

Be Gentle 1781

Chapter 1781

Luke knew Luca would leave herself a way out. Even though the police officers had come looking for her, there was nothing they could do to her.

However, he would never allow the woman he loved to suffer. Hence, he put a cold expression on his face and walked in front of Luca. "Come on. Let's see what they're up to."

Luca looked at the man's tall figure from behind. She zoned out a little.

Luke was standing in front of her to protect her. When Luca recalled what he did for her every time she was in trouble, she would always have mixed feelings deep in her heart. It was a bittersweet feeling.

Luca did not space out for long. The moment Luke stepped on the stairs, she quickly followed behind him.

The police officers who were waiting in the living room saw Luke coming down first. They exchanged glances with each other.

Did they not come here to arrest a woman called Luca? Why was Luke Crawford here?

"Sir, why is the woman together with Luke Crawford?" a young police officer asked in a low voice. Could it be that there was something unusual going on in between them?

The older police officer shook his head and replied, "Stop minding other people's business. We're police officers, not reporters."

The younger police officer nodded his head. Suddenly, he remembered Luke's scandal that happened a few months ago.

Was it not fake news? It was true?

the children upstairs." Luke saw that the three children were sitting on the same couch, staring at the police officers curiously. Luke's face darkened, and he ordered the

replied and brought the three children upstairs hurriedly.

came right up to the police officers, looking calm. She could feel that Luke was dissatisfied. Then, she spoke first. "Why are you looking

older police officer looked at them and asked in a stern tone, "You're

replied in a simple yet confident manner. She did not show any guilt in front of the police officers.

officers who thought she would behave arrogantly because she had Luke's support were surprised to see her being

older police officer said, "Please follow us back to the

Luca asked him even though she knew the reason. The expression on her face was calm as usual. There was no doubt that these police officers came here because of

believe that you're involved in an alleged assault case against Mr. Pierre Mallory. So, please follow us back to the police station for the investigation," said the older police officer. He glanced at the document in his hands. It was Pierre Mallory who

But please let me go upstairs and get changed first." Luca did not put them in a difficult spot. She turned around and

two police officers waited downstairs. They shot a glance at Luke. The expression on his face was as cold as stone. He looked like a demon

They knew it would be tough to deal with this case, but they had to do it. Whenever someone reported a case to them, it was their duty to investigate it. They were secretly glad that Luca was willing to cooperate with **them**.

Luca got changed and went downstairs. She looked at the three people in the **living room**.

Luke had been sizing the two police officers up. His aura was so strong that the two police officers dared not to speak a word.

Luca walked toward them and said, "Alright. Let's go."

The young police officer heard her and took the **handcuffs out**.

Luca frowned and reminded him, saying, "I'm just following you back to the station to help in the investigation. I shouldn't be considered a convict before things are figured out yet, right?"

"Yes, that's right. What you said is right. Keep the handcuffs away," the older police officer said politely. Handcuffs were only applicable when they dealt with people who did not comply with the law.

The younger police officer kept the handcuffs away after listening to what the older police *officer said*.

The older police officer was more experienced. He was already grateful that Luca was willing to take the initiative to cooperate with them. "Thank you for your cooperation. The police car is out there. Please come *with me*."

Luca nodded. She turned around and shot a glance at Luke. She said, "I'll be back soon."

"*Alright*." Luke's facial expression was still livid. Luca did not ask for his help even when she was facing the police officers alone. It was as though she could handle everything herself.

not used to Luca being so strong and independent.

his response and knew that he would not do anything. Hence, she left with the police officers while feeling

reached the police station, the chief police officer sat down opposite her when she had just

older police officer had told him about her earlier. That was why the chief police officer was polite to her. He served her a cup of tea before he began the interrogation.

looked at her phone without lifting her head.

not want to waste her time. Hence, she had taken a few photos of the documents that she needed to translate when she went to get changed. This way, she would be able to continue to do her translation work when she was here.

police officer noticed that she did not intend to speak first. He had no choice but to say, "Ms. Luca, we received a police report and that's why we had to bring you here to cooperate in our investigation. I hope you can

person who reported me to the police is Pierre Mallory, right?" Luca still did not lift her head. She typed out the translated sentence in her

Mallory claims that you attacked him at the hospital's parking lot. He's seriously injured and currently receiving treatment at the hospital." The chief police officer wondered if she really injured someone. The woman in front of him was way

it true that I injured him? Is there any injury assessment report?"

police officer glanced at the police officer who was in charge of the

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The chief police officer replied hurriedly, "No. There are no grounds to the case, so you don't have to sign anything."

Luca smiled and said, "Then I shall leave first."

"Sure, sure." The chief police officer sent her out of the police station himself. After watching her leave, he turned around and looked at his subordinates. "Next time, before you go and bring someone in to aid in the investigation, take a proper look at the evidence on hand and see whether or not the actions can be constituted as a crime. Just look at what happened today. We've only wasted our time and resources."

"Yes, Chief," the older police officer replied. He only watched the footage without thinking that much.

After analyzing the case, he believed that Pierre intentionally fell to the ground to set Luca up.

"This matter has to be made public. Write a review report later and hand it to me before you get off work." The chief police officer turned around and returned to his office after that.

"Yes, sir."

"And you'll have to submit a report for failing to file the case. If that man is unconvinced, then have him provide solid evidence to us. That's the only way we can continue to handle the case." The chief police officer turned around and added.

The older police officer nodded to indicate that he understood. "Yes, Chief."

...

