

Be Gentle 1761

Chapter 1761

The master bedroom was near the stairs. Luca walked in, put down the briefcase, and came out again.

She noticed that something was off and turned her head, looking at the guest bedrooms.

Previously, she opened all the doors of the guest bedrooms for ventilation. However, all of the doors were closed now...

‘Could it be that the cleaning lady and maid closed them after they were done cleaning up?’

Luca did not think much about it and did not bother to open the doors. She walked downstairs. She had to prepare dinner for three children and two adults, so there was a lot to do. If she started immediately, she could have some desserts ready for the kids when they arrived.

After she thought of that, she rolled up her sleeves and walked into the kitchen to prepare dinner with Leane.

Half an hour later, Luca's appetizers were ready and Zander arrived at the villa with the children.

Tommy walked into the villa and went straight to the kitchen, shouting, "Ms. Luca!"

Luca turned around and saw Tommy running toward her. She smiled, squatted down, and wrapped the child in her arms. "You're back from school?"

Tommy nodded, got close to her, and said, "Yeah, Ms. Luca. I missed you so much! Did you miss me?"

"Of course, I did! You're a handsome little boy. I think about you every day!" Luca touched Tommy's head. After a few days of not seeing him, she felt that the child had grown taller again.

Children nowadays grew up fast. A few days of not seeing them felt like years. In a blink of an eye, the children had grown taller.

Ms. Luca missed me so much, I'll accompany you and stay with you every day from now on!" Tommy said, his eyes bright and full of

to the child's innocent words. She smiled and said

wanted to stay with the children every day. She would not feel tired no matter how long she had to take care

reality was cruel. She could not admit that she was their mother. As such, she could not live with

up and said, "I made you some mini pre-dinner desserts. Do you want

Ms. Luca, you're the best!" Tommy clapped his

walked out with the mini desserts while Tommy followed her, pulling on her

greeted Lanie and Rainie, who were sitting obediently on the sofa. "Lanie, Rainie, come over for

they heard her, Lanie and Rainie stood up together and walked toward the dining

lit up as soon as she saw the desserts on the table. Luca noticed it, smiled, and held up a mini dessert with the most cream. She handed it to Rainie, "Rainie, I know you like sweet foods. This one has the most cream. It's for

you, Ms. Luca. I do like sweet foods the most." Rainie took it, her eyes lighting up once more when she saw the

two more for Lanie and Tommy. "This is for you, and you. I'll have to get back to the kitchen. By the way, you can run around but be careful so you won't

She knew that the children were active, so she wanted to remind *them*.

"**Ms. Luca**, can I take it and eat it on the sofa?" Lanie asked cautiously. Although she knew this was their daddy's villa, their daddy now listened to their mommy, so he wanted to *be sure*.

Moreover, their mommy had disappeared for three years. Although Luca was kind to them, he was still careful. He did not want to make her angry by doing **something wrong**.

"**Of** course, you can. Just make sure you don't run around after eating." Luca urged them. She patted Rainie's head, thought about it, then touched Lanie's head. After that, she walked into **the kitchen**.

Lanie held the dessert in one hand and put his other hand on top of *his head*.

Their Mommy's hands were still *so warm...*

Luca walked into the kitchen. Leane said cheekily, "Ms. Craw, do the kids like your desserts?"

"It looks like they do. They each took one and are eating it now," Luca said. She walked to the preparation table and started to cut *the meat*.

"Young Master Lanie is not usually a fan of desserts. If he's eating it too, it means that they truly love the food you make. You have a special connection with them," Leane said. Whenever the cook in Crawford Manor prepared something sweet, Lanie would never eat it.

Luca was stunned that Lanie did not like desserts. He thought of how he had so much of the cupcakes she made before. Before she came into the kitchen, she also noticed that Lanie had already taken a small bite of the dessert she **prepared**.

She shook her head and continued cooking.

With Leane's help, after an hour, Luca turned all the ingredients into ordinary home-cooked dishes.

were home-cooked dishes, they were full of colors

sniffed it and was not sure when Luke would be back. Hence, she put all the dishes in the microwave. She planned to wait for Luke to come back

a while, she heard the sound of

also heard it. "Young Master Luke is

was surprised by what she said. Leane said that Young Master Luke was back, not that Young Master Luke

as if Luke

help me bring these dishes out," Luca said. The dishes were best served warm and would not taste as good when they were reheated. She did not expect him to arrive at the perfect

smiled and helped bring out the

were waiting for their father at the door. When they saw Luke coming back, they surrounded him and said, "Daddy, you're

Rainie said first.

Luca made a lot of delicious food and mini desserts. Let's

what the gluttonous

Chapter 1762

"Ms. Luca, you don't have to worry about me. Daddy said I'm not a kid anymore, I'm a big boy, I can take care of myself." Tommy said while holding the spoon, he could not wait to take his first sip of the soup.

Luca looked at Tommy's greedy expression and shook her head helplessly. If she had not known that the Crawford family would never starve Tommy, she might have misunderstood the situation.

She put the rest of the soup away. Rainie walked over to the dining table and wanted to take a seat next to Luca but Lanie pulled her away.

She understood his actions instantly and chose another seat.

Lanie sat next to her.

Leane sat between Lanie and Tommy so she could take care of the children during the meal.

Luca looked at the remaining two seats. It was clear that they were left for her and Luke.

No matter where she sat, she would be next to Luke.

She had no choice but to choose a seat near Tommy. When Luke saw that, he sat beside her.

Tommy's round eyes were squinted from the wide smile on his face. The family looked so happy and comfortable.

After dinner, Luca wanted to clean up the dishes but Leane took over all the cleaning work. Seeing that, she and the children went to watch TV.

