

## Be Gentle 1841

### Chapter 1841

"I can tell who sent it without looking at it." Luca felt annoyed. Giving Enoch the cold shoulder was not working at all. It seemed like she had to find a chance to make things clear with him.

"Is it the guy you went on a blind date with?" Tina understood at once. If Luca was not happy to receive flowers from the man, that would only mean Luca was not interested in him.

Tina looked at how distressed Luca was. It looked like the man had yet to notice that Luca had no feelings for him.

Luca nodded and turned on her laptop. "I'm not planning to date anyone, let alone get married. So, I've been giving him the cold shoulder after we had lunch last time. But it seems like he's not giving up yet."

Tina stroked her chin and made a suggestion. "If he's not planning to give up, then you should just be honest and make it clear to him. If he continues to bother you, you can find someone else to put on a show with you. I've done that before to get rid of a nuisance."

Luca knew only too well about these tricks. She thought Enoch should know better than the others considering he was someone well-educated, and on top of that, he was even working in the provincial capital.

Now, it seemed like Luca had to turn him down personally.

Tina touched the roses, and she thought Luca seemed to not be interested in these flowers. She would throw them into the trash eventually. Hence, Tina exclaimed, "It's such a pity for these champagne-colored roses. This guy who's chasing after you must've spent quite a lot of money getting you such a big bouquet of champagne-colored roses. Oh, what's his occupation? How can he be so generous?"

Luca replied, "He's a civil servant if I'm not mistaken. Forget about it. I remember you like flowers a lot. Why don't you take the flowers and put them in the secretary's office? That's much better than having me throw them away."

Tina smiled and said, "Sure. Dr. Craw, how do you know I like flowers?"

that you always have fresh flowers in your office. I'm allergic to flowers, especially this type of flower. So, I'll give the bouquet to you. Thank you!" Luca found an excuse, picked up the flowers, and handed them to

took them from Luca and said, "Thank you. The flowers on my desk are about to

it. I should thank you for helping me to get out of such a big trouble," replied Luca. Her head hurt whenever she saw the bouquet. Besides, Luke might enter her office, and he would question her when he saw such a big

did not want to lie to him. Hence, asking Tina to take the flowers away was a good

took the bouquet of roses away happily. She ran into Jason who had just come out of his office when she was on her way back to

you receive such a big bouquet? Is someone pursuing you?" Jason asked cheerfully. It was normal to have such conversations with Tina after working together with her for so many years.

her head and replied, "How I wish someone is chasing after me too. But this bouquet isn't for who are the flowers for? I remember that you're the only single lady in the secretary's office." Jason teased

her eyes at Jason, looking adorable. "Mr. Doyle, all of us know you're happily married and you have a happy family. But don't rub it in my face. Otherwise, I'm going to complain to

I'm sorry." Jason surrendered immediately.

"The flowers were gifted by the guy Dr. Craw went on a blind date with, but she doesn't like them, so she gave them to me. The champagne-colored roses are beautiful, and they smell nice too. So, I'm taking them back to arrange **them**."

"They were for Dr. Craw?" Jason widened his eyes and glanced at Luke's office **unconsciously**.

Fortunately, Luke did not come out of his *office*.

**Jason** did not tell Luke about Luca going on a blind date last time. He had been keeping a close eye on Luca lately. She did not look like she was going on dates after getting off work. Hence, he thought things had not worked out between her and her blind date, so he decided to let the matter slide.

However, Jason did not expect the man to go as far as send flowers to Luca's office to chase after **her**.

**Although** Luke still had no idea about it, he would eventually find out about it if that man continued to pursue Luca. If that happened, they were all going to be in deep trouble!

"Does Dr. Craw not like the bouquet or the guy?" Jason lowered his voice and **asked**.

*Tina* glanced at Jason out of the corners of her eyes. She instantly smiled and asked, "Mr. Doyle, when did you become *so nosy*?"

**If Tina** did not know Jason was in love with Sue, she would have suspected Jason was interested in Luca. Otherwise, why was he so interested in someone else's love life?

*That* was not something a man would be curious *about*.

listened to her making fun of him, he explained patiently, "I'm doing this for the sake of did not understand what he meant.

is in love with Dr. Craw. I'm just helping him to enquire," Jason explained patiently. Tina was usually not slow when it came to these kinds of things. How could she not figure things out at

all, it was either Jason or Tina whom Luke would give orders to whenever it was something related to Luca. More than the others, Tina should be more aware of what was

understood what Jason meant at once and said, "Don't worry. Dr. Craw isn't interested in him and the

out a sigh of relief. Fortunately, Luca had no interest in that man. However, he could not let Luke know about this. Then, he reminded Tina again, "Keep in mind that you shouldn't tell anyone that Luca gave the flowers to you if you're asked about

alright." Tina held the flowers and returned to the secretary's office

Jason watched Tina leave from behind, he shook his head helplessly. Fortunately, it was Tina who knew about this. If it were someone else, they would not have been able to keep their

at Luke's office door. It was still firmly shut. He let out a sigh, secretly hoping that Luca could solve this problem as soon as possible. That way, everyone would be able to get away

was noontime, Luca was getting ready to head downstairs for lunch, but she received a call from

## **Chapter 1842**

"Smokin' Hot Steakhouse? Alright, I'm coming down now." Luca knew Queenie was looking for her because of Enoch, but she bit the bullet and went to meet her.

"Oh, I reserved a private room. Just mention my name to the waiter when you come in later," said Queenie.

It was different this time. Last time, Queenie was hoping Luca's colleagues would know that Luca was on a blind date. That was why she picked a cafe without a private room.

This time, Enoch needed to talk to Luca. They needed a quieter place to have a conversation. Hence, Queenie reserved a private room under her name.

"Alright, Mrs. Norman. Please give me a moment. I'm heading there now," replied Luca. She hung up the call, stood up, and walked out of the office.

While she was in the elevator going downstairs, she wondered if she should make it clear to Enoch in front of Queenie.

She knew Queenie would be able to understand her. Love and relationships could not be forced, after all.

What made Luca worried was that if Queenie knew Luca was not interested in Enoch, maybe she would arrange for another man to go on a blind date with her immediately. It was to make sure nothing was going on between her and Luke.

She felt helpless at the thought of this.

