

## Be Gentle 231

### Chapter 231

When the two adults arrived at the apartment, Bianca went to the children's rooms to check on them.

Lanie and Rainie were sleeping soundly, though the boy kicked away his blanket as usual. Bianca took the blanket on the floor and carefully tucked him in.

The children's beds could not fit another adult. Bianca had no choice but to sleep together with Luke.

When she lay on the bed and was about to fall asleep, Luke was still busy working in the study.

Bianca had heard from Jason that Luke would usually lose track of time whenever he got busy. Sometimes, the boss would even neglect his health.

With the development project going underway in the small town, he became busier. The boss had to handle stacks of work every day.

Looking at how he exerted himself at work and on the bed, he was really neglecting his health...

...

The next morning.

Marie's fever finally subsided.

you done yet, Mom?" Marie stood at the entrance anxiously with a handbag slung over her

I'm coming!" In front of the mirror, Jennifer put on lipstick and checked on her mascara

came to the doorway to put on her shoes, Marie said, "I don't know if bringing you along is the right it be?" Jennifer

at Jennifer's ghastly face. "You don't have to put on make-up if you don't know how to. You'll be a wrong with my face? I think it looks good." Jennifer touched her face embarrassedly and looked at herself in the

not want to say anything. She turned around

Jennifer quickly followed behind.

At the hospital.

Jennifer and Marie arrived on the floor Kevin was in and stepped out of the elevator, they were shocked by the scene in front

They thought that some VIP was staying in the hospital. Guards were stationed throughout **the corridor**.

"*Who are you, and who are you looking for?*" A casually-dressed middle-aged man in his forties approached Jennifer, who was snooping *around*.

**Marie stepped** forward and answered politely, "Hello, is Kevin Rayne on this floor?"

The man continued to look at Marie and Jennifer **doubtfully**.

*Marie* tried to put up a confident front and continued, "This is my mother. She's Kevin Rayne's wife. We want to visit him. Maybe you can tell Uncle Kevin that we're here and if he's willing to see us?"

**There were** five guards in total, and the person in charge was talking to Marie and Jennifer. Jason had stationed them there under his *boss's orders*.

**They** wanted to stop Allison from causing trouble.

**Allison wanted** to separate Bianca from his son. If she could not do anything to Luke or Bianca, perhaps she would approach Kevin.

*Ever* since Luke knew Allison's intentions, he had tasked Jason to guard Kevin.

person in charge went into the ward and asked for Kevin's

visibly agitated when he heard that Jennifer was here. He nodded slightly and panted. "Let them... come minutes later, Jennifer and Marie appeared in the

listened to Marie's advice and wiped away her lipstick. She looked older after

down next to the bed and smiled at Kevin. "I haven't been visiting you because I've been busy working several jobs. You should know that I can barely get by. Our savings have been used up when we sent our kids to college five years

frowned slightly when he listened to

continued, "I'm your wife now. Even though this is your second marriage, I've spent a lot more time with you than Bianca's mom. Naturally, you should treat me better. You also said that you will treat Marie like your birth

her head and looked at Kevin on the

treat his cancer, Kevin had undergone many chemotherapy sessions. Unfortunately, it brought along many

was having a fever since the morning, and fits of dry coughs would occasionally seize

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Kevin wanted to say something. He lifted a trembling finger and pointed it at Marie.

Jennifer turned around to look. She saw that her daughter was glaring defiantly at Kevin with an unpleasant expression on her face.

Kevin's mouth was slightly open, and he was gasping for air. However, there was no way an agitated late-stage lung cancer patient was going to catch their breath...

"Stop talking, Marie. Get out of the room!" Jennifer rushed up, grabbed Marie's shoulders, and pushed her toward the door. While her back was facing Kevin, she winked at Marie and whispered into her ear. "Let Mom handle this. You'll get what you want."

"You can't handle it!" Marie glared at her and shouted. She shoved her mother away once more.

Marie felt that her mother was being nothing but a burden. She stepped up next to the bed again, towered over the pathetically frail Kevin, and grinned mockingly. "You've been staying in the hospital for a long time, Uncle Kevin. Perhaps you don't know many things that have been happening outside. You listen to whatever lies Bianca feeds you."

She took out her phone, found the screenshot of the news article, and brought it in front of Kevin.

Kevin tried his best to focus his gaze on the contents of the phone screen.

"Do you see that, Uncle Kevin? Your daughter is already married. This man... is treating her quite well..." Marie told a lie and continued, "You also wish that Bianca can live a happy life, right?"

Kevin's face was still red from the coughing, but his eyes were transfixed on the screen.

Marie continued with a smile, "Bianca's husband will provide her with all her needs. She can have all the mansions and luxury cars that she desires. Tell me, Uncle Kevin, why am I not as lucky? Bianca is living in a mansion, but I have to stoop down and beg you to give me that two-room apartment. This is unfair!"