It was the weekend the next day, so the kids were not in a hurry to do their homework. They sat obediently on the sofa watching TV. Luke, who did not seem to have the intention of leaving soon, sat down with the children.

Tommy sat next to Luca and waved to Luke, who was sitting on the single sofa. "Daddy, sit here."

at Luca and found that she was expressionless, hence he sat down next to

was next to Luca. A sofa for four was just right for them. Lanie was sitting coolly on the sofa arm,

looked at the kids, then at Luke's side profile. The atmosphere was just right. It warmed her heart. How she wished that she was with them as

never thought that a peaceful and genial life would become such

to herself. She could not help but feel

the cut fruit on the coffee table, looked at Luke, and said, "Young Master Luke, if all is well, I'll head off
"Mm," Luke nodded.

Leane left the villa soon after.

moment, they were the only ones left in the

clenched her fists. 'When will they leave? Is he planning to wait until the kids are done with watching

glanced at the clock on the wall. There was still half an hour to nine o'clock. After nine o'clock, the episode would end and she assumed that Luke would leave with the

that Luke had been occupied with work, so he barely had any time to spend with the kids. As such, she did not want to say anything now that he was sitting here watching cartoons with

After all, children also needed the company of their fathers, especially if their mothers **were 'absent'**.

Tommy silently held Luca's hand and rested his head **on hers**.

Luca held onto Tommy silently.

Tommy thought of Luke's advice. As he watched the cartoon, he closed his eyes after a *while*.

He would not usually go to bed so early, but for the sake of staying with their Mommy, he had to fall *asleep!*

Luca noticed that the child's head was resting entirely on her. She looked down and **said nothing**.

Rainie noticed her brother and also remembered her father's advice. She followed suit and leaned on her brother while closing **her eyes**.

After the episode was over, two of the three children had fallen asleep.

Luke turned off the TV and looked at the kids. Luca also looked at them. She wondered why they fell asleep so early.

On normal days, they would not go to bed until after *ten o'clock*.

Lanie frowned and acted as though he was in pain. He said, "Daddy, my arm is numb from Rainie lying on me."

Luke heard him, walked over, and carried Rainie.

wanted to carry Tommy. Although she believed that she was strong enough to carry him even though he had grown up, she was afraid that she would not be gentle enough and would wake

they fall asleep so early?" Luca asked. She noticed that Luke still had no intentions of leaving. He was just carrying Rainie as he sat on the

haven't had a good rest for the last couple of days," Luke said. "My mother was released from prison and the Crawford family is at war once again. Rainie has nightmares every day after seeing my mother. She hasn't been able to sleep well

looked at Tommy in her arms and felt sorry for the

easily frightened, while Tommy was still young. She looked at Lanie, and it seemed that he was affected heart softened when he saw that Luca was also looking at him. He was their big brother and could not show his vulnerable side, but there was no doubt that Allison's face haunted him

Luca said, "I see."

"In the last week, Rainie often woke up in the middle of the night after getting frightened by her nightmares. She wouldn't be able to fall back asleep. The teacher also said that she has been out of it in class recently. Daddy, why don't we sleep here

"Okay," Luke agreed readily.

stunned that they made a decision just

villa was owned by Luke, she stayed her now. There were no extra daily necessities, so it was inconvenient for them to spend the

looked at her and said, "I'll carry Rainie

Chapter 1763

Luca stood by the door and watched as Luke carefully put Tommy on the bed. She glanced around the bedroom and noticed that there was a kid's table, bedding, and thick carpet. It must have taken a lot of work to prepare all these.

She was not angry about it, but the turbidity in her heart became stronger.

Luke had confessed to her, and it turned out he had not given up even after not getting the answer he wanted.

She was like a fish that unknowingly swam into the trap he set, foolishly thinking that he had given up on her.

Luca took another look at the guest bedrooms. There was Lanie's room, Rainie's room, and the guest bedroom opposite the master bedroom...

She opened the door and saw the black, white, and gray interior as well as the large bed and the office desk. She immediately knew that this was the bedroom Luke had prepared for himself.

It was just opposite her bedroom. They would bump into each other when they stepped out of their rooms.

Luca shook her head.

After Luke tucked Tommy in, he stepped out and closed the door.

"Mr. Crawford, can we talk downstairs?" Luca said.

Luca nodded.

Luca went downstairs with him and stood in the middle of the living room. She was amused as she looked up at the dazzling crystal chandelier.

was tricked by Luke and she did not find out until it was too late. She really thought they were celebrating her

Crawford, if you want to move in with the kids, I can move back to the apartment. If it's inconvenient for me to live in the company's apartment, I have no problem going back to my own apartment," Luca said. She did not know how to describe her feelings after she knew that Luke had not given up

noticed how serious she was and knew she was not joking. He knew that if he nodded, she would leave right

like you. The troubles at Crawford Manor are piling up. It's not good for the kids' development, so I decided to move here. I knew you wouldn't agree, so I decided to make a move and ask for permission later."

still want me to stay here? Is that appropriate?" Luca clenched her fists. She was not angry. She just felt

"The kids like you.

think so. It's not appropriate at all. Mr. Crawford, it's best that I move out. If we get photographed by reporters, both of us will be embarrassed. We should keep a safe distance." Luca wanted to live with him too, but she knew that she could not hold onto

would have to leave sooner or later. If she dared to imagine a life of them being together, she was afraid that she would not be able to bring herself to leave when the

frowned when he saw how determined and heartless she was. He said, "I can tell that you like them a lot. If you leave them so heartlessly, they'll be very disappointed. What I told you before is not a joke, Luca. You shouldn't run away. You should think about

answer I gave you before is not a joke either. Although you think I haven't thought about it carefully, it's what I feel from the bottom of my heart." Luca calmed down and acted as though her decision

raised his eyebrows and responded, "Are

"I'm sure." Luca took a deep breath, endured the stabbing pain she felt in her heart. She deceived both herself **and him.**

In fact, she wanted to hug Luke and stay by his side more than **anything.**

"You're lying. Your eyes tell me that you're making this up. What a fool. I'll give you a night to think about it. You can decide if you dislike me and the kids..." Luke looked at her tough attitude and was tempted to tell her the truth about how he already knew **everything.**

However, he held back with consideration of her safety.

