

## **Be Gentle 2011**

### **Chapter 2011**

"I won't let you take the risk without a reasonable explanation," Luke said. Her complexion was doing much better, so he believed that she could participate in the meeting.

Jason was caught between them. He did not dare to breathe loudly for fear of being screamed at by either one of them.

Luca took a deep breath and quickly thought of a reason that could explain everything. "I was caught up with work and didn't pay much attention to the wound. It was infected with a type of fungus, but this fungus isn't ordinary. It took me some time to figure out what it was. I wrote a prescription for myself but forgot to bring it to Russia."

She did not take medicine in time, which caused the wound to be inflamed.

"What caused your wound?" Luke asked. If she gave him a reason, whatever it was, he would agree to let her attend the meeting.

He estimated that the meeting would not take too long as it was only an announcement of the results.

"I was robbed when I went to Amur's house. I resisted and got stabbed twice," Luca said.

Luke's expression was ashen. He did not believe her reason. It was only possible that the person hurt Luca when she was unguarded.

The person who could hurt her when she was unprepared must be someone familiar to her. He could be sure that the person who hurt her was not Amur.

Regardless, she had given him an explanation.

Moreover, he could launch an investigation in this direction.

"Pack up and let's get ready to go," Luke said.

a sigh of relief. She was glad that

Crawford, I'll go back to the room to get ready." She stood up, glanced at Luke, and walked back to

at the time, it was almost time. He deliberately wore casual clothes to buy breakfast to prevent his clothes from smelling like breakfast. He was still wearing casual clothes and had to change into a

I need to change as well,"

the table and go," Luke said as he maneuvered the wheelchair back to his

at the two closed doors and sighed. He felt unlucky. Luca was injured, so he had to run errands now. It did not matter to him. He had to eat, after

However, when it came to cleaning...

hotel had cleaning staff, so these plates could be left untouched. The place would likely be cleaned thoroughly after they got back from the

his boss was obsessed with cleanliness. The longer the leftovers were kept on the table, the stronger the smell would be in the suite. As such, the mess had to be cleaned

at the bag on the table and shook his head. 'Things would be different if these weren't

Luca had cooked the food, it would be fine even if it stank and rotted on the table because his boss

Jason tossed the packaging into the trash before he *left*.

In the room.

*Luca* changed into the suit she prepared beforehand. It was a slim fit but did not emphasize the gauze wrapped around her waist too much. She had always been petite, so even if she was wrapped in gauze and wearing such slim-fitting clothes, she did not appear plump.

She put on makeup.

**After** she put on makeup, she tied her hair up and walked out of the room holding her coat and *laptop*.

**Luke was** already waiting for her in the living room. He saw that she was dressed up and in high spirits. He said to her, "Be careful when you walk. Don't tear the *wound*."

"*I know*, Mr. Crawford." Luca's heart warmed. Luke touched on a lot of serious topics that day, and his tone was not **the best**.

Nevertheless, she knew that he cared about *her*.

**She would** be lying if she said she was not touched.

Luca and Luke walked out of the suite in tandem. Luke insisted that she should not push the wheelchair since she **was wounded**.

**Luca looked** at the laptop on his lap and asked, "Mr. Crawford, why don't I hold your *laptop*?"

said that, Luke stopped. He looked at the laptop in her hand and said, "Give me your

understood what he meant. She quickly shook her head. "No, this is not heavy. I can take

mood sank. 'She's holding several pounds. How could she say that it's not

was just sitting in a wheelchair and would be able to walk sooner or later. 'What does she think

don't want to, go back and rest." Luke gave her two options. It was either she give him the laptop and continue to follow him to the meeting or go back to the suite with the laptop

not think much of it. She carefully placed the laptop on his lap and said, "Is this

my calf, not my thigh that's injured." Luke reminded her of where he got injured. He thought it was not enough, so he said, "Also, I'm not

She did not mean that. She just thought that this man did not need to take everything as his responsibility. It was not just about the laptop but also in regards to

arrived at the hotel lobby where Jason was

that there were two laptops stacked on Luke's lap, Jason hurriedly walked forward and took the two laptops. Now, he had three laptops and a thick briefcase weighing more than ten kilograms in his

bad but from their previous conversation, she did not dare to offer

## **Chapter 2012**

"Thank you," Luke thanked him politely. Jason and the driver helped Luke out of the car and into his wheelchair.

Luca got out of the car as well.

The three walked into the lobby of M Group together and bumped into Pierre.

"Hey, Mr. Crawford." Pierre grinned happily when he saw Luke. The hotel he booked was different from Luke's, so he had not seen him for the past few days. He was slightly upset that he could not find fault with Luke.

Although he had been a having good time in Russia the last few days, he had not seen Luke. He could only think about how depressed Luke would look after the meeting. He wanted to mess with him.

"Second Young Master," Luke called out to him to remind him that no matter how capable he was, he was second in line in the Mallory family.

The heir of Mallory's had long been designated as Percy, who was the eldest son, by Old Master Mallory.

Pierre's mood darkened immediately. He understood the reason for the change in addressment.

Luke was reminding him that he was not as good as Percy just because he was born a few years later!

