

## Be Gentle 371

Chapter 371 That's Enough! This Is A Hospital!

Meanwhile, Nina was curled up on the hospital bed, sleeping. However, nightmares continually tormented her, which made her unable to rest.

The clarion ring of her phone woke her up from her nightmare.

She took a deep breath and saw that it was her mother calling her. Reflexively, she answered the call.

"Hello, Mom..." she said weakly.

Anna's harsh voice was heard over the phone. "You've finally answered the phone! Do you still remember that you have a mother? Where have you been for the past month and a half? You don't come back home, but you also don't call me. What's the point of me raising you, you ingrate? Have you been sleeping with another man? Get back home this instant! The money that you gave me the last time is no more. Think of some way to get me more money!"

Nina was covered in a thick blanket, but she could not stop shivering.

The person on the other end of the call was her mother. After Nina went missing for a month and a half, all she got from her mother was insults and accusations instead of words of comfort.

When her mother finally contacted her, the first thing she asked for was money.

To other people, a mother's love might be the greatest in the world, but to her, it was nothing.

"I'm in the hospital now, Mom. I'm not feeling well. We can talk after I go back. Alright, bye..." Nina answered weakly and ended the call.

Then, she curled up on the bed like a discarded shrimp.

tears slid down her pale cheeks, which made her look

you've just finished an operation, and you shouldn't be too emotional. If you become too sad, that might have long-term implications on your health, and that'll be hard to treat." The young nurse tried to comfort Nina while changing her

wound on the stomach was painful, but the pain was nothing compared to the pain in

shook her head gently and forcefully swallowed all her

stranger would take pity on her, but her mother did not. That was

Hello? You'd better get the money quickly so that I can bridge some relations for your brother. I need a lot of money..." When Anna heard the busy tone coming from the other end of the call, she realized that Nina had hung up, which made her even more furious than

dare that girl hang up on me! She needs to be taught

Anna recalled what her daughter said to her, she frowned with suspicion. Her daughter had always been healthy, and she even rarely came down with a cold. Why would she suddenly be in the

rushed to the hospital that Nina told her over the course, she was not going there to check on her daughter's health but instead to ask for daughter was named Fifi. Fifi found a rich and influential sugar daddy who pampered her as long as she Fifi had heard about the situation with the Langdon family from her mother. She met up with Anna and told her that she had a way to save Jean. 1

Not only that, but she could also introduce Anna to that rich and *influential man*.

That man was not too powerful, but he had enough influence to sneak a minor criminal out of prison. He could bail Jean out if she could cough up three **million dollars**.

Anna was doubtful at first, but she was already friends with Fifi's mother for decades, and Fifi was very confident that she could manage to get Jean out of prison.

*Fifi* even said that they could sign a contract if Anna was concerned about the money. If the man could not bail Jean out, then he would return the three **million dollars**.

Impulsively, Anna agreed to it.

Even if they could not manage to save her son, the money would be returned to her.

*Moreover*, whenever she visited her son in prison, he would be bruised and *battered*.

Not only did her son's tall and strong body become thin and emaciated, but his body would also be full of injuries. Every visit would always end with her in tears.

**Anna knew** that her son was suffering in prison. She would have to save him no matter **what!**

She had gotten a check of two million dollars from her daughter, and she had eighty thousand dollars in savings. She needed another nine hundred and twenty thousand dollars. How was she, an unskilled housewife, ever going to get that much money?

Anna remembered that her daughter had easily gotten two million dollars the last **time**.

thought that her kind and obedient daughter would give her the amount she wanted, as long as she asked for

Bianca returned to the hospital.

accessed an ATM at a bank near the hospital and checked her account

not much, probably about six months' worth of her

Corporation paid its employees well. Even new recruits in T Corporation were better paid than regular employees in

saved the money so that she could buy a new car, but the money had a more important use

the money in

planned to give all the money

money might not compensate one-millionth of the trauma that Nina had been through, but Nina was not working now, and she

Bianca walked along the corridor, she could hear Nina's cries and a woman

good-for-nothing dad, do you think it's easy raising you? I've single-handedly provided for you and your brother for all your lives. Don't you know how hard it's been for me all these years? Now that your brother is in trouble, what's wrong if I ask you to help? You're my daughter. If I don't ask you for money, who else should I

Chapter 372 It's A Surprise, But It's A Pleasant One

Nina was still recovering from an operation and she could barely move. Her mother came to ask for money from her and was not even concerned about her wellbeing.

Did Nina have any conscience? Did she deserve to be a mother? 1

When the door opened, the people in the ward turned to look in that direction.

Nina's eyes were full of pain and confusion.

The young nurse looked visibly relieved.

Anna gritted her teeth and became angrier.

"Bea..." Nina said hoarsely. Her lips were dry and cracked.

She sounded very aggrieved, like a bullied little animal who did not know how to retaliate.

Bianca's heart wrenched when she saw Nina like that.

She walked over and placed her handbag next to Nina's pillow.

She wiped Nina's tears from her eyes and said, "Don't be angry. All you need to do now is rest. You shouldn't be agitated. That won't be good for your recuperation. Understand?"