Luca's body trembled involuntarily. She knew that he was pushing it. She said, "Frankly, I do like the kids but I can't stay by your side because of them. I can't force myself to like you because of *the kids*."

What she said was hurtful. It still hurt even though Luke knew it was not the truth.

He was someone who dealt with his feelings with incomparable coldness. Nevertheless, he had fallen for her time and *time again*.

Luke was even tempted to tie her up until she was willing to admit the *truth*!

"I'll give you a night to think about it," Luke said, then walked *upstairs*.

Lanie, who was standing at the corner of the stairs, heard their entire conversation. When he saw his father leave, he shook his head *helplessly*.

Luke looked at his son's expression, his mood was ashen. He had overestimated Luca's soft heart. She would make all kinds of sacrifices for the kids but when it came to him, she would bury all her sensibility and force herself to *be rational*.

made a gesture to tell Luke to leave the matter

did not say anything and went

behind Luke. He had to pretend he did not hear the conversation between

as the man's figure left her sight and adjusted her breathing. When Luke said what he said earlier, she was on the brink of breaking down. For a fleeting moment, she wanted to be impulsive and tell him everything, including Abel's conspiracy and how he was forcing

learned everything and rescued Nyla, she could risk her life and cherish the rest of her time with

what she wanted more was to live with the children for a long time, to watch them grow up, and stay by their sides as they started their

no matter what, she could only do as Abel said and could not afford to

Luca went upstairs, depressed.

soon as she walked into her bedroom and sat down on her bed, there was a knock on

can I come in?" Lanie's voice came from outside

Luca said, "Come in."

Chapter 1764

Luca wrapped Lanie in her arms. She understood what the kids were thinking.

"Do you see me as one of those women as well?" she asked cautiously, worried that she would be hurt to hear from Lanie that the kids did not like her.

Lanie raised his head and looked at her with a firm gaze. "No, all of us like you, Ms. Luca. I don't know why but we've always thought that you're affectionate and love us as our Mommy did. If it's possible, we hope to be able to live with you for the days to come. Ms. Luca, although our daddy seems cold, he treats his lover gently and wholeheartedly. Rainie and I can guarantee it."

Luca noticed how Lanie was promoting Luke. She smiled and gently pinched his hand. "You like me but you're still young. You can't tell what kind of liking it is."

"We feel that whenever we see you, it's like seeing our mommy. Ms. Luca, Daddy likes you very much and we like you very much too. Think about it. Don't reject Daddy just like that," Lanie said sincerely.

Luca felt disconcerted after hearing what Lanie said.

They liked her and she liked them.

How could a mother not love her children?

Nevertheless, they were in close proximity but were unable to acknowledge each other...

Luca sighed and replied, "You don't understand—"

know, I'm young and don't know anything. However, trust that what I said is true. Rainie, Tommy, and I have thought about whether we would be unhappy if you were to become our mother. In the end, we found that we were able to accept it. Ms. Luca, even if you and Daddy can't be together, we all hope that we can see you every day. Please don't move out..." Lanie rarely acted pampered

not turn him down when she saw how Lanie acted. She said, "Give me some time to think about it,

Luca. Even if you don't like Daddy, we're so cute. There's no way you don't like us. If you don't stay with us, we'll be miserable. I'm sure you've seen a lot of news on TV and in newspapers about how babysitters abuse children, right? You wouldn't have the heart to put us in that situation, will you?" Seeing that she did not agree right away, Lanie knew that he had to keep a hold on

was speechless, it was true that she would never put them in situations as

talking, "If we stay in Crawford Manor, it'll be fine since Great-grandpa is there, so the maids won't dare to do anything to us. However, if Daddy comes home late from working overtime, we only have the maids there to take care of us. Daddy says that he won't have the maids from Crawford Manor take care of us anymore because Grandma is back and needs people to take care of her. As such, he plans to hire a maid from outside, which means that a stranger might enter our home. The possibility of us being abused

knew that Lanie was trying to force her hand and thought that no one would dare to abuse such a they were abused, they definitely would not let it go. They would tell

could not bear looking at how miserable Lanie appeared. She knew that he was doing it to keep her around. She sighed and said, "Okay, let me think

the past, the one who was the least affectionate to her was

Luca never knew whether Lanie liked her. However, after she heard his speech, she knew that Lanie's attachment to her was no less than that of the other two

It was just that he was the eldest among the grandchildren of Old Master Crawford, so he had to appear mature and not show **many emotions**.

The reality was that they were all just **children**.

"Okay, Ms. Luca. You must think about it clearly. Don't be difficult as the other adults. Tell us how you truly feel. There's no point in being difficult, don't you think?" Lanie said with a serious expression.

Luca did not expect that she would be schooled by his **son**.

However, she was put in a difficult position. Which adult *was not*?

Life as an adult was not that easy after **all**.

After she sent Lanie off, Luca closed the door, walked into the ensuite bathroom, washed up, and sat down on the **bed**.

What Luke and Lanie said kept ringing in her ears. She snapped out of it when her phone *rang*.