Marie's frenzied voice echoed in the hospital ward.

don't know what your daughter did five years ago, right? Shall I tell you from the

...

Meanwhile, at the apartment.

Bianca woke up, she wanted to make breakfast, but she realized that Rainie was awake and was hugging her

early. Be a good girl and go back to bed..." Bianca crouched and carried Rainie in her

girl closed her eyes and leaned onto her neck. "I want to sleep with

can sleep with me, but you'll have to promise me that you'll go to school. OK?" Bianca was worried that if Rainie continued to resist going to school, she would anger her unqualified father at the

that happened, the little girl would be reduced

expected, Rainie started throwing a tantrum when "school" was mentioned. "I don't wanna! I don't wanna!"

down with Rainie on her bed and patiently tried to reason

...

Eight o'clock.

*Rainie* eventually fell asleep. Bianca got out of the room and prepared breakfast. She heated some milk in the microwave, and also boiled broth on the *stove*.

When Luke came out of the study and onto the bed, it was already three **o'clock**.

Luke was Lanie and Rainie's father. Bianca wished that he would not have any *health problems*.

**However**, a businessman was always busy with *many responsibilities*.

**Working** late into the night was the price he had to pay for devoting his time to take care of Bianca and the children in the **daytime**.

**That was** why she wanted to make some nutritious bone broth **for him**.

**When Luke** got up, the two children were also awake. He wondered how Bianca managed to convince Rainie, who had already washed her face, changed her clothes, and was currently packing her little flowery **backpack**.

To Luke, they were beginning to look more and more like *a family*.

In the bathroom.

Lanie was about to flush when Daddy flushed the toilet for him. "Stop wasting time and quickly wash *your face*."

Eight words!

that, Luke had always used three words to impatiently order his son. "Wash your

little boy hastily washed his face. His father handed him a clean and

might be young, but he could not help but think that there was something unusual about his

my son. Why shouldn't I be nice to you?" Luke said as he brushed his teeth. After that, the father and son stepped out of the

Lanie, and Rainie sat at

got off her chair, saying that she wanted to help Miss Bea bring the food to the

Bianca did not want the little girl to carry something too heavy. She handed Rainie a hard-boiled egg and asked her to bring it to the

family of four was seated around the

filled a bowl with broth and set it in front of Luke without saying a word. Then, she poured warm milk for the

at the steaming hot bowl of bone broth in front of him, then at Bianca with an unbelievably

head was lowered, though she could feel the man's reserved yet passionate gaze on her face. She could feel her cheeks

## **Chapter 233**

At the hospital.

Kevin was undergoing emergency surgery. The operating theater light remained lit.

Jason rushed to the apartment and sent Lanie and Ranie to school. Luke postponed an important meeting in the morning and went with Bianca to the hospital.

Kevin had lung cancer and not some minor illness.

Families of cancer patients lived in the worry that the patient's condition might suddenly worsen and leave them behind.

Bianca had experienced the pain and agony of waiting in front of the operating theater five years ago. She was not unfamiliar with that sensation.

However, her worries had been alleviated recently, thanks to her being busy at work, and to reconnecting with Lanie and Rainie.

She had a hunch that her father would soon recover.

Every time at the hospital, the doctors and specialists would tell her, "Mr. Rayne's condition is stable. It's a good sign. Don't worry."

She had believed their words...

Just last afternoon, the doctor had said, "Mr. Rayne's condition is improving. His organ functions are returning to normal."

When Bianca heard that, she felt that God had finally taken notice of her...

She did not expect the bad news to come so suddenly.

Time passed.

did not know how long it had been before the operating theater light was switched

stood up from the bench. Her limbs were numb as she looked at the doctor's tired eyes, waiting for the

had paid for Kevin's stay in the hospital and specialist treatment. Otherwise, the typical family would not have been able to enjoy the care of the VIP hospital ward, let alone afford a

done everything we can." The doctor took off his mask and said

that and turned around. He saw tears gushing from Bianca's

that possible? How..." Bianca mumbled as tears streaked down

had made it through the ordeal five

years later, she was unprepared that he did

noded apologetically at Bianca and Luke. Then, he walked away. The corridor became

hugged her tightly in case she broke down. She was helpless

this be? Father... he... he was still fine yesterday..." Nothing could stop Bianca's bitter

*In the man's arms, her only release was to hold the man's coat so tightly that the coat was crumpled and her fingers **hurt**.*

Assaulted by a thousand thoughts and emotions, she told herself that she had to accept the fact that her father was *gone*.

Otherwise, what could she do?

When she was mentally prepared, her father had pulled **it through**.

However, when she was not prepared, her father had left her **abruptly, forever**.

...

Earlier, after Jason sent the children to school, he rushed to the *hospital*.

**The patient** was in the operating theater, and the boss had arrived with the patient's daughter. He relieved the guards from their *posts*.

The guards were hiding downstairs.

