

Be Gentle 1971

Chapter 1971

The needles Luca used were all specially made on the Island of Despair.

She did not bring too many needles with her, and the effects of the needles were not significant. Hence, she had Dr. Wood use the needles from the hospital instead.

Dr. Wood sanitized his hands, then put on sterile gloves.

Tyrone knew that this time, it would be Dr. Wood who would take over the treatment. From the previous treatment, he also got to know through their conversation that Luca's method of dry needling was different from the standard.

Hence, it would be Dr. Wood's first time adopting the method.

He was a little scared.

"Doctor, Please take it slow. I'm scared of pain..." said Tyrone while closing his eyes.

"Don't worry. I've practiced the method many times, so it won't go wrong. Besides, Dr. Craw is here to supervise. Don't worry." Dr. Wood comforted him. He had watched the video many times and even tried it hands-on as well. He had some confidence.

"Let's get started." Luca did not speak much to them and ordered Dr. Wood to carry on.

Dr. Wood nodded and followed how Luca had done it last time. He started pricking the needles into the acupoints.

Luca was observing from the side and would occasionally whisper to remind him if she wanted Dr. Wood to go a little higher.

After half an hour, all the needles had been pricked into the acupoints. Once they were taken out, Tyrone was ready to exercise.

Luca asked, "How did it feel this time?"

"I feel much better, but I can't say what it feels like exactly. I just think it was done properly..." Tyrone said slowly and made a gesture of opening up his palms.

took note of this, and it seemed like the treatment was done really well. This could prove that Dr. Wood's treatment was starting to take

Dr. Lance also noticed it and softly let out a breath of relief. "Thank God, it's

noticed that Dr. Wood was sweating. He said, "You're

was not hot in the hospital, so for him to be this sweaty showed that he was very anxious while carrying out the

my very first time trying this new dry needling method on a patient, so I was very nervous," said Dr. Wood with a smile. Previously, he had only practiced the method on objects and was not sure whether he did it correctly. He was

gave him some pointers, he became aware of his

this session, you'll have enough experience for the next session," Luca said. She looked at the time and two hours had already passed. In another two hours, the sky would start to

"If there's nothing else, I shall take

Dr. Wood had some questions to ask, but it seemed that Luca was in a hurry. Hence, he nodded and thought he would just ask her the next

Luca walked out of the ward.

got up and asked, "How did

that the effects this time are quite good. His joint movement is much smoother now. You guys may enter," Luca said while looking at Mrs.

Mrs. Hugh heard that the treatment was effective, she revealed a smile and entered

Nina also let out a breath of relief. "Thank *God...*"

"Yes, everything's alright. All he needs to do right now is be compliant with the treatment," Luca comforted her. As soon as she was done talking, her phone vibrated.

She picked it up and looked at it. It was a message *from Amur*.

Luca's heart skipped a beat. Amur's message might perhaps be a piece of good news. Her fingers trembled as she clicked into **the message**.

Amur sent her a photo, and there were three words in the message: [Finally *found it*.]

She clicked into the report and looked at the report that matched up. She was excited, and her fingers started to *tremble*.

Nina noticed her fingers trembling and asked curiously, "What's the matter, Luca?"

"*Nothing*. I have something on, so I'll leave first," **said Luca**.

Nina nodded and said in a concerned tone, "Please let me know if there's anything. Also, you've been looking rather pale lately. Remember to take good care of yourself."

"Got it," Luca said and headed into the **elevator**.

She did not speak any more to Nina. What mattered the most at that moment was the report.

Luca came to the car park and found Luke's car. She immediately drove to the research lab.

After an hour, she arrived at the research lab. She rushed upstairs, pushed the door open, and saw Amur.

report? Let me see," Luca asked Amur for the

Amur handed the report to her.

matches. This is the fungus." Luca looked at the report and was emotional. She finally found

had found the right fungus. She found the sample, then put it into the machine once more to analyze it again.

her actions and asked while feeling puzzled, "You want to analyze

be on the safe side," Luca said. Shanks had given her this fungus sample, and it was very special. "This fungus is very special, so I have to test

survival criteria for this particular type of fungus are very demanding. They can only survive in temperatures less than negative ten degrees Celsius. If they're left in warmer temperatures for a very long time, it'll be hard for them to survive. No matter how cold A City is, the temperature here won't be below negative ten degrees Celsius. There are rarely any days with a temperature less than negative ten degrees Celsius. Abel would've only been able to use the freezing equipment to bring this fungus here from the Island of Despair. He put in so much effort to bring this here just to use it on me?" Luca touched her chin. 'This fungus takes so much effort to keep alive, yet he went through all

being said, Abel must have a designated place to store this fungus. Perhaps it might be a

out, "You said that it's hard to keep this fungus alive, but why do you

gave it to me," Luca said. "But it's in its dormant state. This is just a sample. I didn't think that one day, I'd put it into the machine to analyze it."

left the Island of Despair, Shanks gave her a box and said the items inside might be useful one

that box contained all sorts of samples of

did not expect it to really be

Chapter 1972

Amur did not know of any doctors. He would not be able to help out regarding this issue.

"Alright. Then, please be careful along the way," he said.

Luca wore her coat and reminded, "Oh right, keep the research lab for now. I'll inform the owner that I won't be renting it anymore after one month."

"You still want to continue researching?" Amur asked.

"Yes." Luca nodded. The composition of the antidote had yet to be fully analyzed.

It had been quite some time and she had yet to fully analyze it. Apart from the reason being that the equipment she had was not advanced enough, there was another reason. The composition of the antidote was very complicated.

She would need the help of advanced equipment.

"Alright. You can hold on to the access card. I'll get it from you on the last day," said Amur. One month later when they decided to stop renting the lab, the access card would have to be returned to the owner of the research lab.

"Alright." Luca carried her bag and left the scene.

She drove her way to the hospital, and when she was about to reach the hospital, she contacted Johann.

