

Be Gentle 431

Chapter 431 Luke Is Overbearing!

Late in the night.

Sue was in the critical stage of her pregnancy, and she could not move about that easily. That was why she left the venue first.

Bianca and Nina also felt tired and said goodbye. Other than Michelle, the ones who remained in the private room were all men.

After saying their superficial goodbyes, they continued having fun.

Armand wanted to see Bianca off instead of staying in the boring room. He pretended to stumble and said that he was drunk and needed to go home and rest. The other male colleagues did not persuade him to stay.

After all, those who remained had their own agendas.

After most of the female colleagues were gone, the male colleagues that usually looked serious called for the manager of the karaoke bar, selected several escorts that had decent figures, and continued their merriment...

The situation inside the room was warm and lively. Once they stepped out of Blue Honors, the biting cold wind froze their necks.

Fortunately, Bianca, Sue, and Nina wore thick down jackets and scarves. With adequate protection, they did not feel so cold.

"Shall I send you home, Sue?" Bianca looked at Sue's stomach worriedly.

five months pregnant, but her stomach was abnormally big. Bianca thought that Sue might be pregnant patted her stomach and laughed heartily. "Don't worry. I've already reserved a ride, and it'll be here soon. It's so cold today. You and Nina should go home and rest. Are you two taking cabs

onto Sue's arm and said with mock anger, "Sue, Bea had already sent a message to the boss half an hour ago, and he should arrive at the entrance of Blue Honors at any time. You don't have to worry about Bianca... As for you, it's not very convenient for a pregnant woman to go home so late. What if there's an accident? How about this. I'll send you home tonight and stay over. Well go to work together

looked at Nina gratefully. "Thank you so much,

was pregnant, she would not be afraid of going back at late hours. However, she dared not risk the life of the baby in

smiled. "Aren't we friends. Sue? You don't have to be so

Beep beep!

of a car horn interrupted their

Mercedes Benz stopped at the road not too

closely and saw from the car plate that it was the ride she

Not far away, just beyond the corner where the Mercedes Benz stopped, a black Rolls-Royce was parked there like an elegant unicorn, its color blending into the night.

Sue could recognize that it was their boss's car, and it was there to pick Bianca **up**.

She did not go over and greet Luke. Instead, she waved at the white Mercedes Benz. "Over here, Mister!"

The Benz drove toward them.

Sue turned around and told Bianca, "Our ride is here, Bianca. We'll be going off first. I saw that the boss's car is beyond the corner. I don't know how long he's been waiting there, but you should go home soon too. Take a good rest. We'll be very busy tomorrow."

Bianca waved goodbye to them. "Mm, you and Nina should rest too. Don't be too *tired*."

Sue and Nina sat at the back seat of the Mercedes Benz, rolled down the window, and waved at Bianca. "Bye, Bianca, see you *tomorrow*."

After they left, Bianca noticed the *familiar Rolls-Royce*.

Luke opened the door and walked out of the car. Bianca skipped and fell into his arms like a happy *sparrow*.

When Anand came out of Blue Honors, he saw the scene of Bianca skipping toward the man's embrace.

was moving very fast. Her nimble figure

beam of light shone into his eyes from the street corner, which made

had to narrow his blue

was born in a wealthy family, and he had seen his fair share of luxury cars. However, he could not calm himself down when he saw that the extravagantly luxurious car was here to pick

Bianca fall into a young man's arms. The man hugged her waist intimately and carefully rubbed

not see the man's face under the dim light. However, that tall and slender figure seemed inexplicably elegant, but at the same time, carried an unnerving ferocity like a

'Is that man Bianca's boyfriend?

'He seems very imposing!'

gentleman, Anand knew that he should not eavesdrop. However, his curiosity drove him forward. He hid behind a sycamore tree near them and listened to their conversation.

could hear that the man's voice was low and resonant like a cello performance. He sounded melancholic but at the same time

Chapter 432 Do Your Best, Bianca!

As Luke turned his head over, his face was illuminated by the street light and moonlight. That was the first time Anand saw his face clearly, i

The curves of the man's lips were elegant and graceful. He was noble and otherworldly.

For a brief moment, Anand thought that the man was Prince Charming who had walked out of a book. His lofty demeanor was breathtaking, but he emitted an aura as serene and tranquil as the bright moonlight.

Anand had to admit that he was impressed.

The man whom he had recently classified as a "love rival" was noble and aloof, while Bianca in his arms was graceful and beautiful. As the couple hugged each other, it was extremely pleasing to the eye.

Whoever looked at the man or the woman could have easily been charmed.

His crush was as docile as a kitten in the man's arms.

Anand felt uneasy. He wanted to say hi to Bianca, but the man escorted her to the car and opened the door like a gentleman.

Bianca was smiling like a blooming flower.