After Luca left the police station, she sent a message to Johann: [Dr. Park, are you busy?]

to her message soon after: [Not really. What's

you to help me enquire about Pierre Mallory's current condition.] Luca was curious. The police officers told her that Pierre was currently receiving treatment at the hospital, so he must be lying on the ward bed in the hospital now. What was worse was he could not lie still and

the hospital? Has his retribution finally come?] Johann was surprised. After all, people tended to get what they deserved. He did not expect karma to hit Pierre so

Luca was surprised that he would react that

always called angels for their kind hearts. However, they were ordinary people too. All those things that Pierre did had provoked the anger of many. That was why Johann would say something like that.

did you know he's been admitted to the hospital? I didn't receive any news about it.] Johann continued to ask her after she sent him a few full stops.

of me that he had to be admitted to the hospital.] Luca was replying to his messages while she was in the taxi. [He should be in the neurology department if I'm

that serious? Did you hit him?] Johann was still surprised, and he opened the hospital's information system right away. He was different from the other doctors. He had the right to check every department's system in the hospital.

all. But he'll have to suffer some pain for a couple of days.] Luca replied to him as she waited for his

Pierre's information by entering his name. He clicked on it and saw his name. Indeed, Pierre was admitted to the hospital today. The main complaint was an unexplained pain in his

[Dr. Craw, I found his records. The main complaint states that there's unexplained pain in his body. Is he still a man? He can't even endure it and needs to be admitted to the hospital? He's not thinking of setting you up, right?] Johann despised Pierre from the bottom of his heart.

How could a ruthless man be admitted to the hospital just because of some *pain*...

Luca replied: [Dr. Park, I'd like you to monitor his situation from time to time. His condition isn't as simple as it seems.] She could guarantee that he would not die, but she was uncertain if Pierre would pass out from the pain.

Johann let out a sigh as he read the message on his phone. Luca and Luke were truly a couple, after all. They would ask for his help to keep an eye on everything.

Fortunately, it was convenient for him to do so in the hospital. Otherwise, he would have to keep heading to the other departments. That would indeed be tough for him.

[Sure. I'm just curious. Which part of the body did you strike? How can it be so painful?] Johann recalled the anatomy lessons he took before. He was not taught which part of the body would cause such severe pain when struck. Besides, there was nothing written on Pierre's diagnosis analysis. It seemed like there was no obvious answer for what was causing his *pain*.

[Would you like to try?] Luca was in a good mood, so she suddenly teased *him*.

Johann replied: [No, thank you. I'll probably have to take a look at him later. If they can't find the source of his pain, they'll come to ask for my help. I just wanted to ask you so that I won't be embarrassed **later.**]

[It's a long story. Even if you know how I did it, there's no way to treat it. You can only give him some painkillers. He'll be fine in two days.] Luca replied when she saw that the driver had almost reached the destination. She kept her **phone.**

Johann read her message and could not help but shiver. Her sophistication made him wonder what she had gone through in the past to become the way she was *now.*

his phone away. The head of the neurology department came in hurriedly. "Dr. Park, are you available I've finished performing all my surgeries today. Dr. Lance, why are you all sweaty? What happened?" Johann asked an obvious

second young master of the Mallory family has just come in today. His complaint is that he's suffering from unexplainable pain. I did every health check-up there is and nothing seems to be wrong with him. I can't find the source of his pain. I'd like to ask for your help to take a look at him. You're knowledgeable and well-informed, after all. You might be able to find out why," Mr. Lance pleaded with

up. It was his fate to help Luke clean up Luca's mess. "Come on. Let's go take a great." Dr. Lance looked more

told him beforehand. "But I can't guarantee that I'll be able to figure out what's causing the pain. After all, there are too many reasons that can cause pain. Even if we form a medical team to perform screening examinations, we won't be able to find out within a

knew that too. He nodded his head instantly. "Of course, I know that. But two heads are better than one. I'm glad you're willing to

and followed him out of

two of them came to the ward. They could hear Pierre groaning in pain before they even went in. He was cursing and swearing while he was in pain.

kind of shitty hospital is this? I've been here for so long but the doctors here have no way to stop

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"Hand me the medical report," said Johann as he stood near the window.

The doctor beside him quickly handed a pile of medical reports to Johann.

Pierre watched him slowly go through his reports and cursed, "What are you fucking bastards doing here? After all those examinations, none of you can find the cause. You even asked this person to come here. Are you trying to kill me? Just give me the painkillers. I need the fucking painkillers!"

Johann ignored what he said and continued to read the reports.

The doctor beside him explained why they could not give Pierre the painkillers. "Mr. Pierre, we don't mean to stop you from taking painkillers. But we can't find the reason why you're in pain now. We can't simply give you medicines. We might need to run some other tests on you. If you take the painkillers, it'll affect the test results and conceal the cause of the pain you're experiencing now."

Johann listened to the doctor's explanation. He deliberately took his time to read the reports in his hands.

After what Luca told him, he knew there was no need for him to check if Pierre was afflicted by a disease. He even wanted Pierre to suffer for a while more, so he read the reports slowly.

Pierre listened to the doctor's repeated explanation and yelled angrily, "Stupid doctors! You're a bunch of stupid doctors! You should be finding a way to relieve my pain."

The doctor stopped talking. The more he spoke, the more he got blamed.

Johann closed the medical reports leisurely and said something that annoyed Pierre even more. "According to the medical reports, there's nothing wrong with him."

"I'm not fucking sick. Of course, there's nothing wrong with me." Pierre wished that he could get out of the bed and punch him in the face. However, he could only curl up on the bed because of the pain.

looked at him contemptuously and said, "If you're not sick, then how can you be in such pain that you have no choice but to lie here?"