Luca left T Corporation and headed to Smokin' Hot Steakhouse. It was the white-collared workers' favorite Western restaurant nearby. Hence, the place was fully booked when she reached the restaurant.

It took some time before Luca found a waiter and asked which private room Queenie was in.

Luca pushed the private room door open. Sure enough, other than Queenie, Enoch was there too.

Queenie smiled and waved to Luca. "Luca, come here and take a seat."

into the private room helplessly. Queenie was still trying to set her up with  
could see Queenie was anxious about matchmaking her and Enoch.

Norman." Luca walked into the private room and closed the door. After that, she sat on the chair. Only then did she greet Enoch calmly. "Mr.

Luca called Enoch was cold and hard. Queenie could easily hear the changes in Luca's tone, and she frowned a little. She did not need to make any guesses to know that things were not going to work out between Luca and Enoch no matter what she said

had done her a favor by coming over here, but that did not mean she would be able to

Queenie thought Enoch was a nice man, she could not force Luca to get together with him if Luca did not

hear the coldness in Luca's voice, and he wondered if Luca had received

be that the greeting card had fallen out while the flowers were sent to her office?

Campbell sounds distant. Luca, didn't we agree to call each other by

felt even more frustrated. Was he truly not getting it, or was he just pretending not

they left the cafe last time, Luca had taken the initiative to distance herself from him. She immediately went back to addressing him as Mr.

why this was happening, but she did not lose her temper out of respect for Queenie.

*Enoch handed* Luca the menu when he noticed that Luca refused to say anything. "Mrs. Norman, Luca, take a look at the menu and see what you'd like to order."

*Luca did* not even glance at the menu. She said immediately, "I'd like to have Set A. Thank you."

Queenie could sense there was something wrong in the air, and she felt like she had done something wrong. She started feeling sorry, and she said, "I'll have the same set as Luca."

**Enoch** nodded and ordered three sets of Set A meals by scanning the QR code.

*Enoch put* his phone down after he placed the order. He tested Luca by asking her a question, "Luca, I sent a gift to you today. Did you receive it?"

**"Do you** mean the bouquet of roses?" Luca looked down without showing any signs of happiness for receiving such a gift.

**"Yes, yes.** It seems like you've received it. It took me some time to choose that bouquet. I listened to the florist's suggestions and chose that bouquet for you. There's a significant meaning behind the number of roses!" Enoch rattled on, trying to let Luca know how much effort he had put in.

Luca remained silent.

**Enoch finally** realized something was wrong, so he asked, "Were the quality of the roses *bad*?"

"I'm not a fan of roses," Luca lied. She loved roses, but only the ones that Luke *gave her*.

*Queenie* was slightly startled. Luca did not like *roses*?

Was Luca not interested in the roses planted at her house? That was why she recommended Enoch to get Luca some roses when he asked for her help.

don't like roses?" Enoch gave Queenie a surprised look. He was secretly blaming Queenie. If Queenie had not recommended the roses, he would not have made the wrong decision. However, Queenie was Jack's wife, and he dared not to say anything about it. "I'm sorry.

Campbell, I suppose you should know that everything works the same way. There's always going to be something you like and something you dislike. And that includes the relationship between people. So I think there's no need for you to waste your efforts on me. You deserve someone better." Luca could no longer hold it back, so she spilled everything

was startled. He did not expect Luca to say something like that to him when Queenie was embarrassed, and he was even

he not good enough? This woman, Luca, really had no idea what was good for

the temperature in the room abruptly drop. She quickly smoothed things out. "Alright, alright. No matter what, it's nice to get to know each other. We're all friends,

was unconvinced, but he still nodded and agreed with

reluctant to do so, but she thought she had made things clear enough. Even if Enoch was still thinking of getting together with her, he should have understood by now. He would not continue to bother her after she turned him down so directly.

nodded and agreed with

let out a sigh of relief when the both of them did not start a fight because of this matter.

dishes were served at the table. Enoch was trying to please Luca unconsciously, and Queenie was watching every move he made. She cleared her throat gently to remind

was startled. Embarrassed, he stopped his gestures to please Luca.

## **Chapter 1843**

Queenie let out a sigh. "Stop pushing yourself. It's my fault. Love can't be forced. Enoch, you just have to let it go."

Enoch smiled at her. Love could not be forced, but he had already fallen in love with Luca at first sight.

Enoch had been single for years. It was not because no one had ever introduced him to other women, but it was he who felt that those women were no match for him. That was why he had chosen to stay single.

That was all until he met Luca. Luca's appearance, aura, personality, and career were good enough for him. That was how he began to fall in love with her.

Enoch thought Luca would be satisfied with him, but he did not expect that Luca would show no interest in him.

He had been living a smooth sailing life, but he had encountered setbacks at that particular moment.

Enoch did not express his emotions in front of Queenie, but he was secretly holding a grudge against this matter.

...

On the other hand.

Luca hurried back to the office. She let out a sigh of relief after getting rid of Enoch.

When Luca was back in her office, she packed the things that would be needed for the meeting later.

Tina knocked on her door and walked in. She smiled and handed a thermos bottle to Luca. She said, "Dr. Craw, this is for you."

"What's this?" Luca put down her laptop and took the thermos bottle from Tina with a confused look on her face.

this juice for you. I bought the fruits at the supermarket before I came to work this morning. They're all imported fruits, and the juice tastes good. It's my gift for you in return." Tina was not the kind of person who would take things for granted, and that was why she wanted to give something to Luca in

knew Luca did not like drinking coffee, so she wanted to thank her by making her nutritious

I'll drink it after the meeting." Luca readily accepted it. She picked up her laptop, then the folder that Jason had passed to her just now.

Luca needed to attend the meeting, so she nodded. She did not have to attend the meeting this time. She said, "Then I'll leave you to it. See you

you later." Luca carried her laptop and walked out of her

walked into the meeting room. Some of the senior managers were already sitting there waiting for the meeting to

had attended a few meetings like these before. She was no longer feeling distraught. She was here to work, and that was why no peculiar eyes were falling on

sat down on the right side of the CEO's seat. She turned on her laptop, opened the document folder, and took the recording pen out of her pocket. She got ready to record the

she got everything ready, Luke walked into the room with a stern look on his

who were in the meeting room got serious too when they saw Luke's expression. This impromptu meeting was not as simple as it seemed. Something must have happened. Otherwise, their boss would not have that look on his

distributed the documents one by one to every senior manager.

sat on the CEO's seat and looked at every subordinate disdainfully.

