

## **Be Gentle 1821**

### **Chapter 1821**

Nina's mother, Pierre, and Madison were all receiving treatment in the same hospital.

After giving it a thought, she asked Johann for a favor.

Considering that she had a connection to Luke, coupled with the fact that Jason and Johann were both her friends, Nina asked him to help check on Madison's condition.

Johann agreed to it.

After finishing his rounds, Johann sauntered toward the psychiatric department while yawning. Before arriving, he saw Pierre walking out with two people trailing behind him while carrying two suitcases in their hands.

'Has he been discharged?'

Johann raised his brows. 'It seems that Luca really knows how to deliver a heavy blow.' Back when Pierre was first admitted, he was in so much pain. After being in pain for two to three days, it seemed that he had returned to normal and could be discharged.

He smiled and walked over. "Mr. Mallory, have you been discharged?"

Pierre knew that Johann was one of Luke's people, so in other words, he was on Percy's side. He just took a glance at him and said through gritted teeth, "Yeah. It's all thanks to you."

"No, no, don't say that. I didn't do anything. I didn't manage to find out what was wrong with your body, but it seems that you can walk freely now and you're fine." Johann placed both his hands in his pockets. He knew the truth, yet he put on an act as though he was clueless.

Pierre clenched his fists. At this moment, he just felt like beating up anyone related to Luke.

"I'm fine." He snorted.

look a little pale. Are you sure you're alright? Why not stay for one more night?"

and continued straight ahead with a darkened expression, ignoring Johann. Since noon that day, he was no longer in

did not need any more painkillers and had recovered

was as if nothing

his head as he watched Pierre leave. He picked up his phone and sent two

first message was to Luca. [As you said, Pierre recovered today and has been discharged. You should be careful in case he tries to get back at

second message was to Luke. [Pierre has been discharged. Take good care of

both messages, he then continued to make his way to the

to the nurse's station. Johann frowned and said, "Why are there so many reporters here? Go get the security guards to chase them

The matron said with a bitter look, "I've already informed the security guards. Three batches of guards have already come over and chased away these reporters, but they keep sneaking in. They're just like flies. It's impossible to chase them *away*."

"*Is it* because of Madison?" Johann asked. He knew long ago that Madison was **admitted here**.

*However*, he was not interested in those who had nothing to do with him. If it were not for Sue asking him for this favor, he would not have made his way *here*.

The matron nodded her head.

The current lifestyle in the city was very stressful, so many would easily have negative thoughts. Hence, there were many patients in this department seeking treatment. However, none of them had ever brought so many reporters here before.

Their department was different than others. Some of the patients here would have their emotions triggered whenever they saw strangers pacing around and suffer a relapse in their illness. This time, due to these reporters who lingered around without any intention of leaving and who were determined to get first-hand information, a few patients had broken **down**.

**Currently**, both nurses and doctors were thrown into turmoil. They could not care less about any **other things**.

*Johann* turned around and looked at the reporters, asking, "Want to settle this hassle?"

*The matron's* eyes glittered as she immediately nodded her head. "Of course. Our patients are extremely sensitive. They'll go mad if they see this bunch **of reporters**."

"*Have the* Johnstons come over to settle it. Just say there are lots of reporters loitering here. It'll do no good to Madison's privacy and mental health. Tell the Johnstons that the reporters are targeting Madison. This will chase the reporters away. Even if they're not willing to leave, the cops will forcefully chase them away. But if the Johnstons are not concerned about Madison's health, the reporters will continue to stay here." Johann proposed a plan while wondering if it was the Johnstons who plotted *this*.

the Johnstons were currently being cornered by the Mallory family. It would be worthwhile for them to pull any tricks they could think of or sacrifice someone to protect the Johnston

noded and said to Johann, "Dr. Park, can you stay back here to help out for a while? I'll go and speak to the Johnston

Johann noded and did not insist

not need to be personally involved to know the truth. He would just have to rely on the nurses to understand the situation

Besides, psychiatry was not his field.

just stood there lazily at the nurse's station and looked at the reporters, preventing them from  
in his heart, he was thinking that if these persistent reporters were placed here as part of the Johnston family's plot, then he would really have to take his hat off to  
order to protect the Johnston family name, they're pulling all sorts of tricks under their  
was staring at the reporters, Tia came out of the elevator. When she saw Johann lazily standing at the nurse's station, she got curious and walked to him. "Johann? What are you doing  
shocked to see her and raised his brows. "I work in this hospital, so of course, I'll be here. But you... Who called

## **Chapter 1822**

"We can't chase them away. It's obvious that the Johnston family has arranged for them to stay here," Johann told her while shaking his head.

Tia suddenly felt that something was off after hearing this.

'Any psychiatric patient would want to keep a low profile, yet this patient is openly receiving the reporters' attention. It seems that the Johnstons are trying to make a big deal out of Madison's attempted suicide.'

"This is interesting. Help me find out which ward she's in," Tia asked.

Johann put on a helpless look on his face. "I'm not a nurse."

"Then why are you standing here?" Tia glared at him helplessly, then turned to look at the reporters beside her while feeling glad that she had put on makeup before leaving her house today. Otherwise, she would have a rough road ahead if the reporters saw her without makeup.

Johann smirked. "I'm enjoying the scene. It seems that you do enjoy being photographed by the reporters."

Tia retrieved her gaze and cursed inwardly. Johann was very observant. Despite psychology not being his field of study, he was more observant than any other psychologist.

Indeed, she enjoyed having the reporters take photos of her. With that, she would be on the papers and Luke would be forced to take note of her.

"Oh, right. I heard that you've accepted Luke's mother, Ms. Tanner, as your patient?" Johann asked.

Tia tapped on the table. "Do you want to change your profession? You sure love gossiping. The systems in hospitals are all the same. Hurry and help me check which ward she's in."

