

## Be Gentle 461

Chapter 461 Mr. and Mrs. Crawford's Public Display of Affection!

Luke wiped away Bianca's tears while everyone was looking. "What's wrong? You're about to get married, but you're shedding tears. Aren't you ashamed, Mrs. Crawford?" He said with a joking tone.

Even though he was teasing Bianca, he felt sorry for her as he gazed at her pale face.

Bianca's eyes were red. She gripped his shirt sleeve tightly, trying hard to keep those melancholy feelings down.

She shook her head. "I'm fine. It's just that I'm overcome by bliss when I think that I'll be married to you soon. I can't help but think that it's all a dream..."

Luke's hand patted Bianca's head.

He gently touched her hair as though he was protecting a piece of rare treasure.

Then, he said indulgently, "Silly girl, we're already here to get your wedding dress. Do you still think that it's a dream?" i

The manager and staff of the boutique were dumbfounded when they saw that loving scene!

Reports said that Luke Crawford, the CEO of T Corporation, was a serious and merciless person. His imposing presence made people stay away from him.

Could that caring and loving gentleman in front of them be the legendary Cold-Faced Devil?

Were those reports in the magazines false?

ignored the peering gazes of the people around him and hugged Bianca, as though only they were the only people left in

came to her senses and noticed the envious gazes from the other people in the  
away a little

he was supposed to be the cold-faced and stern CEO. His reputation would be tarnished if word got out that he had a gentle side to

Luke was not bothered by that.

grew wider, and his gaze became gentle as he kissed Bianca's cheek. "You're especially beautiful when you're in the wedding dress, Bianca. I'd like to marry you now if it's possible. That way, you will belong to me, and no other man can

words were like a deadly poison that seeped into Bianca's marrow and captivated her heart. There was no cure

eyes were misted with tears because she

did not want Luke to see her weakness. "Me too. I wish I could marry you now if

gave them his blessings, seeing how loving they were to each other. "You're so loving to each other, Mr. and Mrs. Crawford. I wish that your mutual love will last forever!" 1

did not expect the usually aloof Luke would

as though he had struck the lottery. "You're welcome, Mr. Crawford. Your wife is very beautiful. We have a few more wedding dresses and gowns that might suit your wife. Would you want to try a few

**Bianca** wanted to decline when she heard that.

**She** thought that one set of wedding dresses **was enough**.

Before she could say anything, Luke said, "Let her try it!"

*Bianca* could not decline after Luke said that, and she went to the fitting room to try the other designs.

*The manager* had an eye for aesthetics. Every design that Bianca tried suited her **very well**.

Indeed, the clothes changed Bianca's status.

*Before she* wore the wedding dress, she might have outstanding looks, but she was more like a humble young woman from a *small family*.

**Now** that she was in an extravagant gown, people could not take their eyes away from her.

*Finally, they* settled on four wedding dresses, four gowns, and six pairs of *shoes*.

At the checkout, Bianca felt dizzy when she saw the number of zeroes on the **receipt**.

*The clothes* were beautiful, but she would not be able to afford them with her *salary*.

*Luke did* not show any hesitation as he paid with his credit card. The manager was very happy; he piled on his flattery and called Bianca "Mrs. Crawford." Luke usually hated flattery, but he was in a good mood today, and he did not say anything about it.

liked the sound of

leaving the boutique, Luke sent Bianca home before going to T Corporation to continue

much as he loved to stay back home and accompany Bianca, he had to settle a ten-billion-dollar deal in the critical stage

he were not careful, then all would be

had worked very hard on the deal, and he was not going to let other companies benefit from

In the CEO's office.

focused on his work. He did not notice Mavis arriving in front of

thought of many things as she looked at the man who was hard

features were extremely handsome. His skin was as fair as porcelain. His long brows were tightly furrowed because of his concentration. His drooped eyelashes were thick and long. It was a

man was perfect, no matter his enviable appearance, his strong work ethic, or his imposing demeanor. That was what Mavis loved

However, he would be engaged tomorrow.

only knew about it the day before.

Chapter 462 Her Presence In My Life Completes Me

Mavis could not bear to see her crush for ten years becoming someone else's husband.

She tried to calm herself down, though her tightly-clenched fists were slightly shaking. "Are you sure you want to marry an unremarkable employee, Mr. Crawford? You deserve a better woman. I think Ms. Rayne isn't experienced enough, no matter how you look at it..." "Oh? In your opinion, what type of woman should I deserve?" Luke's gaze turned cold.

Mavis, who was usually observant, did not notice Luke's displeasure because she was overly emotional.

She continued speaking, "Mr. Crawford, I think you should look for a woman who can be capable at work as well as being gentle in her personal life. If you can find an equally capable wife, then she could share your workload. You won't have to tire yourself like that."

Luke placed his pen down and looked at Mavis with his profound gaze. "You're wrong, Ms. Laviere. I want a wife who can be my spiritual partner and not my work partner. I feel comfortable whenever I'm with Bianca, and that is a sensation I cannot get from other people. She is like a rib that God had taken from me, and now that she's back with me, she completes my life."

