

Be Gentle 2151

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"By the way, I promised the kids that I'll be preparing dinner tonight, so please don't prepare dinner. I'll come back to cook." Luca informed Aunt Neile so that she would not prepare dinner in advance.

The kids were picky with their food. They would know who prepared the meal with just a bite. Luca was trying to prevent them from wasting food.

"Alright. I got it. Ms. Craw, drive safely," said Aunt Neile with a smile on her face. She appreciated that Luca would always inform her of things in advance.

This could prevent her efforts and time from being wasted.

Luca nodded, indicating that she heard her. Then, she turned around and walked out of the villa. After Luca put the gift bags into the car, she was ready to drive to the hospital. Her phone notification suddenly rang, telling her that she had received a message.

Luca picked up her phone. It was a message from Luke.

[Boarding now.] Those simple words seemed to throb in Luca's heart.

Luke was telling her where he was. Although he sounded indifferent, he was informing her of his schedule and his whereabouts so that she would not be worried.

Luca held her phone, her fingers slightly trembling when she typed on the keyboard: [Okay. Have a safe journey.]

She liked this feeling...

It was dull, but it truly made her feel that Luke cared about her. They were like a pair of lovers or a couple.

However, Luca did not accept Luke's feelings or say she was willing to be in a relationship with Luke.

She had no idea if it was because of the chemistry between them last night that made him do this, but she enjoyed having Luke's attention...

replied: [Okay. I'm turning off

not reply to him. Luke was on the plane now. He would have to wait until he got off the plane to be able to see her reply.

her phone aside and drove to the

where Tyrone's ward was when she reached the hospital. Then, she hurried to his

Nina knew Luca had reached the hospital. Hence, she waited for her outside the ward.

nodded and came forward. "Have you been waiting?"

just came here. Let's go in," replied Nina as she pushed the ward

sitting on the bed watching TV, while Mrs. Hugh was sitting beside him, peeling an

Hugh's expression was calm when she saw Nina walking in. Although Tyrone was getting better, she had never been nice to the sister of the person who injured

the one who taught her to do that.

told Mrs. Hugh not to smile at Nina or be nice to her and the others even though Tyrone was getting better. Otherwise, they would think that they could treat them like a doormat. Then, they would stop providing Tyrone with the best

Mrs. Hugh. Are you peeling the apple for yourself?" Nothing came across Nina's mind when she saw Mrs. Hugh's expression.

After all, Jean was the one who injured Tyrone first. It was normal for Mrs. Hugh to give her that dirty **look**.

"*This* is for Tyrone. The doctor said he's physically weak. He needs to eat fruits to replenish his health," said Mrs. Hugh. She handed the apple to **Tyrone**.

Tyrone took the apple from her and took a bite.

Nina felt helpless. The doctor told them that Tyrone's condition was stable a week ago. He was allowed to be discharged from the hospital, and he only needed to come back to the hospital for his physiotherapy.

However, Tyrone refused to be discharged from the hospital. Tyrone and his mother thought that the hospital was the safest place.

Nina did not ask them to have Tyrone be discharged from the hospital after listening to what they said. However, she wondered if they would feel depressed being cooped up in the hospital for another day or two, but it seemed like they were having a vacation.

Nina turned around and looked behind her. Luca walked in and frowned when she saw Tyrone leisurely lying on the bed.

Mrs. Hugh's attitude changed when she saw Luca. "Oh, Ms. Craw, what brings you *here*?"

"**I'm** here to check on how Mr. Hugh is doing with his recovery," said Luca.

Nina thought it was funny when she saw Mrs. Hugh's attitude changing in a second. Luca was the one who saved Tyrone, and Nina's brother was the one who injured Tyrone.

However, it could not be said that Jean was the one who injured Tyrone. After all, the two of them had argued and fought each other. Jean had gotten injured too, but Tyrone was the unlucky one. The glass shards got into his brain and moved a little, which affected his nerves.

Both of them were in the wrong, but Jean made the biggest mistake.

"**I'm sorry** to trouble you." Luca had left a good impression on Mrs. Hugh. Even though she was not a doctor, she gave the impression that she was better than the doctors in the hospital.

rose to her feet and grabbed the apple in Tyrone's hands. Then, she turned to look at Luca, "How are you going to do

simple check-ups. All you have to do is to listen to me," Luca came forward and looked Tyrone in the eyes,

nerve damage had recovered a little after going through the dry needling treatment and the medical treatment given by the hospital. That was why he could respond faster. He nodded

Luca began to check on Tyrone.

Tyrone was cooperative as well.

noticed some problems after checking him. She picked up her phone and jotted down some

was standing beside her, asked,

just taking notes. I might have to change some of the acupoints for his dry needling treatment. It's going to be more effective." Luca comforted Nina, and she was telling Tyrone and his mother that there was nothing to

a big deal, right?" Mrs. Hugh asked immediately when she heard that.

nothing. No matter what kind of treatment it is, we'll have to adjust it according to the patient's condition. Is Dr. Wood on duty today?" asked Luca. Although Luca had come back from Russia now, she was not one of the doctors working in this hospital.

was troublesome to ask Johann to give her permission. Besides, Luca was busy with her work too. That was why it was better to leave the dry needling treatment to Dr.

her lips and said, "Let me ask."

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Johann was not here. Luca could not guarantee that Dr. Wood would be able to remember it after she taught him. That was why she asked Nina to record a video so that Dr. Wood could watch the video after this.

"Sure." Nina took her phone out. Although she thought looking at the needles pricking into the flesh was painful and cruel, Luca was the one who asked for her help, so she would definitely help out.

Luca opened the new set of needles. She began inserting the needles after Mrs. Hugh went out of the ward.

Dr. Wood was standing beside her, learning seriously while listening to Luca's explanation.