Johann was still in the hospital and had not finished his shift. He immediately agreed when he got to know that Luca wanted Amphotericin B. He promised that he would prepare it for her.

After hanging up the call, he used his status to prescribe the medication and had the pharmacist send him a bottle of Amphotericin B.

pharmacy was quick to take action. Before Luca arrived, the nurse at the dispensary had already sent Johann the Amphotericin B that

After Johann received it, he closed the office

He called Luke.

up?" Luke's tone did not sound

was thrilled. 'Is Luca giving him the cold shoulder? He's speaking in such a

lady has come looking for me," he purposely said so to

tone immediately turned cold. "Why did she look for

it's because she needs my help. You, as a boss of a corporation, can't even help her out with such a small task?" Johann seized all chances to tease him and take revenge for past grudges.

you blabbering so much nonsense? Are you too free at work?" Luke wanted to know what favor Luca had asked from Johann, but the more anxious he was, the more Johann would keep him on tenterhooks. Hence, he could only pretend that he was

you're even putting on an act as though you're not concerned about it. Even though I can't see your expression right now, I know that you're very nervous," Johann teased him and added, "I won't tease you anymore. She asked me to prescribe her a bottle of

that..." Luke was clueless

know anything, yet you dare become the boss of Watson Pharmaceuticals? Aren't you afraid that your employees will turn their backs on you?" Johann shook his head helplessly. As the boss of Watson Pharmaceuticals, it was very important to learn how to manage it. He should at least have some knowledge about these kinds of things,

Luke clenched his fists and wanted to just push Johann against the wall to beat him up. "Are you sure you want to beat about the bush at this moment?"

"Alright, alright. I'll stop. It's an antibiotic, but it's not commonly used. Hence, you can't buy it in any pharmacy or online. Only hospitals can prescribe it. Not anyone in the hospital can simply prescribe it to

anyone either. She did the right choice by looking for me," said Johann. He knew that Luca had vast knowledge of medicine. Naturally, she would have her reasons for needing it. Hence, he did not further question her and simply agreed with *her request*.

If Luca owed him a favor, it also meant that Luke would owe him a favor. In the future, whenever he needed a favor from Luca, she would not be able to reject it. At the same time, Luke would owe him a favor *as well*.

It was like killing two birds with a *stone*.

"What does she want to do with the antibiotic?" It was Luke's first time hearing of such an **antibiotic**.

"She's your woman. If you don't know, how would I know?" Johann let out a smile, his teeth sparkling and white. If Luke could see his current expression, Johann would definitely be beaten up.

At that moment, he looked **very arrogant**.

"I'm not too sure. She recently rented a research lab. I don't know what's she up to," said Luke. Ever since he knew that Luca had rented a research lab, he got someone to investigate the identity of the owner of that research lab. He received some information from the owner.

The research lab was rented under Amur's name.

The duration of the rental was just one month.

As for what experiment was ongoing, the owner **was clueless**.

seems like it's related to the research she's been doing recently. Don't worry, I'll try to get some information from her. If I do get something, remember to treat me to a drink." Johann seized the opportunity to extort

you manage to do so, I'll gift you an entire wine rack. It's no problem at all," Luke

location was not kept a secret, but her research was mysterious. He believed that even if Johann were to step in, he would not get any information

a knock on Johann's office door, and he guessed that it was Luca. He said to Luke, who was on the other end of the call, "Deal. Wait for my

not end the call and just turned off the screen before placing it on the office table. "Come

the door opened and asked, "Good evening, Dr. Park. Have you had

was about to. Come in, Luca. This is what you need." Johann passed her the plastic bag that contained

it and took a glance at it. It was indeed what she wanted. "Thanks, Dr. Park. When I'm free, I'll treat you to

don't have to." Johann smiled while shaking his head. He only wanted the bottles of wine Luke had

how much does it cost?" Luca asked. Even though Johann bought it using his identity as a doctor, he would still have to pay for it.

don't have to pay me anything. Doctors have a quota. But I just have a question." Johann looked at the phone, then at

you want to ask?" Luca placed the plastic bag down with much caution as the antibiotic was something that could save her

Chapter 1973

Nina? Sue? He had not heard that either one of them was sick.

Was it Amur? However, that was impossible as well. If it were Amur, she would have said it was her younger brother and not a friend. Perhaps it was Luca herself...

Johann pouted and negotiated with Luke, saying, "I helped you by asking questions. Even though I didn't get valuable information, at least we know that she wants this antibiotic for her friend. Look, I don't wish for an entire rack of wine. Half a rack will do. You'll give it to me, right?"

"What if she was lying to you? Do you think that statement of hers is worth half a rack of alcohol?" Luke said. He suspected that Luca had just come up with an excuse to keep Johann quiet.

Johann was speechless at what Luke said. He said helplessly, "You don't have to be this snarky..."

"Then do me a favor and get some valuable information," Luke said before hanging up.

He looked at the time. It would take about half an hour to reach the hospital from where he was. 'I think Luca will be home earlier today.'

The maid carried a suitcase and came into the maid's room. She asked, "Sir, is this the suitcase that you mentioned?"

"Yes." Luke looked at the black suitcase. It contained everything he needed for a business trip, but they were all personal items. After all, he was a germaphobe, so he would bring all the items he needed to bathe and brush his teeth.

"Okay, then I'll help you put in your winter clothes as well?" When the maid was carrying the suitcase downstairs, she felt that there were not many things inside judging from the weight of it.

She guessed that there were no clothes in it yet.

"I'll put in the clothes later. Luca should be home in half an hour. Can you please go to the kitchen and heat up the soup?" Luke had no idea whether or not would Luca prepare a meal tonight. He had the maid heat up the soup so that when she returned, she would have some hot soup to warm herself.

In the past, she used to take care of him like this as well.

