

Be Gentle 2111

Chapter 2111

Luca's body was burning as though she was having a fever.

However, she knew it was not a fever. The truth was, she was feeling shy...

Although he was the man she used to see every day, and they were so close that nothing could get in between them, it had been three years since she was this close to him.

Even though Luca missed him, she was having a hard time adapting to the intimacy between them now.

What Luca was most worried about was if Luke found out her identity and her purpose, how would she face him? How was she going to explain it...

Luca carefully lifted her head and looked at Luke.

Luke was still asleep. It was probably because he was drunk last night. That was why he woke up later than usual today.

Luca carefully moved his hand away from her waist. She let out a sigh of relief when she finally climbed out of the bed.

Fortunately, Luke did not cling to her arm as tightly as last night. Otherwise, she would have woken the man up if he was clenching her arm tightly.

Luca trotted out of Luke's bedroom and returned to her bedroom. She quickly freshened herself up.

Then, she walked out of her bedroom.

Luke's bedroom door was still closed.

Luca did not stay. She made her way downstairs.

Aunt Neile was already in the kitchen, busy preparing breakfast. She happily greeted Luca when she saw her coming in, "Good morning, Ms. Craw."

"Good morning." Luca opened the fridge and looked at the ingredients stored inside. She was planning to make a hangover cure for Luke.

noticed Luca was staring blankly at the ingredients in the fridge, so she asked with enthusiasm, "What ingredients are you looking for? Or would you like to eat something else? You can tell me. Let me prepare it

the honey and tomatoes out while replying, "Mr. Crawford drank a lot last night. I'd like to prepare a hangover cure

how considerate of you," said Aunt Neile with a smile on her face as she finally understood why Mr. Crawford did not wake up early today. He had drunk last night.

Neile watched Luca clean the tomatoes and place them in the juicer, she could not help

up late because he was drunk last night, but what about

She woke up late too.

That was weird...

Aunt Neile was confused, she did not tell anyone about it. She began plating the breakfast she had finished preparing.

done?" Luke's voice came from the kitchen entrance.

could not help but

had Luke gotten up from bed, but it also seemed that he had washed himself up. The clothes he was wearing were not the ones he wore last

smiled and answered, "Mr. Crawford, breakfast's ready. Oh, by the way, Ms. Craw is preparing a hangover cure for you. Would you like to drink it first before you have your

Luke's gaze fell on Luca, who was wearing an apron and preparing the hangover cure for him. He secretly let out a sigh. How he wished that days like this could last forever.

all he wanted for Luca was to restore her identity. That way, he could stop suppressing the urges inside

An ordinary man would suffocate if he held himself back any **longer**.

"Then let me serve your breakfast first." Aunt Neile shot a glance at Luca. She was pouring some honey into the tomato juice. Other than being able to improve the taste of the juice, it could cure a *hangover too*.

Luca poured the tomato juice into a glass and brought it to the dining room.

Luke was sitting at the dining table with the newspaper beside him. He picked up the newspaper and glanced at it. Noticing that Luca was walking out with the glass of juice, he put down the newspaper and rose to his feet.

Luca looked at him in surprise when he took the glass from her and said, "Thank you."

Previously, Luke would sit at the dining table and wait for the maid to serve all the dishes. Then, he would start eating.

It was rare to see him express his gratitude.

Luca watched Luke sit down while holding the glass. When he was about to drink it, she said, "It might not taste good. There are not many ingredients left in **the fridge**."

Luke paused for a moment and said, "*It's alright*."

He would drink anything Luca made for him even if it was a poisoned drink.

Besides, he was assured that Luca would not harm him.

Luke lifted his head and gulped it down at once.

Luca kept silent when she saw him finish the hangover cure. She sat down in another seat and began eating breakfast.

Aunt Neile picked up the glass and strolled to the kitchen.

quiet in the dining

Luke looked at Luca and deliberately asked, "Did I cause you any trouble after getting drunk

shook her head without any changes on her face. "No. You were fine, Mr. Crawford. You fell asleep after you got drunk, and you didn't cause any

at how calm Luca was. She only said this to humor

morning when Luca woke up and realized that she was sleeping on the same bed with him, she made no noise and quietly left the room. That was when Luke knew that she was still reluctant to face him.

would not force her to face him since she refused

you going to the office today?" Luke asked.

going." Luca picked up the tissue and wiped her lips. She would have headed there sooner if it were not for the kids being here

research data was not completed yet, and she needed to speed up the research

together." Luke did not ask for her opinion. Instead, he made the decision

while she was picking up her glass of juice. She said, "Mr. Crawford, I'll have to head to my brother's house before going to work. You may head to the

Luke frowned, "Why?"

been two days since he replied to my messages. I'm a little worried about him, so I have to pay a visit," explained Luca. She did not intend to avoid Luke this time. After all, the rumor that the two of them had been staying together in a suite must be flying around the company by

was pointless for her to avoid him and keep her distance.

Chapter 2112

Aunt Neile walked out of the kitchen and cleaned the dishes on the table. She noticed that Luca did not follow Luke to work, so she asked, "Mr. Craw, don't you have to go to work today?"

"Yes. I'm going later," replied Luca as she gave Amur a call.

The phone stated that the call was unreachable, and no one was answering the phone.

No one had been answering the phone for the past two days, and the phone was turned off today.

Luca reckoned that Amur had left his phone on standby, and that was why his phone ran out of battery.

However, Amur would normally pick up her call instead of ignoring her calls. That was why Luca needed to head over to the apartment and check on him.

Amur had promised Luca before that he would leave markings in the apartment if he was out on a mission and he did not have the chance to inform her about it or if he was not allowed to.

There were different markings, and each marking represented how dangerous the mission was.

Aunt Neile noticed the solemn expression on Luca's face. She fell silent as she thought it would be better for her to not say anything else. Aunt Neile watched Luca put on the scarf and wrap it around her. Then, she strode out of the house. Aunt Neile carried the plates and cutlery and headed to the kitchen.

Luca did not try to hide her trails as she was going to her previous apartment. She drove the car that Luke gave her and headed right to the apartment.

After Luca reached the apartment, she came to a halt and parked the car. Then, she deliberately walked to the parking lot reserved for the residents of the apartment. She saw Amur's car parked in his spot, and there was a thick layer of snow on the top of the car.

