

Be Gentle 261

Chapter 261 Lanie Crawford Is Fiercely Protective of His Sister!

Xavier stepped forward and held Bianca's shoulders, not letting her leave.

He looked into her eyes and observed the changes in her expression.

Deep down inside, Bianca was not as calm as she looked.

She was bothered by what Xavier said. Tears were welling up in her eyes, but she tried to push Xavier away. "You don't have to try to break us apart. I'll believe Luke no matter what he does."

She took Nina's hand, and they walked away defiantly to the bus station.

Xavier did not give chase. His brows were tightly furrowed, and his fists tightened and loosened...

'You'll come back to me someday, Bianca.'

Bianca wanted to take the bus home, but in her irritable mood, she decided to go to the kindergarten to pick up the two children instead.

She gave Jason a call and found that he was on his way to pick up the children. She told him that she would be picking up the children with him today and asked him to wait for a while if he arrived first.

After ending the call, Bianca waved goodbye to Nina and took a cab to the kindergarten.

The kindergarten was only about four blocks away, and it was on the same side of the road. Bianca arrived there very soon.

the entrance, Bianca could hear several childish

Daddy is the CEO of a big company. He's a very important man!" A little boy said

can he be? Is he as important as my Daddy?" The familiar voice of a girl belonged

my Daddy is more important than your Daddy! He's very amazing!" The

not relent. 'My Daddy is the most important person. No one dares to talk back to my

boy was not going to admit defeat. "That's nothing. My Daddy is so important that even the teachers and the headmaster have to stand up straight when they see him,"

Daddy owns a big company with many, many people inside. All of them have to bow to my Daddy when they see him," Rainie said

great about it? I don't need to queue up in the clinic when I mention my Daddy's name!" The boy's voice

to have gotten the better of Rainie. She scratched her head and looked at Lanie. "Big Bro... he's

rubbed his temples. He thought that the two children were very childish, but he did not wish to see his sister being bullied,

was very protective of his

So do you admit that my Daddy is more important now?" The boy seemed very pleased

Lanie suddenly laughed.

He was as charming as a prince in a fairy tale, but somehow, the boy felt a chill course down his spine.

"If you say that your Daddy is so important, Simon, then let me ask you. Can your Daddy skip the queue when he takes the bus?" Lanie asked.

"Of course! You don't say?" The boy named Simon lifted his chin.

Lanie grinned. "Oh... so your Daddy takes the bus! My Daddy only drives his Bentley, Ferrari, Lamborghini, or Rolls-Royce. He never takes the bus." "... Simon looked at Lanie wordlessly.

Lanie held Rainie's hand and smiled charmingly. "Have you seen any important people take the bus, Simon?"

Simon opened his eyes wide. His plump cheeks were turning red with anger.

'Grrr! I've been tricked!'

Bianca nearly burst out in laughter when she heard the childish argument.

She knew that she should not encourage her children to brag about their father, but she did not know that her son was so cunning. Lanie ended the argument with one question and left the opponent at a loss for words.

"Lanie, Rainie, Mommy is here to pick you up..." Bianca waved at the two children and gently called out their names.

The two children were ecstatic when they saw their mother. Rainie pounced onto Bianca like a happy little sparrow. "Mommy!"

over and stood by Bianca's side like a

kissed Rainie's cheek. Then, she looked at the other

melted when she saw his

boy's face was round and plump. The skin was as fair as porcelain, his eyelashes were thick and long, and his eyes were big and animated. His face was perfect, and Bianca had the urge to squeeze

looked too arrogant, as though he was a spoiled

no resistance against a child so cute

at the boy. "What's your name, young man? Aren't your parents here to pick you up yet?" "Mommy, he's Simon Holston, the terror of Class 2. Not only does he like to pull my ponytail, but he also picks fights with the other boys. Even the teachers can't do anything about him... Mommy, let's leave him alone and go

was unhappy that Bianca's attention was focused

stunned for a while. Then, he walked toward Bianca with some

might be always picking fights with Rainie, but Rainie's Mommy looked beautiful

never met his own Mommy

a pang of jealousy when he saw Bianca kissing Rainie's cheek. Subconsciously, he wanted to get closer

Chapter 262 Such A Gentle Gaze...

Back at home, the two children went to the study and did their homework, while Bianca went to the kitchen to prepare dinner.

In the sink was a basin half-filled with water and two fishes. Bianca was going to prepare fish for dinner.

Fish was very nutritious. It was the perfect food for a child's physical and mental development.

Her children might be picky eaters, but Bianca wanted to try to change their food habits.

After seeing Luke and Mavis ride in the same car, she was not in her element.

She told herself not to overthink, but she could not control certain things.

She picked up a fish from the basin and treated it as Luke.

Whack! Whack! She hit the fish with the rolling pin, and it went still...

She wanted to give a call to Luke, but she thought that it was beneath her dignity to do so.

If Luke was really talking business with Mavis, then her call would be an unnecessary distraction.

