

Be Gentle 541

Chapter 541 Queenie's Ob-gyn

Allison did not expect to meet a woman whom she thought she would never meet again in A City!

Dr. Vylen Lane, Queenie's obstetrician and gynecologist!

She gritted her teeth and stared at Vylen. Allison wanted to throw her LV bag in her hand on Dr. Lane's head. "You promised me that you'll never step into A City ever again. I didn't expect that you would dare break your promise! Vylen, what do you want? Are you regretting your decision?"

Vylen was about 50 years old. She was tall and fat with an ordinary appearance. She was one of those women who would blend into the crowd. The only thing that made her stand out was her extraordinarily round and plump figure. 1

She was the same age as Allison, but because she had not been taking care of her appearance, she looked ten years older than Allison. 1

Vylen did not expect that she would be caught on the spot by Allison just a few days after she arrived in A City.

She said with a guilty tone, 'For so many years, I've been honest and stayed away from here. My aunt passed away a few days ago in my hometown so I came back for the funeral. After the funeral is over, I'll immediately fly back. I promise you that!'

Allison did not trust her. "Do you think I'm a fool? If you came for a funeral, why do you look happy? If your second aunt passed away, why are you here at the embroidery shop? This is not the first time you've returned to A City throughout these years, is it?"

Allison was quick-tempered and impulsive, but she was not a dumb woman!

She was skeptical of Vylen's words.

do I look like that kind of person? I came back for a funeral. If you don't believe me, you can follow me home to take a look. As for the embroidery shop, it's because I like cross-stitching very much. However, it's rare for me to find such high-quality pieces abroad. Taking advantage of my return, I wanted to buy more embroidery pieces but I didn't expect to meet you here..." Vylen chuckled awkwardly and

regretted it now. She had chosen to take Allison's money back then and went overseas, accepting the condition that she was not allowed to ever

thought that she had a good life abroad, but they did not see the helplessness and sadness of her wandering and lonely

you're done with your affairs, go back immediately! If I see you again, I'll make you pay! You must not know that my son is the CEO of T Corporation. He's a powerful man who can take care of anyone in A City easily!" Allison said

her head. It was unsure whether she was frightened by Allison's threat or she was immersed in memories of

than 20 years ago, she had graduated from medical university and was assigned to a small township. The salary as the local ob-gyn was not high. Her relationship with her colleagues was competitive, and there was a lot of gossip going around the

was arrogant, could not deal with the

much deliberation, she resigned from the hospital and opened a

enthusiastic about her service and had great skills. Her small clinic gradually gained a bit of fame and many people came to seek her

that particular day, Vylen remembered that it was raining heavily outside. She was the only one left in the

that evening, a beautiful pregnant woman came to her clinic. Her name was Queenie

Her water broke, and the baby in her belly was *at risk*.

Usually when pregnant women gave birth, they would go to a regular hospital and would be accompanied by a family member or the husband throughout the entire process. However, for some reason, at that critical moment, Queenie was not accompanied by her husband **or family**.

Only her coquettish best friend, Allison, accompanied her.

They were at a remote location that was too far from the hospital. They had no intention of going to the hospital and they offered Vylen good money, so she agreed to deliver *the baby*...

Queenie was weak and the delivery was not going well. Various factors caused her to have a difficult delivery.

A long time had passed and the baby was still inside of her.

The pain and the excessive force used caused Queenie's consciousness to be a little muddled.

She was bleeding heavily and her condition was not improving.

At that extremely critical moment, Vylen could only save either the mother or the child.

At that time, communication and transportation in remote locations were not as developed. It was hard to get ambulances in their area. Vylen felt powerless and asked Queenie to make *the decision*.

no direct kinship with Queenie and was not legally able to sign an agreement on her behalf. All she could do then was ask Queenie about

you're in a dangerous situation. You're bleeding heavily. At this point, I can only save either you or your child. Here's an agreement that requires your family's signature, but since your family is not around, you have to make your own

the drafted agreement to Queenie and continued talking, "If you want to protect yourself, please sign form A; if you want to protect your child, please sign

almost passed out at the time. She seemed so weak she looked like she just wanted the pain

Dr. Vylen asked her whether she wanted to save herself or her child, she resolutely said, "Save my child, I want my child to be safe and it doesn't matter what happens to me!" "Queenie, let's save you. Your life is more important!" Allison tried to talk Queenie out of it.

also persuaded her, saying, "Ms. Zeigler, you're still young. You can still have children in the future. But if you die, wouldn't it be more pitiful for the child to be born without a

was firm and there was no room for discussion. "Keep the baby, you must save my baby! Doctor, please! Something happened to my husband and what he wants more than anything is our baby's birth. If I don't save our child, I won't be able to face him. If the child is gone, I don't want to live

With that, Queenie broke down.

She felt useless.

saw Queenie breaking down, Dr. Vylen asked her to sign the agreement to save the child, thinking that everything was down to

Queenie was a great person. Despite Vylen predicting that one of them had to die, Queenie tried her best and gave birth to a beautiful baby

Chapter 542 Where Was Queenie's Child?

Therefore, Vylen and Allison conspired to swap Queenie's healthy and beautiful daughter with a dead baby who had been born to another local girl.

After Queenie woke up, she learned that her baby was stillborn and almost went crazy. Her pale face was full of gloom and despair. She held the dead baby in her arms and refused to let go.

Her eyes were almost blinded by the excessive crying.

She kept complaining that she was useless and had failed to keep her and her husband's child.

Vylen was uncomfortable when she saw Queenie's death-like appearance.

However, she was consumed by her greed. She prioritized her needs and ignored the guilt she felt for Queenie.