It seemed like Amur had not driven the car lately.

It was unlikely Amur would be in the apartment, then.

Perhaps Amur was carrying out the mission Abel had assigned to him.

stood in the snow. She pondered for a moment while staring at the car. A security guard came up to her when she was about to head upstairs. He asked, "Miss, why are you standing

a resident here," said Luca as she

Why haven't I seen you before?" the guard asked suspiciously and followed

showed him her access card and said, "I left the apartment for my brother. I'm not staying here anymore."

guard verified her access card. It was genuine. Then, he handed it back to her and said respectfully, "I'm sorry, Miss. You didn't look familiar to me, so I had

Oh, by the way, have you seen the owner of this car lately?" Luca pointed at Amur's parking

you mean the white man with a Caucasian face? The good-looking guy with a tall, burly figure?" the guard asked. No foreigners went in and out of this district. Hence, Amur left an impression on

"Yes, that's him." Luca nodded.

saw him going in and out of the apartment a few days ago. But I haven't seen him for the past two days... I don't think I've seen him around when I was on duty," said the guard. Although he was not sure about it, Amur was a foreigner with a Caucasian face. He would have noticed

Thank you." Luca turned around and headed upstairs after she thanked him.

wanted to see if Amur had left any markings in the

the door open and

in the apartment was the same as outside. It seemed that Amur had not been staying in the apartment for quite some time.

Luca closed the door and saw that Amur had left a marking on the door with a carving knife.

The mission's difficulty was at a moderate level.

Luca pursed her lips. If it was a moderate-level mission, Amur would have given her a call when he had the time even if he was carrying out the mission.

Hence, she refused to believe that.

However, there was no news of him after asking around. She could not ask Abel either. She had just recently offended him, after all. She was lucky enough that Abel did not come looking for trouble.

Luca looked around the apartment. She did not remain there any longer.

After all, there was no way she could find out where Amur was or what kind of mission Amur was assigned to.

Luca closed the door. Her phone vibrated when she was about to leave.

She opened her phone, and she saw a message from a string of numbers.

It was a message from the Island of Despair...

Luca opened the decoding app and decoded the numbers. The contents of the message asked her to meet somewhere around five tomorrow.

Luca let out a sigh. She thought things would be much more peaceful when she returned here. It seemed like they would not be as peaceful as she thought even after she came **back**.

It seemed like even Amur had gotten into trouble because of *her*...

eyes darkened, and they were filled with gloominess. She headed straight to T Corporation after she drove out of the

informed Rhett earlier that they would be having a meeting. Everyone was waiting for her in the meeting room when she stepped into the lab.

said to the others while she turned her phone to silent mode, "Sorry I'm late. Let's start the

in the meeting room was tense. A few researchers exchanged glances with each other without having the guts to say anything. Then, they opened their

meeting was held to find out the problem with the

could not find out what was wrong with it, they would have to redo the experiment. All the efforts that they had put in and the expenses of the research would end up in

The meeting lasted until noon time.

stood at the door of the meeting room and looked around. Then, she shook her head. It seemed like things were not going well here. They had not found out what was wrong with the research data.

shook her head. She thought of helping them to order takeout and wanted to ask them what they would like to have

However, now...

to make the decision

returned to her office, sat on her chair, and picked up the phone. When she was about to order takeout for lunch, she saw that Jenni was looking for something in the doorway.

put down the phone and strode out of the office. "Ms. Lynn, why are you

Chapter 2113

"Yes. They've finished their work in Russia. Of course, Dr. Craw is back." Zoey took a step backward and said, "Ms. Lynn, you may go for lunch first. I have to order takeouts for Dr. Craw and the others."

Jenni was not planning to let her go. She grabbed Zoey's hand and asked, "Haven't you heard?"

"About what?" Zoey was dumbfounded. She pulled her hand back, pretending she did not know that Jenni wanted to gossip about Luca.

"I wonder if you really don't know about it or you're just pretending that you don't know about it. Luca slept in the same suite as Boss when she was in Russia. Now you know why she was able to become the professor of the department and why she was able to come to T Corporation. She did it by sleeping with the boss." There was a trace of resentment hidden in Jenni's tone.

Zoey looked at the jealous woman in front of her helplessly.

Although Jenni claimed that she hated women who could get everything easily after sleeping with the boss, she was willing to offer herself to Luke more than anyone else.

It seemed like Jenni was not done yet and added, "Shame on her for seducing a married man!"

Zoey looked at Jenni's face. She believed that Jenni would be more tempted to sleep with the boss if she had the chance.

"Ms. Lynn, we're at the office. We shouldn't be talking about our superiors' matters." Zoey glanced at the time helplessly. The other would miss their lunch break if she did not order the takeouts now.

Jenni glanced at the office. No one was inside. She let out a sardonic laugh and said, "Look at how frightened you are. What's the matter? Are you afraid of getting caught for doing such a thing?"

Zoey turned around and immediately walked back to her seat.

"What's wrong with you?" Jenni looked at her, puzzled. Was she not the one who was usually interested in gossiping?

"Ms. Lynn, I have to order takeouts for them now. You'd better hurry out and have your lunch." Zoey did not turn back. She swiped the card and went straight into the office.

floor had its own independent system in the building, so there was no way Jenni could use her employee card to enter this office. Jenni grunted. She thought that Zoey was behaving like that only because she was afraid of offending

everyone in the company knew that Luca had Luke on her side. Many of them would not dare to offend

ordered the takeouts based on the number of employees who were currently having a meeting. She hung up the call, turned around, and glanced at the door. Jenni was no longer

out a sigh of relief.

obviously jealous of Luca. It would be better if she stopped talking to her. Otherwise, she might be dragged into the mess.

an hour later, Zoey picked up two big plastic bags downstairs and carried them up.

she stepped out of the elevator, the door of the CEO's private elevator opened as

Zoey paused and glanced at it.

strolled out of the

Boss," Zoey greeted him with a serious expression.

then he noticed that she was carrying two bags. He could not see what was

that?" Luke asked while looking at the

Zoey lifted the bags and answered, "Boss, these are takeouts. Dr. Craw and the other researchers are having a meeting in the meeting room. They haven't had lunch yet, so I ordered takeouts for them."

Luca had not eaten her lunch yet?