"Didn't those people tell you the ward number when they hired you?" Ultimately, Johann sat on the chair and still helped Tia.

by typing Madison's name on the keyboard, he would be able to see all the hospital's records about her. After hitting the enter button, he raised his brows. It seemed that Madison did have a very fragile body. There were several of her records in their

happened to forget. You're such a nuisance. All I'm asking is for you to help me check her ward number." Tia was complaining because Johann was being slow. After she accepted the case, she immediately started elaborating on her fees in detail. She also recorded everything that her client told her about

thing she forgot to ask for was

were to just ask around, she would certainly

it. Just walk until you reach the end and the ward is on your right,"

trying to confuse me? Why can't you just tell me the ward number?" Tia's eyes were brewing with anger as she was very dissatisfied with

the same. Just listen to my instructions and open the door once you're there. You can head in immediately," Johann spoke while looking at those

security guards from the ground floor

just standing aside, having already given up on chasing the reporters away. After all, there were lots of people in the hospital. With just the blink of an eye, the reporters would sneak in again using

security guards just stood there so that the reporters would not trespass into the department and

still doubted Johann of fooling with her even after seeing his expression. "It'd better be the correct ward, or I'll get back at

"Men don't like fierce women." Johann shook his head. Back when Tia did not have a crush, she would obey all his commands and even wanted to be **with him**.

However, he was not into her.

*Currently, Tia* had a new crush and would only listen to Luke. As for other men, she did not bother to treat them gently at all. In her opinion, men she could not take advantage of were useless **to her**.

Johann sighed. 'Women are sure quick to change their *minds*.'

As soon as Tia took two steps forward, she turned around and glared at him. "I'll file a complaint against you if I find out you're spouting nonsense.'

Johann shrugged his shoulders. If complaints were effective, he would have long been transferred to *another hospital*.

He sat down and glanced through the information in the system. His eyes gradually darkened. 'Perhaps all of this information can help Percy.'

**Johann** closed the information and waited for the matron to **return**.

After some time, the matron came back and shook her head helplessly when she saw those foolish *reporters*.

*Johann* saw her and asked with a smile, "How did it go?"

The matron sneakily gave him a thumbs up. "Dr. Park, it's just as you predicted. 90 percent of those reporters were sent by the *Johnstons*."

**"How's Madison doing?"** Johann continued **to question.**

replied, "She's not doing too well right now. Her emotions seem to be unstable. Initially, Dr. Leo wanted to inject her with a tranquilizer but the Johnstons objected to it. They claimed that they've hired a psychologist outside of the hospital to help stabilize the patient's emotions. That professional psychologist has

"It's Tia," Johann added.

met her, right?" The matron smiled. Of all the doctors in this hospital, Johann was the most capable one and also the easiest to communicate

Oh, right. Earlier, I used the computer because she didn't know which ward to go to. So, I checked it for her,"

problem at all." The matron was easy-going

and spun around to leave. He picked up his phone and sent Percy a message about what he had just seen. [Regarding the issues with the Johnstons, I think the information in the hospital's system can help

Percy replied quickly: [What information?]

is confidential. As a doctor, I can't just simply reveal it. You have to find out for yourself.] Johann did not explicitly say anything. After all, he still had the morale of a

long as he was not the one who revealed a patient's confidential information and it was Percy who hired a hacker or someone else to obtain the information to reveal it to the public, no one could blame it on

some time, Percy replied? [I'll treat you to beer after this is

might as well invite me to your yacht. I'm sure you haven't sailed your yacht during this time. Let me use it.] Johann was

## **Chapter 1823**

Percy paused for a moment and continued, "What I'm trying to say is to let Nina stay over at your place for the time being."

Earlier, he received a call from the maid at the villa telling him that there were reporters outside the villa and she could not chase them away as they insisted on staying until they saw Nina.

He had to stay in the office to settle this issue and could not return, but he could not do anything about this either as it involved Nina.

"About this..." Luca felt troubled. "Are there many reporters at your villa? Why not have Nina stay at the previous apartment?"

"She needs company now. That's why I thought of this arrangement. Actually, she already knows about what's going on between you and Luke, so you don't have to worry too much about it," said Percy.

Luca was speechless and wondered how Percy knew that she was staying together with Luke.

However, when she thought about the relationship Percy and Luke shared, it was possible that Luke had told Percy about it.

Indeed, both Luca and Luke were innocent. Despite staying in the same house, they had never done anything intimate and had never crossed the line.

However, after listening to what Percy said, it sounded like she and Luke shared some sort of deep relationship.

As Luca listened, she became helpless.

"I'm just staying together with Luke. That's all," she emphasized. "We're like housemates."

"I know. That's why I'm asking you to look after Nina," Percy replied to her, but he was also teasing Luke inwardly. 'It seems that he still hasn't won over Luca.'

Luca was at a loss for words as she felt that Percy had a point, but before that...

that something was off. Even so, she had no choice but to agree. "Alright, no

this issue is over, I'll treat you to a meal." Percy seldom asked for favors from a woman, but when things were related to Nina, he was willing to beg everyone all for

don't have to treat me to a meal. Just treat Nina well," said Luca. She did not wish for others to repay her. All she wanted was for them to treat their beloved ones

answered. "Nina is my one true love. You don't have to remind me about it, and I don't have to promise other people either. I'll definitely treat her

relieved when she heard

'As long as Nina is happy.'

the call, Luca felt troubled. If she really brought Nina back to the villa, she would have to inform the owner of the

up and walked to the door of the office. She looked in the direction of

'He's probably still working...'

Nina a message: [Nina, do you want to come over to my place for a

no problem. Send me your address and I'll head over.] Nina knew that Luca had moved to another place but she did not know the

about to finish work. I'll head over to pick you up.] After Luca was done texting, she placed her phone inside her

After inviting Nina, the only thing left to do was to inform Luke of the *arrangement*.

