

Be Gentle 551

Chapter 551 Jack Is Agitated!

"Yes, Ms. Laviere. I know what I should do," Bella replied fawningly.

Bella was a smart woman, and Mavis had made it obvious. She would be an idiot if she did not understand what her superior was trying to imply!

So many people coveted the position of deputy general manager!

There were so many talented people in the design department. Even Tom and Sue were just as capable as she was.

If she were to rely on her capabilities alone, it would take her a few more years of hard work.

She would have to come up with a scheme tomorrow so that Bianca would be forced to leave T Corporation!

At the hospital.

Leia was dressed in a loose hospital gown and looked haggard. She stared blankly at the ceiling, and no one knew what she was thinking.

She had not applied beauty cream to her face for a few days, and she had not been sleeping well. Her skin was not as smooth and tender as before, and it was a stark contrast to her beautiful and pure image on television.

The nurses were examining her.

Queenie stood anxiously by the side. Jack was there too.

"Ms. Norman looks a lot better today. You don't have to worry, Mr. Norman and Mrs. Norman," the nurse spoke as she prepared an injection.

came to her senses. She shoved the nurse away and started

Mom, I'm scared..." Her face was full of tears. It was a

feel her heart break as she looked at her daughter's tearful face and listened to her sobbing

toward Leia's bed and hugged her tightly. "My daughter, you finally recognize your mother! My poor dear... can you tell me what happened? Don't you know that you've given your dad and me a big

lowered her head and averted her

to tell her parents that Luke was the one who had abducted her, and Luke was the one who had thrown her into the snake pit. She wanted her parents to take revenge

shivered again when she thought of the man's cruel deeds and

said that if she dared to tell her parents about what happened, he would ruin her reputation and make her suffer a fate a hundred times cruder than what happened in the snake

happened to her, Leia did not doubt what Luke would

experienced first-hand how cruel the man

He was not human at all!

Leia bore only hatred and resentment toward that man, she dared not tell the truth to her adoptive

She squeezed a smile on her face. "Dad, Mom, I'm fine... I don't know why those bad guys abducted me, and I couldn't see their faces because I was blindfolded throughout. They locked me up for a while, but they didn't ask me for ransom or even interact with me. After that, they let me go without saying anything. I wonder if they got the wrong **person**?"

Jack and *Queenie* looked at each other. They were smart enough not to buy into Leia's *excuse*.

"Are you hiding something from us, Leia?" Jack said aggressively, "Your agent told us a different story. She said that a group of men in black barged into the ward and knocked her out. When she woke up, you were nowhere to be seen... I've also dispatched many people to investigate your whereabouts, but no one could find any leads. I'd take revenge for you if I find out who the abductor is!" "I really don't know anything, Dad. I was so frightened when they took me away, and I couldn't see their faces because they blindfolded me. I'm so tired now... Dad, do you know what I was thinking when they took me away? I was so afraid that I won't ever see you or Mom ever again. Mom's eyes are failing, and she'll definitely cry if I'm missing. I can't bear to see **Mom cry**..."

Tears brimmed in Leia's eyes again.

Queenie *hugged* her and started to cry **as well**.

Jack was moved. He was an introverted person unlike his wife, but he loved his adoptive daughter nonetheless.

Seeing that Leia was still very much affected by the ordeal, he decided to stop asking questions for **now**.

He believed that he would eventually find the truth.

How could the daughter of the Provincial Committee Secretary be abducted, and no leads could *be found*?

What a joke!

Leia eventually became tired from crying.

She had been living in fear for the past few days. Now that she felt a lot more relieved, she fell into a deep sleep very *soon*.

that Leia was asleep, *Queenie* massaged her daughter's temples so that she would sleep

been sitting by Leia's bedside for many days. You should lie down and take a rest." Jack felt sorry for his wife when he saw her eye

shook her head. "I'm not tired. Now that Leia is recovering, I feel that I'm alive again. Who do you think has a grudge with Leia? Our daughter is beautiful, gentle, considerate, and generous. Everyone who interacts with her praises her character."

to comfort her. "Perhaps it's my political enemy. I've made many enemies in my career, and I can't tell who it might be. Don't worry, I'll get to the bottom of this and seek justice for our daughter!" "Mm," Queenie replied and tucked her daughter into the

she stood up and looked at Jack with a gentle gaze. "I want to tell you a piece of good news, Jack. Our birth daughter is still alive." "Are... are you telling the truth, Queenie? Where did you get that news?" Jack was utterly

told her husband what Shakira told her about Allison. She also told him about her

was the first time that Jack lost his

heart was thumping hard, even though he had been able to keep his cool in his career as a

our daughter is still alive, we'll definitely find her!" Jack said

around the ward, unable to contain his

calm and stern man looked like a clueless child now. Queenie felt sorry for

knew that her husband was kind toward her adoptive daughter, but he hoped to have a daughter of

Chapter 552 Bianca Was Moved and Saddened

After work, Bianca received a call from her aunt Wanda, saying that Old Master Rayne had been thinking of her. He also wondered about how Bianca's health had been, and he missed Lanie and Rainie.

Bianca had been busy with work lately, not to mention that she had been stuck at her home for the past few months while her leg recovered. Her communication with her grandfather had been limited to phone and video calls.

After hearing from her aunt, Bianca decided that she would visit her grandfather.

She wanted to bring the twins along. However, it would be difficult. The twins were in Crawford Manor, and Luke was away on a business trip.

Bianca knew that Old Master Crawford still had a negative impression of her, while Allison did not even want to talk to her. She would only be humiliating herself if she went there.

