

Be Gentle 311

Chapter 311 Luke Crawford, A Cunning Wolf!

The boss looked as intelligent and noble as usual. A single glance from him could instantly change how people treated him.

Jason walked over with a respectful expression on his face and handed a thick stack of documents to Luke. "I've almost completed everything that you've asked of me, Mr. Crawford. Among those who had abducted Bianca's grandfather, one of them, going by the name of Dawson Lynch, remains in A City. Perhaps he thought that the best place to hide is in plain sight. Dawson bought himself a fake identity and managed to stay hidden for so long. However, he is a habitual gambler, and our men found him at a casino a few days ago. Now that we have Dawson in our hands, we can reopen the case of Bianca's grandfather's abduction. We can use Dawson to accuse Xavier of being the mastermind instead of Yvonne. That way, he'll be locked away for a long time. Also, I've managed to uncover a lot of evidence of Xavier's crimes over the past few years..." "Thank you for your hard work." Luke patted Jason's shoulder. His dark irises were sparkling.

Bianca received a call from Xavier right after she got off work.

She had never been in contact with Xavier ever since Luke had beaten him up.

When she saw his name on her phone screen, memories of being nearly violated surfaced in her mind again.

Bianca did not want to answer the call. However, when she thought that she would have to be in contact with him so that they could successfully divorce, she braced herself and answered the call.

"Yes?" "Let's meet and talk about the divorce. Come alone," Xavier said.

Bianca was full of doubt.

She did not believe that Xavier had called her to meet just so that they could discuss the divorce.

That was a lesson she had learned the hard way. She would not be so easily convinced to meet him alone.

you don't come, then you can forget about the divorce. I'll see you at Clearwater Tea Room," Xavier
Then, he ended the call.

in a daze as she looked at her phone. She shuddered uncontrollably when she was reminded of Xavier's
that it would be best for her to not ever meet that man again until they
decided that she should ignore his request. After thinking about it for a moment, she gave Luke a
ended the call, he sped on the road and arrived at Clearwater Tea
reserved an elegant and quiet private room so that he could talk
he had not seen her for a long time and had

article from JK Media had made

not expect that Luke would divulge the fact that Bianca was Lanie and Rainie's birth mother. He also knew that Gus was arrested; all his posts on Xeddit were removed without leaving a

He was aggrieved.

Bianca had treated him like trash, but he could not let her go.

It was as though he was addicted *to her*.

Perhaps the initial impression when he met her five years ago had caused all the **ensuing grievances**.

He was not going to let her go, no matter how painful it might be...

An elegant and calming tune was playing in the tea **room**.

Time slowly passed.

The ashtray in front of Xavier was piled with cigarette butts, but Bianca was nowhere to **be seen**.

He was getting impatient. Just when he took out his phone and prepared to call Bianca, the door suddenly opened, and Luke stepped in *dominatingly*.

Luke sat down elegantly on a chair, in front of Xavier's sullen gaze.

was not the first time that the two equally dominating men had sat in front of each other. However, their mental defenses were at full force, as though the other party would attack them at any

you here?" Xavier said

could still feel some pain from his

invited Bianca to come, but why is Luke

done, Bianca. Do you think that I can't do anything to you because Luke is on

out an envelope from a folder and pushed it toward Xavier." Here, a present

took it. He opened the envelope and saw a CD and a thick stack of

through several documents. His eyes opened wider and wider, and his gaze gradually became

palm slammed heavily on the envelope. His handsome face was taut from anger and fear. "What's the meaning of this, Luke

poured a cup of tea for himself. "It's easy. I hope that you can divorce

Chapter 312 An Intense Silent Battle Between Two Men!

Xavier's words did not cause the slightest change to Luke's expression.

Luke's grip on his teacup tightened a little. "You can always give it a try. I'd like to see if you've learned anything in your five-year stint in prison."

Xavier's expression was extremely unpleasant.

He knew that the evidence in the folder was enough to lock him away for a long time.

He could not hide the burning anger in his eyes.

"Do you think that you're innocent, Luke? T Corporation must have many illicit deals behind the scenes, right? Don't think that I don't know that you've manipulated the stock market and nearly caused an economic crisis in A City from which you've gained a lot. Do you think that you can deceive everyone? Should I guess how you'll end up if I manage to find any evidence of T Corporation's crimes?"

Any company would be involved in under-the-table deals, especially a multinational company like T Corporation.