Anand stood rooted on the ground. He did not take another step forward.

no reason for him to be there. He could only stare as the luxury car drove away and disappeared

next day, Bianca woke up just after

breakfast for Luke and the two children. The family of four had their breakfast, after which they dropped off Lanie and Rainie at the kindergarten and went to T Corporation in Luke's

her desk, Bianca was surprised to find that her drawer

She furrowed her brows.

that they left in quite a hurry to Blue Honors for dinner, and she did not remember whether she had locked

she did not suspect anything when she saw the documents still in a tidy stack, and the top sheet of paper was the agenda for today's

took the thick stack of documents and went to the

was different than the previous ones. Other than the designers and employees from T Corporation involved in the project, there were also employees from Vivi Group. Most importantly, the higher management of both companies were

and the chairman of Vivi Group were seated in the

the number of people involved, the meeting was held in a conference

Quinton Lamarr, the chairman of Vivi Group, was seated on the left of the conference table. He seemed like an authoritative middle-aged man used to issuing commands. He had a lean and healthy build, though he always looked serious.

Luke sat on the right side of the table. He was dressed in a black business suit. He was younger than Quinton, but his air of authority was about *the same*.

The higher management of both companies sat at the frontmost two rows of the conference hall. The other employees sat from the third row onward.

Yanis's team sat on the third row.

Bianca sat with Sue, Nina, and Tom in the middle of the fourth row.

There was an empty seat next to **Bianca**.

When Anand saw that, he insisted on sitting there, disregarding Bianca's cold **expression**.

Bianca was helpless. The meeting was about to begin, and she was not going to quarrel with Anand over a seat.

She did not want to bother her colleagues, so she let **him be**.

The meeting began.

The leaders of the two multinational corporations exchanged a handshake to symbolize the start of the meeting, and each side presented their research on the urban *reconstruction project*.

two companies had disagreements on the allocation of profits. The main reason for the meeting was to strive for a

management from each company gave a speech. They gave their viewpoints and opinions on the reasons for developing the area, the current development plan, and the return of profits so that they could help their company to gain

the higher management gave their speeches, it was the design teams

Yanis gave a speech, followed

of them were extremely capable women with the gift of gab. To show that their company had the better designs, they provided many strong points as they displayed their blueprints and

was the first time that Bianca saw Mavis's design

were ahead of its time. No wonder she was the best designer of T

Ms. Fuller's designs were no pushover either. Her designs were striking and impactful. It was hard to tell which of them was

was surprised when it was Anand's turn to

had thought that Anand, as the newest member of the team, would be a rookie like her. Unexpectedly, he was very talented in design. His designs were unique, and even Bianca could not have thought up some of

less repulsed by that seemingly flippant

Chapter 433 I Can't Let Luke Down!

As Bianca walked onto the podium, her gaze subconsciously turned to Luke.

She saw that the man was looking at her encouragingly, and that had made her slightly at ease.

She handed copies of the documents to the bosses of the two companies as well as the higher management...

Then, she inserted the flash drive into the laptop, adjusted the microphone, and prepared to give her presentation.

Quinton flipped through Bianca's document, and his expression instantly sank. "Ms. Rayne, are you mistaken about this meeting's agenda?"

Bianca looked curiously at a copy of the document in her hand and was instantly shocked. 'How... how is this possible? This isn't the document that

I prepared the day before, but the weekly report of our design department...'

Slam!

The chairman of Vivi Group slammed the document on the table.

Quinton's authoritative expression became even gloomier because of his anger. "How could you possibly make this kind of mistake as a designer? Even a rookie employee would not make such a stupid mistake! Do you think that I would be relieved if I have you in the project?"

Quinton's accusatory gaze fell on Luke. 'So this is the level of talent you have in your company? I'm impressed!"

Bianca blushed red with embarrassment.

accessed her flash drive to look for the designs she had made for the

she could not find anything no matter how hard

turned pale in an instant. How could that be

that the joint meeting between two companies was very important, and she had made sure that the flash drive contained all the files she needed. However, all those files were

at the flustered Bianca with a cold smile on her face, thinking that she was making a fool out

smirked. Was the woman the CEO loved? She lost all composure because of a small matter. Such a useless woman would never catch up to her, nor would she deserve to stand by the

in the conference hall started to whisper among each

management sitting in the first two rows watched as the cursor moved between folders, trying to look for the information for the meeting. They shook their

of the folders seemed tidy, and they could see that the young woman was usually attentive. Why would she make such a

might sympathize with her, but they were not going to forgive her for

Nina, Tom, and the other employees were feeling anxious for Bianca,

She watched as Bianca helplessly and awkwardly stood on the podium. At that moment, Nina had the urge to rush forward and give Bianca a hug.

In Yanis's team, other than Macauley and Anand who were looking at Bianca worriedly, the other people were apathetic to her **predicament**.

