

Be Gentle 2091

Chapter 2091

"Yes, Nina is my fiancée now," Percy admitted. As Nina's best friend, Luca wanted Nina to be happy.

Although the Mallory family was still against it, Percy insisted on holding an engagement ceremony. It was a simple ceremony, but he did it with all his sincerity and wholeheartedly.

Percy believed that he could give Nina a happy and blissful life.

Luca turned to look at Luke. Was this true? How did that happen out of the blue?

"He went to look for the priest on the second day we went to Russia. He grabbed Nina with him and got the engagement ceremony done," Luke told her.

"Yes. We were low-profile. I only informed my family and a few close friends about this. But we didn't invite anyone to our engagement ceremony. That's why Nina didn't tell anyone either," said Percy.

Percy was worried that someone would mess up the engagement ceremony. He kept a low profile before the engagement ceremony. Only after the ceremony was over did he inform his family and Luke.

Nina was worried that her greedy mother would mess things up if she told anyone about this. That was why she decided not to tell anyone about the engagement to prevent the news from getting into Anna's ears.

Percy only admitted it in front of Luca because he knew Luca was not the kind of person who would spill the beans. She would always side with Nina at all times.

"I see." Luca understood why Nina would conceal it. It was because she had a greedy mother and brother.

Anna and Jean would do unscrupulous things to gain benefits from Percy as long as Nina told them that she and Percy were engaged.

Even if they did not benefit from it, it was inevitable that they would use Percy's name to make things easier for them.

best way was to not let them find out that the two of them were

no matter how avaricious Anna and Jean were, they were concerned about their future too. That was why they dared not use Percy's name to do whatever they wanted out there to avoid getting into trouble and Percy blaming Nina for it. If the two of them broke up, Anna and Jean would not be able to take advantage of him anymore.

Mallory, there's something I'd like to know." Luca's expression became serious as she gazed at

The blissful smile on Percy's face faded. Luca was Nina's best friend, and Percy knew what Luca was going to say after knowing that they were engaged.

wanted to hear him saying that he would promise to make Nina

you sure you'd like to tie the knot with Nina? That means you'll accept whoever she is, and you won't give her up easily no matter what happens in the future. Will you be able to do that?"

course, I will." Percy nodded.

when she heard his answer. She was sure that Percy loved

be enough if he could give her the best things in life and protect her

life was hard back then, and she was not

she met Percy, a man who could give her a sense of security and bring happiness to her. Pleasure came through the toil. It was a happy

Mr. Mallory, let's eat. The dishes won't taste as good once they're cold." Luca did not continue talking about Nina, and she did not ask Percy to promise any other things

After all, things were easier said than done.

Besides, this was Nina's choice, and she had done the right thing. Hence, as a friend who wished for Nina's happiness, Luca had nothing else to say.

She only wished that Nina and Percy would live a lifetime of love and happiness and that their years ahead to be filled with joy.

Luke looked at the smile on Luca's face. He knew Luca felt happy for Nina.

Percy knew he had already passed Luca's test, so he smiled. Then, he picked up a piece of steak with garlic butter. He could not help but compliment it after tasting it, "I should've brought Nina here. It's her favorite steak with garlic butter."

"*You're* even thinking of bringing your fiancée here to scrounge free meals?" Luke could not help but mock him. He was actually not that petty. He just did not want Luca to trouble herself.

Although Luca's wound was almost healed, what had happened last time would always make him feel shocked and *uneasy*.

Luca had such a serious wound on her, but she concealed it from him for such a long time...

Did that mean he was no longer dependable in her heart? Otherwise, why would she keep it to herself for that long?

"*It's* not a big deal for us to contribute some ingredients. All we need is for Dr. Craw to show off her cooking skills," Percy said jokingly.

"*Sure,*" answered Luca. She took another sip of the *soup*.

great to eat together. But only if you're done dealing with that brother of yours. After that, I'll invite you over for a meal." Luke deliberately mentioned Pierre in front of

knew what Luke was up to, so he went along with him and said, "No problem. I'll make sure Pierre, that bastard, learns his mistake. And I'm not going to let him get away with it easily."

skipped a beat when she listened to their conversation.

talking about Pierre's bidding

his head and glanced at the two of them. They looked calm. After all, although it was Pierre's fault this time, Luke did not suffer any losses. It was normal for Luke to behave normally.

helped herself with some food and concealed the uneasiness in her heart by focusing on having

Percy left after lunch.

headed to the entrance and picked up his car keys. Then, he looked at Luca who was walking out of the dining room and said, "I'm going to Crawford Manor. Would you like to

surprised. Was he not planning to go to Crawford

a little tired..." Luca declined. Although she wanted to meet the children, Crawford Manor would always give her a feeling of

some rest. I might not come back for dinner tonight." Luke put on his coat and left the

looked at the scarf hanging on the coat hanger and pursed her lips. She picked up the scarf and walked out of the house. A gust of cold wind blew against her, and she shivered for a moment. Then, she pursed her lips and trotted toward Luke. "Mr. Crawford, please put on

Chapter 2092

"It's snowing again." Luca let out a sigh. She was unconsciously hiding the fact that she was seeing Luke off from Aunt Neile.

"Yes. I remember that it's your first time spending the winter here, right? Although it's not as cold as it is in Russia, it'll snow every day after winter comes," replied Aunt Neile.

Luca nodded. Before she walked away from the window, she said, "Aunt Neile, I'm going upstairs to get some rest."

"Alright, Ms. Craw. Take care," Aunt Neile replied happily.

Luca made her way up the stairs. She did not rest as she had slept for more than ten hours on the plane. She was full of energy.

