

Be Gentle 1991

Chapter 1991

Vivian came to the first floor. The maid stepped forward and asked her before Vivian left, "Ms. Vivian, we're preparing for dinner now. Is there anything you'd like to have for dinner tonight?"

Vivian was startled for a moment. Yes, it was time for dinner.

She would usually ask the maid to ask her what to prepare for meals so that she could get them to make some of Gordan's favorite dishes.

"I'm going out. Go upstairs and ask Mr. Norton about it. There's no need to prepare my portion." Vivian looked down so that the maid would not notice her mood.

"Ah... Okay." The maid did not expect Vivian to say something like this. She would usually plan the dishes for each meal.

Vivian put on her coat, turned around, and left.

The maid watched Vivian leave. She had no choice but to turn around and head upstairs. Then, she knocked on Gordan's bedroom door.

"I'm busy." Gordan thought Vivian was knocking on the door, so he yelled impatiently.

"Mr. Norton, I'm the maid. I'd like to ask what you'd like to have for dinner tonight," the maid asked timidly.

The maid? It was not Vivian?

Gordan's hands that were toying with the figurine paused. He stood up and went to open the door. It was indeed the maid, and Vivian was not beside her.

"What?" Gordan sounded annoyed. Ray had arranged for the maids to serve them. Although they were just carrying out their duties, he felt irritated with anyone or anything related to Vivian. He wanted nothing to do with them.

Moreover, the people Ray had sent over here were not only to serve Vivian. They came to keep an eye on him.

Ray was afraid that Gordan would do something to his beloved sister. That was why he had arranged for these people to come here.

kitchen will be preparing dinner soon. I'd like to ask if there's anything you wish to have tonight," asked the maid. They seldom talked to Gordan, and they knew how bad his temper was. That was why they never felt inclined to talk to him.

you asking me? Where's Vivian?" Gordan hated to make decisions on such petty things. Usually, they would not even come to ask him. Vivian was self-centered enough to arrange and prepare what dishes they would be having for each meal herself.

went out. That's why we came to ask

unconcerned about what the maid told him. Vivian went out? That would be great. He did not have to face her. "Anything will

maid nodded. "Alright. I'm off to prepare dinner

the door and fell back into his chair to fiddle with his figurines. He was unconcerned about Vivian

did not drive when she left the house. She hailed a

road was wet because of the snow. Besides, Vivian was staying in the silk-stockings district. There were barely any cabs passing by here. Hence, she had to wait for half an hour beside the road until she managed to hail one.

was freezing out here. She could hardly feel her legs when she climbed into the car.

where would you like to go?" the driver asked.

to the Ostin Hotel," said Vivian. She decided not to head to Ray's place. Instead, she chose to stay in a needed some time for herself to take a break from her and Gordan's

would not be able to find peace if she headed to Ray's place.

Ray would never be able to understand why she wanted to divorce Gordan. After all, it took a lot of effort for Ray to make Gordan stay. Vivian also used up all her strength to persevere in their relationship.

Ray would probably grab Vivian's hand and question her after learning that she had given up so easily. That was why staying in a hotel would be **the best**.

Vivian wanted a quiet place instead of being faced with questions and *sympathy*.

Vivian was dropped off at the hotel entrance by the driver. She glanced at the ATMs nearby. Then, she headed to a machine and withdrew a huge amount of money out of her bank account. Although she was unlike Ray, who was the leader and manager of a company, she had a share of investment in Ray's career.

That was why money was not a problem for her.

Vivian walked into the hotel after she got the money. She booked a suite and paid half a month's rate at once. After she asked the hotel to keep her identity confidential, she hid in the suite, turned off her phone, and never went out again.

Vivian only wanted peace of mind without anyone disturbing her.

At midnight, Vivian was still not back home *yet*.

Gordan showed no concern, but the maid in the villa noticed that something was wrong. She called Vivian, but her phone was switched off.

The maid could not reach Vivian. It was getting late. Usually, Vivian would stay at home to ensure her safety and not cause any trouble for Gordan.

Ray was a famous mafia in Russia, and he had many enemies. That was why Vivian was well aware of *this*.

The maid was afraid that something might have happened to Vivian seeing as she was not home at this hour. Thus, she hurried to the second floor, planning to tell Gordan *about it*.

Someone was knocking on the door again. Gordan thought it was Vivian. He lay down on his bed with his eyes closed, ignoring **it**.

be up to no good for knocking at his door at this hour.

maid did not hear any noise in the room. She was sure that Gordan had not gone out after he ate his dinner. She bit her lip and asked, "Mr. Norton, are you in

spoke lazily when he heard the maid's voice, "I'm in bed. You can wait until

Norton, Ms. Vivian isn't back yet. I can't reach her. Is there any way you can contact her?" the maid Vivian was not

would not come home this

got up, but he did not open the door. Instead, he said, "How am I supposed to reach her when you can't? Just tell Ray."

no quiet nights in Russia. Even if the temperature was minus ten degrees out there and snowing heavily, the competition beneath the surface would begin as soon as night

shook her head when she listened to his words. Gordan was not even bothered to show a little concern to Vivian after so many

heard the maid leave, and he suddenly felt

and left his bedroom. He headed to Vivian's bedroom. He stood outside her door, thinking of knocking on the door to see if Vivian had deliberately teamed up with the maid to lie to him. He paused while he was lifting his hand.

What was he doing?

Was he worried about Vivian?

Chapter 1992

Someone knocked on the door when she had just laid down on her bed.

"Have you slept?" Luke asked.

Luca sat up on the bed. She turned to face in the direction of the door and said, "Not yet, Mr. Crawford. Is there anything I can help you with?"

Luke fell silent for a few seconds. Luca did not open the door as though she was guarding against him. Luke shook his head helplessly. He was a man sitting in a wheelchair now, and there was nothing he could do to her. Even so, she was still not letting her guard down.

It seemed like the days they had spent together were all for nothing.

"I came to tell you that you don't have to wake up early tomorrow," said Luke. He did not insist on asking her to open the door.

Luca was surprised. She got out of her bed and went to open the door. Luke was outside the door, and the distance between them was less than an arm's length.