"You haven't found true love, Ms. Laviere, and that's why you are setting up conditions for your significant other. When you finally find him, you will understand that all your conditions mean nothing." "No, I've already met my true love! I met him ten years ago!" That was what Mavis wanted to scream at Luke.

However, she dared not do so. Her self-respect did not allow her to do that.

Mavis was dejected. "Sorry for disturbing, Mr. Crawford. I'll be back to my work." i "Mm." Luke continued working without lifting his head.

Mavis left the office gloomily.

her office, she almost smashed everything on her table because of her

came in through the door with a cup of coffee. She knew that Mavis was unhappy because of Luke's engagement

some coffee and calm down, Ms.

the cup over. Her gaze was chilling. "Do I look like I'm in the mood to drink

back of Bella's hand was scalded by the hot coffee, but she did not dare to complain. "There's no point in being flustered, Ms. Laviere. Actually, I hate that Bianca Rayne even more than you. That woman is a seductress who not only seduces the CEO but also flirts with the general manager. I don't know why Mr. Crawford likes her

frowned. "What? Bianca is flirting with the general

to spin the story. "A lot of the employees in the design department saw it. Once when we were having lunch in the cafeteria, General Manager Crawford was sitting so close to her and asking her intimate questions. They were only one step away from kissing... Isn't that woman a seductress? It's not enough that she already has the CEO, but she also wants to flirt with

Bella was unhappy when she thought of how caring Louis was to Bianca.

**She** knew that she was not qualified to court the CEO, so she wanted to go after Louis, the *general manager*.

*However*, Louis could not even be bothered to look at her. That was why Bella blamed Bianca for that.

If not for Bianca, why would the usually lecherous Louis Crawford not even look at *her*?

*The hatred* in Mavis's expression became stronger when she thought about how Luke only loved Bianca, who was flirting behind his back. "Why would Mr. Crawford even like a woman like that? Tell me, Ms. Sloan, don't you think that men think with their d\*cks? What does Bianca have that I don't?" "I guess there must be something that you don't know, Ms. Laviere. Sometimes, men like women who might look prim and proper on the outside but behave otherwise in bed. Otherwise, how could she manage to deceive Mr. Crawford's judgment? Don't worry, women like her would eventually be dumped, and I don't think Bianca will be any different," Bella said **disdainfully**.

However, Mavis was indignant. "That's ridiculous. I'm sure Mr. Crawford should have seen his fair share of beautiful women, and as far as I know from working with him, he's not that kind of shallow person. He wouldn't marry a woman just because she could perform in bed. Bianca must have done something to him..."

*Because of* her love for Luke, she could not help but find excuses. She blamed Bianca for everything.

Seeing Mavis angry, Bella felt a chill down **her spine**.

she continued to persuade Mavis. "Don't overthink, Ms. Laviere. So what if Bianca and Mr. Crawford are engaged? Even if they were married, you can still find a way to make them divorce. It should be a walk in the park for an intelligent woman like you to deal

Mavis suddenly laughed.

resumed her usual composure. "Alright. You may leave. Get me another cup of

Bella answered sheepishly.

left, Mavis's smile became

is right. They're only engaged. Why should I be

long as they don't marry, I have many ways to tear them

In the mansion.

Chapter 463 Holding Incriminating Evidence of Luke

As the phone continued to ring incessantly, Bianca had the urge to smash it into pieces!

She dared not do so. The other party possessed incriminating evidence about Luke.

Finally, Bianca braced herself and tapped on the answer button.

Instantly, she heard someone screaming angrily from the other side. "Did you ignore what I told you, Bianca Rayne? If you want it that way, fine! I'm standing at the entrance of the Public Integrity Committee now. I'll hand in the CD, and that'll be the end of Luke Crawford!"

In case Bianca did not believe it, the woman sent a message shortly after saying that.

Bianca opened the message. It was a selfie.

The woman in the shades was holding a CD in her hand. She was indeed standing in front of the Public Integrity Committee building. On her lips was a smug grin.

Bianca's heart beat faster when she saw that, but her blood was thick like glue.

Luke would be ruined once the CD fell into the hands of the Public Integrity Committee.

Not even Luke could find a way out of it.

Bianca's grip on her phone became tighter. "Don't! Please, please don't hand in the CD. I'll do whatever you say... I won't be engaged with Luke tomorrow, and I'll leave A City immediately. Will you be satisfied?" She said.

while she sobbed, and her tone was flustered and

party smirked coldly. "It's already too late. If you had left Luke when I told you to, there wouldn't be all this drama. Too bad, you've missed the chance you're given. Do you think it'll be so easy now? No way!" "What do you want then?" Bianca shrieked out of anger

you angry now? I want you to proceed with the engagement ceremony tomorrow, but when everyone is there, and he asks you the question, you will tell him no in front of everyone and

Bianca was dumbfounded.

had already agreed to leave Luke, but the other party made such a ridiculous

only did she have to say no to the engagement, but she had to humiliate Luke in front of everyone. That woman might as well tell Bianca to kill

her lower lip so hard that it was almost bleeding. 'No, I can't do that. I can leave A City now if you want, but don't go overboard with your requests. I can't possibly reject him in front of everyone and humiliate

knew that Luke was a prideful

she really humiliated him in front of the guests, not only would the Crawford family no longer accept him, but her relationship with Luke would be irreparably damaged, and there would be

on the other end cackled sarcastically. "How sentimental! Do you think you still have any grounds to bargain with me? In your dreams! Let me warn you, if you don't listen to what I say, I'll hand in the CD

now... Luke Crawford, the rising star in the A City economic circle, the man of every woman's dreams, is actually a criminal! Hahaha, I'll show everyone his

Then, Bianca received a video message.

