

## Be Gentle 1831

### Chapter 1831

As they walked into the venue, Nina felt that all of the flashlights of the reporters' cameras were directed at her.

She was so nervous that her body could not help shaking. However, she straightened her back, followed Percy's footsteps, and arrived at the main seat. She then sat next to him at his signal.

Since she had chosen to be with Percy, it was time for her to learn to face the camera.

She put on her best demeanor so the reporters would not have the slightest chance to use her to attack Percy.

Percy sat down, and the reporters in the audience were eager to ask questions.

Percy raised his hand, indicating that it was not the time for them to ask questions. He was the host and main speaker since it was a last-minute press conference with no moderator.

"Hello, everyone. Good morning. Today's press conference is held because there's something I want to clarify. I hope that after you hear my side of the story, you can report what I said truthfully and inform the general public," Percy finished speaking and glanced at Nina.

Nina replied to him with a small smile.

continued talking, "I'm very sorry to hear that Ms. Madison Johnston attempted suicide by jumping off a building. At the same time, I'm here to address the various speculation on the internet. Ms. Nina Langdon and I met four years ago. We were in a committed relationship not long after we met. However, we broke up because of a minor conflict. The proof of our relationship over the years can prove that I'm speaking the truth. At the same time, I did have a marriage contract with Ms. Madison. It was a transactional marriage with no emotional basis. When I realized that I couldn't live without Ms. Nina, I promptly terminated my engagement with Ms. Madison and pursued Ms. Nina again. I made my choices with a clear head. I'd like to make it clear that Nina is not a mistress. When I first met her, I knew that she was the love of my life. It was unfortunate that we separated for a while because of certain misunderstandings. At the same time, she has been misunderstood and harassed a lot during this period, but she endured it silently without giving any statement. Nevertheless, it doesn't mean that she admits that she's my mistress. Therefore, I hope that after today's press conference, everyone will let go of the matter and stop spreading rumors that hurt

mentioned 'fiancée', Nina was startled, and there was an uproar in the audience as

her his fiancée, not

Those were two significantly different identities.

hand trembled slightly. Her heart could not contain her excitement. In front of her was a man who overcame all difficulties just to be with her. He even announced to the whole city that she was

Of course, she would react strongly!

reporter sitting in the front row raised his hand and asked, "Mr. Mallory, what do you have to say about Ms. Madison's attempted

"What do I have to say? I have nothing to explain. All I can say is, I'm sorry. It's regretful that Ms. Madison was so upset because of the termination of our marriage contract." Percy knew the reporters had taken money from Johnston family, so they would not let the matter **go easily**.

"**Do** you only have regrets and apologies? Don't you have any guilt? After all, Ms. Madison did what she did because you broke off the engagement with her and instantly turned around to be with another woman." Another sharp-tongued reporter stood up and questioned **him**.

Percy raised his eyebrows. Since the Johnston family wanted to make him out to be a scumbag, they had no one to blame for what he was about to do.

What he said previously was to save Madison's dignity. However, opportunities were given to those who appreciated them, not to people like Madison.

"*Commercial* marriages have no emotional basis. The matter was decided by the elders of the Mallory family. Considering I still have feelings for Nina, it wouldn't be honorable nor responsible of me to marry Ms. Madison under these circumstances. I was honest with my feelings and gave her a reasonable explanation. Only after we separated did I get back with the love of my life. I don't think I should feel guilty about it. After all, the commercial marriage was forced upon me by Ms. Madison. It's expected that we wouldn't have a happy ending. After all, I also have the right to choose the woman I love, no? As such, why should I feel guilty? I don't owe Ms. Madison anything." Percy looked at the reporter coldly and pressed, "Or do you have any evidence on hand to prove that I took advantage of her during my engagement with the daughter of the Johnston family?"

**The reporter** was stunned. He did not have anything on *hand*.

He did not have any evidence. The only reason he questioned Percy was that he had taken money from the Johnston family.

the reporter kept quiet, Percy looked at the other reporters and asked, "Do you have any

reporters looked at each other. They all knew that marriages of convenience were formed because of commercial benefits. If there was profit, they would be together. If it would end up in a loss, there was no reason for the two parties to marry

current situation, if Percy continued to be with Madison, it was equivalent to him cleaning up after the Johnston family's mess. No smart businessman would be willing to

option was to pick on Percy's seamless get-together with Nina or her identity as his

since Percy had presented evidence that Nina was not a mistress but someone who had gotten together with him first and what they had was true love, they had nothing more to

Madison lost the war.

whispering and chatting with one another, Percy knew that public opinion would soon

**Chapter 1832**

When the reporters saw what he was doing, they knew that they were about to get their hands on some juicy news. All of them directed their cameras at the screen.

Percy said, "A large part of the reason why I terminated my engagement with Ms. Madison, in addition to the commercial crisis that the Johnston family is facing, is because I found out that Ms. Madison is a scarlet woman. She doesn't meet the criteria I have for a wife. Besides, I still care deeply about Ms. Nina. As such, despite knowing that the dissolution of the marriage would harm me, I still firmly terminated my engagement as soon as I found out."

Nina's gaze fell on the projector screen. There were piles of documents side by side, all of which were records of Madison's hospitalization records.

Among them, there were her gynecology reports. Everything was recorded on the computer, so Nina could understand the writing. The report mentioned that Madison had contracted multiple STIs and had two abortions in the past few years. She opened her mouth slightly in astonishment when she saw the doctor's diagnosis of how she would be infertile for the rest of her life.