"Mr. Crawford, don't we have an important meeting to attend tomorrow?" Luca asked with confusion.

Luke told her that she would have to follow him to the meeting when they were eating together today. Jason could not understand Russian, so Luca was in charge of the relevant matters. Meanwhile, Jason would be standing aside to help them.

Luca knew she could not refuse, so she had no choice but to agree with it.

"I've just received the news that something came up and the first party can't attend the meeting. The meeting has been postponed, and the time will only be confirmed at a later time," said Luke. He had just received the notice from the first party, so he came here to inform her.

"Okay. I get it." Luca was reluctant. Postponing the meeting would mean that they would be going back at a later date.

Luca had no idea whether her wound would worsen if she went back a day later.

Luke noticed the subtle expression on her face and asked, "Is there a problem?"

"No, Mr. Crawford." Luca shook her head. She could not tell him that she was injured, so she could not tell him the reason why she was in a hurry to go back either.

case, I'll need to head to the clinic nearby

can tell me if there's anything you need," Luke remembered that Luca had gone to a few pharmacies today. Although she was a pharmaceutical scientist, there was no need for her to visit so many pharmacies.

was looking for certain types

Thank you, Mr. Crawford." Luca nodded. Luke had a few connections in Russia, and that included Ray. It was easy for him to look for the drugs

However, that would arouse his suspicion.

not going to disturb you anymore," said Luke. He suppressed the desire in his heart, maneuvered the wheelchair, and returned to

the sound of the door closing. Then, she closed her door slowly

lay down on her bed again, feeling

was worried about her wound. Although she had dressed her wound and taken an antibiotic injection, she was still worried about

type of fungus could still grow and reproduce under such a cold environment if it was not completely gotten rid of.

was not a problem that could be solved by relying on her immune

here would remind Luca that Luke would probably be embarrassed during the meeting. However, their trip here was prolonged.

more Luca thought about it, the more anxious

picked up the bottle of medicine on the bedside table. She swallowed a sleeping pill, lay down on the bed, and covered herself with the blanket.

Luca was finally feeling sleepy after taking the pills. Despite still feeling anxious, she fell deeply asleep.

...

Gordan's villa.

It was two a.m.

Gordan was woken up by the heavy pounding on the *door*.

"Who is it?" Gordan sat up, feeling annoyed. He glanced at his phone. It was five past two.

"*Gordan*, get your f*cking *ss out of there!" Ray's voice came from outside the door.

Gordan frowned and pushed the door open while he said, "Are you out of your mind? Why are you swearing and cursing at my house in the middle of the *night*!"

Ray got furious when he saw Gordan's sleepy appearance. He pointed at him and scolded, "Bastard, how can you even sleep?"

"**Why** can't I sleep? Do you think everyone is just like you? You have nothing better to do than to come here and get roaring drunk in the middle of the **night**."

"Me getting drunk? Gordan Norton, look at what you've done!" Ray threw a stack of papers right on Gordan's **face**.

The maid had called Ray in the evening. She asked Ray if Vivian was at his **place**.

Ray had a bad feeling. After he made sure that Vivian was not in the villa, he sent his men to look for her.

However, Vivian did not drive, and her phone was turned off. There was no way Ray could locate where Vivian was with the GPS tracker.

A few hours later, Ray's subordinates were still unable to find Vivian. He asked Vivian's friends about her whereabouts, but she was nowhere to be *found*.

no choice but to come to the

Vivian's bedroom door open and found a stack of papers on the dressing table.

were copies of a

sharp edges of the paper scratched Gordan's handsome yet bruised face. He yelled at Ray with dissatisfaction, "What the f*ck are

you do to my sister?" Ray clenched his fists. His eyes were blazing red with

to believe that Vivian would suddenly file a divorce. Hence, Gordan must have

didn't do anything. I'll never do anything to that ugly woman!" Gordan clenched his fists. If it were not for the bruises on his face, he would not be suppressing his urge to pick a fight with

could my sister want to divorce you if you hadn't done anything?!" Ray suppressed the fury in his chest. If it were not for Luke, who had helped him before, Ray would have punched Gordan by

loved Gordan so much. She even went to great lengths to use her connections to make him stay by her side.

she possibly file for

Gordan was stunned, and he blinked his eyes. After he finally understood what was happening, he laughed disdainfully. Ray's words amused

it possible for that ugly woman to let him go out of the kindness in

Vivian cry out that she wants a divorce? Go ahead with it, then. I'll write my name backward if she's really willing to divorce me!" Every word Gordan spoke was sonorous. He strongly believed that Vivian would not file for

pester him until the day she died. How could she possibly take the initiative to ask for a divorce and set him

Chapter 1993

It was Vivian's full name too.

Besides, Gordan could recognize that it was Vivian's signature with just a glance. Her handwriting was beautiful. There were few people who could control their strength so well to write down such beautiful words.

...

Gordan suddenly realized that apart from Vivian's ugly looks, she seemed to be a nice woman. It was just that the appearance of a woman was important for Gordan.

Ray looked at Gordan, who was lost in thoughts. Gordan was expressionless and did not say a word. Ray finally lost his temper and said, "Are you happy now?"

Gordan looked at the divorce papers and quickly read them through. He was surprised that the ugly woman would give up all her entitlements.

Did she think that he would care about this villa?

If it were not for her and Ray restricting him, he did not care where he would stay.

He only chose a villa that he liked to make him feel more comfortable when he spent his days being deprived of his freedom.

Hence, he did not need Vivian's sympathy and empathy. He did not want the villa!

Gordan felt awkward. He looked at Ray and asked, "Where is she?"

"I can't find her! Gordan Norton, Vivian signed the divorce papers and went into hiding. She didn't want to let you see her sorrows. Do you have any idea how dangerous it is out there? She's not afraid of that either. She just doesn't want to face you right now.

"Vivian is such a kind girl. She'd rather fulfill your wish than care about her own feelings. What about you? Think about it, what have you done for her all these years!" Ray was not a talkative person. However, since he could not wake Gordan up with violence now, he had no choice but to talk to him and try to rouse his conscience.

