

## Be Gentle 241

### Chapter 241

Leia felt a lot better after she replied to her mother's message. She opened the trailer door and called out gently, "Come over here for a bit, Marie."

Her tone of voice sounded like a noble beckoning for their servant or an owner calling for their pet.

Marie was not happy when she heard that, though she faked a smile and jogged over obediently. "Do you need me for anything?"

'Of course I need you for something!' Leia thought as she looked at Marie with disdain.

'Can't you be a little smarter as an assistant?'

"Why don't you ever address me whenever I talk to you?" Leia said warmly.

The surroundings might be dark, but Leia's impeccable features had seemed to brighten the night a little.

Members of the production crew passed by while carrying props.

"It's like this. You're six years younger than me, and I'm not sure how I should address you," Marie said awkwardly.

"Ms. Leia" sounded too formal.

She did not feel close enough to Leia to call her by only her name. After all, she was only a lowly assistant.

Marie could never forget the humiliation she suffered when Leia stepped on her fingers.

Leia smiled genially when she heard Marie's words. "You can just call me Leia."

of the crew members overheard what Leia

"You're too kind, Leia!"

have taken my degree in photography! It's much better to be Leia's

"..."

they gossiped, they praised Leia's generosity and

smiled, then went back into her trailer to

Marie applied some makeup remover to a cotton pad, she thought to herself, 'Those people in the production crew call her 'Leia' because they're her seniors. If I call her 'Leia,' she might not actually

that thought, Marie decided that she should find a more influential benefactor and get away from Leia as soon as

scale greater heights and be a hundred times more glamorous than

...

drive back to the city

RV drove into the downtown area. Leia was not in the mood to look at the bustle of the city outside but instead kept on calling Xavier's

Eventually, at about seven o'clock, Xavier answered the **call**.

Leia sat up straight and furrowed her brows. "Why didn't you answer the call **sooner**?"

**Xavier** had only gotten out of the police station and regained the use of his phone. "Why are you looking for **me**?"

*Leia* answered, "I have something to ask you. You're the only one I trust who can give me advice. If you don't have anything else, let's meet up."

*Xavier* continued to walk out of the police station while he lit a cigarette. "Alright, you decide on a place."

**Having dinner** with a famous celebrity should be a secretive affair. Even so, their last encounter was caught on camera and went in the news *anyway*.

However, if not for that, Xavier would not have the opportunity to show everyone in the country that he had a legal marriage certificate with Bianca *Rayne*!

**Xavier took** a drag of his cigarette and puffed out a cloud of light blue smoke. His lips curled upward into a smug grin when he thought of **that**.

...

*Xavier was* about to get into his car when Mrs. Gideon rushed up to him from behind and stepped into his way.

"*You can't* frame my daughter, Xavier Tanner!" Her voice was hoarse from screaming.

A lawyer followed behind Mrs. Gideon.

woman pounced on Xavier and grabbed his collar, though she was quickly

lost your mind? Do you want to accompany your daughter in jail?" Xavier looked at Mrs. Gideon, who had fallen onto the ground, with a

quickly went over and helped Mrs. Gideon to her

a wicked person, Xavier Tanner!" Mrs. Gideon was laughing out of anger. "You said that my daughter was the one who orchestrated her colleague's grandfather's abduction? Can you say that you're not involved? I think that you're the

calm. "Mrs. Gideon, I'm good friends with Yvonne, and you are acquaintances with my parents. If I've done anything wrong, I will admit to it instead of framing it on a nineteen-year-old girl. I can say that I'm not involved in the abduction at

laughed as though she had heard a very funny joke. "You said that you're not involved? One day, the truth will

frowned and continued to speak, "Yvonne knows that I love Bianca, my current wife, and that was why she gave me the suggestion to abduct Bianca's grandfather and force her into a marriage. I thought that Yvonne is too young to understand that a relationship born out of compulsion will not last long. If I can win my wife's heart by normal means, why would I need to do that immoral deed? I've also advised Yvonne not to do anything rash, but she didn't seem to pay any

The lawyer remained silent.

Gideon began to waver. On one hand, she thought that even her daughter might be rash, she would not be so stupid to singlehandedly abduct the grandfather of her rival in

other hand, Xavier seemed too composed, as though he really did nothing

Mrs. Gideon," the lawyer

Gideon left with the lawyer in a daze. She was

## **Chapter 242**

The black Bentley slowly drove out of the hospital.

Bianca looked at the two cute children, and her mood brightened instantly.

Luke did not look at the children like Bianca did. Instead, he was looking at Bianca's face.

Bianca was oblivious to that.

The two children clung to their mother and chatted with her ceaselessly.

'Am I not as important as the children?' Luke thought.

Suddenly, he was jealous!

Rainie pouted and said to Bianca coyly, "When I was three years old, Grand Auntie came over for Christmas and brought her two granddaughters along. They're the same age as me, but they have pretty braids. They told me that their mommy braided their hair for them. Why don't you have a mommy? I was so angry that I cried."

Bianca looked at Rainie's aggrieved expression and hugged her tightly. She kissed Rainie's forehead and said, "I'll do your braids for you every day."

