1744**

"Can you sleep?" Luke leaned against the door and stared at her.

Luca rubbed her eyes, pretended to be sleepy, and said, "Mr. Crawford, I'm very tired now and want to go to bed."

Luke did not expose her. Since she did not want to talk to him, he decided to be forceful. He walked into the bedroom and sat on the sofa.

"Mr. Crawford?" Luca was shocked by his actions. 'Is he going to stay here tonight?'

Luke's slender legs were crossed, and he found a comfortable position. Luca drank a lot of alcohol, so even after she washed up, he could still smell the faint alcohol smell in the air.

It did not smell bad since it was blended with her body's special scent...

On the contrary, he was even a little tempted.

"There's something I want to talk to you about," Luke said. After he debated internally for half an hour, he decided that he could not let Luca escape from the truth any longer.

The fact that she flirted with Jean had stimulated his nerves. He could not stand it even though he knew she was acting.

"Mr. Crawford, it's late. Why don't we talk about it tomorrow? I'm sleepy and want to go to bed." Luca looked at the seriousness on his face and had a bad premonition. She used sleeping as an excuse and thought that he would not insist.

However, she was wrong.

Luke insisted and said, "If you want to sleep, I can sit here and we'll talk when you wake up."

'Sit here...?'

was speechless. She could not sleep, and it would be even worse if Luke

what do you want to talk about?" She had no choice but to

"Do you like anyone else right now? I mean, someone other than

panicked and responded, "Mr. Crawford, what do you mean? I

flustered." Luke's expression remained flat. He noticed all of her subtle

Luca pulled her hair back, which was something she did whenever she

noticed and did not mention anything. "Do you mean no, you don't have your eyes on anyone else or, no, you're not

did not know how to answer such an aggressive question. If her response was in reference to his first question, it meant that she admitted to liking him and no

had been keeping her distance on purpose. She did not expect Luke to notice her feelings

about to explain herself but Luke did not continue to embarrass her. He said directly, "Luca, I like you, so starting from tomorrow morning, I'll pursue

could not admit that she was Bianca, he was willing to pursue



He believed that one day, he would find out who was controlling Luca. Then, their family would **be reunited**.

"Mr. Crawford, you can't do this!" Luca turned him down immediately. 'Luke wants to pursue me? He likes me?' Her heart clenched as she looked at the man who seemed to shine under the *dim light*.

"**Why not?** Give me a reason." Luke knew what she wanted to say but he guided her to *say it*.

"**You have** a wife. I don't want to be hated by thousands of people. Not to mention, we're very different people. We're not suitable for each other." Luca lowered her gaze and listed out the reasons for her rejection. She felt that the situation was *ironic*.

**She was** Bianca but she could not admit it. Even so, Luke told her that he *liked her*.

'Does he like Bianca or Luca?'

**Although** no matter which one he liked, she was both Bianca and Luca. She had two identities. If she got together with Luke, would she not be cheating on herself? If others found out, they would never believe it.

How ironic.

**Luke listened** to her explanation, his eyes dimming. 'Life is hard for her. She has to pretend in this **situation...**'

"My wife has already passed away," he said.

**Luca was** stunned. She raised her head and looked at him. She could not believe it as she uttered, "How is that *possible...*"

"*She suddenly* fell ill in the villa a few months ago. We didn't have time to rescue her, so she passed away. I haven't announced it to the public." Luke looked at her and said slowly, "I've kept it hidden considering the poor health of my mother-in-law. Old Master Rayne from her adoptive family is not in the best of health as well. Our children are still young, so..."

that it was a good excuse. He did not confess to her that Bianca was fake. He just said that she passed away, so in a sense, he was

he was able to

had to admire Luke's thoughtful thinking and was even a little worried that he had found out

there was nothing unusual about the

Crawford, aren't you sad that your wife passed away?" Luca

she was kidnapped three years ago and reappeared, her temperament has undergone tremendous changes. Gradually, the relationship between us has turned into nothing. When she was still around, I always felt that she wasn't the Bianca I loved. Later, when she passed, I didn't feel too

kept silent. Even though she knew that some of Luke's words were false, she could not help but

silence, Luke said, "I've put it all on the table so you know how I feel about you. Luca, you should think about it. My feelings for you aren't fake, and this isn't a decision I made rashly. Have a good night's

watched as he walked out of the bedroom, then stopped out of the

said, "The weather is getting cold. Make sure you cover yourself up and don't catch a cold." After that, he helped close the door on his way

at the tightly closed door and did not lie down for a long

'How can I sleep now?'