Nina could say anything, Anna's plump body waddled

a finger at Bianca and started yelling. "Why are you here, you jinx? Aren't you satisfied after framing my son? Now you want to frame my daughter too? I've warned you, Nina, you'd better not get yourself tangled up with this woman. Why don't you listen to me?" "We're in a hospital now. Please be quiet!" Bianca turned around and regarded Anna

you hate me, but this isn't the time to quarrel. Nina is your daughter. Aren't you the least bit concerned about why she's in the hospital? Let me tell you, Nina had just finished an operation, and her body is very weak now. Can't you see that she's already drenched in sweat? How can you even yell at her... Don't you think that you're not acting like her mother,

shocked when she heard that Nina had just finished an operation, but soon, she became

always been the one yelling at people, and never the one being yelled

the person who had yelled at her was Bianca, whom she hated the most. That made her angrier

voice became louder as she verbally attacked Bianca. 'Who do you think you are? What right do you have to talk to me like that? Not only you caused my son to go to prison, but my daughter is also in the hospital probably because of you. I've said that you bring us nothing but trouble, and you can see that I'm

was enough for Anna to verbally attack Bianca, so she started to get  
had just grabbed onto Bianca's hair when Nina suddenly

eyes were vacant as she stared at Anna with despair. "What do you want, Mom? Bianca is here to take care of me in the hospital. If you beat her and drive her away, are you going to take care of me?" She glanced at Nina, whose eyes were swollen from crying. Only then did she remember that she was at the hospital to ask her daughter

Meeting Bianca, the reason why her son was in prison, had nearly made her lose her mind and forget the reason she was *there*.

**Anna sheepishly** let go of Nina's hair and tried to negotiate with Nina. "My daughter, you'll have to raise the money for me no matter what. Otherwise, your brother might just die in prison. You're his sister. You ought to save **him...**" **2**

As she said that, she lifted her hand and pretended to wipe away tears, as though she was a loving and caring *mother*.

*Nina* knew that her mother was very good at putting up an act. She turned away while pressing her stomach to hold back the pain, not willing to entertain her mother's **pretense**.

"**Mom, Jean** is receiving his just desserts," Nina said tiredly. "He needs to be rehabilitated in prison, and he wouldn't learn his lesson if he doesn't face some hardship. I really have no money now. All my debit and credit cards are with you, and you know the PINs to them. If you don't believe me, you can check the account balance..."

*Anna* saw that tears had no effect on Nina. She opened the door wide and kept **it open**.

**Then**, she sprawled on the floor and started to throw a tantrum like *a child*.

She kept on yelling and screaming. "Even a dog would know how to repay its master! You? You're an ingrate! If I knew this would happen, I should've snuffed you out with a pillow after you're born! I've suffered so much while raising you, and this is how you repay me? Everyone, look at my ungrateful daughter. She only cares for herself while her brother is suffering and her mother is dying. I might as well jump out of the window now!"

*Nina* was staying in a VIP ward. There were no other patients inside.

However, the wards were next to each other, and there were other patients and their **families inside**.

**Anna's** voice was as loud as thunder. Soon, many patients and their families peeked out of their rooms curiously to see what was going on.

*They* stretched their necks toward Nina's ward while pointing **there...**

fell once again when she saw her mother's tantrum. She was almost out of breath sorry for Nina, but at the same time was angry toward Anna. She took her handbag and slammed it next to Anna. "You're here to ask Nina for money, right? Take this money and leave at to yell and curse at Bianca, but when she opened the handbag and saw the stacks of cash inside, her clouded scrambled to her feet and grabbed the handbag as though she was protecting waved at her daughter. "You just rest here. I'll come and look for you in a couple of days. The money here isn't enough. Go and make some more money when you're discharged. I need the money at her daughter or asking about her daughter's operation, Anna's corpulent body waddled away as she hugged the her mother leave with a vacant gaze. Her face was once again awash Her heart was already numb. expect that a mother would treat her daughter like that. She's her birth daughter, right?" The young nurse mumbled to nurse's mother treated her daughter with tender care, and the nurse had never seen such a merciless mother. In her heart, she had cursed Anna a

the door to ward to shield Nina from those curious

#### Chapter 373 The Warmth He Gave Her

Bianca wanted to stay the night with Nina, but Nina insisted that she leave.

"The nurses at the hospital will be able to take care of me. You don't have to spend your entire day with me," Nina said.

"Lanie and Rainie are still young, and they need their mother's company," she continued, "If you stay here, what should the kids do if they miss their Mommy?"

Also, Luke had been calling Bianca non-stop. Bianca did not get to stay in the hospital but instead returned to Luke's mansion.

She had just stepped into the mansion when she realized that something was amiss.

However, she could not say exactly what it was.

When she opened the front door, she was utterly shocked by what she saw!

The entire house had transformed into a sea of flowers.

The wall in the middle was decorated with balloons of all colors and shapes.

Pink gauze fabric surrounded the living room, which added a romantic touch to the pastoral scene.

An exquisite cake was placed in the middle of the table.

writing in the center of the cake was the most eye-catching. It read: Happy Birthday, Mommy! We love Bianca could come to her senses from the initial surprise, two little children appeared from behind the wall

them was hugging a plush toy that was almost their

carried the plush toys laboriously on tiptoe and walked in front of Bianca. "Happy birthday, Mommy!" They said at the same

not expecting that kind

her mouth to calm herself down. Then, she took the plush toys from the children's hands, crouched down, and kissed

you, thank you for such a nice surprise..." Bianca sounded like she was

one had remembered her birthday for many years. She had always spent her

long time ago, her grandfather would remember her birthday and buy her a small

left her grandfather's house, no one celebrated her birthday

her twenty-fourth birthday with her two children, and that had made her genuinely happy!