"Mm, thank you, Mommy!" Rainie snuggled comfortably in her mother's arms.

However, the little girl suddenly felt a chill coursing down her spine. She thought that someone scary was looking at her.

After Rainie was done complaining, it was Lanie's turn. "When Great-Grandpa brought me to the park to play with the other boys, their mommies will be there handing them their water bottles whenever they're thirsty. I'm the only one standing there wiping my sweat with my shirt sleeve, and I got scolded back at home."

wanted to say "I got scolded by Daddy," but Luke was currently glaring though Lanie did not specifically say who scolded him, it was clear who could not be their great-grandfather, who doted upon the two could not be the caretakers either, knowing that the patriarch of the family Luke, who failed as did not look at Luke grudgingly, though her impression of him fell by father, who had been ignored all this while, at the two children with a gloomy face and said, "Don't you think you talk too looked at their father and were about to apologize when Bianca said, "Can't your attitude be better when treating your meant to say that for a long time, and she finally said it had been reprimanded, seemed slighted, but he did not He shut his mouth.

**The** two five-year-old children seemed to have noticed that **slight change...**

**In the** household, their father was like the king. Everyone had to listen **to him.**

*Now, the* queen seemed to be taking over the throne...

...

Meanwhile, Leia met with Xavier.

*Marie stayed* in the RV waiting for Leia. After the previous incident, she dared not go too close to Xavier.

Leia did not bring her two other assistants with her, only Marie.

**That meant** that she trusted Marie to her personal life and that Marie would not divulge Leia's whereabouts.

Marie did not think so. She thought that Leia only brought her along and not the two other assistants so that Leia could **bully her.**

**After** all, Leia had to maintain a mature and dependable guise in front of **the public.**

In the restaurant.

was cutting his steak when he asked, "You intend to get close to Luke Crawford? Did I mishear? This is news

The lives of adults in elite society might look glamorous, but that might not be the case behind the scenes. It was normal for them to go on dates or make out if they met each other at a party and desired each

course, they had to maintain the illusion of

young men and women had to keep up with their appearances. If Leia would want to marry someone with similar social status, and that person was the young and accomplished Luke Crawford, it would be a good thing

be frank, Xavier was eager for that to

had a question. 'What's so good about Luke Crawford that so many women desire

people, including males and females, desired Luke, though not many people put their thoughts

first reason was that Luke had a mind of his own. No one could control whom he liked or did

someone did not catch Luke's eye, there was no use of them trying to gain

even if many people wanted to pursue him, there were usually no chances for them to approach

the bare minimum, one needed to have a similar social

was Leia good-looking, but her family had a lot of clout. How many young women could say that their father was

## **Chapter 243**

Leia stirred the coffee in the cup with a spoon. She lifted her head and asked conservatively, "Brother Xavier, what I'm most concerned about are his two children. Where did he get them?"

Xavier was surprised.

Brother Xavier?

That title was too saccharine-sweet.

As far as he remembered, the last time Leia called him "Brother Xavier" was when she had recently stepped out of the orphanage and into elite society. She gave everyone appellations such as "Brother" or "Sister."

As her social status climbed, she found herself to be equals with Xavier and stopped calling him "Brother."

Of course, she could be equals with Xavier because she was Jack Norman and Queenie Zeigler's daughter. In fact, as a Norman, she was of a higher status.

Xavier had never considered Leia to be part of his plan in trying to separate Bianca from Luke.

However, Xavier quickly thought of something. "To be frank, I don't know where the two children came from, even though my family occasionally talks about it. I can guess that Luke doesn't have a close relationship with the children's mother."

That was what Leia wanted to hear!

She hoped that Luke did not have any relationship with the children's mother at all!

As far as she knew, Luke had never allowed any woman to get close to him. the mother had borne Luke's children, it meant that they had slept in needed to know who her opponent was before she initiated her plan. That way, she was sure you tell me how you made that guess?" Leia wanted more concrete evidence. That way, she could be did not want Leia to fail, and therefore he did not make up any excuses. "I really don't know what happened between Luke and the children's mother. After all, no one knows the true identity of the mother, other than Luke," he

Leia nodded seriously.

should know that Old Master Crawford wants an heir, even if Luke has no desire to sleep with women. If someone is willing to give birth to Old Master Crawford's great-grandchildren, it shouldn't take much for the family to accept them." What Xavier said was technically

only thing he omitted was that the children's mother was

seemed dejected when she heard that. "I wonder how did Luke manage to convince the mother of the children to leave them

to do the trick." Xavier could see

indeed the truth. Back then, Luke and Bianca's relationship was

a little when she

words, she could tell that Luke was distant, aloof, and was not concerned with relationships. He would rather take care of his business

He was a worthy challenge!

She would prevail!

She wanted Luke's world to revolve **around her!**

Leia stole a glance at Xavier, then recalled the time in the small town when Luke shared a drink with Bianca, *Xavier's wife...*

...

The rush hour traffic in the city center had not subsided yet.

Jason drove the car steadily on the *road*.