Only Luke was sitting calmly in his *seat*.

He could see that Bianca was thoroughly flustered and was about to cry, but he did not **help her**.

In their personal lives, he was willing to shield her from every external danger. However, he could not do so in their professional lives. She had to learn how to calmly deal with unforeseen **accidents**.

Luke beckoned to Jason and whispered something in his *ear*.

Jason stood up and gently reminded Bianca, "Ms. Rayne, can you try recalling if you might have misplaced the documents somewhere? Maybe you have forgotten to **print them?**"

Bianca shook her head cluelessly. "No, I remember very clearly that I've made copies of everything and kept them in my drawer before I went off work yesterday, but I forgot to lock the drawer... When I came to work today, I took the stack of documents out of the drawer without looking at it, but somehow it turned into the weekly report."

Jason seemed to have thought of something when he heard that Bianca did not lock **her drawer**.

He continued asking, "Are you sure that you didn't bring it home with you when you went off work?"

Bianca thought for a while and shook her head confidently. "No, I'm sure that **I didn't.**'

at his watch and said sternly, "That's enough! I don't want any more excuses! I'll give you another fifteen minutes for you to fix your stupid mistake. Otherwise, you're out of the team. I don't need any dead weights working under

flashed with a hint of coldness when he heard Quinton's

seated like a statue, but his gaze toward the chairman of Vivi Group became cold

forced her tears back into her eyes. She was not going to

bowed to everyone in their seats. "I apologize for my mistake. I'll go back to the office to look for the off the podium and went back to the

minutes later, Bianca returned to the conference hall

had combed through her desk but did not find the documents she not have copied the wrong documents. She would double-check her documents before she copied them and would not have made such a could not have brought it home either. When she left for Blue Honors the evening before, she was not carrying being able to find what she wanted, she could not do anything else but return to the conference she stepped on the podium, she apologized to everyone again. "I am very sorry. I tried searching on my desk, but I don't know why the documents are

Chapter 434 Bianca Is Too Capable!

What a bold claim! Did she know what she was saying?

Some people might meticulously prepare their presentations, and there would still be errors. Right now, she was going to improvise her presentation!

Everyone cast suspicious glances on Bianca, which made her palms wet with sweat.

Bianca's grip on the stack of documents in her hands became tighter.

Earlier, while she was looking for her missing documents, she found some design sketches in her cabinet.

Those were not floor plans or 3D renderings but colored pencil concept sketches done during her free time.

Bianca was not professionally trained in illustration, but she possessed certain talents. Moreover, whenever inspiration struck her, she would draw her designs on paper with a sketching pen or colored pencils instead of drawing them on the computer.

The thick stack of paper was all her concept sketches for the project.

The department lead had commented that Bianca was old-fashioned for sketching on paper, but Bianca did not care. That was the special way she processed her inspirations.

The designs and 3D renderings in the flash drive were gone, so perhaps the sketches would do in a pinch.

She gathered her courage and stood on the podium with her sketches.

opened the lid of the scanner, placed a sketch face down on it, and deftly operated

was wondering what the bumbling employee wanted to

on the big screen in the conference hall, several messy but unforgettable concept sketches appeared. Also, there were photographs of the old

spoke through the microphone, and her charming voice resounded in every corner of the conference hall. "I'm sorry for the delay. Now, let's go into the main topic of the meeting. I've done some charcoal and colored pencil concept sketches of the area, and I'd like to go into the rationale behind

Everyone in the audience reacted differently.

most of the people were curious and in

corners of Luke's lips curled slightly into a

Quinton furrowed his brows.

and the others breathed a sigh

her eyes. She seemed to have a newfound understanding of

Anand and Macauley were surprised.

not look too pleasant. Bella clenched her fists tightly, and her expression

With a laser pointer, Bianca pointed at the photo of the current old commercial area on *the screen*.

She continued to speak calmly, "The area to be developed occupies a prime spot in the Cercis Business District. More than ten years ago, that was the busiest spot in the city. However, as the city expanded outward and business trends and transport patterns changed, The flaws of the area's design were exposed and it became dirty and messy. The only way out is to redevelop the **entire area...**

"My appointed task as a qualified designer is to figure out how to give the place a new look so that it can become a future commercial landmark and a convergence of human traffic of the city.

"Most of the buildings in the area are built in the classic style. However, it is a sign of being behind the times. Considering its central location, the area is surrounded by many high-end residential and commercial areas. My personal opinion is that the design should be modern and trendy, and this concept shall be reflected in the individual designs of the buildings. Take a look at my sketches. I believe that these designs can bring convenience to the consumers..."

Bianca's sketches were very rough, but one could see her abilities in illustration and design at **a glance**.

The exteriors of the buildings were colorful and vibrant. The shape of each building was irregular, causing them to look both independent and connected.