"Shut up!" Gordan's eyes were cold. "Stop blaming me for Vivian's actions. If you two hadn't restricted me, things wouldn't have ended up like this today, would they?"

a step back with a cold, hard stare.

his hand. Gordan thought he was going to start a fight, so he threw the divorce papers aside and prepared to fight back. They could fight, but the divorce papers could not

Ray's gestures were out of Gordan's

lifted his hand, pointed at his nose, and warned him, "If something bad happens to my sister, you'll be the first person I'll come looking for."

be her problem if something happens to her. Once I sign the divorce papers, I'll have nothing to do with your sister and your family anymore!" Gordan said heartlessly, reminding Ray that it was Vivian who took the initiative to ask for a

looked at the divorce papers on the floor. Perhaps, he should not have let Gordan see this. He should have destroyed the

would be against Vivian's will. Ray could not do it.

and closed the door.

at the door and kicked it hard. Still, it could not unleash the anger in his heart.

Vivian ask for a divorce at this time? Was she not letting Gordan, that bastard, off

who stood aside was on tenterhooks. She was worried that the two of them would get into a fight again. This time, Vivian was not here to stop them. Gordan might get beaten

they did not end up fighting with

reminded Ray, "Young Master Ray, our priority now is to find out where Ms. Vivian is. The villa's security guards have retrieved the surveillance footage outside the entrance. Why don't you take a look at it? Perhaps we can figure out something."

"Let's go." Ray glared at the door. Gordan was lucky enough to have Luke backing him up. It was for Luke's sake that Ray did not lay his hand on him.

One day in the future, after Ray returned Luke's favor, he would not hold back anymore. At that time, when Gordan had nothing to do with Vivian anymore, he could not blame Ray for not showing mercy.

In the bedroom.

Gordan bent down and picked up the two copies of the divorce agreement. He accidentally pulled his wound on his waist. It hurt so much that he grimaced in **pain**.

Previously, when Ray fought with Gordan, Vivian would shamelessly come to his room to help him dress his wound. She was not here this time.

*It turned out that she was planning for a *divorce*.*

"Vivian, well done." Gordan sat on the sofa and looked at the divorce agreement. His eyes darkened. When he got the divorce agreement, the moment of ecstasy did not last for more than two **seconds**.

The reason was that even though it was a divorce agreement, he was dissatisfied with the contents of it.

*She was leaving him the common property that the two of them had been **sharing**?*

What did Vivian view him as in all these years? Was he a gigolo?

Was this villa his compensation?

How insulting was that?!

Gordan could accept a fair share of marital assets. He could even accept it if Vivian requested that all their assets should be taken by her. He was unable to accept this.

up his phone and thought of calling Vivian. However, he remembered what the maid had told Ray just

They could not reach Vivian.

his lips, but he stopped as doing that would tear the wound on his face. Although they could not reach her, he might be able to reach her.

asked for a divorce, then she went missing. She was leaving everything to him just to catch his

would still pick up Gordan's call if he called

her phone number with confidence. However, the next second, there came the awkward voice of the operator from the other end of the line. He was startled.

female voice from the other end of the line told him that the phone had been turned

one was able to

his phone aside, thinking of reaching Vivian in some other way. However, he realized that he had no other way to reach

not add Vivian as his friend on every messaging app he used.

was not that Vivian did not want him to add her but Gordan had refused to. He refused to be kept under control by a

could not help but feel irritated. He stood up and walked to his door. Then, he pulled the door open. He could see what was going on downstairs through the railing along the corridor.

guards were sitting on the sofa in the living room. Ray was standing beside them, watching the surveillance footage.

Chapter 1994

Not to mention that Gordan had enough money even if he did not have the villa.

Even though he had been kept by Vivian's side in the past few years, he still took up jobs. Many underworld organizations in Russia needed foreign aid to help them to handle some troublesome matters. Gordan had skills, and he did things efficiently. He was able to complete the missions he was assigned to.

However, he did not have many resources when it came to searching for someone. He was too lazy to look for Vivian, that ugly woman, himself. That was why he asked someone to look for her.

"Mr. Norton, that's very straightforward of you. I'll arrange it now." The man on the other end of the line was not even concerned that it was in the middle of the night. He did not think about waiting for tomorrow.

As long as the money was in place, they would be ready to work anytime.

"As quickly as possible," Gordan urged them. Since Vivian was asking for a divorce, he had to seize the chance so that she would not regret it after this.

Gordan was looking for her only to ask her to amend the contents of the agreement.

"Leave it to us. Don't worry." The man on the other end of the phone hung up the call.

Gordan put his phone aside. He narrowed his eyes. Where could Vivian be hiding?

Although Russia was her homeland, she did not have many friends because of her ugly appearance. It did not matter that she came from a rich family.

Vivian realized that, which was why she cut off ties with those who approached her only because of her money and status.

Where could she go?

The only place that came across Gordan's mind was a hotel.

Although Russia had many hotels, everyone needed to use their identification number to register if they wanted to stay in a hotel. Those people would be able to find her whereabouts quickly.

...

The following day.

woke up early in the morning due to the jet lag. She glanced at the dark sky and stared blankly at it for

Had she woken up too early?

she usually woke up at this hour. Even though she was having jet lag, she could not fall asleep anymore. Hence, she woke up and freshened herself up before getting changed.

drew the curtains. It was dazzlingly bright. She stared at the scenery outside the window. The snow was

walked out of her room and glanced at Luke's

was closed. It seemed like Luke was still asleep.

hotel's soundproofing should be fine. Luca slowly walked to the kitchen. She thought of making breakfast first since she could not go back

ingredients were more Western-style as they were in Russia. Hence, she could only make some Western

she finished preparing breakfast, she brought her portion of breakfast along with her to the dining room. Then, she heard the sound of the door

Luke was awake.

glanced in the direction of his room. Indeed, she saw him maneuver the wheelchair and slowly come

Luke was surprised to see Luca was already sitting at the dining table. He asked, "Why did you wake up so early?"

"*Jet lag*," answered Luca. She stood up and said, "Mr. Crawford, I made breakfast. Would you like to have *some*?"

"*I haven't* freshened up yet," said Luke.