After about half an hour, Luke and his family arrived at **the apartment**.

**After sending** the boss to the front lobby, Jason drove the *car away*.

Before they got into the elevator, Luke said, "I've already handed the case to Walter. I know that you've reviewed the security footage before your father **passed away**."

*Bianca* was taken aback, though she eventually figured out what he was saying.

was still suffering the after-effects

they come and look for you, you can call me any time." Luke was worried that Bianca's life would be kneaded her hands, looked at him, and said gently, "Thank

not say anything after that. When the elevator arrived, Luke hugged Bianca's waist, and they stepped silent when the elevator

door, Rainie seemed to have suddenly remembered something. She turned to speak to Bianca, "You have to remember our house number, Mommy. It's 3369. How about I write it on a piece of paper so that you can put it in your handbag? Don't get lost again. Big Bro and I will be

had seen in a video somewhere that elderly people would carry a slip of paper or a tag with their address on them so that they would not forget where they

at Rainie while the latter spoke. She could feel a twinge in her

'Again?

'Since when have I gotten lost?'

to have guessed what Bianca was thinking. He skipped into the house, but instead of changing into slippers, he took out Mommy's slippers from the shoe rack and placed it in front of her. "Daddy said that you got lost, and that's why you weren't

and clutched onto the hem of

## **Chapter 244**

Bianca lifted her head and looked into his eyes.

She was reminded of their carnal relations from five years ago, then at the rekindled passions from a few days ago. Bianca felt that Luke had given her a sense of belonging.

It was as though her feelings had been held hostage for five years and were now set free.

It was like wandering in a storm for a very long time and finally finding a safe haven that only belonged to oneself.

"What are you thinking? Your eyes are red." Luke felt sorry for Bianca when he looked at her frail expression.

Luke admitted that he was currently assailed by primal urges for Bianca that were rushing like the incoming tide. He could not calm his heart whenever he looked at her.

'Have I gotten a craving for her?

'Perhaps so.'

On one hand, he was someone who had tasted carnal pleasures. He desired the sensations that her body gave him.

On the other hand, he was possessive toward her and wished to own her everything.

Otherwise, he would not be at ease.

Bianca could not stand his passionate gaze. When Luke's fingers brushed over her eyelids, she forced herself to calm down and not think of those unhappy experiences in the past.

Suddenly, she heard something fall in the bathroom, then Rainie mumbling something...

Bianca pushed Luke away and rushed toward the bathroom.

the children had interrupted the

...

In the bathroom.

stood tiptoe on a stool, trying to reach for a small box on the rack. She missed, and the items on the rack fell on

stepped down from the stool, crouched, and picked up a box of toothpaste from the

you OK? Did you bump into something?" Bianca crouched down and examined

Rainie picked up a brand new tube of toothpaste and a toothbrush. "I picked this toothpaste for you, Mommy. It's

the tube and saw that it was strawberry-scented children's toothpaste. It looked cute and smelled nice. Children would

Rainie offered Bianca a new bottle of strawberry-scented shower cream, strawberry-scented shampoo, and other

that the new pair of slippers that she was wearing had a big strawberry embroidered on each of them. She guessed that Rainie must have picked it

you to buy all these?" Bianca

"Daddy did..." Rainie answered truthfully.

...

Nine o'clock.

Bianca had washed up. Not only did the man take care of her, but her two children were also taking care of **her**.

*Bianca* and Rainie took a bath together. Rainie cleaned herself first, and she said she wanted to help Mommy take a *bath*.

*All Bianca* wanted was to be a good mother and help Rainie in the **bath**.

*Rainie* shook her head and said that she was used to taking baths alone, but she was afraid that Mommy might pass out again.



She wanted to help Mommy in the bathroom.

**Occasionally, she** would hand over the shower cream to Mommy. When Bianca was done, Rainie handed her a comb and towel...

*When* Bianca stepped out of the bathroom, Lanie had placed her slippers at the door and had peeled a banana and an **orange**.

*He* took several fruits and handed them to Daddy in the *kitchen*.

*Luke* took the fruits, placed them in the sink to wash them, then cut them into slices and wrapped them in cling wrap...

**Lanie** had specifically requested for the cling wrap. He said, "You must wrap the fruits in cling wrap, Daddy. In the old house, Granny Lindell would wrap the freshly cut fruits with *cling wrap*..."

**Luke** was not used to domestic chores. He could only listen to what his son told *him*.

...

