

## **Be Gentle 2131**

### **Chapter 2131**

Although they could not treat these people as if they were gods, they could not offend them either.

Luca was worried that Abel would make a move in the later stages.

His pharmaceutical company was quite well-known in A City. Plus, Watson's welfare package was not the best, so if he made a proposal to these professors, he might be able to win them over.

The research results may also be taken away or even abandoned. If that happened, the research funds that were invested at the beginning would all be for nothing.

Luca would not sit back and give Abel such an opportunity. The general manager dared not express his suspicion of these professors again because of her relationship with Luke.

The meeting lasted for more than an hour.

As Dr. Linwood had said, the general manager put all his hopes for the company's performance on her research group.

All she could do was bite the bullet and agree to it.

After the meeting ended, Luca did not stay back to chit-chat with the other professors and left with the excuse that she still had experiments to do.

Dr. Linwood watched as Luca left and said to Dr. Jackson, "With Dr. Craw taking the lead, it takes the pressure off our research."

Dr. Jackson nodded in agreement.

The general manager listened to their conversation, and his face turned gloomy. He had originally planned to drive a wedge between the professors and Luke, but he did not expect that Luca would rebut his words.

With Luca and Luke's relationship in the way, he dared not say too much.

intentional provocation this time was considered

manager left the conference room with a

watched as the general manager left before discussing with Dr. Jackson, "Jackson, did you get the feeling that everything the general manager said before the meeting was

it did seem that way. It was as if he was setting Mr. Crawford up, giving us the impression that he's..."

Dr. Jackson was already 50 years old and knew the ways of the world, so he could see through whatever the general manager was trying to

Jackson was afraid that if Luca had not spoken up, the general manager would have gone on with

would be fine if the people knew the truth and were not led by the nose, but if

Jackson stood up and stacked the meeting documents together. "I never thought that the management of this company would be like

only natural to have competition in a company." Dr. Linwood stood up as well and took the meeting documents in his hands. Then, he left the conference room with Dr.

I still prefer to stick with academics." Dr. Jackson pushed his glasses. If Luke had not personally gone to the university where he taught to ask him to take up the position, he might still be

Linwood laughed and said nothing

Dr. Jackson used to teach at universities, unlike the

who was in trouble and the former Dr. Cole had taken the initiative to apply for a job here themselves. Everyone could see how that

However, they were not entirely desireless.

*The reason* they agreed with Luke to work here was mainly that they needed the funds from Luke's company to finish the research they had not been able to complete in the academic **field**.

*To* get the funding, they had to get on Luca's good side.

**Luca was** Luke's woman, after all. If she did not have a good impression of them, one word and Luke could cut their funding anytime.

**There would** be no way to carry on with the research at **that point**.

...

On the other hand.

After Luca and Rhett left Watson, Rhett sat in the driver's seat to drive while Luca remained in **the backseat**.

*Rhett* drove carefully and glanced into the rearview mirror. "Dr. *Craw...*"

"What is it?" asked Luca.

"Nothing..." Rhett was not sure whether his gut feeling was right. It had not been long since he graduated, and he had been following Luca ever since. There was not much internal conflict in their research group, so he did not have much experience in *this area*.

*There* were many things that he dared not make a judgment **about**.

*"Do you* have any doubts about the contents of the meeting?" Luca reckoned that he wanted to talk *about this*.

Rhett knew his boundaries. He would not say or ask whatever he was not supposed *to*.

took a deep breath and voiced his doubts, "Yes... Before the meeting started, I felt that the things that the general manager said

finished his sentence for him as she noticed that he dared not continue, "Like he was purposely trying to drive a wedge between Mr. Crawford and the

you think the same too..." The corners of Rhett's mouth curled slightly upward as it seemed that his judgment was

Otherwise, why did I voice out?" said Luca as she would not have spoken up unless she was forced

had let the general manager continue talking, perhaps there would not be another meeting. Those old professors would certainly look for Luke and

been at Watson for some time, so she knew exactly how those professors got into

amazing," said Rhett. Although she was a research professor, she was still under the jurisdiction of the not directly under him, but she was still considered his

amazing about that? I was just assuming someone else's power." Luca looked out the window. It was not something worth bragging about. The fact that the general manager dared not say anything after she spoke was solely because

all thought that she and Luke had a special relationship, so they did not dare to

if the general manager was pretending to obey orders, he would not be so quick to

thought occurred to her, her heart skipped a beat. The way the general manager behaved was not entirely like a display of his absolute power, but rather like he was accomplishing

be from the Island

## **Chapter 2132**

Zoey hurriedly walked out and said, "Dr. Craw, are you going to the lab?"

Luca stopped in her tracks and looked back at her. "Yes, what is it?"

"Dr. Craw, Mr. Crawford is waiting in your office..." Zoey informed her. Luke had just come downstairs looking for Luca. After learning that she still had not returned from her meeting at Watson, he decided to wait here.

After hearing that Luke was waiting for her, she started to feel all warm inside. She turned around and made a gesture to Rhett, signaling him to go in first.

Rhett nodded and walked toward the lab.

Luca looked back at Zoey and asked, "How long has Mr. Crawford been waiting?"

Zoey glanced at the time and replied, "About ten minutes. He knew that you were still in a meeting at Watson, so he went straight into your office without telling me to inform you."

Luke was the boss of this company, after all. Hence, she watched him walk into Luca's office without stopping him.

"Got it." Luca turned around and walked back to her office.

Since Luke was there, she could not leave him hanging just for the sake of work.

Luca pushed the door open to see the man sitting on the couch with his phone in his hands. His eyes were glued to the phone screen.

She knew that he was not playing games on his phone but dealing with work.