*Jason met* with them after he got out of the car. The guards that were stationed outside the ward were frowning and their gazes were shifty. Jason thought that something *was amiss*.

"Haven't you left?" Jason asked calmly.

**He** did not sound angry, but the guard hastily stubbed out his cigarette and replied tremblingly. "Can... can we leave?" **He stammered**.

In the forty-odd years of his life, Jason had become an acute reader of someone's thoughts from their **expressions**.

way how flustered that guard looked, Jason could tell that he was hiding a lot of

truthfully the situation upstairs," Jason

abnormal. All of a sudden, the doctors and nurses rushed into the ward." The guard sounded hesitant when he said

displeased when he received that reply. "Now that the situation is uncertain, and the boss and the patient's daughter are deathly worried that they would receive bad news from the operating theater. When things calm down later in the afternoon, they will receive a report from the hospital anyway. By then, it'll be too late for you to tell the truth. If you continue to hide anything from me, I won't be able to help you

were only lowly mercenaries who had not encountered such situations. They were currently very afraid and did not know what

even scared out of their wits by

I'll say it, Bro," one of the guards confessed, "Before the patient's condition took a turn for the worse, two people went into the ward. One of them said that she was the patient's wife. I mean, if we turned her away, what if the patient wanted to meet them? Indeed, we're here to keep strangers out, but if we can't satisfy the patient's needs and his condition took a turn for the worse, we can't possibly bear

person's words were jumbled, though he managed to present the main

were caught in a

situation was that they asked for the patient's permission to allow the two into the ward, and that had caused the patient's condition to

they had turned the two away and made the patient agitated, which caused his condition to

matter how they looked at it, the former situation was better. After all, the responsibility would fall on the

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It was considered normal for someone suffering from hypoglycemia to pass out from extreme sorrow.

As far as Jason knew, hypoglycemia was not a serious disease anyway.

When he heard from his boss that Bianca had passed out, instead of asking his boss to talk in the corridor, he told his boss in the ward what he had found out about the situation earlier.

"Before Mr. Rayne's condition took a turn for the worse, his wife brought his daughter to visit him..." Jason observed his boss's expression as he spoke.

Luke turned to look at him with surprise. "His wife and daughter visited him?"

"Yes. His wife is Jennifer Lee, and his daughter is Marie Rayne. Mr. Rayne and his daughter share the same surname, but she is not his birth daughter. Jennifer had given birth to her ex-boyfriend's child when she married Mr. Rayne," Jason explained.

"Why are they here?"

Luke frowned hard. He believed that the matter was not as simple as one might think.

Jason reported truthfully, "Mdm. Jennifer Lee told the guards that Mr. Rayne has been looking for her so that they could discuss ownership of the old house in the small town, but she has been busy working multiple jobs to support the family and treat Mr. Rayne's illness. She only managed to find time to visit him today. The guard thought that it was very important, and after getting Mr. Rayne's permission, let the two into the ward."

As Jason spoke, he noticed that his boss's expression became more and more unpleasant.

On the bed, Bianca's eyelashes fluttered.

...

Back in Kevin's house.

the door, went inside, placed her handbag away, and changed into slippers. She circled the living room while muttering, "What should I do? What should I do? How did he die so easily? Oh my god, is this a bad

also feeling afraid as she watched her mother making circles in the living room. She sat on the couch and tried to calm herself down but could

fine when they left the hospital. He had even agreed to give her the house and that he would settle the procedure within

sat in the cab and appreciated the fall cityscape. They even went to the mall before going

they left the mall, they received a call from

had given the hospital the phone numbers of his spouse and children in case

stunned when she heard that the patient had passed away. She held the phone to her ear but did not say a word for a long time. Eventually, she stammered, "Can... can you say... say that again? What? He... passed...

alive and kicking earlier? How did he die just like

that they were back home, Jennifer seemed to have thought of something and pointed at Marie on the couch. "What did I tell you? Don't use those harsh words on your dad, but you don't listen! Couldn't you see that he was about to croak from the way he coughed? Don't you know that you shouldn't agitate him when he's

not feel an ounce of guilt. She lowered her head and started to

**She** cried not because she was sad that Kevin had passed away but because she was afraid someone might find out that her words had **killed him**.

"I didn't want it to turn out that way. Who knew... he died so quickly.."

*Marie* remained on the couch for the next half an hour before standing *up*.

*While Jennifer* lay on her bed nursing a headache, she saw her daughter going into her room and turning on *her computer*.

Marie searched on the Internet if one could be found guilty of anything if their words caused someone to die.

As *the children's* saying went, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me." What should happen if words caused someone's death?

Eventually, she found an answer in an article on a legal website.

**However, the** article used too many technical terms, and she did not fully comprehend it. Eventually, she still did not know whether she was guilty of *anything*.

Marie continued searching the website.

*Eventually*, a pop-up appeared, instructing her to type in the message box if she had **further questions**.

She hastily typed a paragraph, briefly explaining the matter, and clicked send.