Nina was stabilizing her hands while holding the phone and recording the process of Luca inserting the needles into the acupoints.

Nina glanced at Tyrone. He did not seem like he was in pain looking at his expression. She could not help but whisper to herself how miraculous it was.

Even though the needles were fine and thin, it usually hurt when one was pricked with them. However, there was no change in Tyrone's expression even when there were so many needles being inserted into his body. It was as though nothing was pricking him.

20 minutes later, Luca took the disposable gloves off and looked at Dr. Wood. "You'll have to use this method to treat Mr. Hugh. It's just like how I did just now."

"Alright. No problem." Dr. Wood was confident. Although Luca was inserting the needles in different acupoints, there were not many changes. Besides, he had the video with him, so he thought it would not be a problem.

Nina saved the video and sent it to Dr. Wood. Then, she said, "Dr. Wood, I've sent you the video."

"Okay. Sorry to trouble you. Thank you." Dr. Wood did not check his message in the first instance. Although the dry needling process was finished, he had other things to do.

Dr. Wood pushed the electrical stimulation machine beside him nearer to the bed and began to connect the needles via cables to the machine.

was beside him, guiding him where changes were needed.

have to record this?" Nina

Just take a photo of it after it's done," Luca replied while she guided Dr.

minutes later, Dr. Wood turned on the machine. The electric current passed through the needles and into Tyrone's body. Then, he regulated the

Tyrone, "How do you

doesn't hurt," Tyrone replied

and said, "Yes, that's it. I'll check on you again after some time. I'll see if you need any

was impressed with Luca's treatment plan, and he could not help but ask, "Dr. Craw, do you

like to learn all the needling techniques from her. After all, these could not be found in the books.

a proper naturopathist. There's no way I'm taking in any apprentices." Luca shook her head helplessly and signaled Nina to take a photo.

I was wondering if I could learn from you." Dr. Wood was disappointed even though he was not expecting

Wood, Luca's very busy. It'd be better if you drop the idea," Nina replied with a smile on her face. She put her phone back in her pocket after sending the photo to

Dr. Wood smiled embarrassingly and said, "I was just *asking*."

Luca looked at Tyrone and changed the subject of the conversation, "You're supposed to be discharged from the hospital. Why are you still in the hospital?"

Tyrone blinked his eyes. There were needles on his face too, and he could not speak. He turned to look at Dr. Wood, signaling him to explain it to *him*.

"Our senior doctor and medical directors think that Mr. Hugh can be discharged from the hospital too. He can just come back to the hospital for his physiotherapy. But he and his family want him to stay here for the treatment. They claim that it's to ensure their safety. Perhaps they're traumatized after everything that happened." Dr. Wood made it simple. He believed that Luca was smart enough to understand the undertone in his words.

Luca nodded, indicating that she **understood**.

They had someone paying for their medical bills, and they were staying in the VIP ward. Besides, a sum of money was needed for Tyrone's physiotherapy after this. Luca assumed that they had already found a lawyer. They understood that not only did Nina have to pay for the medical expenses, but she would also have to pay for their living expenses, loss of wages, supplements, and others.

That was why the Hugh family was not in a hurry.

The longer Tyrone stayed in the hospital, the more beneficial it was to them. As for Nina, things did not look so well for her.

Money and wealth were worldly possessions, but it was tiring when Tyrone was delaying everything and insisting on staying in the *hospital*.

10 minutes later, the treatment had ended. Tyrone sat up on the bed after Dr. Wood removed the needles.

Luca asked, "Do you feel uncomfortable?"

were another doctor, Tyrone might pretend there were minor problems on certain parts of his body or claim that he felt uncomfortable like how Keith had taught

dared not to do that in front of Luca. He knew this woman was capable and he probably could not deceive her even if he lied to her.

shook his head and replied, "Not

there shouldn't be a problem. Ask his family to come

Wood went to open the door when he heard that.

to Nina, "Nina, is there anything else you need

go." Nina hated the smell of the disinfectant. That was why she could not wait to leave the hospital once the treatment had ended.

Luca nodded.

Hugh walked into the ward and heard Nina talking about leaving. She sneered at her with dissatisfaction.

Luca's hand and left the ward immediately. She turned around and looked behind her when she reached the elevator. Then, she let out a sigh of relief, "That old woman is weird."

is she so unhappy?" Luca noticed Mrs. Hugh's reaction just now. Although she hated Nina, she seemed unhappy when Nina suggested that they leave the

thinks that I'm supposed to take care of Tyrone when my brother is the one who injured her son," Nina said helplessly.

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"Marie isn't a good person..." Luca could not help but blurt out.

"You know that too. It's troubling me so much. I regret bailing him out of jail now. My mom will surely get mad and pass out if she finds out about this." Nina frowned. If Anna knew about this, she might think that not bailing Jean out of jail was the right choice.

At least Jean would not have gotten back together with Marie.

Nina refused to believe that Marie was truly in love with Jean. After all, Marie never visited him when Jean was caught.

"Yeah, I know. Previously, when I was helping Old Man Rayne recuperate his health at his house, I saw Marie making a scene at the entrance of the district. Ms. Rayne told me about her," replied Luca. She did not expect a grown-up like Jean to be such a dunderhead. It was as though he was out of his mind. He was actually still attracted to Marie after what had happened.

Luca reckoned that Marie took the initiative to approach Jean because of Percy.

It was not because she was planning to seduce Percy. Marie knew it was unlikely that she would be able to seduce Percy, but it was because Nina was in a relationship with Percy now, and Jean was Nina's brother.

Marie knew Nina would not leave Jean alone no matter how much of a scoundrel he was. That was why she approached Jean. She could take advantage of him.

"She's a nuisance." Nina did not intend to conceal her hatred for Marie. Luca could understand her feelings. After all, Marie ruined their family and took everything they had.