In the hands of others, a phone could provide all kinds of entertainment—shows, chatting, or games. However, in Luke's hands, he mostly used it for work.

was either dealing with emails and files or talking to relevant people about

Crawford, what brings you here?" asked Luca as she closed the door so that passersby could not

waiting for you to get off work." Luke put down his phone and looked at Luca with tenderness from deep down

Get off work?

in dismay, "I'm afraid I won't be done early today, Mr. Crawford. If you're getting off work, perhaps you can go

you forget the promise you made to the children?" Luke reminded

Luca had promised to take Old Master Crawford's pulse, but it was only Friday

need to go on a business trip to the next city for the next two days, so I won't be here," Luke said resolvedly, and because of that, he had set the dinner

presumed that Luca would be able to make time for it, so he did not notify her

case, wait for me to pack my things," said Luca as there was no way she would go to Crawford Manor alone. Besides, Susan already thought that she had an ulterior motive. Therefore, to avoid any disputes, she would choose to go only when Luke was going—even if she was only going to take Old Master Crawford's

Luke there, Susan would restrain herself from

your time. It's still early," said Luke as it was the usual time to get off work, so they would not

Moreover, he had informed them that he would be bringing Luca and the kids back for dinner tonight at the last minute. Hence, the cooks and the maids must be busy making more sumptuous dishes **right now**.

*After all*, Old Master Crawford liked Luca.

*Luca hurriedly* packed up the files on her desk and put them in **the safe**.

*Luke* looked at her scurrying figure and casually asked, "Were you at Watson for *a meeting*?"

"Yes." Luca nodded as she entered the safe's password in front of him without trying to cover it *up*.

**The whole** company belonged to him anyway. If he wanted the information in the safe, he did not even need the password. He could just carry the entire safe away.

"What was the meeting about?" asked *Luke*.

**After bringing** up the contents of the meeting, Luca put the files into the safe and closed the door to turn around and look at Luke. "It was about the next quarter. Because of Dr. Albus' situation and Dr. Cole's failed research, the general manager was very anxious and wanted us to produce some sales as soon as possible. So, the development plan for the next quarter was decided in advance."

Luke nodded without making any comments.

*Luca had* planned to inadvertently reveal the general manager's wrongdoings when Luke asked further, but she did not expect him to not say a *word*.

Her expression was somewhat hesitant and *uneasy*.

**"What's** wrong? Is the plan putting too much pressure on you?" asked **Luke**.

was concerned about Luca as her experiment was at the forefront of Watson. This meeting about the next quarter's plans would definitely put a lot of weight on her

just that the general manager lambasted the professors there because of Dr. Albus' matter, saying that it was a message from above. Mr. Crawford, was that your intention?" Luca decided to say it

would rather come off as emotionally unintelligent to Luke than to see Abel's

the general manager was not working for Abel, he still did not bring anything to the table in terms of

Luke understood that she was uneasy because of the general

that Luca was concerned about him and that the general manager's behavior would affect the professors' impression of him, which would eventually affect the

very calm, and the expression on his face remained unfazed. However, he was in fact uncontrollably jumping up and down with joy

Luca cared about him!

simply denied it without criticizing and asking

Luke understood him.

did not say much, it did not mean that he did not care. Moreover, Luke had personally invited several old professors there, which indicated his determination to be at the top in the pharmaceutical industry. Hence, there was no way he would not deal with

was relieved that Luke would

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After Luca had successfully clocked out, she walked into the CEO's exclusive elevator with Luke.

The elevator doors closed slowly, and Zoey withdrew her gaze as she could not help but sigh. "What a perfect match, but how unfortunate..."

Rhett walked into the office and heard her sigh, so he asked out of curiosity, "What match? What's unfortunate?"

Zoey shook her head as she dared not gossip about the boss' relationship with him. "Are you going home?"

"How can I go home when the research professor hasn't gone home yet?" said Rhett while picking up a stack of files next to the printer on the desk. He was the laboratory assistant. If the researchers were working overtime, he would have to as well.

"But Dr. Craw has just gone home," said Zoey.

Rhett was about to exit the office when he stopped in his tracks all of a sudden and looked back at her. "Dr. Craw got off work already?"

"She just clocked out half a minute ago. She should have arrived downstairs by now," informed Zoey. If Luca did not work overtime, then the researchers should not have to work overtime either.

Rhett looked at the files helplessly. "These files still need to be examined and approved by Dr. Craw."

"Talk about it later. Dr. Craw seems quite busy today." Zoey did not mention Luke and implied that he should not disturb Luca.

The fact that both of them left together must be because they had a date. If she was interrupted by work messages and calls while on a date, it would just spoil the mood.

"Without Dr. Craw's approval of these files, a large portion of the research can't be continued," said Rhett with a frown. If it were not for the meeting at Watson today, these matters would not have been delayed.

about it afterward. If the research can't continue, just let the researchers go home,"

at her. "Do you know

Zoey looked at him with big

you told Dr. Craw that the boss was waiting for her in her office..." Rhett checked to see if anyone else was around before

pursed her lips into a smile. It seemed like Rhett was not as oblivious as other men, and he knew certain things. "Good that you know, so don't disturb Dr.

looked at the files in his hand and sighed helplessly. "I got it. I'll let the researchers go home

As soon as she heard that they were getting off work, she started to pack up her things. If they were going home, that meant that she could leave work on time

...

minutes later, Luke's car was parked in the parking lot of

It was snowing outside.

about to push open the car door when Luke said, "Hold  
opening the door and looked at him with a

Mr. Griffin rushed over with an umbrella in his right hand and another in his **left**.

**Luke pushed** open the car door, and Mr. Griffin immediately put the umbrella over his head. "Young Master Luke, *you're back.*"

"**Yes.**" Luke shut the car door and took the umbrella from Mr. Griffin's right hand. He went around the front of the car to the passenger's side and opened the door, he said to Luca inside, "You can come **down now.**"

*Luca realized* that he was trying to shield her from the snow. She lowered her gaze and had no choice but to comply with his request, so she got out of the **car**.