"You!" Pierre glared at him.

said, "A hospital is a place where doctors treat patients. Those who are lying on the ward bed are sick patients. Your situation is too complicated, and we can't find the cause to explain the pain you're

was just about to yell at him when a sudden piercing pain struck him. He had no choice but to curl up on

handed the medical reports to the doctor beside him. "Since we can't find the cause, just give

replied immediately, "Dr. Park, are you serious? If we give him painkillers now,

Mr. Pierre still has the energy to insult our medical staff. It doesn't seem like there's something wrong with his health. It says so in his medical reports too. But his pain is real. I suspect that he may be dependent on painkillers. Anyway, give him the right amount of painkillers to relieve his pain first."

Johann analyzed the situation for them and let those who were present think that Pierre had

was too stressful these days, many people would choose to numb their nerves with painkillers to escape from their stressful

a medication. However, when a person took too many, it would lead to a certain dependency on

just like Leia. She took too many painkillers and ended up ruining her kidney.

Pierre was about to refute Johann after he was accused of suffering from drug addiction, but he could only cry out. The pain was **excruciating**.

Johann shrugged his shoulders and said, "Relieve his pain first. Let's see what state he's in after the effects are gone."

"*Alright.*" Dr. Lance thought that it was probably a good idea too. Indeed, there was nothing wrong with Pierre's medical **reports**.

He thought of relieving Pierre's pain first and putting the matter aside for the time being. Therefore, he asked the nurse to contact the hospital's pharmacy immediately so they could send some painkillers *over*.

After a while, Johann watched Pierre take the painkillers. A hint of guile flashed across his eyes. He turned around and walked out of the ward.

Now, everyone's attention was on Pierre. They were waiting to see the effects of the medicine. No one noticed that Johann had left *the ward*.

After Johann left the ward, he sent a message to Luca: [The pain is so terrible that Pierre doesn't even have the strength to talk. I've asked them to give him painkillers, and I misled them into making them think Pierre is probably suffering from drug *addiction*.]

At this moment, Luca was heading to the villa. She smiled after she received Johann's message. This time, she had successfully taught Pierre a lesson, right?

Since no one taught him how to become a normal person, she was glad to **teach him**.

The moment Luca returned to the villa, Luke had also received a message from Johann.

[I finally got to see your wife's tricks. Promise me that you won't piss her off in the future. Otherwise, you might end up like Pierre. He's in so much pain that he can only lie on the bed. He even eventually lost the strength to curse **at others**.]

deleted the message quietly. He was staying together with Luca now, so he had to stay alert to prevent her from discovering that he already knew her true

up and headed downstairs. The children were reading their books

walked toward them and said, "Don't worry, Ms. Luca will be

that true?" Rainie's eyes were brimming with tears. She was crying half an ago because Luca was brought away by the police officers.

Luca should be on her way back home now. She didn't do anything wrong. She's only cooperating with the investigation." Luke stroked his daughter's

the maid brought the three children upstairs just now, they secretly headed to the balcony. They saw Luca being taken away by the police officers in the police car. They thought Luca had done something bad and that was why she was taken away by the police officers. They thought they wanted to lock her up. Hence, they hurried down to find Luke and asked him to save

him some effort to calm

walked into the living room and saw them there. She was slightly startled and said stiffly, "I'm back."

took the lead and ran to her first. She hugged her. "Ms. Luca! Sob, you're at the child and turned to look at Luke with confusion. "Yes, I'm back.

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Luca thought she should just leave them now, but she was too reluctant to do so.

Such conflicting thoughts made her feel defeated.

At least she knew what she needed back then, but right now, she could no longer figure out what she needed.

Luca gently pushed away Tommy who was clinging to her and stood up.

This was the first time Luca pushed Tommy away. He lifted his head and looked at her with some confusion. "Ms. Luca?"

Luca explained while concealing her feelings, "It's almost dinner time. I'm going to prepare dinner first."

Tommy watched her walk into the kitchen and looked at Luke, feeling sensitive. "Daddy, did I say something wrong to make Ms. Luca unhappy?"

Luke shook her head. He noticed that something was wrong with Luca's emotions, but it was not because of the children. He reckoned she must be having a hard time now due to the different emotions surging within her.

He wanted to help her, but what could he do if she refused to talk?

"Daddy, go ahead and cheer her up." Rainie pushed Luke's hand gently. She thought Luca was tired of a bunch of children surrounding her.

Luke knew what she had in her mind and emphasized, "She has always loved all of you. It's not what you think it is."

Rainie nodded.

Luke stood up and said, "I'm going to find out what's the matter."

the kitchen as he said

the ingredients out of the fridge that the cleaning lady bought when she came to the house. She was thinking about what she should prepare for the children.

leaned on the kitchen door and asked, "What happened at the police

voice gave Luca a scare as she was deep in thought. She turned around and looked at the man at the I didn't mean to." Luke noticed her small reaction.

alright. I was thinking of what I should prepare for dinner and got lost in thought..." Luca put the ingredients that she would not be using back into

her explanation was strange and continued to ask, "Did you get bullied at the police

don't have any evidence. There's nothing they can do to me." Luca shook her head, worried that he might stand up for her. Hence, she quickly explained

silent. If it was not about what had happened at the police station, she must be thinking about the always been a question deep down in Luke's heart. What was being held against Luca that made her refuse to acknowledge her identity in front

Luke was still standing there, so she asked, "Mr. Crawford, is there anything else?"

kids are worried about you. That's why I came here to comfort you." Luke directly told her that he was just doing what the children wanted him to

Luca let out a sigh. She felt amused and helpless when Luke straightforwardly replied to her.

"I'm alright. If you keep staring at me like this, I'm afraid I won't be able to finish preparing the dinner in *two hours.*"

She felt happy to be watched by him, but there was a hint of uneasiness amid the happiness.

His eyes were too deep, as though they could see through what she *was thinking.*

Luke slightly narrowed his eyes. "Watching you make dinner reminds me of someone."