She forced herself to persuade Queenie that she was in good health and that she would have a chance to have other children in the future.

However, Vylen knew that Queenie had a high probability of being infertile due to this dystocia, and her physical condition would not allow her to carry another child.

Later, Allison fulfilled her promise and gave Vylen a large sum of money before she sent her out of the country.

At first, Vylen was a little worried that someone would find out about what she had done, but after she arrived in the foreign country, she was quickly dazzled by the colorful and wonderful life abroad. No one said anything even after a few years, so Vylen felt complacent after a while.

However, after a few years abroad, she realized that the grass was not greener on the other side.

were not as beautiful as she had

country she stayed in, racial discrimination was a serious issue. People of her race had a hard time

not have any other choice but to stay. Since Vyen had chosen to take Allison's hush money, she dared not look back on

even threatened Vyen that if she ever found out that she returned to their home country, she would ruin her and Vyen would never be able to practice medicine in her

many years, Vyen relied on the sum of money that Allison gave her as capital and opened a clinic in the city. The business

she found a local man there and got hitched. It was not a bad life, but not a particularly good one as

she got older, Vyen became more and more homesick. She thought about bringing her parents over, but they were used to living in their home country. They would have a hard time adjusting to life abroad.

After staying with Vyen for two days, they would insist on heading

Vyen felt helpless.

to return to her home country to be closer to her

did not dare to be loud and proud about it. Everytime she went home to visit her relatives, she could only do it

did not expect that bad luck would strike and she would be caught by Allison as soon as she returned home

the current moment, Vyen let out a long sigh. She was unable to restrain her curiosity. "Where's Queenie's child now? Is she still alive? Or... did you...?"

For so many years, although she had been doing relatively well in her life abroad, Vyen had been deeply tortured by this. It haunted her every night.

There was always a crazy lady in her dreams who chased after her and asked her for her child. This had haunted Vyen throughout the **years**.

Allison looked at Vyen and sneered, "Why are you pretending to care about the child? Don't be a hypocrite! When you took money from me and replaced Queenie's daughter with a stillborn, you weren't so kind!"

When Vyen heard Allison's words, her face turned red and she said angrily, "I admit that I was greedy and did something terrible, but you're a pot

*calling the kettle black! You were supposed to be Queenie's best friend but you're secretly a scheming b*tch who swapped the babies! When she blamed herself for the loss of her beloved daughter, you pretended to be kind and consoled her. The worst thing that happened to Queenie was meeting you, fake b*tch!" "What are you talking about?" Allison raised her hand and slapped Vyen in the face. Her stance was domineering!*

Vyen stood her ground and grabbed Allison's hand. "Why? Did I poke at your sore spot? You didn't tell me why you secretly replaced Queenie's child. My guess is that it must be because Queenie is kind and beautiful. She married a tall, rich, and handsome husband, so you were jealous of her. You didn't want her to be happier than your miserable soul, so you wanted to ruin her flesh **and blood...**"

Allison was triggered by Vyen and wanted to slap her. However, Vyen was taller and stronger than her. It was not a fair fight.

She looked around and was surprised to see people nearby. They should not be talking about such private *matters here*.

She pushed down her temper and said to Vyen softly, "This is not a place for us to catch up, let's go to a *cafe...*"

After she said that, Allison put on her sunglasses and grabbed Vyen as though nothing *had happened*.

Shakira Neile rubbed her eyes and could not believe what she *saw*.

Shakira thought she was hallucinating until she saw the corner of Allison's clothes that swept across the glass showcase of the store, *i*

turned out that Queenie's child was not

all part of Allison's

However...

so close with Queenie, why did she swap Queenie's child with a stillborn? Where is that child now? Is she

series of questions came to mind, and Shakira was in a daze. Before she knew it, Allison and Vyen had
Shakira hurriedly chased after them.

there were too many people walking around the mall. She looked for them for a long time but never
decided to drive to the Normans' residence and decided to tell Queenie about

Queenie knew that her biological daughter whom she thought had been dead for a long time was still
alive, she would be

At night.

the smell of disinfectant from the hospital and decided to ask Zander to send her

Luke and he told her that he had some matters to deal with and would be

Chapter 543 Something Happened To Their Daughter!

Luke carried Bianca to the bedroom and kissed her fair forehead. "Why aren't you sleeping in the
room?"

Bianca stayed in his arms like an obedient kitten, and there was still a hint of drowsiness in her voice. "I
thought you'd be back soon. Who knew you'd come back so late..." "I'm indeed a little busy recently.

Something went wrong with the partnership with Vivi Group, and the maid arson case is about to be heard in court. I'll spend time with you and the baby after dealing with these matters." Luke put her on the big bed.

"Are these things troublesome?" Bianca frowned.

Luke said, "The problem with the partnership has been resolved, and we're still working on the arson case."

Bianca heaved a long sigh as she recalled Giovan jumping from the building after the arson case.

The whole country had been in shock since the arson case.

Luke pushed Bianca's messy hair aside, revealing her delicate little face." Deciding on a verdict isn't as easy as you think."

was upset. "Are we going to see the perpetrator go

her hard and consoled her, saying, "This is the way the world is. The farmer and the viper exist everywhere. Not everyone

people will regard someone at the bottom of society or in an inferior position as the weak, but they don't know that they may be a wolf in sheep's clothing. When their hideous dark side is exposed, the consequences are absolutely unimaginable. So, Bea, you can be a kind person, but not an ignorantly kind one. Otherwise, you'll only be bringing trouble upon yourself. But I'll make sure that the murderer is brought to justice for Mr. Sonny's wife and children's sake." "So how are things going now?" Bianca asked

also the mother of two, and soon she would be the mother of three, so she hated

his index finger and touched Bianca's nose with a smile. "Why do you think I've been working on this case for so long that I don't even have time to spend with you and the kids? You know I'd never go on a fool's

went through everything while filtering

Bianca could guess how hard it must have been to deal with the old foxes in officialdom and knew that he probably paid more in secret for

little distressed, Bianca touched his handsome face. "I believe you. The man I fell in love with is always the best. Besides, karma will get back at the evildoers one day. Jillian will pay a cruel price for what she has

Luke said with certainty, "She surely *will*!"