"Let's not talk about her. Oh yes, let's go for lunch. Ask Sue to come with us too," said Luca. Even though she was using another identity now, she would still like to get together with her best friends.

to seize the chance when she still had it

me tell Sue to ask her to leave her two kids to Mr. Doyle and hang out with us for lunch." Nina picked up her phone, thinking of calling

better to bring the kids along," Luca said immediately. "Mr. Doyle should be on a business trip with Mr. Crawford now."

was not surprised to hear that. She already knew that Luca and Luke were living together. She nodded and called Sue.

agreed to come out for lunch after being

chose to dine in a restaurant near Mr. Doyle's house for Sue's

who was beside Nina, was fine with the idea. After all, Sue was bringing her kids with her. They should make it convenient for her.

and looked at Luca after she ended the call, then she asked, "I decided that we'll have Western cuisine for lunch. Is that okay with you?"

problem. But I'll need you to send me the restaurant's location. I'm driving, and I suppose you drove here too, right?" Luca

Let me send you the restaurant's location now," said Nina, as she operated her phone.

The elevator reached the floor where the parking lot was. Luca looked at Nina. She was still searching for the restaurant's location. Luca held her hand and walked out of the elevator. "Watch your steps."

Nina sent the location to Luca and replied with a smile on her face, "I have you here with me, right? I'll be fine."

"Aren't you afraid that I'll make you fall?" Luca teased.

"Is there anything to be afraid of? Honestly, I've never been afraid of that," replied Nina. She recalled the time when she had just begun to know Luca.

She needed to be aware of Luca at that time, but she was not afraid of her doing anything to her.

Nina was surprised that she trusted Luca without any *reason*.

Nina placed her phone in her bag and pointed at the car beside, "My car's *right here*."

"Mine is at the front. I'll see you at the restaurant," replied Luca. She let go of Nina's hand, waved at her, and strolled in the direction of her **car**.

Luca found her car and got into it. She drove to the Western restaurant while being guided by the navigation.

Nina's car was in front of Luca's as they departed from the same destination. She was driving slowly as though she was waiting for *Luca*.

Luca was following close behind her.

two of them arrived at the Western restaurant

was already sitting inside the restaurant as it was nearby Jason's villa. She stood up and waved at the two

said to Nina while she was carrying a few bags in her

her. Let's go," Nina smiled and

Ms. Nina and Ms. Luca," greeted Kari

afternoon, Kari and Teri." Luca looked at the chubby faces of Kari and Teri. She was very fond of them. She stroked their heads before she

a while. Kari and Teri are getting more adorable every day. How cute." Nina looked at the two little girls. A daughter was always the apple of the parent's eyes, and Nina was envious

could not wait to make fun of Nina once they sat down. "It's just like what they said. People are usually in high spirits when something good happens. Nina, look at your ruddy face. I'm so envious of you. It seems like Mr. Mallory is doing well and the two of you are enjoying your life. When are you planning to get

quickly waved her hands back and forth. She blushed with embarrassment, "What are you talking about in front of the kids? I'm not married yet. Honestly, you're the one who's been enjoying your life, huh? Your skin looks so much brighter and youthful. Well, I guess that's all thanks to Mr. Doyle, huh?"

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"Congratulations, Ms. Nina." Kari and Teri wished Nina after Sue wished her. Sue had taught them to do so before they went out.

"How thoughtful and adorable you two little cutie pies are. I'd really like to bring you back home for a few days." Nina smiled and stroked Kari's head. The child was sitting beside her.

Luca looked at the engagement gift and smiled. "Congratulations, Nina. I wish you all the love and happiness."

"Thank you," replied Nina. Although Luca was not as talkative as Sue was, she knew Luca's wish was sincere and true.

One could not define a person's sincerity by how many words were spoken.

Teri, who was sitting beside Sue, saw the engagement gift Sue was holding and said, "Mommy, I'd like to eat the candy."

"We're having lunch soon. Is it alright if you eat it after lunch?" Sue discussed this with her daughter with a gentle voice.

"No, I want to eat it now. It looks yummy." Teri was greedy. She looked at the candy and acted cutely in front of Sue as she asked for the yummy-looking candy.

Sue was about to speak when Kari said, "Sis, you won't want to eat lunch anymore after eating the candy. Let's eat our lunch first, then we can have the candy."

Teri listened to her sister and rolled her eyes. Then, she nodded and said, "Okay. Mommy, I want candy after lunch."

You can have the candy after lunch." Sue stroked Teri's head and looked at Nina and Luca with some embarrassment, "I'm sorry. The kids are

and replied, "It's nothing. Isn't it normal that kids love to eat candy? I chose the candies for the engagement gift. They're the kids' favorite candies. Luca, I put more candies in yours so that the three children can have

was not surprised when she heard what Nina said. After all, she knew that Luca was staying in Luke's villa

at the gift she was holding and smiled. It seemed like Sue and Nina had accepted the fact that she was staying together with Luke.

it were in the past, Luca could tell them that she was only staying in the same house as Luke and that nothing was going on between them without feeling

could not say that anymore after what had happened last night. The more she explained it, the guiltier she felt.

did not take things to the next level, they almost did everything they could have done on the

loves eating candies now," said Luca. She placed the gift aside and handed the bags she carried to the two of them. "These are the souvenirs I bought for you."

the bag from her and said exaggeratedly, "I thought you bought souvenirs for Kari and Teri. I didn't expect to receive

"Yeah. I bought them when I went to Russia for work. But I didn't have the time to deliver them to you. And I know you don't need anything, so I bought these for you. I hope you like them," said Luca. Then, she handed another bag to Sue and said, "There are three gifts in here. Yours, Kari's, and Teri's."