"Luke, do you think all is well since you're the eldest son of the Crawford family and Old Master Crawford personally appointed you to manage T Corporation?" Pierre stopped smiling and put on a gloomy expression. "Have you ever thought that after this meeting, your younger brother, Louis, will be appointed to replace you?"

After this tender, Luke would have caused T Corporation to suffer losses one incident after another. If someone secretly instigated the shareholders, maybe the group would have to change management.

that time, Pierre would just sit and watch the

possible. It might happen to Louis, but not you," Luke said. Louis only did what he was interested in. He would not be interested in taking over

Louis and Pierre were heirs of their respective families. However, the two were completely

would only rely on dishonorable means to get the attention of Old

not care about the life or death of the Mallory family members. He only cared about protecting his interests. He was completely different

course, Louis isn't me. If I were Louis, I'd just hit the wall and kill myself," Pierre said with a stern expression to show his disdain

was different from him as Pierre and Percy shared the same parents. Percy was a few years older than him, so he had the

elders of the Mallory family did not want to see the brothers fighting, so he had been doing things without Percy's knowledge for the past few years. On the surface, they had a

was not that he did not want to fight but that he could not

Louis was different. He was Luke's half-brother, and his mother was his father's original wife. Even though he was a little younger than Luke, he still had an advantage. He was first in line. Luke was nothing but a son who had to hide in the

top of that, Susan had accumulated connections within the Crawford family over the years. Louis had no intention of fighting, so he gave Luke the inheritance and let him manage T Corporation. Meanwhile, he ran a small studio by himself.

**Pierre** thought that Louis had wasted his chance and looked down on him.

"*Louis is* disdainful of what you did before, but you're lucky to have Old Master Mallory behind you. Otherwise, you wouldn't be standing here right now," **Luke said.**

*Although* Old Master Mallory was angry at what Pierre did, he could not just watch his grandson get locked up.

*If* this was the case, the Mallory family would lose their *reputation*.

As such, Old Master Mallory scolded Pierre but still helped him sort out the mess behind his **back.**

Otherwise, he would not be able to stand in front of Luke so **arrogantly.**

"*What nonsense* are you talking about?!" Pierre's expression darkened. He was in a bad mood when he thought about the criticism he had received in the last few **weeks.**

"I've looked into what you did. Pierre, continue with what you're doing. Let's see how much Old Master Mallory can handle for you." Luke gave Jason a look when he finished talking.

Jason understood him and pushed Luke toward the **elevator.**

**Pierre** watched them leave and could not help but say, "Luke, let's see how long you can act proud. Investigate me? We'll see if you have time to investigate me after today! Maybe you might even have to ask me to do you **a favor!**"

Pierre's choice of words was

past two incidents, he seemed very certain that Luke would not win

be that he knows I've stolen the proposal? If this is the case, he must be up to something.' Pierre was such a vicious person. He would use it as blackmail material and

she had hurt him before. Someone revengeful like him would not let her go so easily if he

he just seemed sure that Luke would not win the bid and did nothing

followed Luke into the elevator and glanced at Pierre before the

He was still glaring at Luke.

the two confronted each other, Pierre's expression was not calm. He had lost his demeanor, while

lowered her head and glanced at him secretly. He looked normal, unaffected by what

she was overthinking and Pierre was just blindly confident, thinking that T Corporation would not win the

glanced at the elevator doors and said in a neutral tone, "The

## **Chapter 2013**

The receptionist shook his head to interrupt Jason and politely turned him down with a smile, "I'm sorry, this is what the CEO ordered."

Jason looked at Luke helplessly. He did not expect someone to stop them.

"The briefcase," Luke said.

Jason immediately handed the briefcase to Luke.

Luke took out a file from the briefcase and handed it to the receptionist. "Can you hand this document to your CEO?"

"What is this?" the receptionist asked.

"Documents not related to this tender. However, these documents are important to him," Luke said.

The receptionist hesitated. If there was money or something else in the file, he would be criticized if he handed it to the CEO.

The CEO had been furious since he knew that some departments were secretly changing the bidding requirements. He postponed the meeting, scolded the relevant personnel, and imposed administrative penalties. Some people even lost their jobs.

He dared not take the risk.

"This is a document related to your CEO. I'll only hand it over this time," Luke added.

If what Luke said were true, the receptionist might lose his job if he turned down the document.

here. I'll deliver the file to the boss." The receptionist agreed, took the file, and walked to the

you sure the CEO of M Group will agree to see you?" Jason returned to standing

"Definitely," Luke said.

to the conversation between the two and did not say anything. 'Why does Luke want to meet the CEO of M Group? Is it because of

what the receptionist said, the CEO of M Group seemed to attach great importance to this bid. He was insistent on upholding fairness

Still, Luke insisted on seeing him.

not how he usually

was even more curious about the file he had handed to the

while, the receptionist who had just left returned and said respectfully, "Mr. Crawford, Mr. Marcos saw the document and said he wants to meet you. Please come with

me here," Luke said and maneuvered his

walked behind him and said, "I'll push

Luke and the receptionist left. She became even more curious as to what information was in the

*She* did not ask because maybe Jason did not know either.

"**Dr. Craw**, are you tired?" Jason asked out of **the blue**.