Luca looked at her phone and found that Amur was calling.

She answered the call. "Amur, it's so late, why haven't you gone to bed?"

too." Amur looked at his computer screen. His surroundings were pitch-black, and he looked slightly petrifying with the computer's light shining on

just laid down and am ready to go to bed. Did something happen?"

been looking for Nina," Amur said, "And I've

sat up and said in surprise, "So

forget that there are many informants from the Island of Despair in A City. Those informants can provide more clues than Luke and Percy's men." Amur was a little proud. Although it may seem like he was on the losing end when compared to Luke, he had strengths that Luke could not compare to

his reminder, Luca knew that Amur had made use of the informants from the Island of Despair in A

However, it does not matter.

it was Amur who engaged them, not her. Hence, it would not attract much attention from

soonest you can find her?" Luca

tracking her now and if it goes well, I'll be able to find her early tomorrow,"

Chapter 1765

The next day, Luca checked her phone as soon as she woke up.

She had nightmares the entire night. She dreamt of being forced to separate from Luke and her children. She also dreamt of Nina being brutally abused by Pierre.

The dreams made her feel suffocated...

Luca looked at her phone. There was a text sent 11 minutes ago. She opened it immediately.

Amur had texted her. He said that he found the place where Nina was being held hostage and he was already creating an anonymous phone software. He would notify Percy as soon as he was done.

Luca got up immediately and replied: [Have you notified Percy?]

Amur responded: [Give me five minutes.]

Luca understood that it meant that the software would take another five minutes to complete. Amur could only notify Percy after the anonymous phone software was made so that he would not be discovered.

One's phone number had to be registered with one's real name. As such, Percy could still find Amur even if he registered for a new number to notify him about Nina's whereabouts.

Luca's heart settled a little. She thought that things would get better now that they were close to finding where Nina was being held. She believed that Percy would come up with a plan to rescue Nina soon.

Luca suddenly remembered that the kids had spent the night here, so she washed up immediately, changed into casual clothes, and went downstairs.

as they were staying with her, she would prepare food for the

opened the door and glanced at the doors of the guest bedrooms. They were still closed. It seemed that everyone was

gently walked downstairs and was stupefied when she saw Luke sitting on the

his head to look at

bit the bullet and greeted him, "Mr. Crawford, good

at home now. You can be a little more casual,"

thought about it. It would be better for her to continue referring to him as Mr. Crawford. The two of them had nothing to do with each other. It would be inappropriate to call him by

of Nina. After Percy found out where Nina was, she was certain that he would inform Luke and get his help. She did not say anything and went into the kitchen

she bought some bread for herself. She only needed to toast the bread, fry some eggs, and warm the milk in the microwave to make a quick breakfast for the

would likely be able to get it sorted before Luke had to make a

up her sleeves and started preparing breakfast. Five minutes later, a simple breakfast was

While Luca was busy in the kitchen, she kept a close ear on what was going on in the living *room*.

After a while, Luke's phone rang.

Shortly after, he walked into the kitchen and said, "I'm heading out. The cleaning lady will come over a little later today. Please keep an eye on her for me."

"**Have some** breakfast before you go. I made some sandwiches," Luca said. She thought that it would be inconvenient for Luke to eat the ingredients separately so she made two sandwiches for *him*.

Luke looked at the simple breakfast, nodded, picked up one of the sandwiches, and finished it in two to three bites. He raised his glass and finished the milk. He then picked up the **other sandwich**.

Just as he was about to leave, he suddenly turned around and said, "Percy may have news about Nina. I'm heading out to lend him a hand but don't have your hopes up. We're just checking out a *plausible lead*."

"*Go on*. I'll take care of the kids." Luca *nodded*.

With her promise, Luke wholeheartedly trusted her with the kids and left with the *sandwich*.

Luca stood by the window and watched Luke drive away. She was lost in *thought*.

'Nina should be safe now...'

Luke left the villa, he drove to the location provided by Percy and met up

men had been waiting there for a long time. At the same time, Percy's men were also waiting there. It was a lively scene as soon as the men from both sides met. If others did not know, they would have thought that the bodyguards were there in preparation for the arrival of someone

sure that the tip is reliable?" Luke

not sure but my men have checked out the area. There's a sophisticated security system set up around the villa. At the same time, there are security guards on duty every few meters. I suspect that Nina is inside," Percy said. He had sent someone to investigate and found that the villa was indeed

belongs to your mother?" Luke asked. His men had already searched for all the villas under Percy's name but they did not

such, they had not found anything

nodded and replied, "I didn't expect him to be so bold and hide her in the villa under our mother's name. Isn't he worried that the Mallory family will be affected if

him, saying, "If Pierre can start a company to compete with Mallory Corporation for business, do you think he would be worried about something like this? Your mother has always favored him. Even though this villa is in her name, there's a chance that she gave it to Pierre long ago. That's why he dared to do such

in agreement. The Pierre he knew now was no longer the younger brother he could easily control back knew that he was Madam Mallory's favorite, so he acted arrogant and unscrupulous in the Mallory

what happened with Luca last time, he learned his lesson and avoided keeping hostages in the villas under

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In the villa.

Nina was groggy. A needle was inserted into the back of her hand. The nutrition solution was delivered into her body through her veins.

She still refused to eat, so she got so weak that she was ill with a fever.

After they administered the fever-reducing injection, the female doctor adjusted the speed of the nutrition infusion and looked at the male doctor. "Why don't we leave the needle in? If her fever doesn't go away, she'll have to go for an intravenous infusion at noon and another bag of nutrition solution later. I'm afraid the boss won't be happy if we keep stabbing her."

The male doctor looked at Nina, then at the maid. He left the decision to her. "Do you think we should leave the needle in?"