Sue took the bag from Luca and instructed her two daughters, "What should you say when Ms. Luca gives you **something?**"

Kari and Teri said at the same time, "Thank you, *Ms. Luca.*"

"Don't mention it." Luca picked up her cup and took a sip of *the tea*.

Nina peeped in the bag and realized it was a set of skincare producers. It was the brand that she had always been using. She had been using this brand for more than ten years, and she started using it when she was a teenager. She had always loved this brand, so she never *changed*.

"**Oh my** goodness. Luca, you're amazing. I've always been using this brand of skincare products. And you actually bought me the same brand. It's the perfect gift," Nina could not help but compliment her.

Nina liked gifts that were practical and useful.

What Luca gave her was practical, and it was the brand she had been *using*.

"Really? I'm glad you like it." Luca took another sip of tea.

course, I like it, but how did you know I've been using this brand?" Nina asked. Although she had known Luca for some time, they had never discussed things as other bosom friends did. They never talked about what kind of skincare products or makeup products they used. They had never talked about luxury goods

saw the products, so I just bought them. It's a famous skincare brand. Many love this brand. Besides, your skin type suits this brand too. I didn't expect you to like this brand. What a coincidence," Luca smiled and

her head and replied, "I think you're just sharp. Sue, take a look at your gift. I think Luca's been secretly watching us live our lives

dramatic." Luca did not know whether to laugh or cry when she heard Nina say so. However, there was no way she could tell them she knew what brand of skincare products they used.

was curious after listening to what Nina said. She wanted to know if Luca could pick the perfect gift for her too. Sue picked up one of the boxes in the bag. It was wrapped nicely in a gift wrapper, and she did not know what was inside.

explained when she noticed the puzzled look on Sue's face. "The wrapped boxes are Barbie dolls. The shop assistant took the initiative to help me to wrap them when she knew I was buying them

Sue did not open the boxes and spoke to her daughters instead, "These are the Barbie dolls Ms. Luca bought for you. You're only allowed to open them when we're

Teri's eyes brightened up when they heard that the gifts were Barbie dolls, then they looked at Luca and thanked her again, "Thank you, Ms. Luca. We like

really twins. They even said the

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"Alright, let's order." Nina handed the other menu to Sue, while she shared a menu with Luca.

After ordering, they discussed the current affairs in A City.

Luca did not say anything as she did not know much about what was going on in A City, so she just listened to them talk.

They were exposed to much more things than she was.

Luca was always in the laboratory working on the research. She practically had no chance of coming in contact with the outside world.

However, Nina and Sue were different.

They were still the backbone of Brilliant Architectural Design LLC. They were in charge of the decision-making for basically all the matters at the company. It was only when it came to a particularly important decision that they would leave it up to Luke.

Sue and Nina talked for some time before noticing that Luca had not spoken at all, so Sue apologized, "Sorry about that, Luca."

"Why apologize? The things you're talking about are quite interesting," Luca said with a smile. They were talking about matters concerning the upper-class circle of A City. She even heard several familiar names.

After hearing their conversation, she could not help but sigh at the things all these people had done over the years.

Sure enough, where there were people, there would not be peace.

afraid you'll be bored. Besides, you don't know these people," said Sue as she picked up a cup of water to

actually know a couple of names, like the one you just mentioned, Brody. His family, the Hilton family, seems to be in international trade. I've heard of a Hilton family in Russia and the heir's name is Brody. Could it be the same Brody?" asked Luca. Saying that the Hilton family was doing business abroad would not arouse the two's

noded and said, "It should be the same

the case, the Hilton family used to have several businesses in Russia. I never thought that they would turn out this

to their conversation, it seemed like the Hilton family was not holding

businesses had nearly all been shut down, leaving them with only some domestic estates. It seemed like they ended up in this situation because of Brody's poor management, but of course, there were other

Grandma Hilton passed away, most of the Hilton family's businesses fell into the hands of Brody. Unfortunately, he lost almost all of the Hilton family's estates," said Sue as she knew more about this because of

with the most business acumen in the Hilton family was Grandma Hilton, but Brody dated Leia and a series of unfortunate events happened after that, so Grandma Hilton got so angry that she got a stroke and passed away a few years later. Nobody watched over Brody, so he let himself go. He got together with another female celebrity after breaking up with Leia, but she did not seem to have good intentions as she kept depleting the Hilton family's wealth," Nina explained to

shook her head helplessly after hearing

of their estates, the Hilton family used to be on par with the Crawford family.

*It was just that the Hilton family's estates were all abroad, so the people here always felt that they were no match for the Crawford **family**.*

Unexpectedly, Brody still did not grow up after losing Leia and went on to find a female celebrity *instead*.

Not to mention, the celebrity and Leia even knew each other.

Well, birds of a feather flock together.

All of a sudden, Luca did not know how to judge **the situation...**

Sue nodded. "If Grandma Hilton were still around, she would never have let the female celebrity join their family. Her judgment of people was precise and harsh. She had always protected the Hilton family.

It's a shame she had such an unfilial grandson who made her so angry that she passed away. The reason why Luke and Jason went on a business trip today is to purchase one of the Hilton family's branches."

Luca only realized that Luke had gone to acquire a company after hearing Sue's words.

She had thought that it was some other project of **T Corporation**.

"Why are you saying that out loud? Aren't you afraid of leaking company secrets?" Nina said with a *smile*.

