

## **Be Gentle 2081**

### **Chapter 2081**

"What a monster!" Rage was burning inside Luca at the thought of those innocent women who had fallen into Matysh's trap. They could not seek justice because they were afraid of his power.

Luca had this urge to teach Matysh a lesson and make sure he got what he deserved.

Unfortunately, her days in Russia were numbered. Otherwise, she would have come up with a plan and fought for justice on behalf of those women.

Luke explained to her when he noticed Luca's expression, "So, M Group was supposed to appoint Matysh to be their CEO based on seniority. But his family members were unhappy with all the things that he did. Besides, he didn't have any descendants. Hence, he was only asked to return to the company to take over M Group when Marcos had just graduated from university."

Marcos was a capable man, but no matter how outstanding he was, his status in the family was lower due to his mother's humble upbringing.

If it were not for Matysh's wrongdoings, Marcos would not have had the chance to take over M Group.

Marcos did not waste the chance that was given to him. After he took over M Group, he reformed the company and took M Group to greater heights. Therefore, he managed to gain recognition from his family.

Luca nodded. Matysh and Marcos did not seem like they were related to each other.

M Group would be doomed to fail if it was in Matysh's hands. It seemed like their family knew about this too, and that was why they left the family business to Marcos.

It was a good choice.

"Mr. Crawford, you know Marcos' family history well." Luca turned to look at him.

"I have to conduct a background investigation if I'm going to cooperate with him. Ray gave me a document earlier, and it was about Marcos' family background. The document contains something that Marcos would like to know too. I gave it to him. In return, he introduced me to many of the nobles in Russia today," said Luke. He was aware of everything deep down in his heart.

Even though he got to meet these nobles, that did not mean he would have the chance to cooperate with them.

to earn the chance to cooperate with them. There was no way he could fight for it when the time had yet to come. The only way was to push T Corporation to a broader and wider international market. That way, the connections he built here could be put to

Luca finally knew what secret document Luke had handed to Marcos back then.

Marcos' family was clean-handed in doing business, there were still some matters that the others could not interfere with and look into.

cooks spoiled the

be used to describe Marcos' family which had been around for over a century.

someone easy to deal with. He wants you. I'm guessing he'll be making his moves soon. That's why I asked Mr. Doyle to book the flight tickets for tomorrow night. We'll go back home right away," said Luke. He was not planning to give Matysh the chance to harbor designs against his woman.

Luca nodded without opposing.

On the other hand.

watched Mr. Valentin return to the manor, he ordered him to put those executives who had passed out in bed. Then, he made his way up

had drunk a lot. He felt as though the world was spinning around him, but he insisted on making his way to Matysh's bedroom.

did not push the door open right away. Matysh was his senior, after all. He lifted his hand and knocked on the

it?" Matysh's voice came from inside. He sounded a little breathless as though he was furious and exasperated.

"Uncle, it's me," Marcos leaned against the wall and *answered*.

**"Come in."** Matysh did not open the door for him. He had never liked his **nephew**.

**He hated** him even more for ruining his plan today.

Marcos walked into his room and saw Matysh half-naked. He was venting his emotions on the punching *bag*.

**He** stood at the door, watching Matysh throw a few punches at the punching bag as though he was letting out all his feelings of dissatisfaction with it.

Marcos curled the corner of his lips.

**Matysh** kept punching the punch bag, and he had not heard anything from Marcos yet. Did he not come to apologize to him? Why did he remain silent after coming in?

**He** was truly that woman's son. He was an ill-bred who lacked courtesy!

"Don't you have something to say?" Matysh asked in a low **voice**.

*Marcos watched* Matysh constantly throwing his fists at the punching bag as though it was him and said, "I think it'd be better for me to talk about it after you're done practicing."

*Matysh stopped*. He narrowed his eyes and looked at the man in front of him, realizing that he had **misunderstood him**.

**Marcos came** to talk to him. He did not come to apologize.

looked at Marcos arrogantly and said, "Care to join me for a sparring match?"

I'd love to, but I drank a lot today. I'm afraid not." Marcos shook his head. He would spar with him if he had not drunk today. After all, he was pretty sure his boxing skills were not that bad

had been plied with drinks by Luke's subordinates today. Alcohol could make one excited, but it could numb one's nerves too.

was afraid that if he agreed to spar with Matysh, Matysh would take the chance to beat him to a pulp.

Matysh continued punching on the punching

thought standing there was not an option. After all, it was boring to watch Matysh keep hitting the punching bag.

that Matysh had almost stuck a photo of him on the punching bag to release his anger without even having to guess.

who came today are the partners for M Group's future project. I hope you won't have any inappropriate ideas toward any of them. If they terminate the contract because of this, we'll have to suffer a huge amount of losses. Uncle, if this happens, I'm afraid that you'll have to pay for the losses with your shares," Marcos

Matysh's personality, he would do whatever it took to get what he wanted the next day if he failed to get it

had to warn him beforehand to prevent him from destroying their

had always thought of cooperating with T Corporation before the tender. However, the directors in the company with their old-fashioned mindset disapproved of the idea of cooperating with any foreign companies. That was why a bid was

with the bidding document to convince them did they agree to the thought of cooperating with Luke's T

## **Chapter 2082**

The following day.

Luca was packing her luggage in the hotel room as they would be traveling back to the capital tonight.

The doorbell rang.

Luca recalled that the makeup artist had told her that she would be coming over to bring the dress and jewelry back. Hence, she walked out of her room.

She coincidentally ran into Luke.

"It's the makeup artist," Luca took the initiative to explain to him.

"Okay." Luke nodded. Carrying his cup, he walked into the kitchen.

Luca went to open the door. Three people were standing outside the door. There was the makeup artist and her assistant. She did not know the other woman, but she looked familiar to her.

"Ms. Aisha, this is Ms. Craw." The makeup artist introduced Aisha to Luca once Luca opened the door. Aisha was shocked after they handed Luca's photo to her last night. The expression on her face was exactly how it was on their faces the moment they saw Luca in that dress.

Aisha muttered to herself after being shocked, "I didn't expect anyone to be able to pull it off. She's the perfect embodiment of this dress. She's the model I'm looking for!"