Luke frowned, "Did Dr. Craw ask you to order these?"

"No. Dr. Craw didn't ask me to do so, but..." Zoey hesitated for a *moment*.

"What?" Luke asked.

"**It** seems like there's something wrong with the experiment data this time. Dr. Craw doesn't want the research done earlier to be wasted, so she's leading the whole team to look for the problem now. And that's why I ordered takeouts for them, but I don't think I should bring them in and interrupt their meeting," answered Zoey. She was planning to leave the takeouts on top of the fridge in the pantry. Then, she would inform them when their meeting was over.

After all, Luca's expression was stern and serious during the meeting. Zoey, who was merely an assistant, dared not to interrupt them.

Luke frowned and instructed her, "Open *the door*."

Zoey nodded. She put down one of the bags, swiped the card, and opened the office door.

Luke walked ahead of her. After he got into the office, he asked again, "Which one is Dr. Craw's?"

Zoey got down and looked for Dr. Craw's takeout in the bags.

Dr. Craw was the research professor, so her meal allowance was higher than the other researchers. Zoey ordered the takeouts according to their meal allowances.

"**This** one." Zoey took it out.

took Luca's lunch box from Zoey and instructed, "Inform Dr. Craw that I'll be waiting in her office."

"Ah, okay." Zoey nodded.

the other researchers have their lunch first. Tell them it's my instruction." Luke headed to Luca's office after that. He pushed the door open and walked

not the kind of superior who would exploit her subordinates. The research must not be going well now, and Luca was busy with the M Group's project earlier, causing a delay in their research. That was why she was racing against time to catch up with the

boss of the company, Luke did not even rush them, yet Luca was in a hurry to complete

not a good sign.

Zoey carried the two bags and headed to the meeting room.

not afraid of interrupting the meeting since the boss had instructed her to

knocked on the door. Then, the meeting room's door swung open. There was a pile of documents in front of everyone's seat, including Luca.

her head and glanced at Zoey without saying anything. She continued to read the

Craw, Boss wants you to meet him in your office,"

lifted her head and looked at

Chapter 2114

Luke handed Luca the lunch box and said, "I have something to discuss with you. Anyway, eat your lunch first."

Luca understood what he meant. If she did not eat her lunch, there was no way they could discuss the matter.

She opened the lunch box. All her favorite dishes were inside the lunch box.

"Ms. Davis bought it for you," said Luke, "You can order something else if the food doesn't suit you."

"I'm fine with it." Luca was not a picky eater. There was nothing she disliked in the lunch box. Hence, it did not matter.

Luca shot a glance at Luke and realized he was watching her.

Luca felt embarrassed and said, "Mr. Crawford, I can't eat my lunch with you staring at me like that."

"I'm looking at you like how I do when we're at home," said Luke. Still, he picked up his phone and checked the documents in his email.

Luca thought that things were different when they were at home. How could it be the same when they were in the office?

How they were in the past and now...

Previously, she thought it was not a big deal when she fell asleep and woke up in Luke's arms. Everything seemed natural, and she found it heart-warming as well. However, when she woke up in his arms now, all she thought about was how she would explain it when he woke up and found out about it.

She even thought of running away from him.

Luke was no longer looking at her. Luca started to eat.

no appetite when she thought of the problems with the data in their research and Amur having gone

Luke was still beside her, so Luca took a few mouthfuls of

Luke was not directly looking at her, he was able to glance at Luca, who was eating quickly, out of the corners of his eyes.

down. No one's stealing your food," Luke reminded

choked on her food when he said that. She picked up the soup beside her and took a sip of it. After she calmed herself down, she put down her lunch box and said, "Mr. Crawford, I've finished eating. What would you like to

at her lunchbox. There was more than half of it

had enough to eat?" Luke asked.

stuffed," replied Luca. She noticed that Luke's gaze shifted and fell on her again, so she added, "The food's a little too greasy for

order another takeout for you." Luke opened the food delivery app. He normally would not use these apps, but sometimes when he was looking after the kids, they would want to eat something different. Hence, he would need the food delivery app. That was why Luke had downloaded it on his

alright, Mr. Crawford. I'm not hungry, and I have no appetite today." Luca stopped

his phone and looked at

said in a helpless tone, "I really don't need

"What happened?" Luke asked.

"Ah?" Luca did not know what he was *talking about*.

"*What made you lose your appetite?*" Luke made it **clearer**.

Luca was stunned for a moment, and she replied, "It's because of the research. I can't find out where the data went wrong. That's why I have *no appetite*."

Using work as an excuse was a good explanation.

Luke crossed his slender legs, and his brows were furrowed. "Stop giving yourself so much pressure. And I've figured out Dr. **Albus' matter**."

Luca's heart skipped a beat. Had Luke figured *it out*?

Did he find out that the money that came out of nowhere happened to show up in Dr. Albus' bank account? Did he believe that the sum of money was not as simple as it looked? Did he continue to look further into the matter and the clues brought him to **her**?

Otherwise, why would he come looking for her first instead of issuing a notice at the first instance?

Even though T Corporation had won M Group's project, people were still concerned about Dr. **Albus'** **matter**.

"Mr. Crawford, what did you find out?" Luca's heart trembled uncontrollably when she asked that *question*.

Luke put down his phone while looking at Luca's expression. He gave her a reply, "Dr. Albus has a bank account in Switzerland. Someone deposited a huge sum of money into his account after what happened. I'm sure Dr. Albus has something to do with data leakage."

Luca did not feel relieved even after listening to him. After all, she knew that Dr. Albus was innocent. It was unlikely that Luke would easily believe in this piece of *evidence*.

all, there was no other evidence that could support his suspicion toward Dr. Albus other than that sum someone had set Dr. Albus up..." Luca carefully reminded him. She had completed her mission, but she could not bear to see Dr. Albus

had contributed a lot to the medical field. All the contributions that he had spent half of his life making and his future would be wasted once the news

Dr. Albus had nothing to do with the medicine Kassy took or what kind of medicine they gave to Kassy when she was in

was against Dr. Albus because of this. Dr. Albus was

all points to him, except for the money. Besides, Dr. Albus brought the important information out of the lab before,"

was startled. They were not allowed to bring any important information out of the lab. Otherwise, there would be a risk that the information could be

was unlikely that Dr. Albus would not know about it after being in this field for years.

looked at Luca. She kept quiet as though she did not believe that Dr. Albus was the one who did

would only feel relieved after they found someone to take the blame for this matter as soon as

Dr. Albus' hard work. I don't think he'd do something like that," Luca muttered in a

tell you before?"