*The woman*, holding the CD, was standing in front of the committee office.

*Bianca* was terrified when she **saw that!**

**She screamed** at the phone without any regard for decency. "I'll listen to what you say! I'll say no to Luke tomorrow, and I'll humiliate him in public! Don't go in!" i "Don't play any tricks tomorrow. I'll be there at the venue to see for myself. You should know what will happen if you go back on your word!" After leaving another threat, the woman ended the *call*.

*Bianca did* not know when the phone slipped out of her **hands**.

*She looked* at the white clouds outside the window in a daze. Those clouds that were as white as snow somehow became *blurry*...

**When** Bianca remembered the glint of anticipation in Luke's eyes at the bridal boutique yesterday, she was overcome by despair.

*To prepare* for tomorrow's occasion, Luke left the office early and returned **home immediately**.

*In the* living room of the mansion, Luke could smell the thick fragrance of soup boiling on the stove in the **kitchen**.

**The** two children were sitting on the couch, playing a fantasy monster game on *their iPads*.

*Luke* took off his coat and tossed it on another *couch*.

*He* did not see the woman he loved. "Lanie, Rainie, where's Mommy?" He asked *the children*.

Rainie were engrossed in their game. "Mommy said that she's not feeling well, and she's resting in her bedroom. She told me and Rainie not to disturb

furrowed his brows. When he called Bianca earlier that day, she was still fine. Why would she be feeling did not go upstairs immediately. Instead, he went into the kitchen and clumsily prepared the dining table for

the children to have their dinner first, he went to the bedroom with a portion of pork rib roast and mushroom

was curled up on the bed. Her eyes were closed, and there were flecks of tears at the corners of her sleeping fitfully. Occasionally, her eyelashes would flutter like a

placed the tray aside, sat down on the bed, and gently caressed her cheek with his

skin was soft and delicate to the touch, but it was also slightly warm. It felt like touching a dew-soaked rose

he looked at Bianca's sleeping face, all his stress and lethargy from

was she unhappy for the past few days?

not wake her up. Instead, he sat next to her and watched her

Chapter 464 I'll Tie You Up and Bring You to the Church If I Have To

Luke paused. The man had been through all sorts of hardships, but at that moment, he felt as though his heart was immersed in boiling water.

He did not reply to Bianca's question. Instead, he pressed on her lips overbearingly with a kiss and took away Bianca's breath and the rest of the conversation.

No one knew for how long he had waited for the marriage.

Ever since he was young, he was sure that he wanted Bianca to be his wife.

After conquering many obstacles, she was finally in his arms. He could not wait to tell the world that the woman was his.

However, she remained uncertain whether she wanted to be Luke's bride.

Luke could not accept that!

Bianca was struggling to catch her breath after the kiss.

Luke hugged her and looked straight into her eyes. "Bianca, if you want to postpone the wedding, I can consider changing it to a later date. However, if you ever think of canceling the wedding, I'd tie you up and bring you to the church if I have to."

Bianca's eyes were filled with tears. Her frail body seemed so small and helpless.

Luke noticed that there was something wrong. He lifted her chin and asked her, "What's happening with you lately? You don't seem to be in a good mood. We are lovers, and we will soon be husband and wife. We will spend the rest of our lives together, so you have to tell me if anything is troubling you."

that Bianca had always kept her troubles to herself. She would rather suffer alone than share it with

her eyes wide, trying to swallow her

mumbled as she looked at his

could not understand why Bianca had been

blinked, and tears fell from her

"Don't cry..." Luke was getting flustered.

not afraid of anything except for

that her tears kept falling, Luke hugged her frail body and wanted to kiss those tears away. However, she cried even harder, and eventually, her tears

gently comforted her like comforting a child. Her sobs gradually became

the bedroom, the only sounds were Luke's breathing and

her tightly and did

thought that Bianca's moodiness was because of her hormones, but it did not seem that

*He could sense that something was amiss.*

*After tomorrow's engagement ceremony, he would investigate it.*

Bianca had a sensitive personality, and she liked to keep her secrets to herself even if she was threatened. 1

**He decided** to get someone to investigate the reason behind **Bianca's unhappiness!**

*Bianca* could feel her heart shattering when she thought of how she would have to reject the man's proposal and humiliate him during the **ceremony tomorrow.**

If she did not do it, the woman would ruin Luke's *reputation*.

**She** did not want to imagine the scene of Luke being sent to prison when his crime was *discovered*.

*Seeing* that Bianca was not crying, Luke lowered his head and kissed her lips. "You'll be a bride soon. Why are you crying? Pregnant women should not be emotionally agitated. Otherwise, not only your health will be affected, but you'll also affect the **baby's development.**"

**Bianca bit** her lip and nodded. Suddenly, she gripped his **shirt sleeve.**

She looked at him with sparkling eyes and said earnestly, "I love you, Luke. I really, really love you. If I offend you one day, it's because I'm forced to do so. Please do not hate me no matter what, alright?"