When she remembered that there were reporters in the audience, her expression immediately returned to normal. It turned out that Percy and Adrian had been occupied all night retrieving the information from the hospital's medical records.

'Madison, who's always appeared dignified and gentle, is such a tramp in private?!'

The reporters in the audience were in an uproar. The photos of the documents had the signature of the doctor in charge and the hospital's official stamp.

Although all of these could be faked, Percy did not seem like he was faking them because of this public opinion incident.

if his evidence was taken apart, the impact on him would be even

noticed everyone's reactions and said, "These materials were obtained by me before this incident. I had hired a private investigator to look into Ms. Madison's private life. It turns out she's not the kind lady we imagined her to be. She's been deceiving everyone, including the Mallory family. She makes it seem as though she lives a healthy lifestyle in front of the public, but in reality, she's infertile after undergoing two abortions. I believe that it would be unacceptable to

since you claimed to have access to this information prior, why are you only choosing to disclose this information now? Could it be that these documents were faked and you're using them as a shield for your actions?" a

and looked at the reporter. 'New

we terminated the engagement, I thought there was a mutual understanding between us and things were peaceful. Since the Mallory family did not suffer any losses, I kept my mouth shut regarding the information. After all, Ms. Madison is young. However, Ms. Madison and her family crossed a line when they used news of her suicide attempt to cause me, my lover, and the Mallory family trouble. That's why I decided to make it public. As the Johnston family refuses to let the Mallor family go, I don't need to be merciful. Please understand that everything I do is to protect my lover and

remarks made the reporters who were on the Johnston family's side speechless. Not everyone repaid grievances

notorious for being ruthless in A City. He was a businessman, not a philanthropist. The Johnston family lost even after trying to sink him with moral

**The** Johnston family lost, and so *did Madison*.

The supposedly dignified and gentle Ms. Johnston was revealed to be such a playgirl in real life. Her public image was ruined.

The Johnston family relied on her to solve the family crisis. Before this, it might have been possible for her to get someone to help her deal with this mess, though that man might not be as good as **Percy**.

*However, once* this information was made public, no one would be willing to deal with this hot potato of a woman.

The Johnston family had lost completely.

*After Percy* said everything he wanted to say, he stood up, held Nina's hand, and left the **venue**.

The reporters were shocked by the information he revealed to them and asked Percy if there was anything more he wanted to share.

Percy did not answer and just left.

was led into the elevator by him. She slowly recovered from the shock, looked at him, and asked, "Percy, aren't your actions a little

to keep the information to myself if the Johnston family hadn't messed with you. I gave them a chance at the press conference but they didn't appreciate it and opted to manipulate reporters to question me. They asked for it." Percy held her hand tightly and did not let

it for Madison..." Nina did not feel happy. Although Madison hired someone to mess with her, she was still safe and sound. She disliked Madison but would not go as far as to say she

it for the Johnston family," Percy said. "If they hadn't caused any drama, maybe they would've still stood a

the last person anyone would dare offend," Nina said cheekily when she noticed that the mood was slightly

her into his arms and said, "If it's you, I'll accept it. I just don't want anyone to hurt you. I couldn't stand it when I saw the public attacking you. If I had the evidence yesterday, I would've made a move

was hugged tightly by him, and her heart felt at peace. She looked up at the man and said, "Did you know about Madison's personal life

## **Chapter 1833**

However, at that time, Percy did not say anything and she did not take the initiative to ask him. That was why they ended up where they were.

Nina felt terribly guilty. He was doing his best to overcome difficulties just to be with her, but she was constantly doubting him. She even told him that she was leaving him, unknowingly troubling and stressing him out.

He even went as far as getting drunk to hurt himself.

"Percy, I'll never leave you again—not unless you don't want me anymore." Nina hugged him back.

Percy heard her and said solemnly, "What are you talking about? I'll never let you go for as long as I live."

Nina listened to his oath and smiled sweetly.

Even though the price of their happily ever after was hurting Madison, Madison had indeed deceived Percy. Nina did not feel as guilty anymore. She was happy as long as she was with Percy.

"Okay, we'll be together forever, then!" Nina felt that every cell in her body was filled with joy. She felt like she was walking on air. She knew that the road ahead would be challenging since she had chosen to be with Percy for the rest of her life. However, at that moment, she just wanted to embrace her happiness and not let go.

When Percy heard what she said, he could not help himself from carrying her princess-style.

"Ah, Percy! Let me down!" Nina knew that there were surveillance cameras in the elevator. 'Isn't he afraid of being seen carrying me like this?'

"I won't let go. I'm tired. Come rest with me," Percy said. As soon as the elevator doors opened, he carried Nina into his office and kicked the door shut.

...

On the other hand.

knew that Percy was holding a press conference, so she sat beside Nick Johnston on the couch in the ward as they stared at the computer

crazy with jealousy when she heard Percy talk about his relationship with Nina. He went on and on about their past relationship. She smiled only when the reporters constantly questioned and accused him of being a

to destroy him since she was not able to be with him.

had liked Percy for six years but never got close to him due to his cold

got an opportunity but had to let go of it because of the Johnston

fuming. She was anxious and resentful toward Percy when she saw how the Johnston family was falling deeper and deeper with each passing

such, she thought of faking her suicide to get the public to sympathize with her and ruin Percy's reputation. 'No way I'm going to let him live a stable and happy life with that

also planned to wait for some time before she found someone willing to help the Johnston family out of their

after she told Nick about it, he immediately agreed with the plan. She did not have the patience to wait any longer. After she knew that Percy had gone to his family with Nina, she immediately arranged to broadcast herself jumping off a

**Of course**, it was all faked. After Nick sent her to the hospital, she immediately pretended to be emotionally unstable and refused to meet anyone. She also paid some reporters off to make sure that the incident would be on the front *page*.