## **Chapter 1745**

After Luke talked to Luca, he fell asleep easily.

After a dreamless night, he woke up to find that Luca had left the apartment.

He raised his eyebrows when he saw the breakfast on the table. Luca did not usually make these dishes. Sometimes, when they were in a rush or if the prepared breakfast could not be eaten in time, she would make these dishes.

Luke touched the toasted bread with his hand and found that it was cold. It seemed that it had been on the table for a while.

"What an ostrich." He looked at the breakfast prepared for him and commented in a soft voice. He felt relieved that he had laid it all out on the table. No matter how much Luca wanted to run away, she would not escape from his palm.

No matter if she was Bianca or Luca, she was the love of his life.

Luke glanced at the time. He was not going back to the office that morning because today was the day Allison would get out of jail.

Even though he had only visited her a handful of times in the past few years, he had to be present for such an important event. After Luke washed up, he sat at the dining table and ate breakfast while planning some tasks for Jason.

Seeing that it was almost time, he drove off to the prison.

The lawyer had already arrived and started on the paperwork to get Allison released.

Luke stood at the door and waited. After a while, Allison came out. It was cold, so she put on a hat and a scarf that covered half of her face. No one could see what was going on with her face.

knew of Allison's release from prison, so there were many reporters around the prison gate. When she walked out of the prison, she noticed the reporters and quickly lowered her

the reporters immediately surrounded

they were blocked by the prison guards. One of them scolded, "This is the prison. No one should mess around

just want to interview her," a reporter

guards' superior had already briefed them, so they firmly stopped the reporters. "No, this is the

reporters had no choice but to watch Allison, who was completely covered up, get into Luke's

looked at the reporters. The time of Allison's release from prison was kept secret but seeing that there were so many reporters surrounding them, he was certain that someone had disclosed Allison's release to the

That person was probably Susan.

Susan would want Allison to make a fool of herself in front of

the car door and took off her scarf when she was certain that the reporters could not see her face. She watched Luke get in the car and asked, "Why are you the only one who came to get me? Where's

Luke started the car and left the prison. The lawyer would handle the

"**The** doctor who treated my skin with her herbal concoction. Why didn't she come?" Allison was referring to Luca. Although her skin was not healed, there were no new scars and she was satisfied with the effects.

"She's working," Luke said.

"What kind of work? Can't you get her here? You can easily pay her any amount she wants," Allison said, dissatisfied. Since the herbal concoction worked, she wanted to see Luca again but the lawyer was unable to help. Hence, she had no choice but to endure it.

"She's busy," Luke said.

Allison snorted coldly and replied, "It seems that you've been getting worse and worse in recent years. You could still get people to do as you please a few years ago, but now, you can't even get a doctor to come. Luke, I was in prison for a couple of years and couldn't keep an eye on you. Have you gotten lazy? I told you, you can't give Susan a *chance!*"

Luke ignored what she said when he heard that she was thinking about fighting for power as soon as she got out of **prison**.

*Seeing* that he did not respond to her, Allison said, "By the way, I'm moving back to Crawford Manor. Did the lawyer tell *you?*"

"Yeah," Luke replied. He knew all about it even if she did not **say anything**.

Allison did not have much money. Her only fixed asset was the villa. If she lived in the villa, she would have no other funds. If she sold the villa, she would still have some money on hand. After all, her villa had appreciated over the **years**.