Bianca suddenly recalled Leia's kidnapping case in **the hospital**.

Her soft and fair fingers grabbed Luke's collar. She met his eyes and asked with some agitation, "By the way, I heard about Leia's kidnapping incident when I was at the hospital today. It has nothing to do with you, **right?**"

Luke completely trusted the woman he loved deeply. He said without denying it, "I did ask someone to do it. That woman was the one behind that incident with the venomous snakes. That woman has repeatedly tried to kill you. I wanted to teach her a lesson she'd never forget!"

Bianca's heartbeat quickened a little. Under Luke's gaze, her little face suddenly turned pale. "What did you do to her? Luke, aren't you... too impulsive? Her father's the Provincial Committee Secretary. I dare not imagine the serious consequences if anything happened to her. You'd be ruined... We must obey the *law*..."

Looking at Bianca's worried little face and her deep concern for him, Luke smiled faintly again.

The man's soft fingers ran across her brow like a feather. ' Don't worry, I have evidence that Leia worked with others to hurt you. I even have photos of her with another man. She won't dare to say anything. That woman is extremely selfish and will keep everything to herself for the sake of her reputation **and future.**"

Bianca hung her head low and said in disappointment, "I didn't expect Leia to hate me so much. A woman who can't get the man she loves is such a lunatic. But who did you say was her accomplice?" "The Blatt family's third heir, Wayne."

was as cold as ice when he mentioned the name. "Leia has an unusual relationship with him. The woman used Wayne to release the venomous snakes in La Fontaine Manor. Wayne was a special forces soldier, so he's pretty capable. He joined a mercenary organization as the leader after he retired. He has a group of mercenaries from all over the world. They're all ruthless and brutal. Wayne and I had nothing to do with each other before this, but he should be prepared for retaliation since he dared to make a move against you. Anyone who hurts you is

a little at that. Her small hand grabbed Luke's big hand." Or... let's not cross someone like that. You know that he's cold-blooded, cruel, and despises human life. I'm afraid you'll get hurt. I would hate myself if anything happened

a little after giving her a peck on the lips. "You just have to be a happy expectant mother. Don't overthink it. I know where to draw the

hot breath blew gently on Bianca's face. It was masculine

eyelashes quivered as she nestled against his chest. "You promised me that you know where to draw the line. You must keep

news of the kidnapping of the Norman family's heiress quickly spread all over A

pressure of Jack's power and status, all the police stations immediately sent our personnel to search for her but it was to

kidnappers were very cunning and had formidable skills. They did not leave any clues when they committed the

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Chapter 544 Your Biological Daughter Is Alive And Well

The hospital.

Leia was huddled in the hospital bed, shivering like a madman!

It was almost June when the weather was hot, but she had covered herself with a thick blanket.

She screamed frantically and would not let anyone get close, including Queenie, the doctor, and the nurse.

Several doctors and nurses tried to hold her down to give her a sedative, but the deranged Leia was unusually strong!

She was also the heiress of the Norman family, so they dared not push too hard. For a moment, there was nothing they could do with her.

Queenie looked at Leia with tears streaming down her face. Why had her daughter, who had always been so understanding and sensible, turn out like this?

She remembered how her daughter had told her not to tire herself out when she was going to the office and it was right before Leia went missing in the hospital... Leia even said Queenie had worked so hard in taking care of her these days that Leia would cook a nice meal for her and Ol' Norman when she recovered and got home from the hospital.

How did it all come to this?

Wiping away her tears, Queenie walked over to Leia's bed and pulled the covers off her, only to see a frightened face.

"Ah! Snakes! There are so many snakes... Don't eat me... I dare not do it anymore... It's my fault..."

Leia's eyes were wide with horror, and she was speaking incoherently.

were glazed over, and her body trembled as she hugged herself to the corner of the bed until she could not go

don't frighten me. Baby girl, what's come over you? Don't you even recognize me?" Queenie clutched her aching chest when she saw that Leia did not seem to recognize

Ah! Go away!" Leia did not seem to know anyone anymore. All she did was scream and shout

grabbed her head as she shrieked piercingly and cried grievously, her eyes full

moment, Leia's mind was filled with images of her being entangled with snakes and getting bitten by them. She felt as though all kinds of wriggling snakes were wrapped around her head, neck, arms, and legs until she was out

even disgusting snakes that tried to get into her mouth and ears, making her wish she

more than an hour of torture in the abandoned factory, Luke had nearly wrecked Leia's mental

of the man reached its height, and she became deranged. She even thought that the snakes were

her mind, she kept banging her head against the wall of the ward as if unaware that her forehead was covered in

saw Leia losing her mind and banging her head against the wall. When Queenie saw Leia's forehead bleeding, she cried with her daughter while feeling

to hold Leia to stop her from

deranged Leia was unusually strong and she pushed Queenie to

Queenie would have fallen had she not been supported by a doctor behind *her*.

Leia had lost her mind.

No one could get close to her, even if that woman was Queenie who had raised her for many years.

"**Mrs.** Norman, Ms. Norman's delirious. She doesn't know what she's **doing**."

You'd better not go near her," the middle-aged doctor advised Queenie.