Luca looked at him. She did not understand what he

Chapter 2115

"Business is business." Luke made it very clear.

Luca knew what Dr. Albus would be facing, but there was nothing she could do about this. She felt sorry for what she had done to Dr. Albus, but she could not step forward and admit it.

"Watson Biopharmaceuticals' PR department will be making an announcement this afternoon," Luke added. This matter had been dragged on for too long, and it was time to end it.

"Will Dr. Albus be sued?" Luca asked.

"Watson will do things according to their rules and regulations," answered Luke. He did not feel sorry about sacrificing Dr. Albus for Luca's sake.

After all, Luca was his priority in his heart. Even though she had done something wrong, he would defend her and be on her side.

Luca looked down. Perhaps Dr. Albus had the intention to sell the information, but he eventually chose not to do it.

Even though there was a huge sum of money in his Switzerland bank account, he probably could not withdraw it either.

After all, he would be held accountable by the company and would have to face his legal responsibilities in the future.

Luca felt sorry for him at the thought of this.

Luke was helpless when he noticed how upset Luca was.

She refused to tell him the truth. Hence, he had no choice but to come up with such a decision.

Luke's phone rang. He glanced at his phone without answering the call right away, and he said to Luca, "I'm going back to my office."

"Alright, Mr. Crawford." Luca rose to her feet. She was at a loss for words. She let out a sigh after watching Luke leave.

She felt sorry for Dr. Albus...

she knew she had done something wrong, what made her feel helpless the most was she had no idea how she could make it up to

up her phone after Luke left. She thought of helping Dr. Albus, but she suddenly remembered that Amur was not in A City. That was why she was not sure what kind of illness Dr. Albus' wife was suffering

had no choice but to put her phone back in her pocket. Then, she left her office and headed to the

in the meeting room was having their lunch. When they saw Luca come in, they stood up, thinking of throwing their lunch boxes away and continuing with

your lunch first. We'll continue the meeting after this." Luca stopped

so desperate that she forgot that these researchers were human too. They needed to fill up their stomachs

you, Dr. Craw." A few researchers thanked her, sat down, and continued eating their

On the other hand.

stepped into the elevator and pressed the button to close the door, he answered the call,

Mr. Pierre is here," reported Jason. The receptionist downstairs had called him through the internal phone line just now. When Jason was about to inform Luke about it, he realized Luke was not in his office. That was why he called Luke on his

Luke raised his brows. He had only sent Old Master Crawford to look for him last night, yet he came here looking for him today. He did not expect Pierre to be that fast. It seemed like Old Master Mallory forced him to do

waiting downstairs. The receptionist didn't dare to let him in as he did not make an appointment," answered Jason.

Even though it was Pierre, there was no exception. Everyone in T Corporation knew that Pierre had his own company, and he was one of T **Corporation's competitors**.

"Bring him to the lounge on the second floor," said **Luke**.

"Okay," replied Jason. There were quite a few lounges in T Corporation. Those who were familiar with the company would know that the higher the floor of the lounge, the more welcomed the guest *was*.

Asking Pierre to head to the lounge on the second floor was the **greatest humiliation**.

"*And* ask the guard to lead Mr. Pierre there," added Luke. He looked at the numbers that gradually went up as the elevator rose. He was not planning to *go down*.

Since Pierre wanted to come, then Luke would let the security guard of T Corporation entertain *him*.

"*Alright*, Boss." Jason held back his laughter. After he hung up the call, he delivered every word that Luke had told him to the **receptionist**.

The receptionist received the instructions and called the guards. Then, she told the two security guards who were on duty what Luke had instructed them to do. The guards nodded and walked in front of Pierre together. "Mr. Pierre, this way."

Pierre looked at the two men who were in guard's uniforms and frowned. "Where's your *boss*?"

"**Boss** told us to lead you to the lounge first," replied a *guard*.

"*Fine*. To the lounge, right? Which floor?" Pierre asked while he walked toward the elevator.

One of the guards replied, "The **second floor**."

Pierre paused as his face turned **green**. "**What?**"

ordered us to lead you to the lounge on the second floor," said the guard as he pressed the elevator

face darkened. How dare Luke have him wait for him in the lounge on the second floor. What did Luke take

it were not for Old Master Mallory's instruction, he would never have come

not know what got into Old Master Mallory. The old master insisted that he came here today to give Luke an explanation about the bidding document. He even asked him to apologize to Luke. The old master told him that he owed Luke an

all, the old master even sent his assistant to follow Pierre and instructed him to keep a close eye on Pierre so that he would do everything as he was told.

Mallory's assistant listened to their conversation and could roughly understand what was going on. It was indeed inappropriate to ask Pierre to wait for Luke in the lounge on the second floor as it did not match Pierre's status.

was a reason behind this, and the old master's assistant could

it'd be better not to get yourself into trouble. Let's go up," Old Master Mallory's assistant

him a dirty look. If it were not for the old master's assistant watching over him, he would have turned on his heel and walked

Mallory's assistant made a hand gesture, inviting him into

no choice but to walk into

Master Mallory's assistant followed him into

security guards followed them into the elevator too. Then, they pressed the button for the second

Chapter 2116

This floor was where T Corporation's housekeeping department was located. Pierre looked into the office. There were a few middle-aged women who were wearing their uniforms sitting there.

The housekeeping department was the department with the least secrets in every corporation, and the people received the lowest pay.

It was clear what Luke wanted to tell him by asking him to wait in the lounge of this department.

Pierre could not help but mock. "Very funny. Is Luke Crawford worried that I'd steal your company's confidential information? How dare he ask me to discuss matters with him in the lounge of the housekeeping department?"

The security guards who were walking in front of him remained silent. They could not help but secretly judge him. How shameless Pierre was. Some things were better left unsaid, but this man was blurting everything out. Was he not ashamed of himself?

A guard pushed the door open when they arrived at the entrance of the lounge and invited them, "Mr. Pierre, please come in."

