

Be Gentle 1811

Chapter 1811

The maid saw her looking at those rose bushes, smiled, and said, "Mrs. Norman takes good care of the rose bushes. They'll definitely bloom again next year."

"Yes. She has always known how to take care of these rose bushes," Luca said thoughtfully.

The maid looked at her in surprise. "Ms. Luca, you know Mrs. Norman well. Indeed, she knows how to take care of rose bushes well. These were trimmed a few days ago. Mrs. Norman said that the rose bushes will look great next year after vernalization."

Luca smiled as she listened to the maid.

Of course, she understood her own mother well.

Luca felt a sense of warmth when she walked into the house. The maid said, "Mr. and Mrs. Norman, Ms. Luca is here."

Queenie walked out of the kitchen with an apron on her. She saw Luca standing at the entrance. She smiled and said, "Luca, you're here. Take a seat. Dinner will be ready soon."

Jack, who was sitting on the couch, added, "Luca, come here and drink some tea."

Luca smiled. She nodded as she walked toward Jack and sat down on the armchair beside him.

Jack cleaned a teacup and poured some warm tea for her. "It's cold out there, right? Come, drink some tea to keep yourself warm."

"Thank you, Mr. Norman." Luca took the cup of tea from him, took a sip of it, and tasted it.

Luca shot a glance in the direction of the kitchen and continued to talk to Luca, "How's the

good, and it smells nice. I can always get a cup of nice tea here," said Luca as she smiled.

Luca took a sip of the tea and shook his head. "This isn't considered much. I don't have any good tea here, but the Crawford family does. But don't you know already

Luca's smile froze a little. He did not mean to mention the Crawford family on purpose, but she could not help to notice

Jack's heart sank when he noticed her

Luca was a smart person. A simple sentence that he said had sparked a different reaction in

Luca. Was she feeling guilty?

"I'm just wondering what kind of tea does the Crawford family have that tastes better than this warm cup of tea." Luca tried to smooth things

Luca and gave her a thoughtful glance. Then, he refilled some tea for her again. "Old Master Crawford loves drinking tea. Everyone in A City knows about it. Luca would buy some tea for the old master every now and then. He would spend tons of money just so the old master can enjoy good tea. Everyone in A City

I didn't grow up here, so it's my first time listening to these things that you're saying." Luca looked down and tasted the tea quietly. The sweetness and bitterness of the tea were mixed. Gradually, she could no longer taste the sweetness in it.

felt awful to be doubted by someone

Luca could not tell them that she was their daughter **either...**

Jack smiled and said, "Oh, I've been too busy these days. I even forgot that you grew up in a foreign country. Russia should be colder than A City around this time of the year, *right?*"

"**Yes. It's** so much colder there. That's why I'm alright with the current temperature here." Luca finished drinking the tea in **her teacup.**

"**There'll be** an International Tea Industry Expo in A City in a couple of days. Would you like to come? You can buy some good tea there. You might be able to use it in the future." Jack tested her.

If Luca really had feelings for Luke, she would try to please the people around Luke. Hence, she would readily agree to go to the expo to shop for *some tea.*

"Really? Then I must go," Luca smiled and said. "A few of my friends are tea lovers too. If I can buy some good tea and send them over to my friends, they'll certainly be happy to **receive them.**"

Jack smiled. He had no clue whether or not Luca was really going and what kind of tea would she buy. He would have to get someone to find out who the tea would be gifted to as *well.*

Queenie and the maid served the dishes on the table and said to the two people who were sitting on the couch. "**Dinner's ready.**"

Luca put down the cup of tea and stood up to head to the dining room together with *Jack.*

Four of them sat at the dining table. Luca asked with some confusion when she noticed that Leia did not come down for dinner. "Mrs. Norman, where's Ms. **Norman?**"

Queenie let out a sigh when Luca mentioned Leia. She explained, "Leia was feeling uncomfortable two days ago, so she's been admitted to the *hospital again.*"

nodded. Leia's health condition had become very unstable because of her lifestyle back then. Even if she could manage her health by taking medicines now, her health condition would not

was normal that Leia would often be admitted to

did the doctor say about Ms. Norman's health condition?" Luca asked with some concern. Although Leia had done many atrocious things to her, she was still Luca's younger sister,

though there were no blood ties

could not reveal her true identity as she had no idea what would happen in the future. Hence, she still needed Leia to keep Mr. and Mrs. Norman company on her

not rely on Luke alone. After all, it was tiring enough for him to handle everything

had to take care of the children, T Corporation, and the affairs of Crawford Manor. After she left, he might fall in love with another woman and rebuild another

not certain that he would take care of the Norman family when the time came.

a bowl of chicken soup to her and said, "Oh yes, Luca. How's

quite busy these days. You know that too. T Corporation is tendering a project in Europe, but their translator happens to be on maternity leave. Mr. Doyle knows I understand Russian, so he got me to do the translation work. I'm really swamped at work now. These days, I've been busy as a bee," said Luca. After Jack tested her out earlier, Luca knew Mr. and Mrs. Norman invited her for dinner only to find out if anything was going on

Luca knew that Leia had been admitted to the hospital, she speculated that it must have been Madam Mallory who said something

Chapter 1812

Luca felt a surge of warmth in her heart. Those compassionate words sounded like they came from a parent caring about their child's daily life.

"It's alright. Although I'm taking up another job, I'm still able to manage it," said Luca. She finished drinking the chicken soup and picked up the spoon to help herself with the food.

Queenie prepared all the dishes. They were home-cooked for the guest.

Luca took her time tasting the dishes. Although they were not particularly tasty, they had the taste of home—something that she had been missing.

Queenie and Jack exchanged glances with each other, then asked, "Oh, Luca, where are you staying now? I'll ask the driver to send you back home later."

Luca thought of Luke. If the driver were to send her back, then her current address would be found.

She shook her head and said, "Thank you, Mrs. Norman, but I can go home by myself."

"It's cold out there. There won't be as many drivers working this late at night. Don't reject my offer and let my driver send you home, alright? We're all staying in A City. How far can it be?" Queenie insisted.

Luca pondered for a moment. She had no choice but to agree.