*Lanie's present* for his mother was a dumpy-looking brown bear, while Rainie's present was a cute deer.

*Bianca* placed the toys on *her bed*.

**She** was overwhelmed with tenderness after having received presents from her children for the first time.

**The** two children rubbed their faces on her body. They did not want to *go*.

Bianca was feeling a little helpless.

**She** had just returned from the hospital carrying a lot of germs. She did not want to spread them to *her children*.

*After* all, the children's immune systems were not as strong as *adults*.

"*Dearies*, Mommy went to the hospital to visit your godmother today, and I'm very dirty. Can we continue the celebration after I take a *bath*?"

The two children obediently nodded and let go of Bianca so she could go to *the bathroom*.

*After* Bianca closed the bathroom door behind her, Lanie patted his suit, straightened his bowtie, and asked his sister softly. "What do you think of my outfit today, Rainie? Am I handsome?" "You're the handsomest, Big Bro! You're ten times more handsome than Daddy!" Rainie did not hold back on her praise toward her brother!

**The** little girl was proud of her aesthetic sense, and her father was her hero. She thought that her father was incredibly handsome, but her brother was even more *handsome*.

was embarrassed when he heard his sister praise him. "You're also very pretty, like the princess in a fairy little girl was ecstatic when she heard her brother

ran toward the full body mirror in a corner of the room and struck several

she looked at Lanie smugly. "Big Bro, both of us look very nice! Ms. Nina said that we look so nice because of our parents' genes. When I grow up, I'll look for a handsome husband. What should I do if I get an ugly husband and have

to lie on the couch and rested her cheeks on her hands, worrying about the things in

Lanie sat next to his sister and said profoundly, "Don't worry, Rainie. I'll help you when you want to look for a husband in the future. Not only your future husband must be more handsome than me, but he'll also need to have a good character. He can't date you without my permission. Understand?" "I know. Big Bro, you're the nicest to me. You'll have to protect me when I start dating. Pinky

innocent little girl stretched out her pinky finger and made a pinky promise with her brother. "Pinky promise for a

little lady did not know that her careless promise would bring her many problems when she came of age. Her elder brother would continuously interfere in her relationship, and the hardships that a particular man would go through were numerous enough to write a

cleaned herself in the fastest time possible and put on some light makeup. Luke had decorated the house for her birthday, and the two children had dressed up immaculately. She could not face them with an unadorned face. Moreover, she wanted to present her best

Where was Luke though?

curious. She realized that she had not seen the man ever since she stepped into the

Chapter 374 There Is Not A Happier Moment...

Bianca looked at Luke infatuatedly.

The man whom she loved was like a perfect creation from heaven. His eyes, his nose, his lips, his silhouette; every feature was perfect.

His character was cold and aloof, but he seemed so gentle when he smiled.

Luke handed the bouquet of roses to Bianca and said, "Happy birthday."

The roses were fresh in the middle of winter, and the bouquet was adorned with Canadian goldenrods. It was exquisite and beautiful.

The roses of different colors were fragrant and elegant. It carried the meaning: All these colors say I love you. That will be my lifelong promise.

Women are romantic creatures. They could not withstand the temptation of flowers.

Bianca was shocked as she took the bouquet. "Thank you," she said, surprised.

That was not the first time that she received flowers from a man.

Jean used to give her flowers on special occasions to gain her favor, but her sentiments back then were different from now.

Luke had a serious personality, and he did not look like someone who knew how to make a woman happy. Bianca had never expected that he would give her any surprises, but this time was a great surprise.

actually gave flowers to his

girl..." Luke smiled, patted Bianca's head, and appreciated her pretty face with his profound gaze. "You look wonderful

was already very beautiful. The light makeup made her

stood there silently, though an indescribable exquisite and elegant aura naturally emanated from

me and Big Bro, Daddy?" Princess Rainie pulled over Prince Lanie and twirled around in front of her

white woolen dress spun in a graceful arc, which made the little girl look like

you're very beautiful tonight, Rainie. Lanie, you're very handsome too. Both of you have inherited your Mommy's genes." Luke indirectly praised Bianca

Bianca blushed slightly.

when she heard her Daddy's praise, and her eyes turned into crescent

Lanie shyly lowered his head.

people had praised him for his cute and handsome looks before, but his father rarely did. He felt smug and shy at the same time when Luke praised him in front of

I think I look good

**The cake** on the table had three tiers. The bottom layer was cherry-flavored and decorated with rainbow-colored cream, the middle was a light blue castle, while the topmost layer was adorned with fondant leaves. It looked incredibly *appetizing*.

*On top* of the cake was a Barbie doll in a flowing pink evening *gown*.

When it was turned on, the doll sang a birthday song.

Luke carefully placed some candles on the cake and looked gently at

*Bianca. "Come here and make a wish."*

Bianca stood in front of the cake, pressed her palms together, and made a wish while Luke and the two **children watched**.

With her eyes closed, her porcelain-like face, slightly moving red lips, and demure temperament became even more exquisite under *the candlelight*.



He had seen that face countless times since he was young, and it was imprinted in his mind. However, that did not stop him from being charmed everytime he saw **her**.

After making a wish, Bianca and the two children blew out the candles **together**.