"What is there to be afraid of? The bidding document was stolen by Pierre when they were competing for M Group's project but they still secured the project. I believe in my man and his boss," Sue said confidently. Although Jason was Luke's assistant, to have his assistant help take over a company was going *overboard*.

did not say anything as Jason wanted to stay by Luke's side. Besides, they might seem to have an ordinary superior-subordinate relationship, but in fact, they had been friends for a

she would not force Jason to be strong on the outside for the sake of saving

that living comfortably and honestly while doing the things one liked was

was not like Jason was not making any progress. He had been making progress by being beside Luke for all these years. It was just that Bailey could not see this and forced him to leave T Corporation to manage a different company. Jason refused and coupled with some other reasons, their relationship came to an

gave her a thumbs up. "You're the first person I've ever met to brag about her man in such a short and simple

Sue could say anything, Kari said with pride, "Daddy is the best daddy in

Kari's words had Luca's lips curl up into a smile. She casually asked, "What company is Mr. Crawford trying to

don't know?" Sue was a little taken aback as she thought that she was still working beside

course, I wouldn't know. T Corporation's Russian translator was on maternity leave the last time and they didn't want to hire fresh graduates as they would be troublesome and won't be able to catch up with the progress of the project's bidding document. They didn't have anyone else, which was why they had me replace the position. Now that the project is theirs, I've returned to the laboratory to conduct my experiments. That's my job," Luca

see. It's all Jason's fault. He's always talking about how capable you are all the time. I almost forgot that you're a research professor, not a translator." Sue helplessly slapped

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"What's wrong?" Luca noticed the ghastly expression on Nina's face.

"The Rayne family called. They said that Jean is standing in front of the villa with Marie and refuses to leave. The guards could only notify the tenant, so Wanda had no choice but to call me," said Nina while putting on the jacket she took off.

If it were not for the fact that she was Bianca's best friend, Wanda would have already made a police report. Jean was her brother, so Wanda was just giving her grace by calling her to let her deal with it.

Luca stood up as soon as she heard that. "Isn't Jean a law-abiding citizen now? Why cause trouble for Aunt—the Rayne family?"

Luca's anxiousness raised Nina's suspicion, and she looked even more distressed. "I reckon it's because I refuse to give him money. Jean doesn't have a penny to his name now. Perhaps it's also because Marie incited him to do this."

Luca thought of the soft and fragile Wanda. She was ill at ease. "I'll go with you."

Nina wanted to tell Luca to not get involved in this mess, but after seeing the worry on her face, she nodded and said to Sue, "Sue, I have to rush over to deal with Jean's matter, so you take the children back first."

"Okay, go on." Sue waved when she realized the seriousness of the situation.

Luca and Nina left the restaurant together and drove to the Rayne family's house separately.

Since it was a weekend and it had snowed, many people were traveling. The road conditions were terrible, so everyone drove slowly, resulting in some congestion at multiple traffic light intersections.

a little impatient looking at the long line

not worried that Jean and Marie would startle the elderly as Luke had placed them in a neighborhood with a good security system. Practically no outsiders could get in, so they would definitely be blocked at the

she was worried that Jean and Marie might bump

lost her mind," Luca could not help but mutter. She lost her mind and had to drag Jean down with

was six feet tall. If he were to lay a finger on Wanda, she would certainly be no match for

not know what was going on over there now and only hoped that Wanda would not bump into

line of cars moved slowly. After half a minute, it

had to wait for the traffic light, but fortunately, after this traffic light, she would be able to get to the neighborhood where the Rayne family's house

phone Luca placed on the passenger's seat rang. She glanced at the screen that lit up and saw that she had a

intuition told her that it

Luca picked up her phone to open the message, and there it was: [I've gotten off the plane. What are you **doing?**"]

[I'm on my way to the Rayne family's house.] Luca did not try to hide **it**.

[What are you going there for?] Luke's message came **through**.

[I'm with Nina. She got a call that Jean and Marie were causing trouble in the Rayne family's neighborhood, so I'm going over there and check it out.] Luca explained as briefly as she **could**.

After a while, Luke's message came again. [Got it. I'll find someone to handle this matter.]

[Okay, I'll go over to see how it goes.] Luca's mind was at ease after seeing his message.

It was just Jean and Marie. There was no need for Luke to meddle in the situation. If Wanda were a little less compassionate, reporting it to the police would have solved the problem.

However, Luca understood Wanda. She did not take such extreme measures because of *Jean*.

Jean was Nina's brother. Other than being her best friend, Nina was also Percy's fiancée. Percy was very close with Luca, so she also took Luca into account.

If Marie had not brought Jean with her, Wanda would not have been soft-hearted and would have called the police *immediately*.

believed that Marie brought Jean with her for that

was analyzing the situation, the traffic light turned

she followed the traffic and passed the intersection, she drove to the entrance of the neighborhood. She parked her car in the temporary parking space next to the green belt and opened the door to get out of

a straight road, so Luca could see Jean and Marie standing at the entrance from afar. There were two security guards with sticks blocking their

did not see Wanda. She did not know whether Wanda had not come down or if she was

Nina also got out of the car. When she saw Jean from afar, her expression became somber all of

with her to the entrance of the

wrangling with the security guard and did not notice that Nina had come

what are you doing here?" Nina was furious and spoke in a tone that was as enraged as

startled and turned around. He showed a face of disgust when he saw Nina, but he was a little taken aback when he saw Luca. "Why are

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Marie bit her lip. She knew all of that?

She instantly felt guilty when Wanda looked at her.

Luca was puzzled when she heard Wanda's words and looked at Marie's guilty expression.

What else did Marie and her mother do that she was not aware of?

Nina stood at the side and apologized to Wanda, "I'm very sorry, Aunt Rayne. If this happens again, please just call the police immediately without informing me."

She already knew that she would not be able to chase Jean away even before she came.

It was because this was the first time this had happened, so she wanted to apologize to Wanda personally.

"Nina, what did you say?" Jean did not believe the words that came out of her mouth. He instantly could not bear the sight of her and raised his hand to slap her.

Luca reacted quickly and blocked him. She raised her hand and forcefully grabbed Jean's wrist. "If you dare lay a finger on her, I'll make you regret it."