At home.

Old Master Rayne was very excited when he saw Bianca. He asked her many questions, including questions about her health and why Luke did not come along.

Even more than that, he asked about whether Lanie and Rainie had grown any taller, and if they listened to their mother...

man asked her many questions, and he even repeated several questions three or four times. However, Bianca answered each of those questions without the slightest hint of

chat, Bianca gave her grandfather several boxes of medicated plasters. "Your back has been hurting, Grandpa, and I bought these medicated plasters for you. Try them and see if they're effective. Use one in the morning and one in the evening, and I hope your back will be

Master Rayne was also old, and the doctor advised against surgery. He had been trying to alleviate the situation

had been thinking of how to cure her

knew about the medicated plasters when she overheard the conversation between the two caretakers at

of the caretakers had a serious spinal injury because she had overworked herself in her younger days, and she felt as though a hammer was knocking on her back

she found a natural healer in her hometown who formulated his own medicated plasters. After using it for some time, the pain was reduced by a lot until she was healthy enough to

why Bianca thought of asking the caretaker to buy several boxes of medicated plasters for her the medicated plasters along

Old Master Rayne smiled as he took the boxes. He did not have too much hope of being healed, but he said jokingly, "You're so considerate, Bianca, but I'm afraid that there's no use. I've taken so many medicines and had so many injections. You shouldn't have spent the money on me! I'm already one foot in the grave, and I don't know how much time I still have with **you...**

Old Master Rayne's eyes misted with tears, and his tone *sounded sorrowful*.

"You're only seventy, Grandpa. I think that you're still young, and you shouldn't say things like that. You'll definitely live to a hundred, and I hope that you can attend Lanie and *Rainie's weddings!*"

Bianca hugged her grandfather's arm, just like she did when she was a child.

Old Master Rayne was helpless. "You're a grown woman now, but you're still clingy like a little girl!" "No matter how grown-up I am, I'll still be a little girl in front of you, Grandpa! I want to cling to you like I did when I was little," Bianca said *smugly*.

Old Master Rayne patted his granddaughter's head. "You're going to be a mother of three soon, and you can't act like a little girl after you're married. Your mother-in-law doesn't seem like she's a friendly person. We should compromise whenever we can instead of arguing with her. Of course, if she tries to take advantage of you, you should tell Luke instantly. I can tell that the Luke boy has a mind of his own, and he won't only obey his mother. You don't have to suffer on your own, understand? If Luke bullies you, you'll have to tell me. I'll get even with him even if it kills **me!**"

Bianca was moved by her grandfather's concern toward her. She did not doubt that her grandfather loved her very much.

She pressed her lips together and tried to sound casual. "I know, Grandpa, don't worry. Luke and I will move out after we're married, and we won't live together with his mother. If we don't regularly meet, then we won't have the opportunity to quarrel. Luke is very nice to me, and he won't bully me.

Sometimes I feel like I'm bullying him!" "That's good to know. I know that my granddaughter is a lucky girl!" Old Master Rayne said, comforted.

Bianca helped her grandfather sit down on the couch, then said, "Have a rest first, Grandpa. I'll go to the kitchen and help out Aunt Wanda. I'm afraid that she's overwhelmed." "You're pregnant. Will you be fine?" Old Master Rayne did not agree with her suggestion. He held Bianca's hand and did not **let go**.

be fine, Grandpa. The doctor told me that pregnant women shouldn't always be sitting down. The exercise will be good

managed to convince her grandfather to let her help in

stepped into the kitchen, she could smell the fragrance

smells so good, Aunt Wanda!"

turned to look at her niece while holding a pot. "I'm making your favorite meatballs, and I'll be making shrimp scampi later. I'll just need to toss the shrimp in the saucepan and we can eat..." "It smells really good, Aunt Wanda. Your cooking is getting better

me have a taste..." Bianca washed her hands, picked up a meatball from the pot like a child, and stuffed it in her

meatball was still piping hot. Bianca yelped a little, and she seemed very

Wanda pretended to scold Bianca and shook

was already a mother but still acted so childishly. She did not know if it was a good thing or a

Chapter 553 Bianca Was Assailed By Many Thoughts

Wanda did not want Bianca to notice that something was wrong with her. She quickly pinched her nose to stop the blood from flowing while she brought the spatula under the tap to wash away the bloodstains.

Her movements were natural and agile, as though she was used to it.

She thought that it was fortunate that the blood did not drip into the pan and that her back was facing Bianca at the moment.

The scene at the hospital replayed in Wanda's mind.

"Mdm. Rayne, your immune system is getting weaker, and you need to be hospitalized for chemotherapy as soon as possible. If you delay it, you'll only be causing more damage to your body, and the chances of you recovering will be lower." "I don't want chemotherapy, Doctor. Are there any less intrusive methods of treatment? I don't mind taking medication too, as long as I can maintain my basic bodily functions," Wanda asked.

She knew the side effects of chemotherapy. Other than nausea, vomiting, and lethargy, she would also have to lose her head full of beautiful hair and become skeletally thin.

Wanda had been pursuing beauty all her life. She would rather die than see herself become like that.

