

Be Gentle 1771

Chapter 1771

Nina took the peeled grapes and said, "Some of your habits are very similar to mine."

"Isn't that normal? After all, we're good friends." Luca smiled. She then lowered her head and continued to peel the grapes for her.

Outside the ward.

Percy and Luke each had a cigarette in their hand.

"How's it going?" Luke asked. If Percy was willing to make a move on Pierre, he would be more than happy to help.

Although Pierre had not made any big moves now, they all saw his ambition.

Right now, he was only afraid of the two old masters from the Crawford and Mallory families. After a few years, no one would be able to control him when he grew stronger. As such, it was necessary to deal with a hazard like Pierre as soon as possible.

"Those involved have been taken to the police station. Pierre should know that I've rescued Nina by now." Percy took a deep breath and blew out some smoke circles.

In front of Nina, all he could do was to take good care of her and show her his gentleness. In places where she could not see him, he was melancholic and ruthless.

The melancholy was because Pierre was his younger brother. The Mallory family would definitely not allow him to deal with Pierre publicly.

The worst thing was that as his younger brother, Pierre went for the woman he loved the most, as well as made moves behind his back.

Mallories were not in charge of the company, it was impossible for them not to know about what Pierre had been doing. Although they knew that what he was doing may harm the interests of Mallory Corporation at any time, they did not

knew that if he went after Pierre, the majority of the Mallories might be on

road of vengeance would

his cigarette and remembered what Old Master Mallory had once taught him. "In this world, the strong will dominate the weak. It doesn't matter if you're the eldest grandson of the Mallory family and you've been trained to be the heir since you were young. If one day, they find that you're not as good as your younger brother, even if the Mallories are on your side, the shareholders of Mallory Corporation won't be. As such, you must be strong enough to carry the

should I do next?" Luke continued to ask. He had no choice but to let go of what had happened last time due to the interference of various forces. This time, he would help Percy no matter

my notice." Percy had not thought it through. He had already found someone to keep watch at the police station. He would be immediately notified if Pierre or other strangers went to visit those

If you decide to avenge Nina, I'll help you. After all, Pierre has also touched my woman," Luke said. He held onto some guilt for having to mind the bigger picture and not being able to

had offended him and now, he had offended Percy. His good days were coming to

the way, my people can't track the anonymous phone number. Can I borrow someone from your side?" Percy asked. He did not pay much attention to the anonymous call at first because he thought that it was a prank

found Nina, he asked someone to investigate the matter but they could not find out the source of

don't have to look for it as you won't be able to find the person behind it," Luke said. "The call came at the perfect timing and was anonymous. On top of that, the signal was hidden with special software. Do you think that it can be tracked that

"Based on your tone, you know who called me?" Percy **frowned suspiciously**.

Luke glanced at the ward's door and noticed that Luca was still inside.

"**Luca has** been worried about Nina," *he said*.

Percy nodded. He knew that Luca had tried everything to find Nina.

"*We've always* suspected that Luca is refusing to admit her true identity because there are forces behind her that are forcing her to do so. There's someone who's keeping watch of her," Luke said. It did not seem like a coincidence that Amur came back yesterday and they received an anonymous call the next day.

He suspected that it was Luca who asked Amur to help find **Nina**.

The forces behind Luca forced her to go through plastic surgery and then arranged a fake Bianca to be by his side. They must have a foothold in A City. Otherwise, how dare they act **so boldly?**

"*You suspect* it's Luca?" Percy snuffed out the cigarette and asked.

"*I suspect* it's Luca's titular brother." Luke's attitude was not the best when he mentioned Amur. As a man, he had a natural hostility toward *Amur*.

Percy nodded and thought that his suspicions were **not unreasonable**.

gotten someone to watch him in secret." Luke also put out the

opened the window. Nina did not like the smell of cigarettes on him, so he had stopped himself from smoking. If the matter was not that serious, he would not be

a while, the two walked in. When they saw Luca sitting on the chair beside the bed feeding Nina grapes, they looked at each

friendship never went away. Even though Luca had changed her identity, Nina quickly accepted

heard the sound of them walking in and looked at them. "Are you
nodded. He was envious of how she was taking care
the last peeled grape in Nina's hand and put the plate
doctor said you can eat solid food now, so I'll cook some chicken soup for you tonight, okay?" she
wonderful." Nina's eyes lit
glanced at Luke. She knew that he still had work to do. Besides, she had a bunch of documents to
translate. She stood up and said, "I'll come back
you don't have to worry about me. Go." Nina nodded. Her mood significantly improved after she spent
some time with

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Nina noticed the worry in his eyes and said softly, "Are you struggling with what to do with Pierre?"
Percy looked at her. After she was rescued, she no longer resisted him. Her tenderness was hard-won as
the price was for her to experience those terrible things.
He would rather she did not experience them and for her to see his love for her bit by bit through his
hard work so that it would hurt her a lot less.
"No, don't read into it." Percy put his hand on her forehead and removed it only when he felt that her
temperature was normal.
"Don't lie to me. Pierre is your younger brother. If you go after him for my sake, you won't be able to
explain it to your family. Since I've woken up, your phone has rung three times and you didn't answer a
single call. It's someone from the Mallory family who's calling you, no?" Nina hated Pierre, and she did
not want to let the matter slide.
However, she could not deal with this mad man alone. She could only do it with Percy's help...
If Percy stood on her side, however, he would be fighting against a whole lot of people. She could not
bear to let Percy face something as such.
She blamed herself for everything. If she had accepted Percy's feelings for her and his protection, Pierre
would at least have his scruples and not do anything to her.
"It has to do with the company." Percy tucked her in and reassured her. "Don't read into it."
Nina knew that he was saying this only because he did not want her to feel guilty, so she nodded. She
knew that no matter what she said, it would not change Percy's decision.
She was incapable of fighting against Pierre, but Jean...
her gaze slightly. She was unwilling to forgive Jean after she learned from Pierre that Jean had worked
with him to lie to her so that she would show up at

...