**Luke's hands** caressed her lips, thinking of something as he looked at her **eager face.**

**A** while later, he gave his reply. "**Alright.**"

trusted her unconditionally. He would not blame her for anything she would do to

eyes filled up with tears again after receiving Luke's promise. The man trusted her unconditionally, but she would have to leave him

fact was like a sharp knife that dug into her chest and scraped her

She had no other choice.

of the opulent Carlton hotel was decorated like the scene of a

the middle of the hotel lobby were several fountains dancing elegantly to a

In the makeup room.

Sue and Nina looked at Bianca in the pure white wedding dress, their eyes almost popped out of their

her bulging stomach and lumbered over in front of Bianca." Congratulations for finally making it with the boss! You look

also genuinely happy for Bianca. "I took a peek outside earlier, and anyone worth anything in A City is here. There are so many faces that we only usually see on the papers. The Crawford family is so well-



connected! The boss truly loves you, Bea. I don't think even major celebrities would have a reception this

in front of the mirror. Her hair was tied in a bun, and she was dressed in the pure white wedding dress, which accentuated all the curves of her figure. Anyone would be envious when they

blessings should have made Bianca happy, but her feelings were currently

Chapter 465 Luke Went Down On One Knee and Looked At Her Lovingly

Bianca's body went limp after the kiss. She felt that her headache was becoming more intense.

Her eyes and ears took in the bustle of people moving about the hall, the swaying of flowers, the dancing fountains, and the melodic music.

The merriment in the hall was a stark contrast to her sorrow.

Bianca looked into the crowd.

She saw the stern Old Master Crawford smiling and talking to some guests.

Louis was overjoyed.

Susan was present. She did not smile, but she carried herself like a noblewoman.

Even Allison, who objected to their marriage the most, forced a smile on her face as she received the congratulatory greetings for her son's marriage.

On another table, Old Master Rayne and Wanda were smiling, happy that Bianca had finally found bliss.

Bianca wanted to cry when she looked at them, but she could not allow herself to shed a tear'

her tears back and inadvertently saw Luke's friends among the guests: Eugene Hawking, Jim Holston, Percy Mallory, and

the heirs to the major conglomerates were

Bianca around and introduced her to his

is my paternal uncle," Luke introduced Bianca to a man in his sixties who seemed to be in

elder cousin brother and sister.' He led Bianca in front of an extremely handsome youth and a

younger cousin brother." "My second

knew that the Crawfords' extended family was large, and many of his relatives would be present. As Luke continued introducing them to Bianca, she was surprised that there were so many of them.

However, only a few of them were direct

all of them had Crawford genes, and they looked handsome and beautiful. Even the children were better-looking than

that Bianca was getting confused. He chuckled into her ear and reminded her, "You only have to remember the direct relatives. We won't be meeting the others that often, so you only have to remember

answered carelessly. She turned her head and noticed Mr. and Mrs. Norman and

*Leia*, dressed up impeccably, was glaring at her **coldly**.

**Bianca could** see a hint of condescension, mockery, and even smugness in her gaze.

*What made* Bianca the most surprised was the woman who had threatened her with the CD was... sitting next to **Queenie...**

*Alarm* bells rang in her head. How did that woman sneak into the event? 1

*What relationship* did she have with the *Norman family*?

*Countless gazes* in the hall were focused on Bianca. Among them were sentiments of curiosity, criticism, awe, envy, and even jealousy.

All that because Luke Crawford, the pride of the Crawford family, was about to be engaged to an *unremarkable woman*.

Four full chests were placed on the stage. They were the wedding gifts from Luke to Bianca. Neat stacks of hundred-dollar bills were tied up in pink *ribbons*.

*More* than that were a countless number of gold bars, brilliant diamond rings, deeds to mansions, and all sorts of gold and silver jewelry and luxury watches. It was a dazzling *sight*.

**The guests** could not help but be impressed. Only the Crawford family could afford such lavish gifts!

also told them how important the bride was

would Luke shower her with that much wealth at the engagement ceremony? She was not anyone

feeling excited, Bianca's palms started sweating when she noticed the beguiling woman in the

grip on Luke's elbow became tighter. She felt cold all over her body, and her face started turning

forced herself to maintain the smile on her face and a steady step as she and Luke walked from the edge of the stage to the

distance was less than a hundred feet, but it felt like a long and

MC announced the start of the

face was not cold and harsh as usual. Because of his good mood, his gaze was warm and enchanting as he looked at

hugged Bianca as his well-built body stood in front of the microphone. Facing the audience, he made a joyous speech. "Thank you, everyone, for attending my engagement ceremony. At this moment, I am in a good mood, because I am about to be engaged with the woman I love. I thought that I would remain single for all my life, but I did not expect that I would be so lucky to meet her. She is a kind and gentle

woman, and she has brought warmth to my life. I will spend the rest of my life loving, protecting, and pampering her. From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank her grandfather and aunt for taking care of her. Without them, I would not have my

was greeted with

Chapter 466 Luke Carried Bianca Out of the Hall...