She must not let the driver send her back to the villa, though. She would head to Amur's place after dinner and check in on how he had been doing these days.

Queenie continued to ask her when Luca agreed to it. "Luca, I've never heard you mention your love life after knowing you for so long. Are you dating someone?"

Luca paused when she was halfway picking up some vegetables. They wanted to send her home, and now, they were asking about her love life. All they wanted to know was whether or not she was dating Luke.

not want to lie to them. She had no plans of getting together with someone to put on a show either. She shook her head and said, "I'm swamped with work now. How can I possibly have the time to date someone?"

you not have time for that? Although work is important, dating is important too. Love can sweeten your life. You just have to find someone suitable who understands and supports your career. Previously, Jack was busy with work too when he was pursuing me. But I could understand him. That's why he could balance work and family very well." Queenie put down her spoon and held Luca's hand. "Luca, a few outstanding single men are working at Mr. Norman's company. Why don't I introduce some of them to you? If there's someone you like, Mr. Norman and I can fix you up with him. Women should date when they're young. You can't keep focusing on work

listened to her advice. Queenie was very concerned about her love life only because she was worried that Luca would interfere in Luke's

would certainly be worried if she rejected

a big dilemma. Even though Luca felt uncomfortable with it, she still nodded and agreed to it.

Queenie smiled with satisfaction as she helped Luca with the dishes. "Have some more. You've been working so hard."

quietly while feeling uncomfortable in her heart even though she was already aware that their purpose of inviting her over for dinner was because of Luke.

were doing it for her own good

the feelings in her heart and accompanied them to finish dinner.

they were about to finish dinner, Jack's phone, which had been put aside, started ringing. Queenie asked him immediately, "Is it a message from your friend in New

at his phone, nodded, and answered, "Yes, but he doesn't have the time to look for Bianca yet. We have to wait

Luca looked at them. They were looking for Bianca?

"Mr. Norman, Mrs. Norman, you're—"

Queenie nodded. She turned around, smiled at her, and explained to her, "Bianca, our daughter and Luke's wife, has been in New York for quite some time now. She refuses to come back here. Besides, we can't seem to contact her when we want to. That's why we found a friend in New York to contact her. New Year is just around the corner, isn't it? If she's really not coming back, Mr. Norman and I will go through the formalities here, then fly over to New York and spend the new year with *her*."

Luca's brows were slightly furrowed when she *heard that*.

Luke had faked the news that Bianca was abroad. How could they possibly find **her**?

"Do you know where she is?" Luca asked tentatively.

Jack nodded and explained, "We received a parcel sent from abroad last month. It was from Bianca. There's an address on the parcel. We reckon that Bianca must be staying there, so we asked someone to contact her. This child became foot-loose and fancy-free after losing her memory. She's always traveling around, so it's difficult for us to find **her**."

Luca fell silent as she listened to Jack's *explanation*.

Should she tell Luke about this?

If they found out that Bianca was not actually staying at the address and Luke did not take preventive measures in advance, how was he going to explain it to them at that *time*?

If Luke told them that Bianca was dead, they would be **heartbroken**.

took a bite of white bread casually, deciding that she should tell Luke about

to see them grieving over

their permission to leave after

Mrs. Norman did not make

for his driver to send

the driver asked for her home address, Luca told him the address of the apartment she used to stay at. The driver nodded, followed the navigation, and sent Luca to the

Luca, why don't you open the door and let me send you in?" the driver said as he noticed that the residents would need an access card to enter the residential area.

I can walk back home by myself. It's late. You should get off work and get some rest." Luca insisted on getting out of the

driver did not continue insisting to send her in. He opened the door and let her get out of

Luca got out of the car, she headed toward the entrance of the residential area. Then, she swiped the card and walked into the

Amur came back, she had been carrying the access card with her so that it would be convenient for her to come back

Chapter 1813

Luca held her phone in her hands after hearing the beeping sound. She glanced at the time. It was still early.

She put down her briefcase and looked at the messy apartment. Then, she started cleaning the place up.

An hour later, Luca had already finished cleaning up the apartment, but Amur was still not home yet.

Luca had no idea if he was on a mission, so she dared not to call him again lest she disturbed him. She picked up a piece of paper, left a note for him, and left the apartment.

After she left the apartment, she hailed a taxi to go back to the villa.

It was already 11 o'clock at night.

Luca walked into the living room. No one was there. She figured that the children must have gone upstairs to sleep at this hour, but Luke...

She bent down and changed into a pair of slippers. Then, she crept her way up the stairs. As expected, the second floor was quiet as well.

Luca walked to her bedroom door and glanced at the room opposite her. The door was closed tightly. She could not see if the room was lit, so she did not know if Luke was still awake.

However, based on her past experiences, Luke must be working now. He would not have gone to sleep so early.

Luca planned to put her briefcase down and go over to check on him. As she pushed her bedroom door open, the door opposite her room was pushed open at the same time too.

She turned around when she heard the sound. "Mr. Crawford."

Luke nodded and glanced at the time, pretending to ask her in an aloof manner, "The Norman family made you stay until now?"

Luca shook her head and explained, "No, I went to the apartment just now."

Apartment?

Amur?

face darkened in a split second. He refused to see Luca have too much contact

did you go there?" Luke's voice sounded even

noticed the changes in him. She knew what kind of situation she was in

had told her that he had feelings for her. Previously, she refused to believe it, thinking that he was probably feeling lonely. However, the possessiveness and jealousy that he was expressing now were indeed reflective of his behavior when he was in love with

had no choice but to come clean about it to deal with

Norman family wanted to know where I was staying. They suspect that there's something unusual going on between you and me. I couldn't let them know I'm staying here, so—" Luca looked down. Perhaps it was better to let him misunderstand her. That way, he would be able to give up

she refused to drag Amur into this. Moreover, she loved Luke as well. If it were not for the obstacles, she would have acknowledged him and her children

expression brightened up when Luca was willing to explain herself to him. He held his mug in his hands and turned around.

realized that he was going downstairs. She put her briefcase on the dressing table in her bedroom, then turned around and followed him

walked into the kitchen and picked up the mason jar filled with coffee beans. He put it down again when he remembered what Luca told him. He opened the fridge, took the milk out of the fridge, and poured it into

came into the kitchen and happened to see that. She reminded him, saying, "It's getting cold. You'll feel more comfortable if you warm the milk before drinking

Luke heard her. He turned around and opened the door of the microwave.

