

Be Gentle 651

Chapter 651

Queenie's gentle expression darkened when she heard Bianca mention Allison.

She was angry that Allison had come to the hospital to raise a commotion earlier.

She looked at Bianca and said gently, "She was indeed here earlier, but Old Master Crawford chased her away. Bea, I understand that Allison is in a bad mood because she has lost her son, but that doesn't excuse her from acting toward you that way. She wants to get physical on you even though you're pregnant, not to mention that the baby in your womb is her grandchild! I think you shouldn't stay with the Crawfords. How about staying over with me for a while?"

Allison had blamed Bianca for what happened to Luke.

However, no one had expected that to happen. There was no reason for her to blame Bianca.

Moreover, it was already hard enough for Bianca, a heavily pregnant woman, to lose her husband. Did Allison not think of the consequences of getting physical with her? What if Allison's rash actions cost two lives?

Queenie understood the pain and agony of losing one's child, but that was no reason for Allison to bully Bianca.

Bianca shook her head gently. "Thank you for your kindness, Aunt Queenie. I can't thank you enough for taking care of me in the hospital, and I wouldn't want to impose on your family.

"This isn't the time to be considerate, Bea. If you're not pregnant, I'm not too worried if you stay in your house, but now you're carrying a baby. What if Allison goes there and looks for trouble with you? Don't tell me that Old Master Crawford will protect you or that you have security guards and caretakers... I understand that Old Master Crawford has a good character, but he's already so old, and there are some things that he can't help you with. Also, Queenie is Luke's mother. The security guards and caretakers won't be able to stop her if she insists on finding fault with you."

more Queenie remembered that Bianca was married to Allison's son and pregnant with that woman's grandchild, the angrier and more frustrated

Luke were still around, he would be able to protect Queenie's birth

that he was gone, Queenie was loath to imagine how Allison would torment her

I'll have to reunite with my birth daughter as soon as

come and stay with us for a while. With me and your Uncle Jack around, Allison won't dare to barge into our house. You can return to your house after you've successfully delivered the baby. What do you

was very cautious and caring when she spoke. She was afraid to hear Bianca's

at Queenie blankly. She discreetly wiped a tear from the corner of her eye and asked, "Why are you so nice to me,

"Because you're my..."

realized that she was about to say something that she should not say. She swallowed the word "daughter" that was on the tip of her tongue. "Because you're my lucky star. I always think that I'm lucky to have known you. I don't always treat people like this, but I think that we're fated somehow. Would you like to come over and stay with me for a few days? I'll take good care

Queenie's earnest gaze caused Bianca's heart to *wrench*.

With tears in her eyes, she nodded. "Alright."

Queenie was right. She was carrying Luke's last legacy, and she should not allow any accidents to happen to it. She could not bear the severity of the consequences.

"**Good** girl. I'll take good care of you!" Queenie hugged Bianca as tears welled up in **her eyes**.

She would do her best to take care of Bianca so that she could make up for those lost *years*.

...

The next day, Sue and Nina came to visit Bianca early in the **morning**.

Their comforting words seemed to have no effect on Bianca. She remained dejected *and listless*.

Queenie remained by Bianca's side. She was a gentle and understanding woman with the gift of gab, and she did not put on any airs. Nina and Sue loved chatting *with her*.

the women accompanying Bianca, the sorrowful atmosphere lightened up

arrived at the ward at about ten

were two men in suits and leather shoes. All of them had solemn

was slightly shocked when he saw Queenie feeding Bianca some oatmeal. He greeted her, then looked at

that Jason wanted to say something. She put the bowl of oatmeal on the table and said to Bianca understandingly, "Looks like this gentleman has something to tell you, Bea. I'll excuse

Queenie's hand and looked lifelessly at Jason. "There are no outsiders here, Mr. Doyle. You can say it if there's

Queenie looked at Bianca in shock.

was looking at Bianca's pale and quiet face. No one noticed that Queenie's hand was slightly

his gold-rimmed spectacles and introduced the two men to Bianca. "They are Mr. Todd and Mr. Sanders, elite lawyers from Capital Associates. They're here today because Mr. Crawford has given them a secret instruction before he left A

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Bianca had never expected that the almighty Luke Crawford would leave the mortal world so abruptly. She could not accept that fact.

"Please sign here, Mrs. Crawford." Mr. Todd handed Bianca a pen, seeing that she had no response.

Bianca took the pen woodenly and stared blankly at the document.

Her face displayed pain, agony, and then anger. She was angry that the man might have known that he was going to be in mortal danger, and that was why he had enacted a will before he left.

She knew that Luke was loyal to his friends, but could he have spared a thought for her and the children?

Was that how he was going to make it up to them?

No!

He should have returned safely and let Bianca complain to him, not leave her alone to process the shocking news!

Bianca threw the pen away angrily and yelled hysterically, "Get lost! Go away! How dare he leave the children and me behind? How could he? I don't need any so-called compensation from him! Not a single cent!"

The atmosphere in the ward instantly became frigid.

Queenie held Bianca's shoulders and said calmly, "Don't get too agitated, Bianca. Don't let it affect your baby. You can't afford to have anything go wrong with your health now."