No one even dared to breathe when Luke was watching them like **that**.

Luca sat beside him. She could feel the depressing atmosphere in the room. Deep down in her, she knew something must have happened. Otherwise, Luke would not have such an expression on his **face**.

**Indeed, Luke** spoke and said, "The European company has just added another new condition. The details are in the document. Please take a closer look *at it*."

*The* senior managers heard him and opened the documents in front of them immediately to read the specific requirements. The European company had made a big adjustment to the building materials, architecture design, and *price*.

*Luca had* received a copy of the document too. She lifted her head and glanced at Luke after she read **it**.

**The** architecture design in T Corporation's bid document was similar to the requirements of the European company. There was only a slight difference that did not meet the requirements. Hence, they only had to make some slight amendments to *it*.

As for the building materials, they could be adjusted and modified. There would be a change in the price of the bid document as the cost of materials *increased*.

These were not the real problem.

The biggest problem was—time.

The whole bid document had been completed, but the rest of the content would need to be amended if they made any changes to it now. Moreover, it was only less than two weeks until the bidding date.

*It* would be a fastidious job that required cooperation from every department to redraft a bid document within two weeks while translating the whole document at the same **time**.

**If something** went wrong, they would be late in submitting the bid *document*.

we can't make it in time," said one of the senior

to look at him and said, "Our architecture design is similar to the requirements of the other party. We only have to amend some other parts and the building materials listed on the document. The other companies participating in the bid are also facing the same problem. The thought that they don't have enough time to amend their document didn't even occur to them, so why would we think so?"

senior managers dared not to say another word when they heard that.

not that they could not make it in time, but if Luke decided to rush it, they would have to work day and night for the next two

were worried they would burn

since they're the ones who asked us to make the amendments, didn't they extend the time?" another senior manager asked.

shook his head and replied, "The time hasn't changed."

clearly making things difficult for us. Could it be that someone is pulling the strings behind the company?" Another senior manager was a little annoyed. The company did not ask for any other requirements before this, yet now they were making demands. It seemed like someone in that company had already made a decision on which company to

person was worried that the competition would be fierce, so they came up with something like this.

companies were the ones who had to suffer.

matter what, I want to see a completed bid document submitted in two weeks," said Luke. He would never give up the bidding this

he gave up like that, then everything they had done and the efforts his employees had put in before this would be all in

## **Chapter 1844**

Jason nodded and walked out of the office.

When Jason reached the elevator, he realized Luke's elevator doors were still open. He walked toward it curiously. Then, Luke spoke and said, "Come in."

Jason nodded and entered the elevator.

The elevator doors closed slowly.

Jason lifted his head to look at the floor numbers that were constantly going up. Although he had been working with Luke for so many years, he would still feel a little pressured to be in the same elevator as him.

Luke was his boss, after all...

"Is there anything unusual with Luca lately?"

Jason was startled for a moment, then he felt guilty all of a sudden. Did Luke find out about it? No one was spreading the news that Luca had gone on a blind date, though. How did he know about it? Was it because of that bouquet?

"Boss, what do you mean by anything unusual?" Jason blinked his eyes.

"Is she keeping in touch with any other man?" Luke went straight to the point. He noticed Luca's phone had been constantly ringing recently. Endless message notifications and phone calls had come in last night. His instinct told him that the one looking for Luca was not a woman.

"I'm not so sure about that. Aren't you supposed to know that?" Jason decided to play dumb. After all, even if Luke found out about it, he could tell him that he had not seen anything.

Luke shot him a cold glance without saying anything.

Luke noticed that Luca had not been herself lately and that was why he intended to ask Jason. When Jason claimed that he had no idea about it, Luke replied, "I suspect Luca has been talking to someone else these days. Keep an eye on her for me."



would only spend time in the office and her home. She had been living a simple life without going anywhere. If she was talking to someone else, then she must have met him in the office.

had to make Jason his

let out a sigh in his heart. The whole company belonged to Luke, but he wanted him to keep an eye on

There was no way Jason could

elevator doors opened slowly, and Luke strode out of the elevator with his long legs. If Luke happened to find out which bastard was eyeing the woman he loved, he would crush him into pieces.

...

meeting ended, Luca returned to her office to continue with her work. Some parts of the bid document did not need to be redrafted, so she could still use the translated

was time to get off work, she packed her stuff and prepared to leave.

Luca reached the elevator, she received a message from

child was asking her if she would be getting off work on time

sweetly. The child had always been clingy. He would ask Luca if she was getting off work on time every day after he came back from school.

though Luca had used another identity to return to his side, he was still as needy as usual.

to him: [I'm already getting off work. I'm on my way back

*After* a while, Tommy replied: [Then I'll wait for you to **come home.**]

**Luca smiled.** She put her phone back into her pocket and waited for the elevator.

**Tina came** over and noticed that Luca was smiling. She asked in a gossipy manner, "Dr. Craw, look at how sweet your smile is. Are you going on a date?"

"**No. I'm** not seeing anyone." Luca shook her head, turned around, and glanced around her. Fortunately, no one else was there.

"Don't worry. Hardly anyone knows that you went on a blind date the last time." Tina gave her a mischievous smile. "You were smiling so sweetly that I thought you were going on a date with **some guy.**"

"**No, I'm** not. I'm going home." Luca shook her head. "And I've already rejected *that guy.*"

"Really?" Tina gave Luca a thumbs up when she heard that. "That's very decisive of you. If you don't like him, it's better to reject him quickly so that you can stop wasting each other's time."

"**Yes. I** rejected him in front of the matchmaker as well. I made myself very clear, so I feel so much more relieved now," said Luca. It was also considered an explanation for Tina. After all, Tina knew she had gone on a blind **date.**

"That's great." Tina agreed.

As *the* elevator reached the floor, the doors opened slowly. Luca and Tina entered the elevator together. After Tina pressed the button to go to the first floor, she asked, "Did you drive here?"

"I don't have a car," answered Luca.

Tina nodded and pressed the button to close *the doors*.

