

Be Gentle 71

Chapter 71

They walked hand in hand through the office area, down the elevator, and out of the building. Luke opened the door for her. After she went inside, he turned around, frowned, and lit a cigarette.

The cool night breeze blew against the man's delicate facial features, but the heat from his body persisted.

From the first time he met her, his hormones were already raging. He remembered glancing at the basketball court and noticing her small face that aroused a protective desire within him. Not only was her body small, but she was underdeveloped and even seemed malnourished.

However, in the days to come, he realized that the only girl who kept flashing in his mind was the little girl who was underdeveloped in the junior high school next door. He did not take any interest in the well-developed girls in high school that were right in front of him.

Small towns were much more open-minded about puppy love than in big cities. The teacher would supervise and manage the teenage crushes, but not as strictly as the schools in A City. He was impulsive and thought about chasing her.

One Friday evening, Bianca was walking back home from school when he followed her.

The girl in front of him was always in her head and did not notice the high school boy behind her. When he had nearly followed her back to her house, he heard a group of people gossiping.

"What was the old man Kevin thinking? He said that when Teddy grows up, he'll marry off Bea to our Teddy. Tsk. Even if our Teddy can't find a wife to marry, we'll never even think of letting that Rayne girl marry into our family..."

"Bea doesn't look like her dad, so she probably took after her mom. If she took after her mom, I'm sure she took after her mom in every aspect!"

"Right? She'll probably go crazy when she grows up. Who would marry a crazy woman? What if she runs away with a rich man within two years of their marriage? Crying won't help you then!"

"Also, my son came home from school the day before yesterday and told me that Bea Rayne is only in the third year of junior high but is already a little vixen. Apparently, she baited a rich male classmate to buy her food and drinks!"

It was on that day that Luke learned why Bianca usually did not laugh.

neighbors' comments were not hidden from any passersby. He heard their words clearly, and Bianca must have heard them

though he wanted to chase her, he thought about how it would turn out if he really did so. After he heard about the gossip on the street, he decided to forget about

was not because he was like those people who disliked her over the possibility of her growing up to be like her vixen of a mother, or if she would be immature

just did not want to worsen her image in her neighbors' eyes by being

she was still a girl, she should be pure and not be messed

family background was complicated. They had enough money, power, and he had already finished his college courses. He even knew the topics like the back of his hand. He repeated a few grades so that he could stay in that traditional and seemingly unfriendly town for a little while. He might not be afraid of any rumors, but she probably could not handle

from the junior high school next door thought lowly of herself and never raised her head when she walked. Even though the teachers and even the principal noticed his wandering eyes on Bianca, she herself had never noticed

on, he learned that her father had bought a second-hand house in A City and remarried someone else. He did not know why the father did not take his biological daughter to live with him. Anyway, he was the outsider, so it did not matter what

wanted to take her away very much. There was a desire deeply buried in his heart that took root every day. However, reality told him that it was impossible. He wanted to take her away, but first, he would have to overcome the obstruction which was both of

people who were not yet independent lived together, the world would consider them to be

be just like her mother, described by her neighbors as a tramp who ran away with a

Luke dismissed the idea of taking her away and could only wait to integrate into society as soon as possible. He needed to work hard and be a solid shoulder that she could **lean on**.

The premise was that she also had to grow up as soon **as possible**.

She was five years younger than him. Back then, the days he spent waiting for her passed *like years*.

At the age of 19, he often went to a friend's house to drink and inevitably came across porn. When he first learned about the love between a man and a woman, every time he closed his eyes, sinful thoughts of the weak little girl flooded *his mind*...

The feeling of wanting to take her as his own *got stronger*.

Until the accident that happened at the end of that year, he completely lost his self-awareness to lead. His grandfather arranged for him to quit school and to *disappear quietly*.

In the next few years, he gradually became independent. The first thing he did was to send someone to take care of her without letting her know about *it*.

It was finally the day he waited for Bianca to become an *adult*.

The girl who finished high school moved to A City and lived with her father and stepmother. She was still unhappy, but at least she was much happier than she was in the *small town*.

Kevin treated her well, and her classmates in A City High School were also very friendly to her.

One day, the person he sent to watch Bianca returned to T Corporation's top office to report to him that there was a boy in college who was taking good care of Bianca.

would also go to the boy's house to play on the

was that the boy's younger sister and Bianca

found out who the boy was and what he wanted from Bianca, he found out that Kevin had liver cancer the

school that day, Bianca had her head down when she walked out of the school. Tears rolled down from her cheeks, but she did not make a sound when

waited at the school gate on the same day. As soon as his meeting ended, he left straight away and parked his black Bentley MPV at the school gate. She passed by without noticing the mature familiar-looking guy who was trying to hand her a tissue to wipe

was occupied by her father's liver cancer. All she wanted to do was just get to the hospital as soon

she finally noticed Luke, all she said was a thank you without even taking a look at him. She then left

liver cancer, and the prerequisite for getting a liver transplant was to have sufficient funds. Somehow, a crazed sicko introduced a 50-year-old man to

she promised to be the old man's little wife and have a child with him, he would give her half a

ugliest expression Luke had ever made was the moment when he heard that Bianca was only worth half

woman in his mind was now sold at such a

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Bianca's cheeks that had returned to its normal color turned bright red again.

"No, I'm fine."

She frowned slightly and tried to break away from the embrace. He started to heat up again. She was afraid that he would not be able to stand it and would lose control again. However, her strength was not enough to break away from him. She was pressed against the edge of the bed.

The man stretched his hand downward.

She looked at him in horror because she had no idea what he was going to do.

She felt a breeze between her legs.

Something was ripped off by him.

She looked cowardly into his bottomless black eyes. Her lips were kissed firmly by the man again. The man pressed his body down against her and started sucking continuously.

She was afraid that the familiar pain would come again and instinctively tried to stop it.

Luke's next move caused the blood in Bianca's face to almost burst out.

He checked her.

Bianca was not hurt by his previous actions at all. It was just that it was very painful at that time. However, the pain was not there anymore at that moment.

"Don't... Don't look..." She could not get rid of him, so she had to pull the blanket to cover herself. She did not want to be so brazenly exposed in front of the man.

Luke checked it over carefully.

He was relieved that she was not injured because he would feel guilty if he hurt her.

His big hand rubbed her pale legs and a shudder swept through her weak consciousness. A moan slipped out of her lips again from his passionate kiss...

Shyness and embarrassment oozed out from her every pore.