However, she nevertheless felt uneasy when she was reminded of Xavier's words...

would rather not think about

the dining table was set up, and roast fish and maple syrup mashed potatoes were

to get the children to have

the dinner smells so good! I'm so hungry..." Rainie said cutely as she rubbed her growling

Rainie's nose gently with a finger. "Then you should eat more today." "Isn't Daddy come home for dinner tonight?" Lanie asked while shoveling a spoonful of mashed potatoes into his

glanced at the clock on the wall. It was getting

her head and said. "He's busy with work today. Be good children and eat your

children were very silent tonight. They ate their meal without any protest. After dinner, they were beginning

helped them take a bath. In the bedroom, she tucked them into the quilt and patted their heads. "Good night," she said

two children slowly closed their eyes and mumbled good

children looked almost identical. It was a

ran her fingers across the children's smooth and delicate skin. She smiled when she remembered that the children were the proof of the love between her and the man of her

However, she became nervous as the clock continued to tick, but Luke showed no signs of **returning...**

Classical music played in the high-class *restaurant*.

It was a popular dining spot **for couples**.

Luke sat in front of the table. His bespoke Armani suit and handsome, sculpted face gave him a noble aura like *no other*.

The lights shone diagonally on his face, which gave him an air of mystery.

Mavis fiddled with the foie gras on her plate half-heartedly, trying very hard to suppress her infatuation with Luke. "Now that Lanie and Rainie are growing up, I wonder if you have time to pursue a relationship, Mr.

Crawford?"

Luke leaned back on his chair and looked directly at Mavis. "I didn't know that you're interested in my personal life, Ms. Laviere." "I guess it's because I'm getting older, and that makes me focus on different things in life. I used to be singularly focused on work. Work is still important to me now, but I'm beginning to pay more attention to my relationships and health. You are an outstanding man, Mr. Crawford. I wonder what would your ideal woman look like?"

Ever since she started working for Luke, she knew that the man kept his personal life *secret*.

He was never fond of appearing in the limelight. One could count on one hand the number of times he made a public appearance. Of course, no one had seen him with **a woman**.

She had thought that the boss was not interested in **women**.

When she found out that the boss had a pair of children, she was both shocked and *angry*.

she could not find out who the mother was. That had discouraged

she was not going to let the children become an obstacle. As far as she knew, Luke was

eventually be Luke's wife if she tried

image appeared in Luke's mind as he looked at Mavis. 'She should be about five-foot-five. She should also have straight black hair, big eyes, fair skin, and a

heart sank when she heard Luke describe his

was five foot eight and had curly hair, not to mention her aggressive personality. It was the total opposite of Luke's ideal

asking the same question a few

back then was that he liked a diligent and assertive woman that could help him in his

was why she had strived to become Luke's ideal woman. Now that she had the personality, his preferences had changed. That made

her beautiful and came from a wealthy family. At work, she was capable and diligent. In her opinion, no one would be a better fit for Luke than she

she saw Luke's gaze turn gentle and indulgent when he described his ideal woman. At that moment, she suddenly had an urge to

all her years working with him, she had never seen his gaze become so

Chapter 263 Bianca's Heart Skipped A Beat!

Luke finally returned home late at night.

When he opened the bedroom door, he was greeted by the tranquil scene of Bianca sleeping with the two children.

The two children were neatly tucked under the quilt.

Bianca was dressed in a silk nightgown. Her limbs that were as fair as ivory were outside of the blanket. Her cheeks were so soft and tantalizing...

Luke pinched Bianca's cheeks, which woke her up.

Bianca opened her eyes groggily. She looked like a newborn fawn.

Luke could feel his abdomen become tight when he saw Bianca's innocent yet alluring appearance.

"You're back.*" Bianca rubbed her eyes.

Luke hugged her and gently kissed her forehead. "I'll go take a shower. You should sleep."

He tucked Bianca under the blanket and said to her as though reprimanding a child, "You're already an adult, but you still kick the blanket when you're sleeping. What if you catch a cold?"

Bianca wanted to say something, but he kissed her and walked away to the bathroom.

Bianca looked at his back, not sure how she should react...

In her hand was a brown strand of hair. She caught it on his shoulder when they hugged.

She wondered if he had noticed it.

Looking at the strand of long hair, she was not sure how to feel.

hair was straight and blank, but the strand of hair was curly

did not come from her head,

'Is it from Ms. Laviere?'

Luke was done with his shower. He was a very efficient man, whether at work or in

out of the bathroom, wearing nothing but a towel around his

Bianca stared at him.

say, the man was outstanding. Not only was he incredibly wealthy, but he also had a handsome face and a sculpted body that made women

did not have an ounce of extra fat. His muscles gave some texture to his skin, but they were

muscular legs were strong and

walked into the bedroom barefoot, his hair still glistening

so many women fell for

eyes, Bianca was just as

in her pajamas, her face unadorned by make-up, was

dry my hair." He could have done it herself, but he wanted her to do so.

hair was soft and comfortable to

The two children's hair was just *like his*.

The weather outside was cold, but there was a heater in the room. His hair dried very **quickly**.

Luke noticed that Bianca was behaving differently. He looked at her, slightly *confused*.

Bianca felt a little better when their eyes met.

"**What's** wrong? Is something the matter?" Luke was not good at reading expressions, but even he could tell that Bianca was not in a **good mood**.

However, he did not know why she was behaving like that.

'She was still fine yesterday. What happened *today*?'

Bianca turned her head away, feeling restless.

'He went out to dinner with Ms. Laviere for so long. Doesn't he know how to explain himself?'

It might have been just a normal dinner, but how was he going to explain the strand of hair she found *on him*?