**Bianca** appreciated the treatment, though she was more used to being the one serving others instead of *being served*.

on the headboard of the bed before she

dressed in a pink nightgown. Her half-dried hair draped over her shoulders. The skin on her face was not dry either; Rainie had applied some strawberry-scented moisturizing cream

should only sleep after you've dried your hair." Rainie leaned next to Bianca, holding a picture book in her hands and reading the story to Mommy. She also reminded Mommy from time to time that she should only sleep after her hair was dry. Otherwise, she would get a headache the next day. Granny Lindell from the old house had told her

few hours of interaction with the children, Bianca felt both happy and

happy that her children knew how to take care

other hand, she was sad that the person who had taught them how to take care of themselves was Granny Lindell, the caretaker in

was busy at work, so it was understandable that he did not have the time to teach the children how to take care of themselves. However, he occasionally educated the children on the philosophy of

also took good care

sad that the children did not have a mother to guide them through life. Even their grandmother did not educate

working in his study. Whenever he went to the bathroom and walked past the bedroom, he would steal an impatient

was not directed toward Bianca, but rather Rainie, who was leaning next to her and did not

hour later, Luke once again passed by the bedroom. He saw that Rainie was asleep in her mother's lap. Her mouth was slightly open, and she was

stepped into the room without saying a word. His intentions were

saw that Luke was reaching out to carry the little girl away. "Careful. Don't accidentally wake her up," she reminded

## **Chapter 245**

Bianca closed her eyes and started counting sheep.

One, two, three... when she was at twenty-three, she felt the man leaning closer on her back.

His warm and rough hands encircled her delicate waist and reached into the elastic band of his pajama pants.

Bianca was sleeping on her side. Luke's warm hands rubbed and massaged her abdomen, and her legs instinctively bent...

When she bent her legs, her butt was pushed outward...

Her butt pressed against the man's body. She could feel something awaken beneath the man's pants and was poking her body.

"What are you doing?" Bianca frowned slightly. She was not in the mood tonight.

The bedroom was dark, though eventually she got used to the darkness. Luke's arm supported his head, and he was leaning on the bed looking at her. His head moved forward, and he kissed her fair cheek.

"The doctor recommends that you should exercise more often. It'll be good for your hypoglycemia," he said.

"Exercise..." Bianca's mind turned blank.

The doctor must have meant something like jogging or yoga, not "exercise" in bed like what Luke thought.

Bianca was relatively conservative in that matter, but Luke insisted on doing it his way, like a spoiled child.

No matter how Bianca refused him, he insisted on doing it as though he was possessed...

"If you're tired after doing it, then sleep. Otherwise, I'm afraid that you'll stay up all night thinking of nonsense." As Luke tried to convince her, his hands had already lifted her nightgown.

moon was silvery-white, shining on Bianca's

Bianca did not know that a man would come up with a million valid reasons to convince a woman to say say that "It's for your own good," but at the same time, it fulfilled his carnal

kissed the woman next to her many times in the long night. Every kiss lasted for very long, and he paused for a short while before doing

for air. She was not sure if her hypoglycemia would hit again and cause her to pass

Fortunately, she did not.

growled softly and stopped. Bianca waited for a long time before she pushed him away. "Get her bury her face under the blanket. "You still look like you're in college. Why are you still so easily embarrassed?"

what?" Bianca knew what Luke was talking about, but somehow she thought that he might be referring to

her delicate skin on her waist. "About everything all the time. How many times have we gone to bed with each other? You're the one who gave birth to the kids. What else do you still have

Bianca thought of what he said...

continued, "You don't have to worry if you're easily embarrassed in bed. I like how you're blushing even harder when she heard

"Everything still feels so surreal..."

*Luke* furrowed his brows and indicated to her to *continue*.

**Bianca continued** to let her subconscious speak for her. "I guess it's because I come from a poor family, so it's a different world than you... I don't think I can fully grasp how people like you think, and even if I do, I don't know what to do with it... I can't really explain it, but it just gets surreal every time I try to think of my *situation*."

*Luke* did not know why Bianca remained confused. Perhaps he was not doing a good job.

**Otherwise, she** should have been at *ease*.

**However, he** could understand why Bianca felt *confused*.

*Ever since* he returned to Crawford Manor, he had witnessed many men and women lose themselves in the complicated relations of elite society.

**Every** time, the responsible party was the *man*.

*Luke* tried to think of how to make Bianca feel less confused, but at the same time, he thrust in her again. "How about this? Does it feel real enough?"

Bianca was exhausted experiencing his "reality"...

...

Bianca slept soundly that night.

**The next** morning, when she woke up, the two children had finished their homework, packed their backpacks, then scampered over to take care of their Mommy who had just gotten out of bed.

Rainie squeezed toothpaste on Bianca's toothbrush.

a lot better. After losing her father, Lanie and Rainie were the best cure for her  
it was time to go to school, Jason came and picked up the  
making breakfast and helping the children pick their clothes and wear their shoes, Bianca finally found  
some free time for herself at  
at the kitchen doorway. "Leave the dishes for later. Rest a  
continued doing the dishes. "I'm tougher than you think. You, Lanie, and Rainie don't have to treat me  
so well. It's not like I always  
not want Luke and the children to treat her like  
found that Luke was right behind her, looking at the woman doing the dishes, and whispering into her  
ear, "You're tougher than I think? You were biting me and screaming for me to stop  
Splash!  
bowl fell from Bianca's hand and into the sink when she  
The entire stack of dishes toppled.  
turned her around and pulled her close. He lowered her head and tasted her pink and supple  
fooling around and go to work..."

...

## **Chapter 246**

After Marie was brought away, Leia took the rest of her break half-heartedly and continued the shoot.