Luke drove to the villa.

breathed a sigh of relief after she personally made sure that Nina was fine. She felt much more relaxed sitting in the passenger

thoughtfully, "You care about Nina a

you say that?" Luca looked at the reversing scenery outside the window and wondered. 'How did he notice the change in my mood when he's

front of him, there seemed to be a detector for the emotions she wanted to hide. He knew

look much more relaxed than before,"

nodded and explained, "I was worried that Nina would be bullied by Pierre when she was held hostage. Her mental state is too fragile. She wouldn't be able to deal with it if she encountered something like that. Fortunately, that's not what happened, so the trauma isn't as bad. Also, after this incident, she knows who matters most in her heart. So it's somewhat a blessing in

to her words of concern for others, stared ahead, and said thoughtfully, "You're glad she found out who's the most important person in her life, but how

"What?" Luca looked at him. She did not understand what **he meant**.

"What are you thinking about? When will you recognize your true feelings?" Luke asked.

Luca turned her head away and clasped her hands together uneasily. "I don't understand what *you mean*."

Luke did not continue talking. Since Luca wanted to be an ostrich, he could not force her. If he pushed her too hard, she might *resist him*.

His phone rang. He glanced at it, picked up the Bluetooth earphones beside him, put them on, and answered the call. "What's the matter?"

Luca knew from the tone of his voice that it was not the children who **called**.

Luke had a different tone of voice when he talked on the phone with different people. To Bianca, he was gentle and loving. Although he was more stern when he spoke to the kids, his tone was still gentle and affectionate. He was respectful toward Old Master Crawford. With other people, he spoke indifferently as though there was no warmth to him at all.

The person on the other end of the phone said something. Luca did not hear anything since he was wearing earphones. However, she noticed that his tone had become more serious. "I'm on my way."

She watched as Luke hung up the phone as soon as he finished talking. She asked with a frown, "What happened?"

"Something happened at Crawford Manor. I need to go back now," Luke said. Although he just mentioned that 'something happened', Luca knew that it had to do *with Allison*.

began to cause drama only after a few days

Luca heard that it was about Crawford Manor, she thought that it would be inappropriate for her to be involved. She said, "Drop me on the side of the road. I'll take a

glanced at her and knew what she was thinking about. He said, "I have to trouble you to come with me. I can't solve this matter

'He can't solve it alone...'

I'll try my best." Luca nodded in agreement as she knew that it involved

a lot of attention to her appearance. Although the concoction she prescribed had prevented her face from getting worse, it did not cure

such, Luca had been expecting her to make a scene sooner

that she consented to be involved, Luke turned around at the intersection ahead and headed for

was the weekend, so there were more people on the road. They took more than half an hour to reach

soon as Luke stopped the car, the butler hurried over, looking utterly anxious. "Young Master Luke, you're finally back. Please get Madam Allison to calm

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At that moment, the two acted like shrews who were fighting in the market square.

When Allison saw Luke, she knew that her support had arrived. Before Susan could say anything, she cried out, "Luke, I don't feel welcomed in this house! I don't want to live anymore!"

Luca listened as Allison cried about her misery. It was made clear that she wanted Luke to step in.

Nevertheless, Luke was the kind of person who sided with reason. He did not side her blindly. Instead, he asked, "What happened? Your quarrel is scaring Thea."

Thea planted her bum on the floor all of a sudden. Thea covered her face and cried so hard as if she was going to be out of breath at any moment. Luca could not bear to leave her as such, so she walked over, took her hand, and comforted her softly. "It's okay. Everything is okay. Don't cry."

Thea continued crying although she was being comforted.

Susan noticed it and pulled Thea to her side. She scolded Allison dismissively, "If you don't want to live, I'm all for it. Why are you still here to hinder the earth's rotation? Do you think your son will back you up now that he's here?"

Seeing that Susan was unwilling to back down, Allison decided to change her tactics and pretended to be vulnerable. She said, "Luke, look, this house is no longer my home. She speaks ill of me to anyone who's willing to listen to her. She's trying to force me to leave. Please take me away from this horrible place. I don't want to live here anymore."

Susan snorted coldly and replied, "It's best if you're willing to move out so you won't scare my baby Thea anymore. Why are you still going around scaring people with that ugly face of yours? Are you

trying to scare my baby granddaughter to death? Sure enough, ugly people will do all kinds of weird things to get attention."

dare you?!" Allison was hit on her sore spot and was ready to fight Susan. However, as soon as she took a step forward, the maid who held her was frightened and held onto her

frowned. He was extremely annoyed by what was

Manor was peaceful for several years because of Allison's imprisonment. It had not been long since she got out of prison but she and Susan had started arguing

quarrels annoyed everyone. The only ones unaffected were the two parties

sighed helplessly as she watched the

raised his hand and pointed at Susan. "Luke, she called me ugly. She even told the maid to tell her granddaughter. I can't let go

knew how vicious Susan's words were, but it was not his place to say anything. Although she was in the wrong, she was still Louis' mother and

arguing," he scolded them with a cold tone, "I brought Dr. Craw here. She's going to do a check-up on your skin. Do you want to consult with

touched her face subconsciously. There were endless wrinkles. She had applied the herbal concoction for so long but her skin did not seem to get any better. However, it also did not get worse. She quickly said, "Yes, I want to consult

"Go upstairs, then," Luke said. The quarrel could only be settled by getting Allison *upstairs*.

