

## **Be Gentle 1961**

### **Chapter 1961**

Mr. Peralta and Ms. Malone left Pierre's office together.

Ms. Malone could not help but tremble at the thought of Pierre's expression when he warned them, then she looked at Mr. Peralta worriedly. She said, "Mr. Peralta, is it really alright for us to do such a thing?"

They had stolen T Corporation's bidding document...

Pierre would save himself if Luke investigated this matter. He would pass the buck to the two of them. Then, they would have to bear the responsibility for everything. They were the ones who would be in deep trouble.

Mr. Peralta looked miserable too, and he replied, "I'm not sure either. If Luke sees the bidding document when it's released to the public, I'm afraid he'll find a way to deal with our company. Mr. Mallory might shift the blame to us to protect himself."

Mr. Peralta had already thought of that when he was doing this.

However, what else could he do even if he knew it?

As Pierre's subordinate, he had no choice but to accept his boss' arrangement. Besides, he had already read the bidding document. Would Pierre let him get away with it?

He only became in charge of the company after working for Pierre for many years. Another assistant was responsible for some top-secret information about the company.

However, he could still find out certain things.

Pierre's company appeared to be legal, but the company had been secretly making deals in gray areas.

That was why Mr. Peralta dared not to say anything even though he knew amending the bidding document and making it their own was wrong. He was left with no choice as he had read the bidding document before, so he could only drag Ms. Malone into this.

"I feel like quitting..." Ms. Malone frowned, putting on a long face.

Peralta reminded her, "Do you think you can quit the job as you wish? You'll have to wait until this is over. Otherwise, Mr. Mallory won't let you go

when will this end?" Ms. Malone could not imagine how she was going to spend her days worrying about this when she heard that she was not allowed to quit yet. She realized that the worst decision she had ever made was to

hard to tell. This will end if our company doesn't get chosen for the project and our actions aren't discovered by T Corporation. The contents of the bidding document will be published if our company wins the bid. If that's the case, this won't end until the project finishes," said

ridiculous!” Ms. Malone looked at Mr. Peralta helplessly when she realized that she could not get herself away from

Peralta started feeling unsure when he saw the look on Ms. Malone’s face. He was worried that Luke would come looking for trouble. The rest of the matters were nothing

all, large companies like T Corporation would always keep a few tricks up their sleeves. They would probably have evidence to prove that it was them who stole the bidding document when the

don’t have a choice. Let’s just do our parts.” Mr. Peralta patted Ms. Malone’s shoulder and walked back to his office.

them that they were allowed to go back home early, but Mr. Peralta was not planning to do so. After all, Mr. Mallory’s mood changed quickly. How would he dare to get off work

phone in Mr. Peralta’s office rang when he had just sat down on his chair.

Mr. Peralta pressed the answer button.

a call from the company’s receptionist. “Mr. Peralta, a man named Mr. Abel would like to meet Mr. Mallory, but he didn’t make any appointments with him. Can you please help me to ask

appointment? Just tell him Mr. Mallory is busy.” Mr. Peralta did not take it seriously. Many people would like to meet Mr. Mallory, so Pierre would not usually meet anyone if they did not have an appointment.

Pierre was proud and arrogant. Even though he only owned a small company, he still gave others attitude.

*The* receptionist replied, “I told him that too, but he said we should tell Mr. Mallory his name. Mr. Mallory would certainly *see him*.”

“**Wait** a minute.” Mr. Peralta hung up the receptionist’s call and called Pierre’s office extension.”

**It** was the first time he had encountered such a matter. To be safe, he planned to tell Pierre about **it**.

“Yes?” Pierre picked up the call.

“Mr. Mallory, the receptionist just called and told me that you have a visitor who doesn’t have an appointment to see you. His name is Mr. Abel.” Mr. Peralta conveyed the message the receptionist had told him.

*Pierre replied* immediately when he heard Abel’s name, “Take him to the *lounge*.”

*Mr. Peralta* was slightly surprised. Pierre, who had always been proud and never shown any respect for others had actually agreed to let a man who did not have any appointment **see him**.

Mr. Peralta replied, “Alright, Mr. Mallory.”

Mr. Peralta could see that Pierre took this person seriously. Thus, he went downstairs to welcome Abel **himself**.

**The** receptionist smiled and greeted Mr. Peralta when she saw him downstairs, "Good morning, *Mr. Peralta.*"

"Leave this to me," said Mr. Peralta. It only took him a glance to know who Abel was.

did not sound like a local

walked toward a man who had Caucasian facial features and greeted him respectfully, "Hello, Mr. Abel. Mr. Mallory is waiting for you in the

He stood up with an unlit cigar between his index finger and middle

noticed the cigar Abel was holding. He wondered if he should tell him that no smoking was allowed in the company's public area. However, Abel did not light the cigar. Besides, he was Mr. Mallory's VIP, so he decided to keep quiet.

led Abel to the lounge. He pushed the door open and was momentarily

Pierre was not in the lounge.

narrowed his eyes and looked around the lounge, his face darkening at once. "Where's

is probably busy with something right now. Please take a seat." Mr. Peralta quickly spoke up for Pierre. After all, the guest was already here, but the boss was

an attitude Pierre has." Abel sneered as he walked into the lounge.

Abel, would you like a cup of coffee or some other beverages?" Mr. Peralta added.

coffee taste good?" Abel was very particular about coffee.

Peralta was stunned for a moment, then answered, "Ah? Our coffee is

## **Chapter 1962**

Mr. Peralta fell silent with embarrassment.

The two of them had strong auras. It was not his place to say a word.

Pierre walked into the lounge and ordered Mr. Peralta, "Go to my wine cabinet and bring a bottle of red wine here."

Abel replied as soon as Pierre said, "Red wine won't be enough. The alcohol content isn't high enough, Mr. Mallory."

Pierre frowned. Was this guy trying to make him drunk early in the morning?

However, Pierre had heard that Abel was Russian. Thus, he turned around and ordered Mr. Peralta, "Get a bottle of Martell cognac for me."

"Yes, sir," replied Mr. Peralta. He closed the door and went to prepare the liquor for them.

Pierre sat down on the sofa opposite Abel with a cold and haughty look on his face. "Mr. Abel, what can I do for you this time?"