"Let me help you." Luca walked toward him. The facilities that the hotel provided were built according to adults' needs. It was inconvenient for Luke, who was sitting in the *wheelchair now*.

It was just like yesterday. She had helped him too.

Luca helped Luke to wash up just like how she did it previously. She pushed Luke into the bathroom. The hotel staff knew that Luke was in a wheelchair, so they had installed an angled board for him for his **convenience**.

After Luca walked into the bathroom, she picked up a face tub that she bought and filled it with water for Luke to wash his *face*.

Although they were in a different place, the things she did were still the same. Luca had gotten used to taking care of Luke over the years, so she was still good at taking care of him now.

After Luca helped Luke to freshen himself up, she pushed the wheelchair and stopped at the dining table. "Mr. Crawford, let me serve **you breakfast**."

"Alright." Luke nodded. It was still early in Russia, but the two of them had gotten used to their routine in the Capital. That was why Luke felt hungry *now*.

Luca brought the breakfast that she had prepared to him and said, "The ingredients in the fridge are mostly from here. That's why I made a Western-style breakfast *for you*."

"It's alright." Luke picked up the knife and fork, eating his breakfast slowly. He enjoyed every breakfast that Luca prepared for him.

It was because Luca was the one who made it.

The doorbell rang after the two of them finished breakfast.

see if it's Mr. Doyle." Luca stood up and went to open the door. It was still early in the morning, and it was unlikely to be the hotel staff. Thus, Luca reckoned that it was Jason who was pressing the doorbell.

opened the door, and it was Jason,

Mr. Doyle." Luca stood aside to let Jason enter and walk

morning, Dr. Craw. Is Boss awake?" Jason was unable to see what was going on in the living room as there was a shelf in between the living room and the

awake and in the dining room. Did you wake up early too?" Luca went along with him and closed the door.

Jason smiled bitterly. He slept late last night, but he woke up according to his routine. He did not have you eaten breakfast?" Luca continued to ask. She had no idea if the hotel provided breakfast this early.

Jason. He walked to the dining room and saw Luke there. Then, he greeted him, "Good morning,

The look on Luke's face was slightly cold because Jason had been chatting with

the expression on Luke's face, and he knew Luke was unhappy that he talked too much with

was not as outstanding as Luke was. Secondly, he had a wife and children. He was no match for Luke. There was no need for Luke to be hostile to

ran into Mr. Ray, who was having his breakfast when I was at the restaurant downstairs just now. I was curious, so I went to talk to him. It seems like they're looking for Ms. Vivian," said Jason. He came here to inform Luke

all, Ray and Luke were friends. That was why he mentioned it

Chapter 1995

"I'll call him later. Gordan is still in bed at this time," Luke glanced at the time and said.

Ray was trying his best to look for Vivian, but Gordan would not do so. Luke was pretty sure that Gordan was still lying on his bed, snoring loudly in his sleep.

There was a reason why Luke would ask Gordan instead of asking Ray directly.

Luke was closer to Gordan. It was much easier to open up to a closer friend.

Luca understood why Luke made such arrangements. She nodded and did not say anything more.

Luke looked at Jason and said, "Follow me."

"Alright, Boss." Jason followed behind Luke and left the dining room.

Luca watched the two of them head to Luke's room. After she placed the plates in the kitchen sink, she returned to her room too.

There would be professional hotel cleaners who would come to clean the place up.

Luca sat on the sofa and glanced at the time. It was still early...

The private clinics nearby would still be closed if she went out now.

There was no place for her to sit if she went outside. That was why she could only sit here and wait for the clinics to open.

Luca stared at the snow outside the window, and it reminded her of Nyla.

It seemed that Nyla had never seen snowfall since she was born...

stared into the distance outside the window. Since leaving her daughter's side, this was the closest she had been to her. However, she did not have the guts to go back to see her

was afraid that Abel would falsely accuse her of something. Also, she feared that she could never get out of the Island of Despair again once she

though she dared not to tell Luke about it when she was facing him and she even kept her distance away from him, she realized that she was still in love with Luke. That was why she could not bear to leave

so sorry." Before she left the island, Luca recalled that she had promised her daughter that she would come back to visit her whenever she had

had been nearly half a year now, yet she did not get the chance to see

until it was working hours, and only then did she

door was left open when she passed by Luke's room. She noticed that Jason was sitting beside Luke, and the two of them were handling their

did not tell Luke anything, and Luke did not ask her either.

planned to go to a clinic nearby as she referred to the

nearest clinic to the hotel was some distance

chose to hail a cab at the hotel entrance. The cab driver drove her there after she gave him the

got out of the car when she arrived at the entrance of the clinic. She registered and asked the doctor if the clinic had the medicine she

they did not have the things she

Luca had no choice but to leave the clinic. She happened to see Vivian by the roadside when she was about to head to the next clinic.

"Ms. Vivian?" Luca blinked her eyes. She did not expect there to be such a coincidence.

Everyone was looking for Vivian, but she ran into her here without any effort.

Vivian unconsciously thought of running away when she heard someone calling her name.

"Ms. Vivian, please stop running. Ray's men are looking for you everywhere." Luca kept up with Vivian's pace hurriedly.

Vivian paused, turned around, and looked at her. She smiled bitterly and said, "So, you came looking for me too?"

Luca shook her head. She looked at Vivian's expression and was sure that something must have happened.

"No, I just happened to run into you when I was passing by. Besides, I didn't bring anyone with me. Mr. Ray is capable enough. He doesn't need my help." Luca *explained*.

Vivian thought to herself that what Luca said was true. She only came here for a business trip. Even though she had Luke by her side, Ray had a great number of subordinates. There was no need for him to trouble Luke to help look for her.

Vivian believed that Luca ran into her *coincidentally*.

Vivian looked up and glanced at the clinic behind Luca. Was Luca here to see **the doctor**?

However, none of that mattered to her. "Ms. Luca, can you please do me *a favor*?"

"You'd like to ask me not to tell Mr. Ray your whereabouts, right?" Luca was able to figure out what Vivian wanted **to say**.

"Yes." Vivian nodded.