The tearful scene had been reshot from morning to night, but the director was not satisfied.

"Never mind. Let's wrap up for today. Go home and think through the scene and we'll try again tomorrow," the director said disappointedly to the male and female lead actors.

Leia was not in the mood to think about the shoot. She wanted to leave the set as soon as she could.

Her acting career was important, but it was not as important as finding an opportunity to meet Luke so that they could get married.

When the RV was about to leave the film set, Leia gave Xavier a call.

Xavier was at home playing chess with his father.

Lacey was pleased when she saw that Xavier and his father were at peace with each other. She kept on serving them fruits and drinks.

When Xavier's phone rang, he saw that it was from Leia. He answered the call, though his eyes remained on the chessboard. "Yes?"

"Where are you now? Can we meet?"

"Not now, maybe tomorrow. I'm playing chess with my father, and it's a close fight."

After that, Xavier made his move.

Daniel smiled and picked up one of his pieces, though he did not make his move. He did not know why his son had suddenly returned home to play chess with him, but he was nonetheless very satisfied.

"It's fine if we don't meet. Let's talk on the phone. Um... do you know that Bianca's father passed away?"

immediately sat up straight. "What? Bianca's father passed away? Where did you

you weren't informed. I dug around for information when the police came to the film set to take Marie away. They said that Marie was liable for Bianca's father's death. Two

could finish, Xavier ended the

was holding a chess piece in his hand, and Lacey, who was peeling an apple, heard what their son

did Bianca's father pass away?" As Lacey spoke, she accidentally cut her finger with the

should be careful too," Daniel said as he stood up from

in the house quickly came over with the first-aid kit and bandaged Lacey's

put on his jacket and prepared to leave the house. He had a gloomy expression on his face. "I'm not sure about the details, but I'll ask her for

that Bianca would not answer

did not stop him

he was about to get into his car, Lacey came out with her coat and handbag. "I'll go with

stopped her. "You shouldn't go. I'll come and pick you up when I find out anything." He did not want to see how coldly Bianca

would be willing to see their son being coldly treated by his

*If that happened, the relationship between mother and daughter-in-law would become worse.*

...

Throughout the night, Xavier could not get through to Bianca. Eventually, his phone ran out **of battery**.

Xavier had found out the hospital Kevin was in. When he arrived at the hospital, the personnel told him that the patient's daughter had left.

**Xavier displayed** his marriage certificate and told them that he was the patient's daughter's husband and that he wanted to know more about the cause of the **patient's death**.

*One of the nurses was an avid fan of entertainment gossip. She recognized that the man was Bianca's husband.*

That was why she told him everything she knew.

Xavier's gaze turned cold and harsh. He knew that Marie was despicable, but not to *that extent*.

The rumors about the incident that happened in Kevin Rayne's ward had spread throughout the hospital. All the doctors and nurses knew about it.

After getting the details, Xavier left the hospital.

*He did* not go home, nor did he go to the bar. Instead, he drove away and stopped at the parking spot nearest to **the hospital**.

Someone had just parked there. It was a Volkswagen Golf.

**Xavier** got out of the car and handed that person a stack of banknotes. "Do you mind parking somewhere else? I want to park **here**."

**The** driver was shocked when he looked at Xavier and the stack of **money**.

'Is this real life?

just a normal parking spot? Is

the money and

in the car but did not turn off the engine. He turned on the thermostat so that he was warmer, lit a cigarette, and looked in the direction of the

could have gone home and returned early the

his thoughts were in a jumble. He wanted to find the best spot to stake out so that he could see Bianca the first thing in the

nurse said that Kevin would be

the night was unbearably long. However, for Bianca, it was

was startled away from her

dreamed that she was back in her middle school days, and Jennifer and Marie were bullying

money that she hid in her backpack was stolen

the money that she hid in her clothes was snatched

The dream shifted to another scene.

## **Chapter 247**

She felt a twinge in her nose and an indescribable feeling in her chest. No one had unconditionally treated her so well like Luke did.

Bianca's long eyelashes fluttered.

She picked up the limited edition black credit card. She had read about it in a finance magazine before.

The morning sun shone through the wide floor-to-ceiling, into the kitchen, and onto Luke's sculpted, angular side profile. The man was unbelievably perfect!

She was only a plain, unremarkable woman, but she was lucky enough to gain his love and pampering.

"Thank you..." Bianca was starting to sob when she spoke.

The man had given her warmth and companionship at her lowest point.

Her father's passing had left her clueless and helpless.

That was a huge blow. Fortunately, Luke was by her side.

There were her children too. Lanie and Rainie were like angels. They were the proof of her relationship with him.

She was unlucky, but at the same time, she was the luckiest woman. Fate had been kind to her.

Luke gently kissed the wet corners of Bianca's eyes and gently scraped the bridge of her nose. "You don't have to thank me, silly. Meeting you has been the best thing that happened in my life. You might have lost your father, but I and the two children are with you."