It was not because Aisha had never looked for any models with Western appearances but almost all of them who wore the dress could not portray the style features of the dress.

She had been putting a lot of effort to look for someone to model the dress.

She ended up spending a lot of the company's labor and resources but found nothing. Her boss had no choice but to stop her from constantly changing the models.

Aisha thought no one in this world would be able to pull the dress off perfectly.

was why she took another dress out to make it the highlight of the fashion

moment she saw the photo, Aisha told the makeup artist that she had to inform her when she was heading over to collect the dress tomorrow. She would be coming

nice to meet you. I'm the designer of the dress you wore last night." Aisha took the initiative to shake hands

meet you." Luca shook her hand back and soon withdrew it, keeping a distance between them. She could roughly guess what was going on when she realized that the designer was here to

I came here to discuss something with you," said Aisha. She was hoping that Luca could become her dress that was so difficult to pull off looked so beautiful on her. Luca would surely look stunning in some of the other clothes she designed.

in." Luca knew what they were going to say to her, but it would be impolite for her to have them stand outside

she did not know whether Abel, who was in the room next door, had checked out of the hotel

she returned from the police station, she did not see any of the members of the Island of Despair showing up

three of them walked into

out with his cup refilled and saw the three of them. His brows slightly furrowed.

and jewelry are all in there," said

brightened up when she saw Luke. Were they a couple? It would be perfect if Luke and Luca could become her models.

*Then* she would not have to worry about looking for models in the future.

*Luke noticed* Aisha's gaze on him and frowned. He walked into the room immediately and closed the **door**.

**Aisha** was startled for a moment, realizing that it was too obvious that she was staring at him without feeling embarrassed. She quickly explained, "Ms. Craw, I'd like the man we saw just now and you to become my models. Our company will provide you with high pay and some excellent resources."

"I'm sorry but we're not interested in becoming models." Luca turned her down right away without considering that it would hurt the designer's feelings.

"**May I** know the reason? You and the man have the perfect qualities to become a model. I believe that if both of you become my models, you'll—" Aisha tried to convince **Luca**.

**She** had this feeling that if she was able to convince Luca, the man who walked into the room would agree too.

The assistant's phone rang. She glanced at it. It was news about M Group.

*There* was a photo on the news, and it was a photo of the signing ceremony of M Group and **T Corporation**.

That man...

There was no need for a CEO of a big company to earn money by becoming **a model**.

The assistant knew Aisha very well. Once she set her eyes on someone and wanted them to be her model, she would not give up easily even if she was turned **down**.

*It* was because her company's boss would back *her up*.

*However*, *their* company was no match for T Corporation, so it would be better not to embarrass themselves.

took the risk of getting scolded by Aisha, tugged on her sleeve, and said, "Ms. Aisha, please take a look shot an impatient glance at her assistant for interrupting her.

handed her phone

glanced at it and understood at once. That man was the CEO of T Corporation.

could she ask him to become her model and say that he would be paid a high

she had her boss' support, how much would she have to pay to exceed the pay of the CEO of a corporation?

that she had been too rash and embarrassed herself.

was unable to become her model, it was still possible for the woman in front of

were staying in the same suite, she was pretty sure that Luca was not Luke's wife. There were no wedding rings on their

Aisha reckoned that Luca was

like her had always dreamed of becoming an actress or a model.

make Luca agree to become her model as long as she put in some effort to persuade

"Ms. Aisha, it's a great honor to have gained your recognition, but I'm busy with my work. And I'm not interested in becoming a model, debuting, or entering the entertainment industry. Let me get the dress and jewelry for

### **Chapter 2083**

Aisha looked at Luca with confidence. The makeup artist told her that Luca loved the dress, and she was willing to pay a high price to purchase the dress.

That was why Aisha used it as a bargaining chip to get the chance to cooperate with Luca.

Luca frowned when Aisha just could not stop pestering her. Then, she declined and said, "I'm sorry. I'm going back to my country today. Please bring back the dress and the jewelry."

The dress was beautiful, but it was only a piece of clothing to her.

It was not something irreplaceable.

Aisha refused to give up and insisted, "We have a branch office in your country. We can hold the photoshoot there if it's possible."

Luca secretly let out a sigh. How could this woman not give up no matter how hard she tried to reject her?

The makeup artist beside Aisha felt that Aisha was trying too hard. No matter how hard she tried to convince Luca, Luca had no intention of becoming her model. "Ms. Aisha, why don't we—"

Aisha glanced at her impatiently and said, "Pack the dress and jewelry and leave first. I have something to discuss with Ms. Craw."

Luca was about to speak when she saw Luke coming out of his room.

He did not close the door, so he would have heard the conversation between them.

"Are you done yet?" Luke deliberately asked.

Luca shook her head.

Aisha could not help but exclaim while looking at the man in front of her. If it were not for his outstanding achievements, she would have tried to convince him to become her model too.

proportions were much better than most Western men. He was born to look good in anything. If she had a personal model like him, she would gain more inspiration for her

Before Aisha could say anything, she was interrupted by

need this dress. Pack your things and please leave." Luke put on a cold expression on his face and startled. Did he not know about her international

and nobles in Europe would look for her to tailor-make their clothes when they had to attend any parties or

would not always get the chance to customize their

my name card." Aisha took her name card out of her bag, trying to tell Luke who she was.

did not even glance at it. Realizing that she did not intend to leave, he picked up the hotel landline beside him and called the receptionist. Then, he spoke in Russian, "Please have your security guards come up

makeup artist was surprised to hear that and quickly said, "Sir, please leave the security guards out of this. We'll leave

widened her eyes and looked at the man in front of her incredulously.

of people out there dreamed of becoming her model, hoping to wear the haute couture she designed. The wives and daughters of those wealthy men did not even have the chance to get one of them. However, the man and woman in front of her could not tell chalk

Aisha got furious.

artist asked her assistant to keep the dress and jewelry. Then, she held Aisha's hand and said, "Ms. Aisha, we should

It would be embarrassing if they stayed longer and got chased out by the *guards*.

Aisha was famous in the fashion industry in Russia. The receptionist could recognize Aisha with just a glance when Aisha talked to the receptionist downstairs not long **ago**.

*If she* were chased out by the guards and seen by those people, she would be all over the internet.

