

Be Gentle 711

Chapter 711

Ray sat on the other end of the couch. Bianca was surprised that Percy was there too.

Ray was dressed in a black dress shirt and a pair of dark blue jeans. He did not look as intimidating as usual, but instead, he looked like a gentleman.

Percy was dressed in a white shirt, which made his already fair skin seem even fairer.

He smiled gently when he saw Bianca. "Long time no see, Sis."

Bianca returned the greeting. "You're here in Moscow too, Mr. Mallory."

The woman's smile was warm and charming, which made the two men dumbfounded for a moment.

Bianca was not the most beautiful woman in Moscow, but she could be considered good-looking. She was not as unrestrained as Eastern European women, but she had a different, enigmatic charm.

Bianca had a face that both men and women loved. She seemed docile and adorable.

Her eyes were big and round, and her pupils were like black moons that sparkled brightly when she looked at people.

Her smile was sweet and refreshing, and it could melt the steeliest heart.

Luke lounged lazily on the couch. His expression sank when he saw his wife smiling at his good friends.

He did not like his woman smiling at other people, even if they were his best

"Come here!" Luke beckoned at Bianca.

He nodded at Ray, then walked toward

she got near, Luke pulled her hand and sat her down on his

he lifted her delicate chin and gently kissed her on her lips. "Have you dealt with that kid

"..." Ray and Percy were speechless.

people looked at the couple jealously. Had they

was embarrassed when she realized that other people were nearby. "Tommy is still throwing his tantrum... There are people around, don't be

you care about them? They're still single, and they can't appreciate the intimacy between husband and wife." Luke

hugged Bianca as though hugging the most precious treasure in the world, his eyes were brimming

The two single men could only grit their teeth in silence.

Not only was their serious discussion interrupted, but Luke had also shown off in front of them. They wanted to punch that smug grin off his *face*!

After kissing Bianca for a while more, Luke spoke, "Let's continue with our *discussion*."

Bianca showed up while they were discussing how to deal with the League of Shadows.

Luke did not forget about serious business, even though he would rather spend more time with his wife. After all, he had wasted two years in that living hell, and he was more than eager to witness their *destruction*.

He might have escaped from the island, but countless other innocent lives **did not**.

What was more horrifying was that every year, the League of Shadows would abduct countless young men and women from all over the world to undergo a hellish training regimen on the island, but less than 1% of the people survived. That was how inhuman the *organization* was.

Percy sat cross-legged on the massage chair.

He glanced at Bianca sitting on Luke's lap and rubbed his chin thoughtfully. "Luke, is it appropriate for Sis to listen to our *conversation*?"

To Percy, Bianca was a weak and delicate woman. She might be as assertive as Luke when managing the company, but she was nonetheless a woman. There were gruesome details in their discussion that might *traumatize her*.

bit her lip and said to Luke determinedly, "It's fine. I want to know what happened to you over the past two

was missing from her side for two years. Bianca would not want to miss any chance of finding out what happened to

her tightly, kissed her gently, and his

was innocent and pure, but his hands had been tainted by the blood of many lives. As much as he wanted to live a normal life, he was forced by circumstances beyond his control to kill and maim. He did not want her to see that dark side of

saw Bianca's eager gaze and acquiesced to her

...

LCD screen in the hall lit up. Luke's fingers danced rapidly on his laptop keyboard, entering multiple complicated commands. Soon, the hacked computer entered secure

cursor flitted about, a video soon appeared on the

to record some footage on the Island of Despair before I left. This'll serve as

video, countless young men and women were imprisoned on the Island of Despair and underwent a hellish training regimen to hone their assassination and combat skills. Ambushing and killing each other was an everyday occurrence, and one would lose their life if they were not

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Bianca turned around and stared at Luke's handsome face. She wanted to cry when she saw how concerned he was for her.

She had thought of many possibilities, but she had not imagined that Luke would be living under such treacherous circumstances for the past two years.

Her heart wrenched when she imagined him undergoing the inhuman tortures like in the video.

A pair of immaculately sculpted hands gently wiped away her tears. "I'm fine, silly girl."