"Who?" Luca placed the ingredients on the countertop, getting ready to clean them and **cut them.**

"My wife," said Luke. He noticed her body tensing up when he said the word. "She used to cook for the kids back then. And the kids loved her cooking too. They always finished their food and everything on the dining table when she was the one preparing the *meal.*"

Luca cleaned the ingredients with her back facing Luke. Only she knew how stiff her *actions were.*

"Really? Your kids aren't picky with food, so it doesn't matter who cooks the food, right?" She tried hard to speak gently to make herself sound more **natural.**

Luke added, "They're picky. They don't like eating certain foods unless it's their mother or you who cooked them. That's the only time they finish eating everything even though they don't really like the food."

"Really?" Perhaps my cooking tastes good, and that's why the kids enjoy it." Luca watched the water running from the tap. She was swallowing all the bitterness **she felt.**

Luke did not say anything more when he heard that. He turned around and left.

The children were sitting in the living room. They asked their father immediately when they saw him return, "Daddy, is Ms. **Luca alright?"**

she be cooking your dinner if she's not alright? Don't worry." Luke

at her elder brother. Girls were usually more attentive and sensitive. When the adults said it was nothing, she knew it might not really be the

maid was washing the dishes after dinner. Luca headed upstairs, planning to continue with her

called her on the phone once she sat

looked at the string of numbers on the phone screen and sighed. Did he install a security camera to monitor

would he call her whenever she was enjoying these blissful illusions, reminding her of the cruel reality and how she would never be

up the phone as she stood up. She walked into the bedroom's washroom and turned on the

and his children were staying here with her now. She had to be more

answered the call after she made sure she was in a noisy environment. "What's the

your research going to launch in the market soon?" Abel

tightened. Was he going to make his first

me to expose my formulas to the public to cause problems with the launch? Won't I be digging a hole for myself this way?" Luca lowered her voice and said with her teeth

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"I'm uncertain about that." Luca tightened her grip on the sink, refusing to obey such orders.

"If you don't do it, I won't mind destroying Luke Crawford right away." Abel threatened her. "Do you think I have no choice but to sit here and wait for you to do it? Ivana, I've been making arrangements the whole time you're carrying out your missions. Do you really think that I don't know what you're up to?"

Luca was in despair. Abel had probably obtained more information about T Corporation.

However, he did not deal with Luke right away. He thought it would be more interesting to see Luke and Luca ruin each other.

Luca's fingers grasped the marble top, and she said angrily, "I'll try my best, but I can't guarantee I'll succeed. The place is heavily guarded."

"Heavily guarded? That's for outsiders. It can't be more convenient for you to stroll in and out of there easily. Ivana, if you try to fool me again, just wait for the day I lose all my patience. By then, you can only watch helplessly as the man you love falls from the glorious altar!" Abel made it very clear.

Indeed, Luke was standing on the altar now. No one knew what would happen to him if he fell from it one day.

Abel was excited at the thought of it.

He looked forward to seeing Luke fall from the top of the food chain to the lowest ranks. He wanted him to experience that pain...

Luca clenched her fists. "There's no way I can return to the pharmaceutical company now."

"Don't worry, you'll get the chance soon. You'd better get things done for me when the time comes."
Abel hung up the phone after that.

Luca listened to the busy tone from the other side of the phone. The last sentence that Abel said to her confirmed that there were people from the Island of Despair working in Watson Biopharmaceuticals.

That was what a devious person like him would do.

deal with Luke and ruin him, Abel would never rely on her

could not help but tremble at the thought of Abel's pawns who might have been arranged to work at Watson Biopharmaceuticals and T

What should she do?

could she do to make Luke realize that his working environment was not as peaceful as he thought?
How should she tell him that there was looming danger everywhere

Ms. Luca?" Rainie's voice came from

snapped back to her senses and turned off the tap. She pushed the door open and exited the washroom.
"What's wrong,

looked at her with her bright and beautiful eyes. "Ms. Luca, am I

not. What's the matter?" Luca concealed her complicated feelings. Rainie had inherited her attentiveness from her. If she showed a hint of uneasiness on her face, the child would most certainly notice

of the adult world should not affect the

took the initiative to hold

felt something being stuffed into her palm. She lowered her head and looked at it. It was

this..." She looked at the child,

"**Ms. Luca**, you gave this to me back then," said Rainie. "Even though you haven't said anything about it, I can sense that you're feeling troubled. I don't know what's troubling you, but Mommy told us that we should eat sweet candy when we're feeling upset. Everything will be better *after that!*"

Luca stared at the child and glanced at the candy in her hand. She asked, "Rainie, do you miss your mother?"

"**Yes**. I miss Mommy every single day, but we know she has her own reasons, so we don't blame her for leaving us." Rainie looked at Luca with a determined look in her eyes.

Did they all think so?

"Ms. Luca, we're still young. We don't know much about the complicated world of adults, but we like you very much. I hope you won't be mad at us if we've done anything wrong. We want you always to be by our sides." Rainie took the initiative to hold Luca's hand.

Luca's voice was getting hoarse, "Is that what you really think?"

"Yes." Rainie nodded.

Luca looked at the sensible look on the child's face. A child like her who was born into a prestigious family like the Crawford family should be treated like a little princess. She should have nothing to do with the cruel adult world out there.

It was because she should be protected well.

However, Rainie was forced to grow up because of her. Luca was heartbroken to see the child **like this**.

"I'm not going anywhere. It's late. Hurry up and go to bed. Aren't you accompanying your dad back to Crawford Manor tomorrow?" Luca comforted Rainie. Luca was going to bring the children back to Crawford Manor for dinner **tomorrow**.