"**I'm not** tired." Luca shook her head. She had great strength to begin with. She was wearing flat shoes today, so she was not tired even after standing for a long time.

"**Okay**," Jason nodded and asked, "Do you know what's in the document that Boss handed over?"

"**I don't** know. Do you know?" Luca was a little curious. 'Hasn't Jason been carrying the briefcase the entire time? Won't he know what the document is about?'

"I don't. Although the file has been by my side, I never dared to open it since the boss didn't say anything," Jason said. He thought it was hopeless for them to meet the CEO of M Group, but unexpectedly, the CEO wanted to meet with Luke after Luke handed the file **over**.

*It* seemed that the document in the file, as Luke said, was important to the *other party*.

As Luke's special assistant, the most important thing was to protect the boss' privacy. Jason would never explore the secrets that Luke did not want to be **known**.

*Jason* did a great job. Otherwise, Luke would not have kept him around for so long.

In the office of M Group's *CEO*.

**The receptionist** pushed Luke in. "Boss, Mr. Crawford from T Corporation is here."

"I see. You can leave now." Marcos stood up and walked to Luke. He knew a little about each bidder, so he was aware that Luke had gotten into an accident. As such, he was not at all surprised when he saw him in a *wheelchair*.

bent down and held out his hand politely. "Hello,

Luke held out his hand and shook it

prepared coffee. He invited Luke to the table and said, "Mr. Crawford, coffee

for the hospitality." Luke took a polite sip and put down the coffee. He looked at the man across from him and waited for him

at the time. It was almost time for the meeting, so he skipped the small talk and went straight into it.

"Mr. Crawford, I don't have much time, so I'll get straight to the point. How did you get

gave it to me," Luke

did he give you the document?" Marcos continued to ask. That document was important to him because it was about his

also wondered why such an important file was given to Luke and not directly to

person wanted something for it, it would make more sense for them to talk to him directly since they could find out this information. What Luke gave, he could

is useless to him, but he thinks it'd be useful to me," Luke said while he rubbed the briefcase with

do you want?" Marcos asked

don't worry. I have another file that you need." Luke took out another file from

## **Chapter 2014**

Marcos, who was used to making deals, was stunned by what Luke said. He asked, "That's it?"

"Yeah, that's it," Luke affirmed.

"I don't need to let you win the bid?" Marcos was still in shock. 'He doesn't care about the bidding but wants to see other people's bids?'

"No, I'm very confident in my company's proposal," Luke said firmly.

Marcos was even more puzzled. Since he was confident, why would Luke want him to disclose all the bidders' proposals?

"Since you're so confident and you're asking for the proposals to be made public, are you worried that the result will not be fair and just? You can rest assured that I'm keeping watch myself. It'll be judged according to the various proposals as well as the strength of each company."

"You're known for being fair and impartial in the industry. To be honest, I asked you to do this not for fear of unjust results but for my personal affairs," Luke said vaguely.

"Your personal affairs?" Marcos was even more surprised that such a good exchange was concerning Luke's personal affairs.

'Luke's an interesting man.'

He did not think for long before he agreed. "No problem. I'll arrange for it."

"It's a pleasure to work with you." Luke knew he would agree. After all, he would not lose anything by making the proposals public.

"I can say the same." Marcos put away the documents, glanced at the time, and reminded him, "Mr. Crawford, the meeting is about to start. I want to avoid unnecessary gossip and trouble. You should go to the conference room first."

Luke took control of the wheelchair and left Marcos'

and Jason were still standing at the elevator doors waiting for him. When they saw Luke approaching, Jason hurriedly went behind him and pushed the

"Boss, all is well?" Jason asked.

Let's go downstairs to the conference room." Luke glanced at Luca and did not talk

his neutral tone, Luca was unsure what he talked to Marcos about and how it

three of them arrived at the 23rd floor and walked into the conference room. Almost all the bidders from all over the world had

pushed Luke to find the seat for T Corporation. He put the chair aside. Luke took the space assigned to T Corporation on

Their location was relatively front.

a look around. The seats were positioned according to the size of their

Jason sat in the assistants' seats respectively. They turned on the computer and prepared the related equipment before

company was the same. If their company won the contract, they would record this

**Pierre, who** was sitting in the back. He was upset when he saw Luke come in late and sit in the *front seat*.

'**Why** does T Corporation get to sit so front? The other companies are all multinational groups. Who does Luke think he is to sit with them?'

**Pierre** sat sloppily and ignored people from the company next to him who wanted to strike up *a conversation*.

*He stared* at Luke's back. He was unhappy, jealous, and puzzled. Luke went up before he did but arrived at the conference room earlier than Luke.

*He* was wondering where Luke **went**.

*Pierre* was startled thinking of how confident Luke sounded previously. 'Does he have connections within *M Group*?'

'**If** he has connections... I have the same bid as Luke. Although I submitted earlier, T Corporation can fake the time **of submission**...'

Pierre clenched his fists tightly.

*Mr. Peralta* sat beside him, not daring to breathe too **loud**.

*Pierre's body* language was telling him that he was fuming. It was better that he kept quiet.