The way Pierre talked to him was considered polite. Although he had no idea about this man's identity and background, he must be capable enough since he was able to steal T Corporation's bidding document.

"Will you believe me if I tell you I'm here to have a drink?" Abel toyed with the cigar in his hands, not lighting it up yet.

"Absolutely not. If you just wanted to have a drink, you'd come looking for me at night, not in the morning," replied Pierre. Drinking at night was much more fun than drinking in the morning.

"Interesting. You're smart." Abel did not really like Pierre, but the enemy's foe was his friend. He knew that well.

Just then, Mr. Peralta brought two snifter glasses and a bottle of Martell cognac into the lounge.

"Mr. Mallory, Mr. Abel, here's the cognac." Mr. Peralta placed the swifter glasses in front of them. said, "Serve it to Mr. Abel

Mr. Peralta poured the cognac into the glasses for them.

at the Martell cognac and raised his brows, then he said, "It's good, indeed. I didn't expect you to be so generous."

Is there a problem serving my partner with the good stuff?" Pierre asked.

Abel picked up his glass and drank it without

stood at the side and listened to their

did not remember the company having any business deals with foreigners. While he was pondering, he did not forget to refill Abel's

after he watched Mr. Peralta refill Abel's glass. "You may leave first."

Peralta knew that he was not allowed to hear the rest of the conversation. Therefore, he nodded and replied, "Alright,

his lighter out after Mr. Peralta left the lounge and asked, "Do you

at all," replied Pierre as he slowly picked up his glass and took

the cigar and took a puff, then said slowly, "Honestly, I came here to see your company. I want to know whether it can take down Luke."

you think?" Pierre could sense Abel's hatred for Luke from his words.

could do many things, including uniting with someone who hated Luke to fight against their

"**Good, but** not as good as T Corporation," Abel said honestly, but it made Pierre *unhappy*.

"*Don't worry*. I didn't spend so much money to be the second fiddle after buying the bidding document. I'm sure this can deal a heavy blow to Luke this time," Pierre *said gloomily*.

Crushing Luke and T Corporation would take far more than a bidding document, but it would take some time for Luke to recover his losses. He would need to rely on other *projects*.

*However, would* it be any easier for him to complete the rest of his **projects**?

*They* only had to seize the chance to continuously strike blows at T Corporation and ensure Luke could not recover the losses in time. That way, Luke's time would come to an end.

"It's good to have confidence. Have you submitted the bidding document?" Abel asked, reminding him not to fall behind Luke.

Luke would be submitting the bidding document tomorrow or the day after if they did not pull a surprise move.

*"I've already* submitted it. Don't worry. I didn't spend so much money just to read the bidding document." Pierre smirked. He was pretty sure that he had a winning *hand*.

"**I'm** just reminding you not to underestimate your enemy." Abel looked at the flattering look on Pierre's face. Abel would not have waited until now if Luke could be dealt with that easily.

**He** would not have to go to such lengths to spend three years plotting against him.

*"Wait for* my good news." Pierre did not take Abel's warning seriously. This time, it would be his most glorious victory after knowing Luke for so *many years*

Abel finished the liquor in his glass quietly and looked at how haughty Pierre was. It would serve him right if he got the short end of the stick.

...

Three o'clock in the afternoon.

villa, the maid's room.

let out a long sigh of relief. The project was finally completed.

out another sigh too, but Luke was sitting in front of them. They dared not to express their feelings. Even so, their hearts felt much lighter at that moment.

been busy with the project for such a long time. It was finally coming to an end.

the bidding document after he made sure the contents of the bidding document were

a reply from the organizer after a while, claiming that they had already received the bidding document. The organizer then asked them to attend the project

up and stared at the two people in front of

was slightly smiling at first, but his smile disappeared immediately when Luke looked at him. He became serious and asked, "Boss, did

Luke closed the laptop and ordered Jason, "Book three flight tickets to

Jason was startled. Why three flight

see that Jason was confused, so he explained, "Dr. Craw will go with us."

It turned out it was Luca who was going with them. He picked up his phone and said, "I'll arrange it slightly surprised. Why would Luke bring Luca with them? Was it because Luke was still unable to move freely and Luca would be able to take care of

## **Chapter 1963**

Mrs. Laurel smiled and shook her head. "Of course not. Ms. Luca was the one who made the coffee. It's good, right? I watched her make the coffee in the kitchen this morning. She was a professional."

"It's good, but we've completed our work today. I'll have a glass of juice too, just like Tina," said Jason. That explained why the coffee had a rich taste and aroma. It was Luca who made the coffee.

"Alright. Just a moment." Mrs. Laurel turned around and returned to the kitchen to prepare juice for them.

Tina sat on the sofa and asked Jason, "Mr. Doyle, should we ask Dr. Craw to come down?"

She reckoned that Luca must be upstairs.

"Dr. Craw must be busy now. Why don't you go and ask her?" Jason could not be bothered, and he thought if Luca was still in love with Luke, she must be feeling bad after everything she did.

"What if she's in the midst of something?" Tina shook her head, afraid that she would disturb Luca.

"Then just sit here quietly," said Jason. He picked up the phone and asked, "I'm going to book a flight ticket for Dr. Craw. Do you have her identification number?"

"Wait a second. I have to ask someone to check for me on the office's computer," said Tina. She picked up her phone and asked her colleague.

After a while, Tina said, "They've sent the information to you."

"Thank you." Jason used Luca's identification number to book the flight ticket successfully.

Mrs. Laurel carried two glasses of juice and placed them in front of Jason and Tina. She asked caringly, "Have you finished handling your work?"

"Only for the time being. We still have a lot of work to do after this," answered Jason. Mrs. Laurel was from Crawford Manor, and Jason recognized her. She had been serving Old Master Crawford for a long time, and she was his favorite.

Mr. Crawford and the both of you are very capable. People like you are always busy. You've worked hard. Would you like to stay for dinner? I've learned some culinary skills from Ms. Luca, and I know some herbal remedies. I'm sure you'll feel refreshed after having the food." Mrs. Laurel invited them for not need to get Luke's permission on certain

Mrs. Laurel asked them to stay for dinner, they would not do so either. Hence, Mrs. Laurel was only putting on a show.

enough, Jason shook his head and replied, "Thank you for the invitation, but I'm sorry, I can't stay for dinner. Sue has been complaining that I've been busy with work. I haven't had the time to go home and eat her home-cooked meals. So, I'm planning to dine at

not stay if Jason was not staying too. Tina chimed in and said, "Me too. I've told my family that I'm going home for dinner.