Seeing that she did not speak, Luke carried Bianca onto the bed, turned off the bedside light, and hugged **her close**.

Bianca could not sleep that night. Her conviction began *to waver*...

When Bianca woke up the next morning, Luke was already gone. The two children were still **sleeping**.

Bianca felt a little lost. She would have thought that Luke had not returned, if not that his scent lingered on the *bedsheets*.

She got out of bed and noticed that he had left a note on the **bedside table**.

for a business trip. I need to take care of something in Western Europe. Sorry that I can't be with you and the kids at the breakfast table. I'll be back as soon as the matter is dealt with.

a little better after reading

to keep her faith

set the plates and the food at the dining table. She prepared all the food that the children

stared at her own plate, unable to take even

are you thinking, Mommy? Let's eat together!" Rainie pulled her mother's arm. She

let's eat." Bianca picked up her spoon and shoveled the oatmeal into her

Lanie and Rainie were surprised.

'What's wrong with Mommy today?'

breakfast, Bianca cleaned the table while Jason came to pick up

a Porsche today. The two children hopped into the car with

not want to be late for work. She asked Jason if she could ride in his

had just opened the car door when Rainie suddenly said, "Mommy, did I leave my English textbook in Daddy's black car? Can you help me look for it? The cover is green, and I need it for class

that Rainie was a scatterbrain. She shook her head helplessly and went off to look for

several cars of

Chapter 264 It Was Painful, But It Cleared Her Mind...

Jason dropped the children at school, then drove toward the company.

Bianca sat in the back seat. The window was open, and she allowed the cold, piercing wind to blow on her face.

The wind cut her delicate skin like a knife. It was painful, but it allowed her mind to be clear.

Jason glanced at her and said, "The weather is cold today, Ms. Rayne. Mr.

Crawford will blame me if you catch a cold."

Bianca shook her head but did not reply to him. She closed her eyes.

Jason was curious when he saw how languid Bianca looked. Did she have a fight with the boss?

He did not think so.

After being his boss's assistant for so many years, he knew how important Bianca was to Luke.

Luke loved her more than anything else in the world. Why would he fight with her?

Meanwhile, in a shopping mall.

Allison was dressed in a luxurious white fur coat and held two bulging shopping bags in her hand. She was at the checkout counter with two of her rich lady friends.

The shopping bags were filled with luxury items.

Allison's favorite hobby, other than spa makeovers, was shopping. She found that nothing was more enjoyable in life than having money to spend.

She had enough of being poor.

her beautiful face and underhanded tactics, she had successfully lured in Luke's father. Then, using her son as a threat, she became the lawfully wedded wife of Zachary Crawford and enjoyed the high life that came with the

if she was a despicable

what if Zachary's previous wife was

was most important was that she found a position in the

only had she defeated Susan Armstrong, but her son was also in total control of T Corporation. She was set for the rest of her

that Kevin Rayne was dead, the only blemish in her life was gone. Allison thought that whatever she did in her life was totally worth

she swiped her credit card, the sales clerk told her, ' I'm sorry, Madam, but you have reached your credit limit. Do you have another

the credit card on the table, which frightened the sales clerk. "Don't you know who I am? How can my card reach the credit

had set a credit limit on his mother's credit card so that she did not

all, money did not grow on

month, she received ten million dollars from the company's finance department. Once she used it up, that

vain, and she spent her money recklessly. She reached her credit limit especially early this

next to Allison also spoke up. "You'd better not be mistaken. I'll let you know that his son is very rich. You can't afford to offend Mrs.

On the other side was Mrs. Mallory, looking at the sales clerk with disdain. ' You're just a wage-earner. How dare you talk back to Mrs. Crawford? Do you still want *your job*?'

The sales clerk felt miserable. She was only telling the truth, so how did that become *talking back*?

With no other choice, the sales clerk showed them the screen on which the list of items and the credit limit notification was displayed. "I'm not mistaken, Madam. You've exceeded your credit limit. The total of the items is \$1,049,000, and the reminder says that you don't have enough on your credit **card**."

Allison scowled. She immediately gave Jason a call, telling him to contact the finance department to increase her credit **limit**.

'I can certainly do that, Madam, but I'll have to ask for approval from Mr. Crawford first," *Jason replied.*

'*You're useless!*" She yelled through the **phone**.

She gave a call to Luke, but his phone was *switched off!*

Meanwhile, Leia was in her disguise and was strolling around in the shopping mall with her agent when she saw Allison at the checkout counter.

Naturally, Leia had investigated the family situation of the man she was infatuated with. She recognized who Allison *was*.

Allison was already more than half a century old, but her face was well- *maintained*.

The fur coat that she wore gave her an air *of nobility*.

However, Leia could tell from Allison's speech and mannerisms that she was nothing more than a *philistine*.

She was not a true socialite, like her adopted **mother Queenie**.