Allison *stared* at Susan fiercely. Susan was uncomfortable looking at her terrifying face paired with her piercing **gaze**.

"What are you looking at?! You'll never have skin as smooth as mine," Susan sarcastically said. She had always been pissed about Zachary being on Allison's side in the past because of her inability to have children and her age. She felt that it was also because she was not as good-looking as Allison. However, she could finally stand proud now that Allison's face ended up **as such**.

The tables had turned and it was Allison's turn to be the unlucky one.

Susan felt at ease. She would be more at ease if Allison left *Crawford Manor*.

"I'll cut you after I see the doctor!" Allison said viciously as she turned around and **went upstairs**.

Luke gave Luca a look.

Luca nodded and was about to follow her upstairs.

Susan said sarcastically, "I don't know why you're wasting your time since the plastic surgeons have already said that your face can't be restored. Isn't it a waste of resources for you to see the doctor? If you have the time, why not go to the suburbs and choose a nice cemetery plot? You might be able to get a spot with nice scenery. Maybe that'll make you want to die faster."

She turned around and glared at Susan viciously. "What did you say? I'll tear you to pieces if you continue

only telling the truth. Why? Luke, doesn't your mother allow others to tell the truth? Although she met the plastic surgeon in prison, she can't hide the results of her diagnosis from others. Does she think that no one knows about her rotten face just because she hasn't gone outside since her release from prison? Allison, everyone in the world knows that your face is ruined and can't be cured!" Susan continued to trigger Allison seeing that her reaction was so

you!" Allison knew that if anyone out there knew about her situation, half of the reason

matters should be kept within the household, but Susan told everyone about her condition. It was clear that Allison wanted her to become a joke in the public

stood at the head of the stairs, blocking Allison's way. She said with a serious expression, "Ms. Tanner, I'm in a hurry. If you don't think you need a consultation today, I'll head off

heard that, she had to calm herself down. The concoction that Luca gave her was the most effective out of everything she had ever received from the doctors. She only had Luca to rely

"I'll deal with you later! Bitch!"

shouted that, she headed

a sigh of relief. It was obvious that Susan wanted to pick a fight. She continued to trigger Allison even after she had backed down. If it were not for her quick thinking, they might have gotten into

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Louis immediately grabbed Susan and walked off. "Okay, Mom, that's enough. The villa is almost ready. You can move in with us when the time comes."

When Susan heard that, she scolded, "Bastard! I told you that I won't move out! You're not allowed to move out as well. This is your home!"

Louis was not bothered. He went upstairs with her.

Luke stood downstairs, deep in thought. Allison and Susan were incompatible with each other so he had expected them to fight.

He knew that he could not postpone his plans any longer.

"Young Master Luke, are you moving out for good with Young Master Tommy and the others?" the butler asked.

"Mm, I won't be moving back for the time being." Luke nodded. He did not want the kids to be affected by their infighting.

Aside from that, he had not returned to Crawford Manor often because he was occupied with work. It was a better option for him and the kids to live in the villa and have them get closer to Luca so that she would open up to them about her true identity sooner.

"Since you and the kids left, it feels like this home is missing something. Old Master Crawford doesn't like to stay here either. He's been going out to meet with his friends more frequently." The butler sighed when he thought of how the once lively home had turned so silent. The occasional sounds were from Susan and Allison, who just yelled at each other whenever they interacted.

"I'll bring the kids back when they're on holiday," Luke said, "I'll go upstairs to see what's going on."

"Okay." The butler nodded.

went upstairs, opened the door to Allison's room, and frowned when his nose was overwhelmed by her
It was way too strong...

was sitting on the chair by the bed, taking

Luke walk in but did not react to it. She went on and on, asking Luca questions, "When will my
listened to her endless questions, finished checking her pulse, and looked at the man behind her
answer Allison's question but she knew that the other party would not accept her

you need to continue applying the concoction to manage the condition of your face. I just checked your
pulse and found that your problem is not only on your face. In addition to applying the concoction, I'll
also prescribe some oral medication to treat your body," Luca said, dodging her

she heard that there was something wrong with her body, Allison pulled back her hand suspiciously and
said, "I'm eating and sleeping well. How could there be a problem with my body? Are you talking
nonsense because you want to earn more from

Luca sighed and replied, "I haven't received a single cent from you. Your pulse is much more chaotic
than when you were in prison. I think it has something to do with your daily routine, so I suggest you
make a change. Your health will improve when we work on it internally and externally."

Allison was still suspicious. The wrinkles on her face deepened because of the expression on her
wrinkled face. "My daily routine is good. Are you incompetent and just spewing nonsense?"

"Don't consult with me if you don't trust me. Ms. Tanner, if you have doubts about my abilities, you can
stop using my concoction." Luca was fuming a little. As Luke's mother, Allison had never helped him in
any way but put him through the wringer all the time.

The saying went 'love me, love my dog'. Hence, if she loved Luke, she should love everything about him.
However, she could not bring herself to like Allison, a mother who would only hold him **back**.

As time went on, she was a little disgusted by her.

Luke spoke up for Luca, "Dr. Craw's advice for you is for your own good. Okay, she'll prescribe some
medicine for you. It's your choice whether you want to take it *or not*."