Laurel smiled and replied, "Alright then. Enjoy the refreshments. If you'll excuse me, I'll have to get back to

you to it. Just leave us here," Jason replied politely.

in a low voice after Mrs. Laurel left the living room, "Mr. Doyle, do you feel uneasy?"

at our Boss' house," Jason replied helplessly. It would be weird if they were able to feel comfortable in Luke's house.

because Dr. Craw isn't here with us," Tina said helplessly. She would feel more comfortable if Luca was here

was unable to make herself feel comfortable while looking at the exquisite pastries and expensive fruits in front of her. She also knew Luke was in his room.

did you become close with Dr. Craw?" Jason picked up a biscuit and asked.

really. But don't you think Dr. Craw is a nice person?" Tina smiled. She always kept a distance from most of her colleagues at the workplace. This way, she could avoid people gossiping about her and prevent herself from getting into

*However, Luca was the first person she would like to become close with.*

"**Dr. Craw** is a nice person." Jason agreed. Luke maneuvered the wheelchair and came out of the maid's room after he said **that**.

"**Have you** booked the tickets?" Luke asked.

Jason stood up immediately and replied, "Boss, the tickets have been booked. Two first class tickets, and one economy class."

"**Upgrade yours** to first class. And try to arrange the other two seats in the same row." Luke was generous to his employees, especially those who had contributed *a lot*.

**When Jason** was working on the bidding document, he even forged a fake bidding document. He deserved to get a first **class seat**.

"**Alright, Boss,**" replied Jason. The upgrade of the seat was not something urgent.

Luke looked around the living room and noticed that Luca was not there. He asked, "Is Dr. Craw in the kitchen *now*?"

"*She's* probably upstairs," Jason answered while giving Tina the look. "Boss, since we've finished our work, we're going back to the office to punch out first.."

*"Sure."* Luke did not ask them to stay as he was thinking about *Luca*.

**Luke maneuvered** the wheelchair and headed to the kitchen after Jason and Tina left together. He asked, "Is Luca **not here?**"

Mrs. Laurel turned around and smiled at Luke, "Mr. Crawford, Ms. Luca only came down to make breakfast today. She has been upstairs the entire time."

*"Didn't she have her lunch?"* Luke slightly *frowned*.

she didn't. I went upstairs to inform her, but she said she was busy with something else and told us to go ahead and eat without her," answered Mrs. Laurel. Luca did not have lunch, and they skipped lunch as well as they were busy with work. That was why the lunch prepared was wasted.

maneuvered the wheelchair and left. Then, he came to the

not go up. He could not make his way up the stairs without a walking cane and someone to

Luca must be upset now.

still in love with him, but she was forced to do something like this. The guilt and remorse in her heart must feel

clenched his fists. He had to finish what he started. He even asked Jason to go upstairs to get the fake bidding document and make some

had to pretend that he did not know

did was to find out who was the bastard manipulating Luca behind the scenes.

came out of the kitchen and saw Luke staring at the stairs. She asked with confusion, "Mr. Crawford, would you like to go

maneuvered the wheelchair and returned to the maid's

on. He still had to endure this a bit

a feeling that he would be able to find out something this

find a way to get Luca out of this situation as long as he knew who was manipulating her.

## **Chapter 1964**

Luca tore the report apart and closed her eyes with her hand on her forehead to calm herself down.

There was not much time left. The inflammation of the wound was getting serious day after day. It would leave an ugly tunneling wound on her waist if it took any longer for her to look for the cure.

However, she refused to ask for Abel's help even if it would leave a scar on her.

This man only knew how to make terms when talking with others. He would probably assign Luca on another mission if she went to look for him.



Luca had already placed Luke and her in a difficult position. She had no idea what Luke and T Corporation would have to face next if Abel forced her to do something else.

That was why she could only depend on herself.

Luca pulled herself together. She picked up her phone, trying to find whether there were any laboratories available for rent in A City. She needed a laboratory with advanced facilities.

There was indeed one once she searched the internet.

Luca gave Amur a call. "Amur, I was wondering if you have the time to help me with something?"

"Yes," Amur replied immediately without a second thought. As long as Luca asked for his help, he would help her.

"I need to rent a laboratory with advanced facilities for my experiment. So, I went searching on the internet. Can you please help me to go over there to take a look at the laboratory? I'd like to rent it if it's suitable," Luca asked.

Amur had been given medical training too when he was on the Island of Despair. However, he was just like Eler. They were not interested in this field. That was why Luca was the only one who continued to study this, while they were arranged to learn some other skills.

Although Amur did not learn much about this, he still knew a thing or two about the facilities.

problem. But what do you need the lab for? Is it because of the wound?" Amur questioned

Luca let out a sigh. "It's not healing yet. I can't analyze the contents of the drug if I don't have the professional facilities for my experiment, so I'll leave it to you. Thank

had not been for the heavy workload that made Luca unable to find some time to take a look at the laboratory herself, she would not have asked for Amur's

a savage!" Amur frowned. Luca's wound was not even healed yet. If it were not for her busy schedule, was she not planning to tell him about this?

can be that cruel?" Luca took a deep breath and looked down. Amur and her would not have been forced to walk on this path if Abel was not

came from somewhere, and Abel was the source of their

to Luca's disappointed tone. He could not bear to blame her for concealing this from him, so he just said, "Send me the laboratory's address. I'll head there

felt sad and angry at the same time, but she could not release her emotions. The only thing she could do was face the difficulties

the laboratory's address to Amur after she ended the call. She asked him to help her see if the facilities in the laboratory were

planned to ask for two days' leave from Luke if the facilities in the laboratory were advanced enough. Then, she would head to the laboratory to analyze the samples and solve the problem.

Amur replied to her: [Got it]

that, he did not reply to any of her messages

**Luca** put down her phone and opened the door of **the study**.

She was startled to see Mrs. Laurel standing outside the door. "Mrs. Laurel, why are you here?"