"Mdm. Rayne, the most effective cancer treatment methods available in the country now are either surgery or chemotherapy. Surgery is the default method, but it is only useful against early-stage cancer, and it would do little to alleviate your late-stage cancer. A combination of surgery and chemotherapy would probably be your best bet, but honestly, I cannot recommend any non-intrusive treatment methods for your current condition," the doctor told Wanda.

is cancer hereditary? My brother died from cancer last year, and I have cancer too. Is it because it's hereditary?"

hereditary in the sense that certain families would have a higher probability of getting cancer than others, though there are other factors, such as poor living conditions. Generally, the inheritable types of cancers are breast cancer, lung cancer, and colon cancer among others. If someone has an immediate family member suffering from those types of cancer, then the probability of getting the same type of cancer would be

Wanda's heart wrenched.

her brother were immediate family members, and both of them suffered from cancer. Was it hereditary, or was it an unlucky

it was hereditary, what would happen

her brother's daughter. Would her chances of getting cancer be

at her pregnant niece helping her out in the kitchen. She could not help but feel sad

at Bianca and said, "Bea, if you have the time, I'll go with you to the hospital for a full

Bianca thought that her aunt was worried about the child in her womb. "I've been going to the hospital for regular checkups, Aunt Wanda. The doctor says that the baby is healthy, and there's no problem with my health too. You don't have *to worry*."

Wanda exhaled heavily and told her niece the reason why she wanted her to do a full-body checkup. "Bea, the last time I was in the hospital, the doctor told me that the chances of you getting cancer are higher if you have an immediate family member with cancer. Your father died of cancer, and I'm suffering from the same disease. You're my brother's only daughter, and I'm afraid... *that...*"

She could not finish the sentence.

Bianca did not seem perturbed. "I don't think that'll happen, Aunt Wanda. I think that what happened to you and Dad is only a coincidence. You don't have to worry about it. Moreover, I'm quite familiar with my health. The worst that has happened to me is a fever or a *cold*."

However, the usually gentle Wanda was insistent this time. "No, I'll bring you to the hospital someday. I can only be relieved if the results say that you're fine. Now that my brother is gone, I don't know if I can last for long. If something happens to me, you'll have to take care of your grandfather..."

It was the first time that Bianca had seen that weak side of her seemingly unassailable aunt. That made her realize how serious her aunt's *condition was*.

She dropped the half-washed plate into the sink and hugged her aunt without drying *her hands*.

She knew that her aunt was sick. Her aunt had told her about it the first time they *met*.

However, her aunt had been keeping a positive outlook and had been taking the medication regularly, so why did she **suddenly...**

fell from Bianca's eyes. "Aunt Wanda, Dad is already gone, and Grandpa has already experienced the heart-rending agony of burying his own child... Would you want Grandpa to experience that again? Grandpa is old, and you and he are my only two relatives left. The two of you are my spiritual support. I'll be taking my architect certification test tomorrow, so I can't go to the checkup. We can go to the hospital this coming weekend, but you also have to promise me that you'll try to live on,

young, Bianca had never received love from a mother or an adult female figure. Her aunt was the first one to truly

her aunt was like a mother. That was how important Wanda was

saw the fear and anxiety in her niece's pleading gaze. Her lips trembled, but eventually, she

At night.

not go home. She stayed with

stayed for the night. After knowing that Bianca would have an important test tomorrow, Wanda reminded her that the baby in her womb was more important. If Bianca did not pass the test, she could try again next

listened attentively, and the aunt and niece chatted for a

Chapter 554 One Would Not Have To Think Too Hard To Guess Her Intentions

Wanda prepared breakfast early the next day. After breakfast, the driver sent her to the venue.

Bianca would be taking her test at a famous economics college.

Bianca could see that there were already a lot of people at the venue. It was an impressive scene.

Most of the candidates were male, and there were relatively fewer females.

Many candidates were reviewing their study material on the eve of the test, whether they were going through what they already knew or cramming last-minute. They seemed to be working hard.

That was a regular sight at all test venues.

Sean, the driver, was worried that an accident might happen to Bianca. He parked the car at the parking lot and accompanied Bianca to the venue.

He did not want a repeat of the accident last time!

No one dared to be careless when it came to the people closest to Luke!

Many candidates crowded in front of a notice board to find their seating arrangement.

Bianca's test location was at Classroom 302, on the third floor of Academic Block D.

brought Bianca to a shady spot and told her, "Wait here for a while, Madam. I'll help you check the location of your classroom. There's a big crowd here, so you shouldn't move around too much. I'll come back here soon." "Alright, Thank you," Bianca

was very tiring for her to keep standing with a pregnant womb, so she found a stone stool and sat

out a textbook from her handbag and started to browse through

also read through the summary that Luke had given

was reading seriously, she suddenly heard a sweet feminine voice next to her. "Hello, nice to meet you. Are you here for the

lifted her head, quite surprised. She saw a long-haired young woman in trendy clothes, smiling at her while holding a book in her

looked pure, and she had a sweet smile on her face. She seemed kind

returned a smile out of courtesy. "Nice to meet you. Yes, I'm here for the test." "My name is Julie Anderson. It's my first time taking the test." After the young woman introduced herself, she sat down next to Bianca as though they were already friends. "You're so young, but you're already a mother? Did you marry right after you graduated? Is it your first time taking the architect certification test

was caught off guard by the young woman's barrage

not answer the questions that involved her personal life. Instead, she replied gently, "My name is Bianca Rayne. It's my first time taking the test

young woman named Julie Anderson noticed the notes in Bianca's

After glancing at it once, she blinked and exclaimed, "Are these your study notes? Your handwriting is so pretty, and the contents are so detailed... There are even common mistakes too? Wow... I think that your notes are better than the textbooks. Can I take a **look?**"

Bianca hesitated.