*Aisha* was reluctant to leave, but she had to take care of her reputation.

Knowing that she failed to negotiate cooperation with Luca, she looked at Luca and said with some bitterness, "Miss, you'll regret rejecting *me*."

Luca was rendered speechless. Was there anything that could make her regret it?

She would not even have the chance to wear the clothes that Aisha designed again.

"Take care. Goodbye," said Luca as she opened the **door**.

**The** makeup artist bit the bullet. She grabbed Aisha's hand and left.

**Luca** closed the door once the three of them walked out of the suite, then she looked at Luke, who was still holding the *phone*.

He said to the person on the other end of the line in Russian, "Never mind, we don't need them **anymore**."

**After that**, he hung up the phone and said to Luca, "Turn on the air purification mode in the AC."

"Ah? Okay." Although Luca had no idea why he would ask her to do that, she turned on the air conditioner.

Russia was located near the north, so they did not need the air conditioner. However, the hotel that they were staying in was a luxury hotel. Even though the heating system was installed, the hotel installed air conditioners in the *suite too*.

the air conditioners were

on the air conditioner and switched it to the purifying mode.

perfume stinks," Luke explained to her when she was carrying out his instructions.

stunned for a moment. He must be talking

perfume she wore was truly pungent.

of Luca's lips curled into a smile. She turned around and said to Luke, "Mr. Crawford, I'm going to pack my stuff

Luke watched her walk back into her room. Then, he returned to his room too.

stood beside the bed and looked at the jewelry box placed on the bed.

was the sapphire jewelry set that Luke gave

not return it to him, so Luca picked up her clothes and towels. Then, she wrapped the jewelry box carefully to prevent the jewelry set from breaking by accident while she was on her way back home.

wrapped a few layers of clothes and towels around the jewelry box, she carefully placed the jewelry box in the luggage. Then, she placed another layer of clothes on top of it.

let out a sigh of

brought more clothes with her this time due to the cold weather here. Otherwise, she would be forced to carry the expensive jewelry set with her while constantly keeping an eye on

## **Chapter 2084**

On the other side of the manor.

Mr. Valentin informed Marcos of the news about Matysh asking someone to investigate Luca.

Marcos' eyes darkened. Matysh did not listen to his advice.

Mr. Valentin realized Marcos was keeping silent and asked in a low voice, "Mr. Marcos, should we stop Master Matysh?"

"Who would be able to stop him?" Marcos' tone was filled with disgust. Other than the elders in the family, no one could stop Matysh.

However, no one in the family would care about Matysh's ridiculous behavior. After all, they were proud and stubborn, thinking that they were still living in an era where having a strong and wealthy family



background meant they could dominate everything. Even if what Matysh did was wrong, they would let him do whatever he wanted because of his status.

Marcos had no right to speak no matter how much money he had earned for this family.

It became clear to Marcos that he was little more than a money-making machine for this family. The reason was simple. Matysh could not bring more benefits and interests to their family. That was why Marcos was assigned to replace him and take over the business.

He was merely a tool to them, not a true successor.

Hence, Marcos could not stop him even after he reminded Matysh. Matysh did not take him seriously either.

None of the others would be able to stop him.

“Master Matysh will get into trouble one day if he keeps doing this.” Mr. Valentin let out a sigh. He understood that if Matysh offended M Group’s partners, the losses would be significant.

However, the people in this family would only look at the outcome instead of the reasons.

time came, Matysh would not have to bear any responsibilities. The unlucky one would be the man in front of him as he was carrying the weight of the family business on his shoulder. Marcos would have to take up the

leave first.” A hint of brutality flashed across Marcos’

though his family had given him enough authority to manage the company, there were not many things that were under his control.

he turned against Matysh now, he would not be able to hold onto the slightest bit of authority that was given to him. He could not be bothered to have the entire M Group for himself. After all, he knew his capabilities. He could survive no matter where he

he could not lose M

not be able to look for his mother, who was abandoned by his family, if he lost his authority

Marcos.” Mr. Valentin did not disturb him any longer. He turned around and left the study.

the door was closed, Marcos called his assistant and said, “Find out when Luke and his team are leaving can’t we just ask him?” The assistant confirmed with him. After all, he did not need to find out about it if he just asked Luke

“No,” said Marcos.

I’m on it.” Marcos hung up the call after the assistant said so.

stood up with a cigarette between his fingers that was left unlit. He glanced at the scenery outside the window. Then, he pulled the curtains and took a document out of a safe.

the document Luke had given to him. The latter part of the document was information about his family, while the first part was about his mother's

*He had* always thought that his mother was pushed to a dead end by his family and she ended her life.

*However*, he did not expect Luke to have some information about his mother.

His mother was probably still alive...

Marcos looked at the photo on the document. His mother and father had always been in love with each other, but his family refused to accept his mother because of her humble upbringing.

*His* mother was only able to join their family because of his **father**.

**However**, **their** good life came to an end after his father died of illness. His mother was kicked out of the family, and Marcos was forced not to see his *mother*.

**The** last news Marcos got about his mother was that she could no longer stand living a hard life, so she was choosing to end **her** life...

Marcos was pretty sure that the news about his mother committing suicide back then was fake when he now looked at the woman who had aged a lot in the photo.

Luke did not have to lie to him by giving him fake news.

**It was** nighttime when Marcos received a call from his assistant. "Boss, I've received news that Mr. Crawford and the others are at the airport. They're preparing to board the plane and *travel back*."

"*Okay*. I got it." Marcos hung up **the** call.

It seemed like Luke was a smart man.

knew Matysh would not give up the thought of sleeping with Luca easily. That was why Luke would not remain in Russia. After all, this place was not within his power and influence. Luke's woman would be safe if they went

way, he would not have to take a lot of effort to protect Luke's woman. It could save his efforts too. At the same time, Marcos could tell that Luke not only understood him well but he also knew everyone who played an important role in his

enjoy working with smart people," said Marcos in a low

was a knock on the door, and Mr. Valentin's voice came from the other side of the door. "Mr. Marcos, dinner is

Marcos picked up his phone and walked out of the studies.