There was no need to elaborate on what would happen to Luke if those illegal dealings were exposed!

gaze flashed with a shocking coldness. "By all means, try if you think you

were so easy to expose T Corporation, it would not have grown to a

Corporation paid an astronomical sum as capital costs to certain governmental departments every year. Even if there were any illegal deals, the authorities would usually let it slide. It was indeed a childish act for Xavier to threaten Luke that way. It seemed as though Xavier had wasted his time in

men stared at each other, fighting a silent

in the tea room stopped, which made the atmosphere more intense than

stood up, carefully straightened his coat, then headed toward the

left, he said with his resonant voice, "You can choose to divulge your marriage status with Bianca, but I will expose your evidence that you masterminded Bianca's grandfather's abduction, so everyone can see how you made Bianca marry you. With all the gathered evidence, any single crime can lock you away for a long time. If you go to prison this time, you won't be as lucky as the last time. I'll make sure that you stay inside forever! So what if everyone knows that Bianca was once married? I don't care about it, even if the entire world opposes us. I'll still treat her like my treasure, and I will take her hand in marriage. I think you should know my personality well enough that I'll carry through with my promises. That's all I have to say to you. I won't show you any more mercy!"

left the room, Xavier was overcome by a fit of

tore the "evidence" in the envelope into shreds, then flipped the exquisite oak table and stomped on it, reducing it to

His thoughts were currently in a mess.

Should he persist, or should he let go? If he persisted, what might wait for him was a lifetime of prison, but he was not going to let go of the marriage that he had so arduously gained.

Leia was having tea at Shakira's restaurant.

When *Shakira* noticed that Bianca had several similarities to Queenie, she had asked Leia to investigate Queenie's birth daughter.

Shakira did not find Queenie immediately because she did not want to remind Queenie of the pain she had suffered many **years ago**.

If she were mistaken, the blunder would be a huge blow *to Queenie*.

As *Queenie's* best friend, no one knew better than Shakira the pain Queenie suffered from losing her birth **daughter**.

Before Queenie adopted Leia, she had lived her days in anxiety and agony. Her beautiful face became emaciated, and she did not have the slightest hint **of vigor**.

Her condition improved after she and Jack adopted **Leia**.

birth daughter were still alive, Shakira would be happy for her best

Leia a cup of

picked up the cup, took a sip, and thanked

"You don't have to be so formal, silly girl. I've been friends with your mother for decades. Back

Leia stories about her shared past with Queenie. Then, she also asked about Leia's recent

did you ask your mother about that sister of yours?" She asked

took a small sip of the tea. She felt as though her heart had been pierced by a

that Shakira had asked her on a whim to find out about her mother's

out that Shakira was serious about helping her mother find her

Chapter 313 Luke Is Preparing the Wedding of the Century!

"Aunt Shakira, Mom says that my sister was stillborn, and that must be true. Just think about it. Would anyone lie to my Dad and Mom?" Leia said with a sorrowful face.

Shakira thought about it and decided that it was the case.

Back then, Jack might not be the influential politician he was now, but he was a rising star in the political world who had made a name for himself. No one would dare lie to him or steal his child.

However, somehow Shakira felt uneasy about it.

"Don't worry, Aunt Shakira, if my sister is still alive, I believe that I will eventually find her someday. My sister is my adopted mother's birth daughter, which means that she is my elder sister. I'll ask other people to look for her too," Leia said, which made Shakira feel comforted.

"You're a good girl, Leia. Your mother is lucky to have adopted you, you're so kind and understanding..." Shakira felt emotional when she said that. She had always been satisfied with Leia's intelligence and maturity.

"You're joking, Aunt Shakira. It's my basic responsibility to share my mother's worries. I'm willing to do anything so that my mother is happy," Leia smiled and said.

She was very good at sweet-talking, and Shakira was very happy when she heard that.

Shakira could not stop praising that Leia was a considerate daughter and that Queenie was a lucky mother.

big LCD screen in the restaurant was playing entertainment

The identity of T Corporation's Luke Crawford's twins' birth mother has been revealed to be a formerly to an article, Luke Crawford and Ms. Rayne, the mother of the twins, have known each other for more than ten years. Circumstances forced them to separate, but they have since reunited. According to reports on the Internet, Luke has been very caring to the woman

is he giving her all types of expensive jewelry and a luxury mansion, but there have also been rumors that he is planning the grandest wedding of the century. Said rumor has not been confirmed

the news report, Bianca's face was blurred out. What could be seen was only her long black hair and her petite oval face. The two children's faces were also blurred out, though Leia's eyes hurt when she saw the loving family of four

slipped from her fingers and fell on the

did not realize that the teacup was cracked. Instead, she looked at the television in

was blank. 'The mother of the twins is Bianca Rayne? How could it be her?' That was the only thing she could

was lost in thought, which made Shakira

"What's wrong, Leia?" Shakira asked out of *concern*.

She called out Leia's name several times before Leia came to her senses." I'm fine, Aunt Shakira," Leia said dejectedly, "I've probably overworked myself lately. I'm sorry that I broke your **teacup...**"

Shakira smiled and shook her head but *said nothing*.