**However**, if she sold the villa, she would have no place to **live**.

As such, whether the villa was sold or not, Allison would move back to **Crawford Manor**.

situation in Crawford Manor?" Allison continued to ask. Even with her face like this and the fact that she had stolen something from the manor, she did not feel any embarrassment or

her, Crawford Manor was

"Same old," Luke replied.

off her hat. She found a mirror from the belongings in her bag and glanced at herself. She then put the mirror back in the

blamed it all on the Crawford family. She swore that she would get back everything that belonged to her when she

at her through the rearview mirror. With that look of resentment, he knew that when Allison returned to Crawford Manor, there would be a bloody

of Crawford Manor was sure to be

about moving Luca into a bigger apartment, arranging for a maid, and taking the children to live with

would certainly be happy and would not be involved in

thought about it and was worried that Luca would not agree. Nevertheless, considering her concern for the kids, she would not be happy if she saw the children being involved in the drama between the

he was confident that he could get Luca

## **Chapter 1746**

Allison watched arrogantly as they welcomed her. She was discontented. The maids calling her 'Madam Allison' reminded her that Susan was inside the manor, ready for a fight.

Although the maids did not dare to look up at her face, she knew Susan must be waiting to make fun of her.

Allison lowered the brim of her hat and said to Luke, "Come on. Walk in with me."

Within the family, the only one she could rely on at that moment was Luke.

Luke stayed silent when he saw that she did not dare to take a step forward. He made a gesture to the butler and walked in with her.

The butler got the hint and dismissed the maids who were involved in the welcoming ceremony.

Crawford Manor's living room.

Susan sat on the sofa. She held a cup of floral tea, drinking from it elegantly. She looked at the woman walking in, smiled, and said, "I was wondering why the butler brought all the maids together. It turns out that you're released from prison today."

Allison glanced coldly in her direction, kept silent, and prepared to go upstairs.

that it was not a wise choice to argue with Susan now. She had to keep a low profile to prepare for the battle for what belonged

that Allison was avoiding arguing with her, Susan cleared her throat and said, "Is it appropriate for you to not even greet Old Master Crawford now that you're

stopped in her tracks. In all the years she was in prison, she had been holding a grudge against Luke and Old Master

son sent her into prison without a second thought while Old Master Crawford was constantly pursuing the

had given in and stopped the investigation, she would not have had to suffer so

glanced at Old Master Crawford, who was sitting on the sofa with a gloomy expression. Old Master Crawford agreed to let her move back in because he did not want her to lose her reputation by

was a show of generosity. He would not hold her accountable for what she did in the past either. However, he was extremely dissatisfied with how Allison

Crawford firmly believed that manners

"Mother," Luke called out to Allison, hinting to her in a low voice. Even though he was already mentally prepared, he was not happy to see Allison be in a conflict with everyone at home on the first day she was released from **prison**.

Allison knew what he meant. She turned around impatiently while cursing at Old Master Crawford and Susan in her heart. She greeted them, "Good morning, Old Master Crawford. I'm back. I'll do my best in the future as your daughter-in-law to honor **you**."

"Mm." Old Master Crawford did not say much. He nodded while knowing that she was reluctant. Nevertheless, her greeting and reassurance meant she was taking into consideration his *reputation*.

Susan listened to her words and sneered, her expression full of provocation. "It's funny. In modern times, monogamy is the only legal form of marriage and I'm Zachary's legal wife. Old Master Crawford only has one daughter-in-law. Why do we have an extra one here?"

Allison clenched her fists. She had been arguing with Susan about the issue for decades. She snorted coldly when it was brought up once more. "I'm Luke's mother and Luke is the grandson of Old Master Crawford. As such, I'm Old Master Crawford's daughter-in-law. What? You're unhappy about it? Even if you are, forget about it. Luke is the eldest grandson of the Crawford family and I'm Luke's mother. This is the truth. Nothing can change *it*."