Bianca reached out to tear away Luke's clothes as though she had gone mad. "No! I want to see if there are any scars on your body. I want to know what they have done to you in the past two years..."

Bianca was too caught up in the passion while they were in bed last night. She regretted not showing enough concern for the condition of his body!

Luke encircled Bianca's waist tightly, grabbed her hands, planted a gentle kiss on her forehead, and comforted her with a smile. "I'm really fine, Bea. I wouldn't be standing in front of you if something had happened to me. This will soon pass. Believe me."

Bianca was comforted by his words.

She knew she had nearly lost control of her emotions earlier.

Bianca rested her cheek on his chest. She wanted to smile, but tears welled up in her eyes instead. "Don't lie to me. You must have been hurt badly in that inhuman place... Let me look at your body, alright, Luke?" She said carefully.

gently pinched her cheek and smiled. "I'll tell you what happened in the past two years when we have the time. Please don't cry, alright? You're already the mother of three children, so aren't you ashamed that you're still a crybaby? Tommy will laugh at you if he sees you like

he had many scars hidden under his shirt, and he did not want Bianca to see his battered self. He was not afraid that Bianca might think that his body was unsightly, but he did not want her to be sad

blew her nose in embarrassment. "I... I'm only worried about

carefully wiped the corners of her mouth

up a glass with warm water and watched as she gargled. "You're already a mother, and you shouldn't cry so easily. Show to our children that you're

Bianca cleaned her mouth, she took several deep breaths and managed to suppress the urge to here, Luke. You should

had vomited all over the place earlier. Even she was beginning to

not seem to mind. He picked her up in a bridal carry and said, "You're my wife, and you've waited for me even though everyone else thought that I'm dead. Why would I find you dirty?"

Bianca's face was reflected in the man's obsidian pupils. His curved lips were brimming with indulgence.

The man might be cold toward other people, but he loved and doted upon Bianca unconditionally.

Bianca thought that he would never let go of *her anymore*.

Luke sent Bianca to the bedroom, then picked up Tommy, who was playing with his toys on the carpet, and placed him next to Bianca.

He returned to the front hall and continued the discussion with Ray and Percy about eliminating the League of *Shadows*.

The other two men had very good reasons to help Luke. If the League of Shadows were gone, Ray would be able to rule over Eastern Europe, while Percy could expand his influence beyond the continent.

Conflicts among underworld forces were a regular *occurrence*.

Now that Luke had infiltrated the League of Shadows and had a complete understanding of their operations and organizational structure, they soon formulated the perfect **plan**.

...

been busy for the past few days. He was enacting his grand plan of revenge with the help of Ray and stayed in Vivian's mansion. She was

in the mansion were tighter since the last abduction. Her freedom was restricted to ensure the safety of herself and her child, and she had to stay in her room at all

she had her laptop, her phone, and the Internet to pass

also knew how to entertain his mother. Without him, she would have been bored out of

not expect to meet Nina in Moscow. What was more surprising was the fact that Percy had brought

wore light makeup when she arrived at Vivian's mansion. That gave her plain face some

hugged Bianca tightly the moment the two women met. "I told you that you shouldn't have come to Moscow alone, you silly girl, but you don't listen... I've heard from Percy that you and Tommy were abducted by the people from the League of Shadows and nearly lost your lives. How could you be so careless? I was so shocked... Fortunately, you're fine. Otherwise, I wouldn't know how sad I'll

her best friend's hand and spoke hoarsely, "Alright, alright, I turned out fine, isn't it? I don't regret coming here to look for Luke, and indeed, I received the best surprise. I managed to find

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Bianca noticed the change in Nina's expression and realized that she should not have asked that question.

"I'm sorry, Nina, I... I shouldn't have asked that. Did Percy threaten you?" She said, a little flustered.

She knew what happened to Nina. That b*stard Pierre had ruined her.

Unfortunately, Percy was Pierre's elder brother.

It was a complicated relationship.

Nina stood at the window and stared at the sun outside. The golden sun rays caused her eyes to hurt.