Then, she turned to speak to Jason, "Bianca isn't in a stable condition now. Can the signing wait for a few days?"

nodded and bowed slightly to Bianca. "I'll come and visit another day. Please take care of your health. If Boss is still around, he wouldn't want to see you give up

waved to the two lawyers, and the three people swiftly disappeared from

they left, Queenie saw that Bianca was staring blankly at the sky like a puppet. Her eyes glistened, then she helped Bianca lie on the bed and said gently, "Bea, if you're feeling tired, you can nap for a

laid mechanically on the bed. She felt extremely

moment she closed her eyes, that handsome face appeared in

stood there in the darkness, looking at

man's gaze was ice-cold, but it was warm and brilliant when he looked

...

was discharged from the hospital, she went back to the mansion to pack up her clothes. She was going to stay over at the Norman residence for a few

she entered her bedroom, she saw Luke's pajamas folded neatly on the bed. He was wearing those clothes the night before he went

walked over, picked up the clothes, held them close to her chest, and gently sniffed

She could smell that familiar masculine scent in those clothes.

Her gaze fell on the vines that had crept near the window. Those were mandevilla vines that Luke had planted for her. She had said that she wanted flowers that bloomed in all seasons, especially vines that climbed on walls and adorned the *windows*.

That was why he planted four mandevilla plants without the help of the gardener or the *caretakers*.

The vines were as thick as her wrist, the green leaves had formed a dense web, and the red and white flowers were in full bloom. It was a *lively scene*.

The plants were still there, but the man who had planted them was **gone**.

Bianca tried to keep in her emotions as she stepped into the bathroom.

All his toiletries -- His toothbrush and cup, his toothpaste, his razor, and so on, were neatly arranged in there.

Luke was a clean freak and somewhat obsessive-compulsive. His belongings were neatly arranged, while hers were slightly messy. Whenever he saw that, he would tidy them up **for her**.

Bianca stared at their matching cups for a long time before washing her face with cold water.

She had not washed her face for several days. Queenie or the nurses wiped it.

She felt lethargic because she had not been eating *much*.

Then, she took a quick *hot-water shower*.

water was warm and mixed with her tears. She did not know if she was bathing herself with water or shower, she stepped out of the bathroom with a head full of

alone in the unheated room as she operated the

was at home, he would be the one drying

Bianca opened her closet. It was filled to the brim with clothes for the fall season. Luke had custom-made them from a tailor. The designs were

around, she never had to worry about what

clothes were pathetically few when compared to hers. His closet was one-tenth the size of

a fall-style one-piece loose waist dress with a conservative design and the buttons at the back. When Bianca tried it on, she remembered that Luke gasped at her beauty and helped her fasten the

he had taken the chance to fondle her back, which made

the dress on, she tried to fasten the buttons behind

bulky stomach prevented her from

Chapter 653

Jack Norman tried to make himself seem as approachable as possible, but he could not totally shed his air as an influential politician.

Bianca was intimidated for a short while, perhaps because of Jack's stern expression.

She subconsciously huddled closer toward Queenie.

Queenie thought that Jack had frightened Bianca, so she frowned at him.

Then, she held Bianca's hand and brought her to the seat next to hers. "You can sit here, Bea. Don't be a stranger here. You can treat it as your own house."

Old Mr. Norman was dressed in formal wear. He seemed to be in good spirits.

He smiled at Bianca while pointing at the seat next to his. "Queenie, let Bea sit beside me. I love to talk to young people," he said to Queenie.

Ever since Old Mr. Norman found out that Bianca was his granddaughter, he had hoped to see her someday.

Queenie and Bianca had not done their DNA test yet, but he could tell that Queenie and Bianca were mother and daughter. No one would doubt that.

Now that his granddaughter was going to stay over at the Norman residence, Old Mr. Norman came from his house very early in the morning to meet her.

"It doesn't matter where she sits. It's just lunch. Why does it matter so much?" Old Mrs. Norman seemed awkward.

She remembered how she had made things difficult for Bianca because of Leia.

mocked and dressed down Bianca because she thought that Bianca was Leia's love rival, but she did not expect that Bianca was actually

before the DNA test report confirmed it, she would not recognize Bianca as her granddaughter. After all, they had been fooled once by

frank, Old Mrs. Norman was not fond of Bianca. Bianca was candid and stubborn, unlike Leia, who was docile and knew how to sweet-talk. Between the two girls, she

Old Mrs. Norman's elbow and said sweetly, "Elder Sister is the guest of honor today, Grandma. She can sit wherever

knew that Old Mrs. Norman was not fond

Old Mrs. Norman, who was sitting beside her husband, was not too happy, Bianca sat down next to Queenie and looked at him apologetically, "Grandpa, I'll sit next to Aunt Queenie. We can chat

began to feel awkward for accepting the invitation without thinking twice. However, she was anxious to get away from

knew that Queenie was her birth mother, but before they formally recognized each other, it seemed presumptuous for her to stay in someone

wondering if she should

whatever you say!" Old Mr. Norman was happy that Bianca called her "Grandpa," even though he knew that she did so out

other two young people at the dining table observed Bianca

The male was in his mid-twenties. He looked handsome, elegant, and bookish.

Meanwhile, the female was a few years younger. She did not look gentle, but instead, she had a plucky demeanor, unlike most other women of *her age*.

They noticed that Bianca was looking at them, and they nodded at her and **smiled**.