With a bang, Susan slammed her cup on the coffee table and shouted, "So what if you're Luke's mother? If you think of this place as your home, you wouldn't have gotten someone to steal from here. You even left a scar on the forehead of my poor Thea! To be honest, I admire your shamelessness from the bottom of my heart. You even have the guts to return home after getting out *of prison*."

**She had** disliked Allison for as long as she could remember. She took advantage of the opportunity to attack Allison from all angles.

Old Master Crawford was sick of it when he heard the two of them beginning to attack each other within a few seconds of Allison's return. He stood up and said, "That's enough! It's all in the past. **Stop arguing!**"

"Dad, you've seen the wound on Thea's forehead. If Yuri hadn't taken her to South Korea for surgery, Thea's face would have been disfigured. Why can't I say anything about it? What I said is true, unlike her!" Susan looked at Allison **resentfully**.

she get released only after being locked up for a

Allison to be locked up

Master Crawford glared at her and replied, "Will you be happy only when everyone knows

family was humiliated for having a thief daughter-in-law like Allison. Fortunately, Luke's high spirits pushed T Corporation to another summit over the years, which quelled this scandal and made people focus on T Corporation instead of the Crawford family.

coldly and was even more discontent as she thought that Old Master Crawford was siding with Allison. She glared at Allison. 'She's nothing but a disfigured piece of trash. Why is he siding with her? All she did was give birth to a son who knows how to

that Old Master Crawford wanted to calm the situation, so she did not say anything

family was not headed by Luke. It was still in the hands of Old Master Crawford. If she was going to live here, she would have to endure certain

after the past events, she did not expect Luke to help her. The sons born by others were caring and stood by their mothers' side. Meanwhile, Luke would always side with Bianca and logic. It seemed that she had some backing in the Crawford family, but in fact, she was isolated and

## **Chapter 1747**

In the study.

Old Master Crawford watched Luke light the incense, then looked out the window. His eyes were cloudy. He seemed to have a lot on his mind.

Luke closed the lid and said, "Grandpa, if you have something to say, just say it."

"Is your mother's face incurable?" Old Master Crawford knew that Luke had arranged for a doctor to go to prison to check on Allison but he never asked about it. After he saw Allison wrapping herself up like that, he knew that the treatment was not working as well as she hoped.

"The wrinkles on her face are permanent and irreversible," Luke said.

Old Master Crawford sighed. He knew that it was Allison's fault and she had no one to blame but herself. However, she would bring embarrassment to the Crawford family if she insisted on going out in public.

He said, "This home is not peaceful, and it's not good for the physical and mental health of the kids. If you want, you can move out with the kids and only bring them back to accompany me during the holidays."

"Grandpa, I know what to do." Luke nodded. He had already thought of this, but there were too many things happening recently. Hence, he had not made the necessary arrangements yet.

"By the way, I gave Louis a sum of money and asked him to buy a house. I plan to let him bring Thea there to live. If Susan wants to, she can also move there. I want to give you a heads up because his new house is near the house you bought recently. If you want to move out with the kids, you can choose to move there. Although the two of you aren't from the same mother, you share the same father. I hope you can take care of each other," Old Master Crawford said. They were brothers, so their strength would become greater if they were united.

old. He knew that the Crawford family would be handed over to Luke and Louis sooner or later. What he hoped was that the two could unite and not be estranged just because of their

nodded. He also intended to move the kids away. He did not expect Louis to move into the neighborhood as well, but he was happy with it. At least they could still often meet

Master Crawford waved his hand and said, "Okay, I don't have anything else to talk to you about. I'm sure you've been busy with work, so I won't take up any more of your time. You can get back to

Luke pushed the tea the butler brought in front of Old Master Crawford, then turned around

he did not have to pick up Allison, he would have been dealing with work at

to the ground floor from the study and found that Susan was still sitting there, eating some desserts prepared by the cook. When she saw him coming down, she called out to him, "Luke,

and replied, "Mother, what can I do for

only call out to you if I have something that I need from you? I'm your mother. Can't I stop you just to have a chat?" Susan deliberately picked

is well, I need to go to the office," Luke said blankly. When he was young, disputes between the adults would inevitably

As he grew up, he started putting aside these family disputes. They hardly affected him *now*.