There were also a lot of modern elements in her design. Using the open spaces, she added gardens and ecological landscapes. With the wide roads that led to all directions, it was a bustling scene.

Undeniably, each of Bianca's design sketches was **impressive!**

Luke sat in his seat, carefully observing *Bianca*.

She was in her element. Compared to the flustered woman who was almost crying, she seemed to be a different person.

Bianca was engrossed in her presentation. Her speech was gentle *yet assertive*.

many nitpicking questions, but Bianca was able to answer all of them with
on the podium made everyone regard

Luke smiled pleasantly.

His woman did not disappoint him.

Bella was almost losing her mind. As she looked at Bianca speaking calmly and elegantly on the podium,
she wanted to give that face a tight

it turn out

should have been perfect. How did that woman easily overcome it with just several rough sketches?
How

ended her presentation more than an hour later. The conference hall was

was the first one to give his applause. The other people came to their senses and started applauding
were red from all that clapping. She was genuinely proud of her friend's

Bianca was too capable.

who had been sullen,

Chapter 435 That Is How Luke the Businessman Seeks His Revenge

The urban reconstruction project involved funds of over a hundred billion dollars. The reason behind T Corporation and Vivi Group's collaboration was not only because of the astronomical sum of money involved, but also because it was impossible for a single corporation to gain sole development rights over the entire area.

In an attempt to regulate the economy, the local government did not want to give the entire pie to one corporation, even if the company could do so.

Even a single percentage point of profits from this project was a huge sum of money. Vivi Group was not going to go down without a fight.

The two parties were caught in a stalemate. All of Vivi Group's higher management was furious.

They were planning to fight tooth and nail for one or two percentage points. Now that Luke wanted a whole ten percentage points, they were definitely angry.

After all, all civilities were already off the table. There was no point in courtesies, and therefore the boards of directors from Vivi Group were acting arrogantly.

They insisted on Quinton's proposal.

In fact, some of them even proposed to reduce T Corporation's share by several percentage points, and they were not going to yield.

They did so because they were sure that T Corporation would not be able to win the development rights of the entire area. Moreover, their financial resources were equally as strong as T Corporation.

higher management of T Corporation were confused. They did not know what their CEO was
shareholders of T Corporation were visibly displeased. Even though Luke was fighting for their benefit,
they thought that the young CEO had been too
the board of directors meeting yesterday, they had agreed upon splitting the profits 50-50 with Vivi
Group. In fact, they were even ready to yield several percentage points so that the collaboration
ecstatic when Quinton had offered T Corporation five percentage points. That was a bonus on top of the
successful collaboration. They did not expect that Luke would make such a
negotiations were fiercely intense. Neither side was willing
time passed, the higher management of Vivi Group began to lose
Meanwhile, Luke remained seated calmly.
even the usually stoic Quinton was beginning to
quite impressed with
time they met was ten years ago, in a
Luke was a lot younger back then. He might have the drive and the shrewdness, but he was *lacking experience*.

Even so, it was already very difficult to deal **with Luke**.

Quinton had predicted that the extraordinary young man would one day lead the economic scene of **A City**.

He did not expect that his predictions came **true**.

After being immersed in the cruel world of business for so many years, Luke had become more shrewd and merciless. His imposing and overbearing manner while negotiating indicated that he was not the callow lad from **before**.

Quinton could not hope to *defeat Luke*.

The intense negotiations lasted for more than an hour, but there was still *no conclusion*.

Luke did not yield a single bit, and Quinton was extremely *stubborn*.

The higher management of T Corporation was helpless. They had prepared for the project for more than a year, and they were so close to signing the agreement. A windfall was imminent, but unforeseen circumstances had disrupted their plans. Of course they **were worried**.

Bianca was even more worried. No one knew better than her the effort that Luke had put into **the project**.

had worked overtime for many nights for the project proposal, and she did not understand why his calm as before. He got Jason to light a cigarette for

glanced at the flustered Vivi Group employees, which made those people even
was getting worried as he looked at his elder brother's calm demeanor. "Luke, I think five percentage points is enough. How about we sign the agreement?" He whispered into
was Louis's first time observing his elder brother in a negotiation. He thought that his elder brother was too
that he could never achieve his elder brother's level no matter how hard he
Louis thought that it was important that they agree on the collaboration. Not only would the project bring huge profits to T Corporation, but they could also start on their next phase of
smiled gently and tapped Louis's shoulder. "Don't worry. Even if the negotiations fail, I am still confident of winning the development rights," he
had many things to say in reply to that, but when he saw how confident his elder brother looked, his trust in him
did anything that he did not have confidence in, and he would never pick fights he was not confident of winning. If Luke said that he could do it, then he must be able to do