She turned to look at the television and mumbled to herself, 'That boy Luke usually doesn't get many rumored scandals. He's not fond of gossip related to him, and he would shut down any media outlets that report on him. How did this piece of news get on the air? That's strange. Most of the news reports are fake, but is it true that the birth mother of Luke's twins has been found? That woman looks familiar..." "If there's nothing else, I'll be taking my leave, aunt Shakira. I'm not feeling very well. I'll come and visit you another time." Leia suddenly stood up and prepared to leave.

Shakira knew that Leia was a celebrity and was engaged in many jobs.

She did not wonder why Leia suddenly acted abnormally, and she did not ask her to stay back *either*.

Leia, feeling disturbed, went to Xavier's bar without putting on a **disguise**.

Several of her fans recognized her as soon as she **stepped in**.

Leia was not a first-rate celebrity. Her acting debut was a starring role in the movie "Orphan Girl." After that, she did not have any notable roles, and her popularity stagnated at a certain **level**.

received many jobs because of her family background, and even though she had roles in many trash films, she was nonetheless considered famous in the entertainment industry. It was not a surprise for her to be recognized by

noticed that she was not escorted by bodyguards and wanted to get her autograph. "Hey, that's Leia Norman! I didn't know that she goes to bars too. I love you, Leia! Can I have your

was not in a good mood. She was not friendly toward her

young people at the bar were excited that a celebrity appeared there. They jostled among each other and stopped Leia from leaving. Several unruly men even tried to cop a feel amid the

was a movie star known for her pure and sweet looks and was the daughter of Jack Norman. She seldom made public appearances, and that was why the men took the opportunity to take advantage

like you a lot, Leia. Give me your autograph!" "I love you, Leia. You're the woman of my

situation got out of hand quickly. Even the security could not control the

breasts and behind were repeatedly fondled by perverted hands. The feeling was disgusting that it made her almost throw up, and she was about to lose

at her fans and yelled hysterically at the crowd. "Get lost, all you peasants! Do you have a death wish? Get away from

Chapter 314 Luke Has Announced Bianca's Identity

Eventually, Leia managed to extricate herself from the mob. When she found Xavier in his room, he was drunk as a fiddler, which gave her a buzzing headache.

'Why is Xavier so useless? Not only he can't manage his marriage with Bianca, but he's here drinking his worries away!'

Leia took her sunglasses off and angrily kicked Xavier, who was slumped in a pile. "Get up!"

Xavier lifted his head from amid a pile of empty beer bottles. When he saw that Leia was in front of her, his unfocused gaze seemed to have cleared up a little.

"Say, aren't you busy all day, you big movie star? Why do you have time to visit me?" He said impatiently.

"Don't you know why I'm here? I thought you already have a marriage certificate with Bianca, so why would she appear in front of the media as the birth mother of Luke's twins?" Leia asked exasperatedly.

Leia thought that the birth mother of the twins was only a tool for childbirth and was no one important to Luke.

However, she did not expect that the media had widely reported on the birth's mother identity. She felt an indescribable sense of fear when she saw the photo of Bianca together with Luke and the two children!

Xavier looked at her vaguely and said, "I was so close to claiming Bianca, but Luke suddenly barged in. Do you think that's a coincidence, Leia?"

even more fearful when she was reminded of that

original plan was to drug Bianca, record her making out with Xavier, and using that to

That plan should have been flawless.

thought that Luke could not bear to see the woman he loved in bed with another man. No

happened, the relationship between Bianca and Luke would

was why Leia sent an anonymous message to

that Luke was a smart man, and he would not believe her if she said that Bianca was having an affair with another man. If Luke did not go to check on her, then her plan would

the message, she said that Bianca had

would definitely go to the hotel if he truly cared for the woman. He would be just in time to see Bianca and Xavier intertwined on

She did not expect that Xavier was too slow. **1**

The stage had been set, but Xavier had failed at the last moment. How useless!

Leia felt guilt when faced with Xavier's question. She dared not look at him. "You're the slow one, and you only have yourself to blame. She's already right in front of you, but you didn't even do anything! Now that Luke has publicly announced Bianca's identity, I'd like to see what you'd do next. Bianca is your wife. Why don't you announce to the public that you're legally married to her? Do you have the guts to, Xavier **Tanner?**"

Leia's words had utterly angered Xavier.

He stumbled to his feet and accurately grabbed Leia's neck. His penetrating gaze landed on her body, and his ambiguous smile sent a chill coursing down Leia's **spine! 1**

Xavier's icy cackle echoed in the room.

He looked disdainfully at the quivering Leia and said, "Who do you think you are to talk to me like that? Don't forget that I'm always a true son of the Tanner family, and you're just a pathetic worm picked up by Jack Norman from the orphanage! Do you think that you're actually anyone special just because you're a Norman? You'll always be a fake daughter no matter what you do!" "So what if I'm not my parents' birth daughter? They treat me like one anyway. Do you believe that if I tell my father about this, you won't be able to survive in A City?" Leia said through *gritted teeth*.