*Susan* was dissatisfied when she saw him mentioning T Corporation every chance he had.

'Is he trying to show off that he's capable? He's just lucky. If it weren't for him being a few years older than Louis, T Corporation would've never ended up in *his hands*.'

"I stopped you because I have something to talk to you about. Since your mother is disfigured now, I want to say that as her son, you should remind her not to wander around, especially at night. I don't want her to scare the kids when they see her face. Otherwise, they're going to have nightmares. If possible, she shouldn't come down during the day too. It's petrifying." Susan deliberately made a scared expression and rubbed her *arms*.

**Luke** said blankly as he knew that she wanted to pick a fight, "Don't worry, she won't walk around the house and scare anyone."

*Allison* was a woman who cared a lot about her appearance. Now that she was back, she would not go out or downstairs unless she had to. Even if she wanted to roam around, she would wrap her face **up tightly**.

**Susan** nodded with satisfaction and replied, "That's good. I'm just afraid that if some ignorant maids see her face and they end up getting frightened, she'll get pissed again. Some of the maids here might have connections with reporters. If her face is photographed, the Crawford family will be embarrassed."

Luke listened to Susan's words. She made it sound as though she was doing everything for the good of the Crawford family. He did not say anything and walked out of the living **room**.

*After* he left, Susan snorted coldly and said, "How rude! I don't know what Old Master Crawford sees in you. Why did he hand T Corporation *to you?!"*

butler heard that, he brought her a plate of melon

at him, puzzled. "I don't want to eat melon seeds. Why did you bring

is Old Master Crawford's order. He wants you to eat more and talk less," the butler said

was annoyed. She glared at the butler and said, "Why can't I say anything? Is there any freedom of speech in this

reaction, the butler took the opportunity and said, "Old Master Crawford also said that if you're not happy living here, you can move out with Young Master Louis. He has given Young Master Louis a sum of money to buy a villa outside.

did you say? Louis bought a villa? Why didn't I know about this?!" Susan said in shock. She stood up immediately. "When did

days ago. The villa is in the most luxurious area of the city and it has everything you need. The villa is lavish. It's in line with your temperament and identity," the butler said. Old Master Crawford had told him to put it that way when

Crawford thought that it would be best if Susan moved out with Louis so that Crawford Manor would be much quieter when he and Allison were the only ones

frowned as Louis had not mentioned it to

## **Chapter 1748**

The more Susan thought about it, the more she felt that something was wrong. She muttered, "No, I'm going to ask Louis about this. He's so unsensible. What's wrong with staying here? Why does he want to move out?"

The butler watched her leave in a hurry and shook his head helplessly.

Louis was the kind of person who did not fight for anything. It was normal for him to want to move out after being forced by her to fight for everything every day.

...

After Luke arrived at the office, he immediately asked Jason to schedule a meeting.

The entire management team was expected to be present, including Luca.



After she received the news, Luca packed up the materials she needed for the meeting. As she carried her laptop, she suddenly thought of what Luke had said last night...

This morning, she ran away and left like an ostrich. However, she knew that she would have to face him sooner or later...

It was what it was. Although she had to deal with Luke because of work, she still felt uncomfortable...

Tina knocked on her office door and walked in, "Dr. Craw? I saw that the lights were on in your office and guessed that you were still here. Don't you have a meeting? Why are you still sitting here?"