As she listened to Percy's explanation, she secretly cursed at **him**, "**\*sshole!**"

Nick felt that something was wrong. 'Why does it seem like Percy is turning things **around?**'

*However*, he still comforted Madison. "Don't worry, no one will be fooled by him."

Madison nodded. No matter what, she was the partner who made their relationship public before Nina did. It did not matter that they were together for four years before since he had never gone public with their relationship before this.

'*How* can a woman who was kept in the dark for four years compare to me?'

**They** continued watching the live stream, but when they saw Percy revealing her health reports, Madison screamed, "What's going on here?!"

**Nick** rubbed his eyes in disbelief and uttered, "These are supposed to be confidential. How did Percy get his hands **on them?**"

*He knew* about Madison's previous lifestyle, and for that reason, he spent a certain amount of money to hide the records so that she could be portrayed as a proper lady in front of the public.

"It must be the hospital. They must have given the records to Percy! Otherwise, how could he have obtained this information..." Madison felt as though all the strength in her body had been drained. She was very uncomfortable and wanted to find something to support herself, but she could only lie on the sofa weakly. "This man is terrible! He paid off the hospital to get these records. These are all from a few **years ago...**"

anxious. The disclosure of this information would put the Johnston family in an even more disadvantageous

upcoming plans would no longer be realized with the disclosure of

stay in the ward and don't come out. I'll talk to the hospital's chairperson. If they dared to disclose the information to Percy, I'll sue the hospital into bankruptcy!" Nick hurriedly left

he could find the chairperson, he was surrounded by a large group of reporters as soon as he arrived at the nurse's

were not arranged

Nick, Mr. Percy released Ms. Madison's previous medical records five minutes ago. Do you have anything to clarify on the

"Mr. Nick, are those reports real?"

Nick, how's Madison doing now? Did you hide her medical history so that she could marry into the Mallory

of questions made Nick pale. He did not have the headspace to deal with these annoying reporters at saw the scene unfold and hurriedly stopped the

your security team?!" Nick

### **Chapter 1834**

"I can't go out now!" Nick was sour. The Johnston family had always been a patriarchal family. If Madison did not have some means, she would not have any say in the family.

Madison was stunned, and her face was pale. She had just browsed the internet and saw that public opinion had changed drastically.

It was only half an hour after Percy's live broadcast.

The public had been scolding Nina and Percy but had since shifted to gossip about her. Madison was scared of seeing this change.

Her absurd days in the past involved a range of men, some of which were not of quality. If they saw the news, they might use the one night they spent together as bragging rights on the internet.

"What happened?" Madison wondered, wanting to go out to see.

Nick held her and said with a sullen expression, "Thanks to your plan, the place is flooded with reporters. They're not the ones you arranged either! I'm not the only one who can't get out, no one else can! Why should I contact the chairperson? Even if we get in touch with him, will he be willing to stand on your side?"

"If he doesn't want to, we'll sue him since this information was leaked from this hospital." Madison was at a loss but still thought of a way to go about it.

She could not have this ruin the rest of her life.

The Johnston family was a realistic family. If one added no value to the family, their lives would be worse than a maid's.

She did not want to live a life as such. Even if the Johnston family went down, she could still rely on her beauty and image to find a wealthy family to live a good life!

reluctant to face such a reality seeing that her plan was about to be

him? We don't know where Percy got these medical records from. If the hospital finds out that it has nothing to do with them, have you thought about the consequences of doing what you just proposed? Also, even if you win the court case, how much can you get out of it? Can it help the Johnston family get

through this crisis? Won't you be admitting that the medical records are real?" Nick regretted going with her plan and provoking

lesson, he would never dare to piss that man

would not have agreed if Madison had not sworn that the plan would be a

not expect that Percy would find Madison's past medical

everything she did and grabbed onto his sleeve like it was a lifebuoy. "What should I do

was already annoyed at her. Seeing how foolish Madison had been, he made a decision impatiently.

"You're the one who provoked Percy. Don't drag the Johnston family down

widened in disbelief. "What do

the chairperson refuses to step out and clarify the matter, the Johnston family will inform the media that we have cut off ties with you. From now on, even if you carry the Johnston surname, you're not a part of the Johnston family!" Nick said cruelly. Their relationship was nothing to him. He knew that the right option was to save the Johnston family and hope that Percy did not take revenge on their

not let the whole family suffer even more and make things

Madison shook her head. Her body was unstable and she fell to the floor. "No, I still have value. I can still create opportunities for our *family*."

Nick looked at her angrily. If it were not for the reporters outside, he would have left long ago. "Value? Go around and ask people what they think of you. Will the rich and wealthy pay for a broken shoe? They're not stupid. They're rich, so they can get all kinds of women. They don't need a broken shoe like you. Scram!"

**Madison broke** down when she heard his indifferent **tone**.

*'How can I live without the Johnston family?'*

She had gotten used to being rich. All of a sudden, she had nothing now. Madison lost all hope. She looked at the white wall and staggered to get on her feet.

Nick did not think too much of it.

*Madison hit* her head on the wall the *next second*.

**Nick** was frightened by the loud thump. He did not expect Madison to cause more drama. He immediately cursed at her, "Are you *crazy?!'*"

Madison's forehead was smashed against the wall, and there was blood dripping from the wound. In just a few seconds, her cheeks were stained with **blood**.