Bianca's chest nearly jumped out of her chest at that moment.

Every cell in her body was burning in agony.

Seeing that Jack was about to take the CD from the woman's hand, Bianca suddenly yelled at Luke, nNo! I don't want to marry you! I don't want to be engaged with you!"

The hall instantly fell silent.

It was so quiet that one could hear a pin drop.

Luke was caught in a daze as he kneeled there on one knee.

He had always known that Bianca looked forward to the wedding more than he did. He had not expected such an outcome.

Old Master Crawford's face turned ashen. His hand that was holding his walking stick was trembling.

Jason immediately stepped forward and supported Old Master Crawford.

Susan was impassive.

She had learned the hard way that marrying into a wealthy family was a trap. She even felt that the young woman had made the right choice.

Allison was fuming. If she did not care so much for her reputation, she would have rushed up the stage and ripped Bianca's pure face apart!

young female socialites wanted to marry her

Rayne, an unremarkable woman from a lowly background, rejected Luke's proposal in public. That was a great humiliation to the

Master Rayne and Wanda were

always been kind and sympathetic. Why

she did not agree to the proposal, she should have said it to him in private. Why would she reject him in front of all the important people in the city? That would have made Luke the subject

at Bianca. He could feel his heart shrivel and freeze from

remained kneeling on the floor. "Why?" He wanted

her heart tearing into

were trembling, and there were tears in her eyes. However, she insisted. "I don't think that I'm a match for you. You are an outstanding man from an elite family, but I'm poor, talentless, and have a lousy character. I can't help you at work, and I can't give you what you

the depths of her sorrow, still had a shred

not know who the woman was or where she came from, but if she were to threaten Bianca with the CD, there could only be

was either an admirer of Luke, or someone had hired her to

**Either way**, her goal was to force Bianca to leave Luke.

**Bianca was** gambling on the fact that if she would leave Luke willingly, the woman would not hand in the CD, no matter what her intentions might be. It would serve the woman **no benefit**.

**As** for humiliating Luke during the ceremony, she was not able to do that.

That was why Bianca pushed all the blame of rejecting his proposal to herself.

The woman might not be entirely satisfied, but the engagement was definitely off. The Crawford family would not accept her after being humiliated this way. *1*

The woman would have gotten what she wanted, and she would feel a little less guilty *about Luke*.

Bianca's heart felt like it was being ripped apart by sharp claws. The pain was so agonizing that her innards were torn in *two!*

Luke naturally did not believe Bianca's *farfetched excuse*.

**Even so**, his usually resilient heart ached.

**Luke** stood up, held Bianca's shoulders, and spoke with a voice that only the two people could hear. "I don't believe a single word you say, Bianca! Tell me what happened that changed your mind! If you're not prepared to marry me, I can wait for you, no matter how many years it *might take*...

*Even* if it takes my whole life, I will wait until you say yes to me. You know that I won't force you to do anything that you're not willing to **do**."

*Bianca's* head was splitting, as though she had been hit by a hammer.

immensely guilty by what Luke

moment, she was more conscious as ever, but her eyes were brimming with helplessness and

see the agony in

a sparkle in his eyes. He breathed a sigh of relief when he found out that Bianca was not genuinely unwilling to marry him. He waited for her to give him a more convincing

shook her head, and her pretty little face

wanted to ask her more, but suddenly, Bianca's body went limp, and she

caught Bianca's body

handsome features were wracked with pallor as he looked at her

His heart was seized with pain.

blamed himself. Was he rushing things? Perhaps he had been too anxious, and Bianca was not prepared to marry

The audience was in an uproar.

ceremony was going as planned, but the bride-to-be suddenly rejected the man's proposal and fainted. No one had expected

Chapter 467 You Are My Mrs. Crawford

In the mansion.

Luke stood on the spacious balcony. He smoked cigarette after cigarette, and his gaze fell on the blooming cherry blossoms downstairs.

The cherry tree was filled with flowers. The petals fell as the wind blew past, and the ground seemed to be covered in a pink carpet.

Bianca loved plants, and that was why that mansion had a lush garden. It was Luke's present for her.

He wanted to give her a surprise, but unexpectedly...

Luke narrowed his eyes as he looked at the falling cherry blossom petals. He stubbed out the cigarette and flicked it into a nearby ashtray.

Then, he walked toward the master bedroom.

The door opened.

In the room were two caretakers that were currently nursing Bianca.

They stood up when they saw Luke enter. "Mr. Crawford," they greeted him respectfully.

A hint of dearness flashed in Luke's eyes as he looked at Bianca's pale face. "How is the missus?"

One of the caretakers replied, "Dr. Sykes had given her an injection an hour ago, and her fever has subsided. She is still sleeping, perhaps she is too tired..."

Luke waved at them, instructing them to leave the room.

The two caretakers left the room while carefully closing the door behind them.