Allison glared at him, dissatisfied.

She was mad that her son would side with outsiders instead of her, his **mother**.

"I know. I'll take the medicine on time in full. If it doesn't work, I'll stop taking it, alright?" Allison said in an **odd tone**.

not speak, and neither did

they did not say anything, Allison thought of something and said, "Uh, I have something to talk to my son about. Give us some

to her unceremonious tone as if she thought of her as a maid. She did not say anything and just walked watched Luca leave, his dissatisfaction toward Allison growing even

are you going to say?" His tone was cold as if the person in front of him was not his mother but

stretched out her hand and said, "You haven't given me any living expenses since I got released from prison. Are you trying to have me starve to

do you want?" Luke asked straightforwardly. He was clear about what she wanted from him and did not bother to go around in circles.

that things were going her way, Allison got a little excited. She planned to ask for one million, but seeing how casually he acted, she decided to go all out and said, "I want three

you need three million for?" Luke frowned. The amount was within his

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"I'm going to send you to South Korea to see a doctor. Plastic surgery there is advanced. The doctors here say that you can't be cured but that's not necessarily the case if you go abroad. However, if you don't want to go, you can stay here," Luke said. He originally planned to send her off after a few months but now that she was causing such a scene, he just wanted to get it done right away.

Peaceful days were ahead of them as soon as Allison went abroad.

When Allison heard that he was going to send her to Korea for plastic surgery, her anger disappeared immediately. However, she was worried that he was lying to her, so she said, "I want to go to the best hospital in South Korea. I won't go if there isn't a good doctor."

"I'll make the necessary arrangements," Luke said.

"Okay, I'll say yes for now. After I've received treatment, I'll come back to A City immediately," Allison said. She made it clear that she did not intend to stay abroad for too long.

"Mm," Luke said.

On the other hand.

Luca was not the least bit interested in their conversation. After she left Allison's bedroom, she went downstairs, where the butler was cleaning the antiques that Old Master Crawford had placed on the shelf.

"Ms. Craw, do you want some tea?" the butler asked enthusiastically when he saw her coming downstairs.

Luca shook her head and suddenly thought of Allison's health. She asked the butler, "Can I ask you something?"

"Go for it. I just want to give you a heads up that I don't have the final say on everything in this household, so there might be some things that I'm unaware of," the butler replied cautiously.

and replied, "It's not about a secret. I just want to ask you if you've noticed anything different with Ms. Tanner's daily

Allison? There's nothing odd about her daily routine. It's the same as before," the same as before?" Luca

Allison has always gone to bed late and woke up late. When she wakes up, she skips breakfast, so her first meal would be lunch. Sometimes, to maintain her figure, she won't eat dinner either. I haven't paid much attention to when she goes to bed because all the maids at Crawford Manor are not allowed to go upstairs after ten o'clock," the butler

nodded. She understood the reason behind Allison's abnormal

she was in prison, she was on a strict schedule. Allison had to follow the schedule set by the prison, so she did not stay up late or get up late. She had three meals a day too. However, she returned to her old ways once she returned to

were still young, her body may be able to adapt to it quickly. However, it was not the case for women her

the body's natural defense mechanism to protest her staying up late. That contributed to her pulse being

Craw, why are you asking?" The butler could tell that there was a reason behind why Luca asked

her head and said, "Nothing to worry about. I just asked out of curiosity. I'll leave you to attend to

The butler did not push for it seeing that she was unwilling to

Luca stood and waited at the top of the stairs. After a while, Luke **came downstairs**.

"Mr. Crawford, can we head off now?" She remembered her promise to cook chicken soup for Nina. If she left now, she would still have some time to cook it. However, if they left any later, she would have to cook the chicken soup in a *hurry*.

"Okay." Luke went downstairs and told the butler, "Call me if anything **happens**."

"**Yes**, Young Master Luke," the *butler replied*.

Luke looked at Luca with a neutral expression and said, "Let's go."

Luca nodded and followed behind him.

The butler turned around and looked at the two. He sighed and thought that the two of them were a great match, but it would not be easy for them to get together considering that Bianca was **still around**.

At that moment, Louis went downstairs and saw that there was no one else in the living room. He asked, "Where's Luke?"

"Young Master Luke and Ms. Craw just left," the **butler replied**.

Louis nodded and asked, "How did he look when *he left*?"

"Nothing out of the ordinary."

good. I hope Luke isn't mad." Louis spread his hands helplessly. He had a headache thinking about the mess his mother

Louis, I'll manage the situation here. You can head off to work." The butler smiled and said thoughtfully when he saw how distressed Louis looked. He knew a little about what was going on with everyone in Crawford

example, he knew that Luke was working on a big project and Louis' studio had just received a big

Master Crawford told him all

Crawford did not usually have anyone by his side, so he would ramble with him. The butler remembered everything he

for the trouble. I'll head off to work now." Louis waved the butler goodbye and

...

sat in Luke's car as he drove to

wrong with my mother's body?" Luke started the conversation seeing that she did not tell him anything about the matter since she got into

at him and explained, "I think that there's something wrong with her liver. There should be no major problem if she's willing to receive treatment

Chapter 1776

Luke stepped on the accelerator when he heard what she blurted out. "Are you taking pity on me?"

"No, your identity and status are envied by others. You don't need any pity." Luca turned her head to the side and was annoyed at herself for babbling.

"Those are just what others see on the surface. Luca, you see more of me than others do. Do you still envy the real me?" Luke asked.

"No," Luca answered without a second thought.