*Luca walked toward Luke's office, and coincidentally, Jason came out of the office.*

"Dr. Craw, are you looking for Luke?"

Luca nodded. "Is Mr. Crawford inside?"

*"He's inside. Just head on in,"* said Jason. He did not close the door of Luke's office and headed straight back to his **own office**.

Luca glanced at the office door that was left open. She felt perturbed, not because she was about to meet Luke but because she had invited Nina over without seeking permission from him first. She was worried that the man would be dissatisfied **with this**.

**"Come in."** Luke had overheard their conversation. After some time, he took the initiative to speak when he realized Luca had yet to enter.

**Luca** entered. "Mr. Crawford, I have something that I'd like to discuss with **you**."

"Regarding Nina?" Luke noticed she was feeling nervous and helpless. He was still the same man who loved her, but she seemed to not notice Luke's love and affection **for her**.

*She* was feeling so anxious just over this issue.

*Luca* was surprised, thinking perhaps it was Percy who had spoken to Luke beforehand. Hence, she nodded her head. "Yes, I'm worried that Nina's thoughts might go astray if she's left alone. Hence, I hope she can stay at the villa in the meantime."

"Sure." Luke agreed to it. What made him feel dissatisfied was not that there would be another woman staying in the villa but that Luca had to be so cautious when talking to him about this matter.

have his guard up with anyone except Luca.

seemed she saw him in a

out a breath of relief. 'It seems that Percy has spoken to him beforehand. After all, that villa belongs to Luke. It's pointless if I'm the only one who agrees to

Mr. Crawford. If there's nothing else, I'll leave your office now," she said. She had completed her work, so she could leave the

be back late tonight. I'll have to leave the kids to you," Luke

nodded as taking care of the kids was supposed to be her responsibility anyway. That reminder made her feel distant. She could not help but feel sad about

Luca left the office, she picked up the documents and immediately headed to

up Nina, Luca glanced at the surroundings and noticed there were no reporters around. 'It seems like even though the Johnstons are up to something, they still don't dare to offend the Crawford

was because the big shot behind Grace Bay was Luke. Hence, the Johnstons did not order the reporters to hound

already risky for them to offend the Mallory family, and if they were to offend the Crawford family as well, they would be in

understood the situation well, including how Nina managed to escape from those the car and also glanced at the surroundings before letting out a breath of relief. "Thank God they didn't order those reporters to

## **Chapter 1824**

Those criticisms did not affect her that much, but they would leave a huge impact on Percy.

The Mallory family had not officially kicked Percy out. Hence, his reputation would still affect that of the Mallor family. Even though he had decided to leave the Mallory family, he would still need to preserve the reputation of the Mallory family as long as he was still one of them.

Nina was understanding. Even though she was quite upset, she did not rely too much on Percy so that his attention would not be diverted from the serious matters on hand.

"Alright, then I'll come up with the menu." Luca noticed that Nina had a lot on her mind, hence she found it difficult to reply to her question. Luca held Nina's hand and did not say another word.

"Okay." Nina nodded and held Luca's hand as well. It was such a simple gesture, yet it gave her immense strength and support.

Luca was sincerely concerned about her. Nina recalled Percy's comment. As a friend, perhaps she should not keep dwelling on the past.

When they were about to reach the villa, Luca had the driver pull up to the side. She went to the supermarket nearby to purchase some groceries.

Even though the maid in the villa had already bought some groceries, Luca felt she needed to buy even more as Nina was coming over. It was to prevent not having enough food at home.

After purchasing some groceries, Luca and Nina then headed for the villa.

Nina looked at the surroundings and sighed. "The atmosphere here is very nice. I remember that the villas here were built only a few years ago. Apparently, many celebrities have purchased a unit here. Luca, have you ever met any celebrities during your time here?"

Luca shook her head and explained, "I just moved in not too long ago. How could I have met any celebrities?"

"You'll have your chance in the future." Nina looked at the surroundings and had taken a liking to the area.

Nina loved the environment, Luca teased her, saying, "Since you like this place so much, then just move in with Mr. Mallory. The atmosphere here is nice, and the security measures are very good. Outsiders can't come in

If I were to move here, I'll become your neighbor. I can come to your place every day to have meals. When that happens, you'll end up crying." Nina revealed a smile. The change of environment had made her feel much

casually, "You're most welcome. You can come and have a meal whenever you



them kept chatting. After driving around for a moment, they arrived at the entrance of the villa. "This is it. Let me open the

Luca carry the bags in

in the password, and the door opened. Luca looked at Nina beside her and said, "Go on and enter. Oh, right. There are other people inside as well."

other people inside? Did Luke even hire a maid for  
was astonished and followed her

a maid, but there are also others. I haven't told you that I'm not the only one staying in this villa," Luca spoke as she closed the

was anxious. 'Could it be her

following her into the master bedroom, Nina learned that Luca was referring to... Luke's

*It* turned out to be Luke's children.

The three children surrounded them when they saw Luca and Nina entering. They greeted her, "Hi, Ms. Luca. Hi, *Godmother*."

**Nina** looked at Luke's three children, then looked at Luca. 'Since the kids are all here, does it mean that Luke is *here too*?'

"**Your** guess is right," Luca said. She took out the candies that the kids loved from her pocket and passed them around. "I bought you guys some treats, but don't have too much of them. Dinner will be *served soon*."

"**Thank** you, Ms. Luca!" The three kids got their candies and left. Perhaps after getting reminded, they seemed much more mature **now**.

Nina said in astonishment, "Are you and Luke already **together**?"

"**No**." Luca shook her head and pulled Nina's hand to bring her to the kitchen. "If I say that we're just housemates, will you believe **me**?"

Nina thought to herself and knew she would not **buy it**.