Rainie nodded and pointed at the bed. "Ms. Luca, take **a seat**."

down at the bedside as she wished.

leaned closer to her and kissed her on the cheek. Then, she waved her hand and said, "Goodnight, Ms. Luca. I'll see

Luca watched the child leave as she walked her to the door. She only closed her bedroom door after she watched Rainie head back into

Rainie's kiss...

her face. Previously, when she put Rainie to sleep, she would also give her a goodnight kiss and say goodnight

had not taken these away

than missing the opportunity to see the children growing up, she had yet to find out if there were some other

on the bedside and looked at the candy in her hand. She opened the wrapper and put the candy in her

The children loved this candy.

let out a sigh as the candy melted in her mouth. Her phone rang at

It was Mo Stone's phone number.

suddenly recalled what Abel had told her on the phone. He said the chance would

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Luca fell silent.

Even though she had yet to find out what the matter was, she was pretty sure that this had something to do with Abel.

However, was the spy Dr. Albus, the researchers under him, or Mo Stone?

Mo realized Luca had not answered, so she asked carefully, "Dr. Craw, will it be inconvenient for you?"

Luca snapped back to her senses. She did not test Mo and just said, "No, I'm just surprised to hear that. After all, I was never involved in Dr. Albus' research before this."

"Actually, Dr. Albus' research is already at the clinical stage, but we've encountered some difficulties. It has been troubling us for a week, and we've already asked everyone we could. You know as well that every professor is busy with their own research. Even though Dr. Albus asked for their help, they can't spend too much time helping him solve the problems," Mo explained the current situation to Luca helplessly.

Luca understood. She was only slightly surprised. "Dr. Albus' research has already reached the clinical stage?"

"Yes."

"Then why didn't they move to another lab?" Luca knew the policy was meant for her. Luke did that to restrain her from leaving T Corporation so that it would be convenient for him to keep an eye on her.

However, the policy was already implemented, so it was unlikely that it was not exercised in the company.

Since Dr. Albus' research had already reached the clinical stage, why had they not moved to the office building of T Corporation?

someone from the headquarters told us that every floor is occupied, so there's no place for us. That's why they asked Dr. Albus to continue his research here," Mo

been busy with her work, and she did not notice the situation in the office at all. It seemed like Luke had already thought about it when he arranged for her to move to

got it. Can you tell me what's the situation over there with Dr. Albus?"

for a moment. "I can't explain it on the phone. I have a document with me now. Why don't I send it to you? You'll be able to figure it out when you read it."

I'll give you an answer after I learn about the difficulties you're facing now." Luca did not know if the issues they were facing were within her capabilities to solve. Besides, she wanted to find out who Abel had placed in the

were many people on the Island of Despair. Even though she was there for three years, she was still unable to recognize all of

of this was Abel's plan. Naturally, he could separate his subordinates as he wished. They would not know each other's identities unless they were given the antidote at the same place

I'm sending it to you now," replied Mo as she sent the document to Luca's email. "Dr. Craw, I've sent it. Have you received it?"

to her desk and glanced at her laptop screen. "Yes, I've received it. Let me take a look at it first."

I'll be waiting for your call." Mo took the initiative to hang up after that.

Luca downloaded the attachment on her laptop. Then, she opened it and read the contents.

It was mainly about the research problems that they were facing when they were preparing for the **clinical experiment**.

Luca frowned when she saw the chemical formulas. Sure enough, they were complicated. Still, she was taught by Shanks, after all. These were not considered difficult for her.

She could help...

The most important thing was what Abel had told her. If she refused to help, Dr. Albus would definitely not say anything about it. However, the one who was secretly working for Abel would do his job and inform Abel **about it**.

At that time, she would still be the unlucky one.

Hence, she had to agree no matter who was behind *this*.

Luca glanced at the time. She sent a message to Mo: [I'll go over there **tomorrow**.]

Mo Stone replied soon after: [Alright. Thank you, Dr. Craw. See you tomorrow.]

After Luca read Mo's reply, she called Amur.

When he answered the call, he was in a noisy environment. "Amur, where are **you**?"

was already 11 at night. Why was he still wandering outside? Judging from the noisy music in the background, it seemed like he was at a bar.

at a bar carrying out my mission." Amur walked through the crowd, heading to the bar's entrance. He unconsciously lied

was not carrying out a mission. He simply felt uncomfortable at the thought of Luca staying together with Luke now, so he could not fall asleep. Hence, he came to the bar for a

He had just come back not long ago, yet Abel had already assigned him another

not possible. Those who had just accomplished their missions would have at least a week of rest.

you really carrying out your mission?" Luca confirmed with him. Amur seldom drank when he was on

people would encourage him to join them for a drink. However, he would always reject them by telling them that he had to keep his mind

could even count how many times she had seen Amur drinking with both of her hands in those three

Amur paused for a moment and decided to continue to lie to Luca. He had no idea how he should tell her about his

not be able to understand his feelings nor the reason he had been acting this way. It was because she had been treating him as her younger brother the

Chapter 1787

Amur did understand her situation. However, he had feelings for Luca, which was why he disagreed with what she was doing now.

"Haven't you considered that we can't fight against the whole Island of Despair if it's only you and me?" Amur reminded her.

It did not matter if he was discovered. The worst they would do was throw his body into the ocean. However, Luca had so much to lose. Was she really going to take the risk for Luke, that useless man?

What would happen to Nyla if something happened to her?

A little girl growing up on the Island of Despair. There was no doubt what kind of person she would become in the future if she was left alone there.

That was why Nyla needed Luca's company.

"I'm sorry. That was rather sudden..." Luca was startled. She did not expect Amur, who had always supported her, to be against it so much.

Sure enough, judging from Abel's power and influence, not everyone dared to stand against him.

Amur listened to Luca's tone and let out a sigh. "Forget about it. There's no point talking about this now. I'll help you look into Watson Biopharmaceuticals and also T Corporation. I'm guessing Abel must have placed his people in both companies. I'll try to track them down and get their identities."