*Luke held* the umbrella over her head. The snow fell in droves, yet not a single snowflake landed on Luca's head *and shoulders*.

**The** two of them walked ahead while Mr. Griffin walked behind them.

**After noticing** the snow on Luke's shoulder and how there was not a trace of snow on Luca, Mr. Griffin could not help but sigh internally. The young master of the Crawford family was infatuated. He was both dedicated and infatuated.

However, his infatuation pretty much disappeared after Bianca lost **her memory**.

Although he was still very nice to her after that, Mr. Griffin clearly felt that many things were **different**.

The intimacy between the two of them became very distant unlike before, so Bianca was sent to study abroad.

**Mr. Griffin** could not help but sigh. He thought that he would never be able to see this side of Luke again, but he got to see Luke's gentleness once more when he was with *Luca*.

In the living room.

Master Crawford saw how attentive Luke was through the surveillance in the parking lot displayed on the screen and could not help but nod and praise, "Not bad. He finally

sat beside the old master and asked in confusion, "Great-grandpa, learn

about your father." Old Master Crawford lovingly patted his great-grandchild. He guessed that they were already making their way into the house, so he picked up the remote and turned off

asked again, "What happened to

been enlightened," Old Master Crawford said with a smile. He deliberately let the children join today's dinner as inviting Luca here alone would

Luca loved the children so much, the moment they opened

would surely agree without

still confused and asked, "Great-grandpa,

seeing Tommy so confused, Old Master Crawford said, "You'll find out when you grow up. Do you remember everything I just

remember everything! Don't worry, Great-grandpa, I'm the smartest!" Tommy blinked and made an 'OK' gesture, indicating that he would complete

smart?" Luke's voice rang

back and cheered, "Daddy, Ms. Luca, you came

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"Of course." Luca caressed the child's head. After what happened previously, she did not purposely keep her distance from the children in front of the old master anymore. "By the way, where's Lanie and Rainie?"

If they wanted to be close to her, then she would let them be.

After all, the days she spent with them were numbered.

"My brother and sister are upstairs doing their homework," Tommy said with a smile, leaning even closer to her.

Luca simply put her arms around him.

Luke stood aside as he watched Luca and Tommy stick together eagerly, which did not make him jealous but made the corners of his mouth curl up into a smile instead. "I'll go upstairs and keep the files."

"Go ahead. I'll entertain them here." Old Master Crawford waved his hand without paying any attention to Luke.

He saw Luca's concern for the children, which differed from other women. There was no pretense, and the affection in her eyes did not look like it was for show. She was not fake at all and was very suitable to be a mother to the children.

He ordered Mr. Griffin, "Here, pour some tea for Luca."

"Yes, Old Master Crawford." Mr. Griffin stepped forward and poured the flower tea he brewed into a clean and clear glass cup.

Crawford explained, "I heard that the flavor of the tea would be much more robust if it's brewed this way, but this is all young people stuff. I don't know much about it. Luca, try and see what this flower tea

be rude to decline the old master's kindness, so after putting Tommy on the seat next to her, she bent over to pick up the cup of tea. The tea was hot, so she took a small sip. It tasted clean, and the fragrance of flowers filled

same time, she tasted something other than flower

putting down the teacup, Luca looked at Old Master Crawford. "Old Master Crawford, did you add anything else other than



taste buds really can't be deceived. I did add some medicinal herbs to it. A well-known doctor in A City prescribed it for Louis' wife. He said that it has beautifying properties. It's especially good for those who are busy with work and have little time to rest and take care of themselves. Mr. Griffin, bring out the medicine for Luca to see." Old Master Crawford did not lie about adding medicinal herbs into

he had gotten another doctor to prescribe this medicine. It was not the same medicine that Yuri

Luca was knowledgeable in the medical field. If he wanted to carry out tonight's plan, it must be

came downstairs and happened to hear the old master say that. She could not help but go up to the butler and open the bag of medicine. She frowned and said, "Father, how can you give such important medicine to an

just a tonic? How important can it be?" Old Master Crawford even put Yuri's medicine packet label on it so that Luca would

not like you don't know how precious and costly the herbs inside are. If others know about this, they'll think that Ms. Luca is your granddaughter-in-law while Yuri is no one!" Susan looked at the situation in front of her discontentedly as Yuri was also part of

The old master was openly treating Luca nicely, but Luca and Luke's relationship was **still unclear**.

**After going** through all that trouble to drive away that crazy woman, Bianca, here came another one who was favored, Luca. Susan looked at the medicinal herbs with a gloomy **expression**.

She did not know how to distinguish herbs, nor did she know the old master's plan. Hence, when she saw the label, she simply assumed that it belonged to Yuri.

**Old Master** Crawford was instantly upset. He thought that Susan's sarcasm toward Luca was all because of a packet of herbs. She was humiliating the Crawford *family*.

"Is Yuri that short of money that she can't even buy a packet of herbs?" he asked. "I'll return the money for this packet of herbs to Yuri."

Susan opened her mouth but had nothing to say as the old master's words had left her **speechless**.

Their family was indeed not short of money that they could not afford a packet of herbs, but that was Yuri's herbs that Old Master Crawford was giving to Luca. She felt as though her belongings were always being taken away.