When he came back from work, it would usually be very late. However, there would always be supper waiting for him and a bowl of hot soup to drink. She looked after him more meticulously than Allison.

go get it done right now." The maid placed the suitcase aside and walked into the kitchen to heat the at the suitcase, Luke then lay it flat and bent down to

controlled the wheelchair and came to the front of

maid had placed the winter coat that he always wore in

prepared three winter coats. Winter coats were very thick, so they immediately filled up the entire luggage. He then prepared another two sets of pajamas. After putting them in, he zipped up the

at the passport and other items on the table. He was going to fly over to Russia the next

was obviously concerned about this project, but what mattered the most was the coming few days. He might be able to find out the mastermind controlling

had sent both Rain and Gale over much earlier all for

make sure you'll stay by my side,"

...

On the other hand.

left the hospital, she brought a few medication itineraries that she needed at the nearest pharmacy. With a bag full of things, she entered the car. Just then, she

'Did I catch a cold?'

She rubbed her nose but did not think much about it. She just wanted to head home and administer the treatment to *herself*.

Luca drove the car and rushed toward the villa. The road was jam-packed because it was the peak hours after work. She sighed as she slowly followed the flow of the traffic.

She thought she was about to solve the difficult problem Abel had left for her. She did not expect that the road would be this heavily congested on her way back.

'Sure enough, there were lots of obstacles to obtain a piece of *good news*.'

Due to the traffic jam, Luca's journey ended up taking one and a half hours.

When she returned to the villa, she saw Luke in the living room and blinked her eyes. It was one of the few times she saw Luke sitting in the living room when she came back **home**.

Under normal circumstances, he would be in his room, settling documents.

Luke saw Luca returning with the cold air behind her and frowned while asking, "Why... are you home so **late**?"

Initially, he wanted to ask for the reason she was late when the journey home should only take half an hour. However, she then discover that he had asked Johann about her. He changed his question at the last minute.

Luca was puzzled. Even though she was home late, it was still considered quite early when compared to the last two to three *days*.

"**The** road was very congested," she *said*.

"**There's** soup in the kitchen. It's still hot." After Luke spoke, he controlled the wheelchair and turned around to head toward the maid's room.

The maid had warmed up the soup. Before she went back home, she confirmed it with Luke again and placed the soup into a thermos flask to keep **it warm**.

thanks." Luca did not expect Luke to order the maid to warm up the soup at this

stopped his wheelchair, and with his back facing her, he said, "Don't forget that we're flying to Russia

Luca did not forget about it. If it was not because she had to head to Russia, she would not have been so anxious over the past two

reminded again, "Pack your luggage. Don't miss

the past two days, she was always out early and came back home late. Without needing to ask her, he knew that she had not packed

watched him enter the maid's room, and only then did she enter the kitchen. She saw the thermos flask on the table and headed over to

Inside was warm soup.

took a bowl and poured the soup out. She slowly sipped on it.

soup was still warm. It warmed up her hands, her body, and her insides

drinking the soup, she carried her bag and

thought back to Luke's statement. She was not in a hurry to get the medications ready and took out the suitcase to put two winter coats inside as well as some

out her passport and placed it in a backpack. She planned to carry a backpack. Coupled with the suitcase, she would be all set

packing her things, Luca started preparing the

Chapter 1974

Luca placed the pajamas down.

When she was about to sleep, there was a video call request.

Luca picked it up and saw a bunch of numbers. 'Abel?'

She immediately got rid of that thought. Whenever Abel had some issues, he would either message her or call her. He would not send a request for a video call. That was because he did not wish for Luke to know that they knew each other.

Luca thought of someone and immediately answered the call.

Indeed, Nyla's cute face appeared on her phone screen.

"Mommy!" The moment she saw Luca, Nyla immediately got closer to the screen. "Mommy, Mommy, is it really you?"

"It's me." The instant Luca saw her daughter, her eyes were filled with tears.

Nyla missed Luca a lot and inched her face closer to the screen. Luca was almost unable to see Nyla's cute face. Hence, she reminded, "Dear, go back a little. Let Mommy have a better view of you."

Nyla agreed and backed away obediently. "Can you see me clearly now, Mommy?"

"Yes. Oh, my Nyla, you must have grown taller, right?" Luca looked at her daughter. She was unable to determine her daughter's height through the video.

She had not seen her kid for half a year.

Her kid was growing, so it was a given that Nyla would grow a lot taller in just a month. Besides, despite the Island of Despair being very creepy, they still handled the kid's meals quite satisfactorily.

grew taller again. Mommy, when will you be back? I miss you." Nyla's cute face revealed an expression showing how much she

her daughter made Luca have the urge to just head back to her side immediately. However, she could not do it right

remember what I told you?" She smiled, not wishing for her daughter to see her

noded her head. "Yes. You're on a mission and you want me to just stay put. I shouldn't cause any trouble and have to listen to

touched to see her child being so

already at this age and should attend school, but there was no school on the Island of Despair. Hence, she would not be able to gain the usual

are you being a good girl during this period?"

Aunt Eler just praised me earlier, saying that I'm very obedient." Nyla smiled. Nyla, who was always optimistic, was full of smiles when she saw

was because Eler had told her not to cry, or else, Luca would be

despite Nyla wishing for her mother to be by her side, she did not cry at all. It showed how mature she

great, dear. Where's Aunt Eler?" Luca asked. It must have been because of Eler that Nyla was able to video call Luca. Luca had to thank Eler for

looked to the side, then back to the screen. "Mommy, Aunt Eler's face is very red. Do you think she's

"Shy?" Luca said, puzzled.

Nyla turned the camera toward Eler. "*Look, Mommy.*"

"Nyla!" Eler did not expect Nyla to turn the camera toward her. Subconsciously, she stretched out her hand and wanted to cover the lens of *the camera*.

However, Luca still saw her. "Eler, why is your face so **red**?"

Nyla was very bright. She said when she noticed Eler not talking, "Mommy, Aunt Eler's face has been red since she came out from Uncle Shanks' place!"

Luca came to an understanding. Eler had feelings for Shanks. She had stated it herself too. She never once had a change in feelings for him, and Luca did not say anything more about it.