Bianca was about to collapse.

it in another way. I'll make sure you enjoy it this time." Luke was older and more mature than her. In that area, he was a mature man who did not need

eyes widened unexpectedly at the movement of his hands. At the next moment, she bit her lip and had to close her eyes because her whole body was trembling and

of her hands firmly grasped the man's arm and his

toes curled up in shame, and the sheets turned into a wrinkled mess from the

tall and long body laid on the bed sideways. He still had on his suit and leather shoes. He still looked like the gentleman he was during the daytime. His muscular body was half-pressed against her, and his lips ground against

"Um... Mmm..."

Bianca almost lost herself. Her soul had drifted away in

entire body ground against him while her cute toes kicked the sheets into

Her entire body suddenly tensed up.

"Enough, uh..."

felt ashamed that her body was opening up because of

a minute, Bianca could no longer hold on. Her face writhed, and her forehead was dampened with sweat. She moaned unbearably while her body squirmed, rubbing the silk sheets

you come so soon? Hmm?" Luke's voice was full and nasally. It sounded sexy

Bianca trembled again.

began to lose herself and sunk in, it was as if she passed out and did not know what happened next. Her body became so sensitive that she would scream out when she was

who knew how long and a fiery lingering kiss, she was gently walked to the bathroom, turned on the faucet, and the sound of water flowing his hands. His fingers were slender and beautiful. The joints were well-defined and every finger was full of strength. He dispensed some soap and washed each of his

Luke looked at his left index and middle fingers that just entered her with a burning desire in his eyes. He remembered what he just did and wiped his hand with a **wet wipe**.

For a moment, he was unwilling to wash her off yet.

Back in the bedroom, he walked to the bed and hugged her while she looked down and put her clothes back on. He leaned against her and gave her a hot french kiss.

After his kiss, he withdrew from her sweet *little mouth*.

A silver thread of saliva was drawn from the corner of their mouths after the *deep kiss*.

...

Bianca did not know how she got into his *car*.

She insisted on not staying in the suite and that she was not going to stay over the night they made love for the first time because Nina would laugh at her. However, she did exactly that.

Was it because he was too charming and attractive? Was it because she was too lonely and *desperate*?

The black Range Rover stopped by the side of the street. Luke got out of the car and went to a 24-hour convenience chain store. He walked straight to the women's products area and took a box of *underwear*.

The cashier on duty stared at the tall man who had just come in and was so shocked that she forgot to greet the customer.

Handsome guys were everywhere in A City, and many of them went to the convenience stores from day to night. Even though the cashier had seen many of them, she was still caught off guard by that tall and long-legged man with sharp as well as well-defined facial features. No current male celebrities were a match for him.

Luke placed the box of underwear on *the counter*.

He took out his wallet and asked, "How much **is it?**"

When the cashier heard the man's magnetic and low voice, her knees buckled. She stole a few glances at the man who was going to pay. She said, "**85 yuan...**"

Luke put down 100 yuan and turned **to leave**.

The cashier took the money with both of her hands while her eyes were still staring at the man's departing back. He was tall and had an aura that was so cold, but he... Bought a woman's... *Under...*

Underwear...

aura and the reality of his hedonistic nature drove people
he went back into the car, Luke handed her
felt her body go soft and weak. After she asked, she stretched out her hand and
two of them communicated, Bianca never looked directly
very curious about why she was acting so shyly. After all, they did not actually do it that time. He just
helped her with his
looking forward to the day when she could fill all of
her head and fiddled with the box. There were three pairs of underwear inside the box. She liked the
style and colors. It seemed that he had
she sat in his car, she was so embarrassed that her own breath burned herself. The one she was wearing
had been torn apart by him in the hotel suite. Now, she was not wearing
...
surprised that Bianca
done with your overtime work? I thought that you were going to get abducted by your boss to sleep
with him back at his house or something," Nina said as she took Bianca's bag and
take a shower first," Bianca said. After she said that, she hurried into the
a song and continued applying her mask as she watched a
so tired and sore all over. Whenever she thought about the shameful thing she did, she
a shower, she fell asleep on her bed within five
the alarm clock rang, it felt as if it was only in a blink of an eye. However, by the time she woke up, it
was already three in
had not finished her drawing from last night, so she had to get up at three o'clock to finish her overtime
work. Otherwise, she would not be able to hand over the drawing tomorrow morning. She turned on her
laptop and a notification box popped up in the lower

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At the Crawford Manor.

A huge spread of Chinese-style breakfast was laid on the dining table.

The old man had not been sleeping these few nights. He woke up easily whenever he heard tiny
movements in the middle of the night. That grandson of his seemed to make a good show out of it.
Every time he drove back in the middle of the night, there was always a lot of noise when he parked his
car in the garage.

It was hard for the old man to ignore his grandson when he had a spring in his walk and brought a
breeze when he drove.

However, the problem lied there. A diligent workaholic who only cared about his company had not been working overtime in the company recently and was not at home either. 'So where does he go in the afternoon till night time?

'Especially last night when he came back even later than usual!'

The old man secretly took his little great-grandson to ask him about it. The honest kid gave him some bad news.

"Great-grandpa, Daddy tosses and turns in his sleep when he's back. Uncle Louis said that it's insomnia from his loneliness, a physiological illness that men suffer at a certain period. Although I don't understand what it means, I think that Daddy won't be able to eat well if he continues to toss in his sleep every night..." The little guy scratched his head, expressing that he was worried about his father's lifestyle.

After the old man listened to him, he patted his little great-grandson and said, "Your Daddy is in good health and will live a long life. That, I'm not worried about. I'm only worried that..."

The old man did not explain in detail to the kid what he was actually worried about.

The old man looked up with a serious face and asked his grandson, "Luke, about last night, is it true that you only went to sleep early in the morning?"

Luke reluctantly took a sip of the freshly ground soy milk in front of him. After he heard his grandfather's question, he put down the bowl and got up sternly. Someone quickly handed over his ironed blazer.

the man wore his blazer, he said, "I'm going to work now, please enjoy

old man was unhappy. He held the cane with his trembling hand, frowned, and thought, 'This grandson with extraordinary ability has been abstinent for many years and usually spends his time either at the manor or the office. These are the two places that he frequents and only these two places. He usually lives the boring life of a

wanted to do was drug his grandson, tie him up, and get a male doctor to come over to check if everything was fine with him and if his thing was still working!

his grandson was now in this kind of

had been tailing him for a few days. However, since his driving and sleuthing skills were not very good, Luke always found out every time he tried to follow him. Usually, it ended with Luke throwing him off by going through many different streets, leaving him to return home

man could not figure it out. If his grandson wanted to date out in the open, why did he not just bring the girl back home to meet the

were able to have breakfast together today, but when the old man brought it up, the eldest grandson got up without a word and left for

he thought about it, the more he was sure that his grandson was

because the girl's family doesn't have a good net worth? Is it really that bad that he can't introduce her to

is it because my grandson is a playboy? Does he just want to play around with a girl and dump her after he gets tired of her? Is it because he has no intention of marrying anyone at

'What an unfilial grandson!