She received a reply soon.



will depend on where you spoke those words. If you publicly insulted someone and caused their death, it can be considered slander, which is punishable by prison. However, if you spoke to them in private, you don't have to

Marie's fingers were shaking.

were in the hospital, but the door was closed, and there's only three of us in the room. That's not considered a public place,

I've said something that slandered

in front of the computer, Marie convinced herself that the situation earlier was the latter and forced herself to

had spoken those harsh words in private, she did not have to

condition only worsened after they left the

felt a lot better after arriving at that conclusion, though her heart remained in her

"Get up quickly, Mom!"

stood in front of Jennifer's bedroom and pulled Jennifer up. "Follow me to the

## **Chapter 235**

"OK. Leave it to me."

Walter did not attempt to convince his friend again. Luke was stubborn, and he would not take back anything he said.

After that, Walter took his briefcase and left the rooftop.

At the same time, Jason was talking to someone over the phone. He nodded, grunted several times, gave the hospital's address, and hung up.

He kept his phone, turned around, and saw Luke's horrifyingly sullen face. However, he walked over and said, "The DNA test results are ready, Mr. Crawford."

Luke finished the cigarette and stubbed it out. "Pass it to me."

Jason nodded, then went downstairs and waited for the authoritative DNA test report.

He was not curious about the contents of the report.

As Luke's personal assistant, he knew that he had to maintain his professionalism. That included knowing when to look away.

If he was curious about everything, he would have been dead a long time ago.

...

Bianca opened her eyes after Luke and Jason left the ward.

was the first time that she had passed out from her

her teens, she had left her grandfather, who had taken care of her since she was a child, and went under Jennifer's

then, Bianca remembered that she would often tremble and her head would be dizzy because of her hypoglycemia, but she would recover after a

would be hiding in her room and cry anyway, so no one would notice that she had her dizzy spells, though her face looked very pale

her father asked about why her complexion was terrible, Jennifer would say, "That's because she eats junk food instead of proper meals! Look at her face. There's not even a hint

eat junk food." Young Bianca knew how to speak up for

not tell that to her evil stepmother. Jennifer would not be convinced

That was directed toward her father.

of the four people living in the house, Bianca was closest to her

her father would choose to believe Jennifer instead. "I've told you many times not to binge on junk food! You never listen! I don't know how your Grandpa

and kind grandfather would be blamed

It was that time when Bianca knew that there was no use explaining yourself to someone who was not going to believe you anyway.

**She did** not have a mother since young, and her father was always at work. In those years that she lived with her grandfather, Bianca had never suffered from hypoglycemia. Life might be difficult in the small town, but she was well-fed with home-grown vegetables and fresh meat from the **market**.

At least she received proper nutrition.

Even when she was bullied in middle school, she had never passed out.

*When she* moved to the city, Jennifer would only cook delicious food for Marie. Bianca ate the leftovers, but most of the time, there would be nothing left, even a scrap of **meat**.

*She* often ate dry white bread. Eventually, she got used to the **taste**.

**She** had no income when she was in college, and she did not have spare money to go to nightclubs and bars as Marie did. Fortunately, she was spared the dark side of *humanity*.

Bianca felt a complicated mix of emotions when she recalled her past.

She eventually succumbed to the harshness of reality, willingly giving up her body when her father was critically ill, even though the reason she gave up her body was different from Marie's.

There was nothing more pitiful than someone who had *given up*.

**After** she calmed down and contacted the "middleman," she gave birth to a pair of children to her benefactor and suffered countless days and nights.

**She felt** slightly at ease, now that she knew that her benefactor was Luke **Crawford**.

if her benefactor was not Luke Crawford but a despicable and perverted old man, would she be equally  
would have persisted in those

Luke Crawford instead of some other pervert and give birth to a pair of children for him. Bianca believed  
that any other woman would be happy if placed in the same

could not forgive herself for selling her

everything ended well for her, that could not change the

walked along the corridor to the doctor's office while thinking about all that. After knocking on the door,  
she went into

Jason did not know that Bianca had overheard everything he

was caught in a dilemma when Bianca explained herself to

hospital was not like a public hospital. Its service toward its patients

is my father, Doctor. Are you saying that... I don't have the right to find out what happened to him?"  
Bianca said

doctor was holding his phone in his hands, about to make a call to

## **Chapter 236**

"A charity foundation that provides financial and medical resources without asking anything in return?  
That's nothing but Bianca's horrible lie..."

Marie chuckled sarcastically and shook her head. "Has anyone from the charity foundation contacted  
you while you were receiving treatment? Did anyone follow up on your condition? These foundations  
should have strict procedures. You've used a liver from them. Their people will be keeping a close eye on  
your condition until the day you die!"

Marie's words seemed to make sense.

Five years ago, whenever Bianca visited Kevin in the hospital, she did not stay there for too long, in case  
her father noticed something.