**"What did** you wish for, Mommy?" Rainie *asked curiously*.

Lanie gently rapped his sister's head with a knuckle. "You can't tell your birthday wishes, silly! If you did, it wouldn't come true!" "Oh, is that so..." Rainie pouted disappointedly and looked at her mother.

**Bianca looked** at Rainie's innocent gaze and **smiled gently**.

bent down and patted her daughter's soft head. "I wish that our family of four can live happily forever, in peace and

faint smile appeared on

the woman he loved. She did not have any wild ambitions, nor did she want to be involved with the other socialites. She only wanted to live a humble

wish was what he was looking

have some cake!" Bianca cut the cake into tiny pieces and placed it into Lanie and Rainie's

sweet stuff. When they took their plates, they carefully shot a glance at their father. Lanie even asked, "Daddy, can Rainie and I eat some more

always been strict with his

that the children liked to eat sweet stuff, but he rarely let them indulge because that would not be good for their teeth

did not want to restrict the children on Bianca's birthday. He nodded his head and

you, Daddy! Yay!" The two children were about to jump with

to eat the cake ravenously with their hands, and they looked

Luke called out, "Do you like what I've prepared for you today? This is my first time organizing a birthday party for someone. Please let me know if I missed out on

Chapter 375 Will You Marry Me, Bianca?

Luke hugged Bianca in his arms.

He wrapped his strong arms around her delicate waist and showered her with indulgent kisses.

The kisses that carried the fragrance of cream, cherry, and strawberry seemed to be especially tasty.

Bianca was lost in the man's gentle kisses.

His embrace was too warm, and the light was too gentle. Luke's long eyelashes seemed almost transparent under the light, and Bianca was moved by his unbelievably gentle expression.

The kisses lasted for a very long time until Luke's hands started to reach beneath her shirt.

Bianca came to her senses. "Luke, shall we... eat some cake for now?"

The handsome man hugged her body dominantly and said hoarsely, "All I want to eat now is you."

Those words made Bianca's heart thump faster.

Bianca noticed that the two children were not there. She pushed herself away from his embrace. "Um, let's finish the birthday celebration first... Where's Lanie and Rainie?"

had always been afraid whenever Luke looked at her that

carried the insatiable desire of a beast. She would be helpless if he had his

sea of flowers in the living room under the gentle illumination of the lights had become the

shy and flustered expression was clearly seen under

wanted to look for the children, but Luke grabbed her wrist. "They went off to play because they know what we're about to do. Don't worry, they won't get lost in our house. Stay with me tonight, Bianca."

"I'm already staying with you every day!" Bianca's heart was thumping wildly. There was a hint of panic in

the same." Luke's slender fingers caressed her lips, then kissed heavily on

that, he took out an exquisite box from

opened the box, and a dazzlingly beautiful diamond ring was brought

Rayne, will you marry me?" Luke suddenly got down on one knee like a gentleman and asked her the question he had been keeping

stared at the huge diamond ring. She could not believe

small diamonds surrounded a big diamond. It was very

**Bianca was** almost moved to tears. She covered her **mouth tightly**.

'Luke is proposing to me?'

She was dumbfounded, and she was even wondering if she was dreaming until Luke stood *up*...

*The* man's tall body towered over her petite body. When he wore the diamond ring onto her ring finger, Bianca came to her senses and realized that he had indeed proposed *to her!*

**Luke's** short hair brushed Bianca's cheek. "Earth to Bianca, if you're not replying to my question, I'll assume that you agree to the proposal. From now on, you are Luke Crawford's wife, and till death do us part. Don't ever think of leaving my side, hm?" "Luke..." Bianca was still in a *daze*.

**Her** heart was a complicated mix of emotions as she looked at the ring on her *finger*.

*She did* not expect that Luke would be proposing to her at this **time**.

It was not that she did not want to marry him, but there were too many obstacles between them. She was prepared to wait for a long **time**.

She had even thought that being able to live together with Luke and the two children would be enough. She did not need *any titles*.

"**I've been** quite busy at the company lately, but I will hold a grand wedding ceremony for you. I want to announce to the world that you are Luke Crawford's woman. Bianca, will you marry me?" The tip of his nose pressed against hers, and she asked again.

The man's gaze was crystal-clear.

a simple promise, but it sounded dominating, as Luke always

was misty. Her long eyelashes

intertwined with his, and she started speaking solemnly, "I will. As long as you love me and I love you, nothing can come between us, right? I want to be married to you, Luke Crawford, so that I can take care of you and the two children for the rest of my

might be plain, but it had moved Luke. He responded by wildly kissing

carried Bianca off her feet and brought her to the bedroom, then pinned his beast-like body

to her senses. "Lanie and Rainie are still in the living room, they..." "Don't worry. They're not children anymore. They will go to bed when it's time." After that, Luke blocked her mouth with his

only five years old! Aren't they children?' Bianca was

man was in the mood, there was nothing that she could

wanted very much to hug the children, but Luke did not give her any time to think. He was telling her how much he loved her with his

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Chapter 376 Luke Is Busy Every Day

The next day was Saturday. After Bianca and the children had breakfast, she brought them to meet their maternal grandfather.

Luke wanted to go along, but he received an important call from the company and had to return to the office.

He would join them for lunch later.

Luke apologized to her, but Bianca thought that it was no issue. After all, Luke bore a lot of responsibility helming a multinational company.