However, she knew how to take advantage of people like Allison. They were easy to flatter and easier **to manipulate**.

would have despised a woman like Allison, but Allison was Luke's mother. That was why Leia
pay for this, madam." Leia placed her golden credit card on

turned and smiled at Allison while introducing herself. "Nice to meet you, Madam. You're Luke's mother, right? I'm Leia Norman, one of Luke's friends and a spokesperson for one of the perfume brands of his
could not help but size up

had thin eyebrows and big eyes. She did not look like she underwent plastic surgery like other celebrities. Her facial features were petite and delicate, and she had a

leaned toward Allison's ear and whispered. "Leia Norman is a popular celebrity. I've heard that her father is Jack Norman, the Provincial

husband often had secret rendezvouses with third-rate celebrities, and Mrs. Willow herself was not a stranger to the happenings in the entertainment industry. She knew about Leia Norman, a second-rate actress that only became popular because of

heard what Mrs. Willow told her, she instantly smiled. "I thought that you're a beautiful woman on TV, but I didn't expect that you look better in real life. You shouldn't pay for me. I'll get Luke to transfer the money to you when I get back!" "Don't mention it, Madam, it's nothing much,"

you're too kind." Allison held Leia's hand and did not let go. "It's more than a million dollars. It's not a small sum." 'It's fine.'" Leia flashed a sweet smile. "This is my first time meeting you. Consider it as

continued to decline Leia's offer a few times but eventually accepted

laughed happily and asked, "You're so pretty, Leia. You should already have a boyfriend,

lowered her head. "You must be joking, Madam. I've been focused on my work for the past few years, and I don't have time for a relationship." "You have so many good qualities, but you don't have a boyfriend? Oh my god! Why don't you be my daughter-in-law?" Allison said in

don't say, Allison. Leia is so beautiful, and her family is of matching status. I think she'll be a good match for Luke," Mrs. Willow

my son is too young. Otherwise, I'd love to have a daughter-in-law like Leia...' Mrs.

Chapter 265 She Was Stunned By Luke's Charisma!

Bianca seemed absent-minded the entire workday. She made many mistakes, and the department lead glared at her.

"What's wrong? Is something bothering your mind?" Sue and Nina had asked her.

Bianca shook her head and said nothing. Some things were not meant to be shared with other people.

She tried to find many reasons to convince herself to trust Luke.

Eventually, she could not hold back her doubts anymore and gave Luke a call.

She dialed his number several times. The response she always got was, ' Sorry, the number you have dialed is not in service."

Her heart sank to the bottom of the abyss...

She got off work right on time and returned to the apartment.

though she had two children by her side, Bianca felt that the family was incomplete without a children ate their dinner silently. She turned on the television was a news

and well-built man in her dreams appeared on

instantly recognized the man. She pointed at the man with a finger and exclaimed in surprise, "Look, Mom, Daddy's on

Lanie was eating his risotto in small bites, though his eyes were transfixed on the figure on the

was surprised. She did not expect to see Luke on the financial

dressed in a fitting business suit. His sculpted face looked handsome

gaze was cold and distant, which gave him a noble temperament that made him stand out from

He was surrounded by reporters with cameras and bombarded by piercing questions. He maintained his composure while he answered those questions, though one could see from his slightly drooping lips that he was not very **happy**.

A bearded foreign reporter asked, "Mr. Crawford, the Regal Chain of Restaurants under T Corporation is one of the most popular restaurant chains in Western Europe. The main reason why Regal is so popular is because of your relentless pursuit of quality. Recently, a reporter went undercover as a waiter and found many underlying problems in one of your restaurants. Let's not mention that the training was more like a formality, but even the employees did not bother to sanitize the kitchen utensils properly. Moreover, there was a problem with passing dead fish and shrimp for live ones, and also with using recycled oil and artificial fruit juices. What is your opinion on that, Mr. *Crawford*?"

Luke's eyes narrowed slightly, and his gaze turned cold. His voice was booming **and intimidating**.

The reason why T Corporation grows year after year is because we are a credible company. I will make a promise to every one of you here - We never pass dead animals as live ones! The Regal Chain of Restaurants has always kept true to the principle of immediately discarding any dead marine produce. There is no worry about us using artificial fruit juices, and we have long-term contracts with the most qualified waste oil disposal company. Furthermore, T Corporation owns the biggest vegetable plantation in the country, and I can guarantee with my reputation that we only use the freshest ingredients. We will spare no expense in conducting investigations if those incidents you mentioned happened, but I can tell you right now that they are mere rumors!" 1

The reporters that surrounded him quietened down a little after Luke made his convincing speech, but more reporters wanted to raise an issue.

A tall, brown-haired reporter squeezed to the front and *spoke*, "Mr.

Crawford, your statement is very different from the information that the media has received. By speaking on behalf of a brand under your company, aren't you harboring their faults? Last month, an investigation of the *Meat*

Locker in the Oxford area found that they have been using filtered recycled oil, and that restaurant happens to belong to the Regal Chain of Restaurants. Mr. Crawford, you said earlier that using recycled oil was a mere rumor, so how do you **explain that**?"

The other reporters burst into laughter.

reporters did not want to see a foreign chain perform so well in their country. They were not happy that T Corporation owned almost half of the restaurants in the

they had the perfect opportunity to put down the Regal Chain of Restaurants, they were not going to wait for the answer from T Corporation's

an incisive question. If Luke did not give a satisfactory answer, that would cause T Corporation's century-old reputation to be in

cameras flashed non-stop. They were eager to find out more about this

two children did not understand what was going on in the news report, but they were happy to see their father appear on television. Bianca stared at Luke nervously, as though she was the one being surrounded by reporters. She did not know what

remained composed throughout the interview. He did not seem to be bothered by the questions at

glanced at the brown-haired reporter who asked the question, noticed the company on his microphone, and started to speak

was loud and authoritative, as though his statements were not to be questioned. "You're from the New Metro Times, right? Didn't your paper get sued by multiple companies two weeks ago for false news? As far as I know, your reporting has been proven to be almost always based on hearsay, and your company has at least three ongoing lawsuits. Can your paper stop publishing sensational news to boost

Chapter 266 Taking Possession of Bianca

On the television, Mavis was dressed elegantly. Her curly hair was swept to her back, which made her look diligent and capable.