Luke was a capable man, but he had so many companies under him. He was not responsible for the recruitment either, so it was easy for Abel to arrange for a few of his men to join Luke's companies.

Once those people who had gone through the training on the Island of Despair were recruited by Luke's companies, they would rely on the abilities they had attained during their training to help them excel in their work and get promoted.

Those who relied on their capabilities alone without being affected by the others would not arouse Luke's suspicion.

"Thank you, Amur." Luca did not expect he would change his mind to help her.

fight Abel alone. I don't want to see Nyla losing her mother at such a young age," Amur replied stubbornly

he cared about her. When she met him for the first time, she knew she had to save this

have to thank you no matter what. It's late. Don't drink too much. Get some rest. I have something to do tomorrow. I'm going to sleep first." Luca hung up the call

felt melancholic while he listened to the busy tone coming from the other side of the phone. Even though he lied to her, she was definitely able to tell. Why was she unable to see Luke's true colors,

hung up the phone. Someone knocked on the door when she was about

walked to the door. She saw Luke standing outside the door and was startled for a moment.

thinking of getting a glass of water for myself, but I saw that the lights in your room were still switched on. Why aren't you sleeping yet?" Luke

looked at the coffee mug that he was holding in his hands. He always used different cups for coffee and water. Luke was holding a coffee mug at this hour. He probably wanted some

to sleep." She did not

Luke nodded. "Goodnight."

watched him turn around, she took a deep breath and could not help but say, "Mr. Crawford, drinking coffee at this hour is bad for your

her back turned to her, and he gave a faint smile. She still remembered all the small details about him as well as his habits.

"I might have to stay up all night," said Luke.

"It's bad for you to drink coffee even if you're staying up all night. It burdens the body. I remember there's some milk in the fridge. Why don't I heat it for you?" Luca could not put up with it. She refused to see him drink coffee to keep himself awake all *night*.

"Sure," Luke said nothing more than that. He handed her the coffee **mug**.

Luca took it from him. She knew that she had slightly given herself away just *now*.

After all, Luke claimed that he was going to get water, but she pointed out that he wanted coffee *instead*.

She could not be bothered that much, **however...**

She went down the stairs with the mug in her hands. Luke watched her figure disappear down the stairs. He turned around and walked into his bedroom, waiting for his *milk*.

Luca was still the woman she used to be. She remembered every little detail about him, and she was willing to make him a glass of warm milk this late at **night**.

Luke smiled. He would love to hold her in his arms and have a hot make-out session with her if he was allowed to do that.

Luca strolled to the kitchen, took out the milk, and put it in the microwave to heat it. Then, she poured the milk into *the mug*.

She looked at the milk in the mug and shook her head. She felt like she had made a mistake.

However, this meant Luke would not be drinking coffee tonight. He would be able to sleep for a while after he finished his work later. That would **be great...**

to the second floor with a mug of milk. She knocked on Luke's bedroom

door was not closed as though he had left it open for her. When she was standing at the door, she was able to see the man who was busy with his

his head to look at the person in front of him and said, "Come
the coffee mug on his table.

when he saw the steaming milk in the coffee

heard this and could not help but ask, "Mr. Crawford, what are you laughing at?"

his head. His deep eyes concealed his love for her as he calmed his emotions. "I suddenly thought of my
wife."

hand shook a little, and she took a step

"Why?"

I had to stay up at night to work, she would snap at me if she saw me drinking coffee. Then, she would
pour the coffee out and pour me a glass of warm milk instead, just like what you did." Luke looked at her
as he recalled the plain yet sweet memories of the times he spent with Bianca in the

unconsciously turned her face away, pretending to look at the books on his bookshelf instead. "Mrs.
Crawford must have thought that drinking coffee at night is bad for your health too. She did that
because she was worried about you."

you the same too?" Luke picked up

Chapter 1788

Luca found an excuse to leave his bedroom after Luke agreed and nodded. She even helped him to close
the door before she left.

Luke looked at the warm mug of milk on the table. He picked it up and took a sip of it.

He did not like the taste of milk, but he would never resist the milk that Luca brought him.

It was the same brand of milk and the same mouthfeel, but the taste was different after she heated it.
He had asked Mrs. Nancy to heat milk for him before. However, it tasted different from when Luca
heated it for him.

The same milk tasted different after she heated it.

Luke's eyes became gloomy as he looked at the milk in the mug. He said, "Bea, when are you coming
back to me..."

...

The following day.

Luca left the villa after she made breakfast for Luke and the children. She headed to Watson
Biopharmaceuticals.

She did not have to worry about what the children would be having for lunch as they would be following
Luke back to Crawford Manor later.

It had been a long time since Luca came back to Watson Biopharmaceuticals. She found the place unfamiliar now. After she walked into the building, she saw Mo, who was waiting for her in the lobby.

After she started working in T Corporation, she surrendered her access card. She did it so that she could avoid arousing any suspicion. It was also to prevent herself from getting into trouble in the future.

morning, Dr. Craw.” Mo let out a sigh of relief when she saw Luca. Fortunately, Luca was willing to put aside past matters and come here to help them. Otherwise, Dr. Albus would keep annoying

was merely an assistant. Dr. Albus was having problems with his research, but he refused to take the initiative to ask for help from Luca himself. He wanted Mo, his assistant, to be the middle person. It was too troublesome.

morning.” Luca walked into the lobby and waited for Mo to swipe the card for

the card, and Luca stepped

could begin with the pleasantries, Luca went straight to the point and asked, “Is Dr. Albus here

learned that you’re willing to come over and help, so the team came to the office early in the morning. They’re waiting for you upstairs,”

noded and walked toward the elevator. “Come on. Let's not waste our

out a sigh when she saw how Luca was vigorous and speedy. None of the professors here had such an attitude.

though they would receive a handsome reward and good reputations after the drug they were researching on was launched into the market, those who were working under T Corporation were not bothered to fight for those perks. Many of them were slacking off. Without being given more incentives, they would be satisfied as long as their research progress reached the normal standards.