She banked on the fact that her father was gravely ill and could not focus his attention on her. That was  
how she managed to deceive him.

She also found a lot of excuses, which her father believed without any doubt.

Now that Marie had divulged everything, Kevin must have been able to remember those memories from  
five years ago. If he could pay attention to the details, he would have discovered that Bianca was indeed  
hiding something from him...

The elderly man lying on the bed became weaker and weaker. His wrinkly fingers eventually curled up,  
but he could not hold a fist and slowly loosened his grip...

Bianca could see that tears were welling up in her father's clouded eyes.

She did not know how her father felt. However, she could see from the video that he was in disbelief about what his daughter had done. Eventually, he was convinced by Marie that she was telling the truth...

Dad..." She spoke to her father in the

have said it to him, but he was

Tears kept on falling.

video, Marie strutted smugly like a chicken and continued to talk, "I've already told you what I should say, Uncle Kevin. I don't wish to damage your impression of Bianca, but that's indeed what she did. You can't blame me for

on the bed closed his eyes, perhaps out of guilt or out

walked close to the bed again and put on a smile on her face. "Now that Bianca found herself a rich man, I admit that she has her way with flirting with men. You can see from the news article that she's enjoying her life now. It's the truth. You can see for yourself if you go on the Internet. They can try suppressing the news, but there'll be remnants. If you don't wish for me to tell her husband and his family about Bianca's tattered past, then hand over the house to me and Mom within

time, there was a commotion outside the hospital

thought that she heard Jennifer and Marie's voices outside. She wondered if she was hallucinating because of her hatred toward

placed the tablet away and

In the corridor, a few security guards were standing in the way of Jennifer and Marie.

"I'm the wife of Kevin the deceased. The woman inside isn't my birth daughter, but she's at least my stepdaughter. Can't I visit her?" Jennifer looked sad and lethargic as she shoved the security guards and accused them of **being merciless**.

The security guards received the order that no one could enter the ward except for Luke and Jason!

"**This** is your last warning to leave now." The security guard started shoving the mother and daughter away, showing no hint of **sympathy**.

**Bianca** walked out into the corridor, her frail body under the light-blue and white striped **patient's gown**.

Marie noticed Bianca first. She elbowed Jennifer and told her to *look*.

*Jennifer* turned her head and immediately noticed Bianca. She wanted to start crying and remind Bianca of their relationship, but she chickened out when her eyes met with Bianca's withering *gaze*.

"Bianca... are you... feeling better?" That was the only thing that Jennifer managed to say.

*Bianca* walked past the security guards and looked at them with a pale **face**.

"Aren't you afraid of retribution?"

in Marie's heart when she heard of that. She also saw her mother shudder and

that Bianca must have reviewed the security footage. It was normal for high-class medical facilities to have security cameras

Earlier, she had forgotten about that.

had not expected that Kevin would die so easily. Bianca would not have checked the security footage if a human life was not

you mean, Bianca? We didn't cause Dad's death, but we're still very sorry,

did not let Marie finish her sentence. She looked at the mother and daughter with a penetrating gaze.

"I've known the two of you since my early teens. From the day I moved into the big city, you've successfully made me hate the city and miss my grandfather in the small

security guards looked at the woman, not sure how to report to their

you two have conspired against me, but my father would rather believe the lies you told him than me. He's been too kind to

from memories past flashed in Bianca's mind as she said

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Luke pressed the glowing cigarette onto Marie's delicate, well-maintained cheek. In a shock, she immediately covered her face, her brows tightly knotted from the pain.

She looked at the tall and mysterious man standing in front of her, and it was only some time later that she comprehended what he said...

'Is he standing up for Bianca?

'Did he mistake her for someone else?'

"You're... you're the lunatic!" Jennifer did not recognize who Luke was, but from his appearance, she could tell that he was not a good person.

Even if he bore ill will, he should not have hurt Marie.

Even if he wanted to hurt Marie, he should have slapped or kicked her and not scorch her face with a cigarette.

Jennifer had relied on her looks to get money from other men when she was Marie's age, but now, she had to rely on Marie. If Marie's face was ruined, then she would not be able to get money from men.

Jennifer tried to struggle away from the security guards so that she could see if her daughter's face had any injuries. However, she was not strong enough.

"Behave!"

The security guard shoved Jennifer onto a chair.

The back of Jennifer's head knocked on the wall. She rubbed the back of her head and began to act like a shrew. "Ow... ow... I think I might have suffered a concussion! Help! Help! That guy is bullying a defenseless woman!"

"Shut up!"

security guard stepped up and gripped Jennifer's chin so that she could only make muffled

had encountered his fair share of cunning and underhanded people in his business dealings, but he had never seen someone as despicable as Jennifer and

the security guards took care of the situation in the corridor. Luke turned around, took off his coat, and draped it over Bianca, not caring what the other

could still feel the sting on her face. She saw the scene happening in front of her while covering her

She remembered who that man was.

was intimidated by the man's domineering

racking her brain for a long time, her brain eventually fell on the name "Luke

knew a lot of related information about that name. Luke Crawford was a famous pioneer in the business world, the CEO of T Corporation, the youngest entrepreneur, the richest man in A

titles and appellations surfaced in her

not expect Bianca to know that

could not believe what she saw. She laughed blankly out of her

*Marie* felt that his wealth and personal achievements were such a big contrast to the person he was caring for!