The maid replied in an indifferent tone, "Do you dare to do so? She's not a mental patient yet has to be restricted by a straitjacket. After you're done with the infusion, you have to loosen the straitjacket. Can you guarantee that she won't hurt herself using the needle after we leave?"

The male doctor nodded in agreement. "If she tries anything, we'll never hear the end of it from the boss."

"However, these needles..." The female doctor frowned when she thought of how Nina's hands were densely packed with needles.

"Don't worry. She won't stay stubborn for much longer. Her arrogance will be worn away quickly. You'll be done with her soon enough," the maid said confidently. 'It won't take long for a man like Pierre to conquer Nina.'

The two agreed with what the maid said. They believed that Nina would be fine as long as she was willing to obey Pierre.

"I made some refreshments. Let's go have some and come back to check on her later." The maid suggested.

"Okay." The doctors left together.

soon as the three of them walked out of the room, they were shocked by the sight in front of them. A group of men had rushed into the living room with weapons in their

maid was scared shitless. When she saw Percy, she immediately acted calm and said, "Young Master Percy, why are you

looked at the door of the room behind her with a stern expression. When he saw the maid, he was certain that Nina was locked up here by

maid used to work for the Mallory family. Pierre was satisfied with her capabilities and asked her to work for him so that she could manage his villa.

"Is Nina inside?" Percy asked.

knew that she was in trouble and acted dumb. "Nina? Who? I don't understand what you're talking about. Young Master Percy, why did you bring so many people here? You must know that this villa belongs to Young Master

give you one more chance. Is Nina in there?" Percy asked while he glared

maid shook with fear and immediately replied, "Young Master Percy, it's not my fault. I'm just following Young Master Pierre's commands. If I did something wrong, it's because Young Master Pierre asked me to do

them to the side and opened the bedroom door with force. He quickly walked over when he saw Nina, who was lying on the bed.

Nina was in a daze. She thought she heard someone calling her and tried to open her eyes, but it was to *no avail*.

When she did not respond, Percy noticed the needles on the back of her hand and carefully pulled them out. "Nina, I came to save you. Sorry that I'm **late**."

As soon as the needles were removed, Nina's veins began to bleed. Percy grabbed the cotton swab on the bedside table and pressed on the *wound*.

The maid walked in, trembling. The men outside seemed as though they were ready to swallow her whole. She tried to defend herself, saying, "Young Master Percy, it's not my fault. I'm just working under him. I just do whatever he tells **me to...**"

Percy ignored her and continued to call out to Nina, "Nina, can you hear me?"

She seemed to hear Percy's voice...

Nina shook her head and wanted to open her eyes to look at the person in front of her. However, her eyelids were too heavy and she could not open them.

When he saw that, Percy turned his head and said sullenly, "What did you do to **her?!"**

"I didn't do anything!" The maid quickly denied any wrongdoing on her part.

"*Why* does she look like this if you hadn't done anything?" Percy did not believe her.

has a fever now. Of course, she would be drowsy. Don't worry. After I learned she has a fever, I asked the doctors to come over and they gave her a fever-reducing jab," the maid said quickly, trying to

what is this?" Percy asked while he held a

maid said, "This is for the nutrition solution. Ms. Nina refused to eat, so we had no choice but to have her undergo infusion therapy. This is good for her health and has absolutely no

the needle on the floor and looked at her with an indifferent expression. "You falsely imprisoned her. You can explain yourself to the

maid fell down with a loud thump. She knelt on the floor, begging for mercy, "Young Master Percy, you can't do this to me. I'm just doing what Young Master Pierre told me to. If you send me to prison, your brother will be dragged

was Pierre who told you to do all of this? If you have any evidence, you can tell the police." Percy bent over and touched Nina's forehead with his hand. He found that she

He picked her up and left.

stood in the living room and asked when he saw Percy carry Nina out, "What happened to eaten for several days. Her body is weak and feverish," Percy explained. He then looked at his subordinates and said, "I'll leave this to you. Make sure you send all those guilty to the police station. If I find that someone has slipped through the net, you know what I'll do to you,

I know what I should do." The subordinate shuddered when he realized that Percy was not joking and immediately instructed his men to start

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Percy listened to her screams and hugged her silently. "Don't be scared. We're going to the hospital now. You'll feel more comfortable once we get there."

Nina heard his reassuring words and subconsciously grabbed the corner of his clothes. She was scared that he would disappear as soon as she loosened her grip.

'It's not a dream, is it... Percy came to my rescue...'

Nina said nothing. Percy hugged her tightly until she arrived at the hospital.

Johann had arranged for someone to wait for Nina at the hospital's entrance. Percy got out of the car and felt Nina grip him tighter when he wanted to place her on the stretcher.

"Nina, we're at the hospital now. The doctor will take care of you." Percy noticed her unease and reassured her.

Nina shook her head and said, "Don't leave me. I'm scared..."

When he heard that, Percy felt as though his heart shattered.

"Okay, I won't let you go. I'll carry you in." Percy carried Nina in his arms and walked to the hospital.

The doctor who was on stand-by said when he saw that Percy refused to put Nina on the stretcher, "Sir, put the patient on the stretcher so that it'll be easier on you. It's a less bumpy journey for the patient as well."

Nina quickly grabbed Percy's shirt where his chest was when she heard what the doctor said.

"No, I'm fine. Just lead the way." Percy turned down the doctor's offer.