She felt sorry for Luke sometimes. As a wage-earner, she had two rest days every week. On the other hand, whenever Luke got busy, he could work days and nights without rest.

Luke asked Lowry, his driver, to send Bianca and the two children over.

Old Master Rayne lived in a scenic neighborhood in the Nordlong Lake district. The neighborhood was built near a mountain range and a lake, and the place had fresh air and beautiful scenery. It was far from the bustle of the city, but it boasted a complete range of amenities, including a hospital, a physiotherapy center, a park, and a chain supermarket.

Luke picked that location to settle Old Master Rayne, not only because it was an ideal place for an old man to recuperate but also because everything was convenient.

After Bianca and the twins got out of the car, they saw a group of old people line dancing at the plaza near the entrance.

Her grandfather was among the crowd.

Rayne seemed to be in good spirits. Her aunt Wanda was walking alongside him while chatting with sight of Bianca in the corner of

was carrying many presents and brought two cute children with her. She was dressed in casual clothes, her hair was tied in a ponytail, and she did not wear any makeup. Her pure looks made her stand out from

"Grandpa, Aunt Wanda..."

greeted her grandfather and aunt softly while looking at the energetic Old Master Rayne and the gently tugged Old Master Rayne's shirt sleeve and said softly, "Bea and her kids are here to visit you, Father." "My granddaughter is here? You haven't visited me for a long time. Let me see if you've become thinner..." Old Master Rayne gleefully waved at Bianca. His eyes were full of

and the twins walked toward

eyes misted when she saw Old Master Rayne's head full of white hair." I'm sorry, Grandpa. I've been busy lately, and I didn't have the time to come and visit you. I'll try to come every week." "Silly girl, I know that you're busy, and it must be tough surviving by yourself. If you can't make it, I'll be satisfied if you can give me

Master Rayne's words did not comfort Bianca

silently swore that she would come and visit her grandfather often in case he got

"Lanie, Rainie, come here. This is your other Great Grandpa, and this is Great Aunt Wanda. Be good children and greet them." Bianca patted the twins' heads. 2 "Good morning, Great Grandpa and Great Aunt Wanda. My name is Lanie/ Rainie," the twins said in unison and **introduced themselves**.

*Then*, they blew flying kisses at their **elders**.

"*Haha, they're good kids!*" Old Master Rayne took an instant liking to the precocious twins. 1

He had heard from Wanda about what happened to Bianca.

*He* was moved by how his granddaughter had sold herself to become a surrogate mother to save his son. At the same time, he also felt **guilty**.

Old Master Rayne could not stop grinning when he saw that the twins were so cute and *intelligent*.

He sat on a bench and gently lifted the twins' faces with his wrinkled hands. 'These two kids look so good. They're just like my granddaughter when she was young!' "Does Mommy look like Rainie when she's young, Great Grandpa?" *Lanie asked*.

"Mm, your Mommy was very cute when she was small, just like the two of you. Her hair would be tied in twin tails, and she would receive praises wherever she went. Other kids would be crying, but your Mommy wouldn't. She knows how to help me with chores too. I didn't expect that her children are already so **big...**"

*Old Master Rayne's gaze turned gentle as he reminisced about the past while looking at the two children who looked like Bianca.*

"**Let's go** home first, Grandpa," Bianca was embarrassed when she heard her grandfather praising her.

laughed when she looked at her niece. She and Bianca helped Old Master Rayne walk toward

old men and women who were exercising in the park greeted Old Master Rayne. "Hey, Ol' Rayne, is your granddaughter visiting you?" "Yes, this is Bianca, my granddaughter. These two are my great-grandkids."

"Oh, your granddaughter is so pretty. The two kids are like fairies. You're so lucky,

smile appeared on Old Master Rayne's wrinkled

person who drove them here earlier, was that your grandson-in-law? He's tall, handsome, and drives a luxury car. Why didn't he come out of the car and greet you?" One of the old women who was good friends with Old Master Rayne

who were line-dancing at the plaza saw Bianca and the twins come out of a luxury

man who drove the car looked like a gentleman. He opened the car door for Bianca and the

man left after Bianca and the children got out of

not see clearly how

old men and women who lived in the area were quite well-off, though they were impressed by the manner in which Bianca

not my husband, Madam. He's the driver. My husband has some work in his company. He'll be here for lunch,"

Chapter 377 Luke's Sudden Appearance In the Kitchen

Wanda poured a cup of hot tea for Bianca.

She also brought out a lot of healthy snacks for the cute twins.

Wanda loved the two children a lot.

She could not bear children because of her health, and that was one of the biggest regrets in her life. That was why she gave all her love and care to Lanie and Rainie.

The two children quickly familiarized themselves with their Great Aunt Wanda.

"Are you used to living here, Grandpa?" Bianca sat on the couch and started chatting with Old Master Rayne.

"This place is great. I wasn't too used to it at the start, but it grew on me. The environment here is good, and the caretaker attends to all my needs. I often go for walks around the neighborhood and find many friends of my age. I've never imagined that I'd be able to enjoy such a good life. The neighbors were right, Bianca. I'm so lucky because of you!" Old Master Rayne said emotionally.

After toiling for many years, it was finally his turn to relax and enjoy life.