I need something in exchange for your favor," said Luca. The reason Vivian was hiding in the hotel without letting anyone know about it was that she did not want them to find out where she was. It was reasonable for her to ask for a favor like

replied immediately. No matter what Luca wanted in exchange, Vivian would be able to fulfill it as long as it was within her

was pathetic. If she were to be brought back home, she hoped that it was Gordan who brought her

However, how could that be possible?

did not care if Vivian was dead or alive. Now that he knew she wanted a divorce, he must be

to tell me what's going on." Luca did not want to interfere in this, but she was worried that Vivian would get depressed and think of ending her

what, Vivian had helped her before. Luca could not bear to see such a thing happen to

took a deep breath and looked at her, "Are you

"I'm free," replied Luca.

we head to my room? It's cold here," said Vivian. The two of them had been standing here for a while. Their shoulders and heads were covered with

Luca agreed and followed Vivian back to her

two of them sat on the sofa in Vivian's hotel room. Each of them was holding a cup of warm tea. Vivian smiled and said, "There's nothing special about the tea here. I hope you

Chapter 1996

"I love Gordan very much. I fell in love with him at first sight." Vivian clasped the cup in her hand tightly and took a deep breath.

Luca nodded without interrupting her.

"I never thought that the man I fell in love with at first sight would be interested in me. Gordan came up to me and struck up a conversation with me. He has a fine sense of humor, and he didn't despise me for my ugly looks. Even though it was unbelievable, I fell even deeper in love with him when I met him for the second time. But later I learned that Gordan was only teasing me when he said he liked me. Still, I didn't mind. I've never asked for anything in my whole life. I'm ugly, so I don't have the right to speak. But when Gordan told me that he didn't like me and he was just fooling around, I came up with an idea." Vivian did not know Luca was actually Bianca. That was why she summarized it and explained her past as well as how she met Gordan.

"You kept him by your side?" Luca asked. She had heard about their past before.

"Yes. Gordan was good at fighting, but Ray has more capable men around him. I said I wanted him, so Gordan was left with no choice but to stay by my side. I thought he would be able to notice me and disregard my looks as long as I kept him around. But many years have passed and he still hasn't fallen for me. Instead, the hatred he has for me grows every day. Sometimes, when I ask him to keep me company, it's as though Ray is carrying a gun behind him and forcing him to do it. Even so, I'd be happy because at least he was still beside me." Teardrops fell from Vivian's eyes. She was happiest when she got to see Gordan every day.

Luca nodded and thought to herself that Vivian was too humble.

However, she could not tell her.

Luca's gestures were telling Vivian that she was still listening to her. Hence, Vivian continued, "But I just found out that my happiness is built on Gordan's pain. He has been suffering all this time, being together with an ugly woman he isn't in love with. My happiness is his pain. So, I finally decided to give up on my happiness. That way, Gordan doesn't have to suffer anymore. I decided to let him go. Gordan should be happy now."

Luca was surprised. Vivian had decided to let him go?

Luca thought Gordan had done something to upset Vivian, and that was why she was hiding. She did not expect Vivian had let him go.

"You've decided to split up with Mr. Norton?" Luca asked carefully.

divorce. I've signed the divorce papers. And I'm guessing that he should've seen them by now and signed his name on them. He'll be able to hand in the divorce agreement soon. There'll be nothing left between us after this," said Vivian. Tears were constantly streaming down her face.

really letting him go this

"But you're reluctant," said Luca.

bitterly, and her tears could not stop falling. "It's hard for me. But I feel sorry for making suffer for so many years. Loving someone means making them happy and not letting them suffer. I realized that I've made a mistake. I want to make up for it. But the best compensation is to break up with him. That's what

in pain." Luca looked at Vivian as she cried. Vivian was not considered pretty, and she looked funny when she was crying like a clown on stage.

could feel how painful it was for her to leave someone she

forced to leave Luke back then too. The pain lasted for three years. Even Nyla's birth could not bring much comfort to her heart.

only until she came back to him that the pain subsided. However, she only came here because she was assigned a mission to harm Luke. That was why Luca did not feel much happier even though Luke was right beside

was only guilt and

exactly how Vivian felt

"I'll get through this. I don't want Ray to know that I miss Gordan even after making my decision. That's why I chose to stay in a hotel. I plan to go back home after a few days." Vivian took a deep breath. She should stop **crying now**.

Vivian had been crying all night. She should not be *crying again*.

As a grown-up, crying could never solve problems. Vivian had to learn to get over her feelings for Gordan.

"You didn't rest well last night, right?" Luca asked.

Vivian was slightly surprised. She thought Luca would comfort her or give her some suggestions after she told her everything, but she did not.

"**Yes.**" **Vivian** nodded. Luca seemed to be different from the *others*.

"*Have* you eaten breakfast?" Luca **asked again**.

Vivian shook her head.

Luca looked at the telephone beside her. She picked it up and said, "Let me order breakfast **for you.**"

"Huh?" Luca dialed the number and made the call before Vivian could come back to her senses and figure out what Luca was doing.

looked at the menu and ordered

down the phone after the call ended and said, "Taking a rest is all that matters now. You can heal the pain in your heart, but you can't hurt your body in the meantime. Otherwise, that's not called healing. You'd be damaging your body. Have your breakfast, then go

listened to Luca and could not help but have a

to know very well what Vivian needed.

like the two of them had known each other for a long time. Luca did not comfort her and only reminded her what she needed

a while, room service delivered the breakfast

wanted to open the door, but Luca said, "Sit down. Let me

opened the door and took Vivian's breakfast from the

placed it on the coffee table and said, "Have some. I'll leave after you finish your

The breakfast Luca ordered for her was high in nutritional value. She probably did not have to eat her lunch after having

Chapter 1997

Vivian frowned. When she heard Luca say so, she thought it must be the kind of medicine that was hard to purchase.

There were two types of medicines that were hard to find in the market. One was prohibited drugs, while the other were medicines used to cure extraordinary diseases.

Vivian looked at Luca and thought she was probably not looking for the prohibited drugs.

Besides, she would have her own reason for needing this medicine...

"I can help," said Vivian. She knew people who could get such things because of Ray.