**Her husband**, the company that originally belonged to her son, and now, *Yuri's herbs...*

Luca sat there and awkwardly listened to the conversation between the two. She felt like it was wrong of her to have drunk this cup of *tea...*

**"What are** you still standing here for? Do you have a problem?" Old Master Crawford looked at Susan with a straight face. There was a reason why Zachary cheated on her with *Allison*.

than the fact that Zachary had always been a Casanova, Susan's character was also a

could not stand this strong character of hers, so he was deceived by Allison's fake gentleness. In the end, both women were hard to deal

no need for the money..." Susan did not speak up because she was heartbroken about the small sum of money. After all, the Crawford family had lots of money. How was it possible for them to be unable to afford

why are you making so much noise?" said Old Master Crawford angrily. He was currently helping Luke accomplish a life-changing event, yet she was here making a fuss and spoiling the

think that you shouldn't take Yuri's things without notice. You know that she hasn't been well ever since she gave birth to Thea. The doctor told her to take the herbs regularly and that the course of treatment shouldn't be messed up in order to attain the best results. Honestly, I'm not upset about the money. My heart just aches for Yuri's body." Susan sat on the couch with no intention of

Griffin." Old Master Crawford only found her

only a tonic, not some

are your orders, Old Master Crawford?" Mr. Griffin immediately answered beside

the doctor later and have him prepare ten more packets of the medicinal herbs. Then, have Ol' Zander go over to get them," Old Master Crawford said in a cold voice. It was obvious that he was exasperated by Susan's

Griffin immediately carried out his orders and picked up his phone to contact the doctor for the

## **Chapter 2135**

After the argument between Old Master Crawford and Susan, Luca dared not pick up the medicinal herbs to take a closer look at them as she did not want Susan to find faults with her actions and further provoke the old master.

She reckoned that the herbs really belonged to Yuri, so there should not be a problem.

The last time, there was a problem with the old master's stew because Susan had tampered with it. Yuri was her daughter-in-law and she still hoped that Yuri and Louis would have a second child, so how could she have tampered with the herbs?

It was a strong tonic at most. Even if it was not suitable for Yuri's body, it would not be too bad.

Luca picked up the cup of tea, which had cooled a bit during the two's argument. She took a big sip to please the old master.

He did personally prepare it, after all.

Susan snorted when she saw Luca drink the tea. She poured a cup for herself as well.

"What are you doing?" Old Master Crawford looked at her indifferently.

"If she can have the medicine, why can't I?" Susan said deliberately. When Yuri visited the doctor to recuperate, she had the doctor take her pulse as well.

The doctor said that her body was a little weak from staying up late to play cards and her improper diet, but it was no big deal. She would be able to recuperate by having the same tonic as Yuri.

However, she complained that the herbal medicine was too bitter, so she did not have the doctor prescribe them for her.

After seeing Luca drink Yuri's medicine like a spoiled brat, Susan could not hold back her anger. She poured herself a cup of tea and took a sip, disregarding the temperature of the freshly poured tea.

At that moment, she frowned.

was not because it tasted bad but because it burned

face, Susan did not spit out the tea but forcefully

Master Crawford did not stop her as she was the one who had asked to suffer tonight. There was no way he could stop someone asking for

felt that the atmosphere was strange, so she put down her cup and was about to get down to business when Old Master Crawford advised her, "Luca, you drank too little. Have

Ms. Luca. Great-grandpa specially prepared it for you. Drink more," Tommy said with a smile, not at all affected by the storm just

raised in an environment like this anyway. He had long been used

just now was just a small

both the young one and the old one persuading her, she had no choice but to finish the flower tea in

Master Crawford nodded his head in satisfaction. Now, the efficacy of the medicine would be

brought over some candied fruit. "Ms. Craw, have some candied fruit so that the sweetness can cancel out

**The flower** tea originally only had the fragrance of flowers, but with the addition of herbs, those who were particularly sensitive to the taste of herbal medicine might not be able to stand it. Thus, he brought out the candied fruit as per the old **master's orders**.

"No, *thank you*," said Luca. The taste of the herbal medicine was nothing to her.

*She* had tried a lot of herbal medicine on the *Island of Despair*.

Her taste buds had become accustomed to the taste of medicinal herbs, so no matter how bad the medicine tasted, she could eat it directly without breaking a sweat.

The butler glanced at Old Master **Crawford**.

Old Master Crawford nodded, and the butler understood what he meant. As he was about to walk away with the candied fruit, Susan said, "Wait, give me the fruit tray."

Mr. Griffin had no choice but to place the tray of candied fruit on Susan's side of the coffee *table*.

*Susan* hurriedly ate a sweet candied fruit.

**Old** Master Crawford looked at her and wrinkled his eyebrows in disapproval. He did not bother saying anything to her and looked at Luca to say, "Luca, is it not *bitter*?"

"My job is making medicine, and I've tried the most bitter medicines out there, so this is nothing," said Luca. She thought of her objective and said, "Old Master Crawford, I heard that you've been having trouble sleeping lately. Why don't I take your pulse for *you*?"

**Just as** she finished talking, Susan immediately pricked up her ears. The old master was having trouble sleeping? Why had she not heard about **it**?

in this villa. She should know all the ins and outs of what happened in the villa, including whatever was wrong with the old master. However, she had not heard of

Susan looked at both of them.

"Sure. Come and take my pulse." Old Master Crawford gladly agreed. He was not feeling unwell. It was just the kid's

saw how much Lanie and the others liked Luca, so he asked about their thoughts. They were very keen on Luke and Luca being together without a hint of reluctance or

asked them for an excuse to have her come over

Lanie came up with this idea. Old Master Crawford thought it was a good idea too when he first heard it, so he let Lanie and the others come up with a

not think that Luca would actually

aren't you a drug researcher? How can you take someone else's pulse?" Susan purposely embarrassed Luca after hearing the old master agree. "Father, if you're not feeling well, I'll have the doctor who takes care of Yuri come here tomorrow. He can take your pulse, help you recuperate, and prescribe medicine for you. It's better than having someone who doesn't even have a medical license prescribe medicine

Crawford glared at Susan. It was always noisy wherever she went, which made him

who sat on the side, could not help but say, "Grandma, Ms. Luca is

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## **Chapter 2136**

"Father, you've been around for some time and have seen a lot of things, but there are many scammers nowadays and they're using more tricks that you've never seen, so don't be deceived." Susan was even

more upset when she saw how Old Master Crawford defended Luca, so she pointed out that Luca was a liar.