**Madison did** not seem to hear what he said. Her body fell straight down. As she fell, she muttered, "I don't want to live anymore. I don't want to live *anymore...*"



happened to walk in and see this scene. She yelled out in shock. However, she had been working in this department for years now, so she was used to it. She reacted quickly, pressed the call bell, and notified her colleagues to come to the ward. She then walked over to check on

happened?" The nurse turned around and asked Nick. She understood what had happened when she saw the blood on the wall. "Did the patient hit her head against the

her head against the wall herself. No one forced her." Nick did not show any pity and distanced himself from

nurse did not have time to talk nonsense with him. She and her colleagues who came in administered first aid

...

On the other hand.

Luca was at work, she learned about Percy's press conference from Tina. Out of curiosity, she got distracted, plugged in her headphones, and listened to the live broadcast on her

Percy announced his relationship with Nina in front of reporters, a small smile appeared on the corners of

not only expressed his love for Nina to the Mallory family but also explained the situation to reporters and

as she knew that no matter how many difficulties there would be, Nina would be by Percy's

## **Chapter 1835**

Luke looked at her deeply. He knew that Luca was smiling like that because Nina was happy.

He did not misunderstand. He just nodded slightly and walked out of the office.

Percy may seem cold, but he had a romantic side when he was with Nina.

If he did not know the details, he would likely have gotten jealous of Percy for making Luca smile like that.

Luca watched Luke leave. She touched her chin and wondered why he walked over.

'Is there work for me to do? If yes, he could've easily called me to notify me. But he came in and left without talking about work?'

Luca was puzzled.

When Luke returned to the office, he remembered why he went to look for Luca just now. He was in a daze thinking about how her smile was not for him, so he was so annoyed that he even forgot that he was there to talk to her about something.

He was a little embarrassed to walk back to her office, so he picked up his phone and texted Luca.

[Dinner at the Royal Crown Hotel tonight at seven.] He pressed 'send'. Jack Norman had requested the meeting.

After he found out that Luca was Bianca, he mentioned that he wanted to chat with Luca alone, which was why he organized this dinner.

Luca received Luke's text and wondered why he was asking her out for dinner.

'Will I be eating alone with Luke? Or is there another occasion?'

replied: [Mr. Crawford, are we eating

a business meeting.] Luke did not tell her that Jack would

breathed a sigh of relief when she saw that it was a business meeting. She was fine as long as she did not have to eat with

was strong. Even though she had changed over the years, she still felt uneasy facing the man she loved. After all, she was using a strange identity to spend time with

touches and memories would pop up in her mind when she was alone with Luke, making it impossible for her to face

After work hours.

did not work overtime for the first time in a long time. He packed up his documents and went to

had informed her in advance, Luca happened to be putting on her coat when he walked in. When she saw Luke, she subconsciously got nervous and asked, "Mr. Crawford, is it a formal occasion? Do I need to change and

Luke had not told her much, she was

shook his head and said, "You look fine. It's just a

down when she heard what he said. 'It's just business dinner, so that's fine. I'm not going as Luke's female companion but as his

ready to go." She picked up the briefcase which contained the documents that she planned to work on

Luke nodded and said, "Let's go."

**Luca** nodded and followed behind Luke calmly while keeping an arm's distance.

When they were about to reach the elevator, she looked back. 'It's a business dinner, so why isn't Jason coming?'

Luke pressed the elevator button and happened to see Luca turning back. He reminded her coldly, saying, "Look ahead when you walk."

Luca was startled, turned around, and found that she was very close **to Luke**.

**While she** was thinking about why Jason did not have to follow along, she had unconsciously gotten so close to Luke. It would just take a few more steps for her to touch Luke's back...

"Sorry, Mr. Crawford." She lowered her head, knowing that he hated it when others touched him without his *consent*.

*That* rule applied to everyone *but her*.

However, she should keep her distance.

*Luke* watched the elevator doors slowly open and walked in. He looked at how careful Luca seemed and could not help but *wonder*.

'*Since when* did she need to become so cautious? She doesn't need to do so around me.'

*Luca* watched him linger on pressing the elevator button and asked softly, "Mr. Crawford, are you waiting for *Mr. Doyle*?"

"*Why* would I be waiting for him?" Luke stretched out his hand and pressed the underground floor button, where his car was parked.

"Doesn't he need to come to this business dinner?" Luca asked. She thought that Luke would bring Jason. After all, he was his assistant. She assumed that Luke asked her along so that she could be *the translator*.

dinner has nothing to do with him." Luke put his hands in his pockets and used a cold expression to hide his

heart would beat rapidly whenever he faced

to hide his true feelings so that she would not be scared away by him.

looked at Luca's bowed head, wondering when the days of him disguising his feelings for her would come to an

they arrived at the underground floor, he stepped out of the elevator first while Luca habitually followed past, she would walk by his side. However, Luca could only follow behind

she fought for it, she would have a chance to stand by his side, but doing so would bring huge trouble to Luke. She was unwilling to do anything that might hurt

still half a month left before this project comes to an end. If the bid is successful, a reward will be given to all the employees involved and a company trip. Where would you recommend?" Luke walked to his parking space as

'Company trip?'

Luca blinked, remembering the last trip.

almost drowned because she got a cramp and was rescued by Luke. She was put in the spotlight

was from that day that their relationship developed, and there was a subtle whiff

the car." Luke saw her keeping quiet and knew she was thinking about something. He walked to the side of the car, opened the front passenger door, and

## Chapter 1836

Luke was secretly delighted that his small actions would make her react so strongly. He casually put his hands on the steering wheel after he fastened his seat belt.