*How was* it possible that the two people with drastically different backgrounds know each *other*?

...

The police station was not far away from the hospital.

The police arrived within five minutes of receiving *the call*.

**Jennifer pretended** that she was sick, but the police knew how to deal with *her*.

**Otherwise**, every criminal would pretend to be sick when they were about to *be arrested*.

*Jennifer* was whispering to Marie on the way to the police station, but Marie kept her head lowered and pretended not to hear.

**Ever** since she had dropped out of middle school, she tried to get close to the rich boys in her class, or those playboys who hung out in the nightclubs.

*She* had accepted how those boys had played excessive pranks on her, forced her to drink and dance, or even make out **in bed**...

She knew her objective. She wanted to be a girlfriend of a rich boy. That would be very **glamorous**.

Her rich boyfriend would buy nice things for her to eat. It might only be a pack of Oreos or a cup of instant ramen, but she would sit in front of the crowded school cafeteria during lunch break, and every student would look at **her eat**.

of those students could only afford plain bread or a

one of those poor students who could only afford plain

not forget how pathetic Bianca looked when she first transferred to the school. What right did Bianca have to receive such treatment from

if Bianca had kept her head down and studied hard? She was that pathetic, malnourished, hapless little laughed out loud when she thought of

...

the hospital, Luke clutched the DNA test report in his hands but had no intention of showing it to supposed to be a joyous occasion, but Bianca's father had suddenly

Lanie and Rainie's mother. That was a fact. Luke was very sure about whom he loved, not only now, but five years ago, or even earlier, when he was

had many regrets in life, such as having irresponsible parents, or how he had two children born out of wedlock, causing the children to grow up without a mother's

he had a tender spot in his heart. It was like a garden with a sign that read, in big and bold letters, considered himself luckier than many other men in the

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Forty minutes later, the car arrived at the office building.

The black Bentley stopped in front of the entrance. Luke stepped out of the car with his leather shoes, and he held the DNA test report in his hand.

No company employee would dare to make a fuss in front of their boss, especially by standing in front of their boss's way.

However, Yvonne was about to do that.

She was talking to the receptionists in the lobby. "My friend isn't someone bad. What mischief can we do if we go to the top floor? There are security cameras everywhere. Why can't we go there and hang around for ten minutes?"

The receptionists might be lowly employees, but they had greeted their fair share of VIPs before. Of course, they had seen many individuals like Yvonne who displayed their intelligence, or the lack of it, the moment they opened their mouths.

The receptionists knew that Yvonne wanted to bring her friend to the top floor so that she could show off.

The top floor was the CEO's office. Even though Mr. Crawford might not be in the office often, the top floor was nonetheless forbidden territory. None of the employees may enter without permission.

"I'm sorry, Ms. Gideon, you can bring your friend to the floor you work in, or the common area on the second floor," one of the receptionists answered diplomatically.

Yvonne's face was green with anger after she heard the receptionist repeat the same thing again. She slammed her palm onto the marble counter. "Are you a robot? Do you only know how to say that? You're too inflexible!"

The two receptionists looked at each other. They retained the apologetic smile, though their gaze was becoming disdainful.

might be ignorant, but she could see the disdain in the receptionists' eyes. She sneered and said, "Just you wait. I'll get Brother Luke to fire the two of you

only one Luke in the entire company. Yvonne thought that the two receptionists would be intimidated when she name-dropped

Unfortunately, she was wrong.

two receptionists looked at the entrance with smiles on their faces, then bowed at the same time. "Good afternoon, Mr.

around and saw the man entering through the revolving entrance door of the building. Disregarding his forbidding aura, Yvonne pounced over to the man and said coyly, "Brother

The receptionists began to look flustered.

in college had recommended them to apply to T Corporation. They also knew that ever since Luke took over the reins, he had made sure that the company rules applied to everyone,

had called the boss "Brother Luke"

was really someone personally close to the boss, they were uncertain if they would get to keep their

did not allow Yvonne to get close to him. He used the hand that was holding the DNA test report to block her advance and asked casually, "Why is she still in

That question was meant for Jason.

*The boss* might not sound angry, but Jason nevertheless admitted **his oversight**.

He knew very well how much the boss hated Ms. Gideon, especially today when Kevin Rayne had passed *away*.

Yvonne was digging her own grave!

"I'll handle this right away!" Jason nodded solemnly. Then, he took a step forward and, with a fierce expression, gestured to Yvonne as though saying "This way, **please**."