Jean looked at Luca's exquisite face. Even though she was barefaced and looked angry, she still looked pretty. He could not help but be captivated by her beauty. He embarrassedly pulled back his hand. "I was just messing with Nina. I wouldn't actually hit her."

Luca dusted off her hands as she felt disgusted that she had touched Jean.

After being around Luke for some time, she became like him—a germaphobe.

said, "Leave right now. If you don't, it's you

basis? This is the Rayne family, and my last name is Rayne. What's an outsider like you yakking about here?" Marie saw Jean not taking his eyes off Luca. He even spoke to her in an ingratiating tone. She immediately got angry and reached to pinch his

used great force and did not show Jean

What are you doing, you crazy b*tch?" Jean's gaze temporarily left Luca, and he glared

sarcastically, "I'm helping you save your soul. Otherwise, your soul would've been snatched by crazy," said Jean. They came here today to ingratiate themselves with the Rayne family and benefit reason he listened to Marie was that he was lacking money. At the same time, he agreed with her words. Wanda was just a city girl who dared not offend Percy and would not cause any trouble for did not expect that they would summon Nina before they could even

was not interested in hearing them talk and gave an ultimatum, "If you don't leave, Mr. Crawford's people will be

gritted his teeth. That man must be haunting

stole his woman and ruined

"Mr. Crawford knows you came here to cause trouble, so he got some people to come over. They should be here anytime now. They're coming to send the both of you to the police station." Luca glanced at her watch.

"You..." Jean did not expect that Luke would intervene in such a *matter*.

Marie shrunk out of fear when she heard Luke's name as he was a man of his word. She was detained for a few days before. Ever since then, she did not dare make noise outside the gate. For a long time, she could only wait for Wanda to come out after being chased by the security guards to the opposite *road*.

"*Forget* it, Jean. Let's not bother arguing with the likes of them. Let's go. I'll contact Grandpa myself." Marie hurriedly pulled his arm and left.

Jean thought that Luca was bluffing to frighten them and had no intention of leaving. "What are you afraid of? No, I can't go home empty-handed today."

"**You've already** disgraced yourself by coming to someone else's doorstep. What more do you want? Money?" Nina stomped her foot in anger. Luca had warned them and given them a chance, but they still refused to leave?

Marie pulled Jean's neck and whispered something in *his ear*.

Jean became grim-faced and viciously spat on the ground after she was done talking. "Just you wait. I won't stop here."

After his harsh words, Jean and Marie left in a *hurry*.

Nina breathed a sigh of relief and could not help but think that she was almost forced to go to the police station again to bail out the loser that was *Jean*.

"I'm sorry, Aunt Rayne. I didn't know that Jean would go so far," apologized *Nina*.

shook her head and said helplessly, "It's not your fault. I think he was incited by Marie. How could not judge what others did, so she did

smiled awkwardly and finally looked at Luca. "Thank

Do you have a tissue?" asked Luca. She got out of the car in a hurry and did not wear mittens, so her skin came in contact with

She felt dirty.

looked into her handbag and pulled out a wet tissue. "Is a wet

thanks." Luca opened the packaging and pulled out a wet tissue to wipe her

at Luca and added, "Good thing you were smart enough to think of a way to scare them. Otherwise, there's no telling how long they would continue making

meant it." After wiping her hands clean, she put the wet wipe back into the packaging to throw it away later when she came across a

But isn't Mr. Crawford out of town on a business trip?" Nina's eyes

at Wanda. Since Wanda was looking at her, she could only make up a small lie, "Mr. Crawford was looking for me for some work-related matters, and I was worried that Jean and Marie would get into big trouble, so I

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After a while, Luke's people rushed over.

Then, Luca briefly explained everything to them and let them go back.

Luca heaved a sigh of relief as the matter had finally been resolved. Wanda saw the smile on her face after the problem was dealt with and could not help but lift her hand to dust off the fallen snow on Luca's shoulders.

"You must've rushed over here, right? You don't even have your gloves on. It must be freezing. Let's go inside," she said.

"Okay, Aunt Rayne." Luca rubbed her palms together and followed Wanda into the neighborhood.

Wanda walked beside Luca, and when she looked sideways at her, she was momentarily distracted by the fact that Luca was the same height as Bianca.

Bianca used to walk beside her like this, but walking with Luca beside her gave her the same feeling.

She was bewildered.

Wanda shook her head slightly. Luca noticed and asked, "What is it, Aunt Rayne?"

"Nothing. It's a cold winter day, so let's hurry inside the house. Old Master Crawford is here too. You should know him, right? He's Luke's grandfather," said Wanda as she pressed her fingerprint to open the door.

Old Master Crawford was here?

Luca stopped in her tracks and paused for a moment as she remembered what happened yesterday.

If Old Master Crawford could carry out such a plan, he must be trying to matchmake her and Luke.

was here as a guest

knew that he was close to Grandpa Rayne, and she could only pray that the old master would not say too much when he saw her later, lest he aroused the suspicion of Grandpa and Aunt

the matter?" Wanda closed the door and noticed that something was wrong with

a smile and said, "I didn't expect Old Master Crawford to be here

Master Crawford came this morning and seemed to be in a good mood. He's been playing chess with my father and even stayed for lunch. Both of them are probably well-rested now and are ready to continue playing chess," said

since Old Man Rayne's health improved after Luca's treatment, Old Master Crawford often came over to play chess

a chessboard, a few cups of tea, and some simple refreshments, Old Master Crawford could spend the entire day

he would say, this place was better than Crawford Manor. At least it

how much he liked staying here, Wanda had the maids prepare a room for him as a nap room as the elderly had the habit of taking naps in

was also glad that there was someone to play chess with Old Man Rayne as it could relieve

nodded in agreement with her

that she was nervous to see Old Master Crawford because he was her boss' grandfather, so she reassured her by saying, "Don't worry. Old Master Crawford is quite nice to get along with in private. He's easy-going and

"Good." That was all Luca could say. She was not worried that Old Master Crawford would be hard to get along with at all. She was worried that he would slip up and expose **her**.