Luca shook her head and replied, "I can find them myself."

"You're worried that someone will find out about it, right? Don't worry. You've been listening to me all day today. I'm thankful. I'll help you look for the medicine, and I'll keep it a secret at the same time," said Vivian. Although she still felt down, she was doing much better now after pouring her feelings out.

Luca thought to herself that since Vivian had promised not to tell, then Luke would not be able to find out about it.

Besides, Vivian had much more connections than her in Russia.

That should be fine...

"Sorry to trouble you," Luca eventually agreed to have her help.

"It's nothing. What's the medicine you're looking for?" Vivian asked.

to tell her about the antibiotics. "Amphotericin B. It's a type of

on her phone keyboard and handed the phone to Luca. "Is this the

it is," said Luca. She did not choose the medicine for external use as there were many types of it. It would be troublesome to

Antibiotics could work well.

not asked for more of it from Johann as she was afraid that he would suspect her. That was why she only took one dosage from him and injected herself with it right away to resolve the issue.

better than medicine for external

add each other as friends. I'll text you once I have it," said Vivian. She was not very friendly to Luca before this because of

thought Luca was the mistress who had destroyed Luke and Bianca's relationship. That was why she stayed away from her.

Vivian changed her perception of Luca today.

was not because Luca was willing to listen to her rant but Luca seemed to know her well. It could be seen from when she was listening to her and how she handled the matter after

noded, and the two of them exchanged their contact

Luca stood up and took a bottle of pills out of the bag when Vivian was almost done with her **breakfast**.

"**What's this?**" Vivian asked with curiosity.

"**I'm** a pharmaceutical researcher. These are the sleeping pills that I developed myself. I think you'll be needing them." Luca did not give Vivian too many of them. She was worried that Vivian would end her life by taking too many pills if she took things too hard.

Hence, Luca shook out five pills and wrapped them with a piece of tissue. Then, she handed them to Vivian. "Take one if you can't fall asleep. The effect is much better than the ones bought out **there**."

"**Thank** you. Why don't you give me the whole bottle, then?" Vivian smiled. She felt much better having Luca keep her company and chat with her to distract her *attention*.

"Although there aren't many side effects, the efficacy is still there. You're feeling upset now, and I'm worried that you might take things too hard." Luca put the bottle back into her bag. Her words were honest and straightforward. She did not act submissively, nor was she afraid that she would make Vivian feel worse.

"I won't. Don't worry, and thank you. I happen to need these now," said Vivian. She knew she could not fall asleep. The pills would definitely work on **her**.

Furthermore, even though Vivian was unfamiliar with Luca, judging from the relationship between Luke and Luca and Luke and Ray's friendship, Luca would never harm Vivian by giving her random pills.

"Take one before you sleep. The pills I gave you should be enough to last you for five days. That's all I can do for you now. Get some rest. Mr. Ray is worried about you. Go home when you feel much better," said Luca. She tried to remind her not to do anything silly and that Ray was still waiting for her at home.

Vivian felt a sting of melancholy surging in her heart. This time, it was not because of Gordon but Ray.

Luca's words reminded her of everything Ray had done for her all these years.

had fought with Gordon again and again to convince him. He was worried and arranged for guards to make sure she was safe when she insisted on moving to the new villa together with

had done so much for her throughout these years.

everything for her sake and to ensure her happiness. However, Vivian was keeping everyone in the dark and hiding to heal the pain in her

must be disappointed in me, his elder sister." Vivian laughed at herself. Ray had done so many things for her, while she only had eyes

was selfish. She was way too

shook her head and said, "He's not disappointed in you. And he's going to every hotel to search for you. Judging from Mr. Ray's speed, I'm guessing he'll be here very soon. I've been watching the news in Russia. It seems like the underworld organizations here aren't really peaceful. Follow Mr. Ray back home if he finds you. It's not

knew the siblings' family well, and the stronghold of the Island of Despair was in Russia. She had been paying attention to the news

paid even more attention to it when she knew she was going on a business trip to Russia with Luke.

knew the underworld scene was in chaos now when she saw the news broadcasting about what they had done. Thus, she kindly reminded Vivian

Ray didn't tell me anything about it. I didn't know..." Vivian was

make sure that you're safe. I'm not going to bother you now, and I should leave." Luca asked to leave when she saw that Vivian was much calmer

Chapter 1998

In the hotel.

Vivian was drinking water after she swallowed the pill Luca gave her. Then, she was getting ready to rest.

The doorbell rang when she had just sat on the bed.

Vivian frowned. Could Luca have left her belongings behind, so she came back for them?

Vivian headed to the door and remembered what Luca had told to her. The underworld scene in Russia was chaotic now.

Ray's group was formidable. A big tree would attract the woodman's ax. A few smaller groups were green with envy over their family's success. However, they always had bodyguards with them, and that was why they had been safe.

Vivian was also under Ray's protection. She never went out alone as two bodyguards would always follow her. Hence, nothing had ever happened to her.

Now, Vivian was here alone. Perhaps those groups had received the news and they were planning to do something bad to her.

Vivian was alerted. She did not open the door right away. Instead, she chose to take a glimpse through the peephole on the door. No one was out there.

That person must be standing at the side of the door where she could not see.

Vivian was pretty sure that the person out there was not an ordinary person. If it were Luca or an attendant, they would have stood somewhere where she could see them through the peephole.

That person deliberately stepped away from the visible range of the peephole.

"Who is it?" Vivian raised her voice and asked while locking the chained lock.

"I'm sorry. I got the wrong room." A man's voice came from outside the door.

Vivian was so frightened that she dared not make a noise. She kept a close eye on the situation outside the door while looking through the peephole.

she heard the man's voice, she saw a man wearing black pass by the

should be the man who pressed the

did not see anything again or hear anything outside the

behind the door for five minutes. After she made sure there was no one outside the door, she slowly walked back to

nerves relaxed at once. The effects of the medicine were

her head and said in a low voice, "Luca's pill works really

that, she lay down on the bed and fell deeply

In another hotel room.

who had just pressed the doorbell outside Vivian's room walked to the end of the corridor. Then, he swiped the card and entered the room.

dialed Gordan's phone number before he

"You found her?" Gordan asked.