The doctor had no choice but to trot in front to lead the way after seeing how persistent Percy was.

waiting for them in the consultation room. He was slightly startled to see that Nina was carried in by Percy instead of a

is..." He noticed the sweat on Percy's forehead. "Aren't you tired from carrying her all the

not tired. Quick, help her get rid of the fever," Percy said as he tried to place Nina on the bed in the consultation

realized that she was being lowered and clutched onto him tightly. "Don't put

heart softened, and he carried her

she be treated if you don't put her down? Uh, never mind. Sit on a chair if you insist on carrying her. I'll get the nurse to take her temperature." Johann understood why Percy had carried Nina all the way

would go weak in the knees for the charms of a beautiful

completely besotted. He would not behave as such if the woman was not Nina.

he heard what Johann said, Percy sat on the chair. The nurse next to him put the sterilized thermometer into Nina's armpit and said, "Make sure she clamps it tightly or the temperature displayed will

Nina closed her eyes and subconsciously clenched her armpits when she heard the

while, the nurse took out the thermometer. She glanced at it, frowned, and said, "Dr. Park, the patient's temperature is

that high? She needs an antipyretic jab." Johann made arrangements immediately after he heard

Percy thought of something and said, "Wait a minute. She was given an antipyretic jab before this. Will that affect anything?"

"*When* was she injected?" Johann stopped *and asked*.

"*It* should be around half an hour ago," Percy **replied**.

"**Do** you know which antipyretic jab was administered?" *Johann asked*.

Percy shook his head as he was unsure. "I'll ask."

"**Okay**. It'll generally take some time for the antipyretic jab to work after the injection. After an antipyretic jab has been administered, the second jab can't be administered within a certain timeframe. In that case, let's have Ms. Langdon hospitalized. We'll use other means to cool her down for now." Johann made an immediate decision.

Percy trusted Johann's medical skills and decided to do as he said.

Nina was quickly assigned a ward. Percy carried Nina into the ward.

The ward was a VIP ward, and it was quiet. Percy carried Nina carefully and tried to put her on the bed but Nina would not let go of him.

"Don't leave me..." Her voice was **still weak**.

Percy's heart tightened into a bunch. He held her in his arms once more. "Don't worry, I won't leave you. We have to find a way to help you cool down, so you have to lie on the bed. I promise I'll be right beside you the whole time!"

Nina listened to his soothing words and slowly released her grip.

a sigh of relief and laid Nina flat on

a while, the nurse came in with an ice pack and alcohol wipes. She said, "Sir, we're going to help the patient to cool down. Do you need to

boyfriend. I don't need to step aside," Percy said. He was unwilling to go back on his word since he promised Nina that he would stay by her side the entire

nurse nodded and stuffed the ice packs under Nina's

weather had turned cold, so even though it felt like she was burning, she was extremely uncomfortable under the stimulation of the

so cold! I feel so uncomfortable!" she cried

Percy heard her screams, it felt as though her pain had transferred to him. He immediately looked at the nurse and said, "She's screaming out of discomfort. Can you please stop using

sighed and replied, "Ice cubes are the quickest way. If we don't use ice cubes, the only other option is to wipe her down

her down with alcohol, then," Percy said. He was unwilling to see Nina be in such

don't have enough manpower in the hospital. If we resort to using alcohol wipes, we have to keep wiping for some time. Otherwise, it'll be ineffective," the nurse

it." Percy did not even give it a second thought before he

nurse was happy to hear that he was willing to help out, so she taught him how to

Chapter 1768

The antipyretic fluid entered Nina's vein little by little.

After Johann adjusted the speed of the drip, he looked at Percy and saw how in pain he looked. He joked, saying, "It's just an injection. Her fever is so high that she won't feel any pain no matter how sensitive she is to it."

Percy frowned even more when he heard that.

Seeing that Percy was not in the mood to talk, Johann touched his nose and did not continue the conversation. He went through some of the things to be mindful of and left.

...

Luca was in the villa worrying about Nina while taking care of the children.

Her refusals about Luke moving in with the three kids had gone unheard.

The truth was that she wanted more than anything to live with the children and Luke...

The cleaning lady arrived to help take care of the children. As per Luke's instructions, she bought a bunch of ingredients before she came to the villa.

When Luca saw her, she took the initiative to put the groceries in the refrigerator.

Lanie and Rainie were both doing their homework in the living room. When they saw Luca carrying the ingredients into the kitchen, Rainie whispered to Lanie, "Ms. Luca won't leave, right?"

"Daddy was so unconvincing. I had a long chat with Ms. Luca yesterday. I don't think she'll leave?" Lanie muttered. If their daddy could convince her to stay, they would not have to be so worried.

gave him a thumbs-up and praised him, "Lanie, you're awesome! If Ms. Luca stays, we should all thank

looked at his sister's admiration and grinned from ear to ear. "It's no big deal as long as we can make Daddy happy and protect our family. Rainie, you have to put in some work

should I do?" Rainie glanced at the kitchen and saw that Luca was still inside, so they continued

is soft-hearted. You're a girl, so acting weak will soften her heart." Lanie gave her an idea. "Spend some time with Ms. Luca to show her your vulnerability and how you're scared of Great-grandpa. By then, she'll not have the heart to leave and we can leave the rest

nodded, indicating that she knew what to

they were done chatting, Luca came out with a plate full of cut fruits. She looked at the twins and said, "I cut some fruits for you. Do you want to

and Rainie said in

put the plate in front of them. She did not see Tommy, so she asked curiously, "Where's

finished his homework and went upstairs to look for his coloring book,"

and looked at their homework. The children had grown up and were smart. They did not need her guidance to complete their homework. She could not help but sigh for missing out on the period when the children were still

up a piece of apple with a fork and held it to Luca's mouth. "Ms. Luca,

Luca smiled slightly. Rainie's heart-warming action made her feel as though her heart had melted. She opened her mouth and carefully ate the piece of apple given to her by Rainie.