When faced with Luca, he felt as though he was a young schoolboy. He was head over heels for her since back then.

Back then, he was not sure how to strike up a conversation with her, so he played on the court to attract her attention.

Luke felt like he had gone back in time when he would secretly rejoice because of her small actions.

Luca noticed that Luke had not started driving. She turned her head to the side and looked at the man's strong side profile. "Mr. Crawford?"

Her voice was soft and gentle, grazing his ears like a gust of soft wind. All of the cells in Luke's body shuddered.

He turned his head and looked at her, her gaze softening involuntarily.

"What's the matter?" he asked.

Luca raised his hand slightly, pointed ahead, and asked hesitantly, "Aren't you going to drive?"

After being reminded, Luke realized that he was caught up thinking about how cute Luca was.

He cleared his throat and explained, "I was thinking about something."

Luca nodded understandingly but did not say anything. It was rare to see him be so deep in thought. She was curious about what he was thinking.

Luke started the car, drove, and headed to Royal Crown Hotel.

Royal Crown Hotel was near T Corporation, and the entire journey took ten minutes.

did not park his car in the underground parking lot but chose to park it outside. Luca got out of the car and looked at the hotel in front of her. She was

Crown Hotel had a certain reputation in A City, people did not usually have business meetings here because it was not of the highest service

large company like T Corporation would usually go for three-star

beside her and asked, "What are you

shook her head to indicate that it was nothing. After all, he was the boss, so she could not ask

go," Luke said while standing there. He did not take a

a step forward subconsciously, only to notice that Luke was walking side by side

to slow down but Luke sensed it and kept the same pace with

was not sure what to do. He was doing it on purpose, and there was no other way to distance herself from him except

only bite the bullet and walk into the hotel side by side

hotel manager walked toward them and greeted Luke warmly, "Hello Mr. Crawford. Welcome, your private room is

Luke nodded and said nothing.

manager enthusiastically led the

was common to Luca. As long as the restaurant was informed in advance, Luke was treated like this wherever he

They walked into the private room, and Luke pulled out a chair. He looked at her.

**The** chair was pulled out for *her*.

**Under the** gaze of the hotel manager, Luca had to bite the bullet and sit *down*.

Luke looked at her, the corners of his mouth turning into **a smile**.

*The hotel* manager was surprised. Luke, who seemed cold, flashed a smile. Was it an **illusion**?

He blinked, Luke was still smiling.

**The hotel** manager immediately pulled the chair next to Luca *for Luke*.

**This private** room was not particularly luxurious. There was no big round table. It was a square table, so they sat fairly close to each **other**.

*Luca* looked at Luke's hands, which were casually resting on the table. They were very close to each other. It was as though they were on a date, not a business **dinner**.

*The hotel* manager brought them two glasses of lemonade and politely asked, "Mr. Crawford, would you like to place **an order**?"

Luke nodded, "Yeah."

*The hotel* manager immediately handed the *menu*.

Luke took it, looked at Luca, and said, "Would you like **to order**?"

*Luca* shook her head quickly, then watched him open the menu and place an order. She could not help but remind him softly, "Mr. Crawford, aren't you going to wait for the guests **to come**?"

know what he likes to eat," Luke said. He was the one taking care of the Norman family when Luca was away, so he knew what Jack liked

a few years ago when Queenie was in bad health, Jack resigned and took care of her wholeheartedly at home. Hence, Luke often took them out to

closed her mouth shyly and watched him order some dishes. Most of them were her

Luke finished ordering, the hotel manager asked, "Mr. Crawford, do you want anything stayed silent for a while. He had to drive, but Jack liked to drink, so he nodded. "Give me a bottle that's within the understand." The hotel manager nodded and smiled. He picked up the menu and to the conversation and understood who was coming for dinner was most likely from the political circle instead of the asked the manager to bring a bottle within the price range. In the political world, integrity and fairness were important, so they had to be strict with their Luca suddenly thought of Jack.

an instant, she thought that it could not be. If it was Jack, why would Luke book a table in this hotel and bring

just eat at Norman Residence or Crawford

Luke finished ordering, he took out his phone and started browsing did not say anything as she was familiar with his habit. He would usually take this time to browse the closing of the domestic stock market, make some important records, and go through the day's financial

## **Chapter 1837**

Luca thought Jack was acting a little weird.

In the past, Jack had always been polite to her, but today, he was welcoming and kind.

That was how he acted toward her when she was still Bianca.

Luca nodded and sat on the chair.

Jack looked at her delicate facial features. Her looks were significantly different from what she used to look like. 'In the past few years, she has been controlled by a mysterious organization and was even forced to change her face. She must have suffered a lot...'

He was distressed and could not help but blame himself for not protecting Luca well enough.

Luke cleared his throat. After Jack found out that Luca was his daughter, his mentality must have changed. However, the change should not be too obvious so as to not arouse Luca's suspicions.

"Father-in-law, I've already ordered some dishes to share. They're home-cooked dishes. I also ordered a bottle of wine," he said.

"Did you go over the budget?" Jack came to his senses. He was deep in thought looking at Luca just now.

"No, don't worry," Luke said. As a politician, it was normal for Jack to lead by example.

"It's alright, Luca. I asked Luke to help me organize this dinner because I want to thank you." Jack found an excuse to see her.

"Thank me?" Luca was stunned. She had not done anything for the Norman family recently, so why did he want to thank her?

Jack explained, "You've been helping the Norman family all this time, treating your Aunt Queenie and..."