Luca saw him planning to put the mug filled with the milk into the microwave. She walked toward him and said, "Let me do it."

Luke handed her the mug.

Luca opened the cabinet door and took a microwavable bowl out of it. She cleaned the bowl and wiped the remaining water on the bowl with paper towels. Then, she poured the milk in the mug into the bowl and placed it in the microwave.

"*How troublesome.*" Luke could not help but make a comment after **watching her**.

Luca chuckled. He had never paid attention to such small details when doing things. Of course, he would think it was troublesome.

Luke had been taken care of since he was born. When did he ever warm up the milk by himself?

If it was not that late, the maid would have done everything **for him**.

"**Mr. Crawford**, I have something to tell you," said Luca as she watched the microwave's glass plate slowly spin inside. She turned around and looked at *him*.

Luke knew she must have something to tell him when she followed him down. He nodded and waited for her *to speak*.

"**When** I was having dinner with the Norman family today, Mr. Norman told me that he had asked a friend of his to help to look for your wife, Bianca," said *Luca*.

Luke raised his brows. Mr. Norman was looking for Bianca?

Luca knew she had not made it clear enough, so she explained, "They received a parcel a month ago and said that it was Bianca who sent it. There's an address on the parcel, so they think that Bianca is currently staying there. Hence, Mr. Norman asked his friend in New York to head to the address to inform Bianca that they're thinking of heading to New York to celebrate the new year *with her*."

Luke nodded.

was the one who got someone to send the gift. It was the house address of one of his subordinates working in his company in New York. Jason had arranged everything at that time, but he did not expect there to be such a big loophole.

address on the parcel was

"I got it." Luke nodded.

pondered for a moment and reminded him again, saying, "I also heard that their friend is currently unavailable, but they'll go over there to contact Bianca tomorrow."

wanted to remind Luke that he had to act fast if he was going to handle the matter.

Just then, the microwave let out a ding. Luca turned around, turned off the power switch, and opened the microwave door. She carefully took the warm milk out of the

was not too warm. The temperature was just right to drink it, and it would warm the stomach instead of burning

poured the warm milk into the mug and handed it to Luke. "Mr. Crawford, here's

took the mug of milk from her and looked at her.

the things that Luca had told him tonight meant that she still cared about him. Otherwise, she would not have told him about the Norman family's plans.

darkened. She cared about him, but she could not reveal her identity. Was she not upset

of them loved each other, but they could not be together.

Chapter 1814

"I drank some when I was on the mission." Amur found an excuse to cover up the fact that he was drowning himself in alcohol. He had been going out drinking for a few nights now.

He could not calm himself down at the thought of Luca staying with Luke, and he had never stopped thinking of bringing her back to his side.

However, Luca would not allow him to do so. Therefore, Amur had no choice but to drink his sorrows away.

Luca frowned as she listened to his hoarse yet slightly slurred words. "Amur, is something bothering you lately?"

Amur remained silent for quite some time.

He so badly wanted to tell her that she was his biggest worry, but how could he say something like that to her?

Luca only saw him as her younger brother.

"No. Stop overthinking." Amur looked down. He dared not to say anything like that to her.

If Luca knew he had feelings for her, she would convince him to forget about her and return to the Island of Despair.

Now that she was surrounded by danger, he could not just go back to the Island of Despair and leave her alone in A City. Abel hated her so much. Even if she was still useful to him, Abel would not save her if she encountered any danger.

Luca knew he was not telling her the truth. However, Amur was already an adult. Even though Luca knew he was not being honest with her, there was nothing that she could do about it either. She let out a helpless sigh and reminded him, saying, "Drinking too often is bad for your health. It's late. Get some rest."

"Thank you for cleaning up the apartment for me today." Amur hung up right after he said that.

If he had known Luca would be coming today, he would not have gone out drinking no matter what.

Luca listened to the busy tone on the other end of the phone, she wondered if it was because Amur had been outside for too long and that was why he was acting

did not have to stay in A City to protect her.

headed back to the Island of Despair, Eler would be able to look after him. At least things would not have to be this way. As Amur was out of the Island, he would often be assigned missions. He did not even have time

let out a sigh. There was nothing else in her mind now. She was only thinking about formulating the antidote so that she could try to reduce the harm that would be brought upon Luke.

sound of someone walking came from outside her door. She thought it might be Luke making his way up the stairs and heading back to his

she heard the sound of a

at the time. It was late. She did not have a good night's sleep last night, so she had started feeling

looked at the white folder. Even though she was supposed to finish translating the documents today, the workload was not much and the documents were not urgent. It would be fine if she did

the thought of this, Luca grabbed her pajamas and headed to the washroom to clean herself up. She then turned off the lights and lay down on the

she closed her eyes, she heard someone opening a door.

Was it Luke?

did not open her eyes and kept them closed. She listened to the noises outside the

She heard nothing else other than the sound of the door opening earlier.

Luke was standing with his back leaning on the wall outside the door. He was staring at Luca's bedroom door quietly.

He would be able to see her face once he pushed the door **open**.

However, he did not do so even though he knew she was Bianca. He would not do anything that would hurt her before she truly **accepted him**.

Even though he would be doing it out of love and it would not hurt her, he still would not do it.

Luke gazed at the door quietly for a long time as though he could see Luca in the bedroom through the door. He only went back to his bedroom and continued with his work when there was no sound coming from her bedroom. The night darkened and it got even quieter.

Before Luca was kidnapped, he had thought of seizing the chance to train Lanie so that he could take over the company when he graduated. Then, he would bring Bianca to travel around the *world*.

However, all he had in mind now was to find out the truth as soon as possible. Then, he would ask Luca to return to his side.

He slowly took out his phone at the thought of this. He made a **call**.

The issue of the package's address had to be handled immediately because of his subordinate's negligence. Hence, he did not feel sorry for calling him in the middle of the night.

...