Only he and Bianca remained in the room.

next to the bed, and his palm gently caressed

was two o'clock in the afternoon. The warm rays of sunshine fell on

woman's face was pale, and her brows were tightly furrowed. That was a sign that she was not in a good

made him feel sorry

her rejection of his proposal was as painful as countless needles stabbing into

knew that the rejection was most likely not her intention, but he was nonetheless very bothered

thought of staying single for all his life until he met her. He wanted so much to make her

also could not wait for the day to come. However, something must have happened that made the situation turn out this

felt inexplicable bitterness as he stared at

He wanted to smoke again.

However, the urge soon passed.

did not like him smoking so often, especially after she became pregnant. She would be repulsed by the stench of cigarettes, and Luke had tried to get rid of the habit. He would only smoke whenever he was too stressed at

swore that he would find out the truth of the

to look at Bianca lying on the bed; she was as fragile as a glass

forward, gently sucked on her curvaceous lips, and could not help but mumble to himself, "Why did you suddenly change your mind? I've already decided that you shall be my Mrs. Crawford, and I will never let you

Luke pried open her jaw, and his kiss became more and more intense. He could not control *his passions*.

Bianca was awakened by his movements.

**She** struggled to open her eyes. The sunlight from outside shone on Luke's face, and the sight of him took her breath away.

**Bianca** suddenly remembered how she had cruelly rejected his proposal at the ceremony last night. At that moment, he looked as helpless as an abandoned child.

She became wide awake when the feelings of guilt and unease overcame **her**.

"I'm sorry, I'm sorry..." Bianca could not stop apologizing. Her gaze was suffused by pain **and apology**.

**Luke was** right in front of her, but she dared not look into *his eyes*.

"I'm OK." Luke gently held Bianca's face and kissed her on the forehead. "You know that I'm always willing to forgive you no matter what you did. I can't bear to scold **you**."

Bianca lowered her head.

"*Bianca Rayne*," Luke suddenly called out her name. His tone was even gentler than before, as though he was trying to coax a naughty child. "Stay with me forever, alright?"

**Bianca's** eyelashes stopped trembling. She stared at him blankly.

*She* had humiliated him in public. Did he not mind it at *all*?

**Bianca closed** her eyes to hide from his overbearing gaze. "I'm sorry, I... I can't..." She said with much **difficulty**.

Luke was not angry. Instead, he propped himself up and sat at the edge of the bed.

**He** gently pecked her lips. "Why?" He asked **gently**.

She was his obsession.

world was filled with color ever since he met her. He would never let

curled up in his lap like a helpless little

was overcome by a complicated mix of emotions, and she hugged him

hear his resonant voice echoing in his chest cavity and enter her ear. "Don't be afraid, Bianca. I'm here for you no matter

nearly gushed out of Bianca's eyes when she heard

that she had

removed the knife that was stuck to her chest and stabbed it into his heart. She was immensely guilty of that, but she had no

knew that Luke was hurt. She was

spread through every corner of her heart and made her sleepless.

She looked outside of the window.

spring, and the sun was shining

eyes were tender blooms and newly

his arm and said weakly, "Don't

could not tell him the matter about the CD, nor did she want to trouble him

Chapter 468 The Extent of Luke's Influence In A City

Charmaine picked out many clothes of the latest designs that still had their tags on, as well as trying on several pairs of shoes that caught her eye.

Leia's height, body size, and foot size were almost similar to Charmaine's. Charmaine was overjoyed that those clothes and accessories seemed to be designed for her!

As she continued to pick out items, she asked, "What do you want me to do? Just let me know. I'll promise to do my best!" "Bianca might have rejected Luke's proposal, but Luke had warned the media not to spread any negative news about her. Of course, I'm not happy about that. Do this for me, Charmaine, go and buy up the topics and keywords from all the media websites, including Twitter, Yahoo, TMZ, Instagram, and so on. Utterly ruin Bianca's reputation. Make sure that she can't stay in A

City anymore! I'll foot the bill. You'll only have to go and talk to the people in charge, i "Oh, you should contact those verified influencers with at least a million followers too. They might be personal accounts, but you shouldn't underestimate them.

"You can also consider contacting small-scale print media companies. The major companies would be afraid of Luke's retaliation, but those small ones won't. They're already on the verge of bankruptcy anyway, and they'd snap up any news that might make their papers sell."

Undeniable, Leia was intelligent.

As technology improved, the number of print media readers declined, and their credibility suffered. Many traditional print media companies had shifted their business model online.

of reading newspapers, many people would follow media companies on social media or subscribe to their feeds. That was how they received the

about to agree to it, but she shuddered when she suddenly thought of Luke's icy gaze at the engagement

you know that Luke is the dominant force in A City. He can even control the flow of news. I don't think anyone would take up the challenge... " Charmaine said

interjected before Charmaine could finish her sentence. "What are you afraid of? How are you going to get anything done that way? I have your back. Don't forget that my dad is the Provincial Committee Secretary and he loves me a lot. With me supporting you, no one would lay a finger on you! You've always wanted to enter the entertainment industry, right? When all that is done, how about I'll take you under my wing? I can pass on any extra roles

getting assurance from Leia, Charmaine fantasized about getting her big break in the entertainment industry and being idolized by thousands and even millions of fans. She nodded determinedly and said, "Alright, I'll listen to what you

atmosphere in Crawford Manor was

The air was depressingly stifling.