Luca returned to her bedroom and picked up her phone. She sent a message to Amur and told him that she had come back from Russia.

Amur did not reply to her.

Luca was not in a hurry to give him a call either. She thought of finding a chance to visit him.

When she was in Russia, she did not follow up with the experiments going on in the lab. Luca called Rhett at the thought of this.

"Dr. Craw, are you back?" Rhett was surprised to receive a phone call from Luca.

"Yes. Oh, how's the experiment going?" Luca asked. The research would have been completed and the drug would have been released on the market if Luke had not asked her to follow up with M Group's project.

Rhett was startled for a moment and hesitated, "The research..."

"What's the matter?" Luca asked. She knew something must have happened when she heard him say that.

something wrong with the research data. It's slightly different from what we expected," Rhett replied helplessly.

surprised and asked, "Why didn't anyone inform me

management told us to study it ourselves and not to disturb you before you went to Russia. And they told us to pause the experiment if we can't get it right," answer Rhett. They were unable to find the reason for what was wrong with the data. That was why no one dared to continue the research, and they were afraid that the wrong data would cause the rest of the experiment to end up in

were currently delaying the research. A bunch of researchers was sitting in the office every day, digging through the past data and information trying to find out what went wrong during the

She knew it was Luke's orders without a second thought. He even took the risk that something might go wrong with the research just so she would not get

a huge amount of money on their research. However, he was not concerned about

it were someone else, he would have asked the employees to work continuously and make it on time to release the product in the market. How could he possibly make

everyone in the research team at the office now?" Luca

Craw, we're here. It's just that there's hardly any progress with our research..." Rhett sounded helpless. If Luca were here to lead them, they would not be stuck in such a situation

going to the office now. Get ready and tell them we'll be having a meeting in 45 minutes." Luca

startled, "Dr. Craw, are you in such a hurry? You just came back today. Why don't you get some

alright. We have to get the research data sorted out as soon as possible so that the drug can be launched on the market," replied Luca. Luke had yet to handle Dr. Albus' matter, and Luca had no idea how it

However, as for Pierre...

Although Luke had not confronted her yet, Luca was prepared to leave *anytime*.

She would like to get the research done and launch the product before she left. That would be the last thing that she could do for Luke.

*Moreover, the study was based on Shanks' research that was to cure the same disease. It worked much better than the drugs on the market. If the drug was launched in the market, Luca would just regard it as she was helping the patients who were suffering from *the disease*.*

It would be a good deed...

Luca hung up the call after she made her decision. She put on warm clothes and hurried down the stairs.

Aunt Neile was busy cleaning the house downstairs. She was dumbfounded for a moment when she saw that Luca had changed her clothes and was making her way downstairs. Aunt Neile asked, "Ms. Craw, are you going out?"

"Yes. Something came up in the office. I'll have to go over," answered Luca. She picked up the car keys from the shelf at the **entrance**.

"You've just returned and you're heading to the office already? Will you be coming back for dinner?" Aunt Neile asked.

Luca paused for a moment and answered, "No. Mr. Crawford went to Crawford Manor, so you don't have to prepare his portion either. Aunt Neile, you may go home early if there's nothing left **to do**."

"Ah, okay. Drive safe," Aunt Neile *reminded*.

"**Okay**, I got it." Luca grabbed the key and walked out of the house.

The cold wind blew against her face. She could not help but lower her chin into the scarf and trotted to the parking lot. Then, she headed to **T Corporation**.

...

On the other hand.

drove his car back to Crawford Manor.

called and informed Old Master Crawford before he came. Mr. Griffin came over and told Luke that Old Master Crawford was waiting for him in the tea room when Luke walked into the house.

took off his coat and handed it to Mr. Griffin. Then, he walked into the house.

Luke, aren't you taking off that scarf?" Mr. Griffin

his head and glanced at the scarf, then he shook his head and

given him the scarf, so he wanted it to be around his neck for a while

into the tea room and closed the door behind him.

are. It's cold out there. Have some tea." Old Master Crawford picked up a cup of tea that was freshly made and placed it opposite

sat down and picked up the tea to warm his hands.

company's project going well?" Old Master Crawford had always been concerned about the company's matters. That was why he knew about the project and Dr. Albus'

would still like to listen to Luke's report about the

Chapter 2093

After all, Old Master Crawford did not know that Luca's true identity was Bianca.

Despite her having given birth to three children for the Crawford family, if she did anything to harm the Crawford family or something that would affect the interests of T Corporation, Old Master Crawford would never forgive her if he found out about her real identity.

Old Master Crawford required his granddaughter-in-law to be an obedient woman. Even though Luca was forced to do these things, the old master's mind was old-fashioned. Luca might leave a bad impression on him.

Luke chose not to tell the old master to protect Luca.

Besides, only Percy and Jason knew about this. They would never tell anyone about it.

Pierre would not have known that it was Luca who stole the bidding document. Otherwise, he would have come looking for Luca when the matter came to light. He would tell Luca everything he knew and threaten her to make her listen to him.

They were all in Russia at the same time. Gale and Rain had never seen Luca and Pierre talk to each other. That was why Luke was pretty sure that Pierre had no idea about it.

Old Master Crawford frowned when he heard that. He did not ask who the culprit was. Instead, he asked, "Have you found out who it was?"

"Yes." Luke sipped his tea. "Pierre Mallory. He participated in the bidding too. The bidding document that he used was the fake bidding document that I prepared."