However, she could see the eagerness in the young woman's eyes. She handed one of the two sheets of paper that Luke gave her to the young woman. "Take a *look*."

Julie accepted the summary happily and thanked Bianca. Then, she started reading through the sheet *seriously*.

About ten minutes later, Sean came running **back**.

He did not expect that there were so many candidates crowded at the notice board. He almost could not catch his breath.

If he, a well-built man, would find it hard to move about the notice board, what about Bianca, a *pregnant woman*?

Sean thought that he had made the right decision by accompanying Bianca to the venue.

Otherwise, it was too easy for an accident to *befall her*.

If that happened, he would not be able to escape **punishment**.

"I've found your seating arrangement, Madam..." As Sean came running toward Bianca, he abruptly stopped talking when he noticed the beautiful young woman sitting next to her.

his head and asked, "Madam, she is...?" "Thank you," Bianca closed her book, took out a bottle of water from her handbag, and handed it to him. "Have a drink. This is Julie Anderson, my new friend who's also taking the test today." "Nice to meet you." Julie smiled and greeted Sean. Her eyes were narrowed into crescent moons, and she looked

heart beat a little faster. An awkward smile appeared on his rugged face. "Nice to meet you. I'm Sean Zander,

her mouth and smiled when she saw how flustered Sean was. 'What a silly man!' She

her brown eyes sparkled when she heard Sean address Bianca as "Madam" and said that he was Bianca's driver. Then, she discreetly sized up

see that Bianca was dressed in a white-colored standard maternity dress. The black round collar contrasted the fair skin of her

noticed the Italian words on the tag on Bianca's collar. It was a

started to be excited when she saw the

a famous Italian fashion label. One dress alone would cost six months of her

had thought that Bianca was just an ordinary woman like her. Now, she was trying to guess her

did not know Julie's thoughts at that moment. She was looking at a video from a financial news channel on

Continental Financial Summit will be held in the capital soon. The special guest for the summit will be Luke Crawford, the rising star in the business world. He will be speaking at length about economic trends in the

Chapter 555 Wow, It's Luke Crawford, the Rising Star of A City!

Julie noticed that Bianca was watching Luke make his speech. She leaned over and asked, "What are you watching, Bianca?"

When she saw the handsome and gentlemanly Luke on the screen, her face lit up with admiration. "Wow, it's Luke Crawford, the rising star of A City! He's so handsome! That man is my idol. He has developed T Corporation from the ground up. That's a miraculous feat! My dream is to work in T Corporation as a regular wage-earner! Do you want to work at T Corporation too, Bianca? We should do our best in this test, get our architect certification, and apply to T Corporation! How about that?"

Bianca could not stand Julie's chatter.

She seemed like a lady when she kept her mouth shut, but once she started speaking, she was like a twittering sparrow.

"Madam is already..."

Sean wanted to explain on Bianca's behalf, but Bianca shot a glance at him.

"I hope that we'll pass with flying colors," Bianca said.

Julie nodded. She wanted to continue watching her idol on Bianca's phone, but Bianca had already closed the page.

"Why did you turn off the video, Bianca?" She said disappointedly.

Bianca looked at her watch and stood up. "It's almost time, and we should enter the venue early. Where is your classroom?" "302, Block D. How about you?"

Bianca was surprised. "We're at the same place." "What a coincidence!" Julie exclaimed excitedly. "Looks like we're fated to be friends. I'm at seat number 5. How about you?" "I'm at number 16," Bianca replied.

took Bianca's hand and prepared to head to the venue. "Let's go together then! I'm so happy to have found a friend here. I thought I'd be

did not want to throw cold water on Julie's enthusiasm. She said apologetically to Sean, "Non-candidates can't enter the venue, and the tests will take some time. Could you wait outside for a while? You can leave if you have some other business, or you can stroll around the place. I'll give you a call when I'm done..." "Alright," Sean

and Julie walked along a path that cut through the

candidates were walking hurriedly in the same

discreetly protected Bianca so that the other candidates would not bump

quite moved by

as she walked forward. "We shouldn't panic during the test, Bianca. We should complete the easier questions first, then move on to the harder ones. We don't have much time to waste." "I know," Bianca said with

that moment, Bianca's phone started ringing. She saw that it was from Luke and instantly answered it. "Hello..." "Isn't that man giving a speech now? How did he have the time to

man seemed to guess Bianca's thoughts and explained to her in his resonant voice, "It's almost time for the test, and I guessed that you're heading to the venue now. I took a short break to call you. Do your best, Bianca. I believe

Bianca smiled genuinely. "Alright."

ended the call, Julie asked curiously, ' Did your husband call

Bianca smiled shyly.

Luke was not her husband yet, but she did not want to explain that she was pregnant before she was married. So, **she nodded.**

"Your husband is so nice to you," Julie said with *some admiration*.

She could guess that Bianca's husband was rich and influential.

However, she considered the fact that many young and beautiful girls made rich tycoons their sugar daddies. Perhaps Bianca was married to a rich but ugly *person*.

After all, it was rare for a man to be both rich and handsome, not to mention that women would be flocking to them. She did not believe that Bianca would be lucky enough to marry a man who was both rich and *handsome*.

She felt a little better after arriving at that **conclusion. 2**

In any case, she could tell that Bianca's husband was someone influential. If she could be good friends with Bianca, it would eventually help her in her career.

Instantly, she became friendlier toward Bianca.

Bianca felt uneasy about how eager Julie was to please her.

She was grateful that Julie was shielding her from the other candidates with her elbows, so she did not **say anything**.

Soon, they arrived outside Classroom 302.