Queenie enthusiastically introduced the two young people to Bianca. "They are Leia's cousins, Lionel Norman and Selena Norman. Lionel is working as a deputy division leader in the Department of Foreign Affairs, while Selena is working on her doctorate. She studies Russian, and she often works as a simultaneous **interpreter**."

"Nice to meet you! I'm Selena. Aunt Queenie mentions you often, and she says that you have an outstanding character. Indeed, you're beautiful and extraordinary!" Selena has a candid and outgoing character. She stretched out a palm **toward Bianca**.

Queenie and Selena might not be mother and daughter, but they shared a close relationship. Queenie would treat her as her daughter and tell her **everything**.

A few days ago, Selena saw that her aunt was very excited. She had finally found her *birth daughter*.

Selena could not believe it until Queenie brought Bianca home, and Selena saw Bianca in the flesh.

Indeed, Bianca looked very similar to her *aunt*.

Bianca shook hands with Selena sheepishly. "Aunt Queenie is exaggerating. I'm not as good as she says. Unlike you, it's amazing that you're already a simultaneous interpreter at such a young age."

She shot a glance at the young man named Lionel and could not help but think that the siblings were amazing. At a young age, Lionel was already a deputy division leader, while Selena was a simultaneous interpreter.

Leia seemed unremarkable compared to them.

the first time Bianca and Selena met each other, but they found a lot in common and

occasionally interject. He did not say much, but his quips were humorous and made the people around the dining table laugh. Even the usually stern Mr. Norman was

wanted to cut in. However, the other young people were chatting about philosophy, economics, and art history, and she could not get a word in. All she could do was gulp down her juice to hide her

soon served. It was a

was surprised that the dishes placed in front of her were

not help but turn to look at

her apron and smiled lovingly. "Ms. Lang did most of the cooking today, while I cooked the dishes in front of you. I'm not a good cook, but I hope that you'll like my cooking. Won't you give them a

had secretly investigated Bianca's personal life, including her favorite food. That was why she made those dishes

felt sorry for Bianca because Bianca was

up a spoonful of sauteed mushrooms and filled Bianca's plate. "You should eat more. You shouldn't be too skinny..." he said

Chapter 654

Cold sweat beaded on the unconscious man's forehead.

His sharp eyebrows were furrowed uncomfortably. It was not a peaceful sleep.

"Bianca, Bianca..." He kept mumbling.

Kassy lay down next to him and gently touched the man's boiling forehead. She turned around and spoke unhappily to the doctor, "В Какое Время Он Может Проснуться? что он говорит самопроизвольно? (When can he wake up? What is he mumbling to himself?)"

She did not understand what he was saying, but the fact that he was repeating the same word disconcerted her.

The doctor examined the man carefully and slowly spoke to Kassy in Russian, "Miss, it's been a week since the man's surgery, and he should have been awake by now. Perhaps the severity of the bullet wound might delay his recovery by a few days. I have to say that the man is really lucky. The odds of survival are less than 0.1%."

Kassy leaned over and kissed the man's forehead. There was a mysterious glint in her sinister gaze. "I have my eyes on him, and that's what makes him lucky. Get him to wake up as soon as possible. I can't wait to see his eyes..."

After she secretly transported the man back, she had been investigating him.

She was shocked by the man's records. He was the youngest Doctor of Business Administration at Harvard, and he ran a multinational conglomerate at a young age.

No wonder she took a fancy to the man at first glance. He was indeed extraordinary.

too reckless to assassinate that man. That would only bring them nothing

had to thank Wayne for bringing such an extraordinary man to

"Bianca... Bea... Bianca..."

sounded hoarse but resonant as he mumbled that word over and over. It was full of

Kassy furrowed her brows doubtfully.

is Bianca? Is she someone important to
seemed that she had to investigate more about

...

through lunch at the Norman residence, Bianca suddenly clutched her
seemed to be beating faster than usual. She could feel a warm current surrounding
She could vaguely hear Luke calling *her name*.

The food served at lunch was delicious. The mushrooms were tender and fresh, and the fish was
fragrant and succulent. Bianca's appetite *was better*.

She ate some mushrooms and fish, as well as half a baked *potato*.

It was not a lot, but it was better than not eating anything *at all*.

After lunch, Old Mr. Norman invited Bianca to a game of chess.

They chatted while playing chess.

Bianca sat opposite Old Mr. Norman while listening to him regale tales from his younger days. She was
surprised by his fantastic *experiences*.

She knew that those were tall tales, but she was interested in listening to them *anyway*.

Selena, on the other hand, was not so kind to the old man. She spotted the lies in Old Mr. Norman's
tales, which made him pretend to be angry and try to hit her with his walking stick.