"You can try that!" Xavier said nonchalantly as he increased the strength on the grip around her neck, causing her to gasp. "You've been acting as the obedient little girl in front of the Normans and your audience. That must be tough, right? Have you forgotten about the things you've done while you were in the orphanage? I'd like to see how disappointed everyone will be if they find out that you're actually a selfish, ruthless, and materialistic girl under that virtuous **guise!**"

Leia's pupils dilated with fear.

he knew about the incidents in

adopted parents knew that she was adopted through underhanded means, her perfect disguise would instantly crumble, and what would happen to

I will not let anyone ruin everything that I have strived for!" "Brother... Brother Xavier, I was wrong. I shouldn't have talked to you like that. Please forgive my transgressions. I had lost control of my temper. Can you please let me go first?" Leia pretended to be

was the only way to appease that temperamental

knew that she was better than that man, but somehow she could not dominate him. She was frustrated that she was not the one

grunted coldly and let go of

hard and coughed. She seemed miserable, but in her heart, she was imagining a thousand different ways of how to torment and kill that man. 'Til see what Dad will do to him!' She thought. 1 'Also, Bianca is a threat. She shall not

is a wise woman. She'll know what to

The four of us are in the papers today!" Lanie smiled as he took the newspaper and showed Bianca. "I didn't know that there's a touching love story behind Mommy

Chapter 315 What Is the Real Reason for Her Disapproval?

Old Mr. Norman wanted to build a new house over the old family house.

Bianca had seen the other designs at the company.

Some designs were modern mansions, some were classic manors, and some had Eastern influences with zen gardens...

Old Mr. Norman had rejected every single one of those designs.

Eventually, Old Mr. Norman got impatient and started calling the designers of T Corporation idiots. He was not happy that all the elite designers in a multinational corporation could not produce the design he wanted.

The most troublesome thing was not that Old Mr. Norman was picky but that he did not explain what he desired.

It was not easy to be a good designer.

Not only would a good designer be creative and produce consistent quality work, but they also have to possess incredible aesthetic skills.

Bianca had studied architectural design when she was in an overseas university. She knew all the basics, but her brain was still in a muddle. She did not know what Old Mr. Norman's desired house was...

She looked at the drafts she made in the company earlier during the day, and she was not satisfied with it. It felt as though something was missing.

when she was deep in thought, the doorbell suddenly

that Luke had gotten home, and she opened the door excitedly without looking through the peephole first. Unexpectedly, Allison appeared in front

woman's impeccable features were as arrogant and haughty

you here?" Bianca blocked the doorway. She had no intention of letting that woman into the

spelled trouble. Bianca would not want to see her if she had any say

cold outside, and I've traveled for so far just to look for you. Can't you at least invite me inside for tea? Where are your

up Bianca from head to toe. "Do you think that I can't do anything to you just because my son is harboring you? Look at your face. You've grown prettier since the last time I met

socialite woman's sharp nails dug into Bianca's cheeks as though she wanted to pierce through the

was the woman who had seduced her son. Her son even went to the papers and announced that Bianca was the twins'

How was that possible?

mother of the two cute and lovable children could be anyone, but not

Allison did not believe the news when she first read it.

She went to look for Bianca so that she could take Bianca's hair for a DNA **test**.

She did not want that despicable woman to be the birth mother of her obedient *grandchildren*.

If Luke had not lost her mind because of Bianca's charm, he would not have told such a big lie so that the Crawford family would *accept her*!

Bianca felt a sharp pain on her face and instinctively shoved Allison away. Allison, wearing high heels, tripped when she stepped backward and **fell down**.

Allison had never been treated like that before. She *was stunned*.

Just when she was about to yell at Bianca, she saw Luke's car drive toward the mansion from the corner of *her eye*...

She immediately thought of an idea!

Instantly, she ruffled her hair and crumpled her clothes so that she looked **miserable**.

Then, she started crying while sitting on the floor. "Bianca, you heartless woman! Not only you didn't let me into the house, but you've also beaten me! My son must be blind to love a despicable woman such as you..."

Those harsh words were like knives that stabbed *Bianca's heart*.

furious, but she could not bear to get physical on Allison, nor did she know how to offer a retort. Without any other choice, she dragged Allison's elbow out of the door, then slammed it shut with could hear Allison's tantrum from

parked the car in the garage, then hurried toward

to see Bianca drag his mother and throw her out of the

expression sank. His mother was there to cause

at what that Bianca did to me, son! Not only does she not respect me, but she even threw me to the ground. You can't be with a woman like her. If you don't drive her out of the house at this instant, I might as well just die..." Allison sat on the ground and slapped her thighs while making up stories about Bianca. She wanted to make Luke hate Bianca as much as

you to come here, Mother?" Luke's expression was dark as he looked at his mother. At that moment, she did not look like a socialite at

had just repaired his relationship with Bianca, but now his mother was here to pull them

he was not too happy

looked at her son with fear as though she was looking at a stranger. She started sobbing and said, "Is that how you talk to your mother, you ingrate? Can't I visit my son? See, that seductress has completely bewitched you. You don't even side with your mother anymore ... How could you bear to see your mother abused like this? Oh, poor

not take it anymore. He pulled Allison from

Chapter 316 Luke's Guidance

"Stop this nonsense! I'm ashamed of you!"