Eler was the one who would decide on her path. Luca had talked to her about it, and Eler seemed to understand that there might not be any future between **them both**.

However, she did not regret anything. There were times when one could not control one's feelings. Once one fell in love, one would continue to remain in *love*.

Nyla said curiously when she noticed that the two adults were not talking, "Mommy, why is Aunt Eler's face so red?"

"*Maybe something joyful happened.*" Luca smiled as she glanced at **Eler**.

Nyla also looked at Eler. "Aunt Eler, what made you so happy?"

"*I'll tell you in the future!*" Eler knew that Luca knew what was going on and did not attempt to hide the fact. She might as well ask about Amur. "How's Amur doing lately?"

fine and didn't get himself injured. He helps me out when I need it, so don't worry." Luca knew Eler was worried about Amur, so she just briefly told her about Amur's

let out a breath of relief. She had not seen Amur for almost half a year. Naturally, she was worried about

Luca said he's fine, then it means he's really

you have the chance, go talk to Amur. I can see that you're very worried about him," said Luca. There was not much opportunity to hop on a video call, but every time, Eler would use up the chance on Luca and

obviously worried about her younger

casually asking. Besides, Amur is already an adult. He no longer needs his family to be worried about him, but our Nyla is different. She's worried about you every single day." Eler touched Nyla's

at the time, and they did not have much time left. She added, "It's almost time. Nyla, we're going to have to get off the video call now. Hurry, say goodbye to

waved her hand. "Alright.

Luca waved her hand. Seeing that the call was still on, she reminded again, "Eler, you must take good care of yourself

it." As soon as Eler was done talking, the call was

at the pitch-black screen and

smile she revealed immediately vanished. She missed her daughter, but she could not go back to

Chapter 1975

Daughters tended to look like their fathers, while sons tended to look like their mothers. This statement proved to be true for Lanie and Rainie. It was the same for both Tommy and Nyla.

The more Tommy grew up, the more he looked like Luca's past self. As for Nyla, she was starting to look like Luke.

Fortunately, she did not have a family on the Island of Despair.

Hence, since young, Nyla never had an impression of her father and never questioned who her father was.

Luca turned around. The issue about her wound had been settled. Initially, she could sleep well, but because she missed her daughter so much, she was unable to sleep...

She kept thinking and finally sat up. She took out the sleeping pills from the drawer, and after taking one pill, she went to sleep.

The effect of the medication kicked in fast. Despite feeling depressed, she still fell asleep.

When she woke up, it was already daytime.

Luca looked at the time. She was used to waking up early even without an alarm. After all, she had woken up early in the past two days.

After getting out of bed and brushing her teeth, she wore a winter coat.

Then, she dragged her luggage and carried her backpack down.

The maid was preparing breakfast in the kitchen. After Luca placed her things beside the sofa, she walked into the kitchen. "Good morning."

The maid knew that she would be going on a business trip with Luke on that day. She then said with a smile, "Good morning, Ms. Crawford. Did you have a good night's sleep last night?"

Last night, after she took the pill, she fell asleep and had a very long dream. As for the contents of the dream, she had already forgotten.

Luca nodded. "Not too bad. Come, let me take over from here."

"I think it's best if I do it. Aren't you supposed to go on a business trip with Mr. Crawford? It won't be good if you end up smelling like you're covered in smoke and oil. You should go out. Breakfast will be done in a while," said the maid. Knowing that both of them were going on a business trip, the maid came to work an hour earlier than usual.

Breakfast was almost ready.

up as well and opened the door of the maid's room. He overheard the conversation between Luca and the maid. He said, "Come

it and entered the room. "Good morning, Mr.

Luke lifted his head slightly and observed her expression. She seemed to look much better than yesterday. 'Is it because she had

to brush my teeth. Please help me out," he

Luca pushed the wheelchair into the bathroom. Then, she filled the bathtub with warm water for him

her help, Luke brushed his teeth and bathed. His movements were much smoother

brushing his teeth and bathing, they heard the maid's voice. "Sir, Ms. Luca, breakfast is

said Luke. Even though breakfast would be provided on the flight, the food would probably not suit him given how picky he

wanted to have his breakfast at home and did not plan to eat on

the wheelchair, and both of them came to the dining table. They ate their

Zander came to pick

Luca saw Zander placing her and Luke's suitcases into the boot, she put on an anxious look. 'Are we really going

really going to witness

Luca started to be worried.

She had solved a problem but, another problem cropped up, making *her worried*.

After placing the suitcases, Zander helped Luke into the car first. He then looked at Luca, who was daydreaming. "Ms. Luca, it's time to **depart**."

Luca snapped out of it and *nodded*. "*Alright*."

She got into the car from the *other side*.

Luke's wheelchair was in the boot. He sat on the seat.

Both of them sat side by side, while Zander was in the driver's seat. He drove them to the airport.

"*Master, is your injury much better now?*" Zander had not been in contact with Luke for quite some time and could not help but be worried.

"Much better," said Luke. He was guessing perhaps the cast could be removed once he was back **from Russia**.

Being in the wheelchair made him feel so *restricted*.

"**That's** great." Zander was delighted and did not say another word.

Luca kept quiet as well. She felt like there was something on her back. After struggling to get it, she realized it was a hair *clip*.

She recognized it to be Rainie's *hair clip*.

"It's Rainie's," Luke looked at it *and said*.

Luca nodded and placed the hair clip aside. This car was usually used to fetch the kids to school and back. Hence, it was only normal for Rainie's hair clip to be left behind in the car.

Speaking about the kids, Zander then said, "Master, when your leg has recovered, do you want the kids to go back to the villa?"

course," Luke spoke in short and precise

kids miss Ms. Luca every single day," said Zander.