Old Master Crawford had a gloomy expression. As expected, Susan would not be bothered to think about her reputation when she went crazy. She was like this with Allison and now, with Luca.

Was she trying to badmouth Luke by hinting that Luca was a liar?

Old Master Crawford was very fond of Luca and would never allow such a thing to happen.

Just as he was about to speak, Luke's voice could be heard from the stairs. "Mother, are you doubting the professional skills of the person I hired?"

Susan looked up at Luke and frowned. It seemed like he was involved now.

She already felt pressured from facing Old Master Crawford. Now that she had to face Luke, her imposing manner immediately dimmed. She had no choice but to explain, "I just raised a reasonable suspicion, Luke. How many people are able to possess pharmaceutical knowledge and are able to treat patients by taking their pulse? Even if you know some of them, they're probably just pretending. I don't want your grandfather to get scammed. I'm doing this for his own good."

"I'm not as naive as you think." Old Master Crawford had a stern expression. He mercilessly exposed her, then leaned on his cane and stood up. "I know everything about what happens in Crawford Manor. I know all about what everyone here does. As long as it doesn't harm the Crawford family, I won't say anything about it. However, it doesn't mean that I'm unaware and not watching."

Susan had chills down her spine. He was hinting at her.

She had indeed done some stuff behind the old master's back, but they were all done for her benefit.

These things did not affect the Crawford family's benefit for now, but it was hard to say whether it would later on.

The reason for doing these things was simple. She felt threatened. The old master's gaze was so intimidating she could not help but dodge it.

saw the way Susan reacted and understood what was going

Master Crawford knew everything Susan did behind his back. He just did not stop her for the time being because it did not harm the interests of the

she had done a seamless job, but in reality, her every move was already caught by the old master early

she was doing a

good intentions..." Susan dodged the old master's gaze, unwilling to admit

Luca was helpless.

Master Crawford snorted coldly, "Luca, let's go to my

stood up as well and glanced at

she arrived, she already had a feeling that Susan might pick on her. However, she did not expect that Susan would make the old master angry like this. The old master had been living like this for such a long time. Of course, his health could not get

slightly, signaling Luca to follow the old master to his

stared at her as not just anyone could enter the old master's study. Even when it came to cleaning, the old master's most trusted butler was in charge of cleaning the old master's study himself. Everyone else, including her, was not allowed to enter—even under special

*After so many years since she came to Crawford Manor, it occurred to Susan that she had never been allowed to enter the old master's study at all. However, Luca was allowed to enter so easily.*

**She was** furious at the special treatment Luca was *getting*.

**With Luke** still there, so Susan found herself not being able to say anything at all. Her resentment for Luke started to creep into her heart. It was all because of that broke studio. He not only lost the management rights to T Corporation, but he also often left home early and stayed out late, which caused her to get bullied **like this**.

**Luke** noticed Susan's indignance, but he did not comfort nor apologize. After everything she said just now, he was already being merciful by choosing not to deal with *her*.

**"Tommy."** He called out to **his son**.

"What is it, Daddy?" Tommy nestled nicely into his *side*.

**"Have** you done your homework?" asked *Luke*.

*"I've finished* it. The teacher gave us less homework today, so I could finish it fast." Tommy hugged his arm. Whenever this happened, he was especially afraid of Susan. He felt that her eyes seemed to be carrying knives that could cut children like him a thousand times.

**She was** like a witch who **ate children**.

However, Tommy dared not say what he felt.

**"Go** upstairs, I'll check your homework," said Luke. He had no intention of joining Luca and Old Master Crawford in **the study**.

master's mood must have been ruined by Susan, so he should let Luca calm him

she was Bianca or Luca, she always had a knack for cheering up old

Daddy!" Although Tommy thought of letting Luca check his homework, after seeing how terrifying Susan was, he jumped at the chance to go

the father and son go upstairs. She flew into

Luke's mother, but throughout the years, Luke had never looked her in the eye. Old Master Crawford favored Luke, so the old master never said anything about his

felt like she did not have a place in this family



poured some tea into a cup, then gulped it down. As she was so angry, she forgot about the scalding heat and the herbal

tea that entered her mouth was spat out at once without caring about her

are you okay?" Mr. Griffin happened to see it from the side and hastily pulled out a few tissue

coughed twice as she got choked by the tea and was embarrassed to be seen. She did not take the tissues the butler handed her but threw the glass cup in her hand to

that moment, the glass shattered all over the

## **Chapter 2137**

After careful consideration, Susan indignantly put the teapot down.

Life flashed before the butler's eyes, and since Old Master Crawford had already gone upstairs with Luca, he asked, "Madam Crawford, would you still like some tea?"

"No way. It's disgusting." Susan sat on the couch, slightly grim-faced.

She thought that after Biana and Allison were sent abroad, her days in Crawford Manor would be peaceful. Little did she know that Luke would bring another woman back to infuriate her!

Mr. Griffin noticed that she was enraged but was not foolish enough to comfort her. Instead, he bent over to place the teapot and teacups in the tray before leaving.

In the study.

Old Master Crawford pulled a chair out for Luca to sit down.

Luca sat on the chair. She looked at the old master and said, "Old Master Crawford, don't be angry."