Mo could not help but exclaim when she met Luca

trotted to the elevator and swiped the card. The elevator doors opened right

them headed to the floor to meet Dr. Albus together.

The moment Luca saw Dr. Albus, the first thing that came into her mind was that he had lost *some weight*.

It seemed that he was distressed about **his research**.

“Hello, Dr. Craw.” Dr. Albus greeted Luca more passionately than ever before when he saw her. After all, he had gotten stuck in his research. If he were to look for those friends of his for help, he would have to risk getting his research leaked. Besides, all the professors in the company were in no mood to help him. Luca was the only one who could help him at the **moment**.

Hence, he welcomed Luca enthusiastically.

"Hello." Luca felt indifferent toward his enthusiasm. She shot a glance at Mo, then turned to look at Dr. Albus again. She said, "Dr. Albus, I've gone through the information. Let's get straight to the point. We'll

hold a meeting and discuss the next research approach, as well as how we're going to solve **these problems.**"

"*Sure.* The meeting room is ready." Dr. Albus was even more surprised to see her agreeing to help him without setting any **conditions.**

If it were the other professors, they would certainly make demands and put Dr. Albus on the *spot.*

They were willing to help him, but on one condition—they wanted a share of the pie.

That was the reality of society.

Dr. Albus refused to share the fruits of his work with others. However, those professors would pressure him without considering the camaraderie they shared. They clearly did not contribute anything when his research was in its early stage, but they wanted to share his **success.**

He was unable to accept that.

That was why Dr. Albus was surprised when Luca agreed to come over to help him without asking for anything. At the same time, he saw Luca in a new light.

two of them got into the elevator and headed downstairs, Dr. Albus asked in a low voice, "Dr. Craw, are you sure you can help to solve the problems

a hundred percent sure, but I've done similar research when I was abroad. Perhaps I can help you,"

eyes brightened up when he heard that. "That's great. Thank you for helping me. Otherwise, our team would be in

at him. She walked out of the elevator when the doors opened.

...

other hand, in

up and could not find Luca. He adorably ran toward Luke and asked, "Daddy, where's Ms. Luca?"

to work." Luke moved his gaze away from the newspaper and glanced at

Luke finished the milk that Luca got him, it did not take long before he felt sleepy again. He put his work aside without a second thought and took a good night's

his hands on his hips and asked, "Today's Saturday, right? Why is Ms. Luca working on weekends? You're not working

went to her original company to help out a colleague. I have nothing to do with it," Luke explained to his son. He felt helpless when Tommy looked like he was about to blame him.

as though he was blaming Luke for being irresponsible. "Daddy, did you bully Ms. Luca last night? Is that why she's not at home

Chapter 1789

Percy asked Luke to send him the evidence of Pierre plotting schemes behind their backs...

Luke fell silent for a few seconds when he looked at the message. Then, he replied to him: [Okay.]

After Pierre threatened him to quit the tender by kidnapping Luca, Percy and Luke had been digging deeper into Pierre's past deeds.

Pierre was currently expanding his company, and his ventures overlapped with their two families' corporations. On the surface, it did not seem that Pierre intended to steal their business.

However, it was just a front and something Pierre did to impress the Mallory family.

After all, the Mallory family had to stand up for their family members for the sake of their reputation. If they found out that Pierre's company was affecting the interests of their family business and the Crawford family's business, they would have certainly stopped Pierre instead of supporting him.

Pierre was just putting a front for others to see.

He had been secretly doing things that were not as simple as the others thought. He had been planning quietly and building connections with others. He was waiting for the day to take over the businesses of the two families.

Luke's men had been busy collecting evidence so that Luke could deal with Pierre one day.

Now, Percy was asking Luke for the evidence. That indicated that Percy was going to declare war on Pierre.

Percy must be doing it for Nina's sake.

Everyone in the Mallory family was supportive of Pierre. Percy was afraid that his parents would oppose him for getting together with Nina. At the same time, he had to deal with Pierre. His family would not be able to understand him.

even get in his

if they found out Pierre was planning to destroy the foundation of the Mallory family that had lasted for 50 years, Percy might be able to get their full support. Then, it would be easier for him to be

the same as Luke. They would sacrifice everything for

how many ill-intentioned people he had kicked away just to get together with Bianca back then. It was a difficult

even when he discussed it with Percy before, the evidence in his hands was meant to be used when it was necessary to make Pierre suffer a crushing defeat. Luke thought this was the right time to reveal the evidence so that it could make things easier for Percy and Nina.

and Nina had been struggling for years, and finally, they were able to get together. It was something Luca wanted to witness too. Hence, Luke sent the evidence to Percy without a second thought.

seconds later, Percy replied to him:

it. We're brothers.] Then, Luke stood up and headed to the dining room.

had to face the Mallory family alone. This was all Luke could do

...

In the hospital.

Percy saved the document and said to Nina, "I've got **the document.**"

Nina looked at the determined expression on his face and asked with concern, "Are you really going to do **this?**"

Nina was able to regain her strength last night before she went to sleep. Hence, she had a long talk with Percy. They talked about everything—their misunderstandings in the past, their feelings for each other now, and the expectations they had for their future.

That was when she knew that Percy was not only asking her to stay beside him. He wanted her to stay with him for the rest of his life and give her a proper status acknowledged by everyone else—that was, the title of *Mrs. Mallory*.

He told her that he had always wanted her to become his wife.