The apple was refreshing and sweet. Luca ate it slowly.

Rainie smiled, her eyebrows curving like the moon. "Ms. Luca, is it delicious?"

Luca looked at her smile and it reminded her of when she was younger. She nodded and said, "It's delicious. You should have some too."

Rainie got a piece and chewed it slowly like her.

"I'm going to ask Tommy to come down." Luca stood up and was about to go upstairs to get Tommy when she saw Luke walk in.

"Daddy, have some apples. Ms. Luca cut them for us!" Lanie greeted him when he saw Luke come in.

Luca walked over, looked at the sliced apples, then at Luca.

"Have you found Nina?" Luca asked immediately, not even bothering to say hello. She was worried sick about Nina. If she was not worried that calling them might affect their operation, she would have called to ask if Luke had found Nina.

"We have. She's in the hospital now," **Luke said.**

Luca's heart tightened, her eyes showing concern for Nina as she asked, "Is she **injured?**"

She has a fever and is being treated in the hospital." Luke knew she was worried about Nina and did not hide anything

at the children with a hesitant

if she did not say anything, Luke knew what she was thinking about. "If you want to go to the hospital, go. I can stay here to watch

was stunned. She did not say anything but he knew exactly what was in her

still so in sync even though three years

you," Luca said. She turned around and went upstairs, intending to change into a fresh set of clothes and head to the hospital. She suddenly thought of Pierre, so she turned around and asked, "Did Pierre

"Yes." Luke nodded.

Mallory be going after him?" Luca continued to ask. Pierre escaped cunningly the time she was kidnapped. This time, she did not want to see Pierre get

said. Even though Percy did not say what he was going to do with Pierre, Luke knew that something was about to

done so many terrible things that Percy's love for his brother had long been exhausted. Not to mention, Nina was his everything. No one was allowed to

publicly offended his woman, so a break between the two brothers

Chapter 1769

Tommy listened to the conversation between the adults and came to assist, saying, "Daddy, Ms. Luca, don't worry. I promise that I'll be good and listen to the cleaning lady, Lanie, and Rainie. I'll be waiting for you to come home!"

Luca nodded and said, "Okay."

Luca walked into the opposite room and said, "Give me five minutes. I have to change."

"Mm." Luca nodded.

Tommy took her hand and whispered, "Ms. Luca, you have to follow closely behind Daddy when you're out."

"Why?" Luca was intrigued. She crouched down and looked at the child.

"It's dangerous and there are many people out there! Only by following Daddy closely can he keep you safe!" Tommy touched the top of her head as she did to him previously. "Ms. Luca, you're my favorite person. You have to keep yourself safe."

Luca was not sure how to feel. Tommy was so young but he already learned to say such things. She looked at the serious look in his eyes and nodded. "I will."

Luke changed his clothes, opened the bedroom door, and raised his eyebrows slightly when he saw their interaction.

Luca subconsciously stood up.

"Daddy, you must protect Ms. Luca when you're outside. Don't let bad guys take her away!" Tommy nagged them like a little old man.

"I'll protect her. Don't worry." Luke looked at the child, the corners of his mouth slightly raised. He could not help but smile.

about us. You should leave now so you can come back early. I want Ms. Luca to tell me a story before I go to bed," Tommy said. He then went downstairs with his

Luca followed behind Tommy.

that she did not say anything, Luke was not bothered and went downstairs with

explained the situation to the kids, Luke left with Luca and drove her to

atmosphere in the car was silent, and Luca's nerves were tense. She felt a little uncomfortable every time she was in such a small space

was worried that her thoughts would be seen through by

clasped her hands together, thought about it for a while, and broke the silence. "Uh, is there enough evidence to charge

worried that this time would be the same as the last, where Pierre paid off some people and got away with

Luke said, "The villa where Nina was held captive belongs to Pierre's mother, which was why no matter how deep Percy dug before, he didn't find anything. He didn't take this

villa is owned by his mother, I'm sure Mr. Mallory wouldn't dare to act rashly. If Madam Mallory is involved, this will be a difficult matter to handle. Madam Mallory has always disliked Nina. If Mr. Mallory involves her because of this, the Mallory family's impression of Nina may worsen.' Luca was worried. On the one hand, she hoped that Pierre would get the punishment he deserved, but on the other hand, she hoped that Nina could find her

would be difficult for Nina to be happy with Percy. If she wanted to pursue Pierre because of this matter, she may annoy Madam Mallory. At that time, if she wanted to get the support of the Mallory family to be with Percy, Luca was afraid it would be

take care of it,"

Luca looked at him suspiciously and asked, "What do you mean by that? Does Mr. Mallory have another way?"

"**He received** an anonymous phone call, and after he found out that the villa belonged to his mother, he started gathering evidence. When he entered the villa, the maid admitted to him that Pierre made her do all of it. Even if the maid wants to flip her statement, it'll be impossible," Luke **said**.

Luca nodded. Although he said that it was unlikely that the maid would change her statement, it was still possible with the intervention of the Mallory family. Even if they have a recording of her confession, the police station would still acquit Pierre and say that he was framed.

When she thought of that, Luca felt that she still had to rely on the strength of the Island of Despair to deal **with Pierre**.

However, those from the Island of Despair were not moving fast **enough...**

'It would be great if those people could hurry up.'

Luca's mood was complicated. She did not even notice when Luke parked the car in the hospital's **parking lot**.

"**We're** here." Luke turned his face sideways to look at Luca, who was in the driver's seat. Her brows were furrowed, so he knew at one glance that she was deep *in thought*.

It was not hard to guess that she was thinking about Nina.