Two male invigilators were standing outside.

of them was supervising the candidates as they placed their belongings outside. The other was pointing a scanner at the candidates entering the

long table was placed outside the classroom for the candidates to put

they did not need during the test had to be placed

her notes and her phone in her handbag, then placed her handbag next

she and Julie entered the classroom

scanned Bianca's body and confirmed that she did not bring any cheating tools before allowing

sat at her assigned seat and waited for the start of

inadvertently glanced at the entrance of the classroom. Suddenly, she noticed Bella, her design department lead,

surprised. She did not expect to see Bella at

classrooms were used for the test. It was too big of a coincidence that she and Bella were assigned to the same

and Bella exchanged glances, though they carried different expressions. One of them was surprised, while the other

was reminded of how Bella was always picking on her in the company. She bit her lip, wondering why her department lead seemed to have a grudge against

Chapter 556 Sir, I Would Like To Report A Case of Cheating!

Bianca did not expect that Bella's seat was number 17. That instantly put her in a bad mood.

It was already an uncanny coincidence that they were assigned to the same classroom, but consecutive seats too? She cursed her luck!

The test was starting soon, and she did not have the time to be bothered about Bella.

Bianca shot a glance at Julie, who was sitting diagonally opposite her. The young woman seemed to have noticed that, and she pumped her fist at Bianca as a show of encouragement.

Bianca felt relieved when she saw that warm smile.

Ring...

The bell rang, and the invigilators gave out the test papers and answer sheets.

Bianca wrote down her name on the answer sheet, then started to fill in her candidate number with a #2 pencil.

After filling in her information, she checked it one more time before quickly browsing the contents of the test paper.

She gained a brief understanding of the questions and started to answer them with a black ballpoint pen.

It was an Engineering Economics paper, and she was not too good at that subject even when she was in college. If she could pass that paper, then the other paper would not be a problem.

After arriving at that thought, she began to focus on answering the questions.

to admit that Luke was very accurate in

summary proved to be very useful, and most of the highlighted points appeared in the test. She thought that the man was more accurate than a fortune

questions were slightly difficult, but Bianca was not worried. She handily answered one question

looked at Bianca, who was answering the questions seriously. A sinister smile appeared on her

given her a task, and she had been wondering how she should set Bianca up at the test venue. She could not think of anything after a long

even thought of the stupidest idea, which was to bribe

she discovered that luck was on

was ecstatic when she found out that she was assigned to the same classroom as Bianca, and she was sitting behind

it was time that Bianca received her

two invigilators took their job seriously and patrolled around the

candidates were focused on the

of the candidates seemed happy, while some were frowning. That was normal for

Bianca belonged to the former category. Her handwriting was neat, and she answered the questions quickly.

Moreover, she was visibly pregnant. The invigilators could not help but turn their heads *at her*.

The classroom was silent except for the rustling sounds of pens writing **on paper**.

Bianca answered the questions according to ascending level of difficulty. She skipped over the questions that she was not confident of answering, and soon she completed more than half of the paper.

Meanwhile, Bella was struggling with the questions.

It was her second time taking that paper. Last year, she had failed the same paper, so she had to pass it **this time**.

To receive the architect certification, a candidate had to pass all four subjects in a two-year period. If she failed the test again, it meant that the validity of the other three subjects would expire, and she had to start all over. That was not what **she wanted!**

Bella did not expect that the questions were tougher than the previous year's questions. She was having a hard **time**.

She looked at Bianca in front of her. Bianca was writing continuously, as though she did not need the time to think. That made Bella even more jealous *and resentful*.

Meanwhile, at seat number 6, Julie **was shocked**.

Some of the questions had appeared in Bianca's notes, which surprised Julie greatly.

She wondered if Bianca managed to predict the questions in the *paper*.

same time, she regretted not studying the notes

passed, the temperature in the classroom seemed to be

classroom remained silent as usual, except for the whirring fans that hung from the

her bottle and took

of the test was two hours. Even healthy candidates might find it physically and mentally taxing, much less a pregnant woman like

had reminded her to bring a drink to the venue. She could take a few sips if she felt tired, and that would restore her

felt a lot better after taking

began to tackle the harder questions that she was not very confident in answering. They were quite tricky, but fortunately, they were all

she managed to solve a question, the confident smile on her face grew wider by a

she was done answering all the questions, she glanced at her watch and saw that there was still another half an hour before the end of

Bianca began to recheck her answers.

managed to correct one of the questions that she had answered wrongly in her

Chapter 557 I Am Bianca's Husband

Right after Bella finished speaking, the classroom instantly erupted in surprised exclamations!

The architect certification test was a national test, and the consequences for cheating were harsh. Not only would the results of this test be annulled, but the candidate could not take any more technical certification tests for the next two years! 1

In serious cases, the perpetrator would be criminally viable!

The invigilators opened their eyes wide as they looked at Bianca!

The other candidates also looked at Bianca differently.

They did not expect that the beautiful and gentle pregnant woman would be cheating!

The invigilator walked up next to Bianca and looked at Bella sternly. "What happened?"

Bella pointed a finger at Bella and said maliciously, "Sir, I noticed that when she was tidying her answer sheets, a ball of paper fell out and landed under her chair. She must be cheating!"

Then, her finger pointed to a spot below Bianca's chair.

Everyone followed her finger and saw a crumpled ball of paper.

The tall and thin invigilator frowned, then bent down to pick up the ball of paper.