Pierre looked at the humble-looking lounge and sneered. "What kind of lounge is this? Those who see this would think T Corporation is a small company. Is this all T Corporation has? Didn't the company just become partners with M Group? Is the company short of money to decorate the lounge?"

The guards were secretly complaining while they listened to Pierre's sarcastic remarks.

Why were they the ones to take over the receptionist's job?

They came with the thought of watching Pierre making a fool of himself while they followed Pierre. Now that they were feeling helpless from getting provoked by Pierre's words, there was nothing they could do.

"Mr. Pierre, that's up to them." The assistant could no longer bear it. If Old Master Mallory knew this was how Pierre was acting when he was supposed to make things clear and apologize to Luke, he would burn with anger.

was Luke's fault for making such arrangements, anyone would have done the same

was already kind of Luke to be willing to see Pierre. After all, stealing a bidding document was no small matter. If not for Luke's document, would Pierre even have the chance to join the bid for the project?

Master Mallory's assistant thought that Pierre should endure

shot the assistant a cold glance. After he walked into the lounge, he could not help but mock. "Those who don't know you would think that you're one of

Old Master Mallory's subordinate," the assistant

knowing that the assistant was reminding him that he was instructed to keep an eye on

sat on the sofa and said to the guards, "I'd like a glass

exchanged glances with each other. There was not much funding for the housekeeping department. How could they have

you telling me that a big company like T Corporation doesn't have any alcoholic drinks?" Pierre

doesn't have any wine here. If you'd like to have a glass of wine, I guess the Mallory family's manor would have tons of it." Luke's voice came from the door. The two guards let out a sigh of relief. They made way for Luke to enter the lounge immediately.

stared at Luke, who came

Luke looked spirited, and the prideful look on his face reminded him of the scene during the signing ceremony.

Pierre had watched the live stream of the ceremony online. All he wanted to do was rip Luke into pieces!

"Really? There's no wine here? I heard that you're a wine collector. What's the matter? Is it because you don't feel like taking any out and sharing it with me? Then why don't I buy it from you?" Pierre mocked.

Old Master Mallory's assistant, who stood behind Pierre, shook his head helplessly. With that attitude, it looked like Pierre came here to look for trouble instead of to *apologize*.

"Not really. But my company isn't anything like your company, where drinking is allowed during working hours. So, we don't have wine here, not even a bottle. If you'd like to have a drink, I can ask someone to buy it for you. What would you like to drink?" Luke sat opposite him with his legs crossed. He placed his hands on his thighs, and he looked like he was sitting down for a negotiation.

The arrogant look on Pierre's face turned gloomy once Luke deliberately taunted his company. "No, thank you. I didn't come here just for a sip of *wine*."

"Oh, really? I thought you came here to have a taste of the wine here. Sorry to let you down. But I wonder if you're encouraging the employees of your company to drink while they're working if you keep wine in your company? Will that affect the efficiency in the workplace?" Luke questioned him with a string of words without waiting for him to answer. Then, he added, "I guess it has affected the efficiency. Otherwise, your company's employees wouldn't have ended up stealing the bidding document I eliminated just because they can't write a bid *proposal*."

Pierre clenched his fists. If it were not for the man behind him, he would probably throw a punch at Luke's face right now.

Old Master Mallory's assistant noticed that there was something wrong with Pierre's expression, so he reminded him with a low voice, "Mr. **Pierre...**"

Pierre let go of his fists and clenched them tight **again**.

Pierre tried to put up with him, but what Luke said was provocative. The employees in his company were all graduates of famous **universities**.

to the company's insufficient funds, he could only hire those who had just graduated.

fresh graduates who just graduated from university had the knowledge, but they did not have any experience. That was why they would ask for lower pay.

employees who had just joined the company were the first batch of employees, and no one was there to guide them. There was no way they could write such a complicated bid proposal.

thought of outsourcing, but someone showed him another way, claiming that he had a way to get T Corporation's bidding

agreed to it as he was overpowered by his hatred for Luke. He thought of using T Corporation's bidding document to bring Luke to a dead end.

ended up being

was my mistake for trusting the wrong person. I came here to apologize to you today." Pierre forced a smile. There was hatred in his eyes, and even his resentment for Luke came through in his words.

Wasn't it you who gave the instructions to steal my bidding document?" Luke

wasn't me. But I made a mistake in trusting someone else. As the boss, I'd like to apologize." Pierre clenched his fists even

wanted to punch Luke in the face, but he was not allowed to do so under such circumstances.

nodded and looked at him, waiting for him to

Chapter 2117

That was why Pierre was unable to find someone to take up the responsibility in such a short time.

Money could solve his problem, but the scapegoat would have to face imprisonment. He reckoned that it would be hard to find someone to take the blame no matter how much money he offered.

"I don't have much patience left to deal with this matter. Old Master Crawford went to the Mallory family's manor to make a clear statement that he would bring this matter to the police station and the court. So, Mr. Pierre, you'd better hurry." Luke urged him with a cold voice, "I can ask my men to look into it if you can't figure it out."

Pierre's face turned pale. It seemed like Luke was asking Pierre to get a move on the matter, but the truth was, Luke was dropping a hint about Pierre's incompetence.

"Don't worry. I'll find that person and give you an explanation." Percy clenched his jaw and replied. If Pierre was allowed to do so, he would have ripped the arrogant and condescending man in front of him into pieces and fed his flesh to stray dogs.

Pierre and Luke grew up in wealthy families. Speaking of their bloodline, the nobility of his blood was much higher than Luke's.

After all, Pierre's mother was the first wife, while Luke's mother, Allison, was merely a mistress.

Luke was a mistress' son, but he was running such a big company. At the same time, he was sitting on a sofa that cost a few thousand dollars, but he looked so comfortable sitting on it. It made Pierre feel sick.

"Mr. Pierre, I need you to hurry up, then. Besides, I'd like to give you a suggestion." Luke clenched his hands together and placed them in front of his jaw, sizing Pierre up.

"Are you going to teach me how to find that person? There's no need to. I believe my men can figure it out." Pierre gave Luke a dirty look. He did not need Luke's kindness, and he knew that Luke would not give him any good suggestions either.