Every time Old Mr. Norman did that, Selena would laugh heartily, make a funny face, and hide behind
Bianca. "Help me, Sis *Bea!*"

man and the young woman tried to cheer Bianca

Bianca felt a lot better.

standing on the spiral staircase. When she saw Bianca smiling gently, she also

came out of his bedroom and saw that his wife was staring at Bianca downstairs. He draped his arm over
her shoulders and joined

see our daughter smile, Jack. She's been in low spirits lately, and I'm afraid that she might find it
unbearable. It looks like inviting her over is the right

gaze was transfixed on Bianca. "She's suffered too much, and we have to take good care of her in the
future. Now that Luke is gone, we're her biggest support. She's still young, and she'll find a

welled up in Queenie's eyes. "I don't think so. The girl inherited your stubbornness. Luke has taken her
heart and soul away. I'm just sad that our grandchild won't have a father after they're born. Oh, my poor
daughter, why do you have to suffer so

hugged Queenie. "We can't turn back time, and all we can do is to accept the fact. We shouldn't be pessimistic. We'll have to lead our daughter out of her sadness and back to a

Queenie nodded and sighed. "Time flies, and our daughter has already grown so big. We've grown old too, and we're already grandparents. Right, have you met our twin grandchildren? They're so good-looking and intelligent. I should get Bianca to bring them over someday. That'll bring some life to the
how excited his wife was when she talked about their grandchildren. He smiled indulgently. "Alright, we'll do

Chapter 655

Suddenly, Louis bowed deeply at Bianca.

Bianca was shocked by that sudden gesture. "What are you doing, Louis?"

"Sis..." Louis's voice was filled with lethargy. "The shareholders are beginning to question Brother's disappearance. I've tried to hide the truth from them, saying that Brother is away on a business trip and will be back soon, but I don't think they'll buy it any longer. Brother's will says that you'll be acting CEO of T Corporation. Do you think that you can hold the fort for a while?"

Then, he cast his gaze on Bianca's bulging stomach and sighed. "I know that this isn't the perfect time to bother you, but the company is descending into chaos. I'm trying my best to keep everything afloat, but I'm not that capable."

It was the first time Louis felt guilty about how helpless and incapable he was.

He was not as smart or shrewd as Luke, and he could not maintain his composure. He found it hard enough to be the manager of a single department, let alone running the entire corporation.

Bianca might seem frail and delicate, but Louis's intuition told him that there must be a reason why his elder brother selected Bianca to inherit his business. She must be capable of taking on the huge responsibility of growing T Corporation.

Bianca looked at him without saying a word, though her eyes started to mist up.

'Yes, Luke is gone.

'Now that the corporation has lost its linchpin, things should be chaotic right now.'

Louis gritted his teeth and continued, "Some b*stard spread the rumor that Brother has died, and that caused T Corporation's share prices to fall to its all-time low. Many shareholders dumped their shares, and even the board of directors is calling for an emergency general meeting to elect a new CEO.

"Brother holds 56% of the corporation's shares, making him the biggest shareholder. His will states that you are the inheritor of his shares. The general meeting will be at ten o'clock tomorrow. I hope that you can attend it, Sis."

did not expect that his elder brother, whom he worshiped, was gone just like that. Even his corpse was
was shrouded in gloom for the past few

Master Crawford was hospitalized after suffering a huge shock. He was only recently discharged from the

finally understood that it was thanks to his elder brother's hard work that he could live a carefree and to admit that his elder brother treated him well and taught him

Luke went missing, Louis and Jason were holding the fort in

was well-respected in the company, but he was not the final authority on hold on for the short term, but it was not a

since the rumors started spreading that Luke was dead, the entire T Corporation descended into chaos. Many people clamored for a new CEO, while some wanted to sell their shares and leave the sinking in Louis's direction, though her gaze fell on the

the photo, Luke was hugging her waist. He was slightly bent over so their

They were kissing while smiling brightly.

It seemed as though it was only yesterday that the perfect scene was captured.

"I'll go to the meeting tomorrow. No matter what, I won't let his effort go to waste," Bianca said determinedly as she closed her eyes, unwilling to see that *photo*.

T Corporation started from a small company on the verge of bankruptcy to its current state as a multinational conglomerate. It was clear that Luke had spent a lot of effort on *it*.

Now that he was gone, Bianca, as her wife and the woman he loved, had to protect *his legacy*.

...

The next day, Bianca meticulously put on make-up so that she seemed more capable and serious. Then, she went to T Corporation.

She took the CEO's personal elevator and arrived at the CEO's office at nine o'clock sharp.

Jason was shocked when he saw Bianca, and his eyes lit up with joy. "Are you here for work, Madam?"

All the secretaries greeted Bianca.

They had different reactions toward Bianca's bulging stomach, though most of them looked at her **with pity**.

"I prepare a glass of hot milk for you, Mrs. Crawford?" Tina stood up from her chair and headed toward the

ordered her to make a hot drink for Bianca every

though her boss was gone, it had become a habit for

fine, Tina. I don't want any hot drinks now." Bianca wagged her hand at Tina and asked her to sit down.

"Don't worry about me. Continue with your work. Come with me, Mr.

In the CEO's office.

sat in the swivel chair and looked at the stacks of documents on the desk. She gently massaged in front of the desk and reported to her the current situation of the company. Then, he continued, "Everyone is sad that Mr. Crawford is gone, and many of our colleagues were crying because they cannot accept that fact. I can empathize with how you're feeling right now. Mr. Crawford might be gone, but he leaves behind his legacy. You should get a grip of yourself, at least for lifted a hand and signaled for him to stop talking. Then, she started to mumble as though talking to herself, "Luke isn't dead. He must be still alive somewhere in the world. He will Jason could not reply to that.

wrenched when he saw Bianca trying to deceive herself. Tears welled in his did not say anything further. She started to read through the documents on the desk. Jason had picked those out for her because they were the most urgent

Chapter 656

Mavis had prepared that bid proposal.

Bianca knew very well who Mavis Laviere was. She was not really considered a love rival, but she was a schemer that kept herself close to Luke.