**Luca remembered** what she said just now. She seemed to have been speaking in a soft voice. Judging from the soundproofing of the study, Mrs. Laurel would not have heard *anything*.

"*Ms. Luca*, didn't you skip lunch this noon? Mr. Crawford found out about it and asked me to deliver some food for you. I made some porridge. Why don't you have some?" Mrs. Laurel was still carrying the tray. She remembered what Luke had ordered her, so she did not knock on the door. She had been standing here the entire time.

Luke told her not to disturb Luca.

**Hence**, Mrs. Laurel had been waiting for almost half an hour outside the *door*.

*Luca looked* at the porridge and took it from her. "Thank **you**."

"**Don't mention** it. Mr. Crawford told me that you have a weak stomach. You'll have to eat on time. How careless I've been," replied Mrs. Laurel. Mrs. Laurel was told that Luca would not be having lunch after informing her that lunch was prepared. She did not insist on asking Luca to have her lunch either.

*First of all*, Luca was an adult. Adults would have to be responsible for their own health. That was why Mrs. Laurel did not urge her to take her *lunch*.

Secondly, Mrs. Laurel did not expect Luke to care more about Luca's health than Luca *herself*.

"**I'll** eat it." Luca touched the edges of the bowl and realized that it was *not hot*.

She looked at Mrs. Laurel. The only explanation would be Mrs. Laurel had been standing here for quite some time, and that was why the porridge had turned warm.

"Mrs. Laurel, have you been standing outside the door for a long time?" **Luca asked**.

Laurel smiled and replied, "Not really. Mr. Crawford told me not to disturb you, so... Please eat it first. I'm going downstairs to make

glanced at Mrs. Laurel. Her words were constantly resonating in her ears, and it made her feel

Luke ordered her to do so...

carried the tray back into her bedroom and placed it on the dressing table. She looked at the porridge. She finished eating the porridge even though she had no appetite.

It was Luke's kind thoughts...

unable to accept Luke's kindness in front of others. However, deep down inside her heart, she did not want to let him down.

...

Mrs. Laurel came down with empty

Luca finished her work?" he

answered, "Mr. Crawford, I'm not sure if she's finished her work. But she came out of the study and took the

hear anything when you were waiting outside the study?" Luke asked. He had no idea what research Luca was doing.

was pretty sure that her research had nothing to do with the projects at Watson Biopharmaceuticals now.

## **Chapter 1965**

Luke thought the only explanation that made sense was Luca's experiment must be kept secret.

The research she had been working on now was probably related to what was manipulating her.

Luke tapped his index finger on the armrest of the wheelchair. He looked like he was deep in thought.

Mrs. Laurel returned to the kitchen and continued her work without disturbing him.

At night.

Luca did not continue with her research as her equipment was not good enough. That was why she went downstairs to have dinner when Mrs. Laurel informed her that dinner was ready.

Luke would certainly ask Mrs. Laurel to bring her dinner upstairs if Luca did not go downstairs to have dinner.

Luca did not want to be given special treatment.

Neither of them spoke a word when they were having dinner.

Luca's phone suddenly rang.

She glanced at it, and after making sure that it was Amur who was calling her, she unconsciously turned to look in the direction where Luke was sitting. She said in a soft voice, "Please excuse me. I'm going to answer the call."

Luke did not say a word.

Luca took her phone and left the dining room. She did not have to conceal her conversation with Amur. Hence, she did not walk far away from the kitchen and answered the call in the living room.

"Amur, how did it go?"

went to visit the two labs that are available for rent. The first one has much more advanced facilities than the second one. But the price is much higher as well. Also, the owner of the first lab told me that he only rents it out on a monthly basis, so he's not accepting daily rentals. The second lab accepts daily rental," said Amur. He had gone around asking for the details as he knew Luca would only need a few days to figure out what drug Abel had

it was not worth it if Luca had to rent the lab for a

Let's just go for the first one." Luca made up her mind. It did not matter how much she would have to pay as long as the facilities were advanced enough. "Can you help me to reserve it now?"

asked for both the owners' contact numbers. Are you sure you'd like to book the first one? I can contact the owner and get it done now. You can come over here to do the experiments once the contract has been signed." Amur respected Luca's

not have to worry about money when they had such skills

The sooner the better. Thank you,"

knew she could not wait any longer to heal her wound. He agreed to help her settle this as soon as possible, then he said helplessly, "Luca, you don't have to be so polite with me."

her eyes. Was this considered

was just her manners. "Amur, this is courtesy. And I'm sorry to be troubling

out a sigh. "Alright. I'll call the owner now. I'll go over to lend you a hand

refused to miss out on any chances of being together with

was busy with his work, so he would definitely not help Luca. Moreover, he did not know about Luca's wound. Therefore, Luca would probably go to the laboratory alone tomorrow.

not reject Amur's offer to help. She walked back to the dining room after she hung up the call.

still sitting at the dining table having his dinner with an indifferent look on his

Luca sat down and continued to eat her dinner. She did not mention anything about renting the laboratory.

**Mrs.** Laurel was cleaning up the table after dinner. Luca sat there with her eyes on **Luke**.

**She** had to head to the laboratory tomorrow, so she had to ask his permission to take leave.

"**Do you** have something to tell me?" Luke was straightforward. He could see that Luca was trying to tell him something with just a **glance**.

*Luca* nodded, took a deep breath, and said, "Mr. Crawford, I'd like to take a day off tomorrow. And I might need to take another day *off*—"

**Luke frowned** slightly. Did it mean she was going to take a couple of days *off*?

"*What do* you mean by taking another day off?"

"I have to go back due to a family emergency, so I might need a couple of days to see to the family issues at hand." Luca's hands were fidgeting uneasily under the *table*.

Would Luke approve it?

"Your home in Russia?" Luke became alert. The reason Luca asked for a few days off was probably related to the power behind her.

"No, the one in A City," Luca replied honestly. Perhaps telling Luke that she had to go to Russia would make it difficult for him to look into it, but she did not have any family members in Russia...

"Do you need help?" Luke asked.

"No, thank you. I can handle this myself." Luca shook her head. She dared not to let Luke know about this matter.