**Luca asked, "Getting off so early today?"**

came up, so I informed Mr. Doyle that I'll be getting off work on time today. The others are still working in the secretary's office," replied Tina. The elevator went down all the way to the first floor without stopping on

secretly exclaiming. It seemed like the policy changes regarding the European project had caused everyone to work overtime. That was why only a few people were getting off work on

they reached the first floor, both of them walked out of the elevator side by side. They were planning to take the same path as they were both hailing a ride home.

noticed that Enoch was standing not far away when they walked out of the entrance. She paused and frowned.

noticed Luca's gestures and asked, "What's

Luca looked at Enoch, who was not far away from her. He had already noticed Luca and was walking toward her.

me he's the one who went on a blind date with you?" Tina was a smart woman. She speculated that he was Luca's blind date when she saw such a scene and also Luca's reaction.

Luca nodded as she watched Enoch walk toward her. Impatience had begun to surge in her heart

flowers to her office, Enoch was now standing outside her office waiting for

she not made herself clear

did Enoch not seem to understand her intentions? He even came to her office to stop her at the entrance. If someone else saw this, they would certainly

you clarify things? Why is he still here..." Tina was startled. She planned to stay beside Luca.

met stalkers before. She knew how terrifying it could be. It was enough to frighten someone to death. She had to accompany Luca before this man went mad and hurt Luca.

## **Chapter 1845**

"I'm just here to pick you up from work. You didn't drive to work, right? Well, I drove today. The weather is cold, and you'll be freezing if you wish to hail a ride by the roadside. Isn't it good if I can offer you a ride?" Enoch said. A lot of women wanted a man to be thoughtful and care for them. That was why Enoch came here just to wait for her. After all, government staff got off work earlier than employees in the private sector. He had plenty of time to come here and wait for Luca.

Luca took another step back. She would have informed the security guards without hesitation if it would not alert everyone in the office. "Mr. Campbell, please understand that I'm not going to change my mind no matter what you do. So, please leave."

Enoch's heart sank, and anger was bottled up inside him, but he did not let it out. "Luca, I like you. Can't you give me a chance? Look at me. I own a car and a house. I'm not that bad..."

Tina, who was standing beside Luca, could no longer stand it. She rolled her sleeves and scolded Enoch, "Hey mister! Is your brain still working? Didn't you hear her say that she has already rejected you and she's tired of you bothering her? Why are you still waiting here? She doesn't even want to be friends with you. You'd better give up instead of waiting for her here. You're not going to gain her favor by doing this. It'll only make her hate you more. And do you think every woman you meet is a gold digger? Do you think she'll throw herself in your arms when you're only driving an Audi? I'm sorry, but it's not like Dr. Craw can't afford those cars. She's only furthering her career here for now. Things might change in the future, and that's why she didn't get a car. So, you'd better drive your car away and get the hell out of here."

Enoch did not expect that Luca would despise him for doing this. He also did not expect to get scolded by the woman beside her.

He drove here to pick Luca up to show her how capable he was. He owned a car, and it was a better model than the ones driven by typical white-collared workers.

However, Enoch did not expect that they did not give a damn about his car.

The man's pride had shattered in front of these women. Enoch glanced at Luca, and the look in his eyes had changed.

Tina also noticed the changes in his eyes. She shivered and turned to look at Luca.

Luca seemed calm.

Campbell, please stop bothering me once you leave." Luca grabbed Tina's hand and left after she said that.

two of them walked to the spot nearby where they could hail

in the direction of the office. Enoch had already left. She exclaimed, "The look in the man's eyes just now was so scary. It was as though he wanted to eat you up after being rejected again."

The look in Enoch's eyes just now was indeed something else. However, he was merely a civil servant. What could he do to

sure that after she made it clear by rejecting him and coupled with the harsh words that Tina had said to him, Enoch would not want to have anything to do with her anymore. She took her phone out, thinking of deleting Enoch's contact

unlocked her phone and realized Enoch had sent a few messages to

felt annoyed receiving so many messages from Enoch last night, so she had already muted his messages. She noticed that there were more than ten messages left unread. Each of them was in short paragraphs.

could not be bothered to read them. She blocked him and deleted his contact

**Luca** was worried Enoch would still come looking for her. She refused to give him any chances, so she blocked Enoch's phone number and deleted it.

Tina looked at her. She also noticed that Luca's chatbox with Enoch was full of messages. She exclaimed, "This kind of man must think that he's so successful just because he owns a car and a house. He thinks that the woman he's interested in will definitely fall for him, huh? That's why he's *so scary*."

"**You're** right," Luca replied. Actually, she had no idea why Enoch would do **that**.

*She* was not very outstanding either.

"*You* made it very clear when you rejected him, but his ego tells him that he shouldn't be rejected. He thought it was perhaps you hadn't seen his financial situation and that's why he pulled a stunt like this. I wonder where he got his confidence from? His looks? He's not even as good-looking as our boss—not even a third," Tina muttered to herself as she compared Enoch to Luke. It was a sure defeat for Enoch.

"You're comparing him to Mr. Crawford?" Luca pulled a wry **face**.

"Why not? They're both men, so what's wrong with comparing him to Luke? I think my aesthetic standards have increased after working long enough with Mr. Crawford. That's probably why I'm still single now. I think my boss is partly responsible for that. Facing a handsome boss every day has constantly increased my aesthetic standards. I'm no longer interested in ordinary men." Tina grabbed Luca's arm passionately, and she could not help but talk to her about these *things*.

Luca shook her head, smiled, and said, "Then should Mr. Crawford take responsibility for *you*?"

"*Oh no*. Boss' level is much too high. There's no way he can be responsible for me. I'd be thankful if he's able to introduce a handsome man to me." Tina shook her head immediately and cracked a joke.

that you might not be interested in him," said

no clue about this. Dr. Craw, think about it. Birds of a feather flock together. If Mr. Crawford introduces a handsome man to me, that person must be a successful business elite too. Although he might not be as good as Mr. Crawford, he's definitely capable. This type of man might be able to catch my attention," said Tina. Previously, Tina had been to many cocktail parties with Luke. She met many successful middle-aged businessmen at the party. However, there were also many new,

was just a secretary. It would be better for her to not get to know

to Tina, and she could not help but agree with her. She reminded Tina when she saw an empty cab heading toward them from afar. "There's the

go of Luca's arm and said, "Dr. Craw, you should go first."

you should go first. Didn't you tell me you have something to do?" Luca wanted Tina to take the

in a rush. You should take the cab first. Even though that guy has left, we can't really be sure. He might come back. It's not safe for you to wait alone here. So, just get in the car." Tina helped her hail the

that the three children were still waiting for her at the mansion. Besides, Luke would definitely work overtime today as he was currently involved in the architecture design part of the project. Hence, if Luca went home late, the three children would be waiting at home without any family members

Hence, Luca got into the car.