**Yvonne's** grievances were stuck in her throat.

**The** receptionists exhaled heavily, relieved that they were not going to get into trouble.

*If* the boss arrived at the company late today with his brows tightly knotted together, it meant that he had something serious plaguing his mind. Yvonne happened to be unlucky to meet him in *the lobby*.

Yvonne, who had been coyly calling her boss "Brother Luke," was also wondering what was going to happen *to her*.

"Why is she still in the company?" What does *that mean?*"

She did not understand.

should I be during office hours, if not at

and said, "Ms. Gideon, please go upstairs and pack up

I pack up my belongings?" Yvonne had a hunch that she was getting fired and began to throw her spoiled-rich-daughter tantrums. "I'm doing fine here. Are you telling me

Jason was speechless for a moment.

'Yes. I'm telling you to leave.'

other employees who were stepping into the elevator grimaced. They were thinking of the same thing, 'That Yvonne doesn't know her position. She got into trouble during the outdoor expedition the last time, and

all secretly trembling when they saw how serious and harsh their boss

the conference room on the top floor of the building, the meeting

knew that the meeting would not be ending anytime soon. The boss would definitely want to run through the entire agenda so that he could focus on settling Mr. Rayne's

## **Chapter 239**

Everyone who had participated in the meeting was thoroughly exhausted, though Luke looked as though he was an emotionless robot. He strode energetically toward his office.

"Daddy... mmm..."

Rainie was the first to wake up when she heard her father's steady footsteps. She mumbled and rubbed her eyes.

Luke nodded at the little girl and tried to smile at her, though his smile was more like a reluctant stretch of the corners of his mouth.

Previously, his interactions as a father toward his children were more like formulaic obligations rather than gestures of intimacy.

That was the first time that he showed some kindness to his children.

Rainie was shocked when she looked at her dad. She thought that he looked better when he was crying. She planned to tell Miss Bea that Daddy was acting weirdly today, as though he was a cunning wolf who wanted to lure an innocent little rabbit into his den and snap its throat...

Whoosh! Rainie hid behind the couch.

Perhaps Daddy was not himself today.

Luke did not know what his daughter was thinking. He thought that the smile was kind, gentle, and fatherly.

He sat in his comfortable office chair and deliberated how he should communicate with his children. At that time, the secretary came into the office with a cup of freshly brewed Americano. She nodded to him and left the office.

Luke took a sip of the coffee. Then, he looked at the confused children and finally took out three things from a drawer.

them were the same. They were colorful picture

was a document envelope made of kraft paper fastened by

children blinked, wondering what their father's

not used to indulging his children. He tossed the picture books on the dark-colored office table and told them, "These are for you. You can take one

are for us?" Lanie and Rainie did not know what was going on, though they quickly hopped down the couch, scampered over to the office table that was almost as tall as them, then tiptoed to look at what was on

was immediately captivated by the colorful

Daddy!" Lanie tore the wrapping apart, threw it into the trash can, and eagerly flipped through the

was also tearing away the wrapping, though she was looking at her brother's book as though Lanie's book was somehow

Luke silently observed his two children.

did not expect that he understood what they wanted. A simple picture book could brighten their day and even make them forget that they

he was feeling smug about making his children happy, he opened the envelope containing the DNA

believed that if he was correct about his decision to give his children picture books, then his speech to them later should be

...

**At** the same time, Yvonne's mother and her lawyer arrived at the police station.

*After* asking around, Mrs. Gideon and the lawyer eventually could meet **Yvonne**.

Yvonne thought that her tears had already run dry after crying out of fright for no less than a hundred times. However, once she saw her mother, she burst into tears again. "Mom! Mom... you have to save me..."

**Mrs.** Gideon stepped forward, hugged her daughter, and patted her back. "Don't worry. I've brought the lawyer here today."

**Mrs.** Gideon was not too old, and she was not very well-educated. However, she knew how to primp herself and had won her current husband's heart by being more flirtatious than the other women of her age. Now that medical technology was getting more advanced, she was also trying to have a test-tube baby, so that she could bear a child for her current husband, preferably a **son**.

She paid less attention to her daughter because she was focused on the test-tube baby.

The lawyer remained composed. He gestured at the mother and daughter, inviting them to sit **down**.

The lawyer looked at Yvonne and said, "Nice to meet you, Ms. Gideon. Your mother has given me a rough summary of the incident. Now, you have to tell me the truth because I will be your defense lawyer when the case goes on trial, and I am the only one who can help **you**."

Yvonne nodded. "Yes, I will answer all your questions *truthfully*."

"**Let** me ask you, Ms. Gideon, are you complicit in the abduction of Bianca Rayne's grandfather?" The lawyer asked his *first question*.