"Ah, that's great." Luca came back to her senses, unfastened her seat belt, opened the car door, and looked at the familiar hospital parking lot. She smiled wryly when she thought of how fated she seemed to be with the hospital. She had been here countless times, no matter if it involved her directly or **indirectly**.

Whenever she saw the hospital, she felt depressed.

go," Luke told her as he opened the door and got out of

and walked side by side with him. The two soon arrived at Nina's

point, Nina had woken up and her fever had almost

how are you?" Luca walked in and asked when she saw Nina

was a little weak because she had not eaten for several days. She said, "I'm fine. I'm

at her pale lips and knew that Nina was just trying to comfort her. She glanced at the IV fluid and did not need to look closely to know that it was

that Nina deliberately went on a hunger strike so that she could escape. Otherwise, her weight would not have dropped

look so weak... What did the doctor say?" Luca walked over, ignoring

resented Percy in her

were not for his previous incident with the Johnston family, Nina would not have left. It was only because Nina was without his protection that Pierre was so bold and dared to hurt

said that I'm fine, I need to stay for observation for one night and can be discharged tomorrow if my fever is gone," Nina said. Right after she woke up, she told Johann about what had

not eating and drinking, the people in Pierre's villa did not act violently against

Chapter 1770

Percy looked at Nina, who lay peacefully on the hospital bed.

She nodded and spoke in a low, gentle voice, "Go. We're in the hospital. Nothing will happen to me."

When he heard her, Percy stood up and walked out of the ward with Luke.

Luca approached the hospital bed and looked at Nina's thin face. It was pale and ashen. "You've lost a lot of weight."

"I couldn't eat when I was there, so naturally, I lost weight." Nina looked at the person in front of her. She could not stop crying when she thought of how Percy was right in front of her as soon as she woke up.

When she saw Luca, she was completely relieved and knew that she was truly safe.

Luca sat on the chair beside the bed and held Nina's frail hand. "After you're discharged, you need to make up for the weight you've lost and eat more food so that you can get back to how you were before."

"I'll eat more if you're the one cooking for me!" Nina was more relaxed when Luca was around. She did not want Luca to worry about her, so she pretended to be at ease and joked.

Luca poked her forehead and asked, "Did Mr. Percy take you to the hospital?"

"Yeah. If it weren't for him, I'd still be sick and stuck in the villa. Luca, if I wasn't on my period, Pierre would've gotten to me. During my time there, I thought about everything that had happened. I was overwhelmed with endless grief and fear. I regretted being so willful and thinking that I could solve everything by myself. In the end, it was Percy who helped me solve all of my troubles. I'm not that capable..." Nina told Luca the things she had thought about over the last few days.

nodded with a smile on her face. "Yes, Mr. Percy has put in a lot of thought and time for you but you didn't notice

see it now. Luca, do you think it's still possible for me and him?" Nina hesitated for a few seconds before

she went through everything that she did, she saw the truth that she had tried to bury and knew that Percy held a special place in her

along, she thought that the gap between them was too large to overcome, so she never wanted to admit her feelings for

course, it's possible," Luca said immediately and with certainty, "Look, Mr. Percy rescued you when you were in trouble. You were locked in the villa these past few days, so you don't know what went on. Mr. Percy has been looking for you since you went missing. He hardly ate or slept during this period. If Pierre wasn't too cunning and hid you in their mother's villa, you would have been found

Although she knew that Percy would look for her, when she heard her close friend say that, she could feel the hardships that Percy went through in the last couple of

sorry to have worried you,"

her bangs aside and said, "All Pierre did was hold you hostage. He didn't hurt you,

Don't worry, I don't find the need to lie for him." Nina shook her head. She felt much better after she got the glucose

he really did anything to you, I'll destroy him!" Luca said as a murderous look flashed in

She was not joking.

She could let it slip when Pierre hurt her but she would never endure him hurting those she *held dear*.

Nina looked at her and thought the way Luca cared for her felt familiar. She was worried that Luca would step on Pierre's toes for her, so she gently held Luca's hand and said, "Trust me, nothing happened except that I starved. It was just for a few days. The weight loss is not a big deal."

"Enough with the fake optimism. I'm sure that this incident must have caused a lot of trauma. If you're ready to talk, tell Mr. Mallory everything. Find a psychiatrist and go for therapy. Don't keep everything to yourself," *Luca said*.

Nina nodded.

Luca glanced at the fruits on the table and asked, "There are some fruits here. Do you **want some?**"

"Yeah, I want some grapes," Nina said after she noticed that there were grapes in the fruit basket. Percy had asked someone to send it over after Johann told him that she could have fruits to supplement her condition.

The fruits in the basket were all her **favorites**.

Nina did not expect that Percy, who had never once asked her what she liked, would know so much about *her*.

she took off her rose-tinted glasses, she found that he was not arrogant toward her. Rather, he was careful and

walked to the fruit basket, glanced at it, and said with a smile, "They're all your favorites. Did Mr. Percy buy it for

did you know?" Nina

is the only one who would be so thoughtful to prepare so much for you. Look at me. I came in a hurry and am empty-handed." Luca picked up a bunch of grapes and walked into

reminder, Nina noticed that Luca came

Saturday. Logically speaking, Luca did not have to go to work, and her outfit also did not look like she came

washed the grapes and saw the delicate fruit plate on the side. She thought that Percy was so thoughtful that he even got a

it up, put the grapes on it, and went

grapes look fresh. They should be very sweet." Luca put the grapes on the bedside table, looked at Nina who was still on the intravenous drip, and asked, "Would you like me to help you adjust

noded. Percy was so worried about her just now that he refused to adjust the bed even though she said that she was getting back pain from lying down