The man's voice was low and resonant. It could make Bianca's wildly thumping heart instantly calm down.

and I will always be by your side, Mommy! We'll stay together forever!" The soft and cute little girl wearing princess pajamas hugged Bianca's leg, tickling it with her curly

her daughter that was as soft as a snowball into her arms and kissed her cheek. The little girl giggled, which attracted Lanie's

had just gotten out of the bathroom after brushing his teeth. He leaned on the doorway, looking jealously at his sister in Bianca's

Mommy to carry him too, but Daddy said that he was a big boy, and he should not act effeminately like tried to look away from the scene, but Luke could catch the glint of jealousy in his

little boy saw his father walk

"Daddy..." Lanie called out.

down and picked up the little boy in his

and his mouth opened in surprise. One could fit an

'Daddy?'

of fireworks had exploded in

'Daddy is hugging me!

*'It's not a normal hug, but a comforting hug!'*

*Luke could smell a milky scent on Lanie's body.*

*Luke* always had the opinion that girls needed to be pampered, but boys had to be trained. He hugged Rainie many times, but not so much the precocious Lanie.

Now that he was carrying his son in his arms, Luke might look aloof, but if one looked closely at his eyes, one could see that there was a current of warmth swirling *inside*.

*His movements* were gentle, but the tone of his voice remained cold. "You're a Crawford, and you should learn how to stay calm instead of overacting over some minor thing. Your performance earlier was not up to my expectations. Remember, there's no *second chance*."

**Lanie** curled up in his father's arms. He was happy even though his father was lecturing him **seriously**.

"Mm!" He nodded and his **eyes sparkled**.

*Bianca* glanced at Luke unhappily and reprimanded him, "Lanie is still young. Why are you *so serious*?"

*When Luke* heard her voice, he was reminded of their intimate romp on the bed the night *before*...

**Bianca** had writhed and bloomed beneath his body, like a fairy of the **woods**.

**Luke** could feel his blood turning hot.

**He could** feel something hard between his legs.

was forming a bulge in his pants, ready

you hiding something in your pants, Daddy? Something is poking my foot," Lanie said as he felt his bare feet hit something

He looked at his father curiously.

Daddy have a tumor? We should bring Daddy to the hospital. He might have a tumor like Granny Florence and needs to cut it off..." Rainie sounded as though she was about to

was Lanie and Rainie's caretaker. She was very kind toward the two children, and they loved her very a tumor grew on her neck, and she had to stay in the hospital to remove

worried that Daddy would be like

Luke and Bianca were speechless.

sure you want Daddy to cut off the thing that would provide

looked at the bulge in Luke's pants. Her face was blushing

not expect that his urges would rise again, after what they did the

She wordlessly looked at Luke's eyes.

## **Chapter 248**

Now that she was not living alone, Bianca prepared more food for breakfast.



However, she had limited experience in preparing a meal for a family. She prepared many different items so that the children could eat what they wanted.

On the big breakfast table were ham sandwiches and scrambled eggs.

Next to them was French toast and fresh milk, and also oatmeal seasoned with vanilla and cinnamon.

In the middle of the table was a grilled salmon steak.

Luke was already dressed neatly in his business suit. He sat cross-legged on the chair, his casual posture giving him a natural air of nobility.

His sculpted features were perfect yet distant.

Bianca thoroughly appreciated the elegant way Luke ate his breakfast.

Lanie and Rainie were well-trained to take their meals without speaking. They sat next to Bianca and operated clumsily with their utensils.

When Bianca saw that, her motherly instincts were triggered, and she started to feed them.

She picked up a slice of ham with a fork and brought it toward her daughter's lips. "Open your mouth, Rainie," she said with a gentle smile.

Rainie lifted her head and looked at her mother. She opened her mouth, and the ham went inside.

That was not the first time she had eaten ham, but that was perhaps the best bite of ham she had ever tasted!

blinked smugly at her brother, as though saying, "Look, Mommy is

looked at his sister with his big and round eyes. He was shoveling oatmeal into

the mouthful of oatmeal and looked expectantly at his

yourself!" Luke said brusquely. He knew what his son

had never been spoon-fed by Bianca. He did not want his son to cultivate that

reprimanded by his father, Lanie could only take the spoon and

witnessed the scene. She knew that her father was talking to her brother, but it sounded like he was talking about herself

up her spoon and refused her mother's

Bianca thought that Luke was too harsh on

was just about to say something when a fork holding a small piece of salmon was brought to her

The two children's eyes popped!

'Daddy is feeding Mommy!'

a little embarrassed opening the mouth and slowly swallowing the piece of fish. She looked at Luke's handsome face and wondered what he

**Lanie** and Rainie looked at their father with their puppy **eyes**.

*Luke's eyes* met with the expectant gazes of his children and seemed to have a sudden pang of conscience. He picked up a big piece of salmon, removed the bones, and placed half of it on each of their **plates**.

**Lanie frowned** and grumbled, "But Daddy, Rainie and I don't like fish..."

*Rainie* added, "Yeah, Daddy knows that Big Bro and I don't like fish, but he's giving us fish. Don't you think that Daddy is **naughty**?"

The little girl turned to look at her mother for some **consolation**.