*'If* a man and a woman are staying in the same house, how can they just be housemates?

*'Besides, he* even brought his children over. To the outsiders who don't know a thing, they might think of them as a happy family of five.'

"I believe..." Nina's voice was a little *stiff*.

a thing happened to other people, I would have difficulty believing those words too. But I can guarantee there's nothing suspicious going on between me and Luke. We're not in an intimate relationship." Luca knew Nina would not buy it and explained helplessly, "Otherwise, why would I bring you here?"

Nina thought to herself, 'She's being so honest. Perhaps it might be the

I'll go prepare the meals now. Do you want to help out?" Luca

agreed happily. Recalling that Luke was also staying here, she asked, "Luke will be back tonight for dinner

but it won't affect your stay here. All the rooms in this villa have been taken, but you can sleep with me." Luca was determined to make

all, Percy had no time to spare to take care of Nina. Hence, Luca wanted Nina to stay by her side. It could be considered a form

recalled Percy's words. Despite being reminded about it earlier, learning that Luca and Luke were staying together still made her astonished.

suppressing her curiosity, but Luca seemed to be agitated and was blurting out things. This made Nina wonder what Luca did not want her to find out.

that Nina was still wondering what was going on between her and Luke, but at least Nina was no longer thinking about Madison's issue. Hence, Luca was not bothered to explain and did not reassure Nina. She even allowed Nina's thoughts to roam free.

be my assistant,"

and stood beside Luca to be her

## **Chapter 1825**

"Kids don't tell lies. They call you 'Miss', while they call me 'Godmother'. Doesn't that make me sound older?" Nina lamented, "It seems that I have to take better care of my appearance."

"Your skin looks much better compared to the last time I saw you." Luca changed the topic.

"Really?" Nina could not help but feel thrilled. She wanted to touch her face, but when she realized that her hands were full of grease due to the minced meat, she abandoned that thought. "Lately, my quality of sleep has improved and I feel much more energetic."

"Good sleep is the best way to protect your skin. It's actually quite a good way to go about it. You look much younger now. I think I should have the kids greet you as 'Miss' too!" Luca looked at Nina. Women loved to be praised, and Nina was no exception.

"Well, you got a point there, but forget it. We still have to follow hierarchy!" Nina was utterly delightful after being sweet-talked by Luca.

Luca let out a breath of relief after seeing that Nina was no longer being troubled by her issues.

It was not easy for Nina to find her true love. She did not wish for Nina's happiness to be destroyed all because of Madison.

On the other hand.

Jack received news from his friend and frowned.

Queenie served him a cup of tea. Seeing such a look on his face, she placed the teacup in front of him and asked in a concerned tone, "What's with your expression, Jack?"

from New York has sent me some information,"

heard that and was delighted. She said, "Really? Did he manage to

shook his head. "He said that he went over to the address I gave him and found that it was an old couple staying there. That old couple claimed that they bought that house from a young person not too long

person? Did Bianca buy a house?" Queenie frowned and vaguely felt that something was not right.

"Why haven't we been able to get into contact with Bianca? Even now when we followed the address, we still failed to find

too sure about it. I've already sent Bianca's photo to my friend. I told him to ask the old couple if they bought it from Bianca when he's free." At this point, Jack noticed something was not right as well. It was as if a huge mystery was engulfing their life and they were totally clueless about it, leading to them not noticing it all

the old couple mention where the person whom they bought the house from is currently staying?"

Queenie was not willing to let go of the slightest trail for the sake of locating Bianca. However, everything thus far had been

couple was unsure because all the documents were already prepared beforehand and in soft copies. Hence, the previous home owner's information isn't stated," said

the case..." Queenie had a sad expression on her face. She thought she could get in touch with Bianca but it seemed like it was

I want to fly over. Do you mind settling the procedure for me?" She still wished to look for Bianca.

However, given Jack's unique status, she had to go through special procedures if she wanted to fly abroad.

"**You** want to personally look for Bianca?" Jack was able to see through his wife's thoughts in *an instant*.

"Yes. Bianca has been alone abroad for so long. I want to look for her. Let's not talk about other things but she's already a mother. How can she just ditch her kids and husband here while she travels abroad for so long? It's ridiculous," said Queenie. She did not wish for Bianca to be left without a place back home and be forced to go through life miserably.

*Jack* knew what was actually going on in Queenie's mind, but he was not assured to have Queenie go abroad alone to search for someone without any clues.

*Hence*, he had to convince her not to. "That old couple said that it's been some time since they bought that house. Maybe Bianca has gone to another state? The States is such a big place. If you just blindly go there, how do you expect yourself to look *for her*?"

"Bianca, that child, really makes me worry," Queenie said as tears came streaming down her face. "I thought having a child would make me feel assured. Never would I have thought that both she and Leia would make me worry *so much*."

Jack was not willing to see Queenie cry and quickly hugged her. "Don't be too upset. Our kids will have to lead their own lives. They've chosen their paths. We, as parents, can't do a thing about it."

"**But**, I really miss Bianca..." Queenie cried. When Bianca was little, she was taken away. It was not an easy feat for them to reunite. However, Bianca went abroad only after a few **years**.

She had feelings of guilt for her biological daughter. After reuniting, she wished to take good care of her and protect her. However, she did not even have the chance to do **so**.

*Besides*, she could not even reach out to Bianca.