He could not help sighing a little at the pitiful sight of the graceful Queenie crying for her daughter with a broken *heart*.

It was said that the Norman family's heiress was adopted by Mr. Norman and his wife, but Mrs. Norman loved her dearly. It seemed to be true.

Queenie looked nothing like an upper class lady right **now**.

She was just an ordinary mother who loved her daughter **dearly**.

Queenie shook the doctor off and held Leia in her arms when she was not noticing. "Leia, don't be afraid. I'll always be here for you. Sweetheart, wake up, **okay?**"

Leia's shrieks became even more piercing, and her face was filled with tears of horror. Her eyes were bloodshot, and her hands were hitting her adoptive mother who was holding *her*.

She found everyone scary. They were all snakes in her eyes, making her uneasy and *frightened*.

hugged Leia regardless. No matter how hard Leia was hitting her, she refused to let

nails scratched Queenie's gentle face. However, Queenie would not let go even when a series of punches fell on her face and

had no idea what Leia had suffered to cause such a big change in her personality. However, as she simply loved her daughter too much, she still saw Leia as the most innocent and sensible little princess no matter what she

Jack came to the ward, he happened to see Leia hitting Queenie wildly. He rushed forward with lightning speed and saved Queenie

in his arms, there was anger in Jack's voice. "What the hell are you doing? Don't you know that Leia is delirious? Are you just going to let her hurt you? Do you know you're going to get

cried in his arms. "Jack, how did this happen to our daughter... I don't know what happened

coldly at the doctors and nurses in the ward. He bellowed through clenched teeth, "Are you people here as decorations? Can't you sedate her? Are you just going to watch my wife get hurt? What happened to your

felt chills rising from the bottom of their feet due to Mr. Norman's anger and no longer cared about Leia's identity as an heiress. Under the attending doctor's order, several male doctors worked together to hold down the deranged Leia. They forcibly injected her with

deranged Leia fell unconscious and silence returned to the

heart also ached at the sight of Queenie blaming herself for their daughter's pain. Queenie's fair cheeks were also red and swollen from their

scolded Queenie as he gently applied medicine for her, "You must know where to draw the line no matter how much you dote on Leia. You may spoil her, but I'll be upset if it's on the premise of you getting

was still wiping her tears. "I'm just so worried about Leia. You have no idea. Our

Chapter 545 She and Bianca Were Indeed Mother And Daughter

Shakira's words hit Queenie hard like a bomb, exploding instantly! The fragments penetrated deep into her heart, making her feel throbs of pain...

Queenie thought she had misheard her. She grabbed Shakira's arm tightly, her pale face full of shock. "Shakira, what... What did you say?" "I said your daughter is alive and well. She wasn't stillborn when you gave birth to her!" Shakira's arm hurt from Queenie's grip. She took in a cold breath and said bluntly, "Queen, would you please ease your grip? It hurts."

Queenie let go of Shakira with a look of joy on her face, but then it quickly dimmed again. She mumbled in disbelief, "Impossible. My daughter can't possibly be alive. I gave birth to a stillborn baby! The baby was so stiff that she didn't have any warmth when I held her. I remember it clearly!"

Queenie began to cry again at the mention of her biological daughter.

Children were her armor and her weakness.

Shakira took out a piece of tissue and wiped Queenie's tears. She said with her heart aching, "Queen, you can't cry any more tears. When you shed too many tears after going through a stillbirth back then, you couldn't see clearly at night anymore. Do you want to go blind by not taking good care of your eyes? You've led a tough life all these years, and it's time to know the truth. I ran into Allison when I was shopping yesterday, and guess what I saw and heard..."

She told Queenie about running into Allison and another unfamiliar woman near the embroidery shop and the conversation she had overheard.

Queenie was dumbfounded after hearing it!

It took her a long time to come back to her senses. The pain in her eyes made her shake her head in disbelief.

'If what Shakira said is true...

'Allison is so frightening!

'How hateful!'

in A City suddenly turned gloomy in the afternoon. Then, a drizzle hit the glass window of the cafe and smudged circles of different sizes on the in front of the glass window, looking at the glass of water. She kept looking outside as if she was waiting for something

you want with me?" Her thoughts were interrupted by a haughty and irritated female

her head and saw Allison all covered in

folding up her umbrella that was dripping with raindrops and somewhat impatiently sat down

long time no see. I just wanted to catch up with you." Queenie sat there calmly, looking gentle. It was a stark contrast to

at Queenie with disdain in her heart. Seeing her plain clothes, Allison began to criticize her in

She was Mr. Norman's wife and ran a large corporation of her own but still wore simple *outfits*.

Also, Queenie did not wear any jewelry. She did not have an expensive necklace around her neck or even simple earrings.

The only accessory was Queenie's modest diamond ring on her ring **finger**.

However, in Allison's eyes, the tiny diamond ring was too monotonous, making her seem *humble*.

She and Bianca were indeed mother and daughter. Both liked wearing plain clothes and no makeup. Neither of them liked to wear jewelry either. It was so unpleasant to **see**.

It made Allison feel better to see that the woman she once admired and envied was not as well-dressed as she *was now*.

"**You** can catch up with me anytime, but you had to pick a day with such horrible weather. Do you know I'm busy? Besides, it's raining heavily but you still asked me to come here. The dress I just bought will get dirty." Allison dramatically shook her dress as if it had been stained **dirty**.

In fact, her dress was so white that no water droplets were *on it*.

"Allison, the main reason I'm here today is to ask you about something." Queenie ignored Allison's harsh words and looked her straight in the **eye sincerely**.