## **Chapter 1846**

Enoch drove all the way while following behind the cab Luca was in.

Then, he reached the entrance of the villa district. He stopped the car beside the road and watched Luca get out of the car before walking into the villa district.

"She's staying in a villa district?" Enoch glanced at the houses in front of him. The prices of such villa districts had surpassed the average real estate prices in A City over the recent years. It was even about to exceed the land price of the mansions built by those wealthy people back then.

Those who could stay here were mostly successful entrepreneurs and A-list celebrities.

"Is Luca that rich?" Enoch furrowed his brows suspiciously, refusing to believe that.

Although Luca had a decent job and she came back from abroad, only a few could afford to stay in these mansions...

Enoch picked up his phone and saved the video he recorded. Then, he asked a friend who was working in the housing and urban development field out for dinner before leaving.

Luca did not know Enoch had followed her all the way here. She had been busy handling her work when she was in the cab and did not pay attention to what was going on on the road. When she reached the villa, she greeted the children and headed to the kitchen where she began to make dinner.

Luke had not come back even after dinner was ready.

She knew Luke would come back late tonight. Maybe he would even sleep in the office. In the past, she would definitely deliver a warm dinner to the office for Luke. However, she had no status now. That was why she just kept some food for Luke. After she kept the food warm, she ate dinner with the children.

After dinner, the children took turns letting her check their homework. Then, Luca imitated Luke's signature to sign their exercise books.

noticed that Luca had signed using Luke's signature and asked, "Ms. Luca, why are you using Daddy's signature?"

your teacher will ask who I am if I sign my name on it. If you try to explain things to your teacher, they probably won't believe it. Since it's troublesome, I'd rather sign your Daddy's name on it," explained Luca. After she signed Lanie's exercise book, she picked up Rainie's book to sign Luke's signature on it as

at the signature on his book and exclaimed, "Ms. Luca, the signature you signed is almost the same as Daddy's signature.

smiled. She had picked up the skill when she was on the Island of Despair.

she was trained on the Island Of Despair, they would arrange various courses for her. It was to make sure that she could master a wide range of skills so that she could carry out her missions easily.

forging a signature would sometimes come in handy when she was carrying out

undergoing training for so long, Luca never expected that the first time she would be using this skill was to sign her children's

would not have signed the children's homework on behalf of Luke if it was not because he might not be coming back tonight.

alike. I used to have a hobby. I loved to copy others' handwriting. The more I practiced, the better I got at it. It's just like with Mr. Crawford's handwriting. I often see his signature on documents, so that's why I know how to copy his signature too," explained Luca. After signing Rainie's exercise book, she picked up Tommy's.

was not as good as his elder brother's and sister's. He could not calm himself down to focus on his homework because of his personality. Hence, Luca checked Tommy's homework again. After making sure there was no problem with it, she signed Luke's name

**After completing** everything, Luca stood up and said, "Alright. You've done your homework. You can go ahead and watch your cartoons or do anything else you want."

**"Ms. Luca,** what are you going to do?" Tommy asked.

**"Me?** I have to work." Luca stroked the child's head and added, "I'm sorry. I've been busy with work lately, so I can't keep you company."

**"It's alright,** Ms. Luca. Go on, then," Rainie replied thoughtfully. The children felt satisfied as long as their mother was willing to stay with them. It was enough if they could see her and have dinner with her **every day**.

*Meanwhile,* Tommy said, "Ms. Luca, you're too busy. Look what Daddy has done, giving you so much work. You should ask him to reduce your workload. That way, you can have more time to **rest**."

**Luca smiled** and stroked Tommy's head. She said, "Everyone in the office is busy now. I can't just sit there and do nothing. Alright, I'm going upstairs to work now. Come upstairs to look for me if you need something, okay?"

"Okay," the three kids replied in *unison*.

*After* Luca went upstairs, Rainie looked around her. The maid was busy cleaning up the kitchen. Rainie said to her elder brother in a low voice, "Lanie, Ms. Luca is lying. She didn't know how to copy others' handwriting *back then*."

*"She's maturing.* She now knows how to do things she didn't know how to previously," replied Lanie. Even though Luca did not tell Luke what she had gone through, he was sensitive enough to sense that their mother had gone through a tough time in the past few years.

**Rainie nodded** her head. Her father told her before that adversity led to growth. Their mother must have suffered all these years...

It was 11 o'clock at night,

silently walked out of her bedroom. She headed to the living room on the second floor and opened the balcony door.

gust of cold wind blew into the room. She could not help but shiver for a while. The temperature had plunged tonight, and it was much colder.

walked to the balcony and looked at the parking lot downstairs. Luke's car was not there, which meant that he was still in the office.

pulled her jacket closer around her body as she trotted back to the living room and closed the door. It felt much warmer now. Then, she recalled the night Luke gave her his coat. She wanted to do the same she had no status to do so, and she could not leave now.

maid had already gotten off work. Although the kids had gone to bed, it was dangerous to leave them at had dropped. She wondered if the children's blankets were enough to keep them warm.

Luca thought of this, she walked toward Tommy's bedroom and gently pushed the door open.

child was lying on the bed, deeply asleep.

walked toward Tommy and saw that he was nicely tucked in. She smiled. The child used to kick the blanket off him. He had grown up now, and he no longer made a fuss in his sleep. She touched the child's forehead. It felt a little cold. She took another blanket out of the cabinet and draped it over

## **Chapter 1847**

After she did everything, she went back to her bedroom to rest. However, she heard the noises of a car driving in and the engine turning off.

Luke had come back...

Luca made her way down the steps. When she stepped on the curtail step, she happened to see Luke walking into the house. He looked cold as he closed the door.

Luke frowned when he saw her and asked, "It's late. Why aren't you sleeping yet?"

"I was going to sleep, but I heard the sound of your car..." Luca looked at Luke's face. He still looked energetic, but she had no idea if he had his dinner already.

She asked, "Mr. Crawford, I saved some broccoli chicken casserole for you. Do you want some?"