Marcos, Mr. Matysh and Old Master Abaza will be having dinner together with you tonight," Mr. Valentin

were many family members in the family, but they normally had their own plans. Old Master Abaza, Marcos' grandpa, would usually attend business dinners. They seldom ate dinner together as

Old Master Abaza and Matysh would be having

"Got it," Marcos responded.

to the dining room. Old Master Abaza and Matysh were already sitting at the

Grandpa. Good evening, Uncle." Marcos gave them a warm smile and greeted them. After reading the document Luke had given him, he found out that Old Master Abaza had something to do with his mother's disappearance. However, he could not show it on his face now. He was polite to them as go to the office today?" Old Master Abaza glanced at Marcos and said in an icy

Master Abaza was not really fond of this grandson of his because of his mother's humble upbringing.

## **Chapter 2085**

"It's not a big deal." Matysh did not say anything about his interest in Luca.

After all, that woman was Marcos' business partner. He had to keep it a secret without letting the old master, who put benefits and interests before everything, find out about it.

The old master was able to guess what his son was thinking about. "Who caught your attention this time?"

Matysh looked up and glanced at the old master, saying indifferently, "Dad, I know my boundaries."

"You're getting older. Why don't you settle down, get married, and raise a chubby grandson for me?" said Old Master Abaza. He knew Matysh and him were the same kind of people.

Although Matysh was playful, he would take his future wife's status and background seriously. That was why Old Master Abaza was not worried that he would be like Marcos' father who married a commoner.

"I'm not ready yet. Dad, stop talking about this," replied Matysh. Marriage could take his freedom away. So far, he had never fallen in love or thought of marrying a socialite.

After all, Matysh was not allowed to fool around if he married any of those women.

Those women were proud and arrogant. They had the same status he did. They would never yield to their husbands. Hence, he would not be allowed to mess around. He might even have to cheer his wife up and give in to her.

Matysh only wanted to be happy. He did not want to be bound by marriage and make his life miserable.

"You're a grown-up." Old Master Abaza's face was contorted with rage. At the end of the day, he was not planning to let Marcos take over the family business. After all, half of the blood that Marcos carried in him came from that unpresentable woman.

Old Master Abaza was already in the midst of choosing the perfect candidate to be Matysh's wife. Although Matysh was popular for being a womanizer and an unfaithful man, he had a strong family background. Hence, there were still many women who would be willing to marry Matysh.

Old Master Abaza was anxious about Matysh's marriage and future family. He wanted to raise Matysh's kids and train them to be the successor of the family business.

When the time came, Marcos would be worthless. He would have to get out of the family.

see.” Matysh knew what the old master had in

valuable no matter how old they were, especially the ones with high social standings like Matysh. Hence, he still wanted to fool

can fool around, but don’t get into deep trouble!” There was nothing the old master could do. He had no choice but to let Matysh do as he wished. He deliberately shot a glance at Marcos when he said this to

noticed the old master's gaze. He curled the corner of his lips and said, "Are you still worried about me? It's been years and I've never gotten any woman pregnant with a grandchild. You can rest assured that I'll never do

that were cutting the steak paused for a moment. They were talking about their dissatisfaction with his status through hidden

placed his cutleries down on the table. Then, he picked up his wine glass and took a sip of red wine.

he made was so perfect that it could be a textbook example of table manners. He worked hard to study these etiquettes since he was young, but what did he get from learning all these and doing them

simply despised him because of his mother’s

aren’t you curious about the woman Uncle wants this time?” Marcos put down the wine glass and looked at them with a smile on his

startled, and he glowered at

Marcos know that he had not given up on her

at how calm Marcos was, and he could feel a shiver run down his spine. Why did he have this feeling about Marcos becoming shrewd and unpredictable after he took over the company?

you trying to say?” the old master

“Nothing. I think it'll be better to leave some of the matters for Uncle to tell you himself.” Marcos picked up the napkin and wiped his mouth. He rose to his feet with a smile lingering on his face as he added, “I’m done. I’m going upstairs to do some work.”

As *the* old master watched Marcos leave the table, there was a hint of shrewdness in his cloudy eyes. Then, his gaze fell on Matysh’s face again. He said, “Tell me. What’s the **matter?**”

“**Dad**, I know what I’m doing. Don’t listen to him.” Matysh did not **tell him**.

**The old** master heard this and stopped talking about the subject. He said something significant, “Marcos is getting harder to control.”

**Matysh** smiled and said disdainfully, “No matter how capable he is, the company shares are still in our hands. Dad, don’t worry.”

On the other hand.

*Marcos returned to his study after he left the **dining room**.*

He opened his inbox and sent an encrypted file to Luke with the remark: [The password is 'mst'. I look forward to working with **you**.]

...

Luke was sitting in the lounge at the airport. His flight was delayed because of the snowstorm. Hence, he was sitting here, waiting for the pre-boarding announcement together with Luca.

His phone rang. He picked his phone up and glanced at it, then he immediately tapped on the file in his *email*.

Jason brought a few cups of coffee and walked toward them. "Boss, would you like to have some coffee?"

**Luke did** not take it from him. He replied to Jason while he was typing the password, "Put it down."

put the cup of coffee down and looked at Luca. He raised another cup of coffee that he was holding in his hand and asked her if she wanted it by giving her a glance.

her head. She did not really need the coffee.

held the cup of coffee and returned to his

reading the file that Marcos had sent to him. After he decrypted the file, he saw that the file contained everything about the skeletons in Matysh's

conducted a background investigation on the important family members in Marcos' family, but it was unlikely that he would be able to dig out such detailed information about the family.

all, wealthy families like these were not allowed to have any

was unavoidable, so they would normally ask their PR teams to quickly handle all the scandals.

for the reason why Marcos would send this information to him... Luke lifted his head and glanced at Luca, who was sitting opposite him. It was because of

was reminding him that Matysh had not given up the idea of getting Luca. If Matysh did something behind their backs, Luke would be able to stop him with all this

Luke's gaze was on her. She lifted her head and looked at

what's the matter?" Luca noticed that the expression on Luke's face was

getting impatient because of the flight

up the cup of coffee and took a sip. Luca had nothing to do with Matysh's matter. He could not blame Luca for it. It pissed him off knowing that the other men were always eyeing his

## **Chapter 2086**

Luke did not say a word while he looked at Luca who was quietly closing her eyes and resting.