"That bastard?" Old Master Crawford did not like Pierre, the youngest member of the Mallory family, because of the mess he caused the last time. Old Master Crawford almost fought with Old Master Mallory because of this.

gave Marcos the information he wanted on the condition that he made public the bidding documents from all participating companies during the meeting. The bidding document that Pierre submitted was the fake document that I prepared. Other than the company's name and some other contents, he didn't change any word in it," said Luke. Then, he handed the documents to Old

Crawford picked up his reading glasses beside him. He glanced at the contents of the bidding document after putting on his glasses. "Is this a fake bidding

"Yes." Luke nodded.

something. I suppose the one you submitted must've been of higher quality. Preparing two bidding documents at the same time... Your hard work paid off." Old Master Crawford took his glasses off and looked at his grandson proudly.

that others were eyeing the project, but Luke had done a good job of planning ahead.

was, Pierre's actions did not put his efforts

nodded. He was also surprised that it was Pierre who bought the bidding

arrogant person like him had spent money to use T Corporation's bidding document but he accidentally got exposed. He must be really mad

I came here to ask for your help," said

Old Master Crawford was delighted to hear that. He stroked his beard and said, "Sure. I didn't expect I could be of help at this age. Tell me, what do I have to do?"

"**Percy** is keeping Pierre under control now, and he's going to leave Pierre to Old Master Mallory tomorrow. Pierre will have to confess everything that he's done. The Crawford family and the Mallory family have shared a good relationship for ages. As the younger generation, there are certain things that I can't intervene with. I'd like you to step forward and seek justice," said Luke. What happened this time was the same as the previous matter. Old Master Mallory would be harsh on him if Luke intervened with it.

That was why Luke wanted Old Master Crawford to come forward.

"**Again.** I'll head to the Mallory family's manor tomorrow. But you must send me the information. He may not believe it," reminded Old Master Crawford. After all, Luke had never disclosed the bidding **document before**.

If Luke claimed that the bidding document belonged to him, then it must be his document **indeed**.

However, Pierre would have the chance to deny it as the bidding document had never been disclosed before.

"*I came here fully prepared.*" Luke took his phone out. He stood up and sat beside Old Master Crawford. "There's the logo of T Corporation in the bidding document. I was afraid that Pierre would notice it, so I made sure that it was obscure enough. Here, Pierre didn't realize that the logo was still the in the bidding document that was disclosed." Luke pointed at the design draft on the document.

Old Master Crawford glanced at it. It was indeed T Corporation's logo!

"**That's very** obscure, indeed... Well done, Luke." Old Master Crawford complimented. Luke had planned things ahead, and he was attentive. Not only did Pierre fail to mess things up, but Luke even got the project.

All these things proved that he had made the right decision in leaving T Corporation to Luke to manage.

information along with you tomorrow. If they refuse to admit it, show them the logo and they'll have no choice but to admit it." Luke picked up his cup of tea and took a

I'm going to get even with him for this. Who cares about the friendship between the Crawford family and the Mallory family? Our friendship is almost over just because of that bastard!" Old Master Crawford was pissed. He had always despised those who did things under the table and used dirty tricks in the business industry.

wondered if someone like Pierre, who had sticky fingers, was the true bloodline of the Mallory family or if he happened to be picked up from the trash when he was young back then. Otherwise, how could they have raised such a

down." Luke returned to his seat, which was opposite Old Master Crawford's. Then, he poured a cup of tea for himself. The aromatic smell of the tea washed away

did Percy say?" Old Master Crawford would like to know which side was Pierre standing on.

one who caught Pierre. He tied him up and brought him back here. His position is clear." Luke was telling him that Percy was innocent and he had nothing to do

smart guy in the Mallory family." Old Master Crawford sighed. Previously, when he went looking for Old Master Mallory, the old man had defended his unfilial grandson. Old Master Crawford thought what Old Master Mallory did was silly and

took a sip of his cup of

Crawford looked at him and said, "I heard that you went to Russia for a business trip together

Chapter 2094

"Did Jason tell you? Or was Mr. Zac?" Luke had already narrowed it down. The others hardly had the chance to talk to Old Master Crawford.

"Fine. Mr. Zac was the one who told me. I forced him to," Old Master Crawford admitted helplessly. He was worried that Luke would look for Mr. Zac, he even emphasized that he was the one who forced Mr. Zac to spill the beans.

Luke remained silent. He knew it.

"I'm just concerned about you, alright? Look at you, raising three kids all by yourself. Although we have maids in the house and you have me helping you to take care of the kids, the kids can't grow up properly without a mother's love. I can tell the kids like Luca a lot. And I wonder when will both of you take another step further. Then I won't have to worry that much," Old Master Crawford mumbled. He had put in a lot of effort for the sake of Luke's happiness.

However, he did not expect Luke, who was so capable and smart during work, to be so stubborn when it came to relationships.

Luke did not take the chance when he had it. He should have taken their relationship to the next level when he was injured.

"Grandpa, I know what I'm doing," Luke said helplessly. He did not want Old Master Crawford to interfere with this. Luca was sensitive and attentive now. He was worried that the old master would mess things up.

"You say that every time. But I can't see any progress. Oh, it's not that you didn't do anything but you keep failing. I got it. I got it." Old Master Crawford deliberately talked about this so that Luke would not keep asking him about Mr. Zac's matter.

Luke gave him a helpless look.

Old Master Crawford was taking Luca's matter seriously more than he did.