She was unable to explain why she was wounded, and there was no way she could tell him why she had been concealing this from him.

Luca was going to deal with the matter without letting him know about

her own matter, so how could she drag Luke

gaze was deep. It was as though it could see through her when he was looking

"I'll return to the office to work once I finish handling the matter. Mr. Crawford, is that fine?"

but on one condition." Luke looked at

startled. On one condition?

was merely asking for a few days off, but there was a

"What is it..."

for my help if there's anything you can't handle yourself." That was Luke's only condition. Bianca used to be weak and would always think of him in the first

was not weak now, and she was stronger than before. However, she was too independent now, which made her forget that Luke even

could actually help a

Luca. All sorts of feelings welled up in her

one more thing..." said Luke. "No matter where you are, you'll have to put the matter aside and travel with me to Russia for a business trip three days

days later... Luca pursed her lips. She would be in a bit of a hurry to finish the research within three

## **Chapter 1966**

"Okay, I got this. Don't worry." Mrs. Laurel agreed to help her to take care of Luke. Looking after Luke was one of her duties too, and that was why she readily agreed with it.

Luca was assured knowing that Mrs. Laurel would be taking care of Luke.

Mrs. Laurel was better at taking care of someone, but Luke insisted on asking Luca to take care of him...

Luca pushed Luke back to his bedroom after he finished bathing himself. Then, she helped him to dry his hair and took out a set of clean pajamas for him. She did not say a word the whole time.

Luke did not say anything either.

The two of them did not feel awkward despite the silence. Luca put the pajamas on the bed and left the room.

She had finally completed her task to take care of Luke today.

Mrs. Laurel had gotten off work at this hour.

Luca left a pot of warm water in the living room. Only then did she make her way up the stairs.

She received a message from Amur when she was back in her bedroom: [I've talked to the lab owner. You can come over tomorrow.]

[Alright. I got it.] Luca did not thank Amur this time to stop him from commenting on her behavior.

[What time will you be going there tomorrow?] Amur sent another message to ask Luca.

[I'll probably arrive there early in the morning.] Luca gathered her hair and tied it up after she replied to his message. She was planning to wash up.

It was going to be another uphill battle starting tomorrow. She had to figure out what powder Abel had put on the knife within three days to get the cure.

She had no choice but to wait until she came back from Russia if she was unable to figure it out three days later.

had no idea how long she was going to stay in Russia. That was why she had to make

be waiting for you there.] Amur replied to

read his message and did not reply to him. She had to hurry up and get washed up. Only then could she get some rest.

The following day.

up early. She changed into warm clothes, picked up the sample, and headed

happened to enter the living room as soon as Luca reached the first floor.

Luca, you're early." Mrs. Laurel glanced at the time. It was only six-thirty in the morning. Then, she turned around and looked at her and the warm clothes she had put on. "Are you going

was usually still in bed at this

I'm going out." Luca looked at the weather out there. The snow came late this year. Although the temperature was low out there, there was

had breakfast, right? Let me prepare it for you now," said Mrs. Laurel, as she put down the grocery

Mrs. Laurel. I'll grab something to eat when I'm out there. And I'm not coming back for lunch today. You don't have to prepare my portion," said Luca. The laboratory was quite far away from the villa, and it was near the suburbs. She thought she would probably not come home for

"Alright. Travel safe," replied Mrs. Laurel.

She put on a scarf and walked out of the

was cold in the morning. She exhaled and released some breath vapor. She headed to the

Luca chose to drive to the laboratory since she was not carrying out a secret mission. Besides, it was difficult for her to hail a ride early in the morning.

**She** would just be going to the laboratory. Luke would not be able to find out anything even if he found the dashcam video footage in her car.

**Luca started** the car engine and left. She was going to drive on an unfamiliar road, so she turned on the navigation and headed to the laboratory.

Not many cars were driving on the road in the morning. She drove all the way to the suburban area, and it took her an hour to arrive there.

Amur was already waiting for her at the laboratory's entrance.

*Luca found the parking lot and parked her car. Then, she walked toward Amur and said, "Why are you so early?"*

"I came from the apartment and arrived here faster than you did," said Amur. He deliberately departed from the apartment at five-thirty in the morning to wait for **Luca here**.

*"Did you have the key?" Luca asked.*

**Amur** took two magnetic cards out of his pocket, handed one of them to Luca, and answered, "This is the access **card**."

**Luca glanced** at the magnetic card and smiled, "How innovative."

"Let's go in." Amur looked around him. They were in the suburbs in a slightly remote area. However, there were some laboratories here, so there were cars parked around. Amur's eyes darkened.

*"Alright."* Luca nodded and entered the laboratory together with Amur.

On the other hand.

*Gale frowned* as he watched the two of them walk into the laboratory. He picked up his phone and *called Luke*.

**"Where** is she?" Luke answered the call **immediately**.

was early in the morning, there was not even a hint of weariness in Luke's voice after he

Ms. Crow has just entered a building in the suburbs. I looked it up and found out that it's a laboratory for rent." Gale reported to Luke. This place was considered a high-tech industrial development zone established not long ago.

buildings here were used as laboratories. There were only a few buildings that were used as residential buildings

technology companies that did not have enough capital would choose to rent a laboratory here to develop their products.

Luke frowned. That would match

always been in the study doing research. Luke reckoned that she went to the laboratory because of the research she was working

"Alone?" Luke asked for details.

a young man. He looks like her brother based on the information given to me." Gale informed him without concealing anything.

Amur...

unhappy at once. Luca was busy with her experiments and he could not help her. However, could Amur be of any help to

Luca had no feelings for Amur, Luke could feel the possessiveness that Amur had

Luke was jealous when he was waiting for Luke's response for quite some time on the other end of the phone. He had no choice but to bite the bullet and ask him, "Luke, do I still have to watch over

there a way for you to get in there?" Luke asked.

glanced at the building. The building was new, and there were surveillance cameras outside the building. He would need an access card to get to the first floor.

## **Chapter 1967**

Luca showed no surprise. Amur asked, "Was it someone Luke sent?"

"Yes," replied Luca. Luke would only send his men to track someone down for a purpose, and he would have made a move if it was someone else. As it was her, the person Luke sent merely waited until she got into the building before leaving.