I'll talk to Luke." Seeing Queenie in such a state made Jack

asked, "How do you plan to

Luke is the only person who can get into contact with Bianca. I'll talk to him and get him to persuade Bianca to return and keep us company for a few years, alright?" Jack could not bear to see Queenie cry.

just want her to be by our side for a few years. I wish for her to be by our side forever. You know as well that she's our biological daughter." Queenie just wanted to make it up to

I'll talk to Luke, but Bianca is already an adult. Previously, she encountered those issues and lost her memories. It's only normal for her not to have feelings for the kids and us. You have to be understanding and don't get too upset,"

and nodded. Since Bianca encountered that incident, no one familiar with her had been by her side up until now. She was alone in a foreign country. Thinking of Bianca being alone made Queenie

must talk to Luke. If Bianca isn't willing to come back, then have him give us her address. We'll go over and keep her company," she

agreed, but deep inside him, he

not that he had never spoken to Luke about it. He had always wanted to know Bianca's

## **Chapter 1826**

After comforting Queenie's emotions, Jack then gave Luke a call.

When the call was connected, Jack did not say any greetings but questioned immediately, "Luke, do you have time to spare right now?"

"I'm still working overtime, Jack. Is there something urgent?" Luke asked. He knew why Jack was giving him a call. Perhaps he could no longer keep Bianca's matter a secret.

Keeping it a secret from them was just a temporary measure and Luke had never planned on letting them remain in the dark for too long.

If Jack was easily fooled, he would not have his current achievements.

"You're still working?" Jack's voice deepened, and he could not help but drag his tone. He knew very well about T Corporation's latest project. "Then when will you be free? I plan to talk to you about Bianca."

"I'll head to your office and pay a visit to you tomorrow," Luke said.

Jack was caught by surprise. Not only did Luke not reject but he even agreed. He even made an appointment for the next day.

"Alright. I'll wait for your arrival tomorrow." Jack agreed as well.

After hanging up the call, Luke placed his phone aside and tidied up the documents.

Looking at the time, Luca was probably preparing dinner now.

Despite being busy, he would not miss mealtimes as long as it was Luca preparing the food. However, that was only if time permitted it, of course.

no matter how busy he was, he would still tidy up the documents and head back home on time. He would leave work matters till after dinner. He would do anything to have dinner with Luca.

Jack wanting to meet up with him to talk, Luke was not the slightest bit bothered about it. If he could not continue to keep this secret, he would just reveal the truth. After all, he still had two DNA test reports which were kept in a safety

them was the DNA test report of the fake Bianca while the other was the DNA test report of Luca and the

if Jack learned the truth, it would not disrupt Luke's investigation. Instead, it might end up helping

reason he never revealed the truth before this was because Bianca's father was also his father-in-law. He did not wish for his in-laws to be too worried about

tidied up the documents, he got up and left the

his car to the villa. When he was approaching the living room, he heard the cheerful voices of the kids and the faint aroma of

a life was lovely

dreamt of such dreams when he lost Bianca. He dreamt that after coming back home from work, the kids would surround him while Bianca busied herself in the kitchen preparing food for all of them.

he dreamt of such scenes, he would not be willing to wake up. He never expected that he still had the chance to enjoy a life like

moment he stepped into the living room, Rainie came running over, "You're

"Yes, I'm back. Are you done with your homework?" Luke looked at his daughter. Daughters would often be close to their fathers, and that saying was accurate. Whenever he was back from work, Rainie would always be the first to come and greet him if she was in the **living room**.

"**We've** done our homework. Tommy got one question wrong but Lanie already taught him the correct answered," Rainie said.

Luke nodded.

**Rainie looked** in the direction of the kitchen and reminded softly. "Oh, right. Daddy, Godmother **is here.**"

"**I know.**" Luke brought the documents upstairs and came back down. At that moment, the children were all already sitting at the dining *table*.

Rainie waved her hand and called out, "Daddy, Ms. Luca and Godmother have already prepared dinner. Come **and eat.**"

*Luke went over and sat on his seat.*

**Nina** held the cutlery and looked at Luke's seat. It was the seat that usually belonged to the host. She then turned to look at Luca, who was getting food for the **kids**.

*She* was very kind to Bianca's kids. At the very least, that was what she saw.

Besides, the kids had expressed that they liked her. Hence, that proved that Luca treated them well behind the scenes as well. Otherwise, Rainie and Lanie, who were already so grown, wouldn't have failed to notice if Luca was just putting on an act.

*Luca* meticulously got food for each of the kids, then picked up Luke's plate. She got him some food as well before placing it back in front *of him*.

"Thanks." Luke expressed his gratitude.

it and could not help but sigh. "I really envy you, Mr. Crawford."

her tone, Luke knew immediately that she was feeling sorry for Bianca. However, this time, she was not causing Luca any trouble but was blaming herself instead. Perhaps she had accepted the

she would still have the thought of

expression remained composed as he asked, "Why is that

such a capable employee like Luca when you're in the office. When you're back home, Luca prepares a table full of delicacies to serve you. Tell me, how can I not be envious of you?" Nina teased. She could no longer hold back the moment she saw Luca serving Luke

not that Luke has no hands to do it

to Luca, even though they were currently staying together, they had never flirted with each other and their relationship

They were just like housemates.

have Luca prepare dinner and even serve him his meal, Luca would only look like a nanny if she was neither his wife nor

Nina was not used to such

**Chapter 1827**

Luca did not expect that Nina would make such a recommendation. Just when she was about to reject it, Luke spoke up.

"That's fine." He agreed.

Luca was astonished. 'He? Washing dishes?' She recalled that Luke was a man who could not even operate a microwave or any other electrical gadgets in the kitchen. It seemed like he was not too good in the kitchen.

Nina also put on a shocked expression.

'The head of T Corporation and the heir of the Crawford family actually agreed to wash dishes?'

The three kids looked at each other and smirked. They did not say anything. Instead, they ate even faster.

They all wanted to watch their father wash dishes in the kitchen.

After Luke agreed to it, Nina was at a loss for words and just kept quiet as she ate her meal.

Luca's cooking was delicious, but with Luke around, her attention was no longer on the food. She kept thinking about the scene of Luke washing dishes in the kitchen later.