Crawford stole a glimpse of Luke when he kept silent. "Why aren't

matter, I know what I'm doing. And I can't do anything recklessly for some particular reasons." Luke had no choice but to say something like

kids were anxious about it, they were not as serious as Old Master Crawford

this an excuse? I was thinking of creating a chance for the two of you. I didn't allow the kids to give you a call when they were thinking of calling you. Who would have known that you didn't know how to look for the perfect timing. Could it be that you've been working too hard over the years and you're exhausted? Is that why..." Old Master Crawford deliberately paused for a moment. "Do you need me to look for an experienced naturopathic doctor to prescribe some medicines for you to strengthen your body?"

don't need it. I'm perfectly fine." Luke knew what the old master meant. His face darkened at once. Fortunately, the kids were not there with them. Otherwise, he would have to explain to them what Old Master

Crawford immediately asked and said, "Are you embarrassed?"

drinking a cup of warm tea. There was nothing he could do about having such a grandfather.

old master would not show this side of him in front of the kids. Otherwise, the kids would imitate

Bring Luca over for dinner this weekend. Take it as a token of appreciation for taking good care of you." Old Master Crawford decided. Since Luke was not making any moves, he should lend him

are you up to?" Luke frowned and looked at

"*What can* an old man do? Am I not allowed to thank someone on your behalf? You don't know how to do this. As a senior, am I not allowed to do something to help you?" said Old Master **Crawford**.

Luke was left with no choice. Even though he knew Old Master Crawford was up to something, he said reluctantly, "I'll have to check my **schedule**."

"*What arrangements* have you made? It's decided. I'll ask Zander to invite her over if you're not bringing her here. You'll have to drive here and have dinner with us then." Old Master Crawford was determined. He would like to see Luke get married again in his remaining **years**.

Judging from how slow Luke was making his progress in his relationship with Luca, Old Master Crawford was afraid that he would not be able to see it for himself before he passed away.

Luke frowned.

"*Oh, one* more thing. Visit the Norman family if you have the time. Try to ask Jack about the news of the development of the western suburbs. You'll have to get ready as soon as possible if the rumor is true. Although T Corporation has a lot of projects going on now and there's no need to worry about getting more projects, there are some projects that we can't let go," Old Master Crawford reminded.

“Okay. I heard about it too, and I’m thinking about it,” replied Luke. He had to bring Luca and the kids along with him to visit the Norman family this time. That way, it would not be too **obvious.**

Besides, it had been a long time, so Jack must be missing **Luca.**

“You’ll have to deal with your mother’s matter too,” Old Master Crawford reminded Luke again. Although Crawford Manor had quieted down since Allison went abroad, it was inevitable that she would come back here one day in the future. That was why he reminded Luke not to forget about her. She was his mother, after all.

Outside the tea room.

her way down the stairs, and she noticed that the door of the tea room was closed. Mr. Griffin was standing not far away from

“Is Old Master Crawford discussing matters with someone

"Yes, Madam Susan," replied Mr. Griffin.

frowned and said, “Who is it? It seems it’s been a long time since such formal measures

tea room was a place to talk about business. Previously, Old Master Crawford would invite anyone who came to visit him to the tea room. They would drink tea and have a chat with each other. However, he would not have made it so formal like today. The door of the tea room was closed, and he instructed Mr. Griffin to stand not far away from the room. It was obvious that he did not want anyone to come close to the tea room and eavesdrop on their

room had good soundproofing, but Mr. Griffin was standing right there. There was no way Susan could get near the room, and she would not be able to hear anything.

Luke has returned,” Mr. Griffin replied in a soft

furrowed even more, and she blurted out unconsciously, “That bastard— Luke?”

blurted out her hatred for Luke in front of

Chapter 2095

Susan frowned with dissatisfaction. “Even if Louis doesn’t work at T Corporation, he’s still a shareholder. Whatever decisions they make, shouldn’t they consult Louis as well?”

The butler smiled apologetically and said, “Yes, you’re right.”

“This won’t do. Since Louis isn’t here, I need to listen to what they have to say.” Susan thought that she could not let Luke get the upper hand.

She went through a lot just to get Louis so many shares from T Corporation, but if Luke decided to pull some strings and keep the shares for himself, then all her previous efforts would be in vain.

“Madam Crawford, Old Master Crawford ordered...” The butler blocked her way.

“Don’t worry, I’ll just stand by the door. If I can hear it, I’ll hear it. If I can’t, then so be it. I won’t make things difficult for you,” Susan insisted on moving forward.

"This is Old Master Crawford's order, Madam Crawford. Do you want to displease the old master?" The butler held his ground and stood in her way.

If she continued forward, she would reach the door.

Susan saw that the butler would not budge, and if she continued to make a fuss, the people inside would surely be able to hear it.

She did not dare upset the old master right now, so she glared at the butler and left.

The butler breathed a sigh of relief. Although Susan would hold a grudge against him, it would not be the first time, so he did not think anything of it.

When the tea room door opened, Luke and Old Master Crawford walked out.

Although the old master was elderly, his hearing was still sharp. He asked the butler, "Who was it who tried to enter just now?"

"Old Master Crawford, you heard that?" the butler did not answer.

it Susan?" Old Master Crawford knew who it was after noticing how the butler did not answer. After Allison left, the only person left in this house who was this aggressive and domineering

Crawford is just concerned about the Crawford family affairs," the butler had no choice but

Master Crawford grunted as he knew exactly what Susan was up

glancing at the time, Old Master Crawford said, "It's almost time. The children are about to finish school, so have Mrs. Nancy prepare

replied the butler as he bowed. "Young Master Luke, will you be having dinner at Crawford Manor this

said Luke. He had originally intended to bring the children back tomorrow, but since he was already here, he might as well stay for dinner and bring them

Crawford was getting old and needed a quiet

place had always been a bit rowdy as the kids were here all

that case, I'll have Mrs. Nancy prepare dinner now." The butler headed to the kitchen after he finished

will you be staying the night?" Old Master Crawford asked as he would need to have the maid clean Luke's bedroom if Luke decided to stay the

I'll take the children back home after dinner,"

Crawford nodded without obstructing him as he thought that bringing the children back home with him was not a bad idea. Since he could not handle Luca himself, perhaps the children could assist

of the kids got some new things during their stay. I'll have someone pack them up," said the old master as he ordered the

"We *can* always buy them again." Luke frowned. He would have to travel to Russia often in the future because of the Russian project.