As the invigilator unfolded the piece of paper, Bianca's heart started thumping hard!

was part of the notes that Luke had given her. How did it appear in

remembered very clearly that she had put the notes and her phone in her handbag before entering

Bianca turned her head and saw the malicious smile on Bella's face, she was

have brought in that sheet of paper, but why would she do

this sheet of paper yours, Miss?" The invigilator asked Bianca

contents of the notes were very similar to the test questions. In fact, some were exactly the

That had shocked the invigilator!

candidates looked at Bianca with a variety of expressions, and that made Bianca feel could not help but be nervous, even though she did not cheat. "It is mine," she expressions of the invigilators instantly sank. "Please follow us to the office after this, Miss!" They said Bianca was instantly flustered!

There would definitely be an investigation!

She was not afraid of being wrongly accused, but the other people would definitely have a negative opinion of her, regardless of the results of the investigation.

"I swear that I did not cheat, Sir! The sheet of paper is mine, but I have kept it in my handbag. It's not me who brought it into the classroom! Right, I have a friend who can testify for me. Julie, the two of us entered the classroom together, and you saw me put my notes into my handbag, didn't I?" Bianca looked at Julie sitting opposite her with a pleading *gaze*.

Bianca's eyes were tearing up. People who saw her helpless gaze would feel pity for her.

Many male candidates started to whisper to each other. The woman seemed innocent and pitiable, and she came to take the test even though she was pregnant. Her tenacity was admirable, and she did not seem like someone who would cheat.

Julie did not want to get herself involved, but she could see that Bianca was about **to cry...**

She glanced at Bianca's luxury brand maternity clothes, then remembered that Bianca had a driver to send her to *the venue...*

Julie instantly had a plan.

She raised her hand and spoke to the invigilators, "Sir, I came to the classroom together with Bianca. The two of us placed our handbags on the table outside, and I **saw that**

Bianca had placed her phone and her notes in her handbag. I am very sure about that."

Bella's expression sank when she heard what *Julie said*.

She thought that her plan would go off without a hitch, and she did not expect that a stumbling stone would appear in *her way*.

Bella was exasperated. "Miss, you said that Bianca had put her notes in her handbag, so how did it appear in the classroom? Maybe she brought along a lot of notes with her, and she secretly took out a sheet while you *weren't looking?*"

Julie did not say anything, i

had noticed Bella throw the crumpled ball of paper under

did not want to say it because she did not want to get

invigilators looked at each other, then quickly collected the answer sheets of the other

was a serious offense. They wanted the other students to leave but kept Bella and

that her answer sheet was placed at the top. On it was a
had studied very hard in preparation for the test, but she was being framed for
her, Bella was
closed her eyes, trying hard not
was led away by the invigilators, she quickly scribbled a string of numbers on
That was Luke's phone number.

believed that Luke would be able to prove her innocence. She could only pray that he would come

Chapter 558 Bianca Felt A Lot Better!

The man's voice on the other end of the phone was too attractive. Julie could not contain her happiness.
She could feel her ovaries exploding, i

She thought that Bianca's husband must have been a perverted middle-aged man, but she had guessed
wrong.

The man's voice sounded even better than a certain primetime news anchor she was obsessed with.

Someone with such an attractive voice could not have been a middle-aged, potbellied tycoon.

She tried to sound as calm as possible. "Nice to meet you. My name is Julie Anderson. I became friends
with Bianca before the test. It's like this: Someone framed Bianca for cheating, and the invigilators
brought her to the office for an investigation. She gave me your phone number to ask you for help, and
that's why I gave you a call..."

"Understood. I will show you my gratitude later!" After a pause of a few seconds, the phone call was
abruptly cut off.

"Um..." Julie wanted to continue hearing the man speak but did not expect that he instantly hung up.
Feeling a little discouraged, she kicked a pebble off the path.

The capital.

Luke had just managed to extricate himself from the Continental Financial Summit. He almost crushed
the phone in his hand, and his icy gaze seemed to be overlaid with the color of blood.

Several well-known businessmen wanted to take a photo with him, but Luke ignored them all and
walked toward a quiet and secluded corner.

The businessmen instantly seemed awkward.

at them apologetically and explained to them that Mr. Crawford was not
quickly caught up

Mr. Crawford?" Mavis asked softly. She felt slightly uneasy as she walked side by side
a palm at Mavis, indicating to her to keep quiet. He was making another

quietly listened to the conversation. The more she listened, the more fearful

feel the frigid aura around the man. Her beautiful eyes flashed with understanding, and she discreetly went

In the college office.

you cheat, Ms. Rayne? Don't you know that there's a law that forbids cheating in national certification tests?" An invigilator said coldly as he looked at Bianca's

not cheat, Sir. I will give the same answer no matter how many times you ask that question!" Bianca was sitting straight in her chair. She sounded as though she was sobbing, but her tone of voice

invigilator waved the piece of "evidence" in his hand in front of Bianca's face and said unhappily, "You've already admitted that this piece of paper belongs to you, and Ms. Sloan here said that she witnessed you cheating. What else do you have to say for

Bianca retorted, "How can you listen to only one side of the story? My friend has said that she saw me put my notes in my handbag. As for why it would suddenly appear in the classroom, I can only say that I have been framed. The informer and I are colleagues in T Corporation, and she is my department lead. Ms. Sloan has a grudge against me, and she always finds fault with everything I do. I have sufficient reasons to suspect that she has framed me!"

If Bella would frame her like that, she had no reason to endure the abuse without *protest! i*

She finally understood that some people did not have moral boundaries. The more you try to tolerate them, the more they would run rampant **over you!**

The two invigilators looked at each other. They did not expect that the two candidates would have a grudge against each other. However, their only concern was the situation at hand.