After traveling with Luca a few times, Luke could feel that Luca was especially quiet when she was beside him. Luca would take the chance to get some rest once she got into the mode of transport when they were traveling long distances.

Luke took his eyes off her.

The stewardess started to distribute the meals to the passengers after the plane had reached its cruising altitude as compensation for the flight delay.

Luke made a silent hand gesture when he watched the stewardess carrying the tray and walking toward him.

The stewardess noticed the woman beside him was taking a nap with a blanket covered over her. She secretly complimented him for his consideration of the woman next to him. Then, she handed the menu to Luke.

Luke shook his head to tell her that he did not need it.

The stewardess nodded and continued to ask the next passenger.

The flight took almost ten hours. An announcement was made when the plane was ready to land.

Luca slowly woke up. She had been sleeping for almost ten hours and felt drowsy. She was unable to understand what the situation was now.

She looked at Luke in a daze, who was sitting next to her. Only then did she remember that they were on a plane.

The announcement was repeated once again, and Luca learned that they were about to land.

It took almost ten hours to travel from Russia to the airport in A City. She recalled that she fell asleep after she got on the plane, and she could not remember if she had woken up in between. Had she been sleeping for almost ten hours then?

In her sleep, she had a sweet dream, not a nightmare.

awake?" Luke asked. He placed a glass of milk in front of her. "You haven't eaten or drunk anything for ten hours. Drink some milk first. The plane is about

felt hungry after Luke said

she usually slept on a comfortable bed, she had to rely on those medicines to make her sleep. She would not be able to sleep that long

Luca's voice sounded a little hoarse after waking up. She took the milk and gulped

needed to replenish her energy.

finished drinking the milk, the stewardess came to inform the passengers that the plane was about to land and reminded them to fasten their seatbelts. The stewardess saw the glass that Luca was holding in her hands. She smiled and said, "Miss, you're finally awake. Please give me the

handed the empty glass to the stewardess. Even the stewardess knew that she had been sleeping for ten

thought that it was to Luke's credit that she was able to sleep soundly.

felt safe having Luke by her

was aware a long time ago of the fact that Luke was

successfully landed at the airport in A City.

behind Luke and got out of the

welcomed them was the snow fluttering down from the

could not help but be dazzled by the beauty of the white snow in the air. She had already missed the first snow that she had been looking forward to while they were making their way to

*Luca looked* at Luke's tall figure from behind. Before this, she was still looking forward to spending time with him and the kids on the day of the first *snowfall*.

However...

*Luca* could not help but feel upset. She only wanted to reminisce about past sweetness on the first snowfall of the **year**.

However, God did not give her the chance to do so.

After she got off the plane, Jason arranged for them to get their luggage back **successfully**.

*Jason* looked at Luke and reported to him, "Boss, Zander is already waiting at exit A."

**"Okay."** Luke shifted his gaze and looked at the other employees. "Thanks for the hard work all this while. All of you may take a day off tomorrow and come back to work the day after tomorrow."

*"Thank you, Boss."* All of them were surprised to hear that Luke was allowing them to take a day off work. They returned home with warm smiles on their faces after *thanking Luke*.

Jason's house was out of Luke's way, so he went out of the airport and hailed a ride back **home**.

*Even* if his destination was right on Luke's way, he would not dare to be the third *wheel*.

**Luke looked** at Luca and said in a low voice, "Come on. Let's go home."

Luca's ears were flushing red when she heard what *he said*.

He said they would go home...

**She** walked out of the airport and kept up with Luke's pace.

was cold out there as the wind whistled. Despite the glacier winter wind, Luca's heart was especially warm because of what Luke said.

was way past the age when she would blush just because of a few words.

words would always make her face

was not because of her age nor the words he said that made her blush but it

caught up with Luke's pace as she watched Luke walk toward Zander's car.

and greeted them, "Mr. Crawford, Ms. Craw,

at Zander embarrassedly. Although what Zander said was not as overwhelming as Luke's words, they were heart-warming too. "Zander, it's been a

strolled to the back of the car and opened the trunk. Then, he said cheerfully, "Yes. I didn't expect Mr. Crawford and you to be off for a business trip for such a long time. Besides, Mr. Crawford even had his plaster cast

was surprised to see Luke walking

lifted his luggage and placed it in the trunk after it was opened. Then, he took Luca's luggage and put it in

of helping him, but Luke was so quick that it only took him a while to put two big pieces of luggage in the trunk. "Young Master, I should be the one doing

mind. Let's go," said Luke. Zander had been working as a driver for the Crawford family for years. He was getting old, so Luke would try his best not to trouble him with such heavy lifting jobs if he could do it himself.

replied Zander. After he closed the trunk, he scurried forward and opened the back seat

let Luca get into the car first. Luke signaled Zander to close the door after Luca bent down and climbed into the car, while he walked to the other side of the car, opened the door, and got

## **Chapter 2087**

Luca sighed when she heard what Uncle Zander said. She was not a qualified mother.

The children's affection and their thought of longing to see Luca again would only end up in vain.

Uncle Zander noticed that Luke and Luca were not talking to each other, so he added, "Young Master Blanche, Young Master Tommy, and Ms. Rainie have been behaving themselves. When they talk to Old Master Crawford, they'd always ask about Young Master Luke's recovery and when the two of you were returning."

Luca's heart was filled with bitterness while listening to Uncle Zander's chatters. She could only conceal her feelings and smile as she went along with Uncle Zander, saying, "They probably miss Mr. Crawford more."

Luke raised his brows. She had no idea that the kids had already found out about her true identity, and that was why she would say something like this.

Luca did not know that if the kids were to choose between him and Luca, they would always be on her side, not his.



Luke and Luca got out of the car together after they arrived at the villa.

Aunt Neile heard the noises and came out of the house to help. "Mr. Crawford, Ms. Craw, you're back."

"Yes." Luke took Luca's luggage out of the trunk and took it from him.

Uncle Zander watched Luke take his luggage out of the trunk and said immediately, "Young Master Luke, let me do this."

Luke thought it was an easy task to pull the wheeled luggage, so he left the rest to Uncle Zander.