For the most part, he would bring Luca along with him, so the kids would still have to stay at Crawford Manor from time to time.

“Just take them with you and save the money. Besides, do you even have time to buy them with the children?” said Old Master Crawford while he gestured to the maid and insisted that she go pack them up.

Luke kept quiet as he really did not have much time to spend with the children.

When the kids were younger, he could still bring them to the company to watch over them. The kids knew how to behave, so he would put them in the office and they would stay by his side the entire day without making a **fuss**.

Now that they have to attend school, bringing them along with him would only interfere with their **studies**.

That was why he still needed Luca.

He had to hurry up and find the person controlling Luca so that she could return to their *family*.

An hour had passed.

Uncle Zander picked up the three kids from school and *returned*.

Lanie, Rainie, and Tommy walked into the living room while holding hands. Their eyes lit up the moment they saw Luke. They let go of each other’s hands and ran over to Luke. “Daddy, you’re back!”

Tommy cheered the loudest. Their father came back, which meant that Luca should be back *too*.

He looked around but did not see Luca, so he asked, “Daddy, where’s Ms. *Luca*?”

Tommy yearning for Luca and empathized with him. She was the one who took care of him since he was little. It was only natural that he longed to be close to

patted his head and said, “She didn’t come over. She’s at the

see... Daddy, you should’ve brought Ms. Luca over,” Tommy said

who stood beside him, also said, “He’s right, Daddy. We all miss Ms.

I bring you all back after dinner, you’ll be able to see her.” Luke caressed each of their

great, Daddy!” Tommy was the first to jump up and down

Rainie cheered after glancing

not have much to say, but the corners of his mouth curled up into a smile

Crawford saw the three kids’ reactions and looked at Luke. He then said meaningfully, “It seems like the children like Luca

already very close to Luca to begin with.” Luke caressed their

fondness came from their kinship. There was an innate connection between a mother and her children. Otherwise, they would not have found out so early on that Luca was

the three children were smart enough to notice something unusual in Luca's behavior, if it were not for their kinship, they would not have found out about it sooner than the

at Old Master Crawford. "Yes, Great-grandpa. We like Ms. Luca a

Chapter 2096

"Thea isn't a kid anymore. As her grandmother and guardian, aren't you going to teach her some manners?" Old Master Crawford frowned as could not bear the sight of Susan spoiling the child.

Compared to Lanie and the other two, Thea was very bad-mannered.

"That's enough, Father. Keep your voice down. Our Thea wasn't always like this. She turned out this way because of the trauma she experienced three years ago. Speaking of which, someone is to blame for that." Susan deliberately glanced at Luke.

In her opinion, Old Master Crawford behaved this way because he favored Luke's children.

Thea was also his great-granddaughter, yet he often lectured her in front of the other three children, which bothered Susan.

After Thea's trauma from three years ago was mentioned, Old Master Crawford was speechless.

Allison's behavior at the time had directly hurt Thea and left an indelible psychological wound in the child's heart.

Since then, Thea's character had changed.

Louis and his wife even took the child to see a psychiatrist, and the doctor said that the trauma was a result of emotional shock. Perhaps it would get better as she grew older and gradually forgot about it. The most important thing was to have her parents by her side.

However, Louis was often busy with work and rarely had time to accompany his daughter.

On the other hand, Yuri started to get busy at the company after Thea went to kindergarten. Hence, she rarely accompanied her as well.

Thus, Thea had always been in the care of Susan.

Susan's idea of child education was to spoon-feed them and nothing else. That was why Thea's character turned out even worse.

Compared to Lanie and the others, Thea's personality was not likable at all.

"What's the point of bringing up the past?" Old Master Crawford glared at Susan. They so eagerly wished that Thea would forget that incident, yet Susan kept bringing it up as if the situation was not bad

Like hell she would forget it!

held Thea's hand and sneered. "Everything happens for a reason, Father. Let me remind you that Thea isn't to blame for the way she turned out. As an elder, shouldn't you be more caring toward

the old master of

Master Crawford glanced at Thea who was trembling. Every time an adult mentioned the incident three years ago, the child

so many constant reminders, she simply could not

is ready. Go eat," grunted Old Master Crawford. He glanced at Thea once again and could not help but shake his

may need to have a talk with Louis and Yuri to get them to make time to accompany their

Susan continued to take care of the child, he would much rather find a nanny

would do a much better

could come out of being in Susan's

Master Crawford also changed his mind about letting Susan move in with the rest after Louis' villa was done

she would take care of Thea

Thea's character could only get worse if she was under Susan's care, so he might as well get a professional nanny. Even if Louis and Yuri did not have the time to take care of their child, a professional nanny would be good for Thea too.

Rainie noticed Thea trembling and found her pitiful. She still remembered that *incident*.

It was all their grandma's fault.

She stepped forward to hold Thea's hand. "Thea, let's **go eat**."

Thea did not extend her hand. She shrank herself in between Susan's arms instead.

She was not afraid of Rainie; she **hated her**.

Old Master Crawford would praise Rainie in front of everyone, but he never once **mentioned her**.

If others did not know better, they would think that she was his only great-granddaughter.

Thea took Susan's words to heart, so Old Master Crawford's lecture this time around made her grudge against Rainie go **even deeper**.