'The kids miss me...'

her eyes and revealed a

because of blood ties that we feel so close to

her appearance had changed, the love the kids had for her was still the

recalling what the three kids said earlier, it made Luca think to herself, 'They also wish for me to stay by their side too, right? I haven't been expressing myself clearly because I'm

a peek at Luca. He saw the smile on Luca's face, and this made him feel lost in

years has it been? Yet her smile still

did not say a word, and the car was dead silent. Luke ordered Zander to turn on the

the radio was reporting on the incident of

Luca looked at Luke.

were closed to rest. He did not have any reaction to that

was overly calm, and this made Luca even more certain that he had already found out the truth. It was just that he did not reveal

for the reason for him not revealing it, she was also clueless

Chapter 1976

Luca took out all of the luggage from the boot.

Zander saw there were so many things, and Luke was sitting in a wheelchair. With so many things, Luca would not be able to carry them all by herself. He said, "Sir, Ms. Luca, I'm not allowed to park the car here. You guys can wait for me here. Wait till I've parked the car, then I'll come over to help carry your luggage."

"No thanks." Luke rejected. "You may go back as there'll be someone coming over to help us out."

"Oh, alright. Then I shall return for now, sir. Old Master has already invited Old Man Rayne for a game of chess. I have to return to fetch him," Zander said and got into the car.

'Old Man Rayne?'

Luca looked at Luke.

He was able to see through her puzzled expression. "He's Wanda's father."

'He's also your grandfather.' He added deep in his heart.

"Oh." Luca did not expect Old Master Crawford to go over to have a game of chess with her grandfather. The last time she headed over, he even said that it had been quite some time since anyone played chess with him. All this while, he had been playing by himself. Sometimes, Wanda was worried that he would be too tired and did not allow him to play chess.

He was always complaining then.

She did not expect Old Master Crawford to go over to play chess with him.

Luke could make out that she was having some thoughts in her mind. He said, "With your help, his body is much better now and he looks more energetic than before. Compared to those old folks who only want profit, Old Master Crawford prefers spending time with Old Man Rayne and playing chess with him. Hence, he would occasionally go over to the Raynes to play chess."

what he knew, Old Master Crawford would go over twice per week, and every time, he would come home with a cheerful

and the Raynes were initially in-laws. With Old Master Crawford moving around more often, it would be beneficial to Luca and Luke in the future. Hence, Luke was totally supportive of this

see. Doing the things he likes is better for his physique," Luca said while nodding her head. Naturally, she hoped that her grandfather would

Dr. Craw, I'm sorry that I'm late." Jason came over while dragging the luggage. He took a deep breath and put down the luggage to say, "I'll go get someone from the airport to help

in the airport would provide professional services for those who had inconvenience

I can do it myself. You help Dr. Craw to carry the luggage," Luke said as he did not plan to have other people help

was a brand new one, and it was very convenient. Hence, he could control it himself with

Jason agreed and took Luke's luggage from

three of them were ready to enter the airport when Sue's voice was heard. "Wait up,

came to a halt when he saw Sue coming toward him. "What's

forgot your scarf. You silly man. How could you forget to wear it in such cold weather." Sue placed the scarf over

'**Mr. Crawford** has yet to win Luca's heart, yet Sue is showing her affection to me...'

"*Alright. It's not a big issue. I can still buy it when I reach Russia later. The weather is getting colder, so hurry up and go back,*" Jason said softly. It was Sue who personally drove him to *the airport*.

He wanted to drive on his own, but Sue insisted to send him off. Hence, she fetched him **there**.

"How can that be the same? Russia is much colder than here. Once you're out of the airport, you'll be attacked by the cold winds before you have the time to buy it. I'll see whether or not you're still able to walk when that happens. Also, I'll leave here when I want to. You don't have to urge me." Sue glared at him, then looked at Luke and Luca. She greeted them with a smile, "Good morning Mr. Crawford, Ms. Luca."

"Good morning," Luca greeted back, but Luke only **nodded**.

Sue's attitude toward Luke was as usual. Back when his relationship with Bianca was very close, Luke had remained very elegant and cold toward her as well.

Currently, no words were needed to **describe it**.

"You guys should go on in. Have a safe trip," Sue said and urged them to board the *plane*.

Jason nodded and dragged both suitcases *in*.

Luca followed behind Luke and *slowly walked*.

Even if Luke did not need anyone's help when he entered the airport, the relevant personnel would still push Luke's wheelchair for *him*.

Jason and Luca, they were holding onto their documents. When the three of them came to the waiting area, it was still very early. They would need to wait for another hour before

was because they were in the first class, and there were not many

in the wheelchair and shut his eyes

time, two more people

moment Pierre entered the waiting area, he saw Luke, Luca, and Jason. His eyes

who was following beside, took note of this as well. Recalling how he had edited T Corporation's bidding document to pass it off as their own, he felt guilty and reminded softly, "Sir, that's Mr. Crawford from

not blind. I'm much more familiar with Luke Crawford than any others," said Pierre. After all, the Crawfords and Mallories had known each other since a long time

dared not make a sound when he saw Pierre's appearance. It was as if he wanted to pick

stole someone else's bidding document yet still dared to be so arrogant. 'Isn't he afraid someone might get to the bottom of

still, it's true that if one were to get to the bottom of this, Pierre would still be calm enough and pass the blame to

had no choice but to catch up to Pierre when he saw him walking

Chapter 1977

Luca stood beside and looked at Pierre's smile while feeling uncomfortable deep within her.

'That smile of his... One look at it and I know he's up to something. The attitude of this man toward Luke is very clear to everyone.

It was as though Pierre was directly telling everyone that he was going against Luke.

Even so, he was sneaky in doing things.

Luca frowned slightly and thought to herself, 'Pierre has done so many bad things behind our back, but before he gain benefits from all of that, he was stopped by Old Master Mallory.

'But how did he seize the opportunity for this project in Russia?'

Jason, who was at the side, said, "Mr. Mallory, I didn't hear about your company preparing the bidding document before this. How did you suddenly manage to prepare one?"