Uncle Zander and Aunt Neile were pulling the luggage in front of them while Luke and Luca walked behind them.

Luca realized there were hardly any traces of greenery left in the yard after she came back from Russia.

that could survive cold winters were all covered with a white blanket of snow after the

in white. It looked dull, but not unpleasant to look

you looking at?" Luke noticed that Luca was looking around.

randomly pointed at a corner of the yard and said, "It's snowing. The plants that can survive the winter have dropped their leaves and are covered with

you like to see green plants?" Luke asked. He would ask someone to build a greenhouse right away if

would plant every tree that she loved and look for a professional gardener to make them bloom

as she wanted it, he could import the plants from the South and ask those professionals to make the

just overwhelmed. The green leaves were still hanging on the trees before we headed to Russia. And it's all fallen off now." Luca shook her head, looking at the naked branches adorned with snow. She could not help but exclaim.

could make the world turn white and bring cold thoughts into people's minds at the same

listened to their conversation, then she smiled and said, "Two days before the first snowfall, the leaves on the trees turned yellowish, then they fell off. But they'll be sprouting buds again next year when spring

smiled and followed them into the

Neile added, "The garden was only completed this year. The flowers aren't fully grown yet. Just wait for spring next year. The flowers will be fully grown, and the yard will soon be filled with a riot of colors. It's going to be beautiful."

Perhaps it was a coincidence, but most of the flowers planted in the yard seemed to be the ones that she

*After the winter hibernation, the flowers would grow beautifully next year if they were taken care of.*

*However, her days to remain by Luke's side were numbered. She had one day less each day she woke up. Would she have the chance to see the flowers in the garden bloom next **year**?*

Uncle Zander and Aunt Neile left after the two of them put down the luggage in Luke's and Luca's rooms respectively.

**Aunt Neile** began to prepare dinner.

Luke glanced at Luca and said, "Get some rest if you feel tired."

**"Alright,** Mr. Crawford." Luca walked into her bedroom and closed the door. She planned to tidy up the clothes in the luggage.

**She** opened her luggage, then she removed everything inside the luggage and placed them on *the bed*.

*Luca* was startled for a moment when she saw the jewelry box that was wrapped in layers of towels and clothes. She removed the towels and clothes and opened the jewelry box.

*The* whole set of jewelry was *fine*.

Luca let out a sigh of relief. Then, she closed the cover of the jewelry box and placed it in the closet drawer.

*There was* no safe in her room unlike in Luke's bedroom. Hence, she could only put it in the lockable *drawer*.

**Besides,** Aunt Neile was Luke's maid. She should be honest, so Luca was not worried about it.

was a weight off Luca's mind after she kept the jewelry box. She let out a sigh of relief and continued packing her

Neile made her way up the stairs and knocked on Luke's bedroom

Crawford, Mr. Mallory is here," she said to the man inside

Luca heard Aunt Neile's voice too.

Mr. Mallory?

told her that it could not be Pierre who came, so Luca thought the person who came must be

Percy come here because of the bidding document Pierre's

starting to investigate this matter? Was it not obvious that this had something to do with her? What else could he be

Luke's voice while she

Mallory to the tea room. I'll be there in

Mr. Crawford." Aunt Neile heard him and headed downstairs. She invited Percy to head to the

leaned behind the door, and she heard Luke's door opening. Then, it was closed again. She reckoned that Luke must be heading downstairs to meet

What would they talk about?

**Chapter 2088**

"Alright, Mr. Crawford." Aunt Neile left the tea room.

Percy was dissatisfied and protested. "I'm so exhausted after the long trip. And you're giving me a cup of coffee? What a heartless man!"

"It was Pierre who caused the trouble. You deserved it." Luke's words hit a nerve in Percy relentlessly. When Pierre was arrogant and domineering back then, Percy had no intention of stopping him. Instead, he spoiled him and let Pierre do whatever he wanted to.

The Mallory family doted on him, and that was why Pierre behaved like that. He got into trouble everywhere he went, yet he showed no remorse or guilt for what he did.

Percy would have to take up the responsibility of spoiling Pierre. He had to clean up the mess Pierre had made.

The only difference was that Percy used to deal with the troubles that Pierre had gotten himself into. Now, Percy was the one sorting him out.

Percy quickly waved his hand. Fortunately, Luke was his best friend. Otherwise, this matter would not have been solved that easily. "Stop talking about this. All I want to do now is to rip that bastard's head off and place it in the Mallory family's hall."

Luke raised his brows and replied, "Sure."

Percy was already familiar with Luke. He poured himself a cup of tea and took a sip. Before he swallowed it, he heard what Luke said and almost spat out the tea. "Are you serious?"

Luke poured a cup of tea for himself too and stopped talking nonsense with him. "Where is he now?"

"I got him locked up," answered Percy. He let out a sigh. Percy had used up all his energy to bring Pierre back home this time. He planned to rest for a day or two, then he would bring Pierre to see Old Master Mallory and discuss how to solve the matter.

be willing to let himself be tied up?" Luke was quite surprised to hear that. Now that the two brothers were not on good terms, the only thing left was to inform the media and the reporters about

use the hard way?" Percy finished drinking the cup of tea and

Percy knew that his men would not be too hard on him when Pierre was tied up on the cruise ship. Hence, Pierre would look for the opportunity and make a scene out of

only were Percy's guards tricked by him, but the waiters on the cruise ship fell for it too.

were not because the cruise ship was sailing in the middle of the ocean, somewhere one could never make it to the land even if one managed to escape, Pierre would have jumped off the cruise ship and swam away.

regret it now. If I knew how difficult he was, I'd have drugged him and booked the whole plane back. It's much better than sailing in the ocean for days," said Percy. He never thought that Pierre would resist so much when he brought Pierre back

thought it would be troublesome to book the whole plane as he would have to go through the procedures. Then, he remembered that his family owned a cruise ship in Russia. Hence, he asked his men to carry Pierre up the ship.

finally managed to bring him back despite whatever you've gone through," said Luke. He did not ask if Pierre admitted what he had done wrong, and he did not ask whether Pierre had told the  
knew Percy would not tell him about

Oh, I found this when I captured him in the hotel." Percy took a phone and a card out of  
number is this?" Luke picked up the card and glanced at it. It was a string of numbers, and his suspicion was

"It should be related to the phone. After all, the card was placed together with the phone." Percy pointed at the phone in front of him. "I tried using my phone to call this number. I couldn't get through it. But I can call the number with this phone."