Luke was not surprised that Pierre would reject his offer.

looked at Pierre's gloomy face and said, "Perhaps you may consider telling me who you got the bidding document from. It'll make things much

that Pierre played a leading role in this matter. After all, Pierre's employees were mostly fresh graduates who had just stepped into the society except for his assistants. Those people would not have the chance to know anyone from the Island

wanted to give Pierre another way to settle things easier. He wanted to find out the identity of the person who was manipulating Luca to carry out further

what are you talking about? Why can't I understand you?" Pierre curled his lips. At the end of the day, everything that Luke had done was to find out who was the one against

Luke wanted to know who it was, the more Pierre wanted to keep his mouth shut.

Pierre told him the truth, that would mean he admitted that he had partnered up with someone else to steal the bidding document. He would end up in

he did not want Luke to get what he wanted. He felt great to see Luke being kept in the

Abel was not someone Pierre could offend, and Pierre was aware of that. Although he was fooled by Abel twice, he dared not to mess with

expression on Luke's face was icy cold. Luke could tell Pierre had no intention of telling him about it.

used the hard way on Pierre before. Now, Luke was doing it the easy way. If nothing worked on Pierre, then he could not blame Luke for making things difficult for him in the future.

Luke leaped to his feet and locked his cold eyes on him. "Mr. Pierre, you'd better bring that person to the police station as soon as possible. I don't have that much patience. If I don't receive any updates on this matter, I'll issue a press release to the media that you stole my bidding document and submitted it."

"I refuse to believe that you'd have the guts to do something like that," Pierre said with a cold expression on his face. If Luke did such a thing, he would be telling the public that he had made an enemy of the Mallory family.

"You have to understand what matters the most to Old Master Mallory. It's not his grandsons, or you," Luke reminded him with a cold *voice*.

The biggest difference between Old Master Mallory and Old Master Crawford was how much they valued their *family*.

Percy insisted on getting together with Nina, and Old Master Mallory was against it. He thought Percy would be embarrassing the Mallory family, and he always tried to do something about it. Madam Mallory took action openly and went aboveboard, while Old Master Mallory was pulling the strings behind **the scenes**.

Now, Old Master Mallory realized Percy was the most suitable person to become the successor. Pierre was not capable enough, and that was why the old master dared not to leave the company to Pierre even after he found out that Percy and Nina *were engaged*.

He could not take the risk. The mess Pierre had caused was not completely **solved yet**.

Luke put his hands in his pockets and shot him a cold glance. Pierre's reputation would be ruined if he announced it to the public. Old Master Mallory might draw a line between Pierre and the Mallory family for the sake of their interests.

At the same time, Mallory Corporation would surely be taken over by Pierre. It was unlikely that it would change no matter whether Pierre married Nina or not.

If it were not for Luca, Luke would never have given Pierre another chance. He would make sure Pierre got what he deserved and destroyed his company.

he needed to find out who was manipulating Luca now. That was why he did not act on

Percy understood him as well.

words made Pierre's face turn green at

very well what Luke was talking about. If Pierre's reputation was ruined, he would become the abandoned son of the Mallory

company would still be in Percy's hands regardless of everything that he did, including getting engaged to Nina. Meanwhile, Pierre would lose his company and everything he

Madam Mallory would pity him, but what could Madam Mallory do for up his mind. He would never let such a thing happen to him!

I'll find out who it was and bring them to the police." Pierre left with a sulky expression on his

Master Mallory's assistant shook his head helplessly as he watched Pierre leave angrily without showing any magnanimity as the second young master of the

He was way too spoiled.

Chapter 2118

"There's no need to. It's a good place to receive guests like Pierre," replied Luke as he walked out of the lounge.

Jason rubbed his nose and took a deep breath. Why would he think that Boss sounded devilish?

It seemed like there was some progress between him and Luca. That was why he was in a good mood.

Jason hurried over and kept up with Luke's pace as he left.

Pierre climbed into the car after he left T Corporation. He asked the chauffeur to start the car immediately. He would be tempted to blow the crap out of this place if he remained here for another second.

The chauffeur looked at how furious Pierre was and reminded him in a low voice, "But Old Master Mallory's assistant hasn't come out yet."

"Drive the car if I instructed you to do so. What's the matter? Are you my chauffeur or his chauffeur?" Pierre was very unhappy with the assistant. He had asked him to endure everything, which made Luke step all over him!

"You're my boss," replied the chauffeur. He immediately started the car engine and drove off.

The assistant walked out of the T Corporation's building and saw Pierre's car driving away, leaving a puff of smoke behind. He shook his head helplessly.

The assistant did not catch up to the car, considering his status. Instead, he stood still and called Old Master Mallory.

The call went through, and he reported to Old Master Mallory immediately, "Old Master, things didn't go smoothly. Mr. Pierre didn't apologize to Luke when he was in T Corporation. Luke also gave him an ultimatum. If Mr. Pierre doesn't find the person who stole the bidding document soon, he'll issue a statement to the media."

Only a few people knew that the bidding document that Pierre submitted belonged to T Corporation. If the media found out about this matter, the Mallory family's name would be disgraced.

"Did he really say that?" Old Master Mallory sounded unhappy.

assistant replied, "Yes, I heard it myself. Besides, Luke had planned to ask Mr. Pierre to admit that he stole the bidding document. What he meant was he wouldn't hold Pierre accountable for what happened if Pierre was willing to tell him who handed him the bidding document. But Mr. Pierre insisted on finding the

Mallory sneered while he listened to

that right. Come back here. You don't have to follow Pierre

I got it." The assistant hailed a taxi and left after he hung up the

was not Pierre's subordinate. If it were not for the old master worrying that Pierre would lose control and talk smack in front of Luke, the old master would not have asked him to

assistant sat in the car and recalled everything that happened just

were Pierre's assistant, he would feel like crying for having to deal with such a difficult

...

In the afternoon.

was still looking for the problem in the research data. Rhett picked up his phone and glanced at her. He pondered for a moment and said, "Dr. Craw, the company has issued a

about Dr. Albus?" Luca did not lift her head. Luke had told her that the announcement would be made

quickly made a guess when he noticed that Luca was not even curious about it. Luca must have heard something when she was beside Luke. Otherwise, how could she not be curious about such a big

"Get your job done," replied Luca. She was not planning to comment anything about Dr. Albus' matter.

The other researchers heard her and exchanged glances with each *other*.