Standing next to Luke, they seemed like a match made in heaven.

Luke looked directly at the camera with a mature and determined gaze.

He remained calm in the face of the reporter's incisive questions. "The restaurants under T Corporation have been maintaining a high standard of quality, the proof of which can be obtained from the FDA. I suspect that there is some other reason that is causing the problems faced by the Regal Chain of Restaurants. We are still investigating whether it is a natural or a man-made cause. Once the results of the investigation are out, T Corporation will host a press conference and give the public a satisfactory answer!"

Bianca frowned.

The Regal Chain of Restaurants under T Corporation was facing some problems about the quality of their food in Western Europe.

The problem was not so much about financial loss, but rather the loss of reputation of a century-old company.

Reputation was very important for a multinational company.

If T Corporation could not solve those problems, then they will suffer from public criticism, which will negatively affect their expansion in the region.

After Luke, Mavis continued to answer the questions from the reporters. 1

She carried a strong and dominating presence. Her answers were sound and valid. No one could offer a retort.

all, she was famous for her passion and versatility at work, just

did she answer the questions from the reporters perfectly, but she also skillfully deflected the problems back to the

reporters were stunned when they heard Mavis's answers and praised that she was indeed Luke's strongest

at the scene in a daze. She was assailed by an inexplicable feeling

were the one standing next to Luke at that moment, she could not say that she would perform as brilliantly

that she was not very good with words. Meanwhile, Mavis was not only renowned for her extraordinary looks, but also her highhanded approach to matters and her outstanding

was the first time that Bianca felt inferior in

Luke needed the most was a strong and capable woman that could keep up with

soft and pliable. Not only could she not bring him any benefit to his work, but she might even also be a

did you turn off the TV, Mommy? I can't

Rainie suddenly protested.

came to her senses. She had subconsciously turned off the

She picked up the cute little girl that had run to her side and placed her on the couch. "Daddy is overseas handling some business. He will be back in a few days. Have you finished your **dinner**?"

Bianca found solace in the little girl in her arms. She was still a **good mother**.

Rainie nodded.

The little girl might not be as perceptive or considerate as her brother, but she could see that her mother was acting **weirdly recently**.

'**Mommy would** randomly space out. I wonder why? Is it because of Daddy?' "You should rest today, Mommy. Big Bro and I will do the dishes," Rainie said *coyly*.

"Be a good boy, Lanie. Go and play with your little sister. I'll go and do the dishes. You can help me with my chores when you're older..." Bianca said

gently as she stroked Lanie's hair.

Bianca was comforted by her two obedient and considerate *children*.

However, they were only five years old, too young to be helping with **chores**.

Some children from poor families were forced to be independent at that age, but that was because they had no *other choice*.

Bianca kissed the two children's cheeks and turned on the television again.

into their favorite cartoon channel and took out their toys. Then, she walked to the kitchen, filled with

Late at night.

drank a little too much at the karaoke bar with her

goodbye to her friends and stood by the roadside, waiting for

couple walking toward her while cuddling each other caught her full

knew who the man was. He was Xavier Tanner, the

in his arms had long hair and a pure face. She wore a white Chanel-style jacket, a deerskin miniskirt, and a pair of modern high-heeled boots. Her legs were bare, despite the cold

Nina most was that the woman looked somewhat similar

not that she knew that Bianca would not dress up so provocatively, she might have thought that the woman was Bianca from

Xavier did not notice Nina.

kissed the woman while cuddling her as they walked toward the hotel

brazenly reached into the woman's miniskirt. "Just you wait, my little honeybun, I'll pamper you real good..." "Don't be like that. Mmh... we're still in public..." the woman gasped while she pushed him away, though her body did not

Chapter 267 Luke Loses His Temper

The night sky was as dark as ink, and all was silent.

The two children had gone to bed a long time ago. Bianca remained in front of the computer, creating designs.

Bianca was not in the mood to work, but she had no choice.

Once she stopped working, all sorts of questions and doubts would fill her brain.

The clock struck eleven. Bianca stared at the computer screen for a long time.

The man had not given her a call.

She went to the bathroom and took a shower, trying to keep herself awake. Dressed in a nightgown, she sat in the living room and tried calling Luke's number again.

Bianca was afraid to hear the dreaded automated voice again. The phone rang for almost a minute, but no one picked up.

Just when she was about to hang up, someone answered the call.

"Hello?" It was the voice of a woman.

All of a sudden, Bianca's eyes misted, and she felt her heart wrench. She tried to keep her voice calm and steady and asked, "I'm looking for Luke Crawford. Is he there?" "Oh? Luke is in the bathroom now. Who is this? I'll tell him to call you back when he's done," the woman's voice replied.

Bianca was stunned for a long time and ended the call.

Then, she turned off her phone as though she was trying to hide from something.