After dinner, Nina asked Luca softly, "Do you guys have a dishwasher?"

"We do." Luca nodded.

Nina came to an understanding. "No wonder he agreed to it so quickly. He'll probably use the dishwasher, right?"

after I moved here, no one ever uses that dishwasher. I wonder if he even knows how to use it," Luca said softly. Luke never washed dishes in the past. On any usual day, the two of them would just stand side-by-side. She would wash the dishes while he would wipe them. It was a smooth

However, at this moment...

looked at Luke's expressionless face as he cleaned up the dishes on the table. She reminded him, saying, "Mr. Crawford, the dishes will be cleaner if you wash them by hand. You have to wash them first before placing them into the dishwasher to ensure the germs are

glanced at her. After Percy suggested having Nina stay the night with Luca, he had already prepared himself to be nagged by

he did not expect Nina to provoke him endlessly. 'I'm going to make Percy pay for

watched Luke stack up the plates and thought to herself, 'If he's careless, the plates at the top will fall and shatter. It'll be troublesome to clean up the mess if that happens.' Hence, she got up and said, "I think I'll take it

can do your own thing. Let Mr. Crawford handle it. He's not a kid. Isn't it only normal for a person to work a little after having their meal?" Nina pulled Luca

at Luke as he carried the plates that were stacked up

were her, she would take two trips to bring all the plates to the kitchen as it was safer that

caution, Luke brought the plates and cutlery into the kitchen. Luca was held back by Nina. She had no choice and could only watch from behind. A while passed and there was no sound of anything crashing to the floor. Only then was she relieved.

very least, he had not

*After* seeing the anxious look on Luca's face, Nina whispered, "Relax. It's only because he has never done this before. It's not that he doesn't know how to do it."

*Luca glanced* at her and had a helpless look on her face. "I'm just worried about my plates **and cutlery**."

"**Quit** the act. Come, let's see how he's washing the dishes." Nina held Luca's hand and walked to the entrance of *the kitchen*.

Luke had his back facing them while standing in front of the sink. Water came running from the tap, and all they could hear was the sound of water and plates being washed. However, they were unable to see how he was washing the *dishes*.

**Tommy** forced his way in and held Luca's hand. "Don't worry, Ms. Luca. I'm sure Daddy will wash all the plates until they're sparkling *clean*."

Nina touched the child's head. She asked curiously, "How do you *know*?"

"That's because Daddy is a germaphobe. That's why he'll make sure the plates are very clean," said Tommy with a straight *face*.

Nina wanted to laugh out loud. She covered her mouth, trying her best not to laugh out loud.

**Luke** was washing the dishes. After hearing what the child said, he reminded them coldly. "I can hear you guys talking from *over here*."

Tommy covered his mouth and said with a smile, "Daddy, the way you do things so seriously just makes you *look cooler*!"

"**He** does look quite cool." Nina agreed and nodded her head. "Next time, I'll make Percy try **it**."

"*You should* ask Percy to prepare dinner for you." Luke did not turn around and continued struggling to get rid of the grease on *the plates*.

I can try that," Nina added. However, she realized something was not right. "Why would you say have to be determined and just hope you won't be admitted to the hospital after having his cooking," Luke said. As Percy's best friend of 20 years, Luke knew how terrible Percy was at

Percy's cooking is terrible." Tommy thought back to the time in Russia. He was unlucky enough to try Percy's cooking. Just the thought of it now made him have goosebumps.

time to pick up cooking skills. You just have to give him a chance." All of a sudden, Nina was agitated when she heard the criticisms from Luke and his son. 'I swear I'll make Percy learn how



saw that Luke was about to finish washing the dishes. He was picking up a towel to wipe the plates now. She then reminded him, saying, "It's the light

turned around to look at her and picked up the towel before starting to wipe away the water droplets on

in satisfaction. "Never would I expect the great Mr. Crawford to be quite an expert in washing dishes. Not

that, she held Luca's hand. "Come, let's head

"Why?" Luca was puzzled.

it's rare for me to spend the night with you. Don't you want to have a girl's talk?" Nina held her hand and was about to

squeezed his way to the front when he saw his mother being pulled away by Nina. "Godmother, can I come with

## **Chapter 1828**

Luca looked at her expression. It seemed like she was not telling a lie. She then pushed the door open and said, "Come on in."

Nina walked into her bedroom and looked at the simplistic design. She nodded her head and turned around to look at Luca. "To be honest, Luca, will I be a nuisance if I stay here for the night?"

"Not at all. Luca opened the closet and took out a brand new pair of pajamas that she had never worn. "On the contrary, I'll be reassured if you stay here. I've never worn this set of pajamas before. I'll let you wear it for tonight, alright?"

Nina accepted it and said with a smiling face, "Thanks. But I know that you have a lot on your plate. If not for Percy not being reassured, I would never have come here to bother you. You don't have to accompany me tonight and just do whatever you need to do. You just need to leave half the bed to me."

"Alright, since you've said so, then I shall continue with my work," said Luca. She sat on the chair in front of the dressing table and opened her laptop.

Nina nodded and said, "I'll just make myself comfortable."

"Of course." Luca turned around and smiled. Her gaze then focused back on the screen as she resumed working.

Nina suddenly thought of Percy when she saw the serious look on Luca. 'I'm guessing he's currently frustrated over Madison's issue.'

All of them seemed to be very busy except for her.

Nina dared not express her feelings to Luca, but she could not help herself. She wanted to know about Madison's condition and her recovery progress.

The netizens were still cursing her on the internet and things were getting worse.

the harsh comments the netizens left her and thought to herself. 'If they learn that I was the first to get together with him, will they still

probably will. In their opinions, Madison is the

scrolling down. Looking at the criticisms, she could confirm that Percy had not hired anyone to suppress the hate comments. 'What's he up to

that Nina was being way too quiet. She turned around to look and saw her sitting on the sofa while looking at her phone. "Don't worry. This issue will be over before you even realize

her head, and her eyes seemed teary. She would be lying if she said that she was alright. Madison attempted suicide, and she felt bad about

"How do you know that?"