Susan sneered as she held Thea's hand and said, "Come on, Thea. Let's go eat. If not, you'll get lectured **again**."

Luke frowned. The things that Susan said were not good for a child's mental **growth**.

It seemed that he would need to have a talk with Louis about the way Thea was *being educated*.

Rainie felt awkward with her hand still *extended*.

Tommy read her mind and immediately went forward to hold Rainie's hand. He grinned and said, "Rainie, let's **go eat.**"

Rainie smiled and patted her brother's head. The two siblings then walked to the dining room

the other hand, Lanie followed behind them. When she saw that Luke was still standing there, she called to him, "Daddy, it's time

Luke nodded and walked into the dining room with

Luke let the children finish their

kids were smart, so they were able to do their homework quickly. After they were done, Luke carried the two bags of things the maid packed up and took the kids

was pitch dark in

frowned and looked at the time. Aunt Neile must have gotten off work by now, but where

on her character, she would not turn off the lights if he had yet to come back

the children into the living room and turned the lights on. The house was

held Luke's hand and whispered, "Daddy, did Ms. Luca really come

"She's back," said Luke.

isn't she in the villa? Did she sneak away?" Tommy asked while pouting. Luke clearly remembered that she wanted to move out before his

heart thumped. Luca could not have moved

Chapter 2097

Silence filled the bedroom as no one replied. It was as though his words fell on deaf ears.

Luke's hands trembled, and his heart could not help but beat faster. He had never felt this anxious before...

"Luca, if you don't say anything, I'm going in," he said, yet there was still no sound.

Luke put his left hand on the door handle and pushed the door open without hesitation.

The lights in the bedroom were off, so he fumbled around the switch to turn on the lights. Luca was not inside.

Luke walked to the closet and opened the door.

Luca's clothes were still hanging inside, along with her suitcase. It did not seem like she left.

The lump in his throat slowly disappeared. Although he did not know where Luca went, it seemed that she did not leave.

He took out his phone to call Luca.

Not being home this late meant that she must be busy with something, but it was hard to say what it was she was busy with.

Luke was worried that she was sent on another mission by the Island of Despair.

She had just returned. Even if the Island of Despair were to give her a mission, he did not think that now would be the time. Hence, he did not inform Gale and Rain to be on her tail here.

Listening to the ringing tone while waiting for the call to be answered annoyed Luke.

It rang about ten times but Luca did not answer. Luke frowned, and when the phone stated that the other end was currently unavailable, he dialed Aunt Neile's number.

Aunt Neile picked up the phone. "Mr. Crawford, it's late. What's the matter?"

isn't Ms. Craw home?" asked

Neile replied, "Ms. Craw hasn't gone home yet? After you left, she said that she had some matters to take care of at

Luke frowned. What company matters could there possibly be that required her

He instantly thought of the research.

period of time, Luca had basically abandoned the research for the sake of M Group's project. Moreover, when they were in Russia, he even instructed Zoey to tell the people in that department to leave Luca

Group's project was more important,

that's what she said. It's already so late. Is she not back yet?" Aunt Neile wondered

busy." Luke hung up. He was still worried, but he did not call Luca. If she was really busy with the research at T Corporation, it was normal practice for the employees to leave their phones in the office while they were in

asked Tina for Zoey's

Tina immediately gave it to him.

dialed the number, and after Zoey picked up, he immediately cut to the chase. "This is Luke. Did Dr. Craw go to work

was a little taken aback that the boss actually called her. Moreover, he called to look for

listened carefully and could hear the anxiousness in his

guessed that Luke was worried about Luca. She quickly said, "Yes, Boss. Dr. Craw is still in a meeting

was a little surprised when Rhett told her to inform the others about the

After asking around, she learned that Luca had just returned from Russia and wanted to have a meeting to deal with the current issues.

"Got it." Luke hung up the phone and was finally relieved.

She was busy working at the company. She did not *sneak away*...

Zoey was puzzled after hearing the busy tone on the other end of the phone.

That was it?

It seemed that the rumors in the company were true. Zoey shook her head as she thought of Jenni. She had given her heart to the wrong *person*.

No matter how one looked at it, Luca was much better than Jenni. A man like Luke would know how to **choose**.

It was all just Jenni's wishful thinking. Plus, Luke already had a wife. Even if he did not, plain old Jenni still would not stand a **chance**.

...

Luke came down to the *first floor*.

Tommy saw him coming down and hurriedly went up to him and asked, "Daddy, is Ms. *Luca asleep*?"

"No. I just asked and she's busy working at the company." After Luke finished, the three kids clearly **looked relieved**.

They were all worried that Luca would leave without saying goodbye.

"**Daddy**, Ms. Luca just returned. How could you have her go work?" Tommy had transformed into a righteous little angel, accusing Luke of tiring Luca **out**.

saw the reproachful look on his face and patted his head. "She's worried about the research. It's getting late now, and your things are all upstairs. Take what's yours, wash up, and go

I sleep on the first floor after washing up?"

Luke looked at his daughter and could sort of guess why she wanted to

to see Ms. Luca as soon as possible," said Rainie. It had been a while since she last saw her mom, and she missed her a

want to sleep on the first floor too," said Tommy while he raised

can't. If she sees you sleeping on the first floor waiting for her, she'll feel bad. Go back to your own bedrooms," Luke said firmly as he knew that once he agreed to Rainie's request, Tommy would make a fuss about it

saw the kids sleeping on the couch just to see her, her heart

to mention, sleeping on the couch was

had them all sleep in their own

Tommy pouted and tried to

to bed." Luke urged the children to go

of them had no choice but to go upstairs. They took their own belongings from the bags and went to their respective bedrooms. They showered, changed into their pajamas, and got ready

Luke watched the three children crawl into bed to rest, he then specially focused on

was the youngest and also

after confirming that Tommy was asleep did he carry his laptop down to the first

Chapter 2098

Luca was explaining to him.