When Yvonne heard the question, she looked at her mother.

was someone with no opinion of her own. Her attention was focused on flirting

such incidents happened, she only had her husband or her lawyer to rely

current husband had said that he could not help

that was bringing Yvonne to court was someone with a lot of clout. The police could not divulge their names. It meant that Bianca had someone influential supporting her behind the

tell the lawyer," Mrs. Gideon

shocked when she saw that her mother had trusted the lawyer so much. She instantly told the truth, "I've told you that I'm not the one involved in the abduction. All I did was tell someone else the idea, and that person hired someone else to do

recorded it down, then lifted his head and asked, "Who is that 'someone else'?

Yvonne hesitated and did not speak.

need to know that person's name and status and your relationship with them," the lawyer

for a bit and told the lawyer

to push all responsibility to Xavier and emphasized to the lawyer, "I only suggested to him to do so because I sincerely hoped that Bianca Rayne could be his wife. I only provided the suggestion. The actual deed was done by

lawyer nodded and recorded it all

## **Chapter 240**

Bianca only remembered about the DNA test report when Lanie mentioned it.

Now that Lanie had said it, it meant that the DNA test had proved that Bianca was indeed the two children's birth mother.

Before that, Bianca was only seventy or eighty percent sure. Now, she was finally at ease.

It should have been a joyous occasion when her status was confirmed, but Bianca did not seem as happy or excited as she expected.

That was because her father had passed away.

Bianca had to accept that painful fact, no matter whether she was awake or in her dreams.

All the good news seemed to be shrouded in a thin layer of dust.

Lanie kicked away the little boots on his feet and hopped onto the bed. Once on the bed, he realized that there was not enough space for him to sit cross-legged. Instead, he kneeled next to Bianca.

Fortunately, the bed was big enough for that.

He took the glass of warm milk from Mommy's hands and noticed that there was some sediment inside. Lanie quickly stirred the glass with a spoon.

"Take your breakfast, Mommy," Lanie said as he stirred the pure-white liquid with a spoon, "There's protein powder inside. The doctor said that your body is too weak. You need more nutrients."

Bianca took the glass and slowly drank the milk.

The little boy remained persistent after she had drunk the milk. He gave her more things to eat.

Bianca a napkin so that she could wipe away the stains at the corners of her

was plagued by troubles and found everything to be tasteless, though she appreciated her two children's presentation of love toward

Those gestures warmed her heart.

wondered what she did to deserve such

it was time to go to school, Jason knocked on the door, came in, and brought the two reluctant

...

been waiting outside the ward all the while. He did not go in but instead tasked the two young children to take care of their

were sure to brighten

...

spending twenty-four hours in the police station, Jennifer and Marie were set

That was standard procedure.

mother and daughter did not do anything serious. The ruckus at the hospital was only considered a

**Marie** turned on her phone once she was out of the police station. She received a flood of *messages*.

*One of* them was from Linda, one of Leia's assistants. [Why aren't you reporting to work, Marie? You only hurt a finger. It's not like your entire *wrist broke*.]

**Marie** did not reply to the message because the police had confiscated her phone.

Linda had sent her another message an hour later. [Wow! Do you think you're beyond reproach? You ought to pay more attention to your work if you want to be anyone in the industry. You don't even tell anyone that you're taking time off work, and you don't even reply to my message! Who do you think *you are*?]

"*You witch!*" Marie did not think highly of Leia, much less her **assistant**.

'**Who** does Linda think she is? All she does is serve Leia's whims. Does she think that she's a celebrity **too**?

'Not only that, she's ugly beyond *words*.'

Marie tried to calm herself down and quickly replied. [I'm sorry, Linda. I was detained in the police station for a night, and I only managed to get out just now. Where's the film shoot today? Send me the location. I'll head there right *away*!]

Then, she took a selfie of her in front of the police station and sent it over to Linda.

Soon, Linda replied. [Why are you at the police station? I'll send the location to you. Come over *quickly*.]

[**Alright**. Thank you, Linda. I'll tell you the details when we **meet**.]

**Being a** celebrity's assistant was quite boring. No entertainment news in the papers could be as exciting as the gossip that spread among assistants at a film set.

fond of gossip. Her colleague was detained in the police station for some reason. That was considered

hailed a cab and shoved her mother into it. "Go home by yourself. I have other things

though she managed to steady herself by holding on to the cab. She turned around and spoke to Marie, "Careful about that burn mark on your face. Also, remember to call Bianca and be polite about

worry. I know what to do." Marie turned around and left after she

moment, Marie did not know that there was a greater calamity waiting for her, nor did she know about what Walter Long could do to

she was naively thinking, 'What can Bianca do to me anyway? Does she think that she can sue me? She can't possibly blame me for angering her dad with mere

'He deserves to die anyway!

the Raynes are unlucky

as she watched her daughter skip away happily, then she sat in the

staying in the police station for one night, Jennifer knew the true meaning

after being forced into a dead end, she was not quite ready to admit

the last few years of his life, Kevin had focused his attention on his second wife. Bianca did not hold a grudge against Kevin for that. She thought that it was normal to focus his attention on his wife rather than his daughter from the