'Playing games with these kinds of things?! That's not how a man should act at *all!*'

"Hurry up. After we're done eating, take me to the office so that I can talk to your brother," the old man suddenly shouted at Louis who was still enjoying his *breakfast*.

Louis, "..."

'*What* did I do to deserve **this...**'

The two little kids with their dangling calves and greasy mouths from the youtiao looked at each other. They did not dare to spill the beans about how their daddy might have a crush on Aunt Bea.

After Susan finished her meal, she could not help but say, "Dad, no offense, but don't you remember how your son acted when he was alive? Luke's your biological grandson, the flesh and blood of the Crawford family. The apple doesn't fall far from the tree. This behavior of him coming back home in the middle of the night almost every day is probably because he's with a little goblin from *an establishment*."

"Mom, you should really learn how to keep some things to yourself." Louis looked up from his food and *frowned*.

The surrounding quieted down.

Allison put down her bowl. "I'm done. I'm going to head upstairs."

The two little kids tried to figure out what 'little goblin' meant. 'Is that some sort of little fairy? Does it mean she's really beautiful?'

However, everyone seated knew what Susan meant.

Louis's father, Zachary, was flighty and had a lot of love affairs when he was alive. After he married Susan, he became even more of

had warned Susan that she should just be at peace about being the madam of the house and that she should not care how many women he had outside.

was married into the Crawford family for two years, but nothing came out of them. She barely had the chance to meet her husband, so how would she have been able to get pregnant and have

had it with all the cheating and could not hold it in any longer. She carefully arranged a trap and swore to kill her husband's other mistresses once and

the middle of the night, Zachary was caught in bed with another woman. The mistress under him was the same woman Allison was sitting at the dining

from a normal family. In those days, the money earned was only barely enough to let them live on. However, she climbed onto the Crawford ladder and pulled her family up with it. Step by step, the Tanner family started to shine as they stepped up

only hung out with her rich friends then and always tried her best to befriend the children of the popular

remembered that one of Allison's childhood besties was Queenie. Queenie fell in love with an army boy that had an influential family. After that, Allison tried to become even closer to Queenie. She left her ex-husband and looked for someone to leech on. She thought that if she could not get Zachary Crawford who was at the top of the business circle, she would try to get an influential man from the army

was how a scheming young girl who went to work at the club and who pretended to be pure, tricked the man to buy her sob story. She successfully deceived the man to leave his first wife and brought her son to

that a trash of a man like Zachary would not actually fall in love with

the then business tycoon, just wanted a son. He was pleased with whoever could give him a son. Therefore, the mother who bore his beloved son, Allison, started her

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Louis' face also seemed to say that if he did not do it, he should bring the woman over to prove it...

Louis had always been intrigued by the psychology of a strange man like his brother who had been abstinent for more than five years. A man like him could live a normal life without touching a woman? It was unheard of!

"You think she's unworthy to meet us? Do you know how bad that would make her feel..." the old man asked. After he asked that question, he stared at his grandson's face to observe his expression. He was afraid that his grandson was an unfaithful lover who slept with someone every night but had disdain for them.

Luke figured that his grandpa had no other choice. His grandpa probably thought that he did not discipline his own son enough when he was alive. Even though that man was not worthy of his respect at all, his grandpa was still his sensible grandpa.

It was probably because he was anxious for Luke to get married, so he had to ask.

"I'm afraid that you guys will scare her away." Luke picked up a document and put it aside. He hinted that he was not trying to hide her from them, but it was because he wanted to hide them from her.

The brother and grandpa who had just gotten insulted, "..."

"She's very delicate and quiet in front of others. She's shy around strangers, but you guys..." Luke raised his eyes and glanced at his brother and grandpa, frowning with disdain.

The grandfather who initially looked as if he was going to beat his grandson with his cane suddenly realized he was not acting like the kind old man that he was. He put down his cane and coughed embarrassedly. He returned to the kind old man look of his.

Louis, who fueled the fire, could not help but say, "If she's really the timid little white rabbit that you say, I think that you'll be the first to scare her off..."

Louis was an adult man with physical needs. He knew the intimacies between a man and a woman.

With his brother's strong physique and inexhaustible energy that had been hungry and thirsty for more than five years, he would probably leave no bones when he devoured the little white rabbit.

'Tsk, poor thing! She has to be with Luke. After serving him the whole night, does she still have the strength to do other things during the day?'

...

stayed in the hospital for an hour in

the hospital to her office, the taxi made it just in time. She did not arrive too late nor did she arrive

the work that was asked by the head of the department and he was really pleased with it. He did not hold back his praises and told her that her work gave him a glimmer in his eyes. He also mentioned that it was not like a newbie's work. It looked as if a master of ten years had

that Luke was probably a master in

message popped up from Sue that said, 'The head of the department said that your drawing is good and praised you highly. I already know that you'll be staying after the

be honest, Sue knew that even if her drawing was not good, Bianca was still going to be kept in force like the boss was

sent another message that said, 'Do you know who the best designer

know. Who is it?' Since Bianca was busy, she only replied five

BOSS! DUH! Don't you know? Five developed countries in the world have architectural works designed by our boss. Our city is fortunate to have one by him too. It's the library in the city center. After our boss took over the family business and cleaned up their mess, he got too busy to draw and design anything.' Sue typed vigorously and

was shocked to find out what she had read from her

took the subway and wandered around the city center out of boredom last time, I was attracted by the same exact library. Turns out it was designed by Luke himself?' thought

'Sigh. Even though we're obsessed with design, we'll never be able to see something drawn by our boss.' Sue sent Bianca a message again.

Bianca opened the drawing that she had just submitted to her head of department. Her gaze was fixed intently for a long time on the drawing that he drew last night.

When the phone rang, Bianca finally looked away from the *drawing*.

"Hello, Doctor Thompson," Bianca answered the phone in a soft voice and left the main office area.

The hospital was calling and asking for Kevin's *ID card*.