Mallory is very capable. You shouldn't bother reading those comments. Perhaps by tomorrow, there'll be a drastic shift in public opinion. Even though Mr. Mallory is very capable, you still got to give him some time to sort it out," Luca said despite having no idea what Percy was up to. Even at this point, no one had stepped forward to clarify

believed that Percy would not just give in to the Johnston family's

could not help but tease, "Are you trying to stand up for him? Say, how much did Percy give

just trying to comfort you. He didn't give me a penny, but since I comforted you, perhaps you should be the one paying me instead." Luca teased back with a

"*I have* no money, but you can always look for me if you need company." Nina waved her **hand**.

"**That'd** be great, but Mr. Mallory wouldn't approve of that," Luca muttered softly. Seeing that Nina's mood was much better now, Luca turned around and continued with her *work*.

*Tommy was* standing outside of the bedroom, just staring at them.

He heard their conversation and wished to talk to his mother **as well**.

Luke went upstairs and saw his little son looking just like an abandoned child as he stood outside of Luca's bedroom. It was clear he was feeling aggrieved. He shook his head helplessly and asked with a smile, "Why aren't you returning to your room, Tommy?"

"*Daddy, I want to go inside. Can I?*" Tommy turned around and asked with a **pout**.

"*No. We're not allowed to disturb them tonight.*" Luke held his hand and sent him back to his bedroom.

Tommy saw Luke closing the door and sighed softly. He said, "She forgot about her son the moment she has company. Boo-hoo."

...

The next day.

**Luke kept** his word to Jack and came to *his office*.

was done with his morning meeting. Seeing Luke coming over, he ordered his secretary, "Go brew some tea and send it to my office. I still have things to settle here. Help me deal with the matters if there's nothing

the secretary answered and turned around to head toward

over with a smile, but he still appeared quite serious.

Norman," Luke greeted. Even though he was in-laws with Jack, he would still greet him formally depending on the occasion and not as his father-in-law. That way, he would not leave a bad impression of

admired Luke for being meticulous. He nodded and said, "We'll

followed him into the

secretary came in and served tea, placing the teacups in front of them. Then, she headed out and closed picked up the cup of tea and said, "Come, take a sip. I hope you won't mind the tea not being as good as the ones in Crawford

are so many people who wish to drink this cup of tea but they can't. It's my honor." Luke lifted the teacup and took a few sips. He was usually busy, and it was the same for Jack. Hence, the moment they placed their cups down, they immediately started speaking without beating about the bush. "Mr. Norman, what is it that you wish to know. You can just

at him, and the smile on his face gradually disappeared. It was replaced with a serious expression. "Will you answer my questions as long as

## **Chapter 1829**

Luke took out the DNA report and passed it to Jack.

"This is the DNA report that was done without Bianca's knowledge and the kids suspected her identity. The report states that she and the kids aren't related."

Jack took the DNA report and flipped it open. He read the concluding statement on the DNA report.

"The kids went ahead and did the DNA report?"

"Yes. They asked for a driver from the Holston family to help with the signature," said Luke.

Jack smirked. "Those kids are really just like you. Alright, I believe that Bianca is an impostor. Then, what did you mean by the second half of what you said earlier?"

"The real Bianca is back. She's now in the country, and she's very close to us. However, she seems to be on a mission, or perhaps she's still under the control of that unknown organization. That's why she changed her appearance, and her characteristics have undergone a drastic change as well. She's still unwilling to reveal her true identity," Luke said.

Jack was listening to him speak and thought of someone. He asked, "The person you're talking about, is it Luca?"

“Yes. She’s Bianca. This is another DNA report. I took her DNA sample without her knowing and took it for testing,” Luke said.

Jack quickly took the report and opened it. The results made him frown.

There was nothing wrong with his instincts, then. When he first met Luca, he had experienced a strong feeling of familiarity.

However, it was just that his status was a little unique and there were lots of people who would use all sorts of excuses to get to know him. They hoped to gain resources from him by forming a relationship with him. Hence, despite the sense of familiarity, he had always been cautious.

not expect that the feeling of familiarity would stem from them being

have you known about this?” After Jack learned about this, his hands that were holding the DNA report did the DNA test when I first started getting suspicious. I’m sorry for keeping this from you and your wife. But I did all this just to protect her and you two as well.” Luke got up and bowed

Bianca’s biological father. Luke should not have hidden this discovery from him.

could not describe what he was feeling right now, but he was still thankful after getting to know that his and Queenie’s daughter was still by

organization that’s controlling her, have you looked into it?” Jack

his head. “I haven’t found anything. The organization is very hard to track down. Besides, after Bianca’s return this time, it seems that she has a mission to complete. I think I’m her target, but I’m not sure about the details. Hence, I have to go along with her and not expose

target of her mission? If the organization behind her intends to harm you, what will you do?” Jack thought of Luke’s three

in Bianca. Even if she’s been given a mission, she won’t harm me,” Luke said

certain? It’s already been three years. Like what you said, her character and personality have undergone a huge chance.” Jack’s eyes were gleaming. He slowly started to calm down and started analyzing the situation with

**Luke nodded.** “But she’s still Bianca, the one I love. No matter how much she’s changed, it won’t change **that fact.**”

“**Very** good. What should I do?” Jack believed that Luke would be able to handle it. He did not intend to question Luke further after he came clean to him about Bianca’s *situation*.

**Luke looked** at him and immediately said, “I just need you to act as though you know nothing. In the meantime, please comfort and persuade Mrs. Norman.”

“No problem.” Jack agreed.