With no other choice, Luke grabbed his mother with both arms, stuffed her into the car, locked the doors, and quickly drove away!

Bianca was still trembling after Allison was brought away.

Her hands were tightly clenched into fists, and her fingers were ice-cold.

Through the window, Bianca could see Allison knocking on the car window and trying to get out. Allison could shed her image of a socialite and act like a savage just so that she could break up Bianca and Luke.

Bianca did not understand.

She could not rest at ease if she could not get Allison's approval to be with Luke.

She remained silent for a long time.

The heater was on, but she could not feel any warmth at all!

Divorcing with Xavier was the least of her worries now. Even if she could be free of that marriage, there were still multiple obstacles before she could be together with Luke...

She sighed, rubbed her temples, and forced herself not to overthink.

in front of her computer, she got to work and temporarily forgot the problems in real

felt inspired after that brief episode. She suddenly had a good idea for

Norman had rejected all the designs by the other more senior designers in the company. Perhaps it was because the designs only showed the

she added some more aesthetics to the design

Bianca considered it seriously.

Mr. Norman's son was an important person, and Old Mr. Norman himself was a

influential person, Old Mr. Norman must be used to a fast-paced and regimented life. After his retirement, he must be depressed because his social circle shrunk by a lot. That might be the cause of his

thought that the old man would need a classic-style building to cultivate his

would be great if the house came with a lawn for all types of plants so that the old man could do some gardening and have some

could design an otherworldly paradise in the middle of the bustling city, she believed that everyone would

that thought in mind, she scrapped her previous draft and went back to the drawing

The workflow was smooth, thanks to her unending inspiration.

Soon, it was late at night.

It was only when Luke returned and hugged her from behind that she came to her senses and realized that it was already one o'clock...

Luke was surprised when he saw *Bianca's design*.

He knew that the woman might be pliable, but she had a talent *in design*.

Her design did not disappoint him. In fact, he was quite impressed!

The blueprint looked like the Royal Botanic Gardens of England, though instead of a classic style, there were touches of modernity to the **buildings**.

On the design sketch, the lawn was a **nice touch**.

Surrounding the house were rows of trees on a lawn of green grass, and in a corner was an ornamental rock garden and an artificial waterfall. The most eye-catching part of the design was the peach trees that dotted the periphery.

The bright colors of the myriad flowers and the towering pines created a **breathtaking sight**.

Most interestingly, there was a vegetable patch in that "farmland" that grew all sorts of **edible crops**.

Under the lettuce leaves were several yellow chicks chasing each other and pecking the ground. Several geese swam leisurely in the pond next to it

down next to Bianca and sat her on his

kissed her cheek. His gaze carried unabashed praise for

did not hesitate to provide constructive criticism to Bianca's design. "Your sketch is beautiful, but there are several flaws in it. Look here, you've done a good job to make the place look like an otherworldly paradise, but you've forgotten to take into account Old Mr. Norman's budget. The designs over here are not very user-friendly to the elderly Old Mr. Norman and

Bianca listened to him seriously.

Luke's criticism was frank and incisive.

might be the CEO of T Corporation, but he was also a top-notch

that Luke was multi-talented in

aesthetic properties of his designs were inimitable. That was why he was famous both in and out of the country and was even one of the top ten designers in the

also someone whom Bianca

learned a lot from the master designer. She soon corrected the flaws of

almost two o'clock in the morning when she was

Chapter 317 I'll Forgive You If You Feed Me

Bianca was like a juicy ripe peach that suited Luke's tastes. No other woman could replace her.

In Luke's opinion, he had done a lot so that they need not hide their relationship. However, he was frustrated and helpless that Bianca did not seem to want to move forward together.

Luke's words had caused Bianca's heart to wrench.

She knew that she was important to him, but she could not shake away the feeling of inferiority.

That feeling was like something stored in her chest that would occasionally flare up and explode, making her chest hurt and obliterating her feelings of security.

Bianca knew that the fault was at Allison, who was trying to pull them apart, and not with the man who loved and protected her.

She looked at Luke's profound and patient eyes and felt guilty. "I'm sorry.

Your mother came here to cause trouble, and I couldn't control myself..." "You don't have to say sorry to me. It's not your fault, Bianca. It's all the issues in my family..."