Five minutes later, Marcos walked in with his assistant. After the assistant made a simple speech, he said, "In this bidding, M Group will mainly focus on the contents of the proposal paired with the strength of each company. We'll choose the most suitable partner on the grounds of fairness and justice."

the audience did not speak. They were all companies with certain strengths and had gone through meetings as such many

just as the results were about to be announced, nervous expressions were still seen across the  
a big project,

the equipment, noticed everyone's expressions, and glanced at Luke

expression was calmer than everyone else's. It was as if the result of this bidding had nothing to do  
that this was not an expression of victory but

at everyone, then glanced at Luke before he said, "Before the results are announced, I've decided to  
show everyone the bids that were submitted to us to

everyone looked at each other and wondered about

Group had never mentioned anything about

waiting for everyone to ask questions, the proposals were displayed on the

told his assistant before the meeting, so she calmly displayed the bidding prices and drawings from the  
various

## **Chapter 2015**

Whether it was the content of the bid or the capability of the company, they were on the losing end...

They had not only lost, but they also failed to embarrass T Corporation in public as Pierre wished.

When T Corporation's proposal was displayed, there were a lot of compliments. Luke kept looking at the screen and did not react.

He was waiting for the proposal that Luca took.

Marcos' assistant continued to show the proposals.

Marcos sat on the chair and looked at everyone with a smile. However, what he was most curious about was Luke's expression.

The meeting went on, and many companies took the opportunity to learn from their competitors. After all, there was only one person who could win the bid, but it was rare to have an opportunity to look at the proposals of others.

They could pinpoint the strengths of each company. Anyway, there would be more opportunities to compete in the future.

Luca was stunned when she saw T Corporation's proposal.

It was not the one she stole.

The translation seemed to be different from the contents displayed on the screen.

Luca frowned. The design was kept secret, so she did not touch it when she was translating the documents. However, she had seen the design draft when she was taking photos.

She was an architectural design major, so she was very sensitive to designs. She could remember them at a glance.

The design in front of her was completely different from the one she stole!

it be that Luke knew that I was going to steal the bidding document, so he prepared another one in advance just to pull me

felt more and more uneasy. She saw Luke's calm profile. Most companies would not bother to display all the proposals, but Marcos suddenly decided to do

it be that Luke went in to exchange terms with Marcos not to qualify but to show every proposal in front mind was blank. She looked at the contents of this unfamiliar tender and thought that the document she translated was

felt something was wrong, so when they redid the proposal, they kept things from

lowered her gaze. Maybe after this meeting was over, she had to leave

not think that they would only reunite for such a short time.

said he liked her, but she had not expressed her

it was a good thing that she had not said anything. Maybe Luke was just lying

Abel knew that the plan had failed, he would make her go back to the Island of Despair. At that time, she would be useless to him. She would go back to the Island of Despair to become a lab rat or a tool to complete

not afraid of the future. She was just heartbroken that she was about to leave Luke. She regretted that she had once again failed to say goodbye to the

she was also thankful that Luke was not

at Luke's side profile sadly. She felt tears welling up in her eyes and immediately raised her head, trying to hold back

'Luke, I'm sorry...'

**Luca** murmured in her heart. She did not even bother to look at the proposals of other *companies*.

There were more and more proposals on display. Luke had not seen the extra one he prepared with Jason.

'Will it not appear?'

His expression turned serious.

Luca noticed the change in his expression. She felt more and more anxious. Sure enough, he was looking for **the tender**.

*It* did not matter whether that bidding document was used or not. Luke would not be embarrassed if he did not win *the bid*.

**However**, if the contents of the document were the same, she had no way to explain it!

*This* continued until the proposal for Pierre's company was shown. Luke **frowned**.

*This* was the extra tender he and Jason prepared. Luca was responsible for the translation of *this tender*.

It was the copy she took...

It was in Pierre's hands!

How was it possible?!

**Luke** rationalized it and thought that it was impossible that Luca was being controlled by Pierre. Three years ago, his relationship with Pierre was okay. He had no reason to **kidnap Luca**.

he was ruthless, Pierre was not able to plot

fact that this bid was in the hands of Pierre did not prove that he was the one controlling Luca. What happened three years ago should have nothing to do

may be that the person who was controlling Luca had sold the bid to

running through all the possibilities in his mind and thought that it was the most feasible

was no secret that Pierre wanted to compete with him. That person deliberately sold the bidding document to Pierre so that he would compete with

collect money and watch the drama unfold. If the proposal was real, he could also hit T Corporation

the person who controlled Luca and Pierre must have never imagined that the fake proposal was the game he set for

looked at the screen in despair when she noticed that Luke's expression had changed

That was the tender she stole!

It was Pierre!

sold the bid to Pierre, then Pierre modified the relevant information. He used it to join the

The contents had not been changed.

must know this. After all, this was

that Pierre had pushed her to a dead

**Chapter 2016**

This was great news, but Luca was not happy.

After this meeting, she had to face Luke. She did not know how to explain herself.

‘Should I escape?’

The only way that Luca thought that she could avoid having to explain anything was to escape.

After the results were announced, the meeting was over. There was a lot of commotion around, but all she could only hear were words of congratulations.

Luke should be very happy. He always had his eye on this project. Since this project was in hand now, it meant that T Corporation would expand to the Russian market.