She pulled her nightgown. The heater in the room was on, but she felt cold.

moonlight shining through the windows gave a

was trembling. She felt

the woman doing in the man's room so late at night? Did that

had said to her, "My phone will always be turned on for you. You will always be able to

That promise had felt so comforting.

it had become a cruel

Bianca's heart was wrenching miserably.

In the hotel suite.

looked at the screen after the call was abruptly cut. The name on the screen was

corners of her lips curled upward into a

deleted the call record and gently placed the phone on the

position and angle of the phone were exactly the same as how it was before she picked it

always been a meticulous worker. She would not leave any evidence of

just placed the phone down when Luke stepped out of

He was dressed in a loose bathrobe. On his knockout gorgeous face was a pair of profound eyes whose gaze was as frigid as a glacier. They might seem gentle, but there was no hint of mercy in them.

His thin lips were redder than a woman's. They looked seductive, but at the same time, **uncaring**.

That man who was more beautiful and elegant than a woman had singlehandedly brought T Corporation to its current position with his shrewd perception and merciless tactics.

Only a man like Luke could be a match with **Mavis**.

Luke's expression turned cold when he saw Mavis present in his room. "It's already so late. Is there anything?"

Mavis lifted her head and revealed her snow-white *neck*.

She was dressed in a sheer nightgown. All the curves of her figure were bared in plain sight.

She believed that if she flaunted her charms, no man would be able to resist *her*.

The corners of her lips curled slightly upward, flashing a smile at Luke. It carried the maturity of a grown woman and the bewitching glamor of a **pixie**.

She pointed at the piping hot supper on the table and said, "You've been busy the entire day, Mr. Crawford, and you haven't eaten anything. I got the kitchen to make some supper for you. Eat something. If not for me, you ought to make sure you're healthy for the benefit of T *Corporation*."

Luke remained indifferent. "There's no need. I'm not hungry. You've also worked hard today, Ms. Laviere. You should go back and **rest**."

He picked up the phone on the **table**.

Mavis's long eyelashes obscured her *true feelings*.

Luke did not seem to notice anything wrong with his phone. He gave Bianca a phone *call*.

dialed her number several times, but her phone was

Luke's expression sank instantly!

had been busy the entire day handling the company's PR crisis, and he had to negotiate several purchase

so busy that he did not have the time to eat or rest. Of course, he did not have time to give Bianca a

wanted to wait until late at night when it was peaceful so that he could speak to

did not expect that she had turned off her

understood Bianca well. If she did not receive his call, she would not be able to

Luke in a bad mood. He picked up the glass to take a sip of water but found that the glass was empty. In a fit of rage, he flung the glass toward the

shattered loudly into a million pieces when it struck

shocked by Luke's sudden

as she knew, Luke had always been calm and collected. She had never seen him throw a tantrum. Was it because of

thought of that possibility, Mavis could not help but

woman was so normal that she was almost forgettable. What made her so special that the man she loved would throw a tantrum

another glass and poured a glass of warm water for him. "Are you OK?" She asked

Chapter 268 He Was Alerted by the Flash of the Camera!

Meanwhile, Nina followed Xavier and the woman in his arms into the hotel and watched them enter the elevator.

The high-class hotel prioritizes the privacy of its customers. To ensure that she could capture video evidence of Xavier's affair, she had to pretend to be a customer and pay a hefty amount of money to stay in the room next to them.

When Nina went into the elevator and swiped the access card, a drunken man stumbled into the elevator at the same time.

The drunkard was tall and burly. He wore a black baseball cap which obscured his face.

He was heavily intoxicated, and his body fell on Nina. Nina was livid and kicked him away.

"Ding!" The elevator arrived at Nina's floor.

Nina quickly stepped out of the elevator, but the drunkard grabbed onto the hem of her shirt and did not let her go. He kept calling her "Hey, chick," and tried to fondle her breasts.

Nina was about to blow her top because of the drunkard's antics. In a fit of rage, she hooked the drunkard's elbow and heavily slammed him into the elevator wall.

Bang! The man fell on the floor, and his black baseball cap fell from his head. His sinister face was brought into view.

"Why does he look so familiar?" Nina looked at that face and wondered.

Nina crouched on the floor and carefully looked at his face. He had a sculpted face with deep-seated features.

His facial features were handsome, but he looked more like a scoundrel.

Nina soon recognized who he was.

He was Pierre Mallory, her nightmare in elementary and middle school.

was notorious for being a playboy. He had started flirting with girls when he was in middle school, and he changed a girlfriend every three days. Nina was his classmate for several years, and she hated people like him. However, he liked to play pranks on her and had often

the third year of middle school, Pierre went overseas to further his studies. She thought that she would never see him again, and she was very happy

not expect to meet him under such circumstances. He was still

him several more times. After all, he was drunk, and he would not know who had

her anger, Nina carefully walked toward Room

a wild stroke of luck, the door was ajar. Perhaps the couple was too much in a hurry to do

Nina was ecstatic.

asked a lawyer about how to force

lawyer had said that if the woman could find concrete evidence of the man's extramarital affairs, the court will side with the woman and enforce

not going to let that opportunity slip

took out her phone and stuck it through a crack in the

lay on the crumpled sheets of the king-sized bed. His eyes were narrowed, and his expression was obscured by his long

thin and sexy lips were slightly open, gaping hedonistically because of the sensory

woman squatted on the floor. Her lips and tongue were working diligently on his most

She moaned sensually, continuously tempting Xavier.