Bianca nodded. "Okay, I'll deliver it *this afternoon*."

After finishing her work in the morning, she packed her things, went out, and took a taxi without even having her lunch. She rushed to her dad's and Jennifer's place.

Even though she did not want to see Jennifer, she had no other choice. His ID card was at home. It was not like her dad could get up and leave the hospital. Therefore, she knew she just had to endure it for a while, even if it was going to be horrible.

On the way there, Bianca tried to call *Jennifer*.

"**Sorry**, the number you have dialed cannot be reached at this moment..."

She called the number a few times, but it could not go *through*.

Bianca looked at the noisy street outside of her car window. She searched through her contacts for Marie's number and called her.

you calling me? Did your dad die? Did you call me to notify my mom and I to rush to his funeral?" Marie was playing a game on her phone when Bianca's call showed up on the screen within seconds of her using her

not want to waste time talking nonsense with her. She ignored her and said, "Are you at home? I need to go over to your place to get my dad's

at home. You can come and get it..." Marie

hung up and waited with a frown at the

other side, Marie got up from the bed, thought about it, and called Jean. "Didn't you say you wanted to talk to me? Come over to my place. Now. I'm giving you 20

was not at the office and was with his team leader outside. He had to rush over after he answered the

mother had fallen under the spell of wanting to see and hug her unborn grandson. In order to persuade Marie not to abort the child, she rushed to the bank with her ID card and took out some cash. She let Marie pick the house she wanted, paid the down payment, and put the house under her name.

went crazy from his mother's angering

Anna regretted it very much and thought that Marie was quite unreliable, but she was left with no choice. The house was bought. She could only make sure her son held onto Marie and get married as soon as possible so that they could give birth to the child. Then, they would see what was the

she was cheated off her money, it was just a down payment. She thought that it was worth it if it meant getting herself a lively

Marie's phone with calls that night, but she chose to ignore him. It seemed as if she chose to pretend to be embarrassed about it to make herself feel

Marie was taking the initiative and giving him a chance to meet within 20 minutes, he had no choice but to rush there.

door was not locked, Jean walked in straight away. There was no one in the living room or the bedroom. He walked toward the bathroom and asked, "Are you

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"Uh..."

Jean closed the frosted glass bathroom door with the back of his hand to enjoy what was happening with a peace of mind. He looked down and saw Marie's pale and well-proportioned thighs as well as her round and supple toes.

She stood on her tiptoes and leaned forward. Her body pressed against him and they got busy.

"Uh, hurry up..."

Jean pressed the back of Marie's head and thrust forward.

He urged her without a hint of gentleness at all. "Hurry up. Ah... You're a naughty girl, aren't you..."

...

Bianca got out of the taxi and walked into the neighborhood.

It was a very old neighborhood in A City. Many years ago, her dad bought a house in that neighborhood that had two bedrooms and one living room.

In the house, it was littered with many of Bianca's memories, but most of them were bad ones.

When Bianca walked in, she looked at the old corridor that she had not walked through for more than five years. She remembered how she moved in to live with Marie before she graduated from junior high school.

Dad had told her at that time, "This is your sister. She's two years older than you. You two should get along well, alright?"

The then naive Bianca smiled and said, "Okay!"

Marie also said, "Don't worry, Dad. I'll take care of my little sister."

actually happened was that on the first night they stayed together, her blanket was hogged away in the middle of the night. Before she could ask for the blanket back, her sister whom she had yet to get to know lost her temper and kicked her onto the floor. However, it was debatable whether the sister was asleep or not when she

her forehead onto the cabinet next to the bed. She bled a little but endured the pain and did

morning, Dad saw her injury and asked her what

so-called sister suddenly rushed forward kindly, holding her face, and saying with distress, "Bea, how did you hurt your head? Did you get out of bed last night to drink water and didn't know where the lights were? Wake me up next time. I'll get the water

was still young, she did not know how to continue after her sister said that. She thought that perhaps her sister did not sleep well and accidentally kicked her out of

belonged to her dad, but the mistress of the house was Jennifer. Therefore, she knew she had to be on her best behavior if she were to stay under her

was also an instance where the sister secretly smoked and drank in the room at night because it was what the popular girls did.

though Jennifer knew that the cigarettes and alcohol belonged to Marie, she slapped Bianca as she cursed at her. "How dare you pick up all these bad habits despite being at this age?! Children from small towns are seriously uneducated! Education! Don't you know any better?! Do you think that it's cool to smoke and drink? I'll discipline those bad habits out of you!"

to cover up her daughter's bad behavior, Jennifer slapped her until her face

dad came back from overseas, she cried and said that she wanted to go back to live with her grandfather. Even though life in the small town was horrible, it was better than all of this.

understood how scary and horrible a stepmother could be...

a deep breath and stood at the entrance of the house. When she was about to ring the doorbell, she realized that the doorbell was broken and the door was left

it be that Marie knew she was coming and opened it for

Bianca pushed the door open and **walked in**.

"Uh... You're such a little devil!"

"Oo... Oo..."

Bianca did not expect to hear the man's rapid breathing that was accompanied by his pleasurable moans as well as *dirty talk*.

Marie's cutesy voice asked, "Say, who's more beautiful? Me or Bianca? If you don't say it, I won't finish it..."

"You... It's always been you... Hurry up and suck... Don't stop..." Jean's mouth was taken over by his brain that was overcome by desire. He felt as if his body was floating in **the air**.

"Then why didn't you chase me when you were in the UK but chased her instead? If you say that I'm more beautiful than her... Shouldn't you go after the one who's more beautiful..." Marie *asked coquettishly*.

Jean was annoyed at that point. He was rushing and wanted to push Marie's head even deeper.

Marie did not oblige.

The only thing left for Jean to do was patiently think through his words. He said, "It's because you're way too beautiful for me. I was afraid that you're way out of my league, so I didn't go after you... I had no choice but to go after her instead. You're a literal goddess... Way too beautiful for me..."

The horrible words did not make Bianca blush or feel angry. On the contrary, she felt calmer and unmoved by **it**.

Her dad told the doctor that his ID card was in Jennifer's dressing table drawer in their bedroom. Apparently, the drawer was dedicated to storing all their *important documents*.

Bianca guessed that Marie knew she was coming, so she made sure to increase Jean's appetite in time so that he would say those worthless words to *provoke Bianca*.