He paused, glanced at Luke, and continued, "You've helped us so much, but I haven't even bought you a meal. Hence, I asked Luke to help arrange this."

suddenly realized that it was because

Jack, you're too kind. You and Mrs. Norman have previously invited me to eat at Norman Residence. That's

that be? You saved their lives. A simple meal won't do," Jack said. He was not exaggerating at all. Luca did save Queenie and

and Queenie never thought that the person who saved them was

was a pity that Queenie could not find out about Luca's current identity. If she knew that their daughter was by her side, she would be

noticed how insistent Jack was, so she nodded and asked, "Where's

something to attend to, so she couldn't come today," Jack said. He did not inform Queenie that he planned to meet with Luca. Queenie had been tired from taking care of Leia. She brought dinner to the hospital for Leia this evening, as she usually did for the last couple

nodded, guessing that Queenie was busy

She was a little upset.

After all, Queenie had been overworked.

rang the bell and asked the waiter to start serving. When the dishes arrived, Jack was satisfied. He nodded and talked to

Luca felt a little uncomfortable.

treated outsiders with a lukewarm attitude. He would be gentle and refined while maintaining a certain distance

After they ate, Jack watched Luca for a while before he *left*.

*Luca* followed Luke to the counter, and after they left the hotel, she could not help but say, "**Today...**"

"What?" Luke turned around to look at her.

In the dark night, his body was entirely shrouded by the light from the streetlamps. When he looked at her, the light in his eyes **flickered**.

She forgot to speak.

Seeing how she was looking at him as if she was infatuated, he was secretly happy. He asked again, "**What?**"

Luca came back to his senses and explained, "Mr. Norman seemed a little abnormal **today...**"

"Did he?" Luke was happy. As his woman, she was observant, delicate, and sensitive. In his opinion, Jack did a good job of hiding his emotions but she still noticed the abnormality.

"Yes, it didn't feel right." Luca nodded. She wanted to say that Jack was more enthusiastic toward her but it would seem strange to say that to *Luca*.

"You're overthinking it. Can you drive?" Luke asked as he walked to his car. He had a few drinks with Jack.

Jack had a driver to pick him up but Luke did not arrange for his driver to drive today. From what he recalled, Bianca could drive.

"I haven't driven for a long time..." Luca said. She **was embarrassed**.

"It's okay. I can't drive after drinking, so you drive." Luke shoved the keys into **her hand**.

had to go to the front of the driver's seat, unlock the car, and open the car

was adjusted for his height. Luca took some time to adjust it before she found a comfortable

a glance at the man in the passenger seat and found that he had already buckled his seat belt and was sitting there comfortably. He was watching her adjust her seat and waiting for her

put her briefcase in the backseat, buckled her seat belt, and headed for

through the ride, her

at the back. She had put her phone in her briefcase and was not wearing Bluetooth

want to pick

call back later," Luca said. She had not driven for a long time and did not want to be distracted. After all, her life and Luke's life were on the

to her and ignored

rang a few times, and there were two text

raised his eyebrows. 'Who would look for Luca at

not bothered by it and drove the car

parked the car in the parking lot of the villa, she breathed a sigh of relief. Fortunately, she still remembered how to drive and got them home

## **Chapter 1838**

It seemed that if she did not answer his calls or reply to his messages, Enoch would never let it go.

Luca frowned. It was not the first time she had faced such a clingy man, but she did not expect Enoch to be like this too.

She felt that Enoch, as an educated civil servant, should not be acting like this.



Luke walked in front. Luca did not listen to the voice message and wanted to turn her phone on silent when Enoch sent another message.

At that moment, Luke stopped and turned around to look at her.

Luca used to have a narrow social circle. After she came back to A City as Luca, her circle became even smaller. From what he knew of her, her phone never rang like this during non-working hours.

"What's wrong?" He noticed that Luca seemed helpless and had a gut feeling that something had happened.

"It's nothing." Luca did not dare to tell him about Enoch. Although he said that his feelings for her had yet to reach fiery and intense, her intuition told her that if she told him, something would happen.

She did not want to cause such trouble.

Luke's gaze shifted, and he glanced at her phone. Luca had turned her phone to silent mode but there were still vibrations.

He heard the vibrations and said thoughtfully, "That person seems to be in a hurry to look for you."

"It's my brother." Luca hurriedly used Amur as an excuse. At that moment, she was like a puppy-eyed student who was caught by a teacher and suspected of being in a relationship. The feeling of guilt spread all over her body.

the one who took the initiative in the relationship. She had not once given the other party a chance. She felt guilty even though she was not involved with the man in front of

subconscious, she still thought of herself as

heard her mention Amur and noticed her guilty

it Amur calling? She should not look... guilty if it's her non-blood-related

calling seems eager," Luke said. He then turned around and went

Luca did not want to tell him anything, he would investigate it himself. He wanted to see who was the one texting her so

not Nina. She's having the time of her life with Percy. It wouldn't be Sue as well, and it's even lower odds that it's

at her phone, and it vibrated again. It did seem like the other party was eager to talk

disappeared around the corner of the stairs, she went upstairs and returned to the bedroom. She opened her text log and read the messages from

said he was worried because she was not picking up his calls or returning his

not want to continue to be harassed. She replied briefly:

**She** thought that Enoch would not bother her if she acted indifferently. She did not think that Enoch would call as soon as she put down her **phone**.

Luca looked at the caller ID and felt helpless. It was the first time she was so annoyed when dealing with a person.

The phone kept vibrating, so she was forced to answer. "Hello, **it's Luca.**"

"**Luca**, are you okay?" Enoch asked, concerned.

"I was driving, so I didn't have time to reply to your messages, sorry." Luca was indifferent to *his enthusiasm*.