Luke did not have his dinner, but it was well past dinner time. He was not feeling hungry either. However, when Luke heard Luca asking him that, he asked her, "You made it?"

"Yes. It only takes five minutes to reheat, then you can have it," said Luca, remembering that Luke had a weak stomach.

"Alright. I'll have it," replied Luke.

Luca heard him and trotted to the kitchen, taking the broccoli chicken casserole out.

Even though she had tried to keep it warm, the food still turned cold as it had been a few hours...

Luca placed the food in the oven and set the timer. She thought that Luke was probably starving, but she did not prepare any soup today. Hence, she got him a glass of warm milk.

Luca held the glass of milk, headed to the dining room, and put it on the dining table. "Mr. Crawford, I didn't make any soup today. You can have some warm milk first."

on the chair and took the glass of milk that Luca had prepared for him. He took one sip after another, enjoying the taste of the

was only a glass of ordinary milk, yet Luke was drinking it as though he was drinking wine or coffee. Luca's face reddened as she watched

had always been secretly obsessed with Luke's elegance.

Luca heard the oven's timer ringing, she strolled to the kitchen immediately to get the heated food out of the oven. "Mr. Crawford, is it enough? I can make a grilled cheese sandwich if it's not enough for you to eat."

enough," answered Luke. He knew Luca was worried that he had been starving the whole night and this might not be enough for him to fill his stomach. That was why she asked him. However, he was no longer as hungry now even after going without food for so

when he smelled the fragrance of the food, Luke felt hungry at

watched Luke quickly finish the food on the dining table, she let out a sigh. Luke had indeed starved the whole

felt embarrassed just watching him, so she said, "Mr. Crawford, just leave the plate here after you finish the food. The maid will clean it up tomorrow morning. I'm going

nodded. The food Luca prepared could really whet his appetite. He was not hungry at first, but he just wanted to devour everything on the

returned to her bedroom and closed the door. She recalled the scene of Luke eating his dinner. Although he was still graceful, it could be considered as him gobbling up

must have been really hard for

sake of his children and the Crawford

Luca sat on the bed and pondered for a while. She turned off the lights when she heard the sound of someone climbing up the stairs. Then, she lay down on the bed and closed her eyes.

She seldom relied on sleeping pills to sleep ever since she moved in here.

Even though Luke and her three kids were not beside her, she unknowingly felt at ease. She could sleep well even without taking the pills.

Luke stood outside Luca's bedroom door for quite some time. Then, he went to the kids' rooms to check on them. He only returned to his bedroom after **that**.



He had been guiding the employees in the design department to amend the parts that did not meet the document's requirements the whole night. He would probably sleep in the office if it was not because he was worried about Luca and the kids. There were so many other things to do at the *moment*.

*After he* made time for Luca and the kids, he returned to his bedroom, turned on the laptop, and continued **to work**.

The next day at noon.

Luca received another call from Queenie again. Queenie invited her to have lunch together downstairs. Luca felt a little unpleasant at the thought of what had happened yesterday. She planned to turn Queenie down. "Mrs. Norman, I'm sorry. I'm quite busy today—"

"Luca, I know you don't like Enoch. Don't worry. I'll be meeting you alone today. And I won't be speaking on behalf of anyone either. I just wanted to apologize to you," explained *Queenie*.

Apologize...

*Luca let* out a sigh in her heart. How could she let her mother apologize to *her*?

**Besides, Queenie** probably did not think that she would be so against Enoch **either...**

Mrs. Norman, how about this? Do you mind waiting for ten minutes? I'll go downstairs as soon as I finish my work." Luca was afraid that Queenie would continue to talk about Enoch. That was why she did not want to

since Queenie said she would not mention Enoch, then it was alright for them to meet. After all, Queenie was

wait for you." Queenie sounded

the last paragraph, saved the document, and left the office.

into Luke when she walked out of the office.

out for lunch?" Luke asked.

Crawford." Luca noticed that Luke was holding a document in his hands. She reckoned that he had just come up from

she came to work today, she heard the news that Luke had personally guided everyone in the design department to amend the design draft last

indeed talented at architectural

Luke was leading a team alone, and he would be the one to complete the important steps. From the looks of it, he did not seem like the boss but the director of the

join me?" Luke invited her. Things were going smoother than he expected, so that was why he could make time to have lunch with Luca.

Crawford, I have a lunch date. I don't think it's convenient." Luca politely declined

## Chapter 1848

When she listened to Luca's thoughtful words, Queenie was reminded of Bianca.

If her daughter was as thoughtful as the person in front of her, she would not have to worry that much.

Queenie looked at Luca's gentle face. Queenie always had this familiar feeling and unknown intimacy for Luca.

Queenie's eyes welled up a little while staring at her. She suddenly had inexplicable mixed feelings surging within her. "Luca, I'm sorry for what happened this time."

"Mrs. Norman, you didn't do anything wrong. Why are you apologizing?" Luca shook her head. She smiled at her to calm Queenie down.

Queenie was her biological mother. She would not blame her no matter what she did. Besides, Queenie had her own reason for what had happened this time.

She could not blame Queenie and Jack for what had happened.

"No, it's my fault. I shouldn't have introduced someone to you before getting to know him better. Enoch must have caused you a lot of trouble, right?" Queenie reflected on everything that had happened after she went home last night. She felt that it had been wrong of her to introduce Enoch to Luca.

Moreover, Enoch seemed to have caused Luca a lot of trouble.

"No. It's just because it's not the right time for me to get into a relationship now. That's why I was so annoyed." Luca shook her head. She should not blame Queenie for this.