"How dare he ask someone to follow you?!" Amur frowned with disgust. Luke's behavior was as annoying as Enoch's when he was pestering Luca back then.

"It's okay." Luca let out a sigh. Luke only wanted to know where she was.

All this time, she had been observing. She realized that Luke was unable to forget Bianca, but he was interested in her at the same time.

Otherwise, he would not have done this, which made him seem to be possessive over her.



Still, could a man be in love with two women at the same time?

"If he could send someone to follow you this time, he'll do something even worse to you next time. Are you really letting him do this?" Amur asked. He wanted to know what Luca was thinking about.

"Do you remember what happened to Dr. Albus?" Amur was giving Luca a headache. He was indignant at Luke's actions. She felt helpless, and she did not know what to say. She had no choice but to find a reason to explain Luke's behavior.

Amur blinked his eyes and replied, "Yes."

"I'm involved in that research. He asked someone to follow me to investigate the matter." Luca had no choice but to lie to Amur.

"Investigate? But didn't we get Dr. Albus a bank account? They haven't found out about it," Amur said in a muffled voice. If that was the case, then Luke's men were not that impressive either.

Luke not have two people who were trained on the Island of Despair by his side? The efficiency and progress of the investigation should not be like

not sure either. But he mentioned that everyone in the company has to be investigated," said Luca, remembering what Luke had told

not have taken this long to find out about Dr. Albus' bank account if Luke was that capable.

matter had not been settled yet. There was not even a rumor about what they had found out and whom they were investigating. No one knew about it except for Luke and his

in Watson Biopharmaceuticals was in a panic

if Luke had found out about something but he still had doubts about it? Was that why he decided to continue the investigation?

Luca let out a sigh.

heard Luca sighing and thought she was worried about what he said just now. He apologized in a low voice, "I'm sorry. I was

her head, knowing that Amur believed in her explanation. She said, "It's fine. It's just that there are a lot of things going on lately. I'm going to start working on the research

can I do?" Amur did not forget that he came here to lend her

here and watch," replied Luca. Amur had never learned these. It would be impractical to ask him to help her.

Luca promised to let Amur stay here because she was worried that Abel would come looking for her.

**Abel wanted** her dead so badly. How would he allow her to work on her research smoothly here?

**That** was why she arranged for Amur to stay here by her side. He could help if something happened to her.

"Okay." Amur looked at the complicated-looking experiment equipment. He knew he could not help much, so he sat on a chair beside her. He took his phone out of his pocket. His phone vibrated for a while before he managed to open it.

*Amur* unlocked his phone screen and realized that Tina had sent him a **message**.

*The* two of them had eaten together after Amur followed Enoch and got Tina out of trouble the last time. Tina asked for his contact number before they parted.

*Amur remembered* that Tina was Luca's friend. He hesitated for a few seconds before eventually giving his contact number *to her*.

Sometimes, they would have a chat through texts.

Amur looked at the greeting Tina had sent him. He did not reply to her message. Instead, he chose to read the news.

*His* eyes darkened when he saw the news about Watson *Biopharmaceuticals*.

*Even* though Amur had followed Abel's instructions and did what he was asked to do, Watson Biopharmaceuticals had yet to release any news on their investigation. It allowed the outsiders to make speculations about the *matter*.

What was Luke up to?

*He* was letting the rumors fly around without releasing any official statement or announcing the solution for the matter. Was Luke not afraid that these negative influences would affect T Corporation's share prices?

his head and looked at Luca. She was concentrating on her

remained silent, trying not to disturb

On the other hand.

still preferred to work from home. Jason left after he delivered the documents Luke needed

a while, Mrs. Laurel entered the room and said respectfully, "Mr. Crawford, your younger brother, Young Master Louis, is

Luke put down the documents and slightly

"Yes." Mrs. Laurel nodded.

"Push me out," said Luke.

Laurel came behind Luke and pushed the wheelchair to the living room. Louis was sitting on the sofa and asked, "Brother, are you feeling better already?"

fine. What brings you here?" Luke looked at Louis. Louis was on a business trip when Luke got injured, and he had not shown up until now.

knew where he had been. That was why he did not

came back, and I thought of visiting you. You have a cast on your leg. Did the doctor tell you when you can remove it?" Louis asked

## **Chapter 1968**

"They're concerned about their interests. I'm working on another project now. If this project succeeds, they'll still be able to keep their interests even if the investigation is still going on in Watson Biopharmaceuticals. That's why I'm not in a hurry." Luke knew it well. What mattered to them the most was not Dr. Albus' research being stolen. It was what would happen next and if they could get any benefits from it.

Louis understood it well. The investors were all like that. They were only concerned about their long-term interests.

Louis let out a sigh of relief when he knew Luke had already settled everything. It was just that he did not announce it to the public.

He was planning to leave the businesses in his workshop to another partner at first. Then, he would come over to help Luke to get through this crisis and put his work off until later.

However, he had underestimated his elder brother's capability. He did not expect the problems to be solved already...

"Brother, can you tell me how much losses the company suffered when the drug research got stolen?" Louis asked curiously.

"Do you want to know about it?" Luke asked.

Louis nodded and replied, "Of course, I'd like to know. Although I was on a business trip, I was paying attention to this matter every day!"

Louis would watch the news every day when he had the time. He was waiting for the investigation results of Watson Biopharmaceuticals. However, he did not expect Luke to bury the news. That was why Louis did not see any news about the Watson Biopharmaceuticals when he returned here.

"You can come back to work at T Corporation if you'd like to know how much the company has lost. Why don't you be responsible for counting the losses?" Luke said facetiously. Deep down in his heart, he knew Louis had something else he wanted to do.

you can't be serious. I would've returned if I was interested in these things. I wouldn't have waited for you to convince me to go back there, right?" Louis shook his head. It was stressful to manage T Corporation, and he was reluctant to

thought it was more interesting to manage his workshop. First, it was his hobby and interest. He would be motivated to make money. Secondly, he could get a handsome income and it was enough for him to support his family.