Chapter 436 A Longing Kiss

Quinton nearly popped a vein when he heard that!
He was not expecting that Luke had several other partners waiting in line.
However, he hesitated when he considered Luke's massive network.
If he did not agree to Luke's offer, Luke might really go and look for another partner.
Moreover, those companies were no pushovers either...
Quinton clutched his chest that was starting to become painful and waved his other hand. "I'll discuss this with the other members of high management, and I'll give you a reply!" "Help yourselves with any of the conference rooms here, Mr. Lamarr," Luke said generously as he stubbed out his cigarette.
The meeting was paused.
The higher management of Vivi Group went into a smaller conference room next door.
Bianca and her colleagues returned to the design department.
Bianca wanted to spend some private time with Luke. After all, Luke must be tired from the intense negotiations earlier. She wanted nothing more than to hug him.
their relationship remained a secret in the company, and she thought it was not appropriate to go to
Bianca sat down at her desk, she received a call from Luke on the internal phone, telling her to go to the CEO's
and Nina's teasing gaze and Bella's envious gaze, Bianca got up and left for the

corridor was covered in a thick and soft Persian carpet with intricate and exquisite patterns. It was extremely comfortable to walk on, like walking on a

felt pleased as she walked along

became pregnant, the man had installed the carpet on the corridor, in case she tripped and fell. That was very considerate

on the door to the CEO's office and instantly saw a handsome face appear in front of her. Before she could react, he had already hugged her. Tightly in his

felt a warm and moist sensation on her lips. Those were Luke's lips kissing her

could not breathe when her mouth was covered by Luke's fiery

could do was push Luke's chest away with her delicate hands." Mmh... Luke... I...

go of her and caressed her shoulders with his

Bianca smelled the faint scent of tobacco mixed with the man's unique masculine scent. She did not feel disgusted, but instead, she felt sorry for the man.

She knew that Luke was a chain smoker because he could only find relief from the pressure at work through smoking. Now that she was pregnant, Luke controlled his urges and did not smoke when she was around.

If he really had to smoke, he would leave **the room**.

Bianca was grateful for that.

She was indeed sensitive to the smell of tobacco when she was pregnant, but she could not bear to see him fighting his urges to smoke. She wanted to tell him that she did not mind him smoking in front of her, but the man would rather resist his urges than smoke in front of **her**.

Bianca leaned against the man's chest, listening to his strong heartbeat behind his suit and *white shirt*.

She gently caressed his slightly prickly chin and asked softly, "Why did you change your mind right before signing the agreement? I know that you want the collaboration very much, and you've had many sleepless nights preparing the proposal... Not to mention that Mr. Lamarr's offer was within your range of acceptance. Why did *you hesitate?*"

Luke's sculpted chin was covered in a fine stubble. Bianca caressed it gently, feeling sorry for *him*.

He had usually kept his chin clean, but he had skipped shaving because he was too engrossed in *his work*.

She knew that the reason for not accepting Quinton's offer was not because the profits were not enough.

Luke gently kissed the charming woman in front of her. He did not say anything but instead hugged *her gently*.

how tired he was, he would feel relaxed whenever he was with

be as slender as ever after she was pregnant, but her face and breasts were slightly might be gentle, but his tone of voice was overbearing. "He was the one who reprimanded you in public. I can't allow that to happen to my woman." "That's... that's your reason for not accepting the offer?" Bianca clutched the hem of his sleeve more tightly. She probably burst into tears if he found out so, Bianca did not agree with Luke's reaction. Why did he refuse to sign the agreement because of the reason was herself, and that had made Bianca didn't have to do that. I was the one at fault. It's normal for to reprimand me. If other people made the same mistake, he would do the same thing. If we're not lovers but instead employer and employee, you'd also reprimand me for making that silly mistake. That is normal behavior for a boss. Please don't refuse the collaboration just because of me. I'll feel guilty for the rest of my life. instantly sealed those chattering lips with kissed, Bianca could see the ambition in the man's their personal lives, Bianca knew that Luke was gentle and considerate. Undeniably, he was extremely ambitious at work. No one knew that Luke's true motive for collaborating with Vivi Group was to acquire them and make them a part of

Chapter 437 Bianca Was Blushing From Ear To Ear

Mavis went to the CEO's office to ask Luke why he changed his mind. Before the meeting, he had said that they were going to sign the agreement with Vivi Group. She did not expect to see that heartbreaking scene at the door. Mavis wanted to laugh, but she felt something stuck in her throat. It was uncomfortable, and at the same time, it felt like it was burning. She had fallen in love with Luke the moment she laid her eyes on him. Mavis had returned to the country after graduating from an internationally renowned design college. Many large corporations wanted to recruit her, but she chose Crawford Industries that was on the brink of bankruptcy only because Luke was the general manager. She noticed Luke's infinite potential since then. Indeed, he did not disappoint her. He managed to turn the tables, expand the business, wrested it from his family's control, and renamed it T Corporation. The more she interacted with Luke, the more she was smitten by his character. Her love toward him became stronger, like a flower bud hidden in a dark corner that could never bloom but could never wither either.