**"What happens** after you get through it?" Luke picked up his phone and observed it.

*It was* an ordinary phone, and it was considered outdated compared to the models **nowadays**.

"A woman was speaking on the other end of the line. I tracked it down and found out it was located in a small city in Russia. There's nothing significant about that place," **answered Percy**.

"It's kind of suspicious." Luke's instinct told him that it was something suspicious without a second thought.

*Percy nodded.* It was suspicious indeed, but it was as though the person had foreseen this, so he handled it well without leaving any loose ends. That way, they would not be able to find out what was going on.

*Percy sent someone to pay a visit after Adrian found the address, but they found nothing special about it.*

"I think this has something to do with that bastard purchasing the bidding document." Percy **guessed**.

**Luke's** eyes darkened when he mentioned the bidding document.

*If* Pierre had obtained the bidding document through this phone, then it was the Island of Despair who was behind this.

After all, he was pretty sure that Luca was being manipulated by the mastermind of the Island of Despair. The next thing he was going to do was find out who **he was**.

was a passive measure, he would not allow that person to continue manipulating Luca to do illegal  
could turn things around once he found out who the person

worked together with Percy and the others to eliminate the Island of Despair before. This time, they would be able to destroy the organization thoroughly without giving them another chance to rise again.

the Island of Despair," Luke took a sip of the tea and uttered.

knew the Island of Despair had made a comeback, but he did not expect the Island of Despair to have something to do with

looked at Luke with surprise and said, "Are

not answer him when he heard footsteps outside the door. He turned to look in the direction of the

Neile walked toward them with a smile on her face and placed the cup of coffee in front of Percy. She said, "Mr. Mallory, here's your cup

you. It smells good," Percy complimented.

you may leave first. I have something to discuss with Mr. Mallory," said Luke. "Please close

Mr. Crawford." Aunt Neile nodded and walked out of the tea room and closed the door for

## **Chapter 2089**

Something came across Percy's mind. Then he said, "Speaking of this, regarding the matter that you instructed Adrian to investigate, he looked up and found out that the IP address is located in this city. If Dr. Craw was the one who tipped you off, then who sent the email?" said Percy. Was she not afraid that she would get caught by asking someone to tip Luke off?

"She has a nominal brother here," Luke reminded him while he made some tea.

Percy patted the table. He hardly remembered Luca's brother. If it had not been for Luke reminding him about his existence, Percy would have forgotten him.

"If that's what her brother did, then her brother must be a computer geek. He's probably better than Adrian." Percy could not help but exclaim. After all, if it was really Amur who did it, they had already gone up against each other a few times.

However, Adrian could only find out that his IP address was located in this city. He could not go into further details. It was only because the other party was swift in his actions, so Adrian did not manage to track him down further.

Percy could not help but feel sorry for Luca's brother at the thought of this. That nominal brother of Luca's must be one of the members of the Island of Despair too. What a pity that he was working for them.

It was a waste of his talent, and he was also risking his life to work for the organization.

Otherwise, Percy would have offered an olive branch to Amur.

"Those who managed to come out alive from the Island of Despair are all skilled." Luke had been there before, so he knew what it was like inside.

Including Luca...

Luca had gone through a lot of training and hardships to become who she was today. She clenched her teeth, endured it, and made it through. Only then she was able to get out of the Island of Despair.

Even though Luca's target was Luke, Luke remembered how weak Luca used to be in the past. She spent her days there for three years, and other than the rage that Luke felt within him, he felt helpless and sorry for her.

not protect the woman he loved the most when she was going through her most difficult

never gone to the Island of Despair before, but he could name everything that the Island of Despair had done.

did not seem like what an ordinary bodyguard could

are we supposed to do now that we've found out about these?" Percy looked at Luke. Luke did not suffer any losses after what happened, and Percy was the one who suffered real losses this

it was Pierre's fault for purchasing Luke's bid document through illegal

all, Pierre was thinking of getting the partnership without effort. He even thought of making Luke lose the right to join the bid this time. What a wicked idea he had in his mind.

why Percy had no choice but to support Luke no matter what he was going to do. Pierre ended up in such a mess all because he brought it upon

elder brother, Percy had warned him earlier not to mess with Luke, but he refused to listen to him. He chose to take this path, and it served

still thinking about it," said Luke. He needed an explanation for the stolen bidding document.

would arouse Luca's

had already prepared for this, what was he going to do after dispelling Luca's suspicion? What method should he use to lure the mastermind of the Island of Despair

"Then what about Pierre? How do you intend to punish him? I can help as long as it's not about taking his life," said Pierre. Although he disagreed with what Pierre had done, they were brothers, *after all*.

Luke could take Pierre's life, but he could not let Percy know about it.

"Where does Old Master Mallory stand on this?" Luke asked.

"Now, *the* old master prefers not to know about it. After what happened last time, he sent someone to investigate the matter. Even though it was his mother and the others who helped to clean up the mess, the old master managed to find out something else. That's why he's annoyed and fed up with Pierre whenever he sees him," **said Percy.**

*Although things* had turned out this way, Old Master Mallory did not stop giving him dirty looks just because of this.

It was because Percy insisted on being together with *Nina*.

**Now that** the old master refused to see either of the two brothers, Percy believed that someone else would have taken over the company if there were other successors in the Mallory family. He would have nothing to do with it.

“Fed up, huh...” An idea came into Luke’s mind as he listened to *Percy*.

**Since** Pierre bought the bidding document from someone on the Island of Despair, then he must have a way to communicate with the people of the Island of *Despair*.

**Moreover, perhaps** the person whom Pierre talked to was a pivotal figure of the Island of Despair. If he could get the answers from Pierre, then he would have another lead for the investigation.

**Although** Pierre refused to tell anything now, that did not mean he would not say anything *later*.

“Hand him to Old Master Mallory tomorrow. Then, leave the rest to me,” said Luke. He knew that Percy was concerned about the relationship between him and Pierre. It would be better not to let him participate in certain things.