*The* reason Luke had hidden this from them was perhaps because **of Queenie**.

**If** Queenie knew about it, she would definitely start crying and long to reunite with **Luca**.

If their family really reunited, perhaps a greater threat would be awaiting them. It would just spell more trouble for them.

**That** was why Jack agreed to Luke's request and intended to help him. "Luke, I was willing to hand my daughter to you back then because you're capable. You must protect her. She was hurt three years ago, and that was our fault as parents. We made the mistake of believing in Leia. This time, only you can protect *her*."

"**I'll protect** Bianca." Luke gave his promise to Jack.

...

was about to head back to the office to work, she received a call from

are you done with your matters?" She sounded rather thrilled. Last night, he did not send her any messages, nor did he give her an update on the matters he was dealing

still a minor matter that's unsettled. Nina, I need your help." Percy's voice sounded

it. I'll definitely help you." Nina listened to his tired voice and felt heartbroken. However, when she got to know that she could help him, it made

my office. Oh, right. Come in through the back door. I'll send someone to wait for you at the back door. There are reporters in front, so don't take the main entrance." Percy gave his instructions

I'll head over now." Nina agreed. After hanging up the call, she informed Sue about it. Then, she called a cab and headed to Mallory

were no reporters at the back door of Mallory

over, and the secretary of Mallory Corporation came out from inside. "Ms. Nina, Mr. Mallory is waiting for you upstairs. Please

noded. She knew the secretary of Mallory Corporation, hence she was reassured and

took the elevator and arrived at Percy's office. The secretary pushed the door open, and Nina

## **Chapter 1830**

"How is that too much? I haven't seen the love of my life all night. What's wrong with hugging and kissing her?" Percy noticed that Nina was embarrassed, so he hugged her even tighter.

Adrian rolled his eyes and continued typing on the keyboard. He was copying the files to the memory drive.

Nina listened to their conversation. They were relaxed as though they were not facing a crisis. She raised her head and looked at the man with watery eyes. "Percy, you said you needed my help with something. How can I help?"

Percy kissed her cheek and replied, "You'll find out later."

"Are you guys going to make out? Should I take my computer out and leave you both alone?" Although Adrian was looking at his computer, he was annoyed by their interactions.

"All you do is face the computer all day. The computer is your wife. Why are you being so sour?" Percy grabbed Nina's hand, and they sat on the sofa. "Nina, let me introduce you to my friend, Adrian. He's a computer god."

"Hello," Nina nodded and greeted him politely.

Adrian stopped typing on the keyboard and smiled at her. He then quickly looked away to avoid Percy from misunderstanding. He said, "Hello. I don't think of myself as a computer god. If I'm that powerful, I wouldn't have to spend the whole night cracking the hospital's security system."

"The hospital's security system?" Nina was slightly confused.

'Aren't they dealing with Madison? Why are they trying to crack the hospital's security system? Unless... they're trying to find out about Madison's current situation through the system? If that's the case, wouldn't it be simpler to ask Johann?'

said that there's something in the hospital's patient records that can help us. However, after it was hacked the last time, the hospital's security system has been upgraded. Cracking it remotely is more difficult than it was the last time, so it's taking an entire night to get access to the records that Johann mentioned," Percy explained to her

were someone else, they would not have such

even more curious as to what records could help them with their situation. "What records

know by then." Percy kept her

was curious seeing that Percy refused to tell her what he was up to. 'They're spending an entire night just to get these records? Percy does seem a lot more relaxed now, though.

could not do anything since he would not let her in

acted the same way with the matter involving Luca and the matter related

while, Adrian snapped his fingers and said, "Okay, I've saved the records. This memory disk is the key to reversing your

looked at the memory disk in Adrian's hand and said worriedly, "Are you planning to release this information to the public? Will this affect

**"You can't** worry about other men in front of me," Percy said domineeringly. His arms around her waist tightened when he heard her mention *other men*.

"No... He's been helping us. We shouldn't put him in a tough spot, right?" Nina was forced to lean in his arms to clarify her intentions. She did not want to repay kindness with enmity.

**"Don't worry.** I got the records through my own means, not from the hospital's network. As such, Johann won't be caught up in this mess," Adrian said. If Johann were working with them, he would not have to spend the entire night with Percy to get *this information*.

Nina nodded and patted Percy's hand lightly. He was hugging her immensely **tightly**.

However, she liked it very much.

*There* was a knock on the office door, and Percy's secretary walked in after opening the door. She reported to him, "Mr. Mallory, the venue downstairs has been set up. Do you want reporters to enter the venue *now*?"

"Go for it," Percy said.

*"Okay, I'll make the arrangements now."* The secretary nodded, turned around, and walked **out**.

**Percy pinched** Nina's face. Her face did not have much flesh on it. It seemed that it would take a little more effort to increase her weight. "I'll have to *freshen up*."

*Nina nodded.* From his conversation with the secretary, she guessed that Percy was going to hold a *press conference*.

going to release the records they just found during the press conference? The hospital's database is full of patients' confidential information. What records did Percy find that can reverse the

minutes later, Percy was done getting ready and walked out. He had changed into a suit and shaved his beard. He looked like he was full of energy. He looked perfect except for his

Percy reached his hand out

meeting the reporters. Do you want me to go too?" Nina suddenly became nervous. She lowered her head and straightened her

not gone back to the villa, so the clothes she had on were borrowed from

height was about the same as Luca's, but she was much thinner than Luca. As such, she could put the clothes on but they were a

need your help. All you need to do is stand by my side." Percy nodded. Since Madison used public opinion to have Nina be called all sorts of names by the public, he planned to use this press conference to let everyone know that Nina would stand by his side no matter what and their relationship was

took a deep breath. She would always be by his side as long as he needed

had chosen to be with him forever, she was willing to handle the pressure that came