The following day.

called Luca when she was busy with her work in her

Mrs. Norman." Luca cradled her phone between her ear and shoulder, while her fingers were still typing on the keyboard. Her eyes were focused on the computer

fell silent for a few seconds when she heard the sound of Luca typing on the keyboard. Then, she asked carefully, "Luca, are

I'm not. Mrs. Norman, what's the matter?" Luca replied to her and glanced at the documents to confirm the text at the same time. Then, she continued to

could hear that Luca was still typing on the keyboard on the other end of the call. She realized that she had acted recklessly by making this call.

nothing important. We'll talk about it again when you're on your break,"

Queenie received the call from Jack, she could no longer suppress her excitement. She called Luca right away without considering if Luca was busy at this

Mrs. Norman. Just say it. I'm listening." Luca stopped typing on the keyboard to show that she would put all her focus on listening to what Queenie had to say.

of hanging up the call before she heard Luca say so. Hence, she asked, "Luca, will you be available at noon or later in the

available. What's the matter? But I'm not sure if I have time in the evening. After all, my workload can increase anytime," replied Luca. She had no idea why Queenie was looking for her. Could it be that she was still trying to make her

recalled the package's address at the thought of this. She wondered if Luke had listened to her and solved the

not want Mr. and Mrs. Norman to find out the

Chapter 1815

They would still suspect her when the time came.

Although Luca felt embarrassed, she still agreed to it and said, "Alright. I'll be there at noon."

"Alright. Then I'll leave you to it." Queenie sounded happy when Luca agreed to it as though the matter would be settled once the two people met each other.

Luca was an outstanding woman, and the man Jack recommended was a fine, young man. When the two of them met each other, they would certainly catch each other's eyes.

Moreover, Luca agreeing to go on a blind date indicated that there was probably nothing going on between Luca and Luke.

After Queenie hung up the call, Luca put her phone aside.

Luca thought they were just testing her, but she did not expect that they would really make arrangements after she agreed to their suggestion.

She thought her parents were not the kind of people who enjoyed arranging blind dates for others. However, they were doing it to her now.

Perhaps they were worried that she would steal someone's husband...

Luca felt a pain in her neck all of a sudden. She picked up her mug and stood up. Then, she headed to the office pantry.

Tina was in the pantry too, making some coffee. She saw Luca come in and smiled, saying, "Dr. Craw, would you like to have some coffee? I just made some."

you. Plain water is fine for me." Luca walked toward the water dispenser and filled her mug

added some milk to the coffee. She turned around and noticed that the mug that Luca was filling with water was nearly overflowing. She reminded Luca, saying, "Dr. Craw, it's almost

back to her senses, picked up her mug, and took a sip. The water was cold. "Why is it so cold?"

filled your mug with cold water just now," said Tina. Tina felt there was something wrong with Luca. She was too absent-minded. Her mug nearly overflowed just now, and she did not even realize she had been filling her mug with

came back to her senses and poured half the mug of cold water into the sink. Then, she pressed the button to dispense

what's wrong with you? It seems like something's bothering you. Are you facing any difficulties at work?" Tina asked with

out a sigh helplessly. She held her mug and hesitated, wondering if she should tell Tina about

worry. I'll forget about it after you tell me. I won't tell anyone about it." Tina

not afraid of you telling the others about it. After all, everyone might be able to see it for themselves later on," Luca said with a helpless look. Queenie had her own reason for choosing to meet her at the cafe downstairs. She knew why even if Queenie did not

it looked like Queenie chose the cafe downstairs for her convenience, it was to leave Luca with no choice but to agree to the date. That way, she could head back to her office immediately after

cafe downstairs did not have any private rooms. In other words, she would be seen by other employees on her blind date. Then, the news would spread like wildfire in the

Luca would probably know that she was going on a blind date.

It was a great chance to kill two birds with one stone. Queenie had meticulously made the arrangements. Luca knew that she was once an independent woman too. If it had not been for Jack, she would not have chosen to stay behind the scenes and become the woman behind her *man*.

"**So what** is it?" Tina got even more curious when Luca **said so**.

"I was arranged to go on a blind date with someone," said Luca.

"**Blind date?** That's not a big deal. Last week, I went on a blind date too. That guy was sort of pervy. I'm not interested in him. Sigh, ever since I met your younger brother, I've been thinking about him. How nice would it be if my date could be as handsome as your younger brother," Tina said as she let out a **sigh**.

Luca smiled and shook her head. "He's nice, but he's not as good as you think *he is*."

After all, the people from the Island of Despair all had blood on their hands.

"*Let's* not talk about this. Isn't it just a blind date? Do you seriously have to be this restless over it? If you don't feel like seeing him, then don't." Tina did not continue to talk about Amur. She changed the subject back to Luca's matter.

"*The woman* who arranged the blind date for me is someone I respect very much. I don't want to let her down. Besides, she'll get upset if I refuse to go on this blind date," **said Luca**.

"Then you can just get it over with it. You can tell her that he's not suitable for you after meeting the guy, but that way, she might arrange more blind dates for you in the future." Tina had more experience in going on blind *dates*.

"**Hmm, how** do I explain this? She can't wait to see me meet up with this guy, so she arranged for the blind date to take place at the cafe downstairs of our office. I don't think it's the right time for me to go on a blind date now, but I can't turn her down. So, I have no choice but to go for it," Luca said *helplessly*.

understand what you mean. So, that's why..." Tina took a sip of her coffee and patted Luca's shoulder.

"There's nothing I can do to help you either. Good luck, then."

a sip of water, let out a sigh, and said, "Yes, I need all the good luck I

Luca left the pantry after that.

Luca leave from behind. She shook her head helplessly and muttered to herself, "So, why do people go on blind dates anyway? Can't a woman enjoy staying

walked back to the office with her mug. She saw Jason bringing two folders over to her. He said, "Dr. Craw, we need your help to translate these two

thing," Luca replied. She was only taking up translation work, so it was considered easy for

at her office desk. Although she was not in the mood to continue working, there were still piles of documents she needed to translate. She could not be distracted now and continued to throw herself into

At noon, her phone rang.

glanced at her phone. Sure enough, it was Queenie calling

no choice but to answer the call. "Hello, Mrs.

satisfied listening to her polite tone. She said gently, "Luca, I've arrived at the cafe below your office with Enoch. When will you be

Chapter 1816

Luca nodded. She knew Luke was in his office based on what Jason had told her. He was not planning to go down for lunch.