When she saw Tina's smile, Luca immediately picked up the documents and materials she prepared for the meeting. "I was just thinking about something..."

came closer and stared at her face carefully. "Dr.

her face and asked,

you not rest well last night? Your face is so

can tell even after I put on makeup?" Luca rubbed her face unconsciously. She was worried that Luke would wake up early, so she rushed her makeup and did not cover up the flaws carefully. She did not expect that Tina would notice it at

"I have great eyesight, so I can see everything. Not only is your skin dry, but there are also dark circles under your eyes. It looks like you didn't get a good night's sleep and didn't put on makeup carefully this morning. Look, some spots weren't covered

where Tina was pointing and said helplessly, "I went out in a hurry in the morning, I didn't pay much attention to

assume you don't have anything to touch up your makeup? I'll lend you my makeup. You must look your best in front of everyone for the meeting later." Tina handed the compact foundation in her pocket to

it, thanked her, then touched up her makeup. She looked at herself in the mirror and realized that her makeup was indeed not done

you." After she was done, she handed the foundation back

it, put it back in her pocket, and said with a smile, "I'm attending today's meeting too. Shall we go

Luca nodded and left with Tina.

**Tina continued** to gossip, "Dr. Craw, why didn't you sleep well last **night?**"

"It's nothing. It's just insomnia," Luca said. She could not tell anyone about what Luke said to her the night before, including Nina. As such, she did not dare to say anything to Tina *as well*.

**Tina** thought about it and said, "I think you're losing sleep over **love**."

"Don't joke around. I'm not in love." Luca lowered her gaze and waited in front of the elevator. She could not admit it even if she was losing sleep over her **romantic relationship**.

"I'm not joking. Look at your face. Although your skin is in poor condition, it's rosy. It looks like love is coming your way." Tina **exposed her**.

Luca said helplessly, "I didn't know that you were a fortune teller as *well*."

"That's right, I learned the craft from an old lady. Not only can I tell your fortune from your facial features, but I can also do palmistry. Dr. Craw, do you want me to take a look? I can do any type of readings, including romantic relationships." *Tina joked.*

"That's impressive." Luca shook her head helplessly. After talking to Tina, she felt less anxious and much **more energetic**.

**The two** took the elevator down and walked into the conference room together. Almost all of the heads of various departments were there. Tina quickly put down her laptop, distributed the files in her hand to each executive, and said, " Good morning everyone. Do you want *coffee*?"

thank you," several of the

went out to prepare

sat on the right side of the CEO's seat and felt more anxious than ever. When she saw Tina head out, she stood up and said, "Tina, I'll

Tina walked out of the conference room, she looked at Luca and said, "Dr. Craw, I can do it on my own. I'm good without

my forte. It's not my forte to sit next to the CEO and take notes of the meeting. I'm not comfortable with how those executives are looking at me," Luca explained and helped Tina

cheekily, "It's not the first time you've sat there, so why are

know either. Sitting there makes me feel like I'm being interviewed for university. It's very uncomfortable. Maybe it's because I'm not a professional in this and was pulled in at the last minute,"

yourself down! Those in the management team of T Corporation are of high capability. You sitting next to them means that the boss recognizes your ability. Be confident in yourself." Tina

shook his head. 'Luke acknowledged

that, she thought that Luke got her involved because of a lack of manpower. He could not trust strangers, so he

## **Chapter 1749**

They stopped talking as soon as Jason walked in.

Jason glanced at the seat next to the CEO's and did not see Luca. He frowned and asked, "Where's Dr. Craw? She's not here yet?"

"She's helping Tina make coffee." The executive who led the conversation about Luca earlier replied.

Jason nodded. It was not Luca's job to make coffee but he did not say anything. He reminded them, "Get ready. The meeting is about to start. Mr. Crawford's hands are full, so try to simplify things as much as

possible when you present later. Focus on key points so that you can save yours and other people's time."

"Yes, Mr. Doyle." The executives knew how strict Luke was with work and agreed readily.

Luca and Tina walked in with the coffee. When Jason saw them, he immediately stepped forward and picked up two cups of coffee. "Tina can handle this. Dr. Craw, you'd better take your seat."

"Yeah, Dr. Craw," Tina said.

The executives listened to what Jason said and sighed secretly in their hearts. From his attitude, they could tell that Luca was someone of special status. She was not just a translator.

They thought that maybe she was secretly involved with the boss.

After all, someone had seen Luca attending Old Master Crawford's birthday banquet, so it was believable for them to be in a hidden relationship.