Luke might not know that Mavis had a crush on him, but she found herself lucky that the man did not have any scandals involving other female socialites or young celebrities.

satisfied that he had been keeping his reputation

felt that if she kept on doing what she was doing, he would eventually notice her feelings

characteristics, ideals, and worldviews were similar to his. She thought that there would be no other woman more suitable for him than

about six years ago, he was carrying a pair of twin babies and smiling blissfully. He told her that he had become

came like a bolt out of

bled when she saw the

When did that happen?

she not realize that he had carnal relations with some other

she had not noticed that for a period, whenever she talked to him about work, he would get distracted or sometimes smile at nothing. She remembered being surprised about it, and she wondered if he had a change of

that she thought about it, Luke was obviously in love with

Mavis had tried to find out who the mother was, even hiring private detectives to do so. However, she could not find anything. Every clue led to a *dead end*.

She had tried to beat around the bush and ask Luke about the identity of the twins' mother, but Luke had cleverly diverted the topic every time.

He eventually became impatient, and Mavis did not want to make **him angry**.

As the years passed, Mavis's self-proclaimed "love rival" never appeared.

Luke remained the same, except that he had two cute children by his **side**.

His everyday habits did not change, and she continued to wait for *him*.

Her crush on him gave her a sense of inferiority that could not **be removed**.

She dared not confess to him. She was afraid that she could not handle the rejection, which might cause an irreparable rift to form between *them*.

Now that she saw the man he loved being physically intimate with another woman, tears welled up in her eyes. She was usually strong-willed, but at the current moment, she was assaulted by a complicated mix of agony, jealousy, and sorrow. Her cold face turned **pale**.

She turned around and left silently.

Her back remained straight, though her beautiful eyes were as cold as a glacier...

the office, the couple were engrossed in their longing kiss and did not notice that Mavis was looking at them through the

time later, Luke let go

face was blushing hard after the

heart instantly softened. He wanted to protect

on Bianca's lips again; the kiss earlier was not enough. "You should go back to the design department first. I'll be holding a meeting with the board of directors soon. Those old geezers will be raising a fuss if Vivi Group decides to call off the collaboration. I'll have to placate them for a

Bianca nodded and blushed. 'I know...'

went back to the design

in the design department were chatting in small groups instead of working. They knew that they had to go back to the conference hall

Bianca returned to her seat, she noticed that Sue and Nine were playing Flappy Bird on their

were engrossed in the game and did not notice

Chapter 438 The Secret In the Study...

Bianca was silent.

From the moment she knew that Mavis had planted a pair of lace panties in Luke's car, she could tell that Mavis was a scheming woman...

However, she believed that the love between her and Luke was indestructible.

So what if Mavis was a scheming woman?

She was the woman that Luke loved.

If Luke had any feelings for Mavis, they would have already been a couple. Mavis would not have to wait.

Bianca smiled at Sue when she thought of that. "I know, Sue, but I believe that our love can overcome every obstacle. If he belongs to me, then no one can take him from me. If he doesn't belong to me, then there's no point in me retaining him. We've gone through so many ordeals. It won't be that easy to tear us apart."

When Sue and Nine saw how confident Bianca was, they did not say anything.

They sincerely hoped that Bianca could find bliss. After all, a good woman like Bianca deserved to be loved.

Nina decided to change the serious conversation topic. "Hey, Sue, Bea, shall we play a round of Flappy Bird? Let's see who can get the most points.

Bianca and Sue immediately agreed to it.

When they took out their phones and started a game, the department lead announced that the meeting would resume.

Everyone headed to the conference hall.

The negotiations continued.

atmosphere in the conference hall

management from Vivi Group were sitting tensely in the seats, especially Quinton, whose sullen expression was

management from T Corporation was totally different. All of them seemed energetic and confident, perhaps because Luke had told them something during their meeting. The board of directors who had argued vehemently against Luke seemed a lot

imposingly at his seat. He seemed confident as he looked at the people from Vivi

two big corporations were fighting a

chairman of Vivi Group spoke first. "Mr. Crawford, after discussing with our management, we shall proceed with the collaboration, but there shall be one additional condition. If your company makes a major mistake during the project, or if you decide to infringe upon any more of our profits, our company has the right to terminate the

hint of a smile appeared in Luke's handsome eyes. ' No problem." "Alright, let's sign the agreement today

agreement was modified to include both parties' new claims, the leaders of the two corporations shook hands once more and signed their names on the

at his wristwatch and said diplomatically, "Congratulations to the both of us once more, Mr. Lamarr. I hope that our collaboration will be successful. I've prepared a banquet. Would you like to stay for a while to have dinner?" "Never mind. I have somewhere else to go. We should meet some

expression was unpleasant after he lost huge profits for the company. After declining Luke's invitation, he waved at the people from his company. "Let's

The people from Vivi Group had sullen expressions on their faces as they left, a stark contrast to their excited faces when they came.