After she found his renewed ID card, she took a better look at **it**.

his ID card twice in the past 40-something years, so he never brought his new ID card with him after put his ID in her bag and left the

when Bianca had come in, and she saw Bianca leaving through the frosted glass door. She faked a moan to show that she was having a lot

the moan and stopped in her

turned to look at the two overlapping figures in the bathroom and said with consideration, "I got the ID card. I'll be leaving. Don't worry, I'll close the door for the two of you on my way

Slam!

frosted glass door shook a little because Jean had hit the door with

that, a strange sound came from the woman's

frowned and looked at Jean who had suddenly withdrawn. She got angry immediately because she was afraid that Jean was affected by Bianca's presence. If that was the case, her plan to anger Bianca would have

on his pants immediately. The sound of him trying to fix his belt buckle was heard in the quiet house. He was very flustered and could not fasten his belt properly for quite

the door open and went out, completely ignoring the kneeling and pathetic-looking Marie who had just helped him. He furrowed his eyebrows as he looked at Bianca. He said in pain,

how Marie had cursed her dad to death on the phone. She could not help but glance at Jean who had obviously lost his hard-on. She smiled. "Getting so soft so soon? You're just in your 20s. I'm afraid your wife's future won't be

"Shut up, b*tch!"

Chapter 76

"But....."

Bianca was hesitant and had many concerns.

Today was the second day that she and Luke were officially dating. It was too soon to meet his family for dinner.

To be honest, she had not mentally prepared herself yet.

In addition to that, another very realistic and cruel problem was that Luke was way over her league in terms of their background.

"Don't feel pressured. In terms of our family, I'm actually no better than you. If you look into my family, we're basically the same." Luke guessed what she was concerned about.

"..."

Since he put it that way, there was no way Bianca could deny it.

Since getting the call from Luke, Bianca felt as if a big rock was pressed against her chest. She felt out of breath and assumed that weight would only be lifted once she met his family.

Her phone rang a few more times again. Bianca saw that they were all from Jean.

She did not answer nor decline.

She merely ignored the calls as if she never heard them.

At that moment, Bianca was grateful that Marie set up those fake acts to provoke her.

their passionate scene in the bathroom just now, Bianca finally understood Jean's other finally decided to let go of any

...

one side, Bianca agreed to go home with Luke for dinner. On the other side, the old man started getting busy while bursting with excitement. He was even more excited than celebrating the most auspicious time of the year, the Lunar New

everything goes well, we'll have another grandson in our house next year!" The old man finished his blabbering and swished his cane at Louis. "Now look at you! No fiancée to marry, no girlfriend, no kids! You're useless! Hurry up and go back to clean up the

only bringing a woman back at 29. Why are you rushing me? I'm a few years younger than him! Also, Grandpa, didn't you say that those old-fashioned furniture of yours is your favorite? You told me that you'd never change them!"

trying to kill me? Stop with that nonsense of yours!" The old man got so angry that he whacked him with his

...

they returned to the manor, Louis sat on the sofa and started his commands. The coffee table was replaced. The sofa was replaced. The dining table and everything else was also replaced. The simple quaint furniture was all replaced with Scandinavian-style

antique furniture, which the old man usually did not allow anyone to move, was packed up by his servants and carefully carried to the

four o'clock in the afternoon, the living room was completely refurbished under

came home from school and looked at the completely different living room in a daze. He said, "Grandpa, what's the matter? Where did our furniture

"**Your dad** will be bringing a lady back tonight. So, Rainie and Lanie, listen to your dad and your great-grandpa tonight. You mustn't be naughty, alright?" The old man smiled with his face full of wrinkles. He was also afraid that the two kids would hate their future **stepmother**.

"A lady?"

The little guy glanced at his sister.

"Grandpa, what is she called?" Rainie hugged her great-grandpa's thigh. She raised her head and asked him in a baby voice.

"*Her name...*" Grandpa frowned and thought about it carefully. Previously, he heard his grandson in the bathroom during a call. He had vaguely heard the name. He said, "Something, Biya..."

"Aunt Bea?" Blanche's eyes widened again.

The old man was surprised and lowered his head to ask his little great-grandson, "You know about this Aunt **Bea**?"

"Yeah!"

The people in the manor were busy coming in and out of the *place*.

The little guy stood in front of his very attentive great-grandfather and said, "We've been to Aunt Bea's place before. Bea was very nice to us and cooked for us. However, Dad was adamant and stayed over at her place."

"There's more." Rainie added on the side. "The last time Daddy took us on a business trip, all three of us slept in Aunt Bea's **room**."

When the old man heard that, he became energetic and raised his eyebrows. He asked, "What? Your daddy slept with someone right from *the start*?"

little kids nodded their

annoying. He always bullies Aunt Bea. Once, I saw my daddy bully Aunt Bea so much that he made

really worried about Aunt Bea. If she got married to him and ended up being bullied for a lifetime, it was better if they did not get married. After all, Daddy did not seem like a good

man leaned on his cane with both of his hands and sat upright on their new Scandinavian-style sofa. He was trying to figure out how deeply his grandson felt about

was the old man's son. He knew how Zachary chased Susan and made a promise to her, but he also ended up hurting her after they got

cried often because of that. Suddenly, half of her life was gone and dedicated

though his son died, his daughter-in-law, Susan, still wept whenever she thought about the past from time

man thought he knew his son but did not expect him to end up a scumbag. This time, he did not know his grandson at all. He was worried that this grandson of his would end up as a scumbag, hurting this Bea who seemingly cried because she was

went upstairs to look around. He came down and asked, "Where's

time, a black Mercedes stopped at the gate of the manor. The person who got out of the luxury car was none other than

are you drinking in the middle of the day?" Louis came out, frowned, and propped up Susan who was seemingly unsteady as she stepped out of the car. She was a second away from falling at the door and bumping

opened her eyes, looked at her son, and raised her hand to touch his face. She smiled and said, "My handsome son. You're no worse off than the son that lousy woman Allison gave birth

Chapter 77

When the two little kids went down, they saw a luxury car parked in front of the manor.

'A black Range Rover! Daddy's back!'

"Aunt Bea, we missed you..." The two kids ran out. The first thing Rainie did was hug Bianca who just came out of the car.

Bianca almost lost her balance. She squatted down to pat Rainie's chubby little cheeks. "I missed you too."

When the old man saw the perfect family scene, he was overjoyed. It seemed to him that his grandson's marriage was imminent.

If the adults agreed and the kids did not hate the stepmother, then there was nothing stopping them.

"The two of you, stand properly over there. Don't drag Aunt Bea that way." Luke stepped down from the car with his long legs and stared at the two clingy little kids with a serious face.