After the meeting ended, she saw the missed call from Luke.

However, she gave up the idea of calling him back after she saw the time. It was late, and Luke must have already slept...

She did not expect to see the villa brightly lit up when she came back. Luke was even working in the living room, waiting for her.

"I know." Luke saved the file and closed the computer screen.

Luca glanced at the time. It was already 12, yet Luke waited for her until now...

"Mr. Crawford, aren't you going to sleep?" she asked.

Luke stood up. "Has the drug research been taken care of?"

"No, there's data that does not match the hypothesis. We're still trying to find out why," said Luca. After having a meeting that lasted the whole day, they still had not found where the problem came from.

"No rush. Take your time. Go rest," said Luke.

Luca nodded and was about to head upstairs when she heard him say, "I've picked up the children."

"They're back?" She was a little surprised, but the corners of her mouth curled up slightly as she missed the three kids too.

"Yes, they made a lot of noise about wanting to come back. When they found out that you were at the company working overtime, they wanted to sleep in the first-floor living room and wait for you to come back. But I didn't allow it," Luke brought up the children, telling her how much they cared about Luca.

suddenly felt guilty. "I'll keep it down when going

Let's go. I'm going upstairs to rest too," said Luke as he felt relieved after waiting up

he knew that she was working overtime at the company, he would still be restless if he did not get to

that he had seen her, he finally had peace of

Luca nodded and went upstairs

of them walked to their respective bedrooms. Luca turned to look at Luke, then walked into her room and gently closed the door

fixed his eyes on her tightly shut door. They were only one door
had to overcome this

...

The following day.

In the Mallory family's manor.

dragged the reluctant Pierre into the Mallory family's manor. Mr. Bennet was stunned to see that Pierre's hands were tied up and was about to ask what was going on when Percy asked, "Is

"Old Master Mallory is awake. He's having tea in the living room." Right after Mr. Bennet replied, Percy continued dragging Pierre forward.

"Master Percy, what's wrong with you? Why did you tie up Second Young Master?" Mr. Bennet chased after him and **asked**.

"Stay out of it." Percy dragged the furious Pierre **forward**.

Pierre felt like he had lost his dignity. When had the untouchable Second Young Master ever been so humiliated in front of these butlers and *maids*?

"Will you let go of me?"

Percy ignored his words and pulled him directly in front of Old Master Mallory.

Old Master Mallory put down his teacup upon seeing this and frowned as he asked, "Why the big fuss? What's the **matter**?"

Percy looked at his brother and asked directly, "Do you want to say it or should I *say it*?"

Pierre looked the other way with no intention of *answering him*.

Old Master Mallory frowned. He had no way of controlling Pierre, and after finding out that Percy was secretly engaged to Nina, he was furious. This made him not want to see them even more.

"Is it right of you to tie up your brother like this? Also, did I give you permission to come back?" Old Master Mallory seized the opportunity to accuse Percy. After the old master knew about his engagement, he threatened Percy not to set foot in the Mallory family's manor.

If it were not for the fact that their company had to rely on Percy, he might have already replaced him with someone else out of anger.

"Grandpa, I know that you're upset about my secret engagement to Nina, but now is not the time to talk about that matter. I came here today to see you and solve the trouble Pierre has caused." Percy frowned. It was one thing for the old master to be upset about his engagement to Nina, but it was another thing for Pierre to cause **trouble**.

he finished talking, Pierre turned around with hatred in his eyes. "What did you say? You're engaged to ignored him and stared straight at the old

of Percy returning with Pierre tied up alarmed everyone in the Mallory family's manor. Madam Mallory came rushing down the stairs and wailed when she saw that both Pierre's hands were indeed tied. She said, "Percy, how could you tie up your

don't you ask him what absurd things he's done?" Percy looked at his

was also part of the reason why Pierre turned out like

the absurdity of the things he's done, he's still your brother. Why did you tie him up?" said Madam Mallory as she was about to untie the rope for Pierre. "What did you do? I've been trying to reach you. How could you come back all

did not have the heart to answer her question as he was in

actions did not cost Percy much, so he did not think it was a big

asked his mother directly, "How could you let him get engaged to

were not married yet, once they got engaged, it meant that Percy had already stamped his mark on

He could not accept this!

Nina belonged to him!

Chapter 2099

Percy sneered when he heard Pierre's words. He and Luke knew he would say this.

Old Master Mallory flipped through the bidding document and looked up at the two brothers.

"This bidding document..." He tossed the bidding document to the side of the couch.

"This is my bidding document," Pierre said through gritted teeth. Although this useless bidding document had cost him a large sum of money, he could only bite the bullet and say that it belonged to him.

"Pierre!" Percy's lowered his voice as he issued a warning.

"What? Are you still going to help an outsider to teach me a lesson? You had me out at sea with my hands and feet tied up for so many days. How could you do such a thing to your own brother?" Pierre looked at him provocatively.

"What?" Madam Mallory exclaimed before Old Master Mallory could even react. "You were tied up for so many days? Are you hurt? Dear God, how could you do this to your brother, Percy?" Madam Mallory looked Pierre up and down.

At the same time, Old Master Mallory asked, "This bidding document is from your brother's company. What do you have to say about that?"

Percy was not surprised to see that both elders chose to side with Pierre.

After all, he had already gone against their wishes by insisting on being with Nina.