"Is it that obvious?" Old Master Crawford touched his face. He was indeed angry at Susan's pettiness.

been the daughter-in-law of the Crawford family for decades and even had a grandchild. When she got angry, her demeanor was nothing like how an elder in the Crawford family should

had not given birth to Louis, she would have been kicked out

is written all over your face. Think about your health. You need to be less angry and smile more." Luca smiled

you get, the harder it is to smile." Old Master Crawford sat in the chair behind the desk and put his cane aside. "I managed to live till this age. There's not much left in this world that I've not obtained or seen. Yet some people just love to make me angry. What else can

on the bright side. This time in your life is all about enjoying your blessings. Your grandchildren are all so filial, and your great-grandchildren are so lovely. Aren't these worth being happy about?" Luca brought up his

people had the things Old Master

Like her grandfather...

was only Wanda around the old man now. She still kept him company despite being divorced. Wanda had always been a decent woman. If she met someone she liked one day and got married again, the other family may not be able to accept the

if that time came, Luke would certainly make proper arrangements for the old man. However, living life in old age without your grandchildren by your side would be very

*Old Master Crawford* saw the envy in her eyes and said with a sigh, "Everything you said just now is indeed something worth being happy about. Only if Susan could just behave a little more, then I would be *even happier*."

"*Old Master Crawford*, it's not like she's the only one in your life. Find someone to play chess and go to the teahouse with, or listen to opera music. Won't these be good enough?" said Luca. Susan was not Allison. Susan did not cause as much trouble as she did.

*When* she caused trouble, it was mostly because she was upset with Luke and the people associated with him.

Without their presence, Susan would not upset the old master for no reason.

**"You're right.** Come, Luca. Take my pulse for me." *Old Master Crawford* rolled up *his sleeve*.

Luca nodded. She raised her hand and placed it on the old master's *pulse*.

*Two* minutes later, she withdrew her hand and gave the old master a brief check-up. Then, she asked, "How is your blood pressure *nowadays*?"

**"It's been** under control. Mr. Griffin would take my blood pressure three times a day. One in the morning, one in the afternoon, and one at night. My blood pressure has been stable because I've been taking medicine regularly." *Old Master Crawford* replied. His body had no problem at all, and he had been sleeping well too. He only said such words to make Luca come **over**.

"Your pulse is quite stable," said Luca. The old master's pulse was more stable than others of his age.

married Luke, she observed the old master's

also heard Luke talk about this. After the old master retired, he was very concerned about his own health, so he took good care of

was only natural that he was healthier than

so? In fact, since the last time you found out that the herbs in the stew were problematic, I stopped using them. My body felt a lot better, but there are still times when it's hard to sleep at night. In the end, I could only take sleeping pills, which the doctor advised me not to take too much of—especially for the elderly like me with a slow metabolism. If I have too much of it, it won't be good for my health," said *Old Master Crawford* who did not have trouble sleeping at all. These were all

silent for a few seconds and asked again, "When you can't sleep, does your mind like to wander at night, or are you just wide awake and

felt sleepy before lying down, but after lying down, I think about things out of habit and I'm not sleepy anymore," said Old Master Crawford. A good number of people his age had this insomnia problem, so he used this excuse to deceive Luca, thinking it would definitely

understood. "You're just overthinking. That's why you can't sleep. You don't need to take sleeping pills for this. You just need to change

do I change it?" Old Master Crawford asked

people, I would suggest doing some exercises to tire their body. For older people, I can only tell you not to overthink. If that doesn't work, you could listen to the sounds of nature. It'll help ease your mind," said Luca. She could not help much with this as the old master's condition seemed to be caused by

## **Chapter 2138**

Everyone could see Luke's affection for her.

Even after she had changed her identity, Luke still treated her...

The thought of her having intimate contact with Luke before made her cheeks flush.

Old Master Crawford noticed her blushing and guessed that her feelings for Luke were not that simple, so he deliberately let out a long sigh. "These problems have bothered me for a long time. That's why I haven't been able to sleep and eat well."

"The children can take care of themselves. Don't worry so much about them. Your health is the most important. Maybe one day, Mr. Crawford will be more open-minded. Then you won't have to worry," Luca patted his hand and comforted him.

A light flashed before Old Master Crawford's cloudy eyes. After hearing her words, he asked, "Luca, do you really think he would open his mind?"

Luca froze. Would Luke really open his mind?

It had been so many years, but she had never heard of Luke having any sort of relationship before her return. She also heard the kids mention that even when there was the fake Bianca around, he seemed to only do his part as a husband but the love was not there.

Now, he was expressing great interest in her.

No matter how much had changed, the soul inside her was still Bianca...

Would he really open his mind?

did not know, but she could only choose a comforting answer to face the old master's inquiries. "Mr. Crawford is such a capable person. Of course, he would open his

Crawford pouted and shook his head. "How nice would it be if he was open-minded, but after your words today, I've become open-minded. You're right. The kids can take care of

smiled gently when she saw the old master loosen up. He had guarded the Crawford family for most of his life. Luke would want the old master to enjoy his blessings. Hence, if she could help the old master relax a little, she would try her best to

Crawford looked at Luca's warm smile and suddenly remembered the real

was also a delicate woman who did not argue or quarrel. She only gently took care of her small

she was not harmless. As long as someone dared to hurt her family, she would definitely stand up to protect them. Although the Luca in front of him had features completely different from Bianca, she gave him the same feeling

that you're opening your mind,"

Crawford sighed again. "Luca, I really like the way you speak. Your words are sensible, which makes people feel better after hearing them. You're much more sociable than those who only argue facts. I still prefer talking with you. Don't be so busy in the future and come over to visit more. Accompany this old man who doesn't have much time left on this earth and chat with

bah!" Luca knew he said that on purpose to get her to come over more often, so she hurriedly tried to stop the old master from jinxing

old master's fondness toward her took her by

**"Old Master** Crawford, if you want me to come over more often to chat with you in the future, you have to stop saying such unlucky words. You'll live a long life," said *Luca*.