When his son Kevin became an adult, he found a stable job, but he was too down-to-earth and was destined to be poor.

married twice after that, and each wife was worse than the

the first wife, was haughty and materialistic. She left because she could not stand that her husband was too

have many negative aspects, but the only thing good about her was that she left Old Master Rayne with

Kevin's second wife, was even more haughty and arrogant. She dominated over her husband, not allowing him to visit his father, and forbade Old Master Rayne and Bianca from visiting him in A

too submissive toward his wife. He had neglected his father and daughter for many

how Old Master Rayne had raised Bianca in the small town for many

was tough back then, but Old Master Rayne

did not expect that his granddaughter grew up to be a very capable individual. Not only did she land herself a well-paying job in the big city, but she also found an outstanding husband who cared for him. Old Master Rayne did not have anything else to ask

mention it, Grandpa. I'm your granddaughter. This is what I

took out a stack of dollar bills from her handbag and stuffed it in Old Master Rayne's hands. "I just got paid recently. You can take this. Let me know if it's not

**Old Master** Rayne did not have a bank account. He only used cash.

**His** eyes widened, but he declined the offer. "You've paid for my stay here. Why do I need money? I don't go shopping anyway, and I'll be keeping the cash in the house. What if a thief breaks in?"

Bianca laughed, but she insisted on giving her grandfather the money." Don't worry, the security in this neighborhood is very good. There won't be any break-ins. Shouldn't you keep some money with you in case you see something that you like? Otherwise, your neighbors might think that I don't treat you well and don't give you spending money. You'd better take this money, Grandpa. Otherwise, I'll be angry!" "This is a small token from Bianca, Father. You should take it," Wanda, who was playing with the children, added.

**It was** not very often that Bianca acted coyly toward her grandfather. Old Master Rayne shook his head helplessly and took the stack of dollar *bills*.

**He sighed** and said to Bianca, "Alright then, I'll take the money and save it *for you*."



Soon, it was noon.

The caretaker had taken a few days off, so Bianca and Wanda **prepared lunch**.

*They bought* two full bags of ingredients from **the supermarket**.

*Bianca bought* some organic chicken and pork ribs to make a nutritious stew for Old Master Rayne and Luke.

cleaning the vegetables in the kitchen, Wanda gave her advice to Bianca. "Bianca, you might have two children with Luke, but you should get him to marry you. I'm speaking from experience here. When a man loves you, he can treat you like a treasure and give you the world, but when he doesn't love you, it won't matter even if

world is so chaotic now, and there are so many temptations outside there. Men can be fickle, so you need a legal marriage to protect yourself. If you end up in divorce, at least you get to leave

should also learn how to dress up yourself. Look at you. You're going to be twenty-five years old next year, but you still dress like a college student. Men are like bees; they like the most colorful blooms. If you don't know how to flaunt yourself, you'll eventually wilt and lose all your amazing colors. It'll be too late when your bee goes to other flowers

always groomed herself impeccably. Bianca had never seen her without

Wanda was divorced, she had carried herself well, and her face had never looked haggard. She was as delicate and elegant as

to some of Wanda's points but disagreed with the

believed that Luke was not a bee, and he would not seek

knew that her aunt cared for her. After all, Wanda's only surviving relations were Old Master Rayne and Bianca. It was natural for Wanda to be concerned about

gently stirred the chicken stew and took in

and said to Wanda, "You don't have to worry about me, Aunt Wanda. Things will turn out fine. Right, how has your health been? Have you been to the hospital for

Chapter 378 So Caring and Indulgent

Everything served at lunch was home-cooked, but it had a full spread of meats, an assortment of vegetables, and Old Master Rayne's favorite sake.

Luke had found out about Old Master Rayne's favorite sake brand from Bianca. He took a long detour on the way and bought it.

After serving the rib stew on the table, Bianca sat down next to Luke.

She scooped some stew into her grandfather's plate and said, "Grandpa, I've learned how to cook from recipe books. Try them. I hope that you'll like it."

Most of the dishes were Old Master Rayne's favorites, while the others were Luke's favorite dishes.

Old Master Rayne patted Luke's shoulders and heaped praise on his granddaughter. "My granddaughter is pretty good, right? Look at all the dishes served on the table. Not only do they look good, but they taste good too. I'm already drooling from the smell alone. You're so lucky to marry my Bianca. She's been a good girl since young, but she is too soft. She won't complain even if someone wronged her. You'd better not bully my granddaughter, Luke!"

Old Master Rayne had met Luke several times and knew that he was the boss of a multinational company. Luke might be rich, but he was not arrogant. Instead, he was polite and courteous toward Old Master Rayne, which gave the old man a good impression of him.

Old Master Rayne was nonetheless worried.

His granddaughter was a good girl, but the outstanding man came from a wealthy family.

his family was not rich or influential, and he feared that he was a burden. He was also worried that his granddaughter might be looked down

body sat elegantly on the dining chair. While discreetly fondling Bianca's petite hand, he spoke jokingly to Old Master Rayne, ' Don't worry, Grandpa. Bianca's position in the family is higher

always the one bullying me. Would I dare to bully her? I don't think I've pampered her enough!" "Good boy! Here, let's

Master Rayne was in good spirits today. After several drinks, his face was glowing red, and he

snatched her grandfather's cup when she saw that. "You ought to drink less, Grandpa. It's not good for Rayne glanced at Bianca unhappily. "I'm in a good mood today. I know my body better than anyone else, and I won't collapse after just a few drinks. I'd like to have a few more drinks with

had been placing food on the twins' plates, frowned when she heard that. "You might be in a good mood today, Father, but you shouldn't drink too much. When we went to the hospital for your checkup a few days ago, the doctor said that you should quit drinking. If your body can't take it and you have to be hospitalized, Bianca would have to come and take care

Rayne slammed the cup heavily on the table when he heard what his daughter

sank, and he said angrily, "Fine, I won't drink anymore! My grandson-in-law is here to visit me, and I thought I'd drink a few more cups with him. What's wrong with

sighed helplessly. What was she going to do with her grandfather who loved

The twins looked at their great-grandfather with their big and round eyes. Their mouths were open, and they had forgotten to *chew*.