That would be great. That way, he would not find out that she was going on a blind date.

Jason and Luca got into the elevator together. He pressed the button for the first floor and asked Luca, "Dr. Craw, where are you going for lunch? Would you like to join us?"

"I have a lunch date." Luca shook her head and rejected Jason's offer.

Lunch date?

Jason raised his brows. Luca was only closer to Tina in the office, and she was considered a lone wolf. Who could she possibly have a lunch date with?

Could it be that younger brother of hers? It would be a disaster if Luke found out about it. A jealous man was the scariest. When Luke got jealous, that was even more terrifying.

"Are you having lunch with your younger brother?" Jason asked immediately.

Luca shook her head and replied, "No."

"I see..." Jason still wanted to ask her who she was having lunch with, but she refused to say another word. He could not say anything much about it either.

Luca and Jason walked out of the elevator together when they reached the first floor.

Jason looked at Luca and asked, "Dr. Craw, where's the person you're having lunch with? I can give you a ride if it's not far away from here. My car is in the parking lot out there.

"It's not that far. We'll be having lunch in the cafeteria. It's alright. Thank you," said Luca. She wondered why Jason seemed to be curious about her affairs.

Was it because of Luke?

not sound good. If Luke found out she went on a blind date, he would probably fly into

Luca really believed that Luke had fallen for her. However, such feelings were too shallow in her eyes, as though it would only take a gust of wind to blow everything away.

Luca was just lonely.

Jason nodded. He planned to find out who Luca was having lunch with after buying Luke's lunch.

out of the building of T Corporation with Jason, and they separated when she headed to the right while Jason went to

around and glanced at her. Luca had already entered the cafe next to the office building. Only then did he turn around and continue to walk

Queenie waving at her once she entered the cafe. There was a man sitting

chosen a table located at the corner of the cafe, but it was near the windows. If someone was to pass by there, they would be able to see her immediately. The location was very visible, but it was a nice place to talk because it was located at the corner of the cafe. No one would be able to

thought to herself that Queenie had planned this every step of

was putting in a lot of effort to secure Bianca's position.

walked toward her, and greeted Queenie, "Good afternoon, Mrs.

"Good afternoon, Luca. Come on, let me introduce you to Enoch Campbell. He's one of the civil servants working in the provincial capital. Enoch, this is Luca Craw, the one I mentioned to you before. Luca is currently working in T Corporation." Queenie was smiling brightly while she introduced them to each **other**.

"**Nice to** meet you, Mr. Campbell." Luca greeted the man sitting opposite her politely. Those who were able to win Jack's and Queenie's favor were usually good-looking.

Luca was secretly rejoicing. Queenie did not simply choose any man for her. At least, she arranged this handsome-looking guy named Enoch for *her*.

Luca could see that although Queenie refused to see Luca and Luke having too much contact with each other, she was not careless when she was choosing a date for *her*.

She was unlike other matchmakers...

Perhaps they were really looking out for her.

While Luca was lost in thoughts, Enoch, who was sitting opposite her, put on a satisfied smile on his face. "Nice to meet you, Ms. **Craw.**"

Queenie looked at the two of them. She was so delighted as if she could already see the two of them getting married. She said, "Why don't both of you talk to each other? I should leave first."

Luca grabbed Queenie's hand and said, "Mrs. Norman, it'd be better if you stay for lunch. It's lunchtime. Don't starve yourself."

"Yes, starving is bad for your health." Enoch, who was sitting opposite her, *added*.

They were on a blind date, but it was different from old-fashioned blind dates. Hence, Queenie did not need to leave them alone.

"Oh, okay." Queenie thought the two young people were embarrassed. She sat down at the table **again**.

let out a sigh of relief when Queenie was willing to sit down again. If Luca was seen by her colleagues sitting opposite each other with Enoch alone in the cafe, they would

Queenie was here too, they would not easily think that something was going on between Luca

smiled when she noticed Luca and Enoch not talking to each other. She started a topic for their conversation, "Oh, why don't you two get each other's contact details? Isn't it great for young people to hang out more often? Perhaps both of you can have dinner and watch

to her, and she knew she had no choice but to get Enoch's contact

agreed with her. He picked up his phone and asked, "Ms. Craw, can I have your

knew there was no way she could reject him. She picked up her phone, opened her Facebook QR code on her phone, and said, "Of course. Oh, you can call

you don't have to call me Mr. Campbell either. I prefer being called by just my name," Enoch replied humorously while he scanned Luca's QR code and sent her a friend

accepted his friend request and left a remark.

who was watching them, could not help but exclaim in her heart. Although the two of them were still keeping a distance from each other, judging from the situation, there was a high chance that they might get

dishes were served, Enoch and Luca were talking about some of the matters in the pharmaceutical

surprised to find out that the date Jack had chosen for her was quite remarkable. Although Enoch was a civil servant working for the government, he knew a lot about the pharmaceutical industry.

It was not easy...

Chapter 1817

If Jason told Luke about it, normal employees like them would probably have to deal with a hot-headed boss for the whole day...

However, if Jason chose to not tell Luke, what should he do if some other man was stealing the lady boss from Luke?

Jason was in a dilemma.

He ran into Tina when he entered the office. Tina was carrying a lunch box. It seemed she had gotten a takeaway as well. "Tina, you didn't dine in for lunch?"

"I was late when I came down. There wasn't a seat left in the cafe next door, so I ordered takeout instead," Tina said helplessly.

"You ordered takeout at the cafe next door?" Jason glanced at the takeout packaging she was carrying. It was indeed from the cafe next door.

"Yes. I even saw Dr. Craw's date just now. He's quite handsome. If someone introduced me to such a cute guy for a blind date, I wouldn't have to be pressured by my parents for not getting married yet." Tina put on a love-struck expression on her face. She had been sizing Luca's date up when she was ordering her food.