At the same time, this project would cover the loss of Dr. Albus’ project so that T Corporation could survive the crisis. The shareholders would not make a scene.

Luca sat there and looked at Luke, who was greeted with envious glances from various companies. At that moment, he was the most attention-grabbing person in the venue.

It was indeed a good day, but it was unfortunate that she would also have to leave Luke’s side.

In the past three years, she endured all the hardships and training that broke the limits of her human body. The thought of Nyla kept her holding on, along with Luke and their other children.

Luca knew that Abel trained her to get revenge on Luke. She kept training not to help Abel but to have a chance to meet Luke.

She was happy if she could even sneak a glance.

After they met, she was still deeply in love and unwilling to part once more. A few months were not enough for her.

However, that did not matter.

congratulations!" Jason took the lead in congratulating Luke. Luke had won this project and solved the immediate

worked hard," Luke said. He was very satisfied with the result. At the same time, what made him feel even more satisfied was not getting the project but knowing that the fake bid was in the hands

was not sure that he would find it. After all, the person behind Luca needed the bidding document perhaps because they wanted to know the reserve price of

proposal was bought by Pierre. Not only did he not modify the main content, but he also copied it word for word and sent

why Luke recognized it

‘Interesting...’

at Luca and said softly, "You've worked

at Luke, the serious expression he had just now had disappeared. He was calm as usual. There was a smile on the corner of his mouth that represented his mood at the moment. He did not look Crawford, congratulations." She felt that her voice was hoarse. It took several seconds for her to utter congratulated him for getting the congratulated herself for failing the she failed and had to leave, it was okay. At least she did not end up Luca comforted herself.

*Luke saw* her expression. She was smiling, but she seemed like she was about to break into tears. He knew what was going on and said, "Everyone has contributed to this. We'll go back to the hotel later **and celebrate!**"

"Okay." Luca thought of leaving when they were done celebrating. It was the last time she would be **with him**.

After the meeting, Marcos' assistant went over and aligned with Luke's schedule so they could sign *the contract*.

*The signing* of the contract would not be completed so soon. M Group had to prepare the contract, and the lawyers from T Corporation had to come over to discuss the terms together. Therefore, the first meeting was set to be in three *days*.

Pierre glanced at Luke, snorted coldly, and left *the venue*.

Luke gave Jason a look. Jason nodded and left the venue *as well*.

He did not leave to follow Pierre. Instead, he took the opportunity to inform Gale to investigate and **follow Pierre**.

*No one* expected the proposal to end up in Pierre's hands. After Percy's issue was sorted, Luke withdrew those who were **investigating Pierre**.

*However, it* was time to continue investigating Pierre *now*.

Jason called Gale. After he conveyed Luke's order, he returned to the *venue*.

**Luke was** discussing with Marcos' assistant. Jason walked over and asked, "Boss, are you sure it'll be in **three days?**"

nodded and said, "Pack up and let's go back to

Boss." Jason breathed a sigh of relief. He packed his laptop and related equipment, preparing to

at Luca, who was in a trance. He reminded her, "We're heading back to the

Crawford." Luca followed behind

On the other hand.

left the venue and sat in the car when Mr. Peralta got in. When the door closed, Mr. Peralta made a noise, so Percy glared and roared at him, "Can't you be

Mr. Peralta shivered. He buckled his seat belt carefully, then whispered to the driver to send them back to the

in a bad mood. Nevertheless, he was relieved when he saw T Corporation's bidding document. The two proposals were different, so he did not need to be

Peralta looked at Pierre's expression through the rearview mirror. He looked angry like he was about to could not afford to say anything, so he would not provoke

out his phone. He was pissed that he was lied to

had spent the money but lost his dignity and the

Abel, but a woman picked up instead. "Who is

## **Chapter 2017**

"What kind of relationship?" Pierre was so angry that he was no longer rational.

He lost a lot of money, and the unexpected results made him lose his mind. He could not vent at Luke, so he had to find Abel.

Hera rolled her eyes and wondered if Pierre was stupid or acted with intention!

"It's the kind of relationship where he would come to me occasionally and give me pocket money." She did not make things too clear because she wanted to save her dignity.

At the same time, she did not want to show that she was close with Abel. After all, he had so many enemies. She did not want to get in trouble.

Pierre understood and sneered. He saw Hera as an escort who was willing to do anything as long as there was money involved.

"What are you laughing at?" Hera was annoyed. His laughter was full of contempt. How dare he think of her as an escort?

"You're such an arrogant escort. What's wrong with me laughing at you?" Pierre said grimly. He thought of her as a woman who could be bought with money.

There were a lot of women as such.

"You!" Hera was so angry. She was thinking about how to fight back when she heard him say, "I'll make you an offer for you to help me find Abel."

"You're delusional!" Hera yelled into the phone. She turned him down without thinking about it.

"20,000." Pierre offered her in a cold tone.

Hera was stunned. He went straight to 20,000 for the first offer. He seemed to be rich, but she could not find Abel even if she wanted to. "I can't find him."