*The way* how their maternal great-grandfather threw a tantrum was exactly the same as Old Master **Crawford**!

Old Master Crawford suffered from high blood pressure and could not eat oily or spicy food, but he loved to eat meat. When Luke tried to restrict his diet, he would throw a tantrum just like that, and the twins would find it *too funny*!

*Luke had* his own way of dealing with bad-tempered old men. After all, he could handle Old Master Crawford who had a bad temper. Old Master Rayne looked more like an *overaged child*.

**He** placed his cup on the table elegantly, smiled, and said gently, "I've drunk a little with my client before I got here. The sake is too strong, and I don't think I can manage another drink. How about we drink another day? Right, my old man has several bottles of fine red wine in his cellar at home. Not only does it taste amazing, but it's also good for your health. You can even drink a bottle of that without any ill effects. Unfortunately, I was in a hurry to come today, and I forgot to bring it for you. I'll bring a bottle of wine next time, and we'll drink it together. How about *that?*"

Old Master Rayne felt a lot better when his grandson-in-law alleviated the situation.

**When he** heard that there would be wine, his clouded eyes sparkled. ' Alright, we'll drink to our fill the next *time then!*"

The family continued the meal happily.

Luke had to chat with Old Master Rayne and at the same time answer Wanda's incisive questions. However, he could handle them *just fine*.

**Luke** was not used to being so chatty with strangers, but Old Master Rayne was different. The old man was gentle and caring. He would have never experienced such homeliness back in Crawford Manor, and that made him want to be part of this **family**.

Bianca take a lot of food and piled her

too skinny, Bianca. You ought to eat more..." His eyes brimmed

were so natural, as though he had done that for a million

Master Rayne and Wanda saw

Rayne had lived for a long time. He could tell that Luke was genuinely kind to

was worried that the rich man might only be temporarily infatuated with her niece. However, from Luke's performance at the dining table, she could see that his love for her was genuine,

was not very at ease yet. She felt that a man's love toward a woman was fleeting. For example, when her husband was madly in love with her, the way he pampered her would cause every woman in Japan to envy her. Once that love was gone, he would not turn to look at her no matter how she cried

hoped was that her kind and gentle niece would not suffer as she

Bianca and Wanda cleaned up while Luke played chess with Old Master

night, Bianca, Luke, and the two children stayed for dinner and

Chapter 379 She Would Like To See What Leia Would Do To Her!

Of course, none of Luke's family members ever gave him extra money, not even when he was a child.

His grandfather had been strict with him. Susan treated him with hostility.

Meanwhile, his mother Allison was the one asking him for money instead.

Luke felt extremely emotional as he held the envelope in his hand.

The envelope was light, but he felt that it was so heavy that his hands were trembling.

Luke did not want to take money from an old man, but the envelope carried a special meaning. He had to take it.

"Luke, Grandpa won't let you leave if you don't accept the money. It's a tradition in our family," Bianca said gently as she held onto his arm.

She knew how stubborn her grandfather could be.

If Luke did not accept the envelope, Old Master Rayne was not going to let him leave.

"Thank you, Grandpa," Luke felt that his throat was dry, but his heart was indescribably warm.

envelopes too, Daddy! Great-Grandpa and Great Aunt Wanda gave them to

children went through their backpacks as though searching

while, the two children took out two envelopes each from their backpacks and showed them

had given them the envelopes right before bedtime. After that, they forgot to tell their

that they saw their father receiving an envelope, they wanted to show that they got

glanced sternly at the twins, who were only as tall as his thigh. "Are you hiding money from me

twins were intimidated by their father's stern glare and quickly hid behind their

his head guiltily, while Rainie tried to argue. "I'm not hiding money! Yesterday, Big Bro and I were too tired, and I forgot to tell you after we woke up.

Master Rayne felt sorry for the two children when they saw how scared they were of their

the children by patting their little heads and said to Luke in a rebuking tone, "I was the one who insisted on them taking the envelopes. You shouldn't blame

**The old** man was very fond of the *twins*.

"**You shouldn't** spoil them, Grandpa," Bianca said helplessly, "We'll be going for now, and we'll visit you whenever we're free. You should take care of your health. Goodbye, Aunt **Wanda...**"

After saying their goodbyes, the family drove *off*.

Old Master Rayne stood in front of the door with his walking stick. He remained there, not saying a word, for a long time.

**Wanda gently** tugged Old Master Rayne's arm and said, "It's cold *outside*.

Let's go back into the house."

Old Master Rayne walked back while being supported by his daughter." Wanda, do you think that Luke would complain that I don't give him enough money? After all, he's so rich," he *said worriedly*.

"**How** much did you give him. Father?" Wanda asked curiously.

"*Eight hundred* dollars. That's a lucky number," Old Master Rayne *said*.