Old Master Luke slammed his walking stick on the floor and cursed. "That wretch! Something serious happened in the engagement ceremony, but that wretch left without saying a word and left this mess for me. This is outrageous! That kid has ruined the reputation of the Crawford family for **good...**" i

*Louis* was afraid that his grandfather was overly agitated. He gently patted his grandfather's chest and said, "Grandpa, Luke has always been meticulous, and he would not allow any mistakes to happen, much less during his engagement ceremony. There must be something fishy behind this. You don't have to be angry now; just ask him for the reason when he gets **back.**"

Old Master Rayne sighed. He once again apologized humbly, "I am deeply sorry, Old Master Crawford. I've watched Bianca grow up since she was a young girl, and she's always been considerate and sensible. She must be troubled with something. I've noticed that her complexion didn't look so good at the ceremony. Perhaps she really does have a fever and a muddled mind."



**Wanda** also agreed with her father. "My niece has a good character. She's not the kind who would embarrass herself in a public situation. Luke had also explained that she had a fever. Please accept **our apologies.**"

*Old Master Rayne* and Wanda tried to convince the Crawford family members to forgive Bianca.

**They believed** that there must be another reason why Bianca would reject **Luke's proposal.**

Susan sat by the side, daintily sipping tea with an impassive expression, as though whatever happened did not concern her.

was livid. She pointed her finger at Old Master Rayne and Wanda and cursed, "Pah! How dare you mention that shameless woman's name? She has humiliated my son in the engagement ceremony. You're probably a bad role model for her! Let me make this clear. As long as I, Allison Tanner, remain in the Crawford family, Bianca Rayne will not step foot in Crawford

Rayne and Wanda's faces turned

Rayne had always been down to earth. He had never been insulted like that

lips trembled in anger, and he could not form a complete sentence."

said that Old Master Rayne was a bad role model for Bianca, she had insulted him and the rest of the Rayne family

knew that Luke was a good boy, but Luke had a bad mother, not to mention her

thought that Allison was perhaps bad-tempered and materialistic after marrying into the Crawford family. All Bianca needed to do was to be careful and respect her. Moreover, Bianca had already borne two children

Chapter 469 The Twins Had Tears In Their Eyes and Dared Not Cry

Wanda was furious when she heard what Allison said.

How could she tolerate her respected father and her beloved niece insulted like that?

She stood up immediately and said, "What do you mean by that, Mrs.

Crawford? Even if you don't forgive Bianca, you don't have to insult her that way! How could you say those words to someone older than you, even though our families aren't related by marriage yet? I respected you because you are Luke's mother, but I didn't expect you to have such poor character.

"You saw that we're a poor family, but how about you, Mrs. Crawford? Oh, I don't think that title suits you. The real Mrs. Crawford is Madam Susan Armstrong. She is the woman that is legally married to Luke's father, and you are nothing but a mistress. You're abusing the support that Luke has for you. Do you feel proud that way? How much more noble can you be compared to us?"

Wanda was an outstanding woman. With her abilities, she had married her ex-husband and managed a major corporation with him.

She had met her fair share of socialites. Handling Allison was a walk in the park; Wanda knew how to prod her sore spots.

Meanwhile, Susan was watching the drama leisurely.

She was smiling when she heard Wanda's incisive words.

It felt good to have someone else deal with Allison for her.

and Rainie, still dressed as a ring bearer and a flower girl, were curled up in a corner of  
as though they were going deaf, listening to the

the environment. However, they did not know where their parents

Did Daddy and Mommy abandon them?

welled up in their eyes when they thought of how the engagement ceremony ended in

was heaving when she heard Wanda's words. Her status in the Crawford family was taboo to

not want anyone else to mention it, even though it was the

a fit of rage, Allison lifted her hand and wanted to slap Wanda, disregarding the fact that the children  
were

she could do so, Wanda had already grabbed her wrist and shoved her

stumbled backward and nearly fell on

herself with the coffee table and looked at Wanda

**That woman** looked so thin and frail. Why was she **so strong**?

**Old Master Rayne** did not expect that Luke's mother had not only insulted them but tried to get physical on his daughter. Anger burned in his **chest**.

He struggled to stand up with the help of the couch. His face was racked with anger. "Wanda, if the Crawford family doesn't welcome us, then we should leave! Our daughter can find a good husband no matter where she goes. Luke is a good boy, but we can't afford to have ties at high places! Come to your Great-Grandpa Rayne, Lanie and Rainie. You're not going to learn any manners here. Follow me home to meet your *Mommy*." *i*

**Old Master Rayne** beckoned lovingly at the twins.

The children looked at Old Master Crawford and Allison, feeling puzzled. Should they follow their Great-Grandpa Rayne and leave *Crawford Manor*?

*Allison grabbed* the twins' wrists. "Lanie and Rainie belong to the Crawford family. What right do you outsiders have to take them away?"

**She** was gripping their wrists so tightly, but she did not realize that she was hurting **them**.

Old Master Rayne was angry and anxious when he saw the twins with tears in their eyes but dared not cry out.