The words 'long life' put a big smile on Old Master Crawford's face. Nobody wanted to die, even if they already had a taste of every luxurious or despondent experience the universe had to offer. Who wanted to leave just like that?

Of course, one would choose to live life if one could. Old Master Crawford said this on purpose just to tease Luca while trying to help Luke at the same *time*.

**"Fine, fine.** I'll try my best to live up to a hundred, then. I'll nag at you every day."

Just as the old master stopped talking, there was a knock on the study room door. Mr. Griffin's voice could be heard. *"Old Master Crawford."*

"Come in," said Old Master Crawford.

**The butler** pushed the door open but did not walk in. He said with downcast eyes, "Old Master Crawford, the kitchen has prepared dinner, and Second Young Master and the others have returned."

"Then inform the kitchen to serve the food." Old Master Crawford rolled his sleeve down and stood up with his cane. "Luca, let's go eat **dinner.**"

**"Alright, Old Master Crawford."** Luca nodded and took the initiative to assist him, but she could not help but complain to herself.

After what had happened in the living room earlier, Susan certainly would not stop there. At the dinner table later, Luca would have to endure more mocking.

the last thing she wanted to

was not afraid of being targeted by Susan as she would not have many chances to come here in the future, even if she had made a promise to the old master. She could use work as an excuse, and the old master would

worried that Susan's mocking behavior would have a bad influence on the children's

Susan and Allison used to go to war with each other, she would always take her children away to avoid them being affected by their words as it was not good for the development of

dinner table this time, the children would be able to hear a lot of Susan's

Master Crawford walked out of the study and glanced at Luca. He knew what she was thinking, so he tried to comfort her. "Luca, don't worry. No one will dare to wag their tongue at the dinner

lips curled into a smile. The only person wagging their tongue all this time was

was also upset, she would not dare say anything in front of so many elders, so the one who started it was always

past few years, Luca had a good grasp of the two wives of Luke's father. They were

was mad while the other was crazy. If she had to compare, perhaps Susan was a little better. Besides, she had not done anything to betray the Crawford family for money as of

## **Chapter 2139**

What bothered him was the fact that Susan did not know how to properly educate her daughter-in-law.

She let Yuri become like her, which made Old Master Crawford very unhappy. The good thing was that no matter how similar to Susan Yuri's nature became, she would at least pretend to be well-behaved in front of him.

Therefore, Louis was the one at a loss.

Old Master Crawford had no intentions of interfering with that as Louis was very frivolous when he was younger, so having a wife like Yuri to keep an eye on him was not such a bad thing.

Luca assisted the old master to the main seat while everyone was watching.

After the old master had sat down, Luca thought about sitting somewhere near the edge, but Tommy waved at her. "Ms. Luca, sit here!"

Looking at the spot next to the child, she hesitated for a bit.

There was an empty spot next to Tommy, and to the right side of this empty seat was Luke...

It was like this seat was purposely reserved for her.

It would be odd to leave an empty seat if she did not sit there.

Old Master Crawford deliberately said, "Luca, just sit next to Tommy."

Since the old master said so, Luca had no choice but to sit in between Luke and Tommy.

sweetly at her and

were important in the

had arrived, Old Master Crawford spoke, "Since everyone is here, Mr. Griffin, serve

Old Master Crawford." The butler walked into the kitchen and had the maids serve the dishes

Master Crawford knew that Luke was bringing Luca over, so he had the chef prepare a sumptuous dinner that was as luxurious as a meal at

at the dishes on the table and got greedy. After the old master said to eat, Luca picked up her chopsticks and gave Tommy his

had missed out on several years of their childhood, they were still her children. During this period of time, she had found out what the children liked

it was normal, but this attentiveness had caught the old master's

even more satisfied with

even knew what Tommy's favorite foods were. It seemed like she did not intentionally approach the children. She was not deliberately pleasing them with ulterior motives. Besides, the children liked many kinds of food. Knowing what they liked the most took a lot of time and effort to understand. In the old master's eyes, among all of the dishes that the child liked, Luca managed to pick Tommy's favorite because she put in the effort and knew

you, Ms. Luca," Tommy thanked her

saw them looking like mother and son and deliberately spoke, "Tommy, I think you shouldn't call her Ms. Luca anymore. You'd need to change the way you address her sooner or later, so you might as well change

Tommy chewed his food and looked at her with a puzzled look, obviously not understanding the meaning of *her words*.

**Luca's** face had a grim expression after hearing Susan's words. The children may not know what she meant, but she did.

**In** the eyes of outsiders, Luke had a wife, so even if she really stood beside Luke, she would not bear a title.

**What Susan** meant was that she seemed to want to be the mother to **these children**.

**In** the children's minds, their mother was still the fake Bianca, so Susan's words made her feel deep *malice*.

**No matter** how much the children liked her, they would be more attached to *their mother*.

If Susan were to really break down her words, the children would think that she was here to take the place of their real mother.

Luca was very unhappy, but she did not have the identity nor a reason to criticize her for saying *this*.

*Susan* saw the change of expression on Luca's face and could not help but feel smug. She said, "Tommy, do you **know why?**"

*Tommy* swallowed his food and answered innocently, "Why, Grandma?"