Norton. She's staying in Ostin Hotel, Room 5034." The man took a box of cigarettes out of his pocket and took

you sure?" Gordan asked. The hotel was located far away from

truly did not want her to be found by them. Was that why she chose to stay in a hotel that

not afraid that the other underworld organizations would discover her whereabouts and kidnap her to

She was a stupid woman, indeed. She resorted to hiding somewhere, causing trouble for her *family*.

"I've confirmed it. Her name and her voice are the same," said the man as he put his phone aside. He pressed on the loudspeaker function. Then, he took his lighter out and lit his cigarette.

Vivian's voice was recognizable. Besides, the man had used professional voice recognition software to make a comparison. He was a hundred percent sure that the woman in that hotel room was Vivian.

"Alright. I got it. You won't take up any jobs related to this after accepting mine, right?" Gordan asked.

Gordan knew about Ray's matter.

However, this was the organization's affair. Although Gordan was Vivian's husband, the others knew Gordan was not part of Ray's organization.

That was why Ray had never helped Gordan solve his problems and difficulties.

After all, Gordan was a lone **wolf**.

"Of course," answered the man.

"Okay. I'll deposit the money into your bank account later." After that, Gordan hung up the call and deposited a huge amount of money into the man's bank *account*.

Even though Vivian was ugly, she had a high net worth because of her family and Ray.

However, *Gordan* did not feel bad about spending the *money*.

Finding Vivian was the only way to get true *freedom*.

Gordan sat on the chair while he smoked. He did not look for Vivian right away after knowing where **she was**.

He refused to look for her immediately. Vivian would get the wrong idea and think that Gordan was worried about her. If she eventually regretted asking for a divorce, he would not be able to make up for the losses.

divorce from Vivian had already been set in stone. He was not in a hurry

and read the contents of the divorce agreement again. His face darkened at

Vivian...

...

had been to a few clinics, yet she still could not get what she wanted. The clinics did not have the antibiotic as it was not widely used

had no choice but to

soon got dark as it was winter. Luca could only hail a taxi and return to

realized Luke and Jason were still busy with their work when she returned to the

not enter her room. Instead, she took off her coat and tied her hair up. Then, she walked into the

had already informed the reception to place some ingredients in the fridge before she went out

the fridge and saw some fresh ingredients inside. She smiled and began to

she prepared Jason's portion

had noticed that Jason seemed to be alright with having Russian food when they were at Gordan's place. She thought Jason must have chosen to have dinner at the restaurant because of Luke.

that Jason was here working, preparing his portion was

later, Jason could smell the aroma of food in the air. He could not help but swallow his

Chapter 1999

Russian food tasted bland to them. Hence, Luca's home-cooked meal smelled so good that it made them hungry.

Jason was looking forward to it too.

Luca walked into the kitchen and took the plates and cutleries out. Then, she placed them in front of Luke and Jason. She said, "There aren't many ingredients and spices available here, so the food might not taste as good."

Spices such as oregano, rosemary, and thyme were not available in the hotel.

Luca tried using Russian ingredients to prepare Western food.

There were four dishes and soup on the table. Jason swallowed his saliva and suppressed the urge to immediately pick up his spoon to grab some of them.

After all, Luke was still here. He should not be in a rush.

Luca filled their bowls with soup for them. Just then, Luke's phone vibrated.

Luke picked up his phone, glanced at it, and said, "They've already decided on the meeting time."

"Boss, when is it?" Jason asked. They had been communicating with the office in the Capital for the whole day while they were busy with T Corporation's work matters.

After all, they had to delay their return dates. Hence, they did not waste their time while they were waiting here. Otherwise, their work would pile up. When they went back, they would have to work overtime.

"The day after tomorrow." Luke put his phone down.

"So, we'll have to wait until the day after tomorrow," Jason spoke hesitantly.

"Is there something you'd like to say?" Luke picked up his bowl and the spoon. Then, he took a sip of the soup. The taste of the soup was just like how it used to be. Perhaps it was because the soup did not need so many spices.

"Boss, I think the first party seems to be acting strange this time. They amended the requirements and postponed the meeting at the last minute. It seems like they're making things convenient for some companies," explained Jason. If Jason's analysis was correct, then their efforts that lasted for a few months would be in vain.

"It could be." Luke knew it well. However, he was not anxious about it even though they were doing such a thing.

"Boss, aren't you worried that—"

not going to decide on the winner in advance," said Luke. He was not worried

briefly understand what was going on with the

making things easier for certain companies, but they could not decide who would win

was why they postponed

reason why Luke could stay calm was that he had

did not say anything when he listened to Luke's tone of voice. He knew Luke must know something about

Luke was the boss. He had been in the business world for years. How could he not know what was going on?

not say a word. She sat down and began eating her dinner.

Corporation was meant to fail in this competition, with or without an insider in

a call from Ray after

them over to his villa for

agreed to go over, then he looked at Luca and said, "Ray invited us to his villa to meet him."

can I not go?" Luca asked. She reckoned Ray was still looking for Vivian. She was afraid that she could not help but blurt everything out if she followed them to

had promised Vivian not to tell

However, she could not bear to see Vivian's family worrying about her. That was why it would be best for her not to go to Ray's house.

"Give me a reason." Luke did not agree right **away**.

"I've been walking the whole day. I'm tired and would like to rest," replied Luca.

"Alright." Luke turned to look at Jason, who was still drinking his soup. He asked, "Are you done?"

"Boss, I'm done." Jason put down his bowl immediately. He had been eating Russian food for each meal since he came here. Luca's home-cooked food **was delicious**.

Therefore, he was reluctant to waste any of it.

Luke threw the napkin on the table and said to Jason, "Wipe your mouth and get ready to depart."

"Alright, Boss." Jason picked up the napkin and wiped his mouth. Then, he stood up, picked up his phone, and informed the hotel to get the *car ready*.

Jason pushed Luke, who was in his wheelchair, out of the suite after the hotel told him that everything was ready.

There was a sudden silence in the big suite, and Luca was left alone.