Rainie pursed her lips, snorted, and muttered, "Why is that you can hug her, but not us? Last time, you hugged Aunt Bea so hard that she cried..."

Luke, "..."

Bianca blushed awkwardly.

"So you're the Aunt Bea that the children always talk about. I have to say, Luke sure knows how to choose them." The old man rushed over and tried to curry his grandson's future wife's favor.

The old man straightened his back. He was wearing a pair of dark gray trousers, a mini checkered shirt, and a vest. He was dressed very dapperly and fashionably, just like an old man who came straight out of a French magazine.

stood up immediately and said respectfully, "Hello, Grandpa. I'm

come in and have a seat. These two children seem to know you very well. You guys seem close. I'm happy to see you guys getting along well." The old man treated Bea as if she was already his

came out to get gifts from the

that Bianca bought were not expensive things. Even though they were not luxury goods, the old man liked them very much when he saw them. He thought that Bea was a realistic person, not blandish. She did not try to be someone she was

made sure his mother was okay before he went

I'm Louis. I'm his half-brother. We share the same

was suddenly addressed as 'sister-in-law', stood up awkwardly. She knew that Luke had a younger brother, but she did not know much about the complicated relationships of the

really knew whether the tabloids were real or fake

my name's Bianca." Bianca

Everyone sat down and started talking.

Bianca to sit next to him. Whether it was Grandpa, the two little ones, or his half-brother with the same dad, Luke knew he had to filter and block some things before they got to her. He had to be the one who decided what questions they

old will you be this year?" the old man

"24 years old," Bianca answered.

"*Luke* is five years older than you? A difference of five years sounds great. Here, I have an article to show you guys," the old man said as he dug out a newspaper from the drawer of the coffee table and handed it to Bianca.

Louis was speechless and thought that his grandpa surely had his tricks up his *sleeves*.

Their coffee table was brand new, so why would there be a newspaper in the drawer? He knew straight away that his grandpa had known about their five-year age difference and prepared something **in advance**.

Bianca took a look at it.

According to the newspaper, a study showed that relationships where the man was 5 years older than the woman were the least likely to have conflicts. Apparently, those marriages ended up well and were relatively much *more stable*.

"Where's Grandma?" Blanche asked with furrowed *brows*.

He looked very serious as if he was the one who cared most about Aunt Bea's official visit to *the house*.

Luke glanced at his son and noticed that he was wearing a small black suit with a white shirt and a bow tie. If anyone saw him, they would think that he was the one who was supposed to bring his wife to meet his family that *day*.

"You've got hairspray all over your head. Aren't you worried that flies that land on your head are going to slip and fall to their death?" Louis touched the back of his little nephew's black hair and said, "Did you finish up the entire can of *my hairspray*?"

Blanche thought that his uncle was reckless and had spoiled his image in front of his entire family on this occasion. Furthermore, he was embarrassed that his uncle did this in front of **Aunt Bea**.

empathetic Aunt Bea smiled at him and even stretched out her hand to pull him away from

got to sit next to Aunt Bea. Blanche peeked at his dad who glared at him with his cold stare. However, he did not hold back. Even though that was his dad, he stared right back as if saying, 'I bet you wish you were me at my

man was afraid that Bianca would misunderstand the situation to mean that the family did not take her seriously. He explained. "Luke's mother has a very important fashion party to attend today. It's my fault for failing to do the proper scheduling. When I heard that Luke had a girlfriend, I was too excited to meet you. I should've let you choose when you wanted to do

Luke's mother will be

seen Luke's mother in a magazine before. Every time a noblewoman or an A-lister were invited to a party, Allison would always be invited as

about to say it was okay when she heard the sound of a car at

back?" Rainie got out of her great-grandfather's arms and ran to the door to

got out of the car and walked

down what she was about to say and stood up when Luke

Bea is here..." Rainie said as she went outside to hold onto her grandma's LV bag. She slid it across her short chubby

in with a big smile on her face and said to the female stranger, "Sorry to keep you waiting, I didn't know you

no problem. We just got here. Everything was in a rush and I didn't get to tell you in advance as well," Bianca said politely and accepted Allison's

Chapter 78

"Are you... Luke's girlfriend that he brought to introduce to us?" Susan asked with tears in her eyes.

"How's your family background? If you're wronged by your future husband after your marriage, will your family be able to support you?"

Bianca did not know how to answer her.

When Louis introduced himself, he said that he was Luke's half-brother and that they shared the same dad.

That might mean that the middle-aged woman wearing the Gucci custom-made qipao once shared the same man with Luke's mother, Allison.

Susan looked at the big family gathered together and walked toward Bianca with the stench of alcohol on her.

"Be careful." Bianca quickly propped Susan up with agility when she was about to fall.

Susan leaned on the sofa while being supported by Bianca. She frowned uncomfortably and said, "By the looks of your appearance, I can tell that you probably come from an average family. I advise you to know better and not to marry into the Crawford family."

"Go back to your room upstairs!" the old man stood up and shouted. He was angry!

"No!" Susan looked at the old man with a ferocious look in her eyes. Every time she got drunk, she always said the same thing for everyone to hear. She repeated for the nth time, "The person who should leave is Allison! I'm Zachary's first wife!"

Susan's eyes burned with jealousy as she pointed at Allison. She wanted to humiliate her. "You b*tch! Who are you trying to fool by sitting there quietly? You're just a go-go girl who sold her body at the club! I wonder how many guys you've had sex with before you came into the Crawford family. You're lucky that Zachary was blind enough to not notice the cheap wh*re that you are!"

Bianca glanced at Luke blankly.

sat on the sofa with a calm demeanor. Even though his brows were furrowed unhappily, he did not try to stop Susan's shenanigans. He merely lit a cigarette, closed his eyes, and took

suddenly remembered what he had said to her on the

feel pressured. In terms of our families, I'm actually no better than you. If you look into my family, we're basically the same." That was what Luke had said to

sure you want to marry into the Crawford family?" Susan looked at Bianca and persuaded with all her heart. "My child, the Crawford family is indeed a very famous family in this city. The top of the top, in fact. But if you marry into this rich family, it's equivalent to walking into an icy cold tomb. Your husband won't care about you and your relatives won't sympathize with

point is the mistresses who will be waiting to pounce on your husband. It doesn't matter how inferior they are, or how low their wages are. Perhaps, it might even be a go-go dancer in the club who lets men

touch her. A man will still take her hand and treat her as his baby. As for us wives, all we can do is be an honest wife and stay at home. We're expected to be considerate of our husbands having their gay time outside, and maybe even ask him if he had fun." Toward the end of her speech, Susan grabbed Bianca's

is getting more and more absurd!" The old man slammed his cane on

old man lifted his head and softened his tone when he said to Bianca, "Bea, your aunt has had too much to drink. Don't take what she says

Bianca looked at the old man.

get self-conceited just because of your seniority. Don't you know that you're helping your son's mistress discredit your daughter-in-law?" Susan got up and shouted, "A fish rots from the head

you want to cause trouble, please do it at another time!" Louis was so angry that he bear-hugged his mother with all his strength and led her toward the

nanny was called over to help him. The two of them had to drag and pull her up before Susan was

Meanwhile, Bianca, who was downstairs, could still hear the sound of things being thrown upstairs.