"*That's enough*, Father. It's considered a lot of money in our hometown. What's important is your intention. Moreover, your grandson-in-law isn't short on money anyway."

Luke dropped eight hundred dollars on the floor, he might not even bend down and pick it up. In the time it took him to do so, he would have already earned a hundred times more

envelope was a symbol of the old man's blessing to him and Luke. It was incredibly meaningful, and he would

Bianca is lucky. I have no complaints about Luke, but I can't say the same for his family! Just like you. I've told you that you shouldn't marry that Japanese guy, but you don't listen, and now...

mentioned his daughter's unhappy marriage, Old Mater Rayne became dejected, and the wrinkles on his face seemed to

of agony flashed past Wanda's face, but she soon composed herself in a few seconds. "Father, Bianca and I are different. My marriage might be unhappy, but that doesn't mean she wouldn't find happiness in her marriage. I think that Luke is a good man, and he will treat Bianca well. You don't have to worry about her. I believe Bianca will be very happy under his care." "I hope so too..." Old Master Rayne

old man's hunched back seemed to hunch even

Soon, it was Monday.

very busy at work. The collaboration project between T Corporation and Vivi Group would be starting construction after the new year, and the small team had to brave against the cold and go to survey

about two o'clock in the afternoon when they returned to the office. Bianca did not waste any time and started working on

it, Bella came into

Chapter 380 Bianca Might Look Docile, But She Has A Sharp Tongue!

T Corporation advertising department.

The interior shooting location was beautifully decorated, and all the employees were busy at work.

The shoot was for a commercial of T Corporation's latest Queen series perfumes which would be launched after the new year. It was fragrant, long- lasting, and epitomized feminine charm and allure.

The theme of the commercial this time was "obsession."

When Bianca stepped into the location, she could see that everyone was busy in their roles.

Leia was in a see-through outfit and smokey eye makeup. She was in the middle of a shoot.

The crew members were busy attending to her.

They took a short break during which the cosmetician touched up Leia's makeup. After that, she returned to the scene.

Josef, the director, sat behind a high shutter speed camera. He was talking through the walkie-talkie, telling the lighting technician to turn up the brightness.

the lighting was adjusted, he got cameras 1 and 2 to change their positions. Then, he spoke loudly into the walkie-talkie, Til need everyone's cooperation to get the shoot to work

was an internationally renowned director. Two of his movies, 'A Beautiful Soul' and "Magic Arrow," have earned him the Best Director award in the Oscars. He had directed commercials for other major perfume brands like Chanel and

All the crew members

Josef gave the command, the gaffer, lighting technicians, and camera crew became

2, and 3 all pointed at Leia to capture the

crew pressed the

a perfume bottle in her hand. She changed various seductive poses, including lying on the floor, facing the camera with her back, or using her arm to cover half of her face. In any case, they all

not help but shake

had always maintained a pure image. Now that she had to flaunt her seductive charm, she could not help but be reserved. The seductive poses turned out stiff

**"Cut!"** In only a few minutes, Josef gave the command to *stop*.

*He looked* at Leia disappointedly and said coldly, "You don't seem like you're in your element, Ms. Norman. How about we take a ten-minute break and continue. Our theme for this shoot is 'obsession,' and you should be overbearing as a queen. Your gaze was hollow and innocent, and you should be more seductive. Try and figure it *out*."

*Leia* was feeling discouraged. She noticed Josef's disappointed gaze on **her**.

**She** had tried her best to look as seductive as *possible*!

**To** complete the shoot, she had tried her best to devote herself to the role, even forgetting to eat. The shoot had gone on for almost a day, and it was not *done yet*.

**Previously**, all her commercial shoots were done in **one take**.

*She* had given her best to the shoot. What more did the bad-tempered director *want*?

**She** thought that the director was deliberately being troublesome, but she maintained her composure and said, "Thank you for your pointers, Mr. Josef. I'll pay more attention next time."

*After Leia* stepped away from the scene, Josef sat behind the camera reviewing the footage. He spoke to his assistant helplessly, "This actress is pretty, but she doesn't have any soul. Her performance was stiff, and her bearing isn't suitable for this brand at all. Mr. Crawford has always been a good judge of character. I wonder why he would pick her as the spokesperson..."

*The people* in the shooting location surrounded **Leia**.

handed Leia a bottle of water. She daintily sipped from the bottle, cursing the director to hell under her smiling

to flatter Leia because of her status, and no one had directly criticized her acting skills in front of her, even though her skills were

had criticized her skills in front of everyone, disregarding her

made Leia feel very aggrieved, but she could not vent

"Ms. Norman."

walked in front of Leia. "When I was working, my department lead said that the advertising department needs my help, and Ms. Norman had specifically requested me to come. Now that I'm here, there doesn't seem to be a shortage of

Bianca's tone was calm.

her water bottle down and turned to look at Bianca. "I'm sorry to have disturbed your work, Ms. Rayne. You should know that one of my two assistants had a small accident at Blue Honors, and she had to go back to her hometown to recuperate for a period. The other assistant happened to take a few days off too, and they can't be by my side today. I'm not too familiar with T Corporation, and I tend to become nervous in new environments. I thought that you can become my temporary assistant since we're acquaintances. Maybe you can help me adjust to the environment so we can finish the shoot as soon as possible. Surely you wouldn't mind

excuse was rather far-fetched, but Leia put on a humble face while speaking earnestly. That left a good impression on the surrounding crew