Besides, Aunt Wanda and her grandpa would definitely side with her old identity.

The two of them walked into *the house*.

Wanda instructed the maid, "Luca, take off your jacket and let the maid help you dry *your clothes*."

"Ah, alright." Luca took off **her jacket**.

The maid took her jacket and said, "Ms. Craw, is there anything in the pockets? If not, I'll pick it up and dry it **for you**."

"No, there's nothing in them. Thank you," said **Luca politely**.

The maid nodded and said to Wanda, "Madam, the two elderly are up and playing chess in the second-floor *living room*."

"Alright. I'll send some refreshments over later." Wanda nodded slightly. She took off her jacket and put it aside for the maid to dry Luca's jacket *first*.

The maid walked into the laundry room with *Luca's jacket*.

After taking off her scarf and gloves, she said to Luca, "Luca, have a seat first. I'll go prepare some snacks and **tea**."

"Let me help you," said Luca.

shook her head in disagreement. "You're the guest. How can I let you

me help. Moving around is better than sitting," said Luca. She had not made food for Old Man Rayne in a

that he used to love her cooking and her snacks. He even praised her for making the best food in the

time, she had thought that she would be able to spend her entire life as his filial granddaughter. Little did she know that after changing her identity, even the simplest things like visiting him had become so

how she insisted and was ready to say no until she heard Luca say, "Aunt Rayne, if you want me to sit in the living room and wait until you're done, maybe I should just

I can't argue with you, huh? Come on, let's go prepare together," said

agreed, Luca smiled and walked into the kitchen with

tea for the two old masters first. They both love to drink tea after waking up,” said Wanda as she handed her the

that apron and tying it on, Luca said, “So, what do I have

took out the tea leaves and picked up the mountain spring water used especially for making tea and said helplessly, “I need to think about what snacks to prepare. Usually, I would’ve had everything prepared, but because Jean and Marie came over and caused so much trouble, I didn’t have the

some sugar-free cookies. Is that okay?” asked

know how to make cookies?” Wanda was a

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Wanda carried the tea upstairs and saw that the two old masters were in fact sitting in the second-floor living room playing chess.

“Dad, Old Master Crawford, have some tea first. The refreshments will only be done later.” Wanda did not mention the incident with Jean and Marie.

However, Old Man Rayne had heard about it from the maid. He waited until she put down the tea before asking, “Has that girl left?”

“Dad, you know about it...” Wanda sighed resignedly.

“The maid was the one who helped me after I woke up from my nap. How could I not know? Hasn’t it been some time since she came here? Why is she back?” Old Man Rayne may be old and in need of affection from his family, but he did not have even the slightest bit of affection for Marie.

He thought that Marie was gone for good. He did not expect her to come again today, which made him feel disgusted.

In Wanda’s haste to rush out, she forgot to inform the maid to not tell the old master about this. She then glanced at Old Master Crawford.

Old Man Rayne noticed it and said, “It’s fine for him to hear about it. Just tell me what’s going on.”

Old Master Crawford added, “Yes, yes, don’t treat me as an outsider. I want to hear what’s going on too.”

“That child has a boyfriend and said that she brought her boyfriend over to visit you. She even said that she bought a bunch of gifts for you,” Wanda had no choice but to say as Old Master Crawford also knew about what had happened between the Rayne family and Marie.

ashamed to say it in front of

wouldn’t be so kind...” Old Man Rayne picked up his teacup and took a

Crawford was shrewd enough to notice the grim look on her face and asked, “Who is that girl’s

Langdon.” Wanda did not try to hide it as she reckoned that Jean and Marie would not stop there. They might still come over again. Fortunately, it was hard for the old master to walk, so he would not step out of the

not be able to catch both of them red-handed and get worked

Man Rayne was very familiar with that name. Even after all these years, he remembered all the things Jean had done to Bianca back then because of his

break up?” said Old Man Rayne as he remembered clearly that Jean and Marie had broken up after

know why they’re together again. They even said that they wanted to visit you, but the problem has been resolved,” said Wanda. She saw Old Master Crawford open up the chessboard and helped set up

a troublemaker as well. I heard Luke mention that he caused trouble at a bar because of a woman and the person he beat up was sent to the ICU. After he survived the critical period, he was moved to the general ward but had a sudden heart attack. The doctors weren’t there at the time, so Luca was the one who had to rescue the man,” said Old Master Crawford with a tone of admiration for

the management about these two and tell the security guards to not let them in.” The old master just wanted to live in peace and quiet without being disturbed by all

He also wanted his granddaughter to be by his side, but the granddaughter he had in mind was certainly not Marie.

“I know,” said Wanda. When Old Master Crawford was telling the story about Jean hurting people, she noticed that he had mentioned a name. She asked out of curiosity, “Say, Old Master Crawford, are you close *with Luca?*”

“**Yes.** Speaking of which, she’s also my benefactor. Luke got her to check my pulse once, and she said that there was no big issue, just some geriatric diseases. Then, I had her stay back for dinner. After she drank a bowl of tonic, guess what happened?” Old Master Crawford purposely stopped at a *cliffhanger*.

Old Man Rayne also had a good impression of Luca, so he was interested in what the other man had to say. “What happened?”

“*She* noticed that there were herbs in the tonic that was not suitable for me to take, and my insomnia was caused by consuming the herbs. My condition was made worse because of the herbs,” Old Master Crawford explained after seeing how curious Old Man Rayne was.

However, he did not mention that Susan was the one who had the cook add the *herbs*.

There was a saying that he stood by, ‘Don’t air your dirty linen in *public*’.