Although Enoch was a little annoying, he was just an ordinary man who was pursuing a woman. He did things that a man would typically do to win a woman's heart.

impatience was not because Enoch had been bothering her.

because she was worried that Luke would find out that she went on a blind date with Enoch. She did not want to have to explain things to him, and she did not want him to

all, her mood swings came from her fear of being discovered by Luke.

kind of you. But is there such a thing as a perfect match? When I remember first meeting Jack in the past, I didn't think that we were a good match either. But I still ended up with the person I didn't think would match me well. I never thought I would end up marrying him either." Queenie held her cup with both hands while telling Luca about her past.

the first time Luca heard about Queenie and Jack's love story. It caught Luca's interest. "What happened the normal stuff. He asked me out a few times, and I was attracted to the way he talked about politics and creating a better future. That's quite magical, right? After that, we got into a relationship and we got married. Then, we had children. Everything happened just like how it would with any other couple, but it's also somewhat different." Queenie took a trip down her memory lane. Her 30 years of marriage with Jack were plain yet

corner of Luca's lips curled and turned into a smile. "In the end, whatever will be, will be. Let nature take its course."

nature take its course when it comes to things like getting married and having kids. So, Luca, stop wondering whether a man is a good match for you or not. You'll find someone." Queenie patted the back of Luca's

true that Queenie was anxious to arrange blind dates for Luca. However, she was only forced to do so as she did not want anything to happen between Luca and Luke. That was why she made

wanted Luca to

"**Yes**, that's how it works. I guess it's better to go with the flow when it comes to relationships and marriage." Luca understood what Queenie meant.

**Queenie** was wondering if she should introduce some other men to her.

However, Enoch had caused enough trouble for Luca. Luca probably did not want to get involved with another blind date and get herself into more trouble.

Queenie understood Luca's thoughts.

**She** could not force Luca to go on a blind date if she was reluctant to do so. After all, she did not want Luca to hate **her**.

**Besides, judging** from Luca's situation now, Queenie would not be able to arrange a blind date for Luca just to stop her from getting into a relationship with Luke.

Queenie nodded and smiled. "You're a smart woman who has your own plans. If you're not in a hurry, then I can't say anything more about your love life either. Come on, let's eat. Otherwise, the food won't taste good when it gets *cold*."

**Luca** knew that after Queenie said that to her, she would not force her to go on anymore blind dates. She no longer had to worry *about that*.

*After lunch*, Luca wanted to head back to her office **to work**.

**Queenie** did not make her stay as she knew Luca was busy. She let out a sigh as she watched Luca leave from *behind*.

she was about to leave the restaurant after paying for lunch, she received a call from Enoch.

reluctant to answer the call when she saw who it was, but she had to answer

Enoch. What's the matter?" Queenie answered the call as she walked out of the restaurant.

the noises from the other end of the phone and asked, "Mrs. Norman, are you free now? There's something I'd like to tell

back into the car and signaled the driver to start driving. "What's wrong? Tell me

it'd be better for me to talk to you in person." Enoch told Queenie that he wanted to see her.

was in a dilemma and said, "Aren't you working now? It'll be the same if you tell me over the phone on seeing Queenie, so he had asked for a leave from his superior this morning. He explained, "Mrs. Norman, I've already taken the day off. It'll only take a few minutes for me to speak to you about

helplessly let out a sigh when Enoch insisted on seeing her. She said, "Fine. Where are you now? I'll meet

thinking of personally visiting her to show his sincerity. He did not expect Queenie to offer to look for him. Therefore, he mentioned a coffee shop

## **Chapter 1849**

Queenie was worried that Enoch was bothering Luca again when she heard that he had done something. She became nervous and said, "Enoch, things like love and relationships can't be explained by just reason."

Enoch saw the anxious expression on her face and replied, "Mrs. Norman, don't worry. I didn't bother Luca. But I found out why she rejected me."

Queenie was startled for a moment, then she asked, "Why?"

"I thought of picking her up from work yesterday, but after I saw her get into a cab, I followed her. I didn't bother her. I just followed her all the way back to her house. However, I found out that she's staying in a villa district in A City called Gilded Gem Villas. You should know about this villa district, right?" said Enoch.

Gilded Gem Villas?

Luca was startled. Previously when Luca was sent back home by their driver, she was clearly staying in an ordinary apartment building. Why was she suddenly staying in a luxurious villa district?

"Enoch, did you get it wrong?"

"No, I didn't. I saw her walking in there with my own eyes," replied Enoch.

When Queenie noticed how stubbornly in love he was with Luca, she said helplessly, "Well, can this prove anything?"

"Not everyone can afford to buy a villa there, Mrs. Norman. No matter how high Luca's salary is, she wouldn't be able to afford a villa there. I guess this is the reason why she rejected me. She can afford to stay in one of the villas there because her boyfriend is staying there too," said Enoch. Actually, he suspected that Luca was the mistress of a wealthy man. However, it was inappropriate to mention such improper things in front of Queenie.

a boyfriend? How's that possible..." Queenie frowned. If Luca had a boyfriend, she did not have to lie to her about it—unless her boyfriend was someone who could not be seen with

the information I found after I looked into it." Enoch handed her a document. "Mrs. Norman, I'm being completely honest with you. I got this information from a friend. Not everyone can stay in Gilded Gem Villas. Besides, those wealthy people wouldn't rent their place out to outsiders after buying properties

there. Luca's name is not on the list of owners either. If it isn't because Luca has a rich boyfriend, how could she possibly live

did not expect Enoch to investigate this matter. She picked up the list and glanced at it. It was the list of names of people who had bought villas there. There were names of businessmen in A City as well as celebrities. Queenie knew who the estate developer

the developer was starting the project, he even thought of giving one of the villas to Jack. However, Jack, who had always been fair and honest, rejected him right

would never take such gifts from

a few familiar names on the list—Luke Crawford and

you spotted the name too, right? Your son-in-law, Luke Crawford's, name is on the list." Enoch

and replied, "You mean... No way. How's that possible? Look, other than Luke's name, Louis' name is on the list too. T Corporation must have participated in the development of this villa district. It's normal if they own villas

Luca and Luke were involved in a scandal before. Besides, they're working in the same company. Mrs. Norman, I know it's wrong of me to investigate such things, but I'm only asking for an explanation. I guess I found the reason now. And I'm showing you this not because I want you to do something about it. It's just that Luke Crawford is your son-in-law, and your daughter is still abroad. I just think that this matter concerns you and Mr. Norman." After Enoch finished talking, he stood up and said, "I've figured out the reason now. There's no point for me to keep these. I'll leave these to you. I'll be leaving now."

Enoch leave from behind. She had just set aside her worries, but now, they suddenly

Luca and Luca...

*Queenie could* no longer sit there. She asked her driver to drive her to Gilded Gems Villas.

**It** was almost time to get off work. Queenie sat in the backseat of the car. She watched people entering and leaving Gilded Gem Villas without saying a word. The car plate number on her car was special, and no ordinary people could have it. That was why the security guards did not send her away despite her car being parked outside the entrance for the whole *afternoon*.