"Daddy, I want..." The young woman said *coyly*.

Xavier lowered his head and lifted her chin. "You want it? Then work harder!" He **smiled menacingly**.

The young woman moved her mouth with greater *frequency*.

Xavier let out a low roar.

Just when he was going to pin the young woman on the bed, he was alerted by the flash of **a camera!**

'Oh shucks!'

Nina was about to kick herself because of her carelessness. In a hurry to capture evidence, she had forgotten to turn off the flash of her phone camera. That **ruined everything!**

She kept her phone away, turned around, and started to *run*.

She only took a few steps when she felt a hand grip the back of *her neck*.

The hand was very strong. She almost could *not breathe*.

Tremblingly, Nina turned around to look at the owner of the hand. Her eyes met Xavier's cruel and bloodthirsty smile...

Bianca slept fitfully that night and woke up early the next morning.

It was the weekend and she did not have to wake up so early. However, she had a headache that kept her awake, and she did not have the habit of *lazing in bed*.

her two children, who were still asleep, and turned on her phone that had been switched off the entire many missed call notifications, all from

She also received a text message.

was too busy yesterday, and I couldn't find the time to call you. I'm sorry. When I'm not by your side, please try not to turn your phone off. I'll be worried if I can't contact you. Please give me a call after you read

the phone onto the

She felt weak.

things happened in the past two days. Her head was in

troubled by those baseless

her clothes and prepared to

home, she was dressed in a T-shirt and jeans. The simple clothes on her tall and slender body made her look pure and beautiful like a college

went into the bathroom to brush her teeth. When she stepped out, she heard her phone

call was from Nina. She was about to pick up the call when it ended. Soon, she received a

I'm in Room 6617 of Yale Hotel. There's something I have to discuss with you. Come over here

Bianca was quite surprised.

Chapter 269 Bianca Trembled With Fear!

The suspicion in Bianca's heart grew stronger as she neared the room...

Her heart was beating faster and faster, though she forced herself to be calm.

She knocked the door twice out of courtesy, and she heard a low and familiar male voice coming from inside. 'Come in.'

She pushed open the door and smelled a strong scent of cigarettes which made her even more nervous.

Looking around the room, she did not see Nina inside. Just when she was about to turn around and leave, a hand pulled her into the room from behind, and the door closed with a bang.

Alarm bells rang in Bianca's heart when she saw Xavier!

She did not know what was going on. "Did you send the message using Bianca's phone, Xavier? What do you want?" She asked angrily. 4

Xavier cackled ominously. He gripped Bianca's chin and wanted to force a kiss on her.

Bianca was not going to yield. She reflexively slapped him, but he caught her wrist in time.

Xavier appreciated Bianca's body with his eyes. He kneaded her fair and delicate wrists, and his thumb rubbed her palm.

Bianca lifted her left arm, but he tutted at her.

placed a finger on her lips to tell her to be quiet. "Be a good girl. You don't always have to be so physical when you meet your husband. Did you come here just to slap me? Don't you want to know what happened to your BFF? If you listen to me, I might tell you something about

glared at her and suppressed her disgust. "Do you want to go to prison

He ignored her threat and kissed her face

dodged. Xavier's expression sank immediately, and he gripped her lower jaw hard as though he wanted to crush her

woman was weaker than the man. Moreover, Bianca wanted Xavier to tell her what happened to Nina, and so she did not want to agitate him even more. She glared at him with hatred in

involve other people in our matters, Xavier. Nina is innocent. Don't channel your hatred to her." Bianca's lips were trembling out

cackled ominously. "It's either you spread your legs, or you can wait for something bad to happen to your BFF. You decide!" "You're insane!" Bianca

held her chin high, and Bianca glared defiantly at Xavier's sinister gaze with no intention to

still pretending to be virtuous? You're already not a virgin. I wonder how many times you've made out with Luke Crawford. I'm your legally wedded husband, so I should be the one to make out with you. Do you think I'll forgive you for cuckolding me?" Xavier

expression was as savage and ruthless as usual, as though he was going to snap off her lower jaw at any snapped, though in the next moment, Xavier's lips kissed heavily on

His kiss was forceful and violent, as though he was going to crush her face. Bianca could not struggle out of it. She was getting dizzy, and in her desperation, she bared her teeth and wanted to bite him.

Xavier knew what was coming and quickly let **go**.

Bianca wiped her lips as though they had touched **something filthy**.

She was about to open her mouth when he abruptly lifted her off her feet and flung her on the king-sized bed.

Bianca bounced on the bed once, and Xavier pounced on her body.

Bianca was trembling with fear. She recklessly kicked at him while screaming hysterically. "This is assault, Xavier! I will sue you!"

Xavier took in the refreshing scent of the woman pinned under him. He pressed down on the soft and delicate *body*.

"After being married to me for so long, it's about time you fulfilled your duties as a wife," he said smugly.

"Get off me! We'll be divorced soon, and I'm not your wife. If you dare lay a finger on me, Luke will never forgive you!" Bianca could not move, and her face was red with anger. She tried to use Luke's name to scare him **away**.

However, she did not expect that mentioning Luke's name only agitated *Xavier*.