After Louis went upstairs, he did not come back down. It was probably because he was worried that his mother would do **something crazy**.

Boohoo! Her cries resounded through *the manor*.

Luke hinted at Bianca to take the two little kids out to play.

A field of flowers was planted at the manor. At dusk, the bees continued to diligently collect **their nectar**.

Rainie looked at the bees and muttered, "They're always buzzing. Aunt Bea, do they eat the nectar immediately after they harvest **it?**"

Bianca was lost in her head because of everything, so she did not hear what Rainie asked.

"*Auntie* Bea?" Rainie crouched down and raised her head to ask.

"**Yes?**" Bianca asked. She finally returned to **her senses**.

"*Aunt Bea*, what's a go-go dancer at a club who lets men touch her? Why did Grandma Susan say that about Grandma?" the little girl asked innocently.

Susan was so fierce. She

then Grandma was splashed with red juice on her face by Grandma Susan.'

not know who had it worse. 'Poor Grandma or poor Grandma

crouched down and hugged Rainie's small body. She kissed her on her cheek and said, "If the adults quarrel, just forget what they say after the fight. Let's count to three. We forget everything after three, okay?"

closed her eyes happily and counted. "One, two, three... Aunt Bea, I've forgotten all

done well, Rainie." Bianca gave the child a tighter hug. She reached her other free hand toward Lanie who had been quiet the whole time. "You have to forget

guy nodded, but his brows were still tightly

did not feel bad for any of the adults in the room. The only people she felt bad for were the two little kids in front of her. They should be innocent at this age, but they were stuck listening to a family who always said horrible words to each

had the right to vent, but only at the right time and

witnessed the horrible things that happened in a wealthy family, Bianca held the two little kids. She could not help but wonder how her own kid was doing. She wondered if her kid's family environment was as unhappy as theirs, or if it was the complete opposite and that her kid was living happily.

that the family did not eat together for dinner that

Chapter 79

"Oh, it's nothing. I just think that it's a rare surname." Allison was a woman who had seen the world. Even though she was turbulent internally, she looked as if nothing was bothering her on the outside.

'Bianca Rayne.'

Allison repeated the name in her head.

Bianca looked at Allison one last time. She did not think too much about it. There were many people with her surname in her country, but a typical person would not know too many people with that surname.

Since elementary school up to her working life, the people around her only knew one person, which was her, with her surname.

Allison looked at her son leaving with Bianca.

After his car left, Allison was the only one left standing in the garden of the manor.

After a while, Allison took her phone out.

She looked back to make sure no one was around her before Allison walked far away toward the swimming pool. She called the person she hated the most.

"Sorry, the number you have dialed is unavailable..."

When she heard a beep, she got annoyed and furrowed her brows. She dialed the number again.

She called the number so many times that her hands started to shake, but his phone was still turned off!

...

Luke brought Bianca and the two kids to a high-end apartment in the city center.

place was 210 square meters. It was luxuriously decorated and was at a

haven't you taken us here before?" Blanche walked around the whole place. When he turned back, he raised his head and asked Daddy who was seated on

looked at his son casually and said, "I bought

don't want to go home anymore?"

This location makes it easier for me to go to the

that... It's not far from our school, right?" Blanche said as he tried to recall. "I looked at the streets on the way here. When Uncle Jason took to us elementary school last time, he took this road there and it took less time to get to

apartment was located at the most central point in the city center. Traveling anywhere was really convenient. Blanche had indeed remembered it correctly. It was very close to the

are you trying to say?" Luke clasped his fingers together and looked deeply at his

mean, this is a big house. It has three rooms and is quite spacious. Are Rainie and I going to be living here together with you?" Blanche said and looked in the direction of the bathroom. "I've thought it through. Aunt Bea will stay in one room, you and I will stay in another room, and finally, Rainie will stay in another room all

Rainie, who was washing her face in the bathroom, exploded and said, "I want to stay with Aunt Bea and sleep with Aunt Bea in

said promptly, "Aunt Bea has a place of her own to stay in. The rent has been paid for half a

Luke glanced at his son sullenly.

He had ruined his plans.

did I accidentally ruin your plans?" Blanche felt very guilty when he heard Aunt Bea say that she could not

Bianca finished washing Rainie's pale little face and wiped it. She put the towel away after drying her.

"*Aunt Bea*, please move here and stay with us." To melt his dad's ice-cold eyes, Blanche went and hugged Bea who just came out of the toilet. He rubbed his head on her and begged her.

"You saw how it is at my home. I don't want to go back anymore. But if we stay here, we'll be stuck looking at Daddy's grumpy face. His face looks as if we owe him a million bucks in his past life. He might starve us to **death...**"

Blanche said pitifully.

Bianca thought about the best alternative. She crouched down and said, "Since this place is on my way to work every day, how about this? I'll come over every morning to make breakfast for you guys so that I can make sure that you're well taken of before going to school."

Blanche wanted to negotiate the deal, but he knew better than to force Bianca to do something that she did not want. He knew that forcing anything would not do anyone good and it might even backfire.

...

Afterward, they had their dinner outside. When Bianca looked at the time, she knew it was time to go back home.

...

It was past midnight and Blanche, who had just moved houses, could not sleep well.

He went to the living room and used the remote control to open **the curtains**.

The little guy laid in front of the French windows and furrowed his eyebrows when he looked at the night view **outside**.

"*Shouldn't* you be in bed?" Luke got up from his bed and lit a cigarette when he saw his son. He tossed his lighter on the coffee table in the living room and walked outside to the balcony where he sat **down**.

Blanche followed his dad out and asked, "Dad, are you **angry**?"