**The** driver looked at Queenie in the backseat of the car. She had never stopped staring outside the window. The driver did not know what was going on, so he could not help but ask, "Mrs. Norman, you've been watching outside the window for the whole afternoon now."

**"Just a little longer."** Queenie glanced at the time. She knew Luca would not get off work that early, but she was in a hurry to verify what Enoch had said **to her**.

**If** Luca did not show up here today, that would prove that she had just come to visit a friend yesterday. Then everything would make sense.

*The* driver fell silent after listening to what she *said*.

*After a while*, Queenie saw a car pass by. She set her eyes on the car. It was a familiar car plate number.

She asked the driver immediately, "Look, is that Luke's car plate **number?**"

looked over and replied, "Yes, Mrs. Norman. The car and the car plate number belong to Mr. Crawford. I remember that he once drove this car to your house. But I suppose their driver, Zander, should be the one driving the

pushed the car door open to take a closer look at it, the car had already driven into the district.

frowned and waited for another 15 minutes. When she was about to get back into her car, she saw Luke's car driving

made a sudden decision and waved at the car.

was driving the car, saw Queenie. He hurriedly parked the car by the roadside and got out of it. "Mrs. Norman, why are you here?"

indeed driving the car. Queenie knew very well that it was after school hours now. Zander must have sent the children home after picking them up from school.

thinking of meeting the children, but I came early. Then I saw a familiar car plate number. I thought it was Luke. That's why I stopped the car. I didn't expect to be you." Queenie casually found

sent the kids back home. You said that you want to see the kids, right? Why don't I send you in?" Zander said enthusiastically.

her head right away. "It's alright. The kids are at home now, so there'll be people in the house. I'll just press the bell."

her and remembered that he still had errands to run. He nodded and said, "Alright. You know which one it is,

## **Chapter 1850**

The driver sent Jack a message. After reporting Queenie's abnormal behavior, Queenie's phone rang after some time had passed.

Upon seeing that it was a call from Jack, she immediately placed her phone aside and did not intend to answer the call.

The driver looked behind and saw that Queenie was still looking outside the window, paying close attention to every car that passed by.

Seeing her in such a state left him with no choice but to remind her, "Mrs. Norman, your phone is ringing."

"It's not important," said Queenie. Seeing that Jack was calling her at this hour, she figured that he just wanted to tell her that he would be home late. Compared to what she was doing now, which was waiting at this spot to see whether or not Luca would show up, this call was not important at all.

The driver stuttered and felt that Queenie was not being herself. She just kept staring outside the window as if she was trying to catch her husband having an affair red-handed.

Her phone rang more than ten times, yet Queenie never picked up the call.

After some time, the driver received Jack's call.

"Yes, Mr. Norman. Mrs. Norman is in the car," Jack was asking about what Queenie was up to, and the driver answered honestly.

Jack understood what Queenie was doing and ordered, "Pass the phone to her."

"Yes, sir." The driver tilted his body and handed the phone to Queenie. "Mrs. Norman, it's a call from Mr. Norman. He's looking for you."

Queenie never shifted her gaze from the window and just stretched out her hand, hinting for the driver to place the phone in her hand.

The driver was helpless. It was his first time seeing her like this. He placed the phone in her hand.

Queenie brought the phone to her ear while still staring outside the window.

going to tell me that you'll be back home late tonight, right?" she asked casually and

and said, "I'm currently on my way back. Where are

Queenie replied before continuing. "I'm still outside, but I'm about to head

happen to forget what day it is today?" Jack asked. 'It seems she's still focused on

did not know what was going on with Queenie. Last night, he thought that Queenie would let her guard down after she told him that she would not arrange another blind date for Luca. However, it seemed she had changed into another

like I really have to investigate what's

was stunned. 'What day is it

sighed and reminded, "Dear, today's our wedding anniversary. You've never forgotten, so how did you forget about it this

dumbfounded. 'Today is our wedding

been so occupied with Bianca and Luca's issue in the past few days that she had completely forgotten about their

said, "Alright, I'll head back

about to say something, but Queenie had hung up the call. Listening to the busy tone on the other end made Jack feel helpless. He sighed. 'She has lost her mind all because of

would never tell her that Luca

Jack had no choice but to call Luke. He was the only one who could handle this *situation*.

On the other hand.

Queenie knew that Luca did not own a car. Hence, she was keeping track of each cab that came by until a particular cab came to a halt at the entrance of the villa. Her heart was racing, and her eyes were fixed on that **car**.

**The** person in the car came out of it.

Despite being quite far away from the cab, Queenie was still able to make out that it was Luca just from her **back**.

**The** moment she was sure it was Luca, Queenie felt as if the strength within her was being drained away as she leaned against the seat while staring at Luca, who was not far away **from her**.

After closing the car door, Luca immediately headed toward the entrance of the villa.

"It's true..." Queenie was trembling as she watched Luca walk into the villa. She picked up her phone with her trembling **hand**.

She gave Luca a call.

**"Mrs. Norman..."** The driver was worried that her body might show signs of abnormality when he saw Queenie's pale face.

Queenie lifted a finger and placed it over her mouth. "Don't say a **word**."

The driver could only close his mouth and continue to monitor her behavior through the *rearview mirror*.

**Queenie** made the call but she did not get through. Luca was on *another call*.

On the other hand.

had received a call

Luca was astonished that Luke would call her at

you now?" After Luke received Jack's call, he paused his meeting and gave Luca a

about to enter the villa," said Luca. "Do you need me to buy

gotten out of the car?"

gotten out of the car." Luca found it weird, but she still answered his question

is my father and mother-in-law's wedding anniversary. It's not convenient for me to leave now as I have something to attend to. You should head back and bring the kids over to the Norman family's residence. I'll get the kids not to simply run their mouths off." Luke did not explain further and just gave her a set of

wedding anniversary? Is it even appropriate for me to bring the kids there?" Luca was stunned as she did not expect today to be such an

wanted to celebrate her parents' wedding anniversary with them, but she did not have the right status to do

if she brought the three kids over, she would not know how to handle the situation if Jack and Queenie



appropriate. I'll be relieved if you're the one bringing the kids over." Luke knew what she was worried about. "You're familiar with the Norman family, so nothing  
nodded after she heard