"Because..."

could finish, Louis interrupted her with a frown, "Mom, what are you going on about? Don't talk when wrong? This rule doesn't usually exist. I was just trying to explain to Tommy since he's so curious. What's the matter with that?" said Susan, unaware of the old master's

put down his chopsticks and said with a cold expression, "Mother, Grandpa doesn't like hearing people gossip at the

wasn't gossiping, I was just—" Susan's words were ruthlessly interrupted by Old Master

not using your mouth to eat, get out." Old Master Crawford's words were filled with disgust

the children liked Luca and would not mind if Luke and Luca took a step further in their relationship, the old master was still unsure about how the children felt about their mother's role. He did not wish for the children to think that after Luke and Luca got together, she would replace their biological mother's

still had feelings for their

was dissatisfied and retorted to the old master, "Father, I was just telling

have some vegetables. If you have anything to say, wait until dinner is over." Louis put some vegetables and meat on her

found out that Luke was bringing the children back for dinner with Luca, he knew that there would be a

Susan said would affect the relationship between the two brothers, he still wished that Susan would talk less as angering the old master would not do her

grunted, her own son was not helping, and her daughter-in-law could not even be counted on. It was as if everyone else at the dining table was standing on one side and her on another. Whatever she said was

## **Chapter 2140**

"Louis and Yuri are busy with work. Who's going to look after Thea if you don't move out of the house?" Old Master Crawford did not allow her to stay.

"If they can't look after Thea, they can hire a maid to take care of her. Or they can just send her over here if that doesn't work for them," said Susan. She insisted on living in Crawford Manor.

Susan and Allison used to argue and fight with each other every day. It had become a fight to the end. However, Allison moved out of Crawford Manor after she thought Luke got killed. That was when Susan won the fight.

Hence, Susan insisted on staying in Crawford Manor. This was her territory.

"Mom, I'd still be worried if I leave Thea to the maid. You know Thea is unlike other children. I'll be more assured if you can look after her yourself," said Louis. What he said was true.

Thea started suffering from a psychological disorder after what she went through when she was little. They had brought her to the psychologist, and the psychologist told them that she would need her parents' company. It would help her improve her mental health as she grew up.

"Then just let Thea stay in Crawford Manor. I'm not young anymore. I'm not used to living in other places." Susan made up her mind. She wanted to stay in Crawford Manor, and no one could make her leave.

Louis had always known that Susan refused to leave Crawford Manor.

However, it was the old master's decision. Old Master Crawford wanted to live in a peaceful and quiet place. Louis had no choice but to continue to persuade her, "But Thea needs to see us often. Otherwise, she'll imagine things."

It roused the anger in Susan when she saw Louis insist that she move out of the house too.

Louis was her son, but he was supporting someone else instead of his mother. Susan shot a glance at Yuri, who was only concerned about feeding Thea. Susan knew she could not pin her hopes on her daughter-in-law. She turned to look at Louis and said, "Isn't that easy? You can ask the chauffeur to send Thea here when the two of you are busy."

There was nothing Louis could do.

eat your dinner." Old Master Crawford knew what kind of person Susan was, and he understood why she insisted on staying

felt helpless. There was nothing he could do when such a simple matter could not be solved because of Susan's

old master had dropped Louis a hint by asking him to move out as all he wanted was peace in the house. After all, it was difficult to achieve that when Susan was still staying in the house.

thought of moving out of the house together with his wife and children after all these years of staying in Crawford Manor. It was also to prove that he was capable of doing so.

established the workshop on his own without depending on the Crawford family.

out of the house if she refuses to. Don't complain about it if I move to your villa in the future," said Old Master Crawford. He thought of asking Susan to move out of Crawford Manor only because he thought Susan was too loud and fussy. He was fed up with her, and that was why he made such a decision.

would leave since Susan refused to move out of the

you can stay as long as you like." Louis was not going to reject his

could not help but frown when she heard the old master was going to move to their house and stay with



The old master was not going to cause any trouble if he moved to their house. Besides, considering that he would bring some maids and servants along with him, Yuri's life would be much more comfortable with them helping her out.

**However, she** was still reluctant. She had to be careful in everything she did if the old master was there. Her life would *be boring*.

**“What? You’re** moving out?” Susan did not expect Old Master Crawford to come up with such a plan.

The reason why Susan insisted on staying in Crawford Manor was not only because she had been staying here for more than a decade but also because she wanted to take advantage of the old master.

*Things* would be easier for her if she stayed in Crawford Manor alone and the old master moved out. However, whatever happened after that would not be within her control.

Old Master Crawford took a bite of the salad and replied, "Louis' villa is right next to Luke's villa. I can see both of them every day if I move there. Isn't it great to spend some quality time with my family?"

**Susan** looked at Luke and became alert.

Luke chimed in, “Grandpa, let’s talk about this later.”

*“Well,* Louis will only move out after New Year. No rush.” Old Master Crawford knew his plan was working when he looked at the awful expression on Susan’s face.

**Susan** had been carefully plotting. She would not let the old master get too close to Luke. However, it was silly of her when she had yet to figure things out even after so many years. Even if Luke was not beside the old master, the bond between them and the connection in their blood would never fade because of their distance.

was the same for Louis, but Susan could never understand

lived a happier life compared to Luke. He was pursuing something he wanted, unlike Luke, who was forced to train to become the successor since he was young. Luke did not have a happy childhood, and he did not have the chance to play and have fun. He started from scratch in the company after he graduated. He slowly took over the company after understanding how everything in the company

were the other way around for Louis. He was living a much easier

old master favored Louis more when he was growing up. Louis was against the thought of taking over the company ever since he grew into an adult.

Crawford knew Luke was not living an easy life, so he let Louis do whatever he

clenched her jaw. She did not expect the old master to refuse to live together with

old master was staying in Crawford Manor, he would not have the chance to meet Luke

if he moved into Louis' house, then Luke could see the old master every day. Judging from how good Luke was at pleasing the old master, Susan reckoned that he would keep on turning a deaf ear to

it would be useless for her to stay in Crawford Manor. The assets that the old master owed were much more valuable than Crawford Manor, after  
glanced at Luke and secretly made up her mind.