I be angry about?" Luke raised his eyebrows but did not look at

angry that Aunt Bea doesn't want to live here?" Blanche said sensibly, "Daddy, you mustn't be too selfish. We should think of it from Aunt Bea's perspective. Why must she be obliged to take care of a second-hand husband and his kids leftover from the first marriage?"

'A second-hand husband?'

finally turned his head to look at his son. He said with disdain, "Wow, it seems like kids who have never been to elementary school are

speechless when his dad looked down on him and made a comment that was uncalled for, calling him uncultured.

months, he would be enrolled in elementary school! Therefore, Blanche would have to endure his father's humiliation for the

it, Blanche could not help but retaliate before going back to the room to sleep. "You went to elementary school and got into Oxford University with your straight As, but you're almost 30 years old and haven't gotten yourself a wife yet... I'm sure I'll do better than you when I grow

Luke, "..."

little guy rushed and stomped back into his room, closed the door, and locked it behind him. He was afraid that his dad might be provoked and beat

...

the morning the next day, Bianca went

was on the way, Nina sent her to the hospital. As Bianca was getting out of the car, Nina said, "Are you seriously going to make lunch for your boss' kids after you visit your dad? I can't believe you're becoming their stepmother

nothing, lowered her head, and unfastened her seat

tell me." Nina held the steering wheel with one hand and smiled suggestively as she teased. "You're willing to calmly endure our boss' two kids and even volunteered to take care of them as if they're your kids... Oh, my dear Bea, you're taking on the role of the stepmother so quickly, but what's the progress of taking on the role of his wife? You and our boss, have you guys... Well..."

Chapter 80

After recovering from the violent coughs, Kevin said, "Can you apply for leave these two days... To visit Luojiazhen? Your grandfather is in the old house, and Marie's mom might also be going there..."

"Grandpa?" Bianca was surprised.

'Didn't Grandpa go to Japan with Dad's sister? When did he come back?'

Kevin held his daughter's hand because he was worried that she would get angry. He coughed and told her everything weakly. After he told her everything, the doctor came in just in time.

The doctor was there to do the daily monitoring and examination.

"Dad, I have to go first," Bianca said.

Kevin nodded.

She was lost in her thoughts as she tried to digest what her dad told her about Grandpa. She walked out of the hospital.

In the ward, Kevin stretched one arm over to let the doctor draw his blood while his other picked up his ringing cell phone.

"Hello, this is Kevin." Kevin was focused on the needle sticking into his arm and did not see who was calling before he picked up.

Allison's voice sounded as if she had not drunk water in days. "What's your daughter's name?"

"Why are you asking?" Kevin's tone changed.

When she asked about that, Kevin got mad when he realized the rude person on the line was Allison!

When the child was growing up, she who was the mother had never asked what the child's name was!

"Stop the nonsense and just tell me!" Allison yelled like a madwoman.

Rayne. Her first name is Bianca, meaning white because I wanted my daughter to grow up pure, white, and clean, unlike you! You dirty and filthy woman!" After Kevin scolded her, he gasped for a few seconds to regain his breath. "Go ahead, tell me what you're planning this

At the Crawford Manor.

phone in Allison's hand slipped from her hand because her fingers had suddenly become

The phone fell onto the ground.

'Bianca.'

said that his daughter's name was

all of this part of Bianca's plan to take revenge against her

'Was her visit premeditated?'

mockingly. 'Bianca, you're just 24 years old, but it seems that your pure face isn't how you are inside! It seems that you've played

...

only got up in the morning when he received a call

I promised to go over and make breakfast for you guys, but it seems like I'm caught in a bit of a hurry. I won't be able to make it. Can you tell Lanie and Rainie for me?" After Bianca said that, she hung up

head of the design department had not arrived at the office yet, so Bianca had to make a call about her

thought about Grandpa who she had not seen for more than five years. Her hands trembled as her tears flowed out without warning. An old man in his 70s and in poor health was living alone in a

Grandpa had raised her since she was *a baby*.

Grandpa was the closest person to her, even more so than *her dad*.

On the way back to the rental house, she made several phone calls in the taxi to apply for her leave. She told her head of department the reason as well as made sure her team leader, Sue, knew about it too. Lastly, she told Nina that she would not be back that night and that she would be away for a few *days*.

When Luke tried to call Bianca, her line was **busy**.

Bianca bought a high-speed rail ticket on her mobile phone and chose the **express ticket**.

She quickly packed up a few clothes and daily necessities before going out in **a hurry**.

A few years ago, her aunt took Grandpa to stay with her because he did not want to stay with his son. It was because it was hard to get along with Jennifer, his daughter-in-law. The old man was worried that if he lived with a daughter-in-law like her, he might not be able to live a **long life**.

However, her aunt who was in a good marriage was suddenly abandoned by her husband and had to leave Japan.

The old man who was being taken care of by his son-in-law suddenly had nowhere to go. The son-in-law did one last thing for him and got someone to send the old man back **to China**.

Bianca was a little mad at her dad about this *matter*.

'**Why** should Grandpa live in the old broken house in the small town? How bad is it that you can't trouble Jennifer and Marie to take Grandpa to A City to live **with us**?'

She embarked on the high-speed rail back to LuoJiazhen in *a hurry*.

The train station was sketchy and had a lot of thieves. Bianca had to make sure she was attentively protecting her little luggage.

After she got into the coach safely, Bianca took out her notebook and started working. She put her earphones on so that she was not distracted by the **outside noises**.

got busy for a while, she suddenly felt hungry. She took out a sandwich from her bag that she had

got on the train at 9:20 o'clock and finally arrived in Luojiazhen at 11 o'clock. After she packed her stuff up, Bianca took her luggage and computer bag before leaving

had not changed much. When she tried to recall, she could still remember her surroundings. It made her she looked at the small town where she was born and raised, somehow, the tears welled up in

bucks per person!" The dark-skinned uncle hollered at the people leaving the

Bianca got into a taxi.

were four people in the taxi and each of them paid

minutes, Bianca arrived at the entrance of the old

The two-story building was very dilapidated.

took a deep breath, stepped on the weeds growing from the cracks between the old bricks on the ground, and dragged her luggage

pushed open the iron gate and saw the red-bricked front yard. The weeds in the yard were not very high, and there were traces of them having been cut. As she continued inside, a cloud of choking smoke filled

she walked into the house, she saw Grandpa's

man coughed non-stop, and his old eyes were red from the smoke coming out of the stove pit. His tears flowed down his cheeks. There was a bowl of rice and a bowl of leftover vegetables in the black

that the leftover bowl of vegetables had been reheated a lot of times because there was barely any oil left in the vegetable