Luca put the tray on the conference table and said, "It's no trouble."

Tina shook her head, put a cup of coffee in front of everyone, and then put one of the special brews where the CEO would sit.

cup of coffee was brewed by Luca. Tina knew that Luca was an expert in making coffee after seeing her skillful movements. As such, she poured the coffee she made into Luke's special

their boss would like it considering Luca's skilled coffee-making

ready, and Luke walked into the conference

the man who walked in and looked away immediately to look at the laptop screen. She placed her fingers on the keyboard, ready to take

mind unconsciously recalled what he said

She remembered every word.

a little annoyed with how good her memory was. She remembered everything that

at Luca. She was sitting there stiffly but her posture was standard. At first glance, it was clear that she was

eyes were on him. She was the only

made it obvious that she was trying to distance herself from

coughed twice, cleared his throat, and sat down in the

his coughing and could not help but worry if he had caught

**It was** a little cold last night and he had waited for her in the car. 'Did he catch a cold because *of it?*'

That should not be the case, though. There was a heater in the car. Even if he had waited in the car, he should not be cold. After she was done drinking and Rain brought her to the car, she remembered that the heater in the car was **turned on**.

**Luca was** thinking about whether Luke had caught a cold when she heard him cough *slightly again*.

*She* was certain that he was sick and it was most likely from him waiting for her the **night prior**.

**She suddenly** realized that Luke probably did not eat anything since he had waited outside the entire night. Of course, he would be sick. He was cold and hungry...

**Luca felt** guilty all of a sudden. When they arrived home yesterday, she just avoided him and did not say anything. She did not consider that he might not have eaten anything after waiting all **night...**

His stomach was not the best...

When Luca was deep in thoughts, Luke said in a low voice, "Let's start the meeting."

**Luca** came back to her senses immediately, pressed the recorder, and started taking notes.

The meeting was long because Luke was not satisfied with the updates from many of the executives. The meeting that was supposed to end in an hour lasted two hours. They even missed their *lunch break*.

Everyone was starving, but they made sure they carefully updated Luke about all the tasks on hand.

*Luke's expression* darkened. In the end, he said, "If I were the other party, I would have no intentions of working with us after seeing such a non-competitive proposal. Work on the issues pointed out just now as soon as possible. I'll give you a half-hour lunch break. After eating, start with the revision immediately. I want to see the revised proposal when we continue the meeting tomorrow **morning**."

"Yes."

The executives knew they had to work overtime tonight but did not dare to complain. After all, Luke was notorious for being picky about work. They dared not say

end of the meeting, the executives left immediately with the documents so that they had as much time as possible to work on the

everything up, stood up, and extended an invitation to Luca, "Dr. Craw, why don't we go downstairs for a

mentioned that they were allowed a half-hour lunch break. They had time to have a

Luca closed her laptop and glanced at Luke subconsciously. He had already stood up and left without looking

He appeared cold and arrogant.

angry because he's not satisfied with the executives' progress? Or is he angry because I fled this

at how Luke acted and unconsciously felt uneasy. She realized then that Luke was very important

silence and cold expression were very different from the Luke she

had a feeling that what she heard and saw yesterday was all

the sleepless night made it clear that everything that happened was real. The greater the discrepancy in Luke's actions, the more uneasy she

## **Chapter 1750**

Luke noticed the laptop in his hands and frowned. "Is this Luca's laptop?"

"Yes, Boss. This is Dr. Craw's laptop. There's only half an hour left 'til their lunch break ends, so I told them to go have their lunch first and I'll bring their laptops back," Jason explained.

Luke's frown deepened. Would that make Luca think that he was an inconsiderate person while Jason was an understanding person?

Jason looked at Luke's expression. He could not help but wonder and asked, "What's the matter, Boss?"

Luke said in a cold voice, "Well, you sure know how to please others."

He grabbed Luca's laptop from him. "Is there anything else that belongs to her?"

Jason quickly handed two folders to him and said, "These belong to Dr. Craw..."