Mavis had even stuffed women's lingerie in Luke's car to try to create a misunderstanding.

Bianca did not have a good impression of Mavis, but Mavis had a strong work ethic and was crucial to Luke's success.

She hoped that Mavis did not interact with her husband too much, even though the interactions were strictly business. However, she did not say anything.

Fortunately, Luke told Mavis something, and she stopped with her antics.

Bianca carefully read Mavis's proposal and started frowning.

She picked up the internal phone. "Tina, can you ask Ms. Laviere to come to the CEO's office?"

"In a moment." Tina went to Mavis's office and asked her to go to the CEO's office.

had been in low spirits ever since she knew that Luke had met with

had been crying, unable to accept the fact that Luke was

sank into the pits of despair and was

she would be wearing exquisite make-up. Now that Luke was gone, she did not have the mood to usually glamorous appearance was replaced by sunken eye sockets and disheveled hair. She seemed to have aged ten years in a

the secretary to the CEO's

saw Bianca sitting in Luke's chair reading documents, her eyes flashed with resentment, jealousy, and is here, Ms. Rayne." Tina led Mavis into the CEO's office, greeted Bianca, then returned to her

there anything, Ms. Rayne?" Mavis tried to hide her emotions. However, her resentment toward Bianca was too deep, and they were the only people in the office, so she did not have any qualms about displaying her emotions on her

Of course, Bianca knew what Mavis was thinking.

She found it incredibly funny.

Ms. Laviere was only Luke's partner at work. The affection was one-sided. Bianca was Luke's true partner in life.

Not only did Mavis covet her husband, but what right did she have to wear that expression on her face when facing Luke's legally wedded wife, as though Bianca was the one who had snatched Mavis's *man*?

It was not the time to quibble over that.

Bianca spread the bid proposal in front of Mavis and asked her, "Did you prepare this bid proposal, Ms. Laviere?"

"Didn't you see my name at the end of the document, or is your eyesight failing you at such a young age?" Mavis said coldly.

Mavis did not have any respect for that woman at all. To her, Bianca was like a parasite who could only rely on men to survive. She expected Bianca to wither and die without the protection of her man.

How could a woman like that stand shoulder to shoulder *with Luke*?

Bianca had probably charmed the man using her innocent face and docile personality. Not only did Bianca manage to bear several children for Luke, but she also got the lion's share of Luke's

man must have loved her so much that he was willing to protect her even after his

could not bear with

to Mavis's provocation, Bianca lifted her head and stared at Mavis's arrogant face. "I don't think that my eyesight is any of your concern, Ms. Laviere. In fact, maybe that's why my husband chose me. Your eyesight may be better than mine, Ms. Laviere, but you're blind to the fact that Mr. Crawford doesn't have any affection for you at all. I'm satisfied with what I have, and I hope you know

her teeth at Bianca's retort. However, she could not say anything because of Bianca's current status.

"Ms. Rayne, did you call me up here just to humiliate me? If that's the case, I don't have the free time

proposal is very detailed, Ms. Laviere, but I have

flipped to a page in the bid proposal and said to Mavis, "There is a lot of vacant land around Draco Lake, but you've decided on this plot. There might be a subway line running through it, but the people living there are natives. We will meet a lot of resistance when we have to relocate them. Furthermore, land

prices in that area have been high because of its proximity to a vocational college. Why do you want to bid for that

was laughing up her sleeve. She thought that Bianca was more suited to staying at home

she maintained her superiority as she explained to Bianca, "The region surrounding Draco Lake is developing rapidly. Property prices have risen from about two thousand to more than ten thousand in three years. That is proof of the land's worth. There might be many natives living in the area, but they can be settled by giving them adequate compensation. Moreover, there are many favorable conditions to developing a residential project there, including the availability of schools, the ease of public transport, and future commercial developments. The plot of land will be a great boost to T Corporation's

Chapter 657

Back at the secretaries' office, Annette saw that everyone was busy at work.

She smacked her table to get everyone's attention, then said exaggeratedly, "Hey, I have some juice news to tell all of you! Just now, I saw the acting CEO reprimanding Ms. Laviere! She even said that Ms. Laviere's bid proposal is imperfect. What a joke! No one in T Corporation dares to question Ms. Laviere's capabilities. Who does that newbie think she is?"

The other two secretaries covered their mouths and chuckled when they heard Annette's description.

Only Tina continued typing in front of her computer, fully focused on her work.

Secretary A stretched, yawned, and took out a powder puff to apply some make-up to her face. "Does she think that she's the CEO just by sitting in that chair? Can she even stay in that chair for long?"

"Who knows? I saw that she signed many contracts and documents, but I'm sure that she's only pretending."

Secretary B pushed her glasses and guessed, "Our CEO's capabilities are legendary, so his wife should be equally capable too. Why would a wealthy family accept that woman if she's brainless? I can also see that our acting CEO is quite talented in architectural design. She should be capable of managing a business as well."

Annette rolled her eyes at Secretary B. "Or so you think! She looked so frail and delicate. What capabilities can she possibly have? Don't you know, I've seen her sitting on Mr. Crawford's lap several times when I went into the CEO's office. She was half undressed and was trying to distract Mr. Crawford from her work! Do you think that our noble CEO would be tempted by such a vile woman?"