It would not be long before he became the abandoned son of the Mallory family.

It was no surprise.

“Pierre, do you know who you’re dealing with? If you keep insisting, I won’t bat an eye regardless of whatever happens to you in the future.” Percy issued his last warning.

If Pierre was willing to repent in front of their elders, Percy would still look after him in the future.

if Pierre refused to admit what he did wrong, there was no need to hold on to this brotherhood

became dark and sullen as he was stunned. Percy knew about

Mallory’s gaze fell on Pierre once again. His sullen face did not look like he was

Percy’s phone rang.

glanced at it and saw that it was Luke. He rejected the call instead of

was a signal between the two of them. It meant that Old Master Crawford was on his way to

to leave, lest he got into trouble with Old Master Crawford

If you insist on not saying anything, whatever happens in the future, you’ll carry the burden yourself.”

Percy left right

brought a pair of

Mallory hurriedly untied Pierre and said in discontent, “Why did you get into a conflict with

him who went crazy. He’s siding with Luke instead of me. It’s obvious that he and Luke are trying to slander me,”

Mallory frowned. Although the relationship between the two brothers was getting worse day by day, Percy would never do such a

had disobeyed the family’s arrangement and insisted on being with Nina, which made the old master very

However, Percy had stirred up big trouble before. Even so, the company and everything else were still not handed over to Pierre. Hence, there was no need for him to go to such lengths for his own **benefit**.

Old Master Mallory looked at Madam Mallory spoiling Pierre with a stern face. “Pierre, tell me. Did your company really prepare **this bid?**”

“Grandpa, it was prepared by my employees.” Pierre twisted his wrists, which had been tied up so tightly it left a big red scar.

Madam Mallory’s heart ached when she saw the scar and asked the maid to bring some medicine so she could apply it to Pierre’s wrists.

“**Really?**” Old Master Mallory asked once again as he understood both his grandsons’ **temper**.

Based on Pierre’s current nature, he was indeed capable of stealing bidding documents.

On the other hand, Percy would not set Pierre up for an outsider if he were *innocent*.

Pierre became impatient as the old master repeatedly questioned him but also worried. Had the old man sensed that something **was off**?

After all, the old master had been in the business for so many years and was not an easy man to **fool**.

"Nowhere in this bidding document shows that it's from T Corporation. Besides, if I had gotten someone to steal it for me, I would need money. Where would I have gotten the **money from...**"

Old Master Mallory nodded. Pierre had a point. He indeed did not have money.

He did force Pierre to shut down several operations in the gray market, and Pierre had to pay the partners involved a hefty sum.

Madam Mallory had helped him out a bit, but the money mostly came from **his pocket**.

Old Master Mallory believed that he did not have

have you had breakfast yet? If not, ask the cook to make you some," said Old

a sigh of relief as he had gotten away with

was the one who submitted this bidding document first. Everything that had to do with T Corporation in the bidding document was erased, so there was no evidence to

haven't slept in days, so I'll go upstairs to take a nap." For the past few days, Pierre had not been able to sleep a wink as he was at the mercy of

was heartbroken when she heard those words. "Wait a moment. I'll help you massage your hands, or there'll

glancing at his wrists, Pierre could not care less and said,

I just leave it be. The scar is so

alone. Pierre isn't a child anymore. Why are you still treating him like one? If he were lucky, he'd have his own child by now." Old Master Mallory interrupted Madam Mallory's

Mallory dared not say anything more as the old master was clearly in a bad mood after the mess

children, Pierre was once again reminded that Nina used to be pregnant with

he had not tormented her and kept her from getting what she wanted, the child would be several years old

not have chosen

Chapter 2100

"Mm." Old Master Mallory continued to study the bidding document without looking up.

Mr. Bennet left with his teacup, came back, and served him the re-brewed warm tea.

Old Master Mallory was still looking at the bidding document.

Upstairs.

As soon as Pierre walked to the second floor, he could not help but ask Madam Mallory, "Is it true that Percy and Nina are engaged?"

Madam Mallory frowned when she heard Pierre's anxious tone. "They've announced the engagement. It's happening. He hid the news from the family, so Old Master Mallory is fuming."

"You should've sent someone to keep an eye on him. Maybe you could've stopped it." Pierre clenched his fists.

"How did you expect me to do that? Mallory Corporation is in his hands. It's not easy to keep an eye on him. Besides, even when we arranged for the Johnston woman to be his partner, he ended up messing up their family. Everyone in A City knows that he loves that b*tch. No one dares to try anything because of what happened to the Johnston family. What can I do in this situation?" Madam Mallory was annoyed when she thought of what happened.

In the Mallory family, Old Master Mallory was the only one who could control Percy. As time went along, even Old Master Mallory began to lose his influence over Percy.

All Percy could think about was being with Nina. It was as though he was bewitched and there was no way to stop it.

Pierre's hands clenched into fists when he heard that.

with Old Master Crawford had not been as good as it used to be since the last time they fought because of

Old Master Crawford was making another appearance because

Master Mallory was not at all

if Pierre did steal T Corporation's bidding document, there was

bidding document that Old Master Mallory had with him did not contain anything related to T

Mallory thought to himself as he closed the document and put it with the magazine on the

Master Crawford walked in. The smell of tea drifted into his nostrils, and his brows furrowed even

seemed that this Old Master Mallory already knew why he was here and even made tea in preparation for his

Master Mallory, long time no see. How have you been doing?" Old Master Crawford said. Since the last incident, he and Old Master Mallory had not interacted. They no longer drank tea and played chess together

to you, I'm doing good. By the way, congratulations. Luke is so capable! I heard that he won another big project." Old Master Mallory put on a fake