The higher management of T Corporation did not expect that Quinton would accept such an unfair agreement. Their delight was palpable, and all of them praised Luke for *being charismatic*.

Luke waved to the others and told them to leave first.

The employees left the conference hall one *by one*.

Bianca followed the other employees out of the room. She was at the tail of the crowd, and as she walked, she turned her head to look at that handsome **man**.

He was sitting at his table flipping through some documents. Occasionally, he would say something to Jason and Louis next to him.

When she looked at his serious expression, Bianca's petite face was filled with love and admiration for the man's shrewd capabilities and incomparable masculine **charm**.

Luke could sense that someone was staring at him. He turned his head and looked in the direction.

When he saw that it was Bianca, his cold gaze turned gentle, and he smiled at her.

One could even hear sparks crackling in the air between those two when their **eyes met...**

Mavis jealously looked at how that angelic man smiled gently at Bianca. Her legs felt as though they were filled with lead; they were so heavy that she could not take a **step**.

He had never smiled at her like that **before**.

Mavis felt frustrated and resentful. After seeing Bianca's delicate body disappear from view, she trudged away from the *conference hall*.

That evening, at a hotel.

air filled the suite and the

once again subjected to

"Turn around!" The man said.

yelped and tried to cover

her body disdainfully. "Why are you covering yourself? I've seen every inch of

shame and anger fell when Leia heard

you pretending to be pitiful? Ha, you're such a good

gripped the bedsheets tightly with her trembling hands. "I'm not!" She

Hmm?' Wayne's tone was mocking

tearful eyes were filled with hatred for

supposed to be the noble Ms. Norman, but she had somehow become the man's pet. She had to answer to his every beck and call. Otherwise, he would expose her nude photos and ruin her reputation. Leia hated him, but she had no

Chapter 439 Found A Secret To Blackmail Luke!

In Jack's spacious study was a ten-tier redwood bookshelf that covered an entire wall.

Rows of books were tidily arranged on it.

Leia sneaked into the study like a thief and quickly locked the door. She felt a little dizzy when she looked at the close to ten thousand books on the shelf.

She knew that her father would lock important documents in a safe, but she did not know where the safe was.

Leia took off her high heels, rolled up her sleeves, and tiptoed over the room to search for the safe.

She looked through the shelf, the drawers, under the couch, and even the small attic in the room.

Half an hour later, Leia's head was drenched in sweat, but she did not manage to find the safe.

Dejectedly, she punched the shelf. She struck something, and with a click, she saw the top row of the bookshelf revolve.

The silvery-white safe was embedded in a mechanism on the top shelf.

Her heart started to beat fast. She nimbly climbed on the ladder and reached the top shelf and tried to open the safe, but she needed to input a passcode!

Her first attempt was to enter her adoptive mother's birthday, seeing how much Jack loved Queenie.

It was the wrong passcode.

entered her birthday, and it was wrong as

lights that flashed on the safe told Leia that she only had one attempt left. If she got it wrong again, the safe would be locked

internally. Should she try

would be great if she guessed correctly, but if she guessed wrong, her adoptive father would discover that she had tampered with the safe. However, if she did not make her move, would she ever get another

she hesitated, her phone started to

violently jerked and nearly fell off the

took a few deep breaths to calm herself down, then answered the call. "Hello, Mom?" She tried to make herself sound as calm as

so long, Leia. Why aren't you here yet?" Queenie

stuck in a jam, Mom. There seems to be an accident on Flue Road, and the police are clearing up the scene... Don't worry, how is Grandpa's condition?" Leia pretended to be concerned as she told a

became anxious. "There's an accident at Flue Road? Don't take that road, Leia. It'll be too dangerous, and I'd rather you take a longer route. Take the City Beltway, and you should be careful when you drive at night. Your Grandpa is fine, and you don't have to worry. I won't disturb your driving, and I'll talk to you later. See you

After ending the call, Leia stared at the safe and decided to take the gamble.

She wanted to enter her father's birthday, but she thought of something and entered a different string of *numbers*.

Just when she thought that all was in vain, the safe door opened curiously with a click.

Leia was stunned. The numbers she entered were Queenie's birth daughter's birthday. She did *not expect...*

She was once again overcome by hatred and anger.

Leia rummaged through the contents of the safe and found a CD at the bottom of a thick stack **of documents...**

She was ecstatic.

She took out the CD, then put another CD that looked exactly the same in **its place**.

Then, she returned everything to their **original positions**.