However, he did not get the chance to say it back then. He thought that as long as she stayed beside him, she would know his feelings for her even if he did not tell her about them. He thought they would have a happy ending someday.

Percy had no idea that Nina did not know what he felt for her back then.

Perhaps what he did was not enough for her, but when he wanted to do something more for her, the elders in the Mallory family insisted on getting him a fiancée—Madison **Johnston**.

There was no way Percy could reject them. It was because Nina would be the one getting hurt once he **rejected them**.

Percy thought Nina had feelings for him and she would not leave him easily. However, he did not expect Nina to leave him that quickly when he was forced to announce to the public that he was getting engaged to **Madison**.

He had a series of plans behind him, plans of what he wanted to do with Nina. However, she *left him...*

was left with no choice. He told himself not to go looking for Nina before he settled everything.

learned everything that happened

plan Percy implemented was to ruin the Johnston family. It would make the Mallory family change their minds and call off their engagement. Then, he would get Nina

was going smoothly as he had planned, except that Nina concealed her feelings and was unable to figure out her feelings for

did not expect Pierre to have the guts to hold Nina

few days when Nina was imprisoned made her figure out what she felt

were happy to be together with each other. There was almost nothing in between them that could separate them, other than the Mallory

wanted to marry Nina, it was something he could do at any time.

he did not want Nina to suffer after she married him. He did not want her to get bullied by the Mallory family. That was why he had to do

decided..." Percy stood up. "I've received news that Pierre was admitted to the hospital yesterday. He got beaten up by Luca. The important members of the Mallory family are in his ward now. I'll bring this document and the evidence I've collected with me to negotiate

not know what his chances were in the negotiation this

Chapter 1790

He could help Pierre grow, and he could also tear him down.

It was just a matter of time.

Percy still considered the Mallory family as his family, but from the moment Pierre made a move on Nina, he had stopped thinking of him as his brother.

The nurse walked in with the receipt and saw the two of them holding hands tightly. With envy in her eyes, she said, "Mr. Mallory, Ms. Langdon's discharge procedures have been completed. This is your credit card, and these are the discharge documents from the hospital."

"Thank you," Nina reached her hand out, taking the receipt and the credit card. She put the receipt in her pocket and handed the credit card to Percy. "Here."

"This is yours to keep." Percy did not take the card.

"Uh..." Nina looked at the black card in her hand. 'How generous of him. There's no limit to the black card. Isn't he afraid that I'll squander his money?'

"You're my lover and soon-to-be Mrs. Mallory. My assets should be managed by you," Percy said.

Nina laughed out loud. The worries she had in her heart disappeared when she heard what he said. "I'm not great with managing money."

"It doesn't matter. I have a financial advisor, and he takes care of most of my investments. All you need to do is hold on to this card," Pierre said. He picked up some of Nina's items and handed them to the nurse. "Can we keep these at the nurse's station for a minute? We'll come and get them later."

"Of course." The nurse was envious. She took Nina's belongings with a smile and walked out of the ward.

Percy took her hand again and said, "Are you ready?"

noded. Although she was reluctant to face Pierre, from the moment she admitted to herself how she truly felt about Percy, she knew that she had to face Pierre eventually. That was so that she could be with Percy forever

After all, they were brothers...

was worried that she would feel pressured emotionally, so he reassured her, saying, "Don't be afraid, I'll be right beside

not afraid because I know that you'll protect me." Nina smiled and walked out of the ward with

had happened, no matter how stupid she was, she knew how she

she missed out on being with Percy for worldly reasons, she would regret it for the rest of

After all, Percy was her soulmate.

dream was simple—one house for two people, and three meals a day throughout four seasons. One of the two people would

matter if they were rich or things were difficult, as long as Percy was there by her side, life would be sweet no matter how tough the

found out from the butler which ward Pierre was in. It

also knew why he was admitted to the hospital and that Madam Mallory was taking care

were kids, Percy, as the heir, was raised by Old Master Mallory, while Pierre was taken care of by

Therefore, there was not much brotherhood between them, except for Percy's tolerance as an elder brother to his younger brother, as well as basic family affection.

As for Madam Mallory, because she spent more time with Pierre as compared to Percy, she loved her younger **son more**.

The Mallory family was strict with Percy but doted on **Pierre**.

Therefore, with such different upbringings, the brothers had different personalities.

Percy and Nina took the elevator downstairs.

The closer she was to Pierre's ward, the more nervous Nina became. She held Percy's hand tighter and *tighter*.

"**Don't** worry, he was beaten up so badly that he can't get out of bed. He can't hurt you." Percy sensed her negative emotions and soothed her.

Nina chuckled. "Beaten up? Is Luca *that good*?"

"*You'll find* out later." Percy had a rough idea of what had happened. After Nina relaxed a little, he opened the door of Pierre's ward.

Madam Mallory and Old Master Mallory were both in the ward.

Madam Mallory had no expression when she saw Percy walk in. However, when she saw the woman beside him, her expression suddenly turned sour. She could not help but shout, "Percy, your brother is injured and hospitalized. How could you only be here now? How can you call yourself his **brother**?"

was blank as he replied, "Injured? The doctor didn't find any wounds on him, no? How is he

listened to him and saw the two holding hands. His gaze turned not only rescued Nina from him but now walked into the ward holding hands with that Luca was not making things up out of anger. They were really looked at their tightly held hands and wanted nothing more than to is mine! How dare Percy take my woman?! No, I'll never allow such a thing to why did you bring this woman here? You know our mother doesn't like to see her." Pierre had taken painkillers, so he was in good spirits. He wanted to take this opportunity to trigger Nina as much as wanted to leave Percy, there was nothing Percy left him once before, so she could leave a second as she left him, he had woman? Nina is not any other woman. She's my fiancée. She agreed to my proposal last night," Percy said with a serious looked up at Percy in