However, she was too embarrassed to disturb them. She only watched them from far away without disturbing them.

"Blind date?" Jason's heart skipped a beat. No way, his lady boss was on a blind date? Then what about his boss?

Was Luke getting dumped?

"Yes. Dr. Craw told me about it when we were in the office pantry today. She said someone arranged a blind date for her, and she couldn't reject it." Tina did not understand why Jason looked so surprised.

Luca was good-looking, it was normal for young women around her age to go on blind

sh*t, oh sh*t!" Jason cried out. Although Jason wondered why Queenie was there with them, he thought they were just friends. He had no idea that Luca was on a blind

It was a mess.

wrong?" Tina could not help but panic when she saw Jason reacting like this. "Mr. Doyle, don't tell me—"

did not look at Tina's expression. Jason's mind was filled with thoughts of whether or not he should tell Luca about

was probably forced to go on a blind date and it seemed like the guy was no match for Luca, it was still a dangerous situation for Luca. Luca might get stolen by someone else. After all, she was not Bianca now.

he be honest and tell Luca

told him what happened, everyone might have a tough time until the project

interested in Dr. Craw, are you?" Tina asked in a low voice.

with fear. He looked at Tina with a stern expression on his face. "What makes you think so?"

look nervous after finding out that Dr. Craw is on a blind date as though someone is stealing your loved one," Tina explained innocently.

"**There's** no such thing. I'm worried about someone else." Jason was frustrated. If he told Luke about this, those who were working in the secretary's office would be in trouble too.

"Really..." Tina still doubted him, but she knew Jason and Sue loved each other very much. If Jason was worried about someone else, then who could **it be?**

Could it be Jason was worried about their **boss?**

It was probably him...

Tina was secretly pondering. Although Luke did not express his love for Luca in front of the others, Tina could see how much he cared about Luca and how he had been giving her special treatment. Hence, after she thought about it, it seemed their boss did really have feelings for **Luca**.

That was why Jason was so nervous when he knew Luca was on a blind date. It was because everyone would be in trouble if their boss knew *about it...*

Tina put on a long face right away and looked at him, "Uh, Mr. Doyle, you won't tell the boss, **right?**"

"**I'm going** to tell him." Jason knew Tina was thinking the same thing. He pulled a straight face and replied to *her*.

"**Can you** not tell him about it? Although that guy is handsome, he's no match for our boss. He's not even close. Dr. Craw wouldn't fall for him—" Tina wanted to stay out of trouble. After all, she was already busy enough. If something pissed Luke off, everyone in the office would get even busier with work. They probably would not even have the time to go home to rest.

"**What** if Dr. Craw falls for him, then?" Jason questioned her. He knew Luca was trying to avoid *Luke*.

Luca took things too seriously and got together with that man to forget about Luke, it would be too late to make things

thought the latter option might be even more serious. Tina let out a sigh and said, "Then try to put it mildly when you tell him about it. After all, Dr. Craw didn't volunteer to go on a blind date. She had a helpless look on her face when she talked about the blind date. I could see that she didn't want to do it. She wouldn't have agreed to it if it wasn't because the person who arranged it is a person she cares

"Really?" Jason confirmed with her.

course, it's true. Do I look like I have the guts to lie about this?" Tina confirmed with him. "So, you have to keep the boss calm when you're telling him this. Dr. Craw isn't the kind of woman who'd admire a want me to tell the boss your exact words?" Jason looked at her

her head instantly. It would already cause an uproar if Jason told Luke that Luca was on a blind date. If Jason said these words to him too, Tina would probably

tell anyone about this first. I have to find the right time to tell him." Jason reminded Tina when he noticed that the elevator had reached the first floor. He then

to herself in a low voice, "I think you should tell him as soon as possible. I saw many colleagues having lunch at the cafe when I went in just now. If you don't tell him now, it's just a matter of time before the boss

Jason was frustrated at the thought of

up her shoulders. She was glad that she was not Luke's assistant. Otherwise, she would be the one who had to tell Luke about it. She had no idea what she would have to face if that

all, jealous men were scary. It would be even scarier if it was someone

Chapter 1818

Enoch nodded his head understandingly. "Oh, I'm sorry."

"It's alright. You work in a different industry, so it's normal for you to be unaware of some practices here. Anyway, I'll head back to work now." Luca let out a sigh of relief when Enoch did not insist on sending her upstairs. Queenie did not say anything either.

Luca had no idea how she was going to reject Enoch if he insisted on sending her there.

However, he seemed like a generous man. He would not do things abruptly. Luca would just distance herself from him after this. Enoch would understand what was going on even if she did not spell it out for him.

Luca accepted Queenie's arrangement, but there was nothing Queenie and Jack could do if Luca and Enoch did not click well with each other.

"Sure. I'll keep in touch with you through Facebook," Enoch added. It had been such a long time since he met a woman who caught his eyes, and that was why he wanted to go for it.

Luca nodded, turned around, and left.

Queenie smiled as she watched Luca leave, then she asked Enoch, "Enoch, what do you think of Luca?"

"I like her. I'm hoping to get to know her better." Enoch expressed his admiration for Luca unabashedly.

Enoch was born in a political family. He was surrounded by different types of women since he was young. However, none of them had ever caught his attention.

It was because he had nothing in common with them.

interested in many things. If he was not a filial son who listened to his parents' arrangements and continued to be involved in politics, he would be working in the pharmaceutical industry just like Luca.

I didn't expect you to like her so much. Luca is a good woman. She's beautiful and has a good personality. Uncle Jack and I can promise you that. It's wonderful that you're willing to get to know her better." Queenie did not expect everything to go so

had only arranged the first blind date for Luca, and this guy was already interested in

seemed like Luca was charming, indeed. She could not let such a charming woman like Luca stay close to Luke. Otherwise, things would get out of control in the future.

different from any woman I've known before. I'm definitely not going to reject getting into a relationship with her if she agrees to it too," said Enoch. There were traces of his admiration for Luca in his words.

was observing you two just now. I think you left quite a good impression on Luca too. Besides, Uncle Jack told me that your ability and courage are the best among the younger generation, so you'll surely have a bright future," said Queenie. Although she was in a hurry to find Luca a boyfriend, she did not do things carelessly

could not help but dig into Enoch's family background when Jack planned to introduce Enoch

had been involved in politics for three generations. Although Enoch's grandfather and father did not hold high positions, they had been honest and fair their whole lives. A child educated by such a family was certainly not that bad either.