She stepped out of the study, went back to her room, inserted the CD into her laptop, and checked *its contents*.

The high-performance laptop instantly displayed the contents of the *CD*.

was shocked when she saw the

young man, or rather, a handsome eighteen or nineteen-year-old was giving a bribe to a

quality of the video was clear. It might not be as high-resolution as the videos now, but one could easily tell that the young man was Luke Crawford. He looked the same as he was now, and even the voice was very

young Luke placed a large passcode-locked briefcase in front of Mr.

the briefcase was opened, high-quality tea leaves could

away the tea leaves, revealing the stacks of cash

quick glance, that should be at least a few million

young Luke looked handsome but childish, however, his speech and mannerisms were mature. Perhaps that was because of his

years ago, Luke was still a teenager. Other people of his age would probably only know about study and entertainment, but Luke had taken control of Crawford Industries that was on the verge of ruin and bribed Mr. Schmidt for the benefit of his

was shockingly bold since he was

probably a generation younger than Mr. Schmidt, but the shrewdness in his eyes and the maturity in his speech could match the much older Committee Secretary. That was an

Chapter 440 The Heartwarming Interaction Between the Father and the Twins

The two children, still dressed in cartoon print pajamas, were sitting on the couch in the living room and doing their homework.

They did not have to go to school today, but they were used to waking up early.

They remembered what their father told them: Mommy needed to sleep in because she was pregnant with a baby, and they could not go into the bedroom to disturb her.

That was why they went to the living room to do their homework after they woke up.

They did not want to use the study because the living room would be the best place to see their mother after she woke up.

Luke saw his children busy doing their work as he stepped down the stairs.

Lanie was focused on a book of math problems. He would be entering the first grade after the new school year started, but he was an intelligent boy, and his academic capabilities were that of a child in third or fourth grade

Meanwhile, Rainie was painting something with a watercolor brush on a snow-white piece of paper.

On the paper was a half-drawn colorful underwater world.

girl was talented in art, and she had a vivid imagination, as though she inherited her artistic genes from comforted by the sight of his two

two children heard the sound from the staircase and turned their heads to look at their

over joyfully and showed her drawing to him. "Daddy, do you think that my drawing is pretty? In another week, I'll be joining the finals of the A City Children's

Rainie had gotten first place in the preliminaries and earned herself a spot in

She was overjoyed about it.

at his daughter's drawing seriously and ruffled the little girl's

daughter was becoming prettier. Her petite face with fair and delicate skin, those big and animated eyes, and the small but high nose were Bianca's

when she was thinking of something was like a cunning little fox. Luke really liked

Luke gave his objective opinion. ' Not bad, you've improved a lot since the last time, but you can't be prideful. Keep on working hard and produce better works."

Rainie's brush strokes might be childish, but she had a vivid imagination. She made the cast underwater world vibrant *and mysterious*.

"Mm, I'll do my best. Thank you, Daddy!" The little princess cheerfully ran back to the couch after receiving her **father's praise**.

Lanie closed his book of math problems and looked at his authoritative father respectfully. "Daddy," he called out gently.

"Have you finished yesterday's problems?" Luke sat next to Lanie and inspected the *book*.

Lanie's little shoulders were straight. His clear eyes looked at his father, and he *felt anxious*.

Luke checked the most difficult problems. To his surprise, the boy got them **all correct**.

Even so, he said impassively, '**Not bad**.'

Luke had discovered that his son had an acuity for numbers, and the little boy's mental calculation abilities were as strong as his. He was very keen on cultivating those strengths, and that was why Lanie had to do a lot more work than Rainie.

He could see that his son was aggrieved. In a rare display of affection, Luke patted Lanie's head. "Do you think that I'm treating you and your sister differently? Do you think that I'm giving you a lot of homework every day? Have you wanted to ask me why your sister gets to play every day, but you *can't*?" 1

his head, but he was biting

the eldest grandson of the Crawford family. You will most likely be the heir to T Corporation, and you will shoulder a much heavier responsibility than other people. You're a little man now, and you'll be in charge of protecting your sister, your Mommy, and the baby in Mommy's womb... You might think that it's tough to learn so many things now, but they'll bring you a lot of benefits in the future. We are men, and we should be able to bear the responsibility handed to us. You are a smart boy, Lanie, and you should understand what I say. There are no cowards in the Crawford family, do

the heir to the Crawford family business, Lanie would be subjected to a lot

could not handle the pressure of solving math problems, how was he going to helm a multinational corporation in the

spoiled and pampered child that did not have to suffer hardships would only grow up to become a useless individual. Luke did not want that

son of Luke would have to be an eagle, able to soar in the skies of this

He did not entirely understand what his father

too young to understand everything, though he could remember what his father said. He had to work hard to protect his Mommy and younger

clenched his fists and swore that he would work