Luke took out a cigarette from his pocket and wanted to light it, but controlled himself when he remembered that the heater was on in the room.

Bianca noticed that Luke had been smoking more often lately.

next to the floor-to-ceiling window and drew the

eyes flashed with a deep-seated yet helpless agony as he looked outside into the dark night. "I'm sorry, Bianca. You've suffered because

spoke very softly and gently with his back facing her. He dared not turn around to

his first time saying those words so seriously, and they carried so much agony and helplessness. However, their complicated relationship could not be resolved by those simple

leaned peacefully on the headboard. She was stunned when she heard those words come out of Luke's her, Luke was always the perfect

the one whom fortune favored, and he was used to people looking up to him. Now, he was apologizing to

living a lonely life for so long," Luke continued to speak, as though speaking to himself, "You might think that I'm living a glamorous life now, but you don't know that I used to feel inferior because I couldn't shake away the fact that I was a child born out of wedlock. When I was caught in the accident back then, I didn't even want to

don't know that I suffered from serious depression when I was younger and had to rely on heavy medication

was until I went to the small town and

were like the morning sun, bringing light and hope to my life. I was so happy to see you, but you were still in middle school, and I didn't tell you my feelings for you in case you might be intimidated. I could only bury those feelings deep within

"I left the small town later, with those feelings inside me.

"I didn't expect that I'll be lucky again a few years later. I know that you were bought to be a surrogate mother because you needed money, and I managed to replace your original buyer. My wish came true, and you gave birth to two lovable children **for me.**

"I thought that I had lost you forever, Bianca. I thought I would have no more regrets if I could be related to you through our children, but I didn't expect that we'd come together *again.*

"So many things have happened between us. I believe that if we are determined, no obstacle can come between us. What I didn't expect was that whenever I try to move forward with you, you hesitate and move backward..."

He stopped speaking for a while. His brows were furrowed, and his fingers were shaking *slightly*.

He took a deep breath and looked at the infinite night sky with his dark irises, as though it took him a lot of courage to speak his *true feelings*.

He did not even want to turn around to look at her, for fear that she might see the inferiority in his eyes.

The low and resonant voice echoed in the room. It carried a hint of melancholy and dejection which hurt Bianca's heart like *a thorn*.

Bianca looked at the man's tall and broad back. He seemed forlorn.

She stood up, gently walked behind him, and hugged his muscular waist from behind.

She clung to his body and said softly, "I'm sorry, Luke. I will not cower *anymore...*"

body stiffened. He turned around to look at her frowning face and brought her into his embrace. "Silly

smiled at him. Her bright and pure smile instantly drove away all of

her and gently placed her on the

sparkled when he looked at Bianca, who was smiling like a blooming flower. "If you want to apologize, then you should mean it. I'll forgive you if you satisfy

hugged her delicate waist and pinned her body under

hormones intermingled with her delicate body scent, which caused Luke's urges to

eyes shone with the fires of desire, which made Bianca start to

obediently closed her eyes, allowing him to tear off her clothes from her body and rid herself of all

man's extremely warm body pressed on the woman's fair and

petite hands inadvertently grabbed something hard and throbbing like an iron brand, and she shied

smiled but held her hand tightly, pinning her down like a helpless little

Chapter 318 Luke Makes An Exception for Bianca

The next day.

T Corporation.

"This is the design you wanted, Madam. I've sent a digital copy to your mailbox," Bianca said as she handed the printed design to the department lead.

The department lead looked at Bianca suspiciously. Her eyes nearly popped out of their sockets when she saw the incredibly beautiful design." You drew this yourself, Bianca?" She asked incredulously.

Bianca nodded calmly, wearing a tranquil smile on her beautiful face.

The department lead carefully looked at the design several times.

The design in her hands was flawless. Even she could not come up with something like that. The usually arrogant department lead suddenly had a newfound understanding of the rookie design assistant.

Did Bianca come up with the design herself?

"Bianca, you should know that if we find out that someone else did the design, the consequences are dire," the department lead said sternly.

Bianca looked at her calmly. "I stayed up very late to work on it, Madam. I can remember every single detail. Should I describe them to you?"

Sue heard the argument and came over. She could not help but steal a peek at Bianca's design.

She was instantly struck speechless.