Pierre continued. He had spent so much on the proposal, so he did not care about money now. He just wanted to find Abel and teach him

Hera was tempted by the jump.

were 400,000 on the line if she could

for Abel? I can try, but I may not be able to find him. I need a deposit. The deposit will not be refunded if I can't find him." Hera shifted her eyes, her mind

might not be able to find Abel, so she added a

is the deposit?" Pierre asked

20 percent. If I find him, you can pay the remaining 80 percent." Hera did not hide how greedy

give it to you," Pierre said. "However, if you're not serious about helping me find him, just you

knew her phone number and could locate her in minutes if he returned to A City. Hence, he was fine about making

she did not give it a proper go, he could still find someone to make

listened to his sinister tone, and her brain that was focused on the money suddenly sobered up. Those who knew Abel were nothing

more, the man on the other end of the phone had offered 400,000 dollars and was willing to pay a deposit of

He knew her phone number, and all numbers were verified by real names. This man should have the ability to find **her**...

Hera regretted her decision.

**Nevertheless, Pierre** did not give her a chance to regret it. He asked, "Give me your account number."

*Hera took* a deep breath, told him her account number, and asked, "Aren't you afraid that I'm lying **to you**?"

"*I'm not* afraid." Pierre snorted coldly. "No one has ever dared to lie to me. Except for Abel, others who've lied to me are no longer in this world. You know what will happen to you if you lie to *me*, right?"

**Hera's lips** trembled with fright at his words. She could not say anything for *some time*.

**After a while**, Pierre said, "I've already transferred the money. Help me *find Abel*."

**As soon** as he finished speaking, Hera heard the notification that the money had been transferred. She had thought about getting one of the bags that caught her eye after she received the deposit, but she lost the mood to do so now. All she wanted was to find Abel as soon as **possible**.

"I know. Goodbye." She hurriedly hung up the phone and looked at the deposit that had just arrived in her account. She wanted to cry, but she could *not*.

...

The other side.

**Luke left** M Group after a long discussion.

the car, Luke was on his phone the entire time, updating the employees of T Corporation. There was still a lot to do after they won the

listened to Luke's call with Mr. Zac. She lowered her gaze and

they left M Group, Luke did not mention the tender at

She felt uneasier now.

was not a kind person. He would never be merciful toward those who had betrayed him. Luca knew that she may face his interrogation and

However, she did not resent him...

was managing the signing through the phone. He was not finished with it when he got out of the car at

was carrying his laptop and equipment while pushing

not think about helping. She

were back in the suite, and she did not say a word. She went straight to her room and closed the

down his laptop and equipment. He turned around and looked at

apparent that he was concerned about Luca's situation even though he was discussing work with his

## **Chapter 2018**

"During this time, I'll have Rain help monitor Luca." Luke was not worried about anything else. He was just worried that Luca would disappear.

As such, he had arranged for Rain to watch over Luca.

If she disappeared because of this, he was not sure where to find her.

"Okay." Jason did not worry when he saw that Luke planned everything out.

Luca had been hiding in the room and did not come out. She looked at the gorgeous decorations. The emotions that filled her heart were guilt, helplessness, and sadness about their upcoming separation.

In the evening, Luke knocked on her door and asked, "Are you in there?"

When she heard his voice, Luca got up from the sofa slowly and went to open the door for him.

"Mr. Crawford, is everything okay?" she asked.

Luke raised his head slightly. He found that her expression was normal, and her eyes were not red. In three years, she had grown a lot.

A woman who used to cry out of frustration when faced with difficulties could now face everything calmly.



She could even face him calmly.

If he could, Luke wanted to tell her that she did not have to act so tough.

However, he could not tell her what was on his mind. "You seemed off since you came back from M Group. What's wrong?"

words startled Luca. 'Didn't he long ago notice that something was

tender was placed in the safe to trap her. No one has been on the second floor of the villa, and the maid was trustworthy. He would surely suspect her since she was the only one

I'm just tired." Luca could not figure out what was going on with Luke. She got more suspicious but had to pretend that nothing

He was worried about the injury on her waist. "Is your injury

a little tiring since we got up early and ran around all morning." Luca shook her head. She could not use the wound as an excuse because he would definitely send her to the hospital if he

he had not expressed his love for her recently, Luca was not a heartless person. She knew that he cared about

do you feel now?" Luke asked. When Ray found out that he had won the M Group project, he invited them to his place for dinner to

need some rest. Mr. Crawford, what do you need me to do?" Luca looked

something thicker and go out with me," Luke said. He did not tell her that they were going to Ray's

'Go out? Where are we going?'

was apprehensive, she nodded because she believed that even if she did not know where they were going, he would not use the same means against the fake Bianca

wanted to deal with her, he would have done it when they were in the car. He did not have to

"Okay." Luca suppressed the unease in her heart, nodded in agreement, and went out **with him**.

**After she** changed, Luca opened the door. At that moment, Jason was standing in the living room of the suite. When he saw her come out, he smiled and said, "Dr. Craw, I heard from the boss that you're a little tired. Are you feeling better now?"

"I'm doing much better. Thank you for your concern." Luca nodded. She noticed the joy in **Jason's expression**.

*That was* fair. The employees of T Corporation had been busy for several months and finally got the project. With this, T Corporation's crisis was **successfully eliminated**.

"That's good."

As soon as Jason finished speaking, Luke opened his door. He had already changed into a more casual outfit. He was nothing like his serious self in the corporate world. There was a more refined softness to him now.