"Actually, I've been preparing it all this while. However, my company is small, not like T Corporation. Hence, when we decided to participate, we didn't announce it to the public. Why? You got a problem with it?" Pierre casually came up with something. He was not afraid of being checked for such things just because he had no evidence.

"Of course, there's no problem with it. I'm just curious as the few people I know in your company haven't been working overtime," Jason added, attempting to get insider info on behalf of Luke.

He had been following Luke for tens of years.

Given Luke's status, it was not suitable for him to gain any insider info. Hence, it was always Jason who would take up that job.

"Well, they're not involved in the bidding document. Luke has such a capable assistant like you. Why can't I have two capable assistants to help me out with the bidding document?" Jason purposely looked at Mr. Peralta, hinting that he was one of his capable assistants.

was feeling guilty after being called out. He helped out with the bidding document? If Pierre had not said it, no one would have bought

ever did was change the contents of the

that's the case. No wonder. Well, you really do know how to make use of talents." Jason praised, but deep within him, he could not help but

two people finish preparing a

was aware of the people around Pierre. As an assistant, he too had his connections among this group the society, all the capable assistants were working under the bosses of huge corporations. Jason was well aware of the capability of Pierre's

They were not famous figures.

was sure that Pierre was

and his boss had made a fake bidding document to deceive Luca. They spent lots of time on it.

the bidding document was completed, he and Luca dared not be sure that the bidding document could confuse

she was involved in the

They were just betting that if Luca really got her hands on the bidding document, she would hand it to the person who was controlling her to read through it in detail. Never would they expect themselves to win the bid in **the end**.

When Luca took the bidding document, she had taken photos of the contents. It was not that she had not gone through it in **detail**.

Luke heard their conversation and knew what was going on.

The fact that Pierre was asked to join this bidding had nothing to do with him doing it in an honest *manner*.

Pierre listened to Jason's praise and knew he was not being sincere. He looked at Mr. Peralta and said, "Well, I can't compare him to you, Mr. Doyle. Mr. Peralta still has a lot to learn. Speaking about hiring people, it looks like Luca is better at it. Not only does he have such a capable assistant like you, Mr. Doyle, but also a capable secretary like Tina. Now, he even has **Dr. Crawford**...

He looked at Luca.

'**This** woman could take me down with just one hand, and she caused me to end up lying in the bed for a few days. I had to take analgesia like it's candy.'

She even made Old Master Mallory lose confidence in him.

Pierre could sense that Luca was not as simple as she may seem, but he would not back off just because of this.

He would make Luca pay back for everything she did to him.

Luca had a sharp gaze when he heard Pierre mention Luca. Initially, he did not plan to interrupt, but in the end, he still said, "The people around you are great too. It took only two people to complete the bidding document. This shows how perfect **they are**."

saw Luca covering for Luca and shook his head while smiling. "Well, they still can't be compared to

he was saying, he looked at Mr. Peralta and intentionally said, "Mr. Peralta, if you have the time, please learn more from Mr. Doyle. I won't be so anxious

Mr. Peralta quickly replied, "Alright, sir."

the topic again. "Oh, right, has your leg recovered? Fractures can be very serious. You must get a good doctor to treat you. Otherwise, you'll have problems in the future. Oh right, I knew an orthopedic surgeon. If you need his number, Mr. Crawford, I can help you

Luca also gave a fake smile and looked at

not argue or say another word. Pierre was acting cold, and judging by his arrogant look, it was as if he had confidence he would win the bid. 'I'll see how long he can keep that expression after we're back from

if Pierre did not have the chance to go for the bidding document of this project, Luke would have to back out. That made Pierre

moment, he would arrange another group of people to make the issue complicated. Perhaps, he would also be able to accuse him of copying the bidding

Pierre thought about it, the happier he was. 'It's going to be interesting if that

come back from this business trip, I'll go make arrangements. Let's end the conversation here. That's my seat.' Pierre headed to his

Mr. Peralta quickly went over.

Chapter 1978

The moment both of them looked at each other, Luca saw Pierre smiling at her.

Even though there was quite a distance between them, she could still sense him being provocative by looking at his smile. 'He has ulterior motives...'

Luca returned him a cold gaze and turned away.

Pierre chuckled softly. "Why is she putting on an act? No matter how cold she is, she's still a lady who ended up sneaking into Luke's bed. What a b*tch."

Mr. Peralta heard him say that and shook his helplessly. Those in the field all knew there were three people whom one should not offend.

One was Luke, the other was Pierre's brother, Percy, and the last person was Jim.

Pierre was publicly provoking Luke now...

Even with the Mallory family's support, it would not mean much. 'Isn't he afraid that Luke won't spare him and just take him out directly?'

When that time came, it would still be Pierre and his company that would suffer.

Mr. Peralta sat beside him and touched his chin as he said, "Sir, I don't think it's a good idea to provoke Mr. Crawford."

"What's wrong? Do you want me to try to get on his good terms, then?" Pierre lifted his eyes and looked at him.

'It's just Luke. Why should I be scared?'

Jason was facing him, he was not scared as well. However, when his assistant was facing Luke, he was so scared and he had lost in terms of

it were not for Pierre not willing to show off his capable assistant, he would not have brought Mr. Peralta here to attend

what I meant, but we'll still have to meet each other in the future. Besides, the bidding document this time..." Mr. Peralta did not continue. He figured that there was no need to make an enemy out of others even if they were their

had stolen another corporation's bidding

you being this scared, I'd think you were a spy sent here by Luke if I didn't know any better." Suddenly, Pierre was crossed. He was not too bad when compared to Luke. 'So, why do I have to spare him some

was able to obtain this project, perhaps he would be able to make Luke bow down to

it would not matter if he failed to get the project. It would still be much better than Luke, who would not even get

Peralta nodded and did not dare to say

hour, the announcement was heard and they could board

got up and purposely said loudly, "We can finally

it, he purposely looked at Luke. Luke and the other two people ignored

Pierre stood at the boarding gate. He glanced at Jason. Luke was walking toward him. He smirked and said, "To be honest, Mr. Crawford, I'm really looking forward to seeing you sitting in the office in Russia with me, waiting for them to announce the result of the bidding."