It was a serious offense to cheat, and they would get to the bottom of **it!**

Suddenly, Bella's phone dinged. She had received a message.

She noticed that it was from Mavis, and she instantly opened it to read *it*.

[Ms. Sloan, you should understand that you had initiated certain plans of your own volition, and they have nothing to do with other people. If you are unfortunately exposed, I don't think I need to tell you what to do. Right, I've been covering up the fact that you've been receiving kickbacks from some clients. I'm not sure how long I can continue covering them *up.*]

It was a flash message.

After Bella closed it, the message disappeared without a trace, as though it was never sent in the first *place*.

Bella's back was drenched in a cold sweat, and her heart was beating wildly.

that no one knew about her receiving kickbacks from clients; she had been so careful, and no one had ever exposed her. How did Mavis

realized that the situation is slowly slipping out of

invigilators interrogated Bianca for almost half an hour, but she insisted that she was innocent. They were

had the evidence and the witness, but the young woman did not admit to it no matter what. Meanwhile, the other candidate insisted that the young woman had

was pregnant, and the invigilators did not dare to use extreme measures. That was why they were caught in

one of the invigilators received a phone call. He picked it up and said respectfully, "Chief

Lawson instantly started scolding him. "Are you currently interrogating a candidate named Bianca Rayne now? Let her go now! Do you know who's behind her? Her husband is Luke Crawford, the Cold-Faced Devil of the business world. How dare you say that

we have evidence..." The invigilator wanted to

Let her go now, and let her sit for the next paper. We can continue with the investigation after the test! Also, return Ms. Rayne's phone to her right now!" Chief Examiner Lawson was not in the mood for

invigilator hung up. Then, he reluctantly handed Bianca's phone back to

after she got her phone back, she instantly received a call from

Chapter 559 Luke Forcefully Hugged Her In His Arms!

The investigation in the office lasted until nighttime.

However, the invigilators' attitude toward Bianca had improved a lot.

Now, Julie was willing to be a witness for Bianca's innocence, and that had made Bianca feel less helpless.

However, Bella remained insistent. "I don't care what she says, she has indeed cheated. I saw with my eyes that the ball of paper fell from her hands!"

"I did not cheat, Sir."

Right after Bianca finished speaking, Julie nodded. "I can testify for Bianca, Sir. She is telling the truth. I saw Bianca put her notes in her handbag.

Bella saw that things were not going her way. She instantly shouted, "Sir, I believe that they are complicit with each other. They must be friends that have known each other for a long time, so she's willing to give a false statement to help Bianca!"

Julie spoke to the invigilator in a serious tone. "No, Ms. Rayne and I knew each other earlier today, and we have never met before. I volunteer to speak out for her because I cannot allow certain people to frame her. I saw with my own eyes that Ms. Bella Sloan tossed the paper under Ms.

Rayne's seat."

'Oh no, she saw what I did. This will be bad for me!' Bella thought.

hide her guilt, Bella slammed her palm on the table. "The two of you must share some illicit relationship. Sir, why is she the only one who saw it? If she really did see it, why didn't she call me out in the classroom but instead wait until the investigation in the office? What a joke. What could my intention be for framing

did not have a reply for

did not know what grudge Bella had with Bianca, but she chose to keep quiet in the classroom because she did not want to get in trouble. However, after that phone call, she was willing to get

Sloan and I are working in T Corporation's architectural design department. Her employee ID is 2703, and mine is 2789. We have some personal grudges at work, and I'm suspecting that she is using this opportunity to take revenge on me! If you don't believe me, you can call T Corporation's HR

assurance, Bianca felt

Julie's mouth opened wide

not expect that Bianca was already an employee of T Corporation. Earlier, she had exhorted Bianca to apply to T Corporation

she felt that her cheeks

invigilators looked at each other. One of them said, "I will make a call to T Corporation, and we will find out if the two of you have personal grudges against each

inhaled sharply. She abruptly stood up from her seat and shrieked, "Sir, I'm her superior at work, and we are not competing with each other. How could we have any grudges? I have indeed seen her cheat, and I reported her because I am civic-minded and disciplined. I won't frame her! I'll have to go now, Sir. Otherwise, my parents

took her bag and prepared to

She had to extricate herself as soon as possible. Otherwise, her effort would be all in *vain*.

The invigilators were also getting tired.

They had not achieved anything after the long investigation. They discussed it for a while and decided to let Bella **leave**.

Bella stepped on her high heels arrogantly and said pretentiously, "Sirs, you have to take this matter seriously and punish Bianca Rayne for cheating. She has a character problem. If she would cheat while she's pregnant, I wonder if her child would be ashamed of their mother? If you don't punish her severely, it won't be fair for the other candidates."

"Enough with your slander, Bella Sloan!"

Bianca was angered by Bella's insulting words. She stood up, grabbed Bella's shirt sleeve, and did not let go. "You can't leave, not before we get to the bottom of **this!**"

"Let go of me, b*tch!" Bella glanced condescendingly at Bianca, easily tore her hand away, then continued to walk toward the door.

Bianca knew that if she let Bella leave just like that, it would be hard for her to overturn *the verdict*.

On an impulse, she ran ahead and grabbed Bella's arm. She even lost her cool. "I was never at fault, Bella Sloan. How can you frame me and then pretend that it has nothing to do *with you?*"

"I've framed you? What a joke! Stop playing the victim, that's not going to work on me! You should remember to abide by the rules next time. Don't think that you can cheat your way to be a certified architect! How shameless!"