Enoch noticed something, but he continued with his efforts when he thought of Luca's face. "Ah, okay. I was worried when you didn't answer my calls or replied to my messages. Have you been working overtime until **now?**"

"Yes." Luca did not bother to tell him what she did. After all, this could lead to an endless number of *topics*.

All she wanted to do was to wash up, take care of her work, and go to bed.

**Enoch said**, "You sure work hard. Have you eaten dinner? Shall I get you some takeout?"

"No, thank you. I've already eaten at the office. I still have work to do. Is there anything else you want to talk about?" Luca took a deep breath, trying to maintain a friendly *tone*.

*Enoch heard* the overtones and said quickly, "I was just worried about you. Since you're so busy with work, I won't disturb you for now. If you have time, let's catch up over *the weekend?*"

**Luca** noticed that he was taking the opportunity to ask her out and quickly refused. "I'll be working overtime this weekend. The company's project is coming to an end. I don't think I have time to catch up for the next few weeks. Since all is well, I'll attend to my work *now.*"

she finished speaking, she did not give Enoch a chance to answer and quickly

She thought that someone who was introduced by Queenie and Jack would not cross the line, but now it

She was speechless.

be because Enoch usually behaved better in public settings. He was gentle and well-mannered, so he was more popular with

however, he was so un giving that Luca began to wonder how he went on with his life with his

all, Jack believed in his abilities, so he must have something up

could not figure it out. She decided to put the phone aside. She opened the closet and took out her pajamas before going into the bathroom to

came out with her body dry and turned on the computer to resume

On the other hand.

was upset after Lua hung up on him. He fell in love with Luca at first sight, but when Queenie was around, he did not want to seem

did not seem to care much

## **Chapter 1839**

"No worries..." Queenie was slightly stunned when she heard that he had not won over Luca. She thought Luca was quite satisfied with Enoch.

After all, Enoch was a good-looking bachelor. Many women were vying for a blind date with him.

"Have you encountered any difficulties?" Queenie thought about it and understood why he wanted to ask them out.

"No, I just want to invite the two of you to a meal." Enoch knew that talking on the phone would not give him the best opportunity, so he wanted to seize the opportunity to meet Queenie in person.

Queenie thought about it for a while. She agreed, thinking that maybe he had something to talk to her about. "Okay, give me the time and date. Mr. Norman may not have time, so I'm not sure if he'll attend. As for me, I'll be there."

"Okay, thank you, Mrs. Norman. I'll keep you posted once I've confirmed the date and time. I won't disturb you and Mr. Norman's rest any further. Goodbye." Enoch was so happy that he wanted to jump upon hearing that Queenie was willing to meet with him.

The last time they met, he noticed that Luca seemed to listen to Queenie.

If Queenie put in a good word for him, maybe Luca would give him a chance.

Enoch was confident in what he could provide for her. He believed that as long as Luca was willing to give him a chance, he could win her heart.

On the other hand.

Jack came out of the bathroom and happened to hear Queenie's last two sentences. He asked, "It's so late. Who's calling?"

from your department," Queenie replied as she put her

did he call for?" Jack frowned. He had never asked Queenie to help

people in his department would usually not contact Queenie. It was so late

to be satisfied with Luca, but Luca doesn't seem to care about him. I'm guessing he wants to ask me for help to put in a few words," Queenie said helplessly. Although she had introduced Enoch and Luca, she thought that the rest should just

was not interested in him, he should not force it. Queenie should not have to force Luca to

all, the feelings were hers. She could not control who Luca

were not worried that Bianca's position as Luke's wife would not be guaranteed, she would not be a

about mutual consent. What does he want you to do?" Jack frowned. For a long time, he thought that Enoch was a person who knew better. However, his impression of Enoch worsened after this

guilty when he was reminded of how Luca was Bianca and that he cooperated with Queenie to introduce her to

Luca was not interested in Enoch. Otherwise, he would have wronged

"I thought so too, but the guy seems to like Luca a lot." Queenie frowned slightly. She agreed with what Jack said.

Jack's heart skipped a beat as he looked at her. "Are you going to agree to Enoch's request?"

"He wants to invite us to dinner. Don't worry, I've already turned it down for you. My attendance is dependent on my schedule as well. Since he likes Luca so much, it's not impossible to help once, right, dear? After all, I don't want to see Luca miss out on such a good man either." Queenie asked Jack for *advice*.

Jack shook his head and responded, "That shouldn't be the case. If Luca doesn't like him, it's pointless for you to force **it**."

"That's true... but I've already promised Enoch. I'll go just once. If it doesn't work out, we'll introduce someone else to Luca." Queenie had already thought it through. No matter what, she would find a partner for **Luca**.

There were a lot of young lads working under Jack. She was sure that there would be one Luca **would like**.

Jack shuddered as he listened to his wife's plan.

He regretted agreeing to arrange a blind date for Luca. If he had known that she was Bianca, he would not have interfered with Luke's and her relationship. He would even help to hide it *from Queenie*.

**Now**, if he did not agree with Queenie, she might misunderstand. If he agreed with Queenie, he would cause trouble for Luca and *Luke*.