It was as though their father did not know what they liked to eat and what they *did not*.

*"If you* don't want to eat it, then you don't have to. I'll give you something else, alright?" Bianca spoke to her children patiently.

*Luke* did not lift his head, but his tone of voice was absolutely authoritative. "Kids should not be picky with their food. You have to finish the fish on your plates today."

He knew that Lanie and Rainie disliked fish, but it was not good for them to be picky about food at such a young age. He wanted to rid them of the *bad habit*.

"Stupid Daddy, I don't like fish! Bad Daddy! I hate you!" Rainie was usually obedient, but she found the courage to talk back, perhaps because her mother was on her *side*.

She pushed her plate away and said angrily, "I don't wanna eat fish. I **don't wanna**!"

Bang! Luke slammed the table.

All the plates and cutlery on the **table shook**.

pulled back his outstretched arm. 'Oh no, Daddy

Do you see that, Mommy? Daddy is forcing us to eat something we don't like. Boo hoo... I'm done

angrily hopped down from

to stop her, but the little girl had dashed away toward the

if you step out that door, then don't ever come back!" Luke said

A barefaced threat!

turned around to look at her father's ice-cold face and instantly lost her nerve. She turned around, sat back on the chair, picked up her fork, and started to eat the fish with tears in

found it incredulous that the man had used such brute means to educate

only five years old, Luke!" Bianca said with surprise, "Don't you think that you're too harsh on

the fish on your plates. I don't want to see a single scrap!" Luke ignored Bianca and continued to order his

wanna eat fish, I don't wanna..." Using her fork, Rainie angrily mashed the piece of fish in her plate into really full, Daddy. Can I eat this next time?" Lanie asked carefully while observing the changes in his Luke looked at the two children.

## **Chapter 249**

Luke let out a gentle sigh. Now that he had successfully cowed the two little ones, he had to take care of the big one. He failed as a father.

He stood up helplessly, went to Bianca's side, and gently hugged her delicate body into his steel-like arms.

He gently stroked her back and said, "Alright, it's all my fault. Don't be angry, OK? I'm afraid that they might grow up to be picky eaters, and that won't be good for their health. I won't be so harsh on them the next time."

Seeing that he was apologizing earnestly, Bianca decided to let the matter rest. "You've made your promise that you won't ever do what you did today. They're children after all."

Luke could breathe easier, seeing how Bianca became less angry.

God knows how much he cared for her feelings.

"..." Lanie and Rainie rested their cheeks on their hands. They could not believe what they saw.

Daddy changed a lot ever since Mommy was here.

They had nothing but admiration for Mommy for being able to tame the tyrant-like Daddy.

The episode at the breakfast table came to an end.

After breakfast, Luke brought Bianca and the two children to the hospital.

was Bianca's father's funeral today. She wanted to bring the two children to meet their grandfather for the first and

At the hospital.

smoke-filled car, Xavier smoked cigarette after cigarette. He stayed up for the

now, he held a burning cigarette in

knew who was the man by Bianca's side now, and how much she hated him. However, that did change how he felt for

felt bitter for how Bianca had been so cold toward

his legally wedded wife, but he had to stake out at the hospital just to meet her. He thought that it was incredibly ironic, though it was he who had married her using underhanded means in the

appearance of the family of four at the hospital entrance made his eyes

tall and well-built man was like a guardian angel, protecting the beautiful and delicate woman. They held the two angelic children with their hands as though they were the

family walked toward the hospital

**Xavier** could not calm down when he saw that *scene*.

**He** stubbed out the cigarette in his hand, kicked open the car door, and stomped his way out.

**He was** the one who had met Bianca *first*.

*Back* then, Bianca was too young and naïve, like an unripe peach. He wanted to wait for her *to mature*.

However, his generous gesture was not repaid in kind. That animal Luke Crawford had taken what belonged to him. How was Xavier going to take that **lying down**?

"*Bianca!*" *Xavier* grabbed Bianca's hand. His bloodshot eyes were filled with anger. "I'm your husband, but you don't let me know that something so serious has happened! Was I going to be oblivious to the news that my father-in-law has passed away, if not that I heard it from *someone else*?"

"*Let go* of me, Xavier!" Bianca wanted to remove her hand from his grip, but his hand was like a **metal vice**.

*Bianca sneered*. "Husband? I think you should know better than anyone else about how you managed to involve me in this travesty of a marriage... To me, you're nothing but a stranger. No, you're not even a stranger. You're an underhanded *scoundrel!*"

*Bianca's words* were like a rain of needles that stabbed into *Xavier's heart*.

*Xavier laughed* and pretended to be unaffected even though he was hurting inside. "So what? Even if you don't love me, your name is next to mine on the marriage certificate. As long as I'm here, you're my legally wedded wife. Your relationship with Luke Crawford can never be valid!"