Luke chuckled and said, "You can take pity on me. I do hope that you sympathize with me more and stay by my side."

Luca's heart ached when she heard what he said.

She wanted to stay by his side, but it was impossible. Abel would never allow it. She was living in agony but she could not tell him anything.

The only thing that she could do was express her firm denial. "Mr. Crawford, nothing is ever going to happen between us."

"Someone said this to me once and I made the impossible possible. Luca, how long do you think it'll take me to get you to accept me?" Luke stood his ground.

Luca was heartbroken. She wanted nothing more than to hug the man who seemed to be glorious on the surface but bore a lot of responsibilities on his shoulders.

He was human. No matter how tough he was, he would get tired as well.

However, he did not let anyone know about his difficulties. He just endured them silently.

as I said, nothing will ever happen

that you're wrong sooner or later." Luke parked his car at the entrance of the supermarket and said, "Don't you want to make chicken soup for Nina? Do you need to get the

you, Mr. Crawford. You can head back now. We're not too far from the villa. I can just walk back after I'm done getting groceries,"

his seat belt and opened the car door. "The kids didn't bring any snacks when they moved in. I'm going to buy them

was surprised that he knew what snacks the kids

thought about it. It was not odd seeing that he had been taking care of the children all these years. No matter how careless he was, after a while, he would learn about the kids' likes and

don't I buy them on your behalf?" Luca said. She was not into the idea of the two doing

a lot of popular movie stars living in the area, so many reporters were lurking around to get

if those reporters saw her shopping in the supermarket with Luke, news of it would be sure to occupy the headlines the very next

you know what snacks they like?" Luke

to say that she knew seeing that they were her

"There are only so many snacks that kids like. I'll just buy a little of everything," she replied.

"You haven't been a mother, have you? A lot of companies include additives in the snacks to improve the taste. Those aren't nutritious for kids. On top of that, the kids are picky. They won't eat just any snacks," Luke said as he walked into the **supermarket**.

Luca glanced around and found that there were no reporters around, so she followed behind him and walked into *the supermarket*.

She thought that she would just buy what she needed while Luke went to get the children's snacks. They would go their own ways and the reporters would have nothing to write about.

After they walked into the supermarket, she grabbed a shopping trolley while Luke kept his hands empty.

"Mr. Crawford, aren't you going to buy snacks for the kids? Why didn't you get a trolley?" **Luca asked.**

"Your cart is more than enough. Why bother?" Luke put his hands in his pockets to make it clear that he did not intend to grab a trolley.

Luca knew that Luke had made up his mind to shop with her.

She no longer had to guess what Luke was trying **to do...**

After all, he had announced that he was interested in her prior. It would be meaningless to **speculate.**

Luca pushed the trolley and walked toward the fruits and *vegetables area.*

Luke followed behind her.

subconsciously looked around. When he saw her, he could not help but tease her. "You look like a character in a

rare for Luke to tease her like that. She would not have acted as such if he was not standing

I didn't expect that a busy man like you would spend your time watching TV shows." She was too lazy to continue the conversation when she heard his

don't, but I'll watch some on and off. Rainie doesn't like watching cartoons anymore. She likes watching TV shows. She'll usually watch TV on the second floor while Tommy watches cartoons on the TV on the first floor,"

It was normal for kids to think that cartoons were childish and move on to watch TV shows as they grew

don't you ask me what you look like at the moment?" Luke was slightly bothered that she did not seem to care about what he said, so he continued to tease

picked up the vegetables and asked in a casual tone, "What do I

like a thief." Luke took a jab. "You're looking around like you're about to do

don't want to get myself into trouble." Luca picked up a handful of vegetables and put them in the shopping cart. While she was picking the vegetables, she was also thinking about what she would be preparing for dinner later that

Luke raised an eyebrow.

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After Luca bought the ingredients to make chicken soup and dinner, they walked to the snacks area. She watched Luke pick out several snacks and put them in the shopping cart.

She secretly jotted down the snacks in her head.

After that, the two of them went to the checkout counter. The cashier put all the items in the shopping bag. Before Luca could react, Luke paid for the bill using his phone.

Luca had no choice but to follow behind him. She wanted to settle the bill by herself but did not expect that he would fight for the bill.

Once they got home, the children surrounded them.

Tommy blinked his big watery eyes and asked, "Daddy, did you buy any snacks?"

"Yes, they're all in the bag," Luke said.

"That's wonderful. Long live Ms. Luca!" Tommy clapped and hugged Luca's hand.

"Huh? Long live me?" Luca looked at the children in amazement. Luke was the one who got them the snacks, so she was not sure why they were cheering for her instead.

"If not for you, Ms. Luca, Daddy probably wouldn't get us anything to eat. Then we'd have to go through another day without snacks. Ms. Luca, I truly feel like Daddy's child when you're around!" Tommy complained about Luke on purpose.

Luke was not bothered by what Tommy said. After all, he knew that he did so to keep Luca around.

He would do anything as long as Luca would stay.

at Tommy, patted his head helplessly, and said, "Your daddy was the one who bought these. You should thank

listen to everything that you say, Ms. Luca. Thank you, Daddy!" Tommy turned his head with a smile. He winked cheekily as he

planned it out with his

mommy thought their daddy did not take good care of them, she would be reluctant to leave. As such, they were doing their best to make it seem like Luke did not care about them at

the shopping bags on the coffee table and took out the children's snacks. "These snacks are for you. Make sure you don't eat all of them at once,

it, Ms. Luca," the kids said in

not say anything when the children slandered him. His goal would be achieved as long as Luca believed them and was reluctant to have the children

took out the snacks, she picked up the shopping bag and walked to

followed behind her like a little bootlicker. "Ms. Luca, are you going to

I'm going to make some chicken soup for Aunt Nina," Luca

lit up when he heard that. "Ms. Luca, can you make some more? We want to have the chicken soup you make too. Since we started eating your cooking, we realized that other people's food isn't as good. Even when Daddy takes us out to eat, the food isn't as good as your cooking

and replied, "Okay, I'll make more. We'll have chicken soup for

"Yay! Ms. Luca, life is great with you around." Tommy followed her into *the kitchen*.