"**What** are you thinking about?" Queenie noticed his frown.

shook his head and explained, "I think it's up to the young people to deal with their affairs. Maybe Luca is focusing on her career and doesn't have the headspace for

good-looking and doesn't look her age, but she's getting older. She needs to get married sooner or later." Queenie did not understand why her husband had suddenly changed

said, "Luca grew up abroad. The mindset of people in foreign countries is different from those in A City. If it doesn't work out with Enoch this time, we'll let go of the matter. Let's not go too far, lest she gets annoyed with us. We have to repay her kindness to our

even more puzzled. He had agreed with her plan before this, but out of the blue, he did a something happen?" she asked in a

just think we shouldn't be meddling in their relationship. Regarding Enoch, I'm sure Luca has her own reasons as to why she's not interested. We can't force her to accept him. She respects us and agreed to

our arrangement because of it, but what comes next has to be decided by her..." Jack held Queenie's hand, hoping that she would not cause any more trouble for Luke and

and Luca had not had

"I'm doing this for the sake of our daughter..." Queenie agreed with what he said but she was

She prioritized her daughter.

Jack knew what she was doing. He said, "No matter what it is, it's their choice. It's time we let the young people make their own

## **Chapter 1840**

Queenie noticed that Jack was reluctant to continue talking about the subject. Besides, it seemed like Jack had changed his attitude toward Luca. Queenie was worried about it.

She was worried that something was going on with Bianca and Jack was choosing to avoid talking about it as he did not want to trigger her emotions.

Queenie thought it would be better not to say another word when she saw Jack already lying on the bed.

...

The following day.

Luca followed Luke's car back to the office. She let out a sigh when there was no one around and pushed the car door open calmly.

"Thank you, Mr. Crawford." Luca got out of the car right away after she thanked Luke.

Since staying in the same villa as Luke, Luca had no reason to reject his offer to give her a ride to and back from the office as it was indeed convenient.

After all, they had to be in the office at the same time. Luca would personally prepare breakfast for the children. She would leave for work after that, but Luke would already be awake by then.

Hence, Luca could only pray that she would not run into her colleagues when she got out of Luke's car.

Luke shook his head helplessly as he watched Luca trot away. He unfastened his seat belt and got out of the car leisurely.

Did Luca think that she would be able to distance herself from him this way?

That was impossible.

Luca belonged to him, and she would be Mrs. Crawford forever.

out a sigh of relief when she got into the elevator. Luke did not catch up to her. They were far away from each other, and no one else would have seen

not return to her office right away. Instead, she headed to the lab and hosted an

research project was already coming to an end, and her product would soon be mass-produced before being sold on the market. Therefore, no mistakes were allowed to happen

Luca walking into the lab. He quickly handed her the meeting agenda. "Dr. Craw, this is today's meeting agenda."

it from Rhett and nodded. "Let me return to my office and take a look at it. We'll hold the meeting in 15

Rhett was secretly exclaiming at how quickly Luca could read the agenda, he handed another document folder to her. "Dr. Craw, this one's for

Luca took it from him curiously.

passed it to me last night. She reminded me again and again to make sure I hand this to you," answered Rhett. Luca had moved houses, and she did not update her latest address in the company's employee information. Hence, they did not know where she was staying

Stone had no choice but to pass the folder

was startled for a moment when she heard Mo's name. It must be Dr.

they face difficulties in their

Craw, what is it?" Rhett asked cautiously. Mo had reminded him before that the folder contained important information, so no one was allowed to read it.

Albus' research," replied Luca as she headed back to her office.

**15 minutes** later, Luca finished reading the meeting agenda and went to attend the meeting. Luca did not go upstairs immediately after she assigned tasks and handled matters that needed her attention. Instead, she sat in the lab and began to study the document folder that Dr. Albus had sent to *her*.

He had encountered another small issue with his research again.

*Luca read* through the data attentively and found out where the problem was. She was puzzled. If Dr. Albus had observed this carefully and spent more time dealing with this problem, he would have been able to solve this himself.

At this point, it was as though he intended to let her see the experiment's results.

*Luca's heart* sank. Judging from Dr. Albus' capability, this was a problem that he could have solved if he had just spent more time on it. He did not have to come to look for her. The arrangements he made seemed to be intentional.

Could it be that he was from the Island of Despair?

*Luca looked* at the folder and opened her email. She began to type an email to Dr. Albus to tell him where the problem was.

*Ten* minutes after she sent the email to him, Luca received a reply from Dr. Albus. Other than thanking Luca for helping him, he praised her for being able to find out where the issue was so **quickly**.

*He* even told her that his team had been looking for the problem for two days, yet they could not find it.

Luca lifted the corners of her lips subtly. Dr. Albus seemed to be concealing *something*.

**Previously, when** Luca helped Dr. Albus solve his problem, she had already understood the entire formula of the drug and other details. Now, he came asking for her help again. It was as if she was a participant in the research.

This must be Abel's purpose.

**He arranged** for Dr. Albus to get into the company and study drugs, but he did not ask Dr. Albus to disclose the formula even though doing that could give T Corporation a big blow.

Abel wanted Luca to do it herself because she was Luke's wife. This way, it could bring

Luca the chills, but there was nothing she could

What could she do to Abel?

not even inform Luke, and it was even more impossible for her to hint at

massaged her aching forehead. The only thing she could do now was record Dr. Albus' research findings. Then, she would have to wait for Abel's orders to leak the information immediately.

would have to sell

everything down and sent the details to her email. Then, she secretly deleted her traces on the

not want to be that meticulous, but she had no choice.

not reveal her identity so

if she disclosed the research information to the public, it would not affect T Corporation that much. There were still other research projects that could be monetized. The company might only lose the money they had invested in the early stages of Dr. Albus'

to continue to stay beside Luke to know what was Abel's next step. Perhaps when the time came, she would have to sacrifice herself to protect Luke and T

she was not only the one who had to sacrifice herself but her cute little daughter,

why Luca was still hesitating.