Jack told her that Enoch had a bright future. If he was willing to keep up with his work with a down-to-earth attitude, he would not stay in his current position as a civil servant for

like him was considered outstanding, and he would be a great match for

why Queenie made such arrangements. When she brought up the topic of a blind date to Enoch, he agreed to meet Luca. At the same time, Luca had agreed to meet him as

The two of them looked harmonious when they were talking to each other just now. It seemed like they had left a good impression on each other. It was as though Queenie was able to envision Luca and Enoch dating, then getting married and having **kids**.

"Thank you for introducing me to such an outstanding woman." Enoch was truly satisfied with Luca. It was great if his partner was working in the profession he was interested in.

If they really got married, he did not have to worry that there was nothing they could talk about even if they were working in different **fields**.

"Don't mention it. What the future holds for you all depends on you and Luca now. You'd better seize the chance. If this works, you'll surely receive a wedding gift from us." Queenie encouraged him.

Enoch nodded confidently. He lowered his head and sent Luca a message: [I had a great time talking to you. If you're not busy, why don't we meet again at a *later date*?]

Luca got into the elevator and massaged her aching forehead. She let out a sigh as she watched the elevator *go up*.

She did not expect it to be so tiring to deal with **Queenie**.

Her heart belonged to someone else. How could she be interested in another **man**?

However, she had no choice but to respond enthusiastically to a man she had no interest in for Queenie's sake. She was trying to show that she was interested in him too.

Well, putting on a show was tiring...

was not a professional actor. It was already tiring enough when she had to conceal her feelings when she was facing Luke. Now, she had to deceive Queenie and Enoch with her poor acting

no other employees in the elevator as lunch break was almost over.

her head on the elevator wall wearily and let out a helpless sigh. She wanted to look for a shoulder to cry on or go somewhere she would not have to pretend and put on a

wanted to lean on Luke's shoulder the most. However, she still had to put on a mask when she was facing that

was no place for her to relax...

her face with her hands. She felt exhausted. Then, her phone in her pocket vibrated. She took her phone out and looked at it. It was a message from Enoch.

out a sigh and stared at the keyboard for a long time. She thought of finding an excuse to brush him off, but considering that he might be sitting with Queenie now, she replied to him:

out of the elevator when it arrived on the floor. She ran into Jason, who had just gotten out of the office pantry. She smiled and greeted him, "Mr. Doyle, have you eaten your

expression was a little strange. He nodded and replied, "Yes, Dr. Craw. How was

just having lunch with my friends. I don't think it's considered a date," Luca corrected him. She was reluctant to mention the words 'blind

I'm going back to my office to work first," replied Jason. Then, he headed to his

Chapter 1819

Luca shook her head. What would happen if Luke found out about it?

If Luke was really bothered about her blind date, then everyone in the office would get into trouble...

Luca glanced at the time. There were two minutes left until lunch break was over. She trotted over to clock in.

Luke walked out of his office and saw Luca clocking in. Then, he walked toward her.

Luca turned around and saw the man in front of her. She could not help but be startled for a moment. She lowered her head unconsciously, avoiding his gaze.

She had no idea why she had this guilty feeling when she saw Luke...

It was as if she had done something wrong and was caught...

However, she was Luca now, not Bianca. The identity Abel had given her was a single, unmarried woman, not a married woman...

"Mr. Crawford, I'm going back to work now," said Luca.

Luke frowned when he noticed Luca was running away from him like a mouse running away from a cat. He asked, "Why are you so late?"

“I was having lunch just now and lost track of the time.” Luca noticed that Luke was still talking normally. He just sounded a little serious. She figured that he probably did not know that she had gone on a blind date, so she told him a white lie.

“Alright, then.” Luke did not put her on the spot. Even though Luca was lowering her head as though she was hiding something from him, he did not force her to tell him anything.

Luca nodded and trotted back into her office.

down at her desk and took her phone out, noticing that Enoch had sent another message to her: [Are you available this

saw this message, Luca muttered to herself, “Oh

the situation now, it was clear that Enoch was interested in

was not because Luca was narcissistic, but a man must be interested in a woman when he could not wait to ask her out again right after seeing

Enoch was a good man, she had no feelings

her eyes and replied to him: [I’m swamped with work recently. I’m not sure if I’m available this weekend. Why don’t we talk about

replied to her message soon: [I’m sorry. I didn’t consider that you might be busy with work. Then we’ll talk about

head hurt again when she read the last sentence of the message—‘We’ll talk about it later.’ She kept massaging her

saw her when he was passing by her office. He stopped and stood at the door to look at her without entering her office. “Are you feeling

stopped massaging her temples. She looked at him with confusion and shook her head.

are you massaging your temples?” Luke

at her desk and explained, “It’s nothing. One of the sentences I’m translating is a little harder. I’m just thinking of how I should

into her office and walked toward her desk. “Which one?”

“I’ve already figured out how to translate it. Thank you, Mr. Crawford,” Luca replied immediately. She did not expect him to come in because of this.

Luca’s eyes darkened. He felt that something was wrong with Luca.

However, he could not tell what *it was*.

Luca met Luke’s deep eyes that carried a lot of wisdom. She was worried that Luke might see through her, so she picked up the document and said, “I’m getting back to work.”

Luke nodded. He reminded her with a cold expression on his face, saying, "You can ask me if you need any help in translating."

"Alright, Mr. Crawford," replied Luca.

Luke did not say another word. He turned around and walked out of her office.

Luca let out a sigh of relief when she watched him leave.

She really could not figure out how Luke was feeling now. Previously, Nina told Bianca that Luke's emotions were manipulated by **her**.

However, she was Luca now, not **Bianca**.

Even though Luke had feelings for her, he would not have fallen so hard for her. Then what were all his emotions **about?**

Luca sighed as she looked at the piles of documents. It was tough for Luca to stay beside Luke.

better to be Bianca.

when she was still Bianca back then, she never had to handle anyone's mood swings. There were only the occasional times when Luke accidentally pissed her

On the other hand.