**Trembling** with anger, he pulled his daughter away. "Let's **leave, Wanda!**

Who needs the Crawfords? I won't ever step into this **place again!**'

shot a disdainful glance at Allison, then she helped Old Master Rayne

01' Rayne, please don't go. We can talk..." Old Master Crawford was worried. He quickly got Louis to help him

wanted to stop Old Master Rayne and Wanda from leaving. Even though he was furious that Bianca had humiliated the Crawford family during the engagement ceremony, Bianca bore

Master Rayne was serious that Bianca would marry someone else, what would happen to the baby in her

after being embarrassed, instantly stopped Old Master Crawford." Father, that poor family isn't a good match for the Crawford family. That Bianca woman can marry whoever she wants. When she gives birth to the child, we'll just snatch it over. Luke is an outstanding man. I'll find a better wife for him,"

Crawford glared at Allison, holding back the urge to whack her stupid head with his walking stick.

her away with his walking stick and, with Louis's help, tried to chase up to Old Master Rayne and

and shot a glance of disapproval at

"Great-Grandpa Rayne..."

twins also wanted to chase up to their beloved Great-Grandpa Rayne and Great Aunt Wanda. However, Allison held

that Old Master Rayne was not around, she did not hesitate to give several slaps to each of the twins' tender bottoms. "You two ingrates! I've raised you, and now you're abandoning me for two outsiders?"

1 "Great-Grandpa Rayne isn't an outsider, Grandma. He and Great Aunt Wanda love us a lot." Lanie wanted to cry, but he looked at Allison

Chapter 470 As Long As Luke Trusts Her

Bianca rubbed her temples. She realized that she was in an unfamiliar place.

The bedroom was spacious, and in front of the bed was a large floor-to- ceiling window that showcased the beautiful scenery outside.

She could not help but open the window as she looked at the sea of flowers.

The cherry trees were in full bloom. The blossoms were as white as snow, and the fragrance was thick in the air.

The place was more beautiful than the peach garden Luke brought her last time. However, Bianca was not in the mood to appreciate it.

She must have offended the Crawford family by rejecting Luke's proposal yesterday.

Not only was the Crawford family angry, but her grandfather and aunt must be very sad too. They must think that she was immature.

However, she had no other choice...

Just when her brain was in a mess, her phone suddenly started ringing. It was Nina.

Bianca answered the call.

started rambling worriedly, "Have you scrolled through your Twitter feed today, Bea? Many major accounts are sharing the same article! I've sent the link to the article to your messenger app. I curse that bastard who is spreading rumors about you! Look at

staying in the call, Bianca opened her messenger app. "Alright, I'll take

the chilling title of the article in the thumbnail. "Wretched Employee's True Colors Revealed In Public. Aristocratic

She quickly tapped on the link.

Her heart was trembling.

loaded quite slowly on the phone because she was in the middle of a

read the article first, Nina. I'll call you back later." "Alright. You should read it carefully. Don't get too agitated; you and your baby's health is the most important." Nina ended the call after

quickly skimmed through the article. The contents were

was about the scene in the engagement ceremony yesterday, where Bianca rejected

did not write Bianca's name but instead called her "Ms. R." However, everyone could tell that the woman in question was Bianca

*The article* described Miss R as a detestable harlot. It said that she pretended to be pure and innocent, but actually, she was materialistic and selfish.

*Ms. R* had neglected her elderly and sickly grandfather who had raised *her*.

She insisted on selling the family house to fund her studies **overseas**.

*While she* was abroad, she did many unmentionable deeds so that she could fund her extravagant **lifestyle**.

*When she* returned to the country, she became an employee in a well-known multinational corporation and seduced the CEO. She was an expert at that; not only did she charm the heart of "Mr. C," but he also bribed JK Media to whitewash her sins. The JK Media article also said that she was the mother of the twins when she had no blood relation to them *at all*.

Ms. R thought that her plan of marrying into a wealthy family would succeed, but she did not expect that her true colors would be exposed by a close friend during the engagement ceremony, which led to her fiancé *dumping her*.

**The** author called herself "Rita" and said that she was a good friend of Ms. R while studying **abroad**.

Rita also said that she had even more evidence of Ms. R's misdeeds in her *hands!*

**Her reason** for writing the article was because she admired Mr. C and did not want him to be deceived by that woman. The article was supposed to expose Ms. R's **true character!**

**The article** was written in a very convincing manner. There were even photos of Ms. R's alleged sexual escapades with naked **men**.

Those photos were thoroughly obscene.

faces of the men in the photos were blurred out, but the woman's face was not. It showed only her side profile, but it was almost exactly the same as Bianca's

Bianca knew very well that the woman in the photo was not her, she might have even thought that she had a twin

point in the article seemed to be well-sourced. No one could spot any flaws, and many people thought that it was

could tell that the woman in the article was Bianca

City might be an international metropolis covering a vast area, but the upper circles were very small. Moreover, modern communication technology made it very easy for news to go

that "Ms. R" referred to Bianca Rayne, who was also in the news because of a scandal a few

would naturally be Luke

remembered that JK Media had published an article titled " How Envious! After Ten Years of Courting His Sweetheart, Luke Crawford of T Corporation Claims A Beautiful Woman and Two Cute Twins!" and had widely

everyone was touched by the fact that Luke and Bianca received their happy ending after overcoming multiple obstacles. How did the truth end up that