She tried to fight the agony in her heart and spoke gently, "It's nothing. There are certain things in our lives that we can't control. I'm fine, you don't have to worry about me. I'm immune to a man's charms now. After what happened to me, the defenses around my heart are like iron walls, and I'm a better judge of character now. I won't get hurt that easily."

"I'm sorry. If I hadn't..." Bianca felt even guiltier than ever.

If not for her, Nina might have still been that cheerful and outgoing girl.

Nina pretended to glare angrily at her and pinched her arm. "Hey, it's already been so long in the past. Why do you have to mention it? I've almost forgotten about it, and thanks to you, those wounds have become fresh again!"

was her best friend. Nina would not

was the one who came up with the plan of following Xavier to find evidence for

was unfortunate to have met with Pierre, that wretch. It had nothing to do

Crawford had given her two million dollars as compensation after he found out what happened to her. Nina was already quite grateful for

when Bianca became the CEO of T Corporation, she had always helped Nina at work. Putting it in another way, Nina had benefited a lot from their

Nina, Bianca was already very kind to her. If Bianca continued to feel guilty, Nina would be

stared at Nina. She knew that Nina did not want her to

out and grabbed Nina's icy fingers. "You have to tell me if you have any difficulties. I might not be able to protect you from everything, but I'll help you wherever I can. This is my eternal promise to you,

Bianca and said softly, "You're too nice to me, Bea. I'm grateful

...

In the late afternoon, Percy's bodyguards brought Nina *away*.

Bianca sat in the living room and slowly exhaled. She felt that the atmosphere was stifling.

The air was warm, but she felt as though her body was covered in *crushed ice*.

She could not help but think of Nina's ordeal. How could the kind and down-to-earth Nina suffer such bad luck? Why must Percy be the one to fall in love with her? She would rather that man be anyone else in the **world!**

Bianca had always been prejudiced against Percy, perhaps because of her hatred *toward Pierre*.

Percy might be a fiendishly handsome man, and he was faithful and loyal to his friends, but he was ruthless and untamed. Moreover, he was an underworld crime lord with blood on his hands, while Nina was pure and innocent. They did not belong in the **same world**.

Bianca would rather match Nina with Johann, who was **more down-to-earth**.

Moreover, Johann was a world-renowned doctor and psychologist. He would be able to help Nina with her past traumas.

However, Percy was a possessive man. From their interactions earlier, Bianca could tell that Nina was not happy being *with Percy*.

Should she ask Luke for help?

did, she might cause a rift between Percy and Luke. The two men were fighting against the League of Shadows, and it would be incredibly disadvantageous if they quarreled with

the other hand, Bianca felt uneasy when she saw Nina living under Percy's

What should she do?

on the couch and massaged her temples, trying to clear

to think of

always thought that she was the culprit of Nina's suffering. She had brought dark clouds to Nina's cheerful and sunny life, and she had to be responsible for what happened to Nina. Call it guilt or atonement, she wanted Nina to be able to live the rest of her life

Bianca was deep in thought, her phone that she placed beside her started to

saw that it was from her aunt and quickly answered it. "Hello,

are you coming back, Bea?" On the other end of the call, Wanda sounded like she was

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Bianca tried dialing Luke's number, but somehow, she could not get through no matter how many times she tried.

Worriedly, she tried to contact Percy, but she could not get through to him either.

Without any other choice, she dialed Ray's number.

The call went through, but Ray seemed to be occupied with something. Bianca could hear explosions and agonized wails on the other end of the call.

"I'm very busy now, Sis. I'll call you later," Ray said hurriedly.

Then, he immediately hung up.

Bianca was angry, frustrated, and worried, but she had no other choice.

Selena noticed Bianca's unease and tried to comfort her, "Don't be too anxious, Sis. They must be in the middle of a critical operation now. Otherwise, they would have answered your call."

"Mm," Bianca replied carelessly, at the same time silently praying that they would be safe.

She did not want them to be separated again right after the reunion.

...