“Luca is really brilliant,” praised Old *Man Rayne*.

“**You’re** right, there are not many people who are as knowledgeable as her about pharmacology at such a young age,” Old Master Crawford boasted. An all-rounder like her who was also good with children was the best choice to replace Bianca to be by Luke’s *side*.

was still Luke’s legitimate wife, no one knew where she

Master Crawford felt that it was a shame, but he also had a selfish desire for Luke to be happy and use that happiness to make up for his

listened to Old Master Crawford's compliments and was confused. It seemed that Luca was very close to the

did she look so nervous when she learned that Old Master Crawford

Man Rayne looked at Wanda who was deep in thought and asked, "Wanda, what snacks do we

find out later. I'll go down and help out first." Wanda left them in suspense. Although Luca had volunteered to prepare cookies for the old masters as a snack, she was unsure of how good her cooking skills

did not say anything on purpose. In case Luca did not do a good job, she could still bring out the snacks she bought from the store to serve the two

you go ahead." Old Man Rayne was unaware that Luca had come. He thought that she was going downstairs to help the

past, it would be fine to have no snacks, but Old Master Crawford was here, so snacks were a must. It would be best if they were not store-bought because that would

went downstairs and walked into the kitchen to see that Luca had already prepared the dough and was ready to use the

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The oven was done preheating right after Luca finished shaping the cookies.

After she placed the cookies in the oven, she looked back at Wanda and saw that the eggs in the bowl were beaten as well.

"Do I add flour next?" asked Wanda. She knew how to bake cakes. Usually, the next step would be to add flour, but she still subconsciously asked Luca.

"Aunt Rayne, let me take it from here." Luca blinked.

"Could it be that you have a secret recipe?" Wanda was curious and passed the baton to her.

"Not really, but I'm not making a chiffon cake, so the steps are a little different," said Luca as she added the melted butter into the egg mixture. Then, she added an appropriate amount of sugar substitute and milk. Finally, she added the flour.

Wanda watched her stir the mixture and took out cupcake molds from the cupboard to hold the batter.

After Luca mixed the cake batter evenly, she poured it into the molds.

Then, she readjusted the temperature of the oven and placed the cupcakes into the oven as well.

Wanda was dumbfounded. "Is this going to work?"

She had never seen different types of pastries being baked together. To be able to do this, one would need to be a professional patissier.

"It'll work. Your kitchen oven is big enough, and the temperature is just right. The cookies and cupcakes will be out of the oven in 20 minutes, so you don't have to wait too long," said Luca.

knew you were well-versed in the medical field, but I didn't expect you to know your way around the kitchen as well," Wanda could not help but praise her. Was she really an

a hobby. I'm not that great at it. I just like dabbling in these kinds of stuff when I'm not busy." Luca washed her hands clean and pulled out a paper towel to wipe away the water on

looked at her long and slender hands. She did not seem like the type of person who would do these things at

not judge a book by its cover,

poured her a cup of tea. "Good work. Have some

the teacup and smiled faintly. "Thank

took a sip of tea and had no intention of leaving the kitchen as every oven had its temperament. To avoid burning the cookies and cupcakes, she stayed there to watch over

was the last step. No mistakes could

understood, so she did not have Luca leave the kitchen. She poured a cup of tea and leaned against the kitchen counter to chat with her. "I heard from Old Master Crawford that you once helped nurse him back

not expect Old Master Crawford to tell her about this. She felt apprehensive for a moment as she hoped that the old master had only said so much and kept the rest

Crawford was worried about Old Master Crawford's health, so he asked me to go over and check his pulse," said

"How brilliant. You know so much at such a young age. Be honest, you must really like medicine, right?" There was some admiration in Wanda's *tone*.

"It's alright. I just hate leaving my fate in the hands of others, especially people I don't know very well. That's why I studied medicine," said Luca.

She did indeed hate that, but that was in fact her current **situation**.

Everything was in the hands of Abel, and she could **not escape**.

Wanda furrowed her eyebrows as she sipped her tea. "That's an unusual reason to pursue **medicine**."

"Is it? Doctors don't heal themselves, but when people are sick, it's often the most critical time for them. I'm not willing to see the people I care about the most in the hands of another *doctor*."

Wanda felt like she could empathize with her words. If she had to entrust her loved ones to a doctor because of diseases, she would feel helpless too.

“So, how did you end up on the research path instead of becoming a doctor?” she asked as she was curious to know everything about Luca.

“*I’m not* used to seeing life and death. I don’t like the oppressiveness of hospitals, so I switched to biopharmaceuticals.” Luca made up another round **of nonsense**.

Did she have the freedom to choose?

No, because it was all Abel’s arrangement. The fact that she was able to help the people closest to her amid his plan was already considered *lucky*.

When she was done talking, the maid walked in. The aroma of the cookies and cupcakes in the oven had already diffused into **the air**.

smells so good. What snacks have you made,

made cookies and cakes.” Wanda pursed her lips

so fragrant. If we bake them a little longer, the aroma will spread to the second floor. The two old masters will start drooling for sure.” The maid took another deep breath. The aroma was even more irresistible than the pastries in

very fragrant,” said Wanda. If the old master were not playing chess upstairs right now, he would come down after smelling

looked at Luca with sparkling eyes. “Ms. Craw, can you give me the recipe? I’ll go home and make them for my

course. I’ll send it to Aunt Rayne later. You can ask her for it,” said Luca. It was just a food recipe, not a formula for drugs. Of course, she could share

of you. Thank you,” said the maid

quite a lot of cookies and cupcakes, so pack some up later and bring them home for the kids to try when you get off work,” said Wanda as she guessed that the four of them would not be able to

Madam.” The maid was

later, a ding came from the oven, so Luca wore oven mitts and took out both the cookies

maid watched from aside and could not help but utter,