Lanie and Rainie looked at Tommy, then looked at each other. Lanie took the lead and said, "I told you Tommy was the best person to do this."

"Yes, we'll leave these to Tommy moving forward." Rainie decided. They were older kids and no longer what they were when they were five years old. It felt a little childish if they were to say the things he *said*.

However, it was different with Tommy. He was still at a childish age, so there was nothing wrong with him saying things like *that*.

Luke listened to his daughter and son's conversation while laughing.

"Daddy, don't laugh. We're helping you." *Rainie protested.*

"Mm, it's a great arrangement. You're choosing the right people to do the right things. That's smart," Luke said and **walked upstairs.**

There were too many things that happened today, so he did not have the chance to deal with the tasks in T Corporation. He was going to work.

Each bedroom in the villa was quite large. Luca had asked for the study to be used as a laboratory, so his desk and the children's desks were all placed in their respective bedrooms. They did not use the **other bedrooms.**

After Luca made the chicken soup, she called the children to come over and eat.

After a while, the kids and the cleaning lady were sitting at the dining table, waiting to eat. However, Luke was nowhere to be seen.

"Where's Mr. Crawford?" Luca asked.

Luca, Daddy is still working in his room," Rainie said in a

that so? Ask him to come down and tell him it's time for dinner," Luca said to

don't want to go." Rainie shook

a little stunned that the child refused to do as she asked. "Why don't you want

is very serious when he works and doesn't like to be disturbed. He'll come down to eat when he's hungry,"

cleaning lady heard that, she stood up and said, "I'll go tell Young Master Luke to come downstairs

grabbed the cleaning lady's hand and said, "Aunt, don't go. It's scary when Daddy gets angry. I don't want him to be angry

the cleaning lady heard it, she stopped what she was doing to ensure that she could keep her job.

However, she was not sure what to do next. She said, "The chicken soup will not taste good when it's cold. He might blame me

Luca, you can take the chicken soup to Daddy's bedroom. He won't be angry if you go. Daddy makes use of every minute to deal with work, so Ms. Luca, you should go. I'm sure he won't be mad at you,"

Luca understood what Rainie meant.

was busy at work, did not want to be disturbed. However, it would be okay if she

Chapter 1778

After she was done with dinner, Luca set off to the hospital with a thermos flask in her hand.

After Luke finished his meeting, he came down with the tray, which the cleaning lady immediately took to the kitchen. He subconsciously looked for Luca.

However, he did not see her.

Tommy sat on the sofa and read a storybook. When he saw Luke looking around, he said, "Daddy, you don't need to look for Ms. Luca. Ms. Luca has already left."

"She went out?" Luke frowned and sat beside his son.

"Yeah. Ms. Luca went out after dinner. She said she was going to visit Aunt Nina." Tommy was a qualified messenger.

"Why didn't she ask me to drive her?" Luke took his son's storybook and flipped it resignedly.

When he saw how Luke reacted, Tommy took his storybook and said, "Ms. Luca knew that you were busy, so she didn't want to bother you. She cares about you. Why are you unhappy about that?"

Seeing how street smart Tommy was, Luke suspected that he watched those TV shows with Rainie. He raised his hand and flicked his forehead with his fingers. "You're just a kid. Don't worry about what the adults are up to."

Tommy rubbed his forehead in pain. "Daddy, I won't care about you anymore. I don't get why you're upset when Ms. Luca is being considerate to you."

"I'd rather she trouble me more." Luke believed that loving someone included solving their troubles. He was more than happy to do so.

Tommy picked up his storybook and jumped off the sofa. He shook his head helplessly when he saw how his Daddy acted. Adult relationships were not something that a child like him understood.

face was stern when he saw how Tommy reacted. "What do you want

world of adults is too complicated for me. I'd better go back to the bedroom and read my storybook," Tommy said and headed upstairs with his storybook in his

Luca stood up as well.

not want to trouble him, so he would continue working. He would have more time to win over her if his work was

they had the rest of their lives together. He believed more than anything that Luca was destined to be with

...

arrived at the hospital, walked into the ward, and noticed that Percy was still around. He won some brownie points from her.

was worried that Nina would be in danger if she were left alone in the hospital, so he took care of her and never left her side. It was a good thing. With him around, Nina would be safe. She would not have to worry about being harassed by Pierre and his

here!" Nina smiled when she saw

walked in with the thermos and said, "Yes, I promised to cook chicken soup for you. Do you want to have some

I haven't eaten in a while. I'm so hungry that it's making me uncomfortable. I'd love to have some chicken soup now." Nina smiled. The chicken soup Luca brought was timely as it could relieve the discomfort in her

Percy frowned and asked, "Your stomach is feeling uncomfortable? Why didn't you **tell me?**"

Nina did not want him to know. After all, it was just an upset stomach. She knew she would feel better after drinking something warm, so she did not say anything and waited for Luca *to come*.

She did not expect to be so excited when she saw Luca carrying the chicken soup that she let **it slip**.