Luca did not feel relaxed even though Luke was not there. What she had done was like a rock sitting on her chest, and it made it difficult for her to **breathe**.

...

A driver from the hotel was driving the car. He sent Luke and Jason to Ray's villa.

Ray had sent someone to wait for them at the entrance once he knew that Luke and Jason had departed from their hotel. The hotel's car had just come to a halt. The man at the entrance came forward politely and helped Luke get out of the car.

However, the man who was sent to welcome them was not professional enough. Hence, he made Luke look like he was in a fluster.

Luke was reminded of Luca when he saw the cast on his **leg**.

petite, but she was strong and steady when she was helping him up.

who came to welcome them was embarrassed when he looked at Luke, who was sitting in his wheelchair. "I'm sorry, Mr. Crawford. I didn't mean

at the burly-looking man. He did not intend to hold him accountable. Instead, he asked, "Where's Mr. Ray?"

is already waiting in the house. Let me push you in," said the man.

dared not to let the man push Luke's wheelchair. He almost made Luke fall when he was helping Luke to get out of the

"I'll do it," said Jason.

man smiled embarrassedly and stood aside to make way for Jason. Then, he said, "I'm sorry. A tough guy like me has never done something like this

pushed Luke's wheelchair and reminded him, "Please lead the

This way, please." The man walked in front of them as he led the
of them walked across the front yard and into the
is right inside. Please go ahead," the man said
nodded and pushed Luke into
sat on the sofa in the living room while waiting for them. He stood up immediately when he saw them
coming in. "Luke,
Luke nodded.
Luke's wheelchair near the

Chapter 2000

Gale had some influence in Russia and knew that Ray was in search of Vivian.
Hence, when he was reporting Luca's whereabouts, he reported about Vivian as well.
However, Luke did not immediately tell Ray about it. After all, it was Ray's family issue. Previously, Ray
did not talk much about that incident, so Luke did not think that he should comment too much about it
either.
Ray believed in what Luke said, and neither would Luke lie to Ray. Hence, Luke immediately made a call
to his subordinates. He got them to head over to Ostin Hotel to look for Vivian.
"I didn't expect you to once again do me a big favor," Ray expressed his gratitude.
"My subordinate just happened to bump into her." Luke did not claim all the credit. If Ray really wanted
to thank someone, it would have to be Luca.
If it were not for Luca being nearby, she would not have bumped into Vivian.
He recalled that even in the past, Bianca was never bothered about Vivian's ugly appearance. She even
treated Vivian with warmth and gentleness.
"No matter what, you've done me a big favor. At the very least, I'm able to find her before any other
underworld organization. If she had been kidnapped, the consequences would be awful. As a token of
gratitude, this document is for you." Ray took out a document from the drawer of the coffee table and
passed it to Luke.
He had received it in the afternoon.
Luke accepted it and opened it to read the content. He lifted his brows.
"I guess that this document would be much more useful to you," said Ray. He was rather relieved once
he got to know Vivian's whereabouts.
"Indeed. Thanks a lot." Luke smirked. 'Perhaps he wanted to look for me just to pass this document to
me. This document came to me just in time.'

"As long as I'm able to help you out." Ray inched forth a little and poured the tea that had just been brewed into two teacups. "Now that you can't drink wine, let's drink tea instead. Cheers."

the teacup that Ray passed to him and gently clinked it against

Ray had done him a huge

...

In Ostin Hotel.

was asleep, she vaguely heard that someone was ringing the doorbell. She slowly opened her eyes and realized that there was really someone ringing the

sat up and looked at

It was already nighttime.

Luca's pill, she fell deep asleep like someone who had not slept for a very long time. If it were not for the doorbell, she might have even slept through the

pill's effect is much better than any sleeping pills sold on

rang once again, and Vivian put her guard up. She slowly walked to the door. She took a glimpse through the

was worried it might be the man from

person standing outside was wearing a hotel attendant's uniform. He was standing before the door and did not evade the peephole's visual range. Hence, Vivian could see

it?" She did not open the door instantly. Even though the person outside was wearing an attendant's uniform, he might be

from the housekeeping department of the hotel. I'm here to deliver your meal to you," the man at the door

"I **didn't** order any food." Vivian's guard was still up.

"**It was** your friend who ordered it on your behalf. We have the conversation record. Miss, please open the door," the attendant **explained**.

'**Could it** be Luca? Perhaps she left instructions to the receptionist before she left?'

Vivian kept looking through the peephole. Apart from the shadow of the hotel attendant, there were no other people. Hence, she opened **the door**.

She revealed half of her body and said to the attendant, "You can just hand me the *food*."

"Alright, Miss." The attendant pushed the meal cart to the front of the door when he noticed she was **being alert**.

Vivian placed one of her hands on the meal cart. When she noticed that the attendant was not intending to leave, she asked, "Anything **else**?"

"Miss, you have yet to return the meal cart from the time you ordered room service earlier today," the attendant *reminded*.

Vivian was still determined not to let him into the room. "Once I'm done eating, I'll put it in **the corridor**."

After saying it, she pushed the meal cart into the room and locked the *door*.

The attendant looked at the man who was standing in the doorway.

The man made a gesture.

The attendant nodded and passed him the duplicated access card. Then, he **left silently**.

was not in a hurry to open the door and just leaned on the corridor. He looked at the time and placed both his hands before his chest, not taking a step

In the room.

looked at the desserts in the meal cart, but she did not have

recalled what Luca said and sighed. Her emotions were much better after she slept. Even though she still missed Gordan and might even be sad, she felt much

I should eat and sleep on time. It's just a divorce. I'm only losing Gordan's insincere company. After all, I never once truly got the

would always wash everything away, including her unwillingness to leave

thinking about it while eating the

was almost done eating, she felt even

pill is so strong..." Vivian said as she lay on

15 minutes, Vivian's door was opened. The man in the

at Vivian who had collapsed on the sofa and went over. Without speaking a word, he carried her and left the

an hour, Vivian woke up and looked at the ceiling while blinking her

second, she noticed that she was not in the hotel. She was so terrified that she sat up. After looking at the familiar environment, she calmed

was Ray's home, which was her house in the past. It was her