"*What* do you want to ask? Queenie, we used to be good friends, but we haven't been in touch for so many years. I don't think we have anything to catch up on. Oh, do you want to discuss your daughter's marriage to my son? I have no say in my son's business. You know Luke has a mind of his own. I can't interfere with his decisions even if I'm *his mother*."

course, it's not completely out of the question if Leia insists on marrying into the Crawford family. As long as she can win Luke's heart and make him marry her willingly, I absolutely approve of their marriage. I don't think you know that I like Leia very much and would like her to be my daughter-in-law.

Allison was interrupted.

didn't ask you here today to talk about Luke and Leia's marriage. The children have their own lives, and parents can't interfere with them. Since Luke doesn't like Leia, I'm not going to force him. I won't let Leia marry into the Crawford family again no matter what!" Queenie

did you ask me here if not to talk about the children's marriage? Is there a financial crisis in your company that requires me to persuade my son to finance your company? I can't do that!" Allison sneered as she blew on her freshly done

just want to ask if my biological daughter is alive or not? Please tell me the truth!" Queenie, who had always been gentle, looked at Allison sternly as if to see through the woman in front of

skipped a beat, her pupils shrank, and her shoulders

up at Queenie, trying to be calm. She smiled sarcastically.' Queenie, have you gone crazy from missing your daughter too much? Your daughter has been dead for more than 20 years. I remember you holding her dead body and bawling your eyes out. Now you're asking me if she's alive. You're so unreasonable! Take your time with your coffee. Pardon me for not

suddenly stood up, picked up her bag, and

Queenie instantly grabbed her bag and would not let

determined not to give up until she had an answer. "Allison, did you team up with the ob-gyn to swap my daughter with a dead

Chapter 546 She Was Always The One Getting Humiliated Instead

Bianca rested at home for a few more days and felt almost well enough to go back to work.

She was bored out of her mind resting at home for so long.

Technology was so advanced now that people could communicate with others through video calls without going to the office. However, if a person was separated from a group for too long, they would not only feel lonely but also out of place when they got back to work.

Luke could not resist Bianca's repeated requests. His heart softened, and he relented when she repeatedly assured him that she would not tire herself out.

Luke never had the heart to refuse anything Bianca requested.

Bianca returned to work and clocked in as usual. As soon as she got to the Design Department's entrance, she came face to face with the cold and elegant Mavis.

"Good morning, Ms. Laviere," Bianca greeted her with a smile.

Mavis glanced at Bianca, her gaze falling on her belly that was clearly showing. Her eyes did not seem to stir.

"Good morning, Ms. Rayne." Mavis nodded lightly.

Then, she walked past Bianca and straight to her office.

one saw the fleeting malice on the seemingly expressionless Mavis when she lowered

Bianca had publicly refused to marry Luke at the engagement party, she thought the woman would leave A City. However, she unexpectedly had the nerve to return to T Corporation and was even

belly seemed almost five months along, and she was still with Luke at the time. There was a good chance the baby could be Luke's!

was a clever woman who not only sabotaged Luke's engagement to Leia but also successfully conceived Luke's child. It made Mavis extremely

of jealousy almost drove her out of her

a sigh of relief after Mavis left. Few people enjoyed being with such aggressive and overbearing

She went straight to her seat.

saw her colleagues like Sue, Nina, and Tom already at work. She greeted them and sat down at her

for several colleagues who were close to Bianca, the rest of the Design Department had known nothing about

naturally gossip when Bianca, whom they had not seen in months, suddenly showed up to work with a

However, Bianca ignored the strange looks. She turned on her computer and started working.

There were a lot of new emails in her inbox.

While some were emails about welcoming new hires, many were work- related.

Bianca opened and looked through them one by one. Just then, Bella walked over.

After a few months of not seeing her and not knowing what had happened, Bella, who had always been pretty and flirtatious, seemed to have become even more charming. Especially her eyes, they seemed to allure you when she looked at **you**.

"Gee, Bianca. It's only been a few months yet you already have such a big belly? I never knew you were married! You didn't get pregnant before marriage, did you?" Bella's shrill voice rang and immediately attracted the attention of the *entire office*.

All eyes turned to Bianca.

Bianca glanced at Bella and said coldly, "Ms. Sloan, does it matter to you whether I'm married or got pregnant before marriage? It has nothing to do with work, does it?"

Bella snorted with disdain and stood beside Bianca's desk, looking down at her from a commanding position. "Of course, it does! Although our company doesn't stipulate whether employees can have

children before marriage, T Corporation is a huge international company, after all. It values reputation the most. An employee who got pregnant before marriage is clearly morally questionable, and it can impact our company's reputation. What's wrong with me defending our company's reputation?" "Pfft..." Nina was the first to burst into laughter.

She wondered if Bella was out of her mind.

could employees' personal affairs be related to the company's reputation? She was good at making

knew what Bianca had done to offend Bella that she would pick on her, but they only found her idiotic to make up such a lame excuse to give others trouble

made the heavily pregnant Sue turn so pale that she threw her pen on the desk with

the sound and looked at

angrily at Bella. "What do you mean, Ms. Sloan? What's wrong with being pregnant before marriage? Does it bother you? Did we unmarried pregnant women eat your food or drink your water? Aren't you crossing the

Bella's expression stayed the same. She still domineeringly said, "So what if I'm crossing the line? Bianca was shameless, thinking she had made it to the top and had no regard for her superior. Now what? Didn't she get dumped? It's karma, isn't it? She doesn't have a source of income anymore, does she? She even has to come to work with a huge belly. Serves her

Nina really found Bella ridiculous.

society were they in now? Ms. Sloan's ideas were still so feudal and old-fashioned. She remembered Bella changing boyfriends faster

a woman who led her private life like that lecture others with a

a pen in her hand while sitting on her seat, Nina could not help defending her friends and sarcastically replied with a sharp tongue, "Ms. Sloan, please be a little more careful. We're at work, but you're prying into employees' private matters like a nosy woman instead of discussing work. Don't you find yourself acting silly? Besides, many women get pregnant before marriage. Are you chastising all

Chapter 547 Bianca, Who's Looking For Her Mother...