"I know," said Luke.

served some refreshments. Luke picked up a cup of tea and took a

up his teacup and took a sip too. He said slowly, "Never mind. You're capable enough to recover the losses no matter how much the company has lost. It'll be enough to shut the mouths of those

said Luke. He was not in a hurry now. The ones who were feeling anxious were the directors of T Corporation. Once they got anxious, the others who were holding odd lots would become anxious

is there a reason behind your decision," said Louis. It was important to calm the investors down. Previously, Luke would step forward to calm the investors down whenever something bad happened that could affect

did not do so this

you want to know why?" Luke raised his brows and looked at his younger brother. Luke had to take the wheel. Only then would Louis be able to pursue his dreams without having to worry about anything.

**Louis suddenly** felt that things were not as simple as they *seemed*...

"Brother, did something happen?" Louis realized **something**.

**Luke** looked down and replied lightly, "I've just looked into and found out that someone is secretly buying odd lots. He's also secretly buying shares from the **major shareholders**."

"What? How is this happening?" Louis' heart skipped a beat. Someone was plotting against *Luke*, *indeed*...

*This was* not only about T Corporation...

**That** person would have the right to attend the shareholders' meeting if he had enough shares in his hands. The decisions of the shareholders were built on the interests and benefits of the company. They looked like they were close with Luke, but when someone who could pose a threat to Luke's position showed up, no one knew who these people would be **supporting**.

*Interests and* benefits could influence the connections between them.

"Do you know who's behind this?" Louis asked again. That person must be trying to harm Luke if he was capable of doing such a **thing**.

*Now, the* reason Luke was still able to sit in the CEO position in T Corporation safely was that this man had not bought enough *shares yet*.

has been acting mysteriously. I suspect he has something to do with what happened this time. He knew T Corporation would be facing a crisis, and with the share prices plummeting, it would be the best time for him to buy the shares," said Luke. He had already found out that someone was secretly buying the company's shares.

did not know who it was, so there was nothing he could

then why didn't you stabilize the share prices as soon as possible—" Louis could not understand. It was obvious that the person was waiting for the share price to drop so he could buy the shares. He would not be able to reach his goal if Luke had done

him who's behind all this, it'll happen another time even if I make it through the hurdle this time. The reason why I haven't made any moves is to nip the problem in the bud,"

came across Louis's mind all of a sudden. "You're trying to delay it and wait until those retail investors can't resist selling off the shares. Then, you'll buy the shares to consolidate the ones you're holding, am I

replied Luke. The reason why that person came up with this idea was that the shares Luke was holding in his hand were not

probably had to borrow the company's shares from Old Master Crawford and the other family members in the Crawford family when the time came for him to fight against the person who was behind this.

the Crawford family was not peaceful enough. There were chances that Susan might betray them. That was why Luke had to secure his

more time to secure his position all by

## **Chapter 1969**

Louis was still worried even though Luke said so. He felt guilty looking at how relieved Luke was.

Although the Crawford family had been training Luke to become the successor of the company since he was young, things were a lot easier for Louis.

Luke was always studying when Louis was having fun or busy studying.

Things were a lot easier for Louis, only because Luke had taken the wheel in front of him. That was why his childhood was a lot happier than Luke's.

Even though there was only one successor, they were in the same family. Hence, other siblings in the family would have to help their family business in times of need even if they did not take over the company.

There were barely any exceptions.

However, he was the exception.

Louis was able to live an easy life because of Luke. Luke even supported him when he decided to venture out.

If it had not been for Luke, Louis would have continued to work in T Corporation, doing something he was not interested in.

Luke was surrounded by enemies now, and Louis could not even help him with anything.

Luke was still looking out for him.

Louis was glad that he did not listen to what Susan had taught him when he was young. He was happy he did not see Luke as his enemy.

Luke had always sailed the currents for Louis. That was what made Louis' life a lot easier today.

Luke noticed that Louis had fallen silent, so he asked, "What's on your mind?"

“Brother, I’m not busy with my work lately. I can—”

what Louis was going to say, so he interrupted him, “I can arrange a position for you to work in the company if you’d like to learn how to manage and run the company. But stop using this as

Louis, “...”

was smart. He was able to know whether or not what Louis said was sincere or it was just an

the end of the year now. How is it possible that your workshop isn’t busy at all? If you’re not busy, does that mean your workshop is shutting down?” Luke

reddened as he said, “Alright. Brother, can’t you see I’m worried about you? Stop joking about my workshop. It wasn’t easy to have it

your own life. Just do whatever you like to do. I’m here to deal with the other stuff,” said Luke. Although they did not have the same mother, they were still related. Besides, they grew up together, and he knew Louis’ hobbies and ambitions. That was why Luke did not ask Louis to come back and

though the others would see this as Luke trying to take T Corporation and the Crawford family’s assets for himself, Luke did not care about what they thought. He had been shouldering the responsibilities quietly only because he was the

your dream?” Louis asked with a serious tone. He refused to believe that Luke’s dream was to manage T

T Corporation was the responsibility that Old Master Crawford imposed on him; it was not what he wanted to

able to have dreams and ambitions since he was young, but Luke did not have the right to

Old Master Crawford favored Luke more than Louis, but now, he could see that Old Master Crawford had always favored him more. Otherwise, why would he allow Luke to carry such a heavy burden alone?

said he wanted to create a workshop of his own, Old Master Crawford gave him the funds to establish his workshop without saying a word.

much happier compared

dream?” Luke smiled as Luca flashed across his mind. “My dream is to spend the rest of my life together with your

*Having Luca by his side was enough for him.*

**Louis was** momentarily startled. Luke’s dream was to live happily together with **Bianca?**

Luke and Bianca had not been on good terms for the past *three years...*

*Bianca* lost her memory, and she forgot everything. She went crazy without her memories and caused trouble for Luke. He could hardly spend a day in peace.

*Now, Luke* was still thinking of living happily together *with Bianca...*

However, Bianca was overseas with no intention of **returning...**

"Brother, Sister-in-law will certainly regain her memory and remember the sweet memories both of you have together. She'll remember the kids and return home." Louis did not know what to say. He could only *comfort Luke*.

"*I know.*" Luke was pretty sure about *that*.

**She had** not forgotten their past. It was just that she could not come back **now**.

...

At night.