Bella shoved Bianca's hand away.

in a hurry to leave, and so she used a lot of strength. Bianca was pushed out of tripped and nearly fell on

that moment, a pair of strong arms hugged her waist and brought her into his embrace, thus preventing her from

Everyone was shocked.

man who entered the room was tall and extremely handsome. His sculpted facial features and high nose bridge exuded

was cold and hostile, which gave him a noble demeanor. One glance from him would send shivers down one's

was a plump and sweaty middle-aged man with a fawning expression on his

Chief Examiner Lawson..." The invigilators were surprised that the chief examiner was there. More unexpectedly, even Luke Crawford arrived at the

face instantly went pale. She wished that she could disappear from

Meanwhile, Julie was dumbfounded.

Chapter 560 Bianca Is Always Loved!

The atmosphere instantly became tense.

Bella felt her life flashing before her eyes the instant she saw Luke appear.

However, there was no turning back for her. She braced herself and said, "Mr. Crawford, I really saw Bianca cheating.

I was sitting behind her, and I saw everything..."

"Is that so?" His icy gaze fell on Bella's face. Bella was stricken by panic when she saw that bloodshot gaze.

Bella thought that Mr. Crawford had given up on Bianca after the humiliation she put him through at the engagement ceremony!

After that, Mr. Crawford was rumored to be dating Leia Norman, and they were even one step away from being engaged...

That was why Bella thought that Bianca had left A City. She had never seen Bianca appear next to Mr. Crawford for a long time...

The woman next to Mr. Crawford during that period had always been Mavis.

She had even seen her boss going out to dinner with Mavis on several separate occasions. That was why she thought that Mavis had replaced Bianca as Mr. Crawford's woman. Unfortunately for her, she had guessed wrong! 2

Looking at how worried Mr. Crawford was, it was not hard to see that the man still had affection for Bianca!

The truth was a hard pill to swallow. Bella looked at Bianca with resentment, jealousy, and disbelief.

She did not understand why Mr. Crawford still loved Bianca. What charm did she have?

As far as she knew, rich young men were fickle. When they grew tired of a woman, they would move on to a more beautiful

love was but a

woman was a matter

was Mr. Crawford not

"I promise you that we will deliver a fair verdict. We will not frame an innocent person, and we will not condone any false accusations!" Chief Examiner Lawson wiped the sweat off his forehead and smiled courteously at Bianca. While he turned to look at Bella, his gaze was filled with

was furious when she noticed that. "Why do you look at me like that? I did not falsely accuse

not going to

would not be able to face herself if

Bianca to the couch, and both of them sat down. He shot a cold glance at Bella. "You should watch your words, Ms. Sloan. The law does indeed

at the same time, it holds liars with equal liability. You should know that very well, Ms.

flowed down Bella's back. She was beginning to

knew very well what Mr. Crawford could

if Bianca had really cheated, Luke would manage to intervene and bail her out of

Moreover, Bianca did not cheat. Bella was the one who framed her, and that had made Bella *feel guilty*.

Bella tried to keep calm and assess the situation. Now that she had framed Bianca for cheating, she would be punished even if she retracted **her statement**.

The invigilators would sense that she was framing Bianca and punish her for that.

Looking at how much Luke cared for Bianca, Bella knew that she would not be able to stay in T Corporation any *longer*.

If that were the case, she had to mount a last-ditch effort. She was not going to go down **alone!**

Bella braced herself and insisted, "That woman has indeed cheated, Mr. Crawford. I did not lie! Don't think that you're above the law just because you know someone powerful, *Bianca!*"

Luke's gaze was scathing, and Bella felt a chill traveling down her spine.

"Very well, Ms. Sloan. I admire your guts!" The man said with *a smile*.

Bella dared not look into Luke's eyes. His menacing and incisive gaze would see through her.

At that time, Jason arrived.

He was not surprised when he looked at the people in the office, especially Bianca. He was already briefed about the incident on his **way there**.

Jason walked up next to Luke and bowed. "**Mr. Crawford.**"

"**Chief Examiner** Lawson, please give Mr. Doyle a copy of the candidates' contact information," Luke said to Chief Examiner *Lawson coldly*.

Chief Examiner Lawson nodded frantically. "No problem, Mr. Crawford."

hugged Bianca closer and looked at Chief Examiner Lawson and the invigilators. "She isn't in good health, and she is also pregnant. It's already so late. I don't think there's a problem if I bring her

problem, no problem at all. Ms. Rayne is pregnant, and it's our responsibility to be compassionate toward our candidates." Chief Examiner Lawson

almost could not bear Luke's overbearing demeanor, and he wanted Luke to be gone as soon as

picked Bianca up in a bridal carry and was about

would be there to handle

Bianca was about to leave, Julie, who had kept quiet all this while, suddenly spoke out, "You don't have to worry, Bianca. I believe that Mr. Crawford will help you. I will testify for you if you need it. You can contact me

stopped walking. He shot an icy gaze at

subconsciously took a step backward when her eyes met that fearful gaze, but she smiled sweetly and

Luke furrowed his brows.

Julie Anderson. She was the one who helped me call you earlier, and she also stood up to be my witness... " Bianca spoke softly into Luke's ear as she hugged his neck. Her eyes were brimming with gratitude toward

gaze flickered. Then, he turned to speak to Jason. "I'll leave this to you. Reward this miss here

Jason understood what his boss meant.

hard to contain her joy.