Bianca! This design is amazing," Sue said as she gave Bianca a thumbs-up. "Not only does it have a classic charm, but you've also included high-tech accessibility features. I wouldn't have expected that it came from you." "You flatter me, Sue. I still have a lot to learn from you," Bianca said

could finally breathe a sigh of

had spent a lot of effort working on the design, and she hoped that Old Mr. Norman would like

lead kept the design away and grunted mockingly. "Don't think that your task is complete just because you've finished the design. If the client isn't satisfied,

stepped out of the office on her high

was not bothered by the department lead's sarcasm. She returned to her desk and cautiously asked Sue, who sat opposite her, "Sue, is

not returned to work since that

could not visit her, thanks to Anna always being in the

been almost a week, but she did not have any news of Nina. Bianca was

She said that she's been feeling a lot of pressure from work lately, and she decided to take a few days off since she's sick. She'll come back to work when she's feeling better,"

felt slightly relieved, but she was still

would not have suffered if not for herself. Even if she wanted to make up to Nina, she wondered if they would be as close to each other as

Just when Bianca was lost in thought, the department lead returned to the design **department**.

She clapped her hands together and said loudly to the employees, "Everyone, put away your tasks on hand for now. All the designers, please follow me to Conference Room A606 for a meeting."

Upon hearing the orders, the designers stood up and followed the department lead.

Bianca laughed awkwardly.

She had been in T Corporation for a while, but her position remained as a design assistant. Assistants were not qualified to attend company design *meetings*.

She remained in the office with a few other new recruits.

When Bianca was looking through a design brief, the office phone on her table started **ringing**.

Bianca picked it up and instantly heard Luke's orders. "**Come to**

Conference Room A606 for a bit." "Yes, Mr. Crawford!" Bianca stood up from her seat and walked happily to the conference *room*.

The elite designers across many departments sat in the **conference room**.

T Corporation was a multinational company, and there were many design departments covering various fields such as architecture, fashion jewelry, landscaping, environmental design, industrial design, interior design, and **so on**.

Conference Room A606 was on the *88th floor*.

design was extravagant and had a high

famous art pieces were hung on the walls, exuding an artistic

room, all the men were smartly dressed in business suits and leather shoes, while the women were dressed in elegant office wear. Everyone looked confident, and one could tell that they were the best in

a little insecure as she walked past those

headed straight toward Luke, trying hard not to look at the people around her. "Did you look for me,

at a vacant seat. Without lifting his head, he gave a simple command. "Sit down." "That's... not very appropriate," Bianca said

knew her position in the company. She was not qualified to participate in the design

authoritatively. "Just shut up and sit

nearby and saw the exchange. She understood that the boss wanted Bianca to join

pulled a chair next to her and said to Bianca, "Sit here,

could only sit down next to Sue. "Thank you, Sue." "Don't mention it. You've been in the company for a while, Bianca, not to mention that your designs are so great. I believe that you'll officially become a designer sooner or later, and you will have a bright future in T Corporation. You should join in the meeting. That would be good for your experience and future growth," Sue said with a

Bianca replied and waited for the meeting to

Chapter 319 What Are You Doing, Mr. Crawford?

The design meeting started.

Luke was seated in the leading position. He wore a black business suit and sat straight and tall, a formidable presence in the crowd.

His gaze was profound, and his lips were tightly pressed together, which gave him a dependable and authoritative air. He made a brief speech, after which he listened attentively to the reports by the leaders of various departments.

The main topic of the meeting was 'increasing design productivity.'

The designers discussed the latest trends in design and exchanged their experiences. Everyone might be from a different department, but there were still some things that they could learn from each other.

They shared design resources and had a lively discussion about the Finishing Touch Workshop and the Divine Inspiration Showcase, two world- renowned design studios.

The two studios had only started a few years ago, but they had gathered a wealth of design talent and started several worldwide trends.

T Corporation was a multinational company and hired the world's best designers who walked at the forefront of design. Not only were they sensitive to new trends, but they were also willing to learn.

lasted for more than

the monthly work summary by

segment, each department lead would report on what they had done in the past month. They would commend certain designers that had done well, as well as give constructive criticism to anyone who needed

who was praised this way smiled delightedly. After all, being praised in front of the CEO meant that there would be a pay raise, as well as a higher chance

who were criticized were dejected and fearful for their position in the company. T Corporation paid their employees the highest in the industry, and they would not want to lose

it was the architectural design department lead's turn, she shot a glance at Bianca, then started her report. "In the past month, the architectural design department has two commendable employees. They are Tom Lewis and Sue Carter. Tom has completed the most projects in the entire department and has brought sizable profits to

work has been widely praised by our clients. On the other hand, I have to say something about the lazier employees in the

lead's penetrating glance shot toward

Bianca had a bad feeling when she saw the department lead's sinister and *calculating gaze*.

Indeed, the department lead's ensuing speech made Bianca feel embarrassed. "Ms. Bianca Rayne, as a design assistant, you should have worked harder so that you can formally be a designer, instead of slacking off like what you're doing now. You've been in the company for a few months. Not only you

don't have many completed designs, but you are also frequently absent from work. Don't you know that you should have been more diligent? You should know that our company might have abundant financial resources, but we're not a charity foundation, and we have no place for idle people in *our ranks...*"

The department lead's speech generated an uproar.