Meanwhile, in the Troitsky Administrative Okrug in Moscow, a black Cadillac was parked outside the Civil Aviation Building. Several fully-armed special police officers were lying in wait.

back seat of the Cadillac, Luke sent the last encrypted file with his laptop and breathed a sigh of a button on his wireless communicator to connect to Ray and Percy. "Robert is a cunning man. Be very days ago, he had handed all the evidence of Robert's crimes to the Russian

had sent shockwaves throughout the

one of the most influential senators in the Russian government, and he was also a well-known philanthropist. He had maintained a positive image in public, and he was even the role model of many

one expected that a high-ranked politician like Robert could lead an inhuman assassin organization in the shadows. Furthermore, he had channeled large amounts of money from charity drives toward his

had attracted the attention of Russia's Federal Security

launched an investigation on Robert and his organization and found even more shocking truths. They wanted to arrest Robert, but Robert had caught wind of it and

cooperating with the Federal Security Service to arrest

like a ticking time bomb. Luke would not be able to rest at ease if he did not see that evil

was lost in thought, the Russian special police captain thumped on the car window and said determinedly, "Aren't we only dealing with a senator, Mr. Crawford? We've already stationed our men at every street corner. He won't be able

"Don't underestimate him. He managed his organization while maintaining a public guise, and your government didn't notice anything." Just when Luke finished speaking, he saw a tall man with a beard running across the street while carrying a *black briefcase*.

A dozen heavily armed men in black were following *behind him*.

The man was in his forties, and he was dressed in a proper suit even though he was running away. Luke could recognize that the man was Robert behind the sunglasses *and scarf*.

Luke knew that Robert was obsessed with maintaining a proper appearance. He would not allow himself to look disheveled even if he was running away for his *life*.

"Target appeared. Give chase!"

"Faster!" Luke urged the driver.

The Cadillac roared to life and gave the running middle-aged man a shock.

He turned around, went pale, and ran even **faster**.

The men in black behind him opened fire at Luke's car.

Robert and his men ran toward the expressway while the Cadillac dodged the gunfire and gave chase.

A patrol car happened to pass by, and the police officer inside shouted, "Hold it! What's going **on?**"

of the special police officers flashed his ID. "Those are fugitives, and the person in the lead is Robert, a wanted criminal.

the patrol officer could react, the men in black turned around and fired their guns at

the man in front continued to run. His cap and sunglasses were blown away by the wind, and his graying hair and wrinkled forehead were

saw the man's sinister eyes, he was even more sure that the man was

the driver to move

sped forward, and the car skidded. The tires screeched, and the car stopped in front of the

hundred special police officers received the order. They got out of their hiding positions and surrounded the

that he had nowhere to run, "Robert" fired wildly at the special police officers with a machine gun. Then, he tried to break through

of special police officers quickly caught up from behind, pinned Robert on the floor, and handcuffed people breathed a sigh of relief. Their mission was

Luke tore off Robert's scarf, he realized that the top half of the man's face was covered with a skin-colored mask. The man's eyes and scalp were just like Robert's, but his nose and mouth showed that he was a totally

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Luke extended his hand to the driver. "Let me use your phone."

The back of his hand was grazed. The skin and flesh were visible, and it was covered in sticky red and white liquid. It looked quite horrifying.

The driver handed the phone to him while frowning. "Mr. Crawford, do you think you should attend to the wound on your hand..."

Luke wagged his hand at him and dialed a phone number.

"It's me, Bea..." The man's icy voice instantly became warm and gentle.

Bianca told him all about Old Master Rayne, and Luke's expression became solemn like never before. "Don't worry, wait for me at home. I'll go back this instant."

...

As Luke drove at full speed, he thought about how to capture Robert and, at the same time, wondered how he could bring Bianca out of Russia safely.

The Russian government had found and destroyed the League of Shadows's headquarters, but Robert, the mastermind behind the organization had escaped. As long as Robert roamed free, he would pose a threat to Luke and his family.

Robert was a cunning, merciless, and vengeful individual. He would definitely want to take revenge on Luke and his family. Luke did not want that possibility to happen.