Listening to him say such a long statement, Luke just said a simple word, "Okay."

Then, Jason pushed his wheelchair into the boarding corridor.

Pierre squinted his eyes and looked at the three of them with an ulterior motive. He had a smile that was looking pretty evil. He said to Mr. Peralta, "Come on, let's go and register too. This time, we'll return victorious!"

Mr. Peralta answered him, "Yes, sir."

Deep within him, he felt troubled. 'Why is he so confident? Even though the bidding document of T Corporation is excellent, it's not only those within the nation who are going to bid for the project but the entire world. So, where did he gain *that confidence*?'

Deep within Pierre, it would be considered to be a huge victory if he could defeat Luke.

To make Luke ashamed, he had spent a fortune to purchase that bidding document. 'If I get it, that'll be best. I'll just take it as an additional reward. If I fail, I won't think it's unfortunate **either**.'

After boarding the plane and with the help of the personnel on the plane, Luke sat in one of **the seats**.

Luca looked at her seat number on the ticket and noticed her seat was beside Luke. It was a window seat.

Luca was stunned and watched Jason walk to the other end. She pursed her lips and walked toward Jason's side. "Mr. Doyle, why don't you change seats with me? If you sit there, maybe you can still discuss work with **Mr. Crawford.**"

Craw, I have nothing to discuss with Mr. Crawford about work. I think you should just sit there. After all, you know that it's inconvenient for him with his legs right now. He still needs your care." Jason immediately rejected her request. He would not dare to change the seats when Luke had intentionally requested to buy the tickets with the seats side by

being farther away from Luke would mean being farther from his source of stress. Jason did not wish to suffer from Luke's cold aura throughout the long flight as that would be

different. She would not feel any pressure sitting beside

finished talking, then sat down and fastened

it and knew he was not planning to switch seats. Hence, she just sat beside

too much of a request to make you sit beside me?" The moment she sat down, she heard Luke's

up the seatbelt and fastened it, pretending nothing had happened. "Not at all, Mr. Crawford. I thought that maybe you'd want to discuss work with

is no work to be discussed, "Luke said the same thing as

it were not for Luca overhearing their conversation before waiting for the flight, she would have suspected that maybe they had rehearsed their statements to make her believe in

asked again, "Don't you think Pierre's being a

that so?" Luke lifted his eyes to look

Chapter 1979

However, after Luca came to an understanding, it did not reduce her worries.

It was not Pierre who was stopping Luke and not his company. It was her.

The thought of taking action on him made Luca place her fingers together.

Luke noticed her minor gestures. 'She's still so worried even after listening to my analysis?'

"Don't worry." He attempted to comfort her feelings.

Luca wanted to tell him that she was not worried but guilty. However, she could not bring herself to say such a thing.

As soon as Luke was done talking, the plan slowly took off.

She looked out the window. When she took the bidding document, she no longer had the chance to turn back.

Luke treated her well, but she was destined to let him down.

Luca sat upright and lowered her eyes. She no longer looked at the man beside her. "Mr. Crawford, I have a habit of sleeping on the plane. If you need anything, just wake me up immediately."

"Go and sleep, then." Luke did not stop her from sleeping.

Luca closed her eyes and did not look at the man beside her again. Hence, she did not see how Luke's eyes were gleaming passionately for her.

Their flight took about ten hours, and Luca was constantly asleep.

could make out Luke's breath because he was beside her. Hence, she was able to sleep

woke up, an announcement about the landing was heard. She snapped out of it and looked at the people around her. She noticed that Luke's hand was on her

just about to wake you up," he said. If it were not for the plane landing, he would not be able to bring himself to wake her

they were on a long-distance journey, she was always able to sleep beside him soundly. Once she fell asleep, she would just sleep throughout the journey. She would not eat or drink. It was as if she had not slept soundly for a very

was worried she might be starving, but when he saw her sleeping soundly, he decided to allow her to sleep a while

for ten hours?" Luca was astonished. In her memories, she recalled that she had never woken

what surprised her the most was that Luke actually allowed her to sleep for so long. He never woke her up and just allowed her to

seemed to have made up for your lack of sleep from the past few days," said

kept quiet for a few seconds. She could not deny that she was happy to have gotten to sleep beside Luke.

looked at the blanket covering her and expressed her

food here. Just eat it if you have the appetite. If not, you may eat it when we arrive," said Luke. Back when the air stewardess asked what he wanted to eat, he also ordered a meal

at the bread but did not have the appetite because she had slept for too

"*Thanks, Mr. Crawford.*" Once again, she expressed her gratitude and moved her body. She had slept for so long. Even though she was in the first-class cabin where the seats were comfortable, her body still felt stiff after sleeping in it for too **long**.

She recalled that the inclination of her seat earlier was not like this.

'*Maybe* Luke helped to adjust it.' After all, she would not have been able to adjust the seat if she **was asleep**.

The plane landed safely at the national airport of **Russia**.

With the help of the airport personnel, everything went *smoothly*.

Due to Luke's condition, the three of them exited the airport *first*.

Ray was waiting for them at Exit A.

Ray stepped forward when he saw Luke and the gang coming to him. He greeted with a smile, "Long time no **see, Luke.**"

"*Long time* no see, Ray." Luke looked at Ray, who was still so tall and gigantic. He was polite to him. For so many years, he still maintained his relationship **with Ray**.

Even though his relationship with Ray was not as good as with Gordon, they had long ago become *friends*.

Hence, when he got to know that Luke had come for a business trip, he promised to personally come fetch him. As for Vivian and Gordon, they were busy getting things done to welcome *him*.

Ray looked at Jason and Luca. He had long ago heard that Bianca lost her *memories*.