Xavier felt a sharp pain on his wrist. He reflexively let go of Bianca's

around angrily and saw that Luke was gripping his wrist with such force that he thought that his wrist was going to

was dressed in a bespoke black suit that perfectly fitted his sculpted body. He looked as noble as usual, though his expression was so icy that the air around him seemed

was murderous. "Bianca's father's funeral is today, Xavier, and I'm not in the mood to deal with you. If you're here to pay your respects, then you may do as you please. If you're here to cause trouble, then I don't think that we can be

children seemed to have felt the weight in their father's words. They hid behind Bianca and looked at the two adult men without saying a

let go of Xavier's wrist, then walked with Bianca and the two children into

looked at his wrist that was still aching. A bruise

would deal with Luke later. The most important matter at hand was Bianca's father's  
In the morgue.

lay in the casket. His face was extremely

## **Chapter 250**

Xavier was Bianca's legal husband. He should have been in Luke's position, doing what Luke was doing. That was more than a joke!

Xavier walked to Kevin's casket, his heart filled with indignation and grievances. "I'm sorry that you've never met me while you're still alive. I'm Xavier, your son-in-law. It's a pity that Bianca and I didn't hold a grand wedding ceremony before you left. Don't worry. I'll hold the biggest wedding ceremony that the world has ever seen. Bianca shall be my wife and only my wife. I swear that I'll take good care of your two grandchildren too."

Xavier turned to look at Luke with an instigative gaze. As expected, the man's eyes flashed with hostility and curiosity.

'It's fine. He can have the upper hand for now.'

Xavier felt a little better when he saw that Luke was angry but could not release it.

However, fires of anger started burning once again in Xavier's heart when he saw Bianca, in her sorrow, being hugged and comforted by Luke.

'Bear with it.'

Xavier told himself repeatedly as he rubbed his throbbing temples.

It was not the time to raise a commotion. Otherwise, Bianca might hate him even more.

Bianca started speaking, "You've suffered a lot in your life, Father. Jennifer and her daughter only know how to exploit you like a money-making machine... you've been foolish to trust them and let them use you. I have to admit that I hate them to the bone. If not for those two pests, you wouldn't have suffered like this... Don't worry, Father. I'll reclaim justice for you."

Bianca remembered the scene in the security footage when the two avaricious women used those words that were dripping with poison to agitate the coughing, dying man just so that they could get a piece of his inheritance.

saw with her own eyes how her father had despaired, but she could not do anything to save his

moment, she wanted to crush Jennifer and Marie into a million

of determination flashed in her sorrowful eyes. She swore that Jennifer and her daughter would receive the punishment

single-handedly planned Kevin's funeral. It would be held at the Rayne family

had wanted to hold the funeral at the Tanner family house, but Bianca's words had extinguished

had said, "Xavier, if you want to hold a funeral for my father, then you can buy an urn. I will never let you touch my

that Bianca's frailty was only an exterior trait. Deep inside, she was extraordinarily unyielding. He could only swallow his pride and

is in a bad mood now because she has just lost her father. I shouldn't

see what happens after the

wreaths were placed all over the Rayne family house. The atmosphere was solemn and

Kevin's portrait was placed on the wall. His gentle gaze looked down upon the mourners in attendance. It was a **sorrowful scene**.

**Bianca** was dressed in black and wore a veil. Her face was as pale as a sheet of *paper*.

**She** kneeled in front of her father's portrait and stayed there, no moving. Only her flowing tears indicated that she *was alive*.

**The** two children were also dressed in black and stayed next to their mother.

Wanda was also dressed in black. Her face was *sorrowful*.

She did not expect that she missed the chance to meet her brother for one last time and that her sickly father remained oblivious to *the fact*.

Luke wore a black band on his arm. He helped Bianca attend to the visitors. Some of them were Kevin's colleagues and friends, and some were Luke's business partners who had come after hearing the news.

**They were** curious about why Luke would help an employee in his company manage her funeral.

**More** curiously, his two children were at the funeral and staying next to Bianca. Those usually shrewd businessmen could not figure out what was going *on*.

In any case, they used the opportunity to gain Luke's favor.

As businessmen, they prioritized their benefits.

knew what to say and what not to say. Their presence at the event was a mere social

the other side of the venue, Xavier was dressed in all black and was enthusiastically greeting the mourners using his identity as Kevin's

handsome men were guarding the door for Bianca. The tension between them was palpable, but at the same time, they acted in harmony with each other. The mourners were confused about what was going on, and some of them whispered to

and Tom, Bianca's colleagues, also came to mourn Bianca's father. They brought a wreath, then spoke to Bianca for a while before

did not know how Bianca's father suddenly passed away. Earlier, in a phone call, Bianca had even happily told her that her father's condition was

The loss was sudden and unexpected!

might not know the reason behind Bianca's father's sudden death, but she knew that Jennifer and Marie were arrested by the police. She could guess that the death had something with the two despicable

placed the wreath under Kevin's portrait and bowed solemnly at him. She bent down, patted Bianca's shoulder, and comforted her. "I'm so sorry for Uncle Kevin's passing, Bianca. You'll have to stay strong. Uncle Kevin wouldn't want to see you like

lifted her head. With her tear-filled eyes, she looked at the two children staying by her side and at Luke busily attending to the mourners at the entrance. She slightly nodded and felt a little