Luca lowered her gaze. The more she looked at him, the more reluctant she **felt**.

"**Let's** go." Luke looked at Luca and noticed that she did not dare to look at him. He **felt helpless**.

"Boss, I'll push you," Jason said quickly.

**Luca** did not speak and followed the two of them out of the hotel. They got into the car.

*She* noticed that the car they got in was not the car arranged by the hotel in the morning. The car that picked them up was much *more luxurious*.

**The** curtains on the car were closed, so she could not see where she was going and what road they were **taking**.

her eyes. She was fine no matter where the man was about to take her. She betrayed him and deserved to be punished. She should not be nervous about what was

she knew Luke would not hurt her, she thought that it would be a good thing if Luke could personally take

if she could never see her kids, including Nyla, the pain of being alive could at least

not speak since she kept quiet. He continued to deal with T Corporation-related matters in

the acquisition of the project had stabilized the hearts of T Corporation's investors and shareholders, he had never stopped working on acquiring T Corporation's

had a lot of matters involving T Corporation and Dr. Albus to deal

away from the screen and glanced at Luca, who was dozing

in the car was silent. Jason, who was in the front passenger seat, glanced behind him and found that the curtain was drawn. They were completely

people behind were not saying a word. It was so quiet that it seemed like no one was sitting

boss did not speak to Dr. Craw, Jason could not say anything either. He picked up his phone and started chatting with Sue. It has been a few days since he came to Russia. He missed Sue and his two

The car drove for a while.

said to Luke, "Mr. Crawford, we're already here. You can get down

## **Chapter 2019**

This scene, although depressing, was also beautiful.

Luke noticed that she had been looking at the garden and suddenly remembered that she, like Queenie, was interested in gardens and such.

She would surely like such an ancient European-style garden.

"Do you like the style?" Luke asked.

Luca was stunned when she heard his question. She glanced at the others, and none of them seemed inclined to answer him.

Luke was looking at her. He was asking her.

"This style is very rare. It's gorgeous. It should be beautiful in spring," Luca did not answer him straight and commented objectively.

A lot of space was needed to create such a garden.

Ordinary villas had limited garden areas, so it was usually difficult to create such a style. One could only see this style of gardens in ancient castles.

Although the leaves of the plants in the garden had fallen off, Luca could still recognize some of the plants. They would grow and bloom more beautifully after vernalization.

"Miss, you're right. These plants will indeed bloom beautifully when spring comes," the maid on the side said.

Luke did not say anything else. He thought that there were very few lands with such a large area in the country. What was more, the current land division was very clear. He needed a large piece of land to create the garden that Luca liked.

He was thinking about which land in A City was suitable.

The few of them walked through the garden path. After they passed the section that was under repair, the maid took them to the main road, where there were already sightseeing cars waiting.

sighed in her heart. They were in a castle, not

last time she came, she had come in with a car. She did not know there were special sightseeing cars

cold. Please get in the sightseeing car," the maid said as he opened the door of the

three got onto the sightseeing car and arrived at the

got out of the car and looked at Ray and Vivian, who were waiting at the door. She was slightly

Vivian was back.

originally thought that Vivian would be alone in the hotel for a while to calm down before she came

at her, saw the surprise in her eyes, and knew that Ray had not

not Luca who told Ray that she was in Ostin

congratulations." Ray stepped forward, reached out his hand, and sincerely

project, several friends around him had expressed their interest to participate. However, they eventually lost to T

project was highly profitable, and the competition was strong. It mainly consisted of surprised and happy that Luke was able to get this project. Hence, he immediately offered to celebrate with

*Luke did* not refuse, so Ray sent someone to pick them **up**.

"Thank you." Luke shook his hand politely and looked at Vivian. Sure enough, Ray had brought her home. "Miss Vivian, good afternoon."

*"Brother Luke, good afternoon."* Vivian unconsciously greeted him how she used to. She was stunned as soon as she **finished speaking**.

He called Luke 'Brother' because Gordan used to call him that. She just went along with it.

However, as she was separated from Gordan now, she should not refer to Luke as 'Brother'. Vivian realized this and smiled awkwardly. "Mr. Crawford, I'm sorry."

*"It's just* a title. I'm good friends with Ray. You and Ray are a little younger than me. It's alright if you call me 'Brother'." Luke did not mind. He had heard about what **happened**.

Ray told him most of it.

Although Vivian had an ugly face and was different from other women, her sincerity to Gordan was much more than what most of the women around Gordan could offer him.

**It** was a pity that Gordan did not want her sincerity. The two could not get together in **the end**.

**He** did not make any judgments since both sides were his friends. He did not intend to intervene in how either party would deal with the matter.

**Vivian did** not expect Luke to say these words and shyly said, "Brother, Luca, Mr. Doyle, come in. It's cold outside."

They walked into the villa while being led by Ray **and Vivian**.

**Luca** looked at the decorations inside. The place did not look like this in the past. However, it was normal since it had been a few years.