Xavier was not happy that he had to play second fiddle to Luke for all these years. Whenever he was reminded of that fact, his anger would grow in intensity.

had to mention Luke's

that animal, had claimed what was supposed to be his. The anger suppressed in his heart was about to explode like

about Luke? He's the one who snatched you from me. How dare you mention his name? If you dare mention the divorce again, Bianca, I'll kill you!" Xavier was violently ripping Bianca's clothes away. He was about to crush her

meek Bianca seemed to have lost her mind at that moment. She clawed, kicked, and bit him as though only one of them would be leaving the room alive. However, Xavier was far stronger, and he easily subdued

skin was fair and soft with a hint of pink. Xavier ran his fingers over her skin which was as smooth as milk. He was getting excited that he would be tasting her goodness

one hand, he gripped both of Bianca's wrists so that she could not

he was tearing off Bianca's jeans, she suddenly stopped moving and did not

at Bianca's face, but she was still as though she was

across her pale face, though her eyes were bloodshot and brimming with her hatred and disgust

moment, he lost all interest. He got up from the bed and lit a cigarette from the box on the bedside cabinet. Like a skeleton that had lost its soul, he took drag after drag, forcing himself to calm

was no point in forcing

Chapter 270 Will You Agree to Anything?

Bianca was trembling with rage. She tried her best to suppress her feelings and managed to calm herself down.

"Don't involve other people in our matters, Xavier. Nina is innocent. I hope that you can let her go." Bianca forced herself to be calm, but she found that she could not be calm at all.

Xavier stubbed out his cigarette and looked into her eyes. "That'll be easy, Bianca. I don't want the divorce." "Xavier Tanner, you despicable man!" Bianca wanted to tear him into a thousand pieces.

"It's not like you don't know me. I'm willing to do anything as long as I achieve my ends!"

Xavier was not embarrassed by Bianca's reproach. Instead, that piqued his interest. "The man in the video is Pierre Mallory, the Second Young Master of the Mallory family. You should have heard about the Mallory family, right? Pierre is a vicious one. He always repays his grudges no matter how small they may be. If you're lucky, you might survive after losing a hand or a foot. If you're not, you'll be sleeping with the fishes. Your silly friend kicked Pierre while he was drunk. What do you think Pierre would do to her? Oh, right, it's not the end for her yet. I'm considered good friends with Pierre, and he owes me a favor. If I give the word, there might still be hope for your friend. Of course, that'll depend on your performance."

Bianca was turning numb. "Xavier, you can ask for anything other than canceling the divorce."

Xavier sneered and towered over her. "Ask for anything? Can I ask for you then? Will you give yourself to me?"

Bianca was laughing out of her anger toward his shamelessness.

his hand on her shoulder. Bianca felt as though a poisonous cobra was entangling her. Her back was straight, and goosebumps rose all over

not seem to be bothered by her fear. He leaned close to her ear and whispered, "You don't have to worry about the divorce. If I want the divorce, I'll let you know, but I can tell you that you're destined to be my woman for the rest of

"What's the point of all this, Xavier? A marriage without love is like gripping a handful of sand. Try as you may, the sand grains will eventually slip away. You should understand that a marriage like this brings both parties nothing but agony and torment." "It might be agony, but it's sweet agony. I enjoy the process of being restrained and tormented." "How can you be so stubborn?" Bianca screamed. "You only live once, so why would you waste your time on a woman who doesn't love you? We are not compatible at all. I've said many times that I will hate you for as long as I live." "I will make you love me." He said determinedly as he abruptly hugged her waist and brought

impossible. I will divorce you!" Bianca gritted her

eyes flashed with hostility. He pinched her delicate cheek. "Just wait and collect your BFF in a bodybag never felt so defeated. Her chest was filled with anger and grievances, but she had nowhere to release that she had fallen farther into her nightmare, toward the dark abyss of death. She struggled thumping of her heart told her that she was still

'What... should I do?'

Friendship and love were equally important to her. She could not live on if she lost either one...

Meanwhile, the two children had already changed their clothes, made their bed, and were watching cartoons **on television**.

They did not see their mother when they woke up, but they saw a note that their mother left them. She said that she had something important to do and would be back *soon*.

The two children did not throw any tantrums. Instead, they changed out of their pajamas, brushed their teeth, sat on the couch, and turned on the television to watch cartoons while waiting for their mother **to return**.

Ding dong. The doorbell to the apartment *rang*.

"*Can* you go and see who it is, Big Bro? Is Mommy back?" Rainie turned to look curiously at the front door. Her hair was fluffy and **unkempt**.

Lanie brought a stool to the door, climbed on it, and looked through the peephole. It was Walter Long.

Walter is here. I'm opening the door!" He turned his head and told

had reminded them multiple times that they should not open the door for strangers if there were no adults at home. The two children had remembered

Lanie opened the front door.

stepped into the apartment, and Rainie pounced into his arms."

the lawyer on retainer of T Corporation. He frequently interacted with Luke, and Lanie and Rainie knew who he was. Moreover, Walter had always brought the children small gifts whenever he met them. That was why the children liked

heavier, Rainie. I don't think your Uncle Walter can carry you, ' Walter joked as he held the little girl in his

her lips. "That's because Mommy makes delicious food, so I've been eating

smiled. Bianca seemed to be a good influence on the two children. Earlier, they had been mature and considerate, but they lacked the youthful vibrancy children should have. Now that Bianca had walked into their world, the two children had become happier and