"It's nothing to worry about. I'll feel better after I have some chicken soup," Nina quickly said for fear that Percy would get all the doctors involved and ask them to do a bunch of examinations on *her*.

"You were on a hunger strike for a few days. A little discomfort can end up being a big problem." Percy wanted the doctor to come and do a check-up **on her**.

He could not bear to lose Nina. He did not want to take any **risk**.

"I'm fine, trust me." Seeing that he was about to look for a doctor, Nina quickly persuaded him to stop. She looked at Luca and said, "If you don't believe me, ask Luca to check my pulse. Her medical skills are even praised by Mr. Crawford."

Luca nodded. She also thought that Nina had no major problem, so she looked at Percy and asked, "Why don't you let me take her pulse?"

Percy nodded. He trusted her *medical skills*.

Luca reached out and took Nina's pulse. The atmosphere in the ward became so quiet that one could hear a pin *drop*.

After a while, she withdrew her hand.

Percy was very anxious. He asked, "How is she?"

no major problem. She's just slightly malnourished." Luca opened the thermos flask with a smile while she poured out the chicken soup. "The malnutrition can be cured as long as she eats well, so it's up to you, Mr. Percy.

meant for Percy to take good care of Nina. Nina blushed and said, "Luca, what nonsense are you

the truth. Mr. Percy is a good man, and I'm sure he wants to take care of you for the rest of his life." Luca handed the bowl of chicken soup to her. She was slightly

had gone through some hardships, she had a bright future where she and Percy could have a contrary, she previously lived a very happy life with Luke and gave him children. However, their future was a bumpy

was likely that she and Luke would not get their happy

can take care of myself." Nina handed the chicken soup to Percy. "Do you

good. You can have it all." Percy looked at her gluttonous expression, it seemed that Luca's cooking was was a pity that she belonged to Luke. Otherwise, he would have hired her to cook for Nina

of you can have some. I brought a lot. It's enough for two people," Luca said as she picked up the bowl next to her and filled

handed him the bowl in her hand and said, "Did you hear her?"

Chapter 1779

Luca frowned when he dragged her through the mud. She said, full of disgust, "You kidnapped Nina, didn't you?"

Pierre sneered. He was in a bad mood because Nina was rescued by Percy. Luca appeared in front of him when he needed a place to vent.

Since someone was willing to be his punching bag, he was more than happy to do so.

"Are you slandering me? If I was the one who kidnapped her, why would the police let me show up here safe and sound?" Pierre was arrogant and domineering. He was not at all worried that Percy would call him out.

They were brothers. He thought that Percy would not be so stupid to go against him for a woman.

On top of that, the Mallory family would never allow Percy to send him to prison because of a woman. Having seen the scale of his company, Old Master Mallory loved him.

"There's no one else here. Why are you beating about the bush?" Luca knew that he was poking fun at her. No matter what, she was determined for him to confess his crime.

"Luca, do you have any evidence?" Pierre narrowed his eyes and looked at the person in front of him. She had a completely different personality from Nina. His intuition told him that this woman was not one to mess with.

However, he had never been afraid of anyone, let alone a woman. The more dangerous a woman seemed, the more he would want to find out more about her.

"Evidence? I don't have any, but you know what you've done. There's no one around right now. I didn't expect you to be so timid. You dare to plan a kidnapping but don't have the guts to admit to it. What? Are you planning to pay off your subordinates and the maid to take the blame? Yes, you only have

money left. What else can you do other than pay people off? What a coward. I'm glad that Nina didn't choose you. She's so happy with Percy." Luca's words pierced Pierre's heart bit by bit.

did you say?!" Pierre clenched his fists. He was uneasy when he heard her

heard that Nina was with Pierre, he was even less calm. His heart was full of longing for Nina. He would never allow the woman he wanted to be

you not understand me? The part about you being a coward? Or the part where Nina accepted that the person she has always loved is Mr. Percy, so she has decided to let go of the past and be with him?" Luca knew that her provocation was working as his gaze was doleful.

continued to do so as she was not worried that he would do anything to her in front of the hospital.

circumstances, Pierre would not necessarily be her opponent. If he tried something, she would have an excuse to go all out on

was surveillance in the area. If he pursued the matter, she could say that she acted in

was familiar with the anatomy of the human body. She could be as ruthless as she wanted. She would not cause serious injury. He would simply hurt real bad for a few

how dare you?!" Pierre's hands were clenched tightly, his knuckles

you so angry? The person who kidnapped Nina wanted to win her heart but unexpectedly, he sent the helve after the hatchet. Nina was previously in a dilemma and had been avoiding Mr. Percy. But now, she has you to thank for..." Luca continued to prod him because she wanted to record him admitting that he was the one who kidnapped

knew about Percy's difficult position, but she did not want to let a good-for-nothing like Pierre continue to

"You're courting death!" Pierre could not hold back any longer. He raised his fist to Luca's face.

Luca reacted quickly and ducked. She knew what exactly to say when she saw his *furiously appearance*.

"Oh wow, you want to hit a woman? Why? You're pissed to see Nina making the right choice? At the end of all of this, she'll have to thank you for kidnapping her this time, **no?**"

"Shut your mouth!" Pierre wanted to tear **her apart**.

"You did a good deed by kidnapping her even though you're timid and dare not admit that you planned the kidnapping." Luca continued to trigger him.

Pierre was raging mad. He shouted, "What if I planned it? I'm going to kill you **today!**"

He lunged at Luca.