Soon, it was time to get off work.

Thinking that he had not taken Bianca out for dinner for a long time, Luke drove Bianca to a fancy restaurant for dinner.

Shakira ran the restaurant, and the dining environment here was excellent. 1

The music from the melodious violin wafted through the entire space. The place overlooked the city's scenic lake and one could admire the sight by the French windows. They also served a variety of delicacies.

As they were regular customers she was familiar with, Shakira served them personally.

She placed the last dish on the table and said happily, "Luke, what have you been up to all this time? I haven't seen you for a long time. I missed you."

Although Shakira got along well with Queenie, she did not have much contact with Allison. However, she was very fond of Luke. Plus, her husband was close with Zachary, so she was naturally more attentive to Zachary's son.

Shakira had watched Luke grow up, so to speak, and sometimes, she was even more like his mother than Allison.

As a result, sometimes Luke would rather talk to her than his mother when he was upset.

been a little busy with work these days. That's why I haven't been coming here. I'll come here whenever I have time. Maybe you'll get tired of me coming here every day," quipped

loquacious." Shakira's gaze then fell on

an eyebrow when she saw Bianca's bare and pretty little face. "Luke, if I remember correctly, is this the girl you first introduced to me? Is she Bian...

already found the girl strangely familiar

young but did not have on even light makeup. Her standard heartshaped face was as translucent as white opal. She had really

eyes were large and dark, and her lashes were long and dense. You could tell at first glance that she was an obedient and

held Bianca's hand with a gentle look in his eyes. "Yes, this is Bianca, the woman I love the

blushed at his sudden confession. She looked at Shakira with embarrassment, said hello, and then lowered her

shy and self-conscious girl,' Shakira remarked

She had no idea how a girl with such a character could handle the forceful and overbearing *Luke*.

Her friend's son had always been arrogant, and she had expected that the woman to conquer him would be a swift and fierce woman who was smooth *and slick*.

However, looking at the way her friend's son was in love, which was a far cry from his frosty behavior when he was with Leia, Shakira knew he had fallen head over heels for the girl.

Shakira had learned a little through Queenie about the entanglement between these three **young people**.

Leia had always had a crush on Luke, but the man was attached to a woman, and that woman was *Bianca*.

Later, Bianca and Luke went their separate ways after Bianca refused to marry him at their engagement *party*.

Then, Leia got the chance to be Luke's fiancée.

*However, after everything that had happened, Luke and Leia's engagement party was also ruined. He got back together with Bianca, but Leia tried to commit **suicide**.*

Shakira had no idea what on earth had happened between them, but she was also present at the scene and could see at a glance that Luke did not love Leia at all.

Queenie, she was not optimistic about Leia and Luke's relationship from the start. However, Leia persisted, which led to the tragedy

heart ached for Leia, she would rather see Luke happy. After all, she knew better than anyone how much the boy had suffered all these

parents like Zachary and Allison, Luke had been in great misery for most of his life. She did not want to see him follow the same path as his

a sigh, Shakira began to persuade Luke. "I know you won't let go easily once you set your mind on something or someone. I found her kind and good-hearted the first time I met her. I also believe you have a good eye for people. You're not getting any younger, and you're old enough to get married now. Don't end up hurting others as well as yourself and do the girl

Shakira glanced pointedly at Bianca's belly.

all this is over, I'll give Bea a big wedding. You must come," Luke took Bianca in his arms and said

Tell me in advance when you're getting married. I'll prepare a great gift for you. You two should have dinner first. I'll leave you alone." Grinning from ear to ear, Shakira spoke a little more before

left, Luke's thin lips curved into a smile and he kissed Bianca on the cheek. "We're an old couple now. Why are you still so

back to her senses. Her little face blushed even more. "Do you think everyone's as shameless as

Chapter 548 It Would Be Great If Bianca Were Queenie's Daughter

Fortunately, Shakira was an agile person, and she was experienced with such situations.

She managed to catch the plate before it hit the floor, thus averting disaster.

However, what Bianca said earlier rang in Shakira's ears like a clap of thunder.

'Allison was married to Bianca's father, and she said that Bianca was her daughter? How is that possible

'Luke said that he had done a DNA test with Bianca, and it proved that they're not siblings!

'That has to be it.

'The two are not related by blood.

'However, It's undeniable that Allison used to be related to Bianca's father...'

Shakira remembered very well that Allison only bore one child, who was Luke. Luke was Allison's tool to enter the Crawford household, but Old Master Crawford had not recognized Luke's status back then. He only wanted to wait for Susan to give birth to a legitimate Crawford child.

Zachary did not have the authority in the family, and he dared not go against his father's wishes. The child was not able to enter the Crawford household.

Back then, Zachary had his eye on a tender college student. He was busy courting her, and so he ignored Allison's existence. Of course, Allison's child was ignored as well.