On the other hand, Old Master Rayne was an important relative to Bianca. Now that his life was in danger, he had to make sure that Bianca could meet him before he passed away.

aged in Luke's head. When he thought about how helpless Bianca might be at home waiting for him, he floored the

arrived at the house, he could see through the car window that Bianca was playing in the sandbox

attention was obviously not focused on Tommy. She kept on glancing at the door, as though waiting for his

saw his car drive into the driveway, Bianca stood up immediately and rushed to greet him.

the car there. He did not drive it into

stole a glance at the wound on his neck through the rearview mirror, saw that it was not too serious, and opened the

stepped out of the

into his embrace, and her eyes transfixed on his face. She inadvertently noticed the wound on his

wanted to touch it, but she did not want to hurt

you hurt? I tried to call you, but I couldn't reach

Bianca hugged his waist and said softly, "Don't you know how worried I was? I was afraid that something might happen to you again."

Luke's waist was also injured. When Bianca hugged him tightly, he felt as though a nail was hammered into his skin, which made him wince with *pain*.

However, in the next second, his expression returned to normal. "I was busy, and I didn't notice that my phone ran out of battery."

"**What happened** to your neck? Are you hurt elsewhere?"

Bianca took his hand nervously. She nearly burst into tears again when she saw the injuries on the back of his hand. "Why are you so careless? Does it hurt? Let me put some ointment on it *for you*."

"**Don't worry**, it's just a graze. I've already disinfected it with **alcohol**."

Bianca grabbed his arm and noticed the various wounds on it. She remembered that his hands used to be fair and delicate, but now they were rough and calloused. She could tell that he had been through *a lot*.

Her heart wrenched when she thought of *that*.

Bianca shared Luke's pain even though the wound was not on her body. Without saying another word, she pulled Luke to the *bedroom*.

Tommy was playing in the sandbox in the front yard. He saw Mommy pulling Daddy into *the bedroom*.

noticed the wound on Daddy's hand and furrowed his handsome brows. Unlike before, he did not treat his father with

had managed to convince Tommy that Luke was his father, though the little boy was not going to admit it that

had said that Daddy was a superhero. How could superheroes bleed

In the room.

hurt, Luke? You must tell me if it hurts." Bianca took the first aid kit. She carefully disinfected the wound and bandaged it for Luke. Her heart was at her

had a fully-equipped infirmary with all sorts of medicines and medical apparatus because Gordan was always injured by

was somewhat amused by Bianca's display of care toward

suffered worse injuries, including those that nearly cost him his life. If he could bear with that, a graze on the back of his hand was really

same time, he was grateful that Bianca cared for him. He gently pinched her nose and said, "It doesn't hurt at all, really. Look at me, I'm totally

a little angry that he did not seem to care that his body was injured. She pinched the wound that she had

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Luke knew that Robert was a cunning and dangerous individual who had always been careful to leave no traces. Otherwise, why would the Russian government not have evidence of his crimes for so many years?

Moreover, Ray and Percy had not managed to stop him, which was further proof of his insidiousness.

It would be risky for Bianca and Luke to leave Moscow now, but Old Master Rayne might not be able to wait. They had to return to A City as soon as possible.

If Luke had to choose between staying and leaving, he would not hesitate to choose the latter.

"I'll have to bring Bianca back to A City tonight no matter what, Ray. According to my estimates, Robert should be most likely in..." Luke discussed discreetly with Ray.

He closed his eyes, hoping that his information would be helpful to Ray and Percy in capturing Robert.

...

Meanwhile, in a secret room in Robert's mansion.

The atmosphere was fraught with hostility.

A tall and muscular man with graying hair, dressed in an extravagant suit, was sitting in the seat of authority.

His subordinates, kneeling on one knee in front of him, dared not make a sound.

old man pressed his lips together. There were several faint gashes on his

his face look more horrifying and sinister

of you are useless. You let a traitor destroy us from within, and you haven't managed to capture him. What use do I have for all of you?" He

kneeling closest to the old man, felt a slap on her face. "That b*stard Matthew would have been long dead if not for you. You've harbored him and caused the fall of the

looked at Robert in fear. She wanted to struggle, but she stopped doing so when she thought of Robert's cruel

she tried to speak up for herself. "Godfather, Matthew is a financial genius. Because of his existence in the organization, our company rose from anonymity and became one of Russian's top three companies in only two years. You cannot