All the designers looked at where the department was looking, and their gazes fell on Bianca.

They started to whisper among each other, ignoring Luke's **gloomy gaze**.

The company rules were clear. Only formal designers could attend the design meetings in Room A606. Why would the woman be there if she was only a design **assistant**?

It could not have been an accident. She would not have found the place if no one had informed her about the meeting.

Did it mean that the boss was playing favorites with *that woman*?

boss was never seen to be with a woman, and he never had any scandals except for that article from JK Media. Was the unremarkable design assistant the woman in

sorts of wild theories and dubious gazes turned

see that Bianca was young and beautiful. She had snow-white skin and a pair of clear and animated eyes. However, she seemed to be embarrassed by the department lead's

restless on her chair. She tried to hide away from those

lead felt pleased

is sleeping with the boss, right? I'd like to see if Mr. Crawford would harbor her in

to criticize Bianca publicly because she was telling the truth. She also knew that Luke had been impartial, and was confident that he would not speak up for her because their relationship

twiddled the fountain pen in his hand. His eyes flashed with a shocking coldness that could chill one to

Chapter 320 Bianca Wows the Crowd!

On the screen was a magnificent skyscraper under a starry sky.

Its design was bold and exquisite, and it looked more like an alien construct in a sci-fi movie.

Its outer walls had mysterious and mesmerizing carvings. More shockingly, each segment of the skyscraper could resolve independently.

The exterior glass panels could reflect the entire city. It was an impeccable work of art.

The designers were incredibly excited when they saw the design, and they started chattering, endless praising its originality.

Luke knocked on the table, and the tumultuous conference room slowly quietened down.

The man shone a laser pointer on the screen, and his seductive voice could be heard over the speakers.

"I designed this fantasy-like skyscraper myself, based on future design trends. Can anyone give an opinion on the strengths and weaknesses of this design? Who'll be the first?"

The designer admired their boss even more when they heard that he had designed the skyscraper himself.

As one of the world's top ten designers, Luke's designs were extraordinary. However, he had been devoted to business matters for the past few years and seldom produced designs.

Looking at the skyscraper on the screen, one could see that he still had an eye

instantly fell silent after the boss asked that

wanted to take the opportunity to flatter their boss, but they did not want to be the

they did not give a perfect answer? That would cause them to be humiliated in front of the other elite

one stood up to give their

the leader of the architectural design department, Bella

answer the question." Luke did not hesitate to

Sloan was the leader of the architectural design department. She was also the one who had criticized

stood up from her seat while trembling. Her mind

though she was a veteran employee in the company, she felt anxious when everyone was looking

Crawford, I think that your design is fantastic. You'd only see such a high-tech design in sci-fi movies... but your design is much better than those you see in sci-fi movies. I can see that you have used all right angles and countless connecting corridors in the interior design of the skyscraper, which indicates a blend of Gothic and post-modernist influences. It will be an iconic landmark. I think that your design is perfect, Mr. Crawford. There are no flaws

Bella might be self-centered and haughty, but she had an eye for design. Otherwise, she would not have become a **department lead**.

However, she was flustered when being put on the spot in front of so many elite designers. That was what she could come up with after racking her **brains**.

She could not spot any flaws. The design was indeed *perfect*.

Even if she did spot any flaws, she could not have criticized the boss in front of **everyone!**

Her forehead was coated with a thin film of sweat after she gave her reply, but she dared not wipe *it off*.

She stole a glance at Luke sitting in the leading position. Luke sat there calmly with an impassive expression on his face, which made her even more **apprehensive**.

"*What do you think, Bianca Rayne?*" Luke turned to address Bianca.

Bianca stood up hesitantly. She was even more nervous than her department **lead**.

She took a careful look at the design and started to speak slowly. "You've utilized AI and machine learning in your design, and that's why it exudes a *superhuman tenacity*.

"By using optical principles, the exterior glass panels also become a giant mirror that reflects the majesty of the entire city to the people standing inside the building, which can be a feast to the eyes.

other skyscrapers that block one's view of the surroundings, this skyscraper can perfectly capture its surrounding view

skyscraper uses a modular design made out of flexible material, which means that it will be resistant

skyscraper is too tall, which makes it stand out awkwardly when looking at the city skyline in

standing on the top of the building might give you a magnificent building, but it is very imposing to look at the building from the ground

importantly, even though the building might look flawless, that is where its greatest flaw lies,

to have transformed into a completely different person when it came to talking

was crisp and pleasant, and she was incredibly knowledgeable with keen insight. Her design skills were equal to that of a top-notch designer in the company, which surprised Luke and the other

knew that Bianca had a talent in design, but he did not expect that she was

audience was mesmerized by Bianca's analysis of the skyscraper. Applause rang out more than

Bella was incredibly jealous.

just a newly-recruited rookie?' She