Without Zachary's protection, Susan, the legitimate wife, started to pressure Allison. She forcefully took back all the house and car that Zachary had gifted Allison and forced her to leave A City.

of marrying rich was shattered. She did not know of any way of making a living other than being a dancer, but she was already used to being pampered in luxury. Forced into poverty, she had to run away

A City and find other solutions.

worried that her child would be a burden to her as she looked for another sugar daddy. That was why she had placed Luke in an

for the next half a year. No one knew where she went, as though she had disappeared from

not know anything that happened in that

she heard that Queenie, who was already heavily pregnant, took in the homeless Allison out of sympathy and let her stay in the

was in the middle of an investigation. Their family was already in a difficult situation, but Queenie was willing to help

stayed in the Norman residence for a month, and she accompanied Queenie for the entire time. When Queenie went to the small town to look for her husband and suffered from premature delivery, Allison was also the only person there. It meant that she was the only one who witnessed Queenie deliver a stillborn

had thought that there was something fishy about the

might be weak and delicate, but she was in good health. Before the delivery, Shakira had accompanied Queenie to the hospital for a checkup. The doctor said that the mother and baby were healthy. Why would the baby

until that day when she eavesdropped on Allison's conversation with another woman that she knew that the stillborn was

She did not know Allison's motives for doing so, but it meant that Queenie's child was still alive and well somewhere in **the world**.

Shakira made a bold guess. Could the Bianca Rayne in front of her be Queenie's **birth daughter**?

Their facial features and mannerisms looked so similar. They even had almost the **same voice**...

How could two people look so similar if they were *unrelated*?

The world was so vast, and there were so many people. There were so many people who were unrelated but looked and sounded similar, but not all of them were parent *and child*...

However, Bianca and Allison were not totally unrelated... Shakira could not help but doubt the entire situation!

Shakira's heart thumped faster when she thought of that **possibility**.

She wanted to go in and ask Bianca directly, but she thought that it would be very awkward if she were mistaken. Not only would Queenie be disappointed, but Bianca would be disappointed *too*...

Shakira's hand that was about to knock on the door drooped weakly.

'I should go and investigate first.

'I *should* only start asking them questions when I have more evidence. If Bianca is really Queenie's daughter... that would be **great!**'

in a prison somewhere in A

male wing was illuminated by a single dim and yellow incandescent bulb. The cells were separated by contained about eight prisoners who slept in bunk beds. Jean Langdon walked along the corridor toward his cell, holding a cracked hand basin and had a towel draped over his bare shoulder. He was gaunt and slightly hunched, and he had a haggard look on his face. As soon as he entered his cell, his cellmates stood up and looked at him like hungry

He thought. Just when he wanted to run out of the cell, he heard the door close and locked with man blocked the door and looked at him pervertedly. "Hey, Jean, you're finally done with your shower. You're slower than a girl. Boss has been waiting for you for a

lifted his head and looked at the burliest and fiercest man in the room being surrounded by other men. His delicate and gentle

place had a power hierarchy, especially prisons. Obviously, the scarfaced man was the dominant force in was covered in tattoos. He also had a long and terrifying knife scar on his face, extending from between his brows to the corner of his lips. His gaze was violent and hostile, and one glance from him would send a chill down

that moment, Jean felt like he was being preyed

tried not to show his disgust as he walked in front of the scar-faced man and flattered him, "you must be tired today, Brother Scar. How about I massage your back..." 1 "I don't need a back massage. I have an itch down here though, and you can help scratch it..." As the scar-faced man said that with his dried lips, he abruptly pinned Jean

a panic, Jean wanted to shout for help, but his cellmates took out a roll of duct tape from somewhere and taped his mouth shut. Jean's face was wrought

Chapter 549 Luke Could Feel His Urges Flare...

T Corporation.

Bianca's daily life had been smooth-sailing. She did not encounter any obstacles at work or at home.

She had discussed with Luke, and they decided to get their marriage certificate from the Civil Registry Office at the end of the month.

Bianca was especially happy every time she remembered that she would be Luke's legally married wife soon.

"Ms. Rayne..." Mavis's impassive voice resounded in the conference room.

Mavis was glaring unhappily at the daydreaming Bianca. A hint of disgust flashed past her eyes.

Nina pinched Bianca heavily!

Bianca suddenly came to her senses and focused on her surroundings!

She looked down the long conference table and noticed that all her colleagues were looking at her, including her boss Luke Crawford.

Embarrassedly, Bianca smoothed her hair and sat up straight. "Yes, Ms. Laviere?"

Bianca looked at Luke. He was sitting up straight in his seat with a serious expression on his face. To everyone else, he was stern and impassive, the total opposite of that passionate man in bed.

would not show up at the weekly meeting of the design department. However, it was only a week away from the end of the month, when they would have a joint meeting with Vivi Group and monthly updates from each of the subsidiary companies. Given Luke's unpredictable personality, no one thought that it was surprising that he was sitting in the

relationship with the boss was an open secret. No one said anything in the open, but they looked at Bianca with different sentiments, especially the women, who

they looked at Mavis, who thought that she would eventually become Mrs. Crawford, with

Mavis knew that very well.

her colleagues respected and feared her, she could see the sympathy and schadenfreude in

gaze fell disdainfully on Bianca's bulging stomach. "Are you feeling listless lately, Ms. Rayne? You seem tired." "I'm not..." Bianca could sense the disdain in Mavis's gaze. She stopped herself

leaned back on her chair and smiled superficially. "You seem to be in low spirits, Ms. Rayne. Did you not sleep well last night? You're pregnant now, and it's normal for a pregnant woman to require more rest. If you can't take it, you can request a long leave of absence from the company. That way, you'll have enough time to rest, and you won't hamper the progress of the

suggestion might sound as though she genuinely cared for Bianca, but Bianca could see that the smile on her face was only

Bianca could understand the implications of her

saying that her pregnancy made her a burden to the progress of the

was about to explain herself when Luke's resonant voice echoed in the conference room. "She had a good rest last night, but she has been preparing for the architect certification test, and so it's not surprising if she's feeling the pressure. I believe that Ms. Rayne's work capabilities will

employees from the design department were surprised when they heard the CEO

They did not expect that the CEO would speak up **for Bianca...**

Mr. Crawford said that Bianca had a good rest last night. Did that mean that they were together in bed the night before?