I’ll bring him back to the Mallory family’s manor tomorrow and inform Old Master Mallory about it,” said

Mallory would certainly criticize and lecture Pierre after he knew what happened. However, no matter how much he lectured him, Pierre was still his youngest grandson. The old master would not be too strict with

things would certainly end badly for Pierre if Luke interfered

up a cup of tea, thinking of toasting Luke. He said, “I’ve been sitting here for such a long time and I haven’t congratulated you for getting

picked up his cup of tea and toasted with him. “I have to thank Mallory Corporation’s support in making this happen.”

Making money together, that’s what makes us good brothers,” said Percy. Mallory Corporation and T Corporation had an indivisible

would gain benefit from it when T Corporation got the project.

about this, but he got in Luke’s way, thinking of making Luke a fool in front of everyone. That was why Percy would not defend Pierre this time no matter

did he try to ruin the benefits and interests of others, but he even wanted to ruin the family’s interests for the sake of his benefits. Would the Mallory family be able to depend on him in

The answer was obvious.

On the other hand.

## **Chapter 2090**

Aunt Neile dared not to disturb them as they were discussing matters inside the tea room. She could not make the decision, and that was why she came to ask Luca.

Luca glanced at the time, then she glanced at the tea room with the door closed. She said, “Just prepare his portion. There’s nothing wrong with preparing more.”

Although Percy was Luke’s friend, it did not matter if they prepared lunch for him or not.

However, this was basic courtesy. By preparing more, it might lead to more food wastage, but it would be impolite and drive the guests away if they did not prepare anything for him.

"I think so too, but Mr. Mallory's preferences..." Aunt Neile was afraid that the dishes she prepared would not suit Pierre's taste.

Luca said, "Prepare some home-cooked dishes. I remember that Mr. Mallory loves home-cooked dishes."

"How do you know that?" Aunt Neile asked with curiosity. It was Percy's first time staying here until lunchtime if she remembered it clearly.

Luca was dumbfounded for a moment. She could not tell her that she had known Percy for a long time.

She smiled and said, "Who wouldn't like having home-cooked meals? Besides, he's Mr. Crawford's friend. So, there's no need to make a big deal out of it. Come on, let me help you."

"Thank you." Aunt Neile returned to the kitchen with a smile on her face. The meals that Luca prepared tasted good. Even if they were simple home-cooked food, it was so good that one would not be able to stop themselves from having more.

The two of them were busy cooking in the kitchen while Luke and Percy drank tea in the tea room.

to discuss work after talking about the trouble that Pierre had caused, then they talked about what had been happening in the business industry in A City lately.

you heard about it? The municipal government is preparing to develop the deserted land in the western suburbs," said Percy.

it confirmed?" Luke asked. "The land in the western suburbs was supposed to be an amusement park, but it's been deserted for so long. Rumors about its development started when Lanie and Rainie were

assured him and said, "It seems real to me this time. Why don't you ask your father-in-law and see if you can ask him about it? It's not about making things easier for us. If the government is really developing it, we'd better get ready to bid, right?"

Luke would not have to worry about his company's operation for the whole year after getting M Group's project, one could never have too much money when it was about running

if a small company got the development rights of that land, then the small company would be taken to greater

and Percy's companies could get it, then their companies would be more

surely know the government's plans for

was unlikely that he would

"I'll ask him, but I can't be sure that I'll be able to get any news from him. You should ask around too."



know that your father-in-law is famous for his honesty. There's no way others can make him talk or get something from him. I can't expect you to be able to get anything out of him either. I've already sent someone to find out who's spreading the news." Percy was trying to figure out if the rumor was

Luke nodded. They had to get this sorted out.

The deserted land in the western suburbs was supposed to be a big amusement park, and it covered a wide area of land. If it was true that the government was developing it, then they had to fight for this *project*.

*Percy glanced* at the time and put down his cup, saying, "It's **lunchtime**."

**Luke** glanced at the time on his watch. It was lunchtime indeed. They had been talking for more than an hour without even realizing it.

"**You** should go." Luke rose to his feet, planning to send Percy *off*.

Percy stood up too. He widened his eyes and looked at him, "I'm so tired from traveling back and forth. I even brought Pierre, that bastard, to you. You're not planning to treat me to *lunch*?"

"You're thinking of having Luca's home-cooked dishes, right?" Luke knew Percy well. Percy had always thought Luca was great at *cooking*.

"*So what?* It's not like I'm hitting on your woman. I just want to have lunch. What's wrong with it?" said Percy, acting like a rascal as he followed Luke out of the tea room. "I've worked hard, and I didn't even ask you to invite me to a restaurant for lunch. Why can't you just invite me for a home-cooked meal?"

"Aunt Neile will be preparing lunch today." Luke had just said that when Aunt Neile came out of the kitchen and saw the two of them. "Mr. Crawford, Mr. Mallory, have you finished discussing? Lunch is ready. Would you like to have lunch now?"

Percy asked, "Aunt Neile, did you prepare my **portion**?"

"Mr. Mallory, you're the guest. Of course, we did. Besides, Ms. Craw helped to prepare lunch too," Aunt Neile smiled brightly and said.

so Dr. Craw prepared lunch. And she prepared my portion too. Then I should definitely stay for lunch." Percy walked into the dining room naturally like he was part of

was standing beside the dining table with an apron on her. She was holding a ladle, scooping the soup into the bowl. She said to Percy when she saw him walking in, "Mr. Mallory, lunch is

were four plates served on the dining table. Percy smiled and nodded. Luca knew how to please others, which was in stark contrast compared to Luke's pettiness.

have Luca by his side

way, Luke would not easily offend the people he

in and saw Luca still wearing the apron. He frowned. Then, he said, "Leave it to Aunt Neile

Crawford is right." Aunt Neile walked toward Luca and took the ladle Luca was holding immediately.

asked Aunt Neile to inform the two of them that lunch was ready. Aunt Neile did not expect Luca to do such things after she walked away. She was embarrassed and said, "Ms. Luca, please take a  
nothing when she saw Aunt Neile behaving that way. She had no choice but to sit down on the  
walked into the kitchen and served the dishes she had prepared together with Luca on the table after serving them the  
"Looks good," Percy commented.