Then, Annette looked around to make sure that no one else had entered the room and lowered her voice. "I've heard that Mr. Crawford has given that woman 90% of his property. Wouldn't you expect that he leaves his property to his mother or children? Do you think that the woman might have secretly amended Mr. Crawford's will?"

"Oh my god!" Secretary A's jaw dropped. "That's sensational news! How scheming that woman is to amend Mr. Crawford's will! That's unbelievable!"

B did not readily believe it. "That shouldn't be, right? Is it that easy to amend a will? Moreover, she's bearing Mr. Crawford's child and will be delivering the

"Who knows? Maybe she's involved in Mr. Crawford's

who had been keeping quiet, slammed the table with a pen and said unhappily to the other secretaries, "You're not paid to gossip on company time, and you should know the consequences if our acting CEO finds out that you've been talking behind her back. Looks like our acting CEO needs to assign more work to

the other secretaries, Tina was closer to Bianca. To her, Bianca was gentle, courteous, empathic, not an opportunistic woman like what the other women

out because she could not stand the other secretaries

instantly resumed its silence. Secretaries A and B did not dare to

were not divided by rank, and Tina shared equal responsibility with the other secretaries, but Tina was the most capable one, and the others respected

Annette shot a disdainful glance

think that you can get on Bianca's good side by siding with her? In your

'I'd be grateful if that woman doesn't wreck the company.'

...

Mavis had a gloomy expression on her face as she stepped out of the CEO's office. How dare Bianca say that her proposal was imperfect?

No one ever said that to her, including Mr. Crawford. At most, he would give her some suggestions.

That woman even boasted that she would win that plot of land at Draco Lake too!

Mavis would like to see Bianca go against the ruthless Blatt Corporation and the resulting **humiliation!**

...

The emergency general meeting of T Corporation started at ten o'clock sharp.

Jason had informed everyone of Luke's passing and **will**.

news that Bianca Rayne was elected as acting CEO was shocking, especially to the major shareholders who were vying for

shareholders were waiting in the conference room on the acting CEO's first day

in the conference room was somber. The shareholders whispered to

people were contemptuous when they saw the pregnant Bianca walk into the room and sit at the

a senior member in T Corporation's board of directors, grunted coldly and said sarcastically, "I say, Mrs. Crawford, don't you know the time? Everyone here is waiting for you. Do you think that you're fit to lead T Corporation if you can't show up to your first general meeting on time? Just stay at home and take care of your

people laughed when they heard his words. The people in Jenson's gang also started to Crawford is a punctual man. He never arrives late, even by one minute. It's true that women love to be deliberately stalling for time, right? Do you even know what happens at a general meeting? If that's the case, you should've stayed out that Luke was gone, they mocked Bianca openly without considering that she was still the acting woman looked frail. They did not think that she could do anything to

Chapter 658

Bianca remained calm as the discussion went on.

She tapped the desk with a pen at random intervals, saying in an indifferent tone, "Are you done? If you're done, please take a look at the e-invite for the meeting."

"How ridiculous! A woman who doesn't respect the time of others wants to be an acting CEO?" Jenson raised his voice and said in an unforgiving tone. As he said that, he checked his email.

When he saw that the meeting time was 10:06 a.m., he was stunned. He then glanced at Bianca and thought, 'So what?'

When Luke was around, they would always start the meeting at 10:00 a.m. sharp. They were all used to the meeting time.

The former CEO was very punctual and spoke out against people who were late.

Previously, a shareholder took advantage of his long-standing relationship with Luke and was late for a meeting for a few minutes. As a result, Luke kicked him out. Old Master Crawford had tried to talk him out of it but it did not work.

Now, the new acting CEO had changed the meeting time to 10:06 a.m. What the hell was this woman doing?

Everyone stared at Bianca.

Bianca looked at everyone with a smile, saying, "I'm sure everyone is aware that the meeting is supposed to start at 10:06 a.m. When I came in, it was 10:05 a.m. I was not late. Your rant has taken more than five minutes. Everyone, was I late?"

"Of course not!" Louis Crawford was the first to speak, "Ms. Rayne was one minute early!"

Another young shareholder who grew the company with Luke also nodded his head and said, "Ms. Rayne wasn't late. There was just a misunderstanding over the meeting time."

and continued criticizing Bianca, "Mr. Crawford was always ten minutes early for every was overjoyed that Bianca was

also one of the company's shareholders. Although she owned only six percent of the shares, the value of that six percent was more than enough to cover the expenses of an ordinary family of four for more than ten lifetimes. That was why she was in attendance for today's shareholders

sat in the chairperson seat and looked at Jenson who was still trying to make things difficult for her. Her soft gaze sharpened as she said, "Mr. Zook, if I'm late, I'll admit to it. However, I've proven that I was on time today so I'm not sure what the fuss is about? The 10:00 a.m. meeting was my husband's practice, not mine. The time of the meeting may change at any time now, so you have to get used to my

sneered and said disdainfully, "Do you think you're our CEO because you're sitting in

also sarcastically said, "Women... They have always been indecisive and have no courage to take chances. I'll be thanking God if our company isn't ruined in

transferred all his shares to her before his death. Now, she holds the largest percentage of shares in T Corporation. What can we do? Besides, is she really Mr. Crawford's wife? Why haven't we heard of not Mrs. Crawford, who is she to be the acting CEO? Get her out

threw some documents on the conference table. Everyone was taken aback by her sudden anger!