Bianca was reminded of the embarrassing things that they did in **bed**.

She was on top, and he was at *the bottom...*

Her petite face blushed when she recalled the most **intimate scenes**.

Luke's eyes narrowed. Bianca was dressed in a set of black clothes specially designed for pregnant women. It looked **quite conservative**.

However, her enlarged chest was pushing against the white shirt she wore beneath, and the buttons were in danger of bursting. With her slightly blushing face, she seemed especially *charming*.

Luke could feel his urges flare up.

He abruptly took a big gulp of his tea to calm himself down, at the same time making a mental note to the fashion design department to redesign the office wear for pregnant women. The new design should be loose enough to hide the chest too.

Mavis was especially embarrassed.

Luke had spoken up for Bianca in public. That had intensified the feelings of agony she was currently **experiencing!**

to hide her true emotions from the other people, except for Bianca, who was especially

meeting continued for another half an hour, during which each employee reported on the progress of their

made a brief conclusion and Luke gave the signal, she breathed a sigh of relief and announced, "Meeting employees of the design department quickly stood up from their seats, efficiently packed up their files and notes, then left in an

in T Corporation was busy with work, especially those in the design department. They wished that they had more than twenty-four hours a day for

in the rapidly developing society, it was too easy to be

knew that Luke would be on a business trip to another city tomorrow. She deliberately packed up her remained in the conference room, even though she, Luke, and Mavis were the only three

glanced resentfully at Bianca, then sneaked a peek at Luke. She noticed that their gazes were transfixed on each other, as though they were the only two people left in the world and she was but a nuisance. That made her

did not want to give Bianca the chance to be alone

she sensed that the boss was glancing at her with an icy gaze, she shuddered and sheepishly went she left, Luke's cold demeanor instantly melted into a gentle and indulgent

Chapter 550 Luke the Ace Student Is Being Considerate

Bianca looked carefully. Those "test papers" were A1-sized. They were a lot bigger than A4-sized paper.

There were no grids or lines on those pieces of paper, but it was filled with neat handwriting.

The handwriting was powerful and fluid, and it looked as though it was printed.

"These are the main points and topics of the architect certification test. I believe that you'll be tested on these topics, so I did a summary for you. You'll definitely pass." Luke's resonant voice rang in Bianca's ears.

He was confident of her passing the test.

Bianca took those pieces of paper and glanced at them. The topics covered Engineering Economics and Engineering Management, which were the papers she would be sitting for tomorrow. All the main topics were succinctly covered, and it was even better than the notes from college professors. She understood everything at a glance.

Bianca knew that Luke had always been an ace student. It was a good thing that an ace student was helping her.

She did not expect that the man would be so meticulous. Not only did he summarize the topics for her, but he also included some words of encouragement in a corner.

Bianca thought that the man was very kind to her.

knew that Luke was busy with company work every day, but he had taken the time out to prepare notes for

imagine the man's fountain pen dancing on the paper as he summarized the

that moment, she was extremely moved, but she knew that Luke did not want her to

my best in the test, and I'll definitely ace it!" She

patted her head as though petting an obedient cat. "Good girl. I'll wait for your good

straight. Through a crack in the door, she looked at the extremely handsome man pouring his affection on Bianca

gaze on Bianca became even

her office, Mavis asked Bella to make her a cup

was no milk or sugar in the coffee. She took a few gulps, and the intense bitterness made her calm

"Is there something on your mind, Ms. Laviere? Is it because of Mr. Crawford?" Bella did not leave the office after delivering **the coffee**.

She was a very astute person. Otherwise, she would not have been able to reach the position of department **lead**.

Mavis put the coffee cup heavily on the table. She seemed unhappy. "Ms. Sloan, if you'd pay more attention to your work instead of your superior's mood, you wouldn't be only a department lead by now."

Bella was not embarrassed by Mavis's rebuke. She knew that her superior was in a *bad mood*.

In fact, when Bianca appeared in T Corporation, Bella could sense that Mavis was unhappy **about it**.

She braced herself and said, "I hope you don't mind me being forward, Ms. Laviere. You've had a crush on Mr. Crawford for a long time, and everyone can see your affection toward him. Don't you feel wronged when Bianca overtakes you? To be frank, everyone in T Corporation was expecting you to be the future Mrs. Crawford. Ever since Bianca Rayne appeared, the boss seemed to be charmed by that seductress. If you don't act soon, she will claim the boss's heart forever... Do you want things to end that way, Ms. Laviere?" 1 "The woman he loves is Bianca Rayne. He doesn't know about my feelings for him." Mavis closed her eyes in agony.

Of course, she did not want that to happen!

There was nothing crueler than seeing the man she loved being intimate with another woman and pouring all his affection **on her**.

Mavis was sure that Luke knew that she loved him. However, he had never reciprocated that love. Even when they were having dinner together, he had never talked to her about anything outside of **work**.

loved him for a whole ten

How long was ten years?

ago, she was a fresh-faced girl full of hope and dreams of love. Now, she was a forceful, assertive, and domineering woman in the business world. She had lost count of the number of fearful, painful, and sorrowful experiences she had been through.

thing she knew was that she loved Luke Crawford more and

her, Luke Crawford was like an

men had declared their love for her and had even obsessively courted her because of her outstanding capabilities and family background. However, she had rejected them

Mavis, they could not compare even to Luke's pinky finger, even if that man had never shown her any To love and not be loved.

that was a woman's greatest