'Bianca is alone in another country, and right now, there's another lady beside Luke. I'm guessing that she's *the one*.'

not think of Luke as a man who would flirt with many ladies. He was much more loyal

he heard this news, he could not believe

he had seen Luca, he felt that it was possible for Luke to have fallen for her. After all, Luca was too beautiful and could make men fall for

my assistant, Jason, and this is Luca," said Luke. Luca had not agreed to be with him, hence he would not say anything unnecessary. He still had to introduce her to others but just could not just say she was his

meet you two." Ray put a smile on his handsome face while putting up some distance. However, he was not

meet you, Mr. Ray," Luca and Jason spoke at the same

didn't expect you to end up sitting in a wheelchair after not seeing you for so many years. Let's go. My car is outside. Both Gordon and Vivian are waiting for you in the house," Ray said and took the initiative to push Luke's

heard Gordon's name, it was clear Ray had said it through gritted teeth. "What's wrong? Are you still dissatisfied with

Ray pushed Luke out of the airport and snorted coldly, "How can I be satisfied when he treats my sister not for Vivian being in love with him, I would have long ago chopped off Gordon's arm and fed it to the to herself when she heard their conversation, 'It seems that Gordon doesn't treat Vivian

to ask about Vivian's condition, but she was only a stranger and could not just take the initiative to show concern

Chapter 1980

After Luke was seated, Ray looked at Luca and Jason.

He was not at all arrogant. Instead, he was very polite to them because of Luke. "Get in."

"Thank you." Luca and Jason got into the Rolls-Royce.

Ray got into the car last. He closed the door and told the driver to drive them home.

The dazzling Rolls-Royce drove off.

Pierre watched the Rolls-Royce leave, silently jotted down the license plate number, squinted, and stood at the airport gate.

He was thinking about how the man who picked up Luke seemed familiar. 'Who is he?'

Pierre thought that he was familiar with Luke's network, but after he arrived in Russia, he discovered that there was a lot that he did not know...

Mr. Peralta made the necessary arrangements and walked over to Pierre while holding two suitcases. "Boss, the car is already waiting over there."

"What car?" Pierre was still looking in the direction that the Rolls-Royce left.

"The car that's here to send us to the hotel." Mr. Peralta was a little taken aback. He was not sure why Pierre asked that.

'Isn't it expected that we'd head to the hotel after leaving the airport?'

Pierre looked straight at Mr. Peralta and repeated himself, "What I'm asking is, what brand of car is it?"

"It's a Mercedes-Benz..." Mr. Peralta said. He was boggled. He did not know that Pierre had preferences for the car's brand.

"Just a Mercedes-Benz?" Pierre was dissatisfied as a Rolls-Royce had picked Luke up.

was not that he did not have a Rolls-Royce. However, when he saw the scene, he started comparing himself to Luke. For just a moment, he felt that he was behind

Peralta noticed his dissatisfaction and quickly replied, "Boss, you didn't mention anything about wanting a specific car. It's impossible to find another

was arranged by the hotel. He had topped up some money to get this Mercedes-Benz so that their ride would be bearable.

thought that this arrangement would satisfy Pierre, but unexpectedly, he was still unhappy with

it. Make sure you get a better car after this," Pierre said. "Lead the

breathed a sigh of relief when Pierre agreed to get into the car. He was worried that Pierre would choose to wait by the entrance for another car because he was not satisfied

hotel had called Pierre the day before to confirm if he wanted a Mercedes-Benz to pick him up. They mentioned that if he wanted another car, he had to inform them one day in

Peralta dragged the two suitcases and

got in the car, Pierre took out his phone and found someone. "Find out who owns this car with this license plate

Russia, not many could afford

was either the person who picked Luke up rented the car, or he was

Pierre did not want to admit it, when he saw the side profile and back of that person, he thought it was more likely to be the latter. The man looked like someone not to be

sat in the passenger seat and communicated with the driver in English, intending to ask the driver about the process of changing to another

the driver did not have a good command of English. The two tried their best to communicate with each other, but Mr. Peralta still did not understand what the driver was

Pierre, who was sitting at the back, was irritated. He asked, "Didn't you find out about all these when we arrived?"

"I'm sorry, Boss. I didn't manage it well." Mr. Peralta groaned inwardly. Pierre usually drove a Mercedes-Benz, so he thought that Pierre would be alright to travel around for business with this car since the specifications of this Mercedes-Benz were *fairly decent*.

He did not expect that Pierre would *be dissatisfied*.

...

On the other hand.

Ray's driver drove them to the villa.

Luca thought that the exterior of the villa *looked unfamiliar*.

Luke asked, "You've changed addresses?"

"*Yeah*, my sister didn't like the old villa. She said that the style is too outdated, so she changed to a newer villa." Ray said as he instructed the driver not to carry the luggage of Luke *and others*.

They were there as guests and would just be staying for a meal.

Ray had suggested Luke stay in his villa, but the latter turned him down saying that staying in a hotel would be more convenient considering *their schedule*.

As such, he had to follow Luke's will.

Luke knew that it was not that Vivian did not like the style of the previous villa but Gordon.

Vivian could give up everything for Gordon. Although Vivian was not good-looking, Gordon was a lucky man to be loved so fervently by *a woman*.

environment here is great,"

smile was not deep. He was reluctant to let Vivian move here because the security system here was far inferior to the

opted to put aside her safety for Gordan's

had to compromise because there was no other

in." Ray pressed his fingerprint on the lock and opened the

pushed into the villa by the

of the villa was a spacious garden. The flowers and leaves had fallen because it was winter. The bare branches were covered with thin ice, and it felt a

few of them walked across the long garden path to the main

was waiting there. When she saw that Luke was in a wheelchair, she exclaimed and stepped forward, asking, "Brother, what

to Luke as

a minor accident. Nothing to worry about." Luke tried to soften his expression as much as possible when facing

was immensely insecure due to her appearance. She was a little more sensitive, and if he acted cold, Vivian might overthink and assume that he did not like

Gordan had also decided to stay by Vivian's

They were family now.