Bianca shouted, "Tina!"

glamorous secretary who had been waiting on the side, understood Bianca immediately. She took out a marriage certificate from her bag, smiled, and showed it to

two people in the photo attached to the marriage certificate were Luke and Bianca. The official date on it was stated to be three

*The marriage certificate blinded the eyes of all the shareholders **present**.*

No one dared to suspect that the marriage certificate was a fake because they knew that no one would dare to do that to Luke. He was a shark in their industry. That meant that Luke was indeed married to this woman.

Mavis clenched her fist tightly under the conference table. Her sharp eyes displayed shock, jealousy, and anger.

'Luke got married to this woman? How could he?!'

For a while, no one knew what to say.

There was a complicated and awkward look on **everyone's faces**.

An older, gray-haired shareholder said, "I refuse to work under a woman. I would rather sell my shares than watch you take down T Corporation."

Bianca glanced at him. Based on his physical attributes and what she had heard, he was irritable, judgemental, and hard to talk with.

Bianca did not even bother to frown. "Who else wants to sell their shares?"

"Me..."

"And me..."

shareholders looked at each other before deciding to sell

thought that if Mr. Crawford was still around, they would never

Corporation was now led by a weak woman, so they planned to get out of it as soon as possible while the company's shares still carried some

"Mr. Doyle!" Bianca called out.

"Yes, Ms. Rayne," Mr. Doyle replied.

coldly, "Check how many shares these gentlemen hold and buy them at the

stared at Bianca in disbelief. Was Bianca

the news of Luke's passing was announced, T Corporation's shares had almost fallen to the lowest point. T Corporation was short of funds now, so they were baffled by Bianca's decision to acquire the shares of

Jason, who was ever loyal, slightly disagreed with her decision. He said to her softly, "Ms. Rayne, you have to think carefully. The company's current financial situation doesn't allow us the cash flow to buy them out for the time being."

said, "My husband left me private properties. You can withdraw this money from my private account. Contact a lawyer to draw up an equity transfer letter. These people will have nothing to do with T Corporation moving

was loud and powerful, and the decisions she made were so decisive and sharp. Even though she looked weak and gentle, her fierce aura and insightful gaze were similar to that of Mr. Crawford. No one dared to ignore

presented herself as a

Chapter 659

Bianca was shocked when she heard the news from Gordan.

Her emotionless face finally displayed a hint of joy.

"Gordan, is it true? Luke is still alive? Where is he now? Are you sure that man is Luke? If it is him, why hasn't he come home yet?"

Her anxious attitude and eager face made Gordan feel bad.

He handed a pile of documents to Bianca, gulped, and said, "Bianca, I'm not sure if the person in the photo is Luke. There's no conclusive evidence yet."

Bianca looked at the pictures. The pictures were blurry, so she could only see the figure of a tall and thin man who stood tall.

The man had his back to the camera and was wearing a cap, so she could not see the man's face at all.

Bianca looked at the picture and stroked the figure on it. She did not speak for a long time.

Maybe it was because she missed Luke too much, so as she looked at the figure, she thought that it could be him.

on the investigation, this man was in a vegetative state but he has a face that matches Luke's. He previously secretly recovered in Sheffield Hospital for about a month, which coincides with the time when Luke

he was hospitalized, a mysterious party paid for his medical expenses. The other party kept their identity well hidden. My people went through a lot just to find out very little about them. I asked someone to check this man's hospitalization record and the surveillance footage, but everything was erased. We couldn't find anything except for this photo of

made Bianca's initially joyful face

baby kicked her softly, as though it felt Bianca's sorrow and wanted to comfort

reached out and stroked her belly when she felt the

brows furrowed tighter. She firmly believed that Luke was

at Bianca's sad face, coughed lightly, and continued talking, "If it is Luke, as long as he is in Russia, I'll find him! What we can confirm now is that Luke is still alive. However, if it turns out that Luke is in a vegetative state,

comforted the restless baby in her stomach and said softly, "As long as Luke is alive, no matter if he's in a vegetative state or if he can't stand for the rest of his life, I will be by his side. It's just that... I don't even know if he's alive. I'm such a failure as

"Sorry, Bianca. If it weren't for me, Luke wouldn't have met with an accident. You can hit me and scold me. It was all my fault, it had nothing to do with you!" Gordan said **guiltily**.

He grabbed Bianca's wrist and slapped himself hard on **the face**.

The loud slap shocked Bianca and brought her back to reality. It was not until a burning feeling came from her palm that she pulled her hand back and shouted, "What are you doing? *I...*"

Suddenly, her stomach hurt terribly and big beads of sweat rolled off her forehead as she uttered, "I... My stomach... Ah... My stomach *hurts...*"

Gordan saw that Bianca was in unbearable pain and his expression changed. He anxiously stepped forward to check on her. "Bianca, are **you alright?**"

Tina, Bianca's secretary, needed to hand some documents to Bianca and was walking to the CEO's office when she saw that Bianca had broken out into a cold sweat.

Old Master Crawford had mentioned to her to keep an eye out on Bianca's condition because she could give birth at any time. Tina, who had been prepared for a long time, immediately understood what was going on.

"Ms. Rayne, hold on. I'll take you to the hospital right away." Tina struggled to help Bianca up and said to Gordan in an anxious tone, "Mr. Gordan, Ms. Rayne may be giving birth now. Come and help *me*."