Luca deftly dodged him once again. *"You kidnapped Nina."*

"Yes, it was me. What are you going to do about it? Nina chose Percy now but she'll choose me in the future. I won't go look for her today but I'll take you to hell today!" Pierre said fiercely, reaching out to hit **Luca**.

the perfect timing and deftly dodged his attack. At the same time, she grabbed his wrist with

Pierre was in pain. The sudden pain made him almost unable

at him indifferently and said, "Pierre, if you hadn't gone for a sneak attack the last time, do you think I would've been kidnapped so easily? I didn't expect that you would pay someone off even after I was found in your villa. I'll avenge myself and

she said that, she found the perfect timing when Pierre was not paying attention and raised her other hand, whacking him in the spot under his

where she hit was the second most vulnerable place for a

a man was hit on the vital point, it would hurt. However, this pain was twice as painful as that. Even so, not many knew about this pulse

Pierre was in pain. When he wanted to scream at Luca, he

him off and said, "I wish I could kill

not stand anymore. He fell to the ground and looked at the ferocious woman in front of

weak but she attacked so fiercely that even a well-trained man could not achieve such a level of

Chapter 1780

Luca was patient. She waited until the kids had finished talking before replying to each of them. Then, she asked them, "Where's your daddy?"

Rainie pointed upstairs, "Daddy is upstairs. He's still working."

"Alright. Be good. I'm going upstairs to discuss something with him." Luca had bought some chocolate-flavored candies before she came back. She took them out of her pocket and gave two candies to each of them. Then, she headed upstairs.

After what had happened today, she was pretty sure that she would not get into trouble. Still, she had to tell Luke about it.

She walked upstairs to the second floor. Luca directly knocked on his bedroom door. This time, it was not because of her affairs but about Nina and the Mallory family. It had nothing to do with their love matters. Hence, she was able to face him directly.

"Come in." Luke's voice came from inside.

Luca pushed the door open and saw that the man was busy with his work. He was typing on the keyboard handling his work. He was not in a meeting, so he was available to talk.

"Mr. Crawford, I'd like to have a word with you. Can you spare me five minutes of your time?" she asked.

"Come in and talk to me. I'm not used to talking to someone from a far distance," Luke said in a cold tone as he glanced at Luca, who was still standing at the door.

Luca was startled for a moment. She told herself that his bedroom was not some bottomless abyss. She walked in.

Luke pointed at the couch beside him and said, "Sit down and talk."

"There's no need to. It's not really a big deal. It's just that I ran into Pierre when I came out of the hospital just now. I couldn't help but give him a lecture." Luca told him what she did.

Luke frowned and looked at her. "Are you hurt?"

was slightly surprised. He did not blame her or judge her for what she did. Instead, he was concerned about her and asked if she was

can't lay a finger on me," she answered honestly. The incident last time was merely

had not used dirty tricks to trap her after kidnapping her, she would not have ended up in such a mess.

looked at her from head to toe. He nodded his head after making sure that she was not hurt. "It'd be better to avoid someone like Pierre when you see him next

Luca replied, "Alright."

that she would have to face Pierre's revenge after dealing with him.

was a petty man. Besides, she could not predict when Pierre would strike

beat him up badly?" Luke asked again. He did not intend to blame her for punishing him by beating him

Luca replied honestly. It might not be considered serious because there were no wounds on his body. Even if he went for a check-up, the doctor would not be able to tell what was wrong with him. However, she was sure that he would be in pain for a couple of days after she beat

at her. What was she talking

then explained, "He's going to suffer for the next few days. But there are no wounds on his body, and he won't be able to find out what's wrong with

knew that she must have used her own ways to teach Pierre

After all, after what had happened the last time and Nina getting kidnapped by him this time, Luca must be holding a grudge against *him*.

"Apart from these?" Luke knew there was more to it apart from her teaching Pierre a *lesson*.

Luca was stunned. How did he know her so well? Yes, there was something else she wanted to talk to *him about...*

"There's a recording." Luca took her phone out and hit the play *button*.

After Luke finished listening to it, he did not frown. Instead, he said, "The recording—"

"I'm not planning to give it to Mr. Mallory. I don't know what he's up to, but if he can't handle this matter properly, I'll consider sending this to him," **said Luca**.

She still thought of letting Percy deal with Nina's affair himself, but she would lend him a hand when necessary.

The recording was just a backup.

Luke gazed deeply at her. She had changed a lot. She could do anything to protect the people she cared about regardless of **the consequences**.

She could even go this far for Nina. However, she chose to run away from **him**.

There was nothing Luke could do. He had no choice but to advise her and say, "Pierre won't let you get away with it. Be careful."

"Okay." Luca was still surprised that he did not blame her for being impulsive.

Luke what she wanted to say, she looked at the thick pile of folders on his table. She refused to bother him any longer. "Mr. Crawford, I'm going back to work

"Alright," replied Luke.

turned around and left. Then, she closed the

watched her from behind as she disappeared behind the wooden door. He let out a sigh. "When will you openly face me?"

to her bedroom and took out the documents that needed to be translated. She sat down at the table and

told the children that she had something to do and would be busy. The three of them could not have been more considerate. They did not come in to

not even come to the second

hours later, Luca was done translating one document. When she was about to head downstairs to get a glass of water, she pushed the door open and saw the maid pacing back and forth outside

the matter?" Luca stepped forward and asked when she saw the uneasiness on the maid's

saw her and said immediately, "Ms. Luca, the police officers are downstairs. They claim that they're looking for

puzzled. Why was the maid outside Luke's bedroom if they were looking for

"Are they downstairs?"