Although there was a certain competitive relationship between their laboratory and Dr. Albus' laboratory, they worked for the same company. Luca seemed to be indifferent about this matter.

Luca noticed the silence that hung thickly in the air. There was not even the sound of pages turning. She lifted her head and looked **at them**.

A few of them lowered their **heads**.

Luca pressed her hands on the documents and said, "I know what's on your mind. Dr. Albus' matter isn't something that can be solved by conducting investigations or speaking up for him. That's why I hope everyone can learn from this experience. Important data should be left in the office, and you should never leak information to anyone else. If something like this happens in our team, all of us will be in deep trouble."

"Understood," the researchers replied at the same *time*.

"Let this be a lesson to all of us. After all..." Luca paused for a moment. "He had brought important information and documents out of the **lab**."

Everything was explained in the announcement, so there was nothing they could say.

"*We'll have* to find out what caused the data error as soon as possible. Drugs have great impacts. The drug can't be launched on the market if there's data conflict in the research. Well, I'd like to thank you for being here with me. Let's work hard together. That way, everyone can get a good bonus after the drug is launched."

"Yes." *Everyone* pulled themselves together once Luca mentioned the **bonus**.

They had made it this far, and they had worked hard for the *research*.

the drug that they had been studying had great therapeutic effects. There would certainly be an overwhelming response once the drug was launched.

the time they received the bonus, it would be much higher than the other research teams.

this was not a drug that could cure minor sickness. Drugs like this might take up to ten years to develop successfully if they were

were not for Luca bringing the research into the company, the company would not be treating them well today.

and continued to look for the

a little uneasy when she saw everyone focusing on their jobs.

not emotionless, and she had something to say. However, she did not know where

at the time and said to Rhett in a soft voice, "I have to leave the office around four in the afternoon. Ask everyone to get off work on time

Craw, aren't we supposed to hurry up and find the error?" Rhett asked in a low voice. They were prepared to work overtime when Luca came back to

them rest today. We'll continue tomorrow,"

"Alright, I got it." Rhett nodded.

the office earlier at four o'clock in

Chapter 2119

"There's no way she can prove her identity. And Ivana sounds like a Russian name," the woman reminded the man.

Luca shot a glance at the man and turned to look at the woman, then she said, "You have the face of someone from A City too. Could it be that you're using a name from A City too?"

"How could that be? We all use titles." The woman thought Luca was suspicious. Although she got the name correct, there were a few questionable points that aroused her suspicion.

The main problem was that Luca did not have the tattoo of the Island of Despair on her.

"Fine. I shall leave since no one believes in me," said Luca.

There was no way Luca could prove her identity other than showing the message on her phone. She did not even bring the weapon she got from the Island of Despair along with her as she had gone to work earlier.

A knife was held to Luca's neck in a blink of an eye. "You can't leave."

Luca slightly cast her eyes down and saw the blade that was against her neck. Her skin would cut open and her flesh would tear if she took a step forward. Then, her veins would burst.

"What do you want?" Luca remained calm even though someone was holding a knife to her neck.

Luca was good at fighting, but she did not intend to start a fight.

"It'd be great if you're one of the members of the Island of Despair. Everyone can take it as a misunderstanding. If you're not, then we'll be exposed. That's why you can't leave," the man explained as he pulled Luca into the building and locked the door behind her.

"She's certainly not one of us. Perhaps she has already killed that person. Then, she came here on behalf of her. Her purpose is to go against us," the woman said with confidence.

"Believe it or not, I'm the only member of the Island of Despair without a tattoo." Luca glanced sideways to look at that woman.

"How's that possible? The tattoo is our mark, and everyone has it on their body. You'll have the tattoo if you're someone from the Island of Despair," said the woman resolutely. Then, she said to the man, "This woman isn't as simple as she looks. We can't let her go now. Otherwise, we should..."

woman made a throat-slitting gesture and said, "Kill

you ask me to come here?" Luca was not the least bit frightened when she heard that the woman was planning to kill

can I tell you? You probably have a listening device on you." The woman scowled. The man who was holding a knife to Luca's throat never once moved

should be able to tell me who assigned the mission to you, right?" Luca asked.

can't tell you that either." The woman knew how to keep a secret

looked at her helplessly. "Was it Abel or Shanks?"

expression changed once Luca mentioned the two names.

would know the names of the pivotal figures of the Island of Despair. Luca actually knew them, and she made no secret of the fact that she knew them by calling out

held at Luca's throat slightly loosened once the man heard what Luca

looked around her and saw something like a sack at one of the corners. Then, Luca recalled what Shanks had told her

probably Shanks, right? He's the one who instructed me to check the

snarled at Luca while listening to her. "How much did that betrayer tell you about us?"

me your phone. Let me give Dr. Shanks a call, then you'll know how much I know about the Island of Despair," said

The woman was dubious about the idea. She gave the man a look when she handed her phone to *Luca*.

If this woman dared to call for help, he would be able to kill her immediately.

Luca entered a string of numbers on the phone in front of **them**.

The expressions of the man and woman changed at the same time.

The call was answered after Luca tapped on the call icon. "Who *is this*?"

Shanks' voice came from the other end of the line.

"It's Luca," replied Luca.

Shanks was surprised. It was the first time Luca contacted him since she left the Island of Despair. "Have you found what I wanted?"

"No. I'm being held hostage now just because I don't have a tattoo on me..." Luca said in a helpless tone and shot a glance at the woman.

The look on the woman's face changed after she heard Shanks' voice coming from the other end of the line.

"She doesn't have a tattoo on her." Shanks proved her identity. "Let her take a look at the herbs. Deliver them to the island if they're genuine."

"Yes, Dr. Shanks," replied the woman immediately. The knife held at Luca's throat was moved away at the *same time*.