Gordan immediately agreed and carried Bianca. They rushed out in a hurry. "Bianca, trust me, you and the baby will be fine! We'll take you to the hospital right away!"

almost lost consciousness due to the pain. Her amniotic fluid broke on the way to the

the pain was unbearable, she thought of Luke's voice and beautiful smile over and over again. That was the only way she could deal with the heart-breaking

Luke was still alive.

had brought her such news, and this news was the reason she worked hard to fight

resented him for not coming home earlier to be with her and the children. He did not bother to know about how their unborn baby

their third baby was about to be born but he was nowhere to be

tears fell, and the severe pain she felt in her lower abdomen almost made

seemed to be a lot of people shouting around her. She could not hear what they were saying. She just kept whispering,

Chapter 660

After her friends left, Susan immediately called someone.

Louis was speeding back home. There was a beautiful gift in his passenger seat for his mom.

Today was Susan's birthday, and he, a social butterfly, was returning home early for once.

He wanted to give his mother a surprise, so he had not told her in advance that he was coming back.

In the last couple of weeks, his mother had been forcing him to marry Yuri. They were in disagreement over this, so he had been reluctant to go home. However, it was a special day, so no matter how unwilling he was, he still wanted to celebrate the day with her as he was his mother's only son.

When he found out that his mother was in Armstrong Manor, Louis rushed over.

Armstrong Manor was a small Western-style building with a long history. He stepped onto a pathway through a garden upon entering. The glass door led directly to the sunny backyard. This place was one of the dowries given to Susan by the Armstrong family.

Susan stayed here for a few days every month.

Louis went upstairs and saw that the living room was empty, so he walked up to the second floor.

The door of the room was shut, and a familiar voice sounded through the crack of the door. Susan was on a phone call.

was carrying the gift, was about to push the door and go in but he stopped when he heard what his mother

as long as you do what I say, I'll keep you safe. After it's done, you can take the ten million dollars and go wherever you want. You no longer have to be a nurse with no future. You have to know, with your

current qualifications and meager salary, you will never get your hands on so much money even if you work there for a lifetime! Why are you hesitating now? If it isn't because this is an urgent matter and you're someone I trust, I would've found someone else to do this. I believe that not many can resist the temptation of having ten million dollars. Trust me, I can easily get someone else to do

Louis was a joker who usually did not take things seriously, he immediately understood that his mother was planning a conspiracy when he heard what she was

his breath and continued to eavesdrop by the corner. He wanted to figure out what the hell his mother was going

of the hesitation from the other party, Susan continued to patiently tempt her, "I just want you to inject a drug that makes it difficult for her to give birth. I don't want you to murder her. What are you afraid of? Besides, it's just an unborn child! Think about your difficult life now and the luxurious life you can live after you get that ten million dollars. You're a smart lady, you know what to

tone changed and her expression became a little frightening as she said, "What's more, there's no way out for you even if you don't want to do it. I've already paid one-third of the money as a deposit to your account. If you don't do as I say, then I'll sue you for fraud! If you can't explain the source of such a large sum of money, you'll go to

other end of the phone, a female voice hesitated for a while. She finally made up her mind and said, "Okay, I'll do as you say. I hope you can keep your promise and send me out of the country after this. If something happens to me, I'll make sure that you go down with me. What exactly is it that you want me to

gritted her teeth and said bitterly, "I want the b*stard in Bianca's belly

heard that, Louis flew off

It turned out that the person Susan was plotting against was Bianca! She wanted to get rid of her child while Luke was *gone*.

Louis barged in.

When she saw her son angrily walking in, Susan, who had just ended the call, turned pale and started looking guilty. She avoided his prying eyes and wondered how much her son had overheard from her **call**.

Her expression was unnatural, and she wanted to take her son's hand. She said in a motherly voice, "Louis, when did you come? Why didn't you tell me that you were **coming**?"

Louis smacked her hand away and asked her with a sullen expression, "Mom, is Bianca in labor? Are you going to do something to her child? Why are you doing this? That's a living being! How could *you*?!"

Susan argued, "Son, you heard it wrong. How could I do such a crazy **thing**? I..."

"**I heard** everything you said!" Louis looked at Susan as if he did not know who she was anymore. He said in a disappointed tone, "How did that kind mother in my mind turn into such a vicious woman? You almost killed Luke the last time! Now that Luke is gone, how can you hurt his child? You've *disappointed me*!"

Susan tremblingly pointed at Louis and said with sorrow, "How can you talk to your mom like this? I'm doing everything for you! If it weren't for you, how would I have ended up in this state? How dare you call me vicious..."

Louis was not bothered with Susan's acting. He threw the gift he had brought on the table and shouted, "I will never forgive you if something happens to **Bianca!**"

said that, he gave his mother a cold look, turned around, and left quickly. Susan was not able to stop a bad feeling and screamed, "Louis, where are you

was nothing but silence in the

only watch her son drive away in his sports

her feet and was so angry that she almost fainted. She redialled her last call and said, "Yes, you have to do it as soon as possible. Whether the child is a male or a female, you must ensure that the baby does not

...

Operating room.

from the incandescent lamp was shining directly into Bianca's eyes. She was almost in tears because of was her third child, the baby was still inside her because of her