**Luca** frowned as she looked at the machine that was still analyzing *the sample*.

Amur carried a boxed meal and walked toward her. "Are the results out yet?"

"**Not** yet..." Luca glanced at the computer and let out a sigh of relief. "But I've found something. The initial analysis indicates that it's a type of fungus."

worry. I'm sure you can figure it out,"

Luca nodded without saying anything.

could she do even if she was sure that it was a type of fungus? There were so many fungi that could cause infection. Besides, other than the inflammation of her wound, there were no other symptoms. It was difficult for her to judge it depending on the state of her wound. That was why she had to depend on the

a day for her to make sure that it was a type of fungus. She had two days left. Would she be able to figure it

had to take half a day off to head to the

dinner first. You need the energy to continue working on it." Amur could not help her with anything. He could only watch her, keep her company, buy meals, and remind her to eat

picked up the boxed meal. Her phone rang once she opened the box.

glanced at her phone. It was Mrs. Laurel. Only then did Luca remember that she had forgotten to tell Mrs. Laurel that she was not going home for dinner today.

answered the call, "Mrs. Laurel, I'm sorry. I forgot to tell you that I'm not going home for dinner

see. Don't worry. Then I won't save your portion of dinner. Remember to fill up your stomach while you're out there. Don't starve yourself, okay?" Mrs. Laurel said

I'm having dinner now. Don't wait for me. I'm hanging up now." Luca hung up the phone after she said that.

asked, "Was it the maid at the

Luca nodded and took the disposable spoon and fork

"It must be Luke who asked her to give you

## Chapter 1970

The maid left work after waiting for him to finish his bath.

Luke continued to sit in front of the office table and was settling his documents. The maid's room was not closed because he wanted to hear even the smallest sound from outside.

However, Luca never came back...

Only when it was one in the morning did he hear some noises from outside.

It was the sound of a door opening and closing...

Even though it was intentionally done so that there would not be much noise, Luke still heard it. 'Luca only came back now...'

Luke had a dark expression but did not go out. 'Is she that busy?'

Hearing the sound in the living room made Luke place his documents down. He sat there, not moving an inch.

Luca switched on the lights in the living room and noticed that the lights in the maid's room were still on...

She frowned. She could see that the lights were on because he did not close the door.

However, Luke usually closed the door.

Luca changed her shoes and thought for a moment but did not choose to head over. She went upstairs on tiptoes.

The night was especially quiet, and Luke could hear the sound of her heading upstairs.

'Didn't she notice that the lights in my bedroom are still on? Why didn't she come here to have a look? She just headed straight upstairs?'

Luke looked at the time and snorted coldly, feeling dissatisfied. He was like a husband who had been forgotten by his wife...

met Bianca, he had never thought that such a day

the wheelchair and arrived at the living room. He saw that Luca had already switched off the lights in the living room and gone to the second floor. Only one lamp was switched on in the entire

thought back to the past when he was busy and working overtime. Whenever he came home late, Luca would always leave one lamp on for him in the

the lamp was dim, it was warm. He also knew someone was waiting for

was the warmth from

However, the lamp tonight...

light shone on his face and revealed



from this lamp was very cool and not warm, just like any street

...

later, Luca was sitting on the chair in the research room.

had narrowed it down to a dozen or so types of fungi, but she needed to test each of them to make an analysis and compare

was starting to regret not learning about fungi from Shanks in more detail.

she was alone, there was a limit to her ability. The thought of following Luke back to Russia the following day left her

in from outside and was carrying a plastic bag in his hand. He placed the plastic bag in front of her and said, "Have something to eat,

*"Just leave it there first."* Luca was conducting a numerical analysis, comparing the DNA of each fungus to one **another**.

*Amur* knew she was anxious just by looking at her. He could not help but grab her hand. "Leave the research aside for now. You've not eaten breakfast. Let's *eat first*."

**Luca sighed** and looked at Amur. "I'm running out of **time**..."

*"Why would there be no time?"* Amur was determined. "You still have lots of **time**."

**"I'm going** back to Russia with Luke tomorrow..." Luca had not informed him of this previously. She had no choice but to reveal it at this moment.

*Amur was stunned.* Luca was going to **Russia**?

**'No wonder** she's been so worried for the past two days over not being able to find the right fungus.'

*"How long will you be there?"* Amur hated Luke. 'Not only is he useless, but he even gives her trouble. Now, he wants to occupy her time **and space**.'

*"I have* no idea, but I think I'll be there for at least two days..." Luca made a guess. Not long after they went over, the company in Russia would announce the result. She had long ago given the bidding document to Abel. T Corporation would definitely not get this partnership deal.

*Hence, they* were merely heading over to show their faces and would not stay for too long.

*It was* just that she could not tell how badly the condition of her wound would worsen in those two days...

Amur clenched his fists. At this moment, he just wanted to head over to Luke and punch him. "You have your meal for now. Don't go over to the hospital in the afternoon. Perhaps you might find the right fungus."

"Amur, how can there be such a coincidence? Besides, I can't just leave Nina's issue aside." Luca glanced over and saw that the report had yet to be ready.

"*Even* so, you still have to eat. Taking your meal only takes a very short amount of time compared to you helping others. Besides, maybe you're now analyzing the right fungus. Just tuck in," said Amur.

sighed. Even though the machines here were very advanced, it was still a private laboratory and there was only one such machine. Hence, her progress in extracting the sample and analyzing it to getting the report was

could not argue with Amur and picked up her cutleries to quickly take a few

haven't filled up your stomach," Amur said. It was not a question but a

no choice but to take another few bites in a rush. "I've

the lunchbox down, and at that moment, the machine let out a noise. She quickly went over to check

'It's not this fungus...'

put another sample into the machine.

at the time. If she left now, she would be right on time for her meet-up with Nina.

at the machine and said, "Amur, do you mind keeping an eye on it for me? If the report is out, please snap a photo and send it to me. You can help me put the rest of the samples into the machine

had learned how to do it after observing her operating the machine. He nodded and said, "No worries. Just rest assured and go. I'll manage

to trouble you." Luca picked up her bag and left the

to the hospital and immediately came to Tyrone's

on the bed. At that moment, only Mrs. Hugh was there. Both Larry and Keith were not

that perhaps both of them believed in her ability now, so they did not