"I'm sorry." The man apologized. "I was just being cautious."

understand." Luca hung up the call and relaxed her neck. Then, she asked, "Where are the herbs you found? Let me take a look

carried over the two sacks of herbs. "They're all here. Some of them are packaged, and there are names labeled

Luca opened the sack, she was greeted by the herbs'

herbs were not the only things that had such a smell. Sometimes, sun-dried branches or leaves would smell like this too.

me take a look. Don't mind me." Luca grabbed a stool and sat on it. She began to distinguish the
Luca told them not to mind her, the man and the woman stood beside her and
like children waiting for their exam results. They waited for Luca to tell them whether the herbs were
genuine or
of the herbs that Shanks was looking for were difficult to find. Even an experienced physician would tell
them that he had never heard about
were not for Shanks' superb clinical skills, they would have wondered if they were being
woman frowned while she watched Luca separate the herbs into two
be a pile of genuine herbs and another pile of fake herbs, but the woman had no idea which pile was the
one with
the woman watched one of the piles of herbs grow bigger, she became worried that those were fake
herbs. She would get scolded by Shanks for not taking her job
and smelled the herbs she held in her hands. It did not take long for her to finish identifying all

Chapter 2120

Luca listened to the man's words and frowned. "Do you think I'm deliberately making things difficult for the two of you?"

"You shouldn't blame us for what happened just now. We didn't know there were people without tattoos on the Island of Despair... Besides, there's no way you can prove your true identity, right?" The woman hoped that Luca could have mercy on them and stop putting them on the spot.

Luca crossed her arms and said in a cold voice, "I'm not a sensitive person. And I know the two of you are just being extra careful in order to survive. Everyone here is trying to stay alive. Why should I make things difficult for you? You can bring these herbs and wild grasses back to the Island of Despair if you refuse to believe what I said. Whatever Dr. Shanks says upon receiving the herbs will have nothing to do with me."

The man and the woman exchanged glances with each other. They began to believe that Luca was not deliberately putting them on the spot. It seemed that they had been deceived.

"How did this happen? It took us so much time to search for these..." The woman crouched down, feeling depressed as she stared blankly at those fake herbs.

Luca could not help but feel helpless when she saw how depressed the woman was. She reminded her, "I believe Dr. Shanks told you before you came here. Some herbs are on the verge of extinction. So, it's normal that such herbs are difficult to find. Keep on looking. Collect the herbs if you don't know how to differentiate them. Then let me take a look and judge them."

"But we'll have to spend a lot of time doing this. Why don't you come with us?" The woman's eyes brightened up. They did not know how to differentiate those herbs, and they would get easily get deceived. However, the woman in front of them knew how to differentiate the herbs, and she could

distinguish the genuine and fake ones. It would make things much easier if they brought her along with them.

"I can't leave. I'm carrying out a mission too. Just try to collect as many herbs as you can and bring them back here. Dr. Shanks is patient. He won't blame the two of you for taking up so much time," said Luca, trying to ease their worries.

Shanks was the kindest person Luca knew on the Island of Despair.

Although he appeared to be cold and indifferent, he was much more reasonable than Abel was.

The man and woman let out a sigh.

the same method to inform me again once you've found the herbs. I have something else to do and have to go." Luca did not stay any longer. She looked at the pile of useless herbs, and it reminded her of Dr.

effort had been poured, but it was all

what happened to these two people, Dr. Albus, and Luca herself too.

for about one kilometer after she left the house. She was in the Western suburbs, and there were hardly any cars passing by. That was why she had to use the ride-hailing app to hail a ride.

stood by the roadside and waited after she hailed a ride using the app. Her ride would only reach 10 minutes later.

an incoming phone call from Dr. Albus at this

looked at the incoming phone call. Her hands were slightly trembling as she held her phone. She was forced to do such a thing to Dr. Albus, and she did not dare to face

it was as though the phone's ringtone was rushing her to answer the call. It stopped ringing after no one answered the call for a long time. Then, two seconds later, it

knew Dr. Albus was alone and helpless now. He would be facing the public's judgment and be held accountable by the legal department of Watson Biopharmaceuticals. Dr. Albus was calling her to look for a lifesaver.

a deep breath and pressed the answer button. "Dr. Albus, I'm sorry. There's nothing I can

I'm being wrongly accused. Please help me." Dr. Albus asked for help right away as though he did not hear what Luca said to him the moment she answered the

Luca let out a sigh helplessly.

Of course, Luca knew Dr. Albus was innocent. However, what could she do for him?

"Dr. Albus, there's nothing I can do. I'm really sorry." Luca looked far away into the distance. The only thing she could do was apologize to Dr. *Albus*.

There was nothing else she could do for him.

“Dr. Craw, I know Mr. Crawford and you... I mean, you’re close with Mr. Crawford. Please tell him to grant me a few days of grace period. I’ll find out who’s the one who sold the information!” said Dr. Albus. He had no choice but to find out the culprit who sold the research **formula.**

“There’s nothing I can do. Mr. Crawford’s men have looked into the matter. Dr. Albus, I’m really sorry.” All Luca did was apologize.

Luca felt relieved and guilty at the same time that Luke did not find out it was her.

However, she had no choice. Luca still wanted to stay by Luke’s *side.*

It was not only because she selfishly loved him, but it was also because of *Abel.*

Abel had always wanted to deal with Luke. If Luca's true identity was exposed, Abel would certainly go to extreme lengths to implement another plan. That was why as long as her identity remained unexposed, she would not take the initiative to expose herself and let Luke find out about it.

all, leaving meant bidding farewell.

no, no. Dr. Craw, don’t hang up the call first. I’m telling you, I was wronged. I promise that I’ll do anything to repay you if you’re willing to help me.” Dr. Albus sounded insane, and he refused to accept his

was sold to someone else, and he did not earn any money from it. Moreover, he had to be detained as a criminal and face imprisonment. He would also have to pay a huge sum of

not to resign himself to

wife was still waiting for the money to receive treatment abroad. Dr. Albus had no idea about the bank account that Luke’s men found. That was why there was no way he could get that

for Luca’s help was his only way out.

I’m still...” Luca could not bear to listen to him anymore. A man was giving up his pride to beg her. That would mean he was

Craw, I'm sure you can help me. Why don't you help me ask Mr. Crawford out? I'll give him an explanation." Dr. Albus thought of asking Luca to plead for mercy on his behalf, but he understood Luca had no intention of

why he needed to meet Luke himself and prove his innocence in front of

can make an appointment with Mr. Doyle if you’d like to see Mr. Crawford,” Luca reminded

the company sees me as a betrayer who sold confidential information. No one is willing to believe me. Even Mr. Crawford refuses to see me. Dr. Craw, you’re close with Mr. Crawford. Can’t you do me a favor?”