Nina was busy handling the documents at Brilliant, Sue pushed her office door open and dashed into her office with a panicked look on

startled by her actions. "Sue,

at Nina's rosy cheeks. Ever since she made up with Percy, her mood had been getting better day by day. Her cheeks had turned rosy too. When Sue was on her way to the office this morning, she was exclaiming how different women looked when they were in

Is there something on my face?" Nina touched her face curiously.

remembered what she wanted to tell Nina. She handed her phone to Nina and said, "No. Look at this. Something's happened."

on?" Nina took Sue's phone from her

was a video app opened on the phone. Nina's face turned pale white when she glanced at the title.

"What is this?" Nina asked.

Madison Johnston. She got engaged with Percy back then. She hosted a live stream to show her jumping off a building," Sue

she..." Nina was startled. She widened her eyes as she looked at the video.

Chapter 1820

Sue could not hold back when she saw her in this state. "That's right. She's fine. You don't need to be worried."

"How can I not be worried..." Nina was still in shock as she lifted her head to look at her best friend. "If anything were to happen to her, I can forget about living a good life."

Sue felt a pinch in her heart. No one would have thought that Madison would attempt suicide. Looking at her trembling made Sue utterly heartbroken. She hugged her tightly and comforted her, saying, "This has nothing to do with you. She was the one who isn't in her right mind, causing her to take the wrong path."

Nina was in Sue's arms and thought of Percy. If it were not because he wanted to be with her, he would not have caused so many problems without her knowledge and even gone against the Johnston family.

Despite knowing that the Johnston family had been having problems for a long time and it was only a matter of time before they would be targeted by others, it remained a fact that Madison would not have attempted suicide if not for Percy.

From the very start of it all, she felt that she was responsible for Madison's suicide attempt.

"Sue, if it weren't for Percy, the Johnstons wouldn't have ended up in such a miserable state and Madison wouldn't have fallen into depression," she muttered. The light in her eyes was gone as she tried to reduce her feelings of guilt.

"You can't force a relationship. You're not to be blamed. You and Percy both love each other. Even if he hadn't thought of a way to take down the Johnston family, he would've still come up with ways to get together with you and provide you with a bright future. Madison took it too hard." Sue had watched the entire live stream. Madison did not mention anything about the Johnston family and kept asking why she was dumped.

Although she did not state it explicitly, everyone understood.

She had yet to see the news on the internet, but she did not need to. Currently, public opinion was inclined toward Madison. Currently, all she hoped for was for Percy to settle it as soon as possible.

After all, according to the timeline, Nina was the first to arrive at the scene.

I hurt her." Nina lowered her eyes that were brimming with tears.

thought that after all the things she had gone through with Percy, she would never shed a single tear because of their relationship again. However, the reality was always

off the building had dealt her a huge

must have heard about Percy going against the Mallory family for my sake. Hence, Madison started having negative

alright, Nina. What are you thinking about? It wasn't easy for you to find your true love. Yet, you're now thinking of unnecessary things because of this? If Mr. Mallory finds out about this, he'll definitely get angry. Madison will be fine. Besides, both of you don't need to obtain her approval to be together. As long as you're happy, you can just ignore the naysayers, right?" Sue softly patted her

is Madison in now?" Nina suddenly lifted her head. All this while, she had never thought that her relationship would hurt another innocent

the Mallory family who protested her being together with Percy. Madison

be because I've gotten together with Percy that she started having all those

are you planning to do?" Sue lowered her head to look at her. She quickly shook her head the next moment and said, "Madison's emotions are still very unstable right now. Besides, the paparazzi will definitely be at the hospital to get first-hand information. If you go there, you might agitate Madison and get photographed by the paparazzi. It'll only bring about adverse

bit her lower lip. She was the one at fault. Even so, she could not help but want to know about Madison's

"How about this? I'll send someone over to get information on Madison's condition. So, don't go showing up over there. Just let Percy handle it. Have faith in his abilities. He'll certainly handle it perfectly." Sue was unable to remain firm when she saw Nina's disappointed *look*.

"Alright." In the end, Nina nodded her head in agreement because she was worried her appearance would agitate Madison. She was also worried that others might misunderstand that she was there to show *off*.

Sue patted her head and said, "If it isn't because my parents are sick right now, I would love to get both of them to take care of Kari and Teri. That way, we can go on vacation **together.**"

Nina smiled gently. "Going on a vacation is not a priority right now. We can talk about it once the kids have grown up, or when Mr. Doyle is not that busy and has the time to look after **the kids.**"

Sue nodded and thought back to the past. In the beginning, Bianca was the happiest of them all. Both she and Nina were clueless about their future relationships and had no idea how they should face their **partners.**

However, later on, with the help of Bianca and Nina, Sue found her direction in life. Besides, her relationship with Jason had improved and she even learned to **trust him.**

Currently, Bianca was in a foreign country, and there was no news about her. Meanwhile, Nina thought that her life would settle down and she would soon get her happy ending. However, Madison showed up. The thought of it made her have **a heartache.**

"Alright, stop letting your thoughts stray away. I'll go arrange for someone to get news of Madison's condition." Sue tapped on Nina's head as if to remind her silly self not to worry over this issue *anymore.*

"Alright." Nina nodded. With Sue's comfort, she felt much **better now.**

Sue left and closed the office door.

Nina sighed.

were not stable. The thought of Madison attempting suicide because she had gotten together with Percy made her

the silent screen of her phone, she had the urge to listen to what Madison said during the
she did not dare to click into

was really going to commit suicide, she wouldn't have kicked up such a big fuss.' Hence, Nina knew that
Madison did not have the intention to commit suicide at all and was just placing her last bet.

the public to know that Percy had betrayed her and make the public misunderstand that Nina was the
third

was not worried about all those matters because Percy would handle

if Madison really wanted to commit

sat on the balcony of such a high floor. Wasn't she

a deep breath. She had never thought that her appearance would harm others, but it was clear that she
had indeed hurt someone

situation seemed to have gotten much more