"Please take a seat," Ray said.

sat in his wheelchair, while the others sat on the Nordic-style leather

maids brought a range of drinks and

They were all snacks.

said, "The main course is still being prepared. I know that you're not very interested in Russian food, so I invited a chef to prepare Western food for you. This meal is to celebrate T Corporation winning the you." Luke picked up the teacup. Ray knew that he could not drink alcohol due to his leg injury. He prepared tea for

Mr. Ray," Luca and

five of them toasted and clinked glasses. Ray and Luke talked about the situation in Russia. Ray had a lot of gossips to share about the

Luca listened absently.

that she was not very interested in the topic, so she said, "Luca, do you want to do a house

glanced at Luke and nodded.

go." Vivian smiled and put down the

also put down the teacup. When she stood up, Luke said softly, "Don't get too

## **Chapter 2020**

Luca stared at the gleam in Vivian's eyes. She knew Vivian was just reminiscing about the past to conceal her sorrows.

Luca felt more deeply when she was able to understand how Vivian felt.

She could not bear to leave Luke too, but she had to face the cruel reality. What could she do even if she was reluctant to leave him?

"It would be enough as long as the memories are kept in our minds," Luca said in a soft, gentle voice, comforting Vivian and herself.

It was enough for Luca that she once used to live happily together with Luke.

Vivian gazed at Luca. What Luca said was right, and there was no way she could refute it.

"Luca..." Vivian could feel that the woman in front of her had been through a lot. Her sigh was filled with true feelings.

However, she was almost the same age as her ...

"Saying goodbye to someone means a new beginning in your life. Be happy." Luca added as she looked at the huge screen and the high-end sound system.

Luca knew it would be great to watch a movie here.

"You're right." Vivian nodded. She still could not get Gordan out of her mind now, but it was indeed a new beginning in her life.

Vivian looked at Luca's pretty face and recalled what she had promised her back then. She was forced to tell Ray about their promise to save Luca.

a good chance for her to apologize now.

I'm sorry." Vivian looked down and

and looked at her. She asked,

about the time you asked me to look for Amphotericin B. I promised to keep it a secret. After Ray told me that you were sent to the hospital due to a wound inflammation and finding out that you were in a

critical condition, I told Ray about what you're looking for. Then, Ray informed Brother Luke. I'm sorry, I didn't keep my promise," explained Vivian. She sounded sincere and wanted Luca's forgiveness.

blame you," replied Luca. Speaking of this, Luca would like to thank Vivian for telling

had not been for her, Luca had no idea how long the hospital would take to figure out what was responsible for causing the wound

other antibiotics did not work on her except for Amphotericin B.

don't blame me?" Vivian thought Luca would get angry as Luca looked like the kind of woman who was cold, strong, and capable instead of an

her head and looked at the woman in front of her. Luca was not putting on a show. It seemed like she had forgiven

it weren't for you, I'd probably still be lying in the hospital." Luca smiled bitterly.

you wouldn't. Ray had already contacted other doctors in a different hospital. They're the best doctors in Russia. You'd still be fine even if I hadn't told them about it," said

Luca shook her head.

**Even the** best doctors would need time to study and analyze the issue with her. The high fever might have caused brain damage by the time they figured out what medicine they should use.

Once the inflammation caused a high fever, normal antipyretics could not help to reduce the *fever*.

*Luca shook* her head without explaining.

Vivian knew there were certain things that Luca was reluctant to say, so she stopped asking questions. That was when the maid pushed the door open and walked into the private theater. She said respectfully, "Ms. Vivian, Ms. Craw, dinner is ready. Please make your way to the dining **room**."

**Luca stood** up. Vivian suddenly held her hand and said, "Come on, let me lead you *there*."

*"Alright."* Luca left the private theater together with Vivian and went to the dining room.

*Luke* and the others were already sitting at the dining table.

Luca and Vivian walked to the dining table and saw numerous dishes of fine Western cuisine. It was clear that Ray valued his friendship with Luke a *lot*.

**There were** only a few people having dinner. Even if Ray was celebrating Luke's success, there was no need to prepare so *much*.

*However*, Ray did just that. There were a variety of foods cooked in different methods.

**Luca glanced** at the dishes. There were a few dishes alike but prepared using different ingredients and techniques. She reckoned that the chef prepared more variety for them as he did not know their preferences.

**“Sorry we’re** late,” Vivian apologized to everyone sitting at the dining table before she sat down on her chair. Then, she showed Luca to her seat.

at them with surprise. When did Vivian and Luca become so

was still speaking up for Bianca and complaining that she could not understand why Luke would bring Luca along

seemed to be fond of Luca

Ray, as the host, ordered his maids. Then, everyone was served a bowl of

the chef prepared all these. He’s from your country. Have a taste.” It was rare to see Ray talking

you for the dinner." Luke glanced at Luca. The dishes seemed fine. Luca should be able to

glad that you like it." Ray smiled. Then, he gave the maids a meaningful glance. The maids left without disturbing them so that they could have

hardly any conversations going on at the dining

Luke followed table etiquette and did not talk when they were eating. It was only when they finished their dinner that Vivian asked, "Ray, did the kitchen prepare any desserts?"

there’s your favorite cake,” Ray nodded and

at Ray. She could see how much Ray pampered Vivian from his simple words.

was the younger brother and Vivian was the younger sister, the way they got along was more like an elder brother and his