

Be Gentle 211

Chapter 211

'What's going on?

'Why would searching for 'Bianca Rayne' be a violation of the law?'

While Bianca pondered over the question, her colleagues noticed a black Bentley driving into the courtyard with two equally extravagant cars following behind.

The cars raised a cloud of dust; they were on sandy, unpaved ground after all. However, the people could not ignore the fact that the cars had consecutive plate numbers.

The workers of T Corporation stood up in unison and discreetly put away their phones. They regarded the people who had gotten out of the cars with the utmost seriousness.

Jason stepped out of the first car.

He walked directly toward Bianca.

Bianca stood up. She was still thinking about the comments on the Internet when she heard Jason tell her, "Boss wants you to go over, Ms. Rayne."

"..." Bianca did not move.

'If Luke is in the car, why isn't he getting out?'

"Don't worry. It's official business," Jason explained. He seemed to understand Bianca's reservations.

At that moment, Bianca noticed that two people stepped out from the third car parked in the courtyard. They were from higher management.

two managers went to look for Joe and another female colleague. After a brief discussion, the two workers packed up their laptops and cameras and followed the managers into the

like Luke is really here for official

just that... it's only been a few hours since last night. Isn't it exhausting for him to travel between A City and the town to handle

me a moment." Bianca packed up her laptop as she replied

...

A City.

was being pestered by Marie when his

at the phone number and picked up the call impatiently. "What's the

else? It's the biggest news, of course!" Leia's pampered voice was heard over the phone. "Did you find someone to suppress the news? It happened so

news?" Xavier had just gotten out of bed and did not know the latest

the news is suppressed. Earlier, everyone on the Internet is talking about it, but you can't even find a word of it now. What else could it be, if not that some influential figure is actively suppressing it? My agent even says that searching for your wife's name results in a

was how Leia concluded that someone must be suppressing the

However, she was not pleased that Bianca enjoyed a better treatment than **her!**

Xavier frowned harder and harder as he heard Leia speak. As he told Leia that he did not do anything to suppress the news, he lit a cigarette and dragged on it impatiently.

"Is that... Leia Norman?" Marie tried to guess the other party's identity from **Xavier's words.**

Xavier's impatience turned into stern anger. He pointed fiercely at Marie with the fingers holding the cigarette. *"Shut the hell up!"*

Marie's face turned pale from fright.

Leia did not care to whom Xavier was talking. She hung up after finding out that Xavier was not behind the suppression.

A luxury RV drove into a heavily-guarded path that led to **a mansion.**

Before Leia got out of the vehicle, she turned around to stop her agent who was also preparing to get out. "You don't have to come in today, Bunny. I want to spend some time with my mother."

Bunny knew that she was unwelcome there. She lit a cigarette and waved at the driver, indicating that they should leave **the scene.**

After the RV left, Leia stood in front of the door and tidied her appearance. She took off the high heels that she wore on the journey, held them in one hand, and limped into the mansion **barefoot.**

Queenie was watching a talk show when she looked out of the window and noticed her daughter limping. She quickly put her glass away and went to help her daughter. "What happened, Leia?"

I sprained my foot." Leia sat on the couch and lowered her head, seemingly in a lot

are too high. I ought to talk to your agent. You don't have to be so hardworking at a press conference. I know that you're not used to wearing high heels. When you leave tonight, bring some flat shoes with you," Queenie

you, Mom..." Leia suddenly sobbed. Her arms hugged around Queenie's neck and she said

She patted Leia's back and said, "You still act like a little girl. Isn't your Mom here for you? I saw the news earlier today. That's the entertainment scene nowadays. If you're tired, you can always come home. You don't have to be

that's your dream. If you couldn't achieve it when you were young, let me fulfill it for you..." Leia said

Queenie had no response to that.

a pang of melancholy when she was reminded of past

dream was to be a drama actress that won accolades. However, before she could realize her dream, she had met Jack Norman, her current husband from a military background. The Norman family did not wish that their daughter-in-law make public

had to kill her dream of making it big in showbiz. Her next dream was to bear a child for her husband, they adopted an obedient and intelligent child ten years ago. Ten years later, Leia had never let her the news on the Internet has been blocked. Did Dad get someone to do it?" Leia was curious. If Xavier did not do it, then it must have been

one else could have done

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Luke's body emitted a frosty aura, which warned people to stay away as far as possible.

Bianca pulled her jacket together and turned her head weakly to look outside the window. She did not say a word.

After Jason helped Bianca sit in the car and closed the door, he went to get the two children who were doing their homework out of the room and into the car.

The back seat of the Bentley was spacious. The children were carried into the car one after the other, but the father did not reach out to catch them. In fact, when he glanced at the children, it was full of disgust and annoyance.

The two children were used to that and did not feel particularly sad.

Rainie shifted closer to Bianca and asked her, "Can I sit together with you, Miss Bea?"

"Of course. You can come closer..." Bianca said gently.

She took Rainie's hand and brought the little girl into her arms.

The scene looked like a family of four on their weekend family trip, but the father was too aloof and distracted...

Lanie also wanted to go closer to Bianca, but when he saw his father's dour face, he sheepishly shrunk back.

The little boy could tell that his father was in a bad mood.

He sat on the soft leather seat opposite his father, fastened the seatbelt, and stared wordlessly at his father.

...

A City.

Xavier washed up and changed his clothes, he drove away from

Marie was together with him.

was no reason other than the fact that Marie said that she was Bianca's elder

Xavier's eyes, Marie was no different than a call girl -- cheap and affordable to the masses. However, ever since he knew that Marie was a Rayne and was Bianca's sister, she became special to

with Marie was an indescribably cathartic experience, even though Marie and Bianca shared neither father

even had a perverted fantasy that Marie was Bianca's birth sister. That way, he would have gained an advantage over Bianca

Unfortunately, Marie was not.

in the side passenger seat, Marie constantly observed Xavier's

was speeding on the road, and Xavier's expression was unreadable. His gaze was dangerously sullen, and his lips were tightly pressed together. Occasionally he took a drag from his cigarette but exhaled through his

Xavier parked his car in front of a private *restaurant*.

Leia was dressed in a hoodie and casual clothes. Her hair was tied in a ponytail, and she wore extra-large glasses. She looked like a typical female *college student*.

The restaurant was owned by a close friend and she did not have to worry about paparazzi. Even so, she remained cautious whenever she was out in the public.

The paparazzi could be everywhere. She was cautious the night before, but they managed to take her photo anyway...

When Xavier entered the private room on the second floor, Leia looked at him and asked, "Who's that behind you?"

Marie was stunned. It was her first time meeting a famous celebrity in real life. However, Leia did not seem as pure and innocent as shown on TV. She immediately realized that most of Leia's photos were airbrushed.

Even so, Leia's appearance was remarkable. Her facial features were unique, and her figure was *blessed*.

Marie envied Leia -- They were both mortal humans born on this earth to survive, but why was Leia so much luckier *than her*?

"A friend," Xavier replied nonchalantly. That was her introduction. He sat down and glared wordlessly at Leia.

Leia knew what Xavier wanted to ask. "My mom said that my dad is having a meeting in the Capital. He probably hasn't found out about the **incident yet**."

Now that Xavier found out that the suppression was not done by Leia's parents or her agency, he lit a cigarette and started thinking hard. When his thoughts fell on Luke, he chuckled coldly. "Indeed, he's more meticulous than me."

"What? Who is more meticulous than you?" Leia *asked*.

nothing." Xavier tossed his lighter on the table, then spoke without giving any regard to Marie. "Didn't you want to meet my wife? Let's go

'So fast?' Leia was surprised.

silently watching Xavier and Leia's interactions. Her eyes met with Leia's, and she smiled awkwardly at saw that Marie was nervous. She did not know who that stranger was yet, and so she behaved courteously. "Nice to

Nice to meet you. I'm Marie Rayne!" Marie immediately introduced herself as though she was flattered that the celebrity had noticed

looked at Marie's naive response with disdain. He closed his eyes and took another drag of his cigarette. "She wants to break into the entertainment industry. If it's possible, you can be her mentor. She says that she doesn't mind being

Xavier were not in the upper echelons of society but they were in an exclusive circle apart from typical rich

noticed Marie's surname and heard the disdain in Xavier's voice. She nodded and agreed. "Do you want to be an actress? That will take a lot of patience. If you're willing, I can be your mentor, and I'll pass on any suitable opportunities

jaw dropped, and her eyes opened wide. "Thank you, Ms. Norman! Thank you

elated voice echoed in the private room. She was close to falling on

Leia agreed to be Marie's mentor, the three went together to the small town to look for

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"I wanna sleep, Daddy..." Rainie slumped lazily over Luke's shoulder and pouted.

Bianca got out of the car. She lifted her head and looked at Luke's profound eyes.

The part of her chest that Luke had touched felt swollen and painful. It was more sensitive than the day before. She wondered if it was almost the time of the month, and a brief calculation revealed that it was the case.

Luke carried his daughter and looked at his son, who did not seem to be of much use, then looked at Bianca. "Stay here and accompany the children."

At the same time, he placed the little girl in the car.

Jason had work to do. After all, a boss's assistant had to take care of his boss in addition to his own work and was usually busier than the boss himself.

The car was parked in the outskirts of the town, and a five-year-old girl was sleeping inside. No parent would be at ease.

Bianca was more than willing to stay back and take care of her daughter, but she glanced at her colleagues who had gathered some distance away and said, "How would they see..."

"Let them draw their conclusions," the man said coldly. After putting Rainie down, he lit a cigarette and took a drag. When he passed by her side, he stared straight at her. "No matter what it is, you were the one who slept with me."

He spoke softly, but those words were like needles in Bianca's ears.

Bianca thought that Luke was acting out of jealousy today, even though he might not admit to it.

A considerate man would think of the big picture and not let any aspect of the situation turn for the worse. That was the sign of a man's maturity and responsibility.

loved men who were like that. She appreciated a man who could think and strategize, not an arrogant hooligan who only knew how to use violence to

exterior might seem calm and collected, but he was also very capable of

a sigh of relief when he saw the man walk away while frowning. She got back into the car, slowly leaned forward, and landed a gentle kiss on her sleeping daughter's pink

the other people toured the area. The workers noted down the boss's feedback and prepared to make someone drove back to town to buy lunchboxes for

were limited in the small town, and everyone ate the same

woke up, Bianca brought the children out of the car. She was supposed to be working. If she remained in the car, someone might gossip that she was

did not want to be seen as privileged because she was the boss's cousin's wife. Her colleagues would not with her brother when she was awake. Bianca occasionally glanced at them while at work to make sure that everything

were eating and Rainie was looking intently at the sauerkraut in Bianca's lunchbox, a Porsche was seen driving toward

raised dust clouds in the distance, though the dust clouds died down when the car got near. The wheels drove past a puddle, splashed water all around, and stopped in front of

that was feeding Rainie froze

She could immediately tell that it was **Xavier's ride**.

'Why is he here?'

"It's Uncle Xavier." Rainie looked at the man who had gotten out of the car. He looked casual and energetic.

'Looks like he slept very well last night.'

When Xavier walked toward the crowd, Bianca could hear that her colleagues started to gossip.

She could not hear exactly what they were saying, but she could guess that it was about the headline earlier **that morning...**

They were thinking that Xavier was there to apologize to his wife for having an affair with Leia Norman, the **famous celebrity.**

Some of the colleagues were even thinking that Bianca had already known about her husband's affair, and that was why she wanted *a divorce.*

Now, everyone knew about that affair.

No woman would be able to take that *lying down.*

If Xavier did not want the divorce, they could not guess **the reason.**

replete in wealthy families. No matter how entertaining the rumors can get, they were often not as interesting as the truth hidden behind the walls of

carried a case of expensive imported drinks in his hand. A ten-ounce bottle usually cost six dollars in the office worker would rarely drink that. With six dollars, they would rather

your hard work, everyone. Please have a drink." Xavier placed the case of drinks on the table and greeted the workers who were

Uncle Xavier," Rainie greeted

turned to look at the little girl next to him. He bent down and reached out, "Here, give Uncle Xavier here and eat your lunch." Bianca pulled Rainie next to her side, got her to sit down on a rock, and continued spoon-feeding

opened her mouth and ate the sauerkraut that was fed to her. She had never tasted it before and thought that it

went to take a drink each and said thank

the female colleagues opened the bottle and took a gulp. She spoke to Joe, "See that? It's obvious that he usually brings something for the crew whenever he visits the celebrity on the film set. He's using the same tricks on

pretended not to hear or see anything. He would rather not ruffle

recognized Leia in her casual clothes and hat. They thought that Xavier had brought along two of his female friends or

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The employees of T Corporation fixed their gazes on the crowd, perhaps because their boss had appeared in front of them. Leia was worried that she might be recognized if she stood there for too long, so she turned around and left.

When she returned to Xavier's Porsche Cayenne, she lightly furrowed her brows.

Marie was not familiar with Leia yet, and she regarded Leia as a celebrity way beyond her league and herself as a lowly commoner. For a moment, she did not know how to speak to Leia.

Leia was not bothered with Marie's presence. Instead, she kept thinking about the scene earlier.

Leia already knew who Luke was.

As one of the darlings of A City, and now that she had become one of the most famous celebrities, she held two extremely enviable identities.

One of Leia's friends once asked her what kind of man she would want to marry in the future.

She had admitted that she had her eyes on someone, but she was not sure whether fate would lead her to him.

However, with the target in mind, she could work hard toward achieving it. Of course, the target had to be worth the effort.

Her father had a prominent status and would expect that his daughter would marry someone equally prominent. She also knew that her father had some candidates for his son-in-law, and they were all future politicians.

Leia had thought that there was nothing wrong with marrying a politician. Her social status would rise as her husband was promoted up the ranks.

However, her opinion changed after she ventured into showbiz.

She found that businessmen who could control and manipulate the market were much more attractive than politicians.

was a straight woman, and she was naturally attracted to mature and attractive men. She often fantasized what sort of bodies they might have hidden under those impeccable business suits. She also loved to wonder what they were thinking behind those mysterious

Luke Crawford checked all the boxes...

social circle of A City was not that big. Whenever single women gathered together after lunch, they would gossip about any outstanding men who caught their

course, someone had suggested introducing Leia to Young Master Crawford, but she knew that Luke had two

privy to information that was not known to the general public, and she knew very well that it was not anything surprising that a wealthy and successful single man would have a woman bear children for

Leia considered herself to be still young. She did not want to be a stepmother, even if Luke's qualifications were

Moreover, there were two children.

felt uncomfortable just thinking about

she had seen Luke Crawford in the flesh, she had to admit that she was utterly smitten by the man's charm within

from his cousin's wife's cup and placing his lips where her lipstick marks were? What was that, if not an indirect

that in front of her husband Xavier

that it was not a

thought that she had gained a lot in her trip to the small town, but at the same time, she felt that she had lost a big chunk of

She clearly knew the reason why she felt so.

On the journey back to A City, Xavier did not stop smoking, and his brows were knotted tightly. Leia had requested to sit next to him so that she could observe his reactions.

She saw Xavier's dangerously sullen face and started to wonder about Bianca's relationship with the two cousins...

Back in A City.

Leia went back to her home and walked into her room as though she had lost her soul. After a shower and changing into pajamas, she picked up the script for tomorrow's film shoot and browsed it.

Soon, her thoughts were overtaken by the memories of Luke's stern and sculpted face.

She put the script down, then took a few deep breaths to calm herself *down*.

...

Meanwhile, Marie followed closely behind Xavier up to the room above the bar.

The street was only lively at night, especially after midnight. In the daytime, it was so quiet that they could hear a bird chirping somewhere across the street.

Xavier opened the window to let the air in. While he unbuttoned his shirt, he turned around and pinned Marie on the bed.

"*Ah!*" Marie exclaimed in surprise. Then, she felt a chill on the lower half of her **body**.

Xavier had taken off her pants!

fair legs were brought into view. The cold fall wind blew on her bare skin and caused her to shiver. The sheer white curtains brushed against her cheeks and

door is open..." Marie said coyly and pretended to

experienced enough to know how to pique a man's interest in her

atmosphere was perfect, and her body and her voice were tantalizingly

Xavier was about to mount her, he realized that he was not in the mood

to put on an act and waited for the man's

stole glances at the man's expression, she realized that she might be losing

Did he already have his fill?

article said that he was with Leia the night

that she had to rely on Leia, and she never could forget that Xavier was the one who introduced her to the celebrity. In other words, her fate wholly depended on Xavier's

most important was that he

did not care for her image or decency. After all, she was used to it. She got up, kneeled in front of Xavier, and reached between his legs. "I... um... I'll help

Chapter 215

"It's not that..." Bianca's denial was weak. "I know that even if someone catches us in the act, you have the clout to suppress the news. I'm just a little tired after a full day of work, and I just want to go back to my room and rest."

Luke's gaze on her was profound. He leaned close to her, deliberately lowered his voice, and spoke each syllable clearly. "I'm not going to suppress the news if the scandal breaks out. When I saw the news this morning that you are his legally wedded wife, I was so jealous that I was losing my mind. Now that you've appeared on the news with him, do you still mind that you'll have a scandal with me?"

Bianca was worried that the children might hear. She might be surprised, but she kept her voice low, "That was just an accident. There's nothing to be jealous of. Don't be childish."

She knew that Xavier bore no love for him, and he only forced her into a marriage out of malice. Even if he had a shred of affection for him, there was nothing to be proud of about that warped marriage.

However, she was not a man, and she would not understand how men felt when they were jealous. Bianca did not speak any further in case that irked him. She was more concerned that her children would be the victims of his anger on the drive back home.

Without her looking after the kids, she was worried that the man might mistreat them.

After all, she noticed that the two children were unnaturally quiet when they were near their father.

Luke might be overcome by jealousy and envy, but Bianca remained lucid.

She could not leave with him.

"If you don't let me affirm my dominance this one time, I don't think I can ever forgive you." Luke's expression was sullen as he looked at Jason walking toward them. "If I'm desperate enough, I don't mind sending our photos in bed to the media. I think it should be quite exciting when they find out that you're also an adulteress who has an affair with another man."

The man turned around.

Bianca remained rooted on the ground. Her hand clenched her work laptop tightly, and those words replayed in her mind.

'Photos in bed...

does he have our photos

that she was a light sleeper. As far as she remembered, neither of them had touched their phones while at the old house or

did he get the photos

over, greeted Bianca diplomatically, then got in the car and

both respected and feared his boss's woman. He did not know whether to treat her as a colleague or as a

the black Bentley disappeared from view, Bianca remained rooted on

I'm not actually a light sleeper after all? Did I not notice that he woke up in the middle of the night to take

intensely when she was reminded of the man's unending vigor and how she had almost passed out in those intense make-out sessions. Perhaps she had actually passed out, and the man had taken

walked blankly with her colleagues back to the courtyard, she sent a text message to

[When did you take the photos?]

an eye on her phone for the next ten minutes, but he did

you see the message I sent earlier? If you took the photos, I hope that you would delete

Bianca sent him a second message.

She wanted to send him a voice message, but she was worried that Jason or the children might overhear when Luke played **the message**.

About half an hour later, the colleagues started to prepare dinner in the kitchen. Bianca put her phone away and went to *help*.

It was half-past six when they finished dinner, though the sky was not dark *yet*.

She had not received any reply to her messages. Bianca guessed that he must be still angry. She had no choice but to call *him*...

She also wanted to ask if he had taken his anger out on **the children**...

"Sorry, the number cannot be reached at the moment. Please try again later..."

Bianca had to give up when she heard the automated message.

That night, she flipped around on the bed and could not *fall asleep*.

At about nine o'clock, her aunt Wanda sent her a message. She looked at her aunt's profile picture and thought that it did not look like the real **person**.

They chatted for a while. In the end, Bianca said: [I'm only going back to A City with my colleagues on the weekend. I'll visit Father first, then Grandfather. I'll record their videos for **you**.]

She finally felt sleepy at eleven o'clock, though her sleep that night was fitful.

The next morning, Bianca got up and prepared to wash up when she noticed that her phone was **blinking**.

Nina had sent her several messages.

first one: [Are you awake, Bea? I didn't want to call you and disturb your sleep. Please reply when you see my

one: [You're in the news again. Don't tell me that you're not awake yet? Any of your gossiping colleagues wake

third one: [Alright then, have a good rest. It's better to rest more than to worry about

...

reading the messages, she immediately opened the

news was all over the place. There were many photos

surprisingly, the photos were from yesterday. They were of her sitting in the countryside eating her lunch. Next to her was Leia in casual clothes and Xavier who was laughing and carrying a

were in the background, but they were all

photo, and article led the public opinion to a conclusion -- Bianca and Leia

Bianca was Xavier's wife and Xavier was more like a brother to Leia than her lover, then Leia would respect Bianca's identity as something like a

fans defended their idol. "Why is Leia attracting so much negative attention when she's only newly popular? Look at the hate she's getting! See? There's photo evidence that Xavier and Leia are like brother and sister. Their relationship isn't as shady as

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Jason was suddenly silent.

While Bianca took out the plates and cutlery from the cupboard, she asked, "Is everything OK, Mr. Doyle? Can you hear me?"

One minute passed, then two minutes...

Jason did not make a sound...

The other colleagues had all woken up. Several people were doing chores in the courtyard. Joe was watering the plants and was rambling on, "I saw from the weather report that it'll be turning cold from

Wednesday on. These pots need to be brought indoors. Is anyone willing to take two? Otherwise, I'll be bringing them all into my room."

It was noisy outside. Bianca could not hear any sound from the other end of the phone.

On the third minute, Bianca decided that she would end the call. Perhaps the reception was bad, or perhaps Jason was busy with work.

Suddenly, Jason spoke. He sounded especially clear.

"I'm sorry, Ms. Rayne. The reception was bad earlier," Jason explained.

"It's fine. I thought that was the case. I was about to hang up." Bianca handed the plates and cutlery to another colleague.

The female colleague brought the plates and cutlery away to the communal table.

"What did you say earlier, Ms. Rayne? I didn't hear it." Jason had heard it clearly, but he deliberately asked another time.

Bianca was very worried that the children's father was passively abusing them. She repeated, "I said... I'm afraid that he has a bad temper and might throw a tantrum on the children."

why Bianca was so concerned about the boss's

course, that was a private matter between his boss and his woman. He was only an assistant, and he was only doing what his boss told him. "Let me be honest, Ms. Rayne. I really don't know whether Mr. Crawford threw a tantrum on the children after we got back to A City, but

Jason suddenly paused.

did you hear?" Bianca's heart jumped to her

continued, "Boss received a dinner invitation after he got back yesterday. He left the two children in the apartment, and no one was around to take care of them. At dinner time, Lanie brought his sister down with some money to buy something to eat. The security guard outside the neighborhood saw them but did not stop them. Ever since they left the apartment, we didn't hear any news

Bianca's voice wavered. How could they have no news of the

continued to explain, "I've only heard about it this morning. Boss drank a little too much last night, and we haven't managed to contact him at the

Jason heard the busy tone over

rushed back to A City as soon as he could. She did not explain much except for telling the team leader Joe, "Sorry, there's a family emergency. I have to

Joe nodded hastily.

not possibly ask someone with a family emergency to

kept on dialing Luke's number as she took the high-speed train back to

The phone was turned off.

...

On the other side of the city.

The leaves in front of the mansion had turned golden yellow and red. It was a spectacular sight. The three cars that drove in from afar were of the same model. The car in the middle was slightly different. The person sitting within it was Jack Norman, who was returning from the *Capital*.

When Queenie received the phone call, she went downstairs with *her daughter*.

Leia stepped forward and took the briefcase from her father's hands. "The weather is getting colder, Dad. Is it cold in the Capital? You ought to take care of your health when you're *away*."

Jack nodded. "Have you two had **breakfast**?"

"*We're* waiting for you since we know that you're coming home," Queenie spoke while handing her husband's jacket to the *caretaker*.

The caretaker went away and hung the jacket on the rack.

Another caretaker had prepared steaming hot porridge *for everyone*.

When Jack was home, a newspaper was prepared alongside breakfast. Every male in the Norman family had the habit of reading the paper while having breakfast.

Leia noticed that her father was tired. She stood up from the table. "I'm full. You can continue *without me*."

"**You're not** eating enough. Don't starve yourself. Take care of your health." Queenie was worried that her daughter did not want to gain *weight*.

too hungry before Dad came back, so I ate a bun in the kitchen," Leia pouted and said

"Naughty girl," Queenie said.

I read the paper for you, Dad?" Leia took the newspaper. "You should be done with breakfast by the time I'm done reading. You can

her daughter's kind act

reading from the paper. After being adopted by the Norman family for many years, she knew the type of news that

would visibly lighten when he heard news headlines that interested him. Eventually, Leia reached the

knew that there was financial news about Luke in the papers today. She had read the papers when they were delivered

was why she decided to read the papers to Jack

small town's development near at hand, property prices in the eastern suburbs of A City have been at an all-time high. This development strategy indirectly benefits the economy of A

left that paragraph to the last so that she could hear her parents discuss

was also a black-and-white photo appended to the news. It was a serious scene of the opening

was dressed in a business suit and leather shoes. He stood in the middle of a group of town administrators and politicians. With his mature and dependable temperament, he was the most outstanding in the

was engrossed looking at the photo. Her slender fingers ran over the man's well-built

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Bianca put the keys away, changed into slippers, tiptoed into the bedroom, and found two blankets.

She draped one over Lanie's body and the other over Rainie, who was sleeping soundly on Daddy's tummy...

Bianca was about to walk away when the man on the couch suddenly opened his bloodshot eyes.

His eyes looked tired under the angular brow ridge. Blood vessels could be seen at the corners of his eyes.

On other days, she would tell her not to work so hard and rest more, out of concern as his employee or as the father of her children.

However, Bianca was speechless.

Every word that Jason said over the phone lingered in Bianca's mind.

"Boss received a dinner invitation after he got back yesterday. He left the two children in the apartment, and no one was around to take care of them..."

"Boss drank a little too much last night, and we haven't managed to contact him at the hotel..."

Luke was wholly unqualified as a single parent.

After Luke woke up, Rainie also woke up. After Rainie woke up, Lanie woke up too.

Lanie rubbed his eyes. When he saw that Rainie was there, he hugged her thigh and said pitifully, "Why are you here, Miss Bea?"

sounded very nasal, perhaps because he had just woken

Bianca heard that, tears welled up in her eyes. She crouched down and touched her son's face. "Where did you bring your sister yesterday? You know that we're all worried about you,

Rainie, and I were napping in the house. In the morning, Daddy went to the grocery store and tried to cook breakfast. Even though Daddy looked gloomy and his fried eggs were inedible, Rainie and I are very happy that he's willing to learn,' Lanie

Daddy came back home, busy from work, he told Lanie and Rainie in a stern tone that they needed to tell a lie if they wanted Miss Bea to be their mother and live with

needed to make Daddy the

would wait with Daddy for Miss Bea. She would

waited, Lanie and Rainie fell

Miss Bea. I won't do it again," Lanie apologized. He sounded repentant, and he buried his face in Bianca's

hugged the little boy, touched his cheek, and kissed his head. "Please don't do that next time... Tell me, where did you and Rainie go last night? Were you scared? How did you get

barrage of questions confused Lanie, who was not prepared to answer any of them. He turned and looked at his father with his

to the bathroom. While he washed his face, he said with a hoarse voice, "The kid found shelter in a KFC for the night. My phone was off, and there was no one in the

Perhaps the kids had called the manor, but no one picked up. Even if they took a cab there, the door would be **locked**.

However, both Luke and Jason had the key to *the apartment*.

"Why didn't you go and look for Daddy or Uncle Doyle?" Bianca asked *doubtfully*.

Lanie pressed his lips together, worried that Bianca would think that he was **stupid**...

'Stupid daddy! Do you expect me to make up so **many excuses?**'

"I... I don't have money to take a cab, and I'm afraid that we found a baddie driver who might kidnap us..."

Rainie's expression evoked more pity. She looked like she had just woken up and about to *cry*.

After comforting the little boy, Bianca went to comfort the little girl. When they were more at ease, Bianca kissed them and said, "You must be so tired last night. Go to the bedroom and sleep."

The two little ones were not sleepy at all, though they had to keep up with the lie. They pretended that they were tired and snuggled into the **blanket**...

Bianca saw the two children close their eyes, and left the bedroom, and closed the **door**.

Once outside, she looked around for Luke.

was not in the living room or the bathroom. She finally found him standing at the balcony smoking. His broad shoulders once made Bianca feel safe, but now she did not trust him as

stepped into the balcony. "If you don't have the time to take care of the kids, I'd like to help," she said without any consideration for

mother in this world would want to hear the news that their children were starving

never taken away your right to take care of them." Luke snuffed the cigarette in the ashtray and turned around to speak

was cramped. Bianca looked at the tall and well-built man in front of her and did not know what he was

looked like a noble gentleman no matter the time or occasion, but an individual who had lived a simple life could not imagine how complicated his life

remembered that Jason had said that someone had invited Luke to dinner. She could not help but wonder how important the dinner could be for a father to leave his children alone for the entire

indignant that Luke did not know how to take care of the children, but she thought that she did not have the right to reprimand

looked at her and asked her a question she could not answer. "Given your current condition, how are you going to take care of

was at a loss. She looked at Luke with

there for a long time until Luke walked away and left her on the

Chapter 218

Bianca was flustered when Luke suddenly mentioned that they were going to do a DNA test.

What if Luke was mistaken?

What if Lanie and Rainie were not her children?

Suddenly, Bianca's heart was overcome by worry and apprehension.

Her desire to be the children's mother was too strong, which was why she was afraid of losing it all.

Even if the probability that she would lose the children might be 0.01%, the pain felt as though she had a knife stuck to her throat.

Bianca did not ask Luke the exact time they should go to do the DNA test. She wanted to run away.

After deciding on the DNA test, they did not have any other topics of conversation and looked at each other silently.

They were alone in a room, which made it easy for the atmosphere to become intimate.

"I'll go and contact the colleagues in the small town." Bianca found an excuse to move to the living room.

However, her delicate wrist was immediately grabbed by the man's strong hand. He pulled her back, and she slammed into a wall of solid muscle. She looked up, and her thick and luscious eyelids trembled.

Luke could see a hint of tenderness in those big, watery, and animated eyes. He almost could not restrain his urges.

Bianca dared not look at him eye to eye. She could see the man's Adam's apple moving up and down, and his masculine presence caused her to blush. He brought his lips to hers. Her heart started thumping wildly, and her breathing became irregular...

While they kissed, she was so nervous that she almost bit her lip.

Luke was not going to let go of her so easily. When he paused to take a breath, he whispered into her ear, "You're a little awkward today. It's not the first time we're doing this."

Bianca's face turned red.

summoned courage from somewhere, shoved Luke away, then rushed out of the room while covering her

...

left for A City, Bianca brought her work laptop with her in case she needed to do some work while away from the small

was working seriously, communicating with her colleagues in the

eleven, Lanie and Rainie got out of the bedroom. "We can't sleep anymore, Miss Bea," they said while rubbing their

around and did not see the other adult. Lanie and Rainie hopped behind Bianca and rested their meaty arms on

looked at the complicated design on the laptop screen and asked,

Luke was currently in the study.

Bianca worked, she heard him make two phone calls, though she could not discern what he was talking to the study was closed, and not much noise

Bea, I'm hungry..." Rainie snuggled into Bianca's lap, clambered up her body, and hugged her

do you want to eat?" Bianca hugged the little girl, and a smile bloomed on her face. She gently kissed Rainie's

came out of the study, he saw that moving scene in the living

Bianca played with Rainie for a while. She panted, feeling a little exhausted, but she noticed with the corner of her eye the man standing there.

Her arms froze in place. She turned to look at the man.

"Let's eat out. I've already made an appointment with the lab." After speaking to Bianca, Luke turned to speak to the children, "Go and change your clothes. Don't be so *clingy*."

...

The two adults and two children left the apartment. Bianca walked *behind*.

The two children walked next to *her*.

Luke's legs were the longest and therefore walked the fastest. Soon, he drove the car out of the parking lot and opened the doors to let Bianca and the two children in.

The receptionist of the high-class apartment saw the scene and thought that it was a happy family.

Unfortunately, she could not use her phone while at work. Otherwise, she would have taken a photo and uploaded it to Instagram.

After all, that was the CEO of T Corporation!

...

As the car drove toward the restaurant, Bianca was so nervous about the test results that she did not speak.

The female restaurant owner greeted them at the entrance. She wanted to see who Bianca *was*.

For someone like Luke, the DNA test had to be done in absolute secrecy. They could not afford to make any mistakes.

in the elite society knew that Luke had a pair of twin children at a young age. Everyone was curious about who the birth mother was, but no one had managed to

that he must have employed a surrogate mother. Even so, who could the mother

in her seat, Bianca felt uncomfortable when she noticed that the restaurant owner was sizing her

heard from Luke that your name is Bianca? What do you like to eat? Do you have any preferences?"

When the female restaurant owner asked that, her eyes were transfixed on

thought that her young and fair face looked somewhat

gaze made Bianca anxious. "Yes, I am Bianca Rayne, and you can call me Bianca. I don't have any preferences," she

I'll prepare several signature dishes for you," the restaurant owner replied

"Thank you."

the restaurant owner left, Luke explained, "Aunt Neile is friends with my mother and aunt. They're classmates in elementary and

became even more nervous. "Then wouldn't

interjected, "She won't. She stopped being friends with my mother when they were younger, but I don't know

"..."

'Stopped being friends...'

that Aunt Neile was

Chapter 219

After the waiters served all the dishes, they left the private restaurant room.

The restaurant's service was personalized. The owner did not believe that the customer was always right, and it was up to her if she wanted to serve those that came through the doors.

Her customers were either regulars or those whose personalities and mannerisms were to the owner's satisfaction. Of course, they had to be able to afford the food there too. Anyone rude or boorish would not be able to taste the spectacular food of that restaurant.

Shakira Neile, the owner, had a temperamental character. She had offended many people in her career, especially the nouveau riche who had money but no manners.

She could afford to offend those people. Her husband and son were influential VIPs.

Bianca took a few bites and turned to feed Rainie, who was clinging onto her and causing her heart to melt out of tenderness. Even if Rainie threw a tantrum and did not want to eat the delicious food served on the table, she would ditch Luke and Lanie so that she could go home and cook for her.

"You should eat this too, Miss Bea. It's sweet!" Rainie mumbled as she chewed the food in her mouth and stared at Bianca with her big eyes.

Bianca smiled. With her fingers, she wiped away some sauce on one corner of Rainie's mouth.

The female restaurant owner came into the room once more.

Luke was taken aback. It was not appropriate for outsiders to step into the room when the family was having a meal.

gently. She knew that it was abrupt for her to intrude upon the family's mealtime, and it was not her usual style to impose her seniority upon

could not hold back her curiosity when Bianca's face reminded her of a

a chair, sat down casually, and looked at Bianca. "How is the food, Bianca? Does it suit your tastes?"

delicious. I can see why you're

had brought her up to speed about why it was so difficult for a typical person to eat at that

satisfactorily. She paused for a bit and asked the question she had been dying to ask, "I'm curious, Bianca, how old are

be turning twenty-four this year," Bianca answered truthfully, though she did not know why the middle-aged woman asked her

was no reason to keep her age

Shakira mumbled, seemingly lost in

'**Was** it twenty-four years ago when Queenie bore her first child?' Shakira was not sure because it had been too long *ago*.

However, that child did not survive.

That was the lowest point in Queenie and Jack's lives. Shakira was Queenie's classmate and best friend, but she never asked Queenie how they lost the **child**.

After that, Queenie never bore a child.

Jack came from an illustrious family with a political background. The elders could not tolerate not having **an heir**.

Shakira did not know how the matter was eventually resolved. However, she heard later that Jack admitted to his parents that he had become infertile. The lack of a child had nothing to do with *his wife*.

Shakira had been classmates with Queenie since elementary school. She knew about Queenie's pregnancy. On the day that Queenie found out that she was pregnant, they even went to the hospital together to **confirm it**.

When Jack found out that his fiancée was pregnant, he started making preparations for the wedding, even moving forward the wedding day that the family had decided for **him**.

After the marriage, Queenie and Jack left for **overseas**.

that, her child was gone. She dared not ask if the child was stillborn or

had never been pregnant

looked at Bianca's face, Shakira could not help but wonder if Queenie had given birth to the child, but the child was

'Is Bianca Queenie's child?'

thinking about the matter in the kitchen, Shakira did not believe that there would be such a coincidence. However, she remembered a news report she saw on TV a few days ago -- A young man accidentally found out that he was very fond of spicy food, but his parents were from the north of the country and had never eaten spicy food. On a whim, he decided to investigate his background and found out that he

there could be such a coincidence, then there was a slim chance that Bianca might be Queenie's child. Shakira thought that she would not be able to sleep if she did not ask the

was her best friend and confidant. She could not bear to see Queenie suffer. Perhaps Queenie's life would be complete if she could be reunited with her

Luke could not help but open his mouth when he saw

came to her senses. She paused for a while and smiled sheepishly. "You should know how critical your mother can be, Luke. Even if Bianca is the two children's birth mother, I don't suppose your mother can look at them with her

Chapter 220

Luke looked at Bianca and tried to discern her feelings.

When Luke was a child, he did not have his father and mother by his side. However, he knew that his mother was the one who sent him to an orphanage.

In those few years living in the orphanage, his mother had visited him a few times. Back then, he had several questions.

'Who is my father?'

'Why does my father never come to see me?

'Does my father want me?'

Luke knew how it felt to be abandoned, and that was why he wanted to shower all his love and care on Bianca.

However, he knew that he could never match the love and care given by one's parents.

Bianca had never met her mother.

Like Rainie sitting next to her and Lanie sitting opposite her, they had always eagerly hoped that their mother would appear in their lives and love them.

Unfortunately, Bianca's mother never appeared, even until the day she became a mother herself...

Lanie was sitting next to his father and eating his meal like a gentleman. At that moment, he lifted his head to look solemnly at Miss Bea sitting opposite him.

That was when he found out that Miss Bea did not have a mother either, just like him and Rainie.

her lips and said nothing. She was processing

had been in her throat after asking that question. She hoped that her questions had not been a waste of everyone's time. Unfortunately, she realized that she had been too sensitive and that she had perhaps gone overboard in an attempt to help her best friend find her

Bianca said that she had never met

Shakira heard that, she could not tell if she was excited

"Why haven't you met your mother?"

followed up with another question and stared unblinkingly at

feeding Rainie another spoonful of food. Her hand froze when she heard that question, and she wondered why Aunt Neile was asking her about personal

known you to be a gossip, Aunt Neile," Luke interjected appropriately and stopped

would appreciate a stranger dredging their painful pasts, including Bianca, who was grateful for

Shakira did not seem as though she was giving up. She looked at Luke with a concerned expression and said, "You should know that I'm not on speaking terms with your mother anymore. Now that I've met an enemy of my enemy, you can see why I'm so fond

"enemy" was, of course, Allison

"enemy of an enemy" naturally referred to Bianca, whom

Bianca fed Rainie some lightly sautéed but incredibly flavorful broccoli and said, "Here, take another bite."

Rainie lifted her head and looked at Bianca while she chewed on the broccoli. Her eyes were brimming with concern toward her Miss **Bea**.

She wanted to comfort Bianca, but too many people were around...

On the other hand, Bianca thought that Shakira knew Allison very well. Not only did Allison dislike her, but one could also say that she hated **her**.

"Enemy" was an appropriate description.

"Don't be a stranger, Bianca. You should come here more often. I'll cook for you whatever you want to eat. Also, if Allison Tanner bullies you, you can let me know, and I'll stand up for you."

As Shakira spoke, she subconsciously reached out and held Bianca's hand.

Bianca lowered her head and dazedly watched Shakira pat the back of her hand...

Now that Luke had spoken, Shakira knew that she should not stay in the room for too long.

However, knowing the fact that Bianca had never met her mother before was immensely useful to her...

"Enjoy your meal then. I won't disturb you. Look at how sullen you are, Luke, as though I'm snatching your wife," Shakira teased, then got up and went out of the room.

"Wife?" Lanie was stunned.

His big and round eyes darted between Luke and Bianca. "Miss Bea, are you going to marry my Daddy?" He said, though his face **was blushing**.

turned to look at Bianca with

Rainie closer, in case she

you to be my Mommy, Miss Bea. We can be a family with Daddy and Lanie..." Rainie

the serious man, who was eating his lunch, lifted his head and looked at Bianca when he heard the question. His gaze was

on Rainie's hand subconsciously became

to live together with Lanie and Rainie. She hoped that she could personally take care of Lanie and Rainie, and perhaps even make up for lost

time, a black Mercedes Benz drove away from the

gaze reflexively looked at the direction of the sound. He saw Shakira's car driving

a certain street in

sat in the black Mercedes Benz, wearing a tan-colored coat. She took out her phone from the black brand-name handbag next to her and dialed a

"Leia Norman" appeared on

was on an outdoor set shooting a