Jason dared not to keep anything as he realized the extent of his boss' possessiveness over Luca...

Luke took them from him and asked, "Where's my lunch?"

"I've already placed the order this morning. It should be on the way here now," answered Jason. As Luke's top assistant, he had already made arrangements for everything.

women prefer men like you?" Luke asked. He was utterly depressed when he noticed that Luca did not even glance at him

asked before realizing Luke's tone when he asked the question. He quickly explained, "No, Boss. Please don't take it the wrong way. I'm just concerned about my colleagues. It has nothing to do with the romantic relationship between a man and a woman. Don't say that. I'll be skinned alive if Sue finds out about

at him acting like a hen-pecked husband and thought Jason would never have the guts to harbor inappropriate thoughts about Luca no matter how bold he was. He was not only kind to Luca as he had gotten the intern to carry Tina's laptop too.

them away," said Luke. He carried Luca's laptop and folders in his hands as he walked into his office.

jaw dropped when he saw that. He wondered if he should remind Luke that those things he was carrying

noticed that too and said in a low voice, "Mr. Doyle, aren't the laptop and folders that Mr. Crawford is carrying Dr. Craw's? Why is he bringing them into

his reasons for doing that. An intern like you should stop making wild guesses. Do your part and focus on your job. That's how you'll get a better future. Got it?" Jason snapped at him.

quickly nodded and replied, "Yes, yes. You're right, Mr. Doyle."

not lecturing you. I'm giving you work experience. Everything that the boss says or does is always right, no matter if it's about work or some insignificant matter," Jason said while he headed to his

easier for him to carry his things without Luca's laptop and

*The* intern followed behind him, and he grabbed the opportunity to ask, "What if the supervisor or boss makes a mistake on some important *matters*?"

**"Then you'll** have to mention it to them. But it has to be on the right occasion and in the right tone. Don't let your supervisor or your boss think that you intend to provoke them or doubt their capability and decisions," Jason continued *to say*.

*Then, the* intern asked again, "Have you ever pointed out to Boss about his **mistake**?"

"No." Jason shook his head as he placed the laptop on his table. Then, he looked at the intern with a straight face. "It's not because I don't dare to do so but that every decision our boss made has been the right one. That includes the copywriting that your department manager has to amend later. It's the boss' request to amend it. If you pay close attention to the work, you'll realize the copywriting is dull. Boss isn't going to give such copywriting quality a pass. So, it must be amended. Boss is very strict when it comes to work. He doesn't make any *mistakes*."

*The* intern placed Tina's stuff on Jason's table and gave him a thumbs up. "Our boss is pretty *amazing*."

*"Yes. If* you're willing to work hard, you'll be able to learn more in T Corporation compared to other companies. All the best, lad." Jason patted on the intern's shoulder. "Alright. That's all for now. You may go downstairs first. Oh, don't take the boss' elevator."

"Got it. Thank you, Mr. Doyle." The intern was very enthusiastic as though he was all fired *up*.

*Jason* looked at the intern's serious expression and shook his head. He recalled how he applied for a job to work in T Corporation after graduating from university. He became Luke's assistant after working hard for some **time**.

He had been working hard ever since.

*He* learned many things while working with *Luke*.

told him that with his working experience and the connections he had built all these years, he would be able to succeed if he started his own business. There was no need for him to remain working for Luke, and he would be able to advance his

did not listen to what those people said. It was fine for him to work for Luke, and it was not because he was resting on his laurels. He just thought he would benefit more if he worked for

although he was Luke's subordinate, the relationship they shared had long exceeded just that of a superior and subordinate after all these years.

...

Tina had a simple and quick lunch downstairs. They had limited time for their lunch break, and they ran into a few senior managers who attended the meeting just now.

did not talk much to each other as there was not much time left.

Luca and Tina got into the elevator together and returned to

of them walked into Jason's office as they thought Jason had their belongings.

taken your lunch?" Jason asked.

Tina saw her laptop and folder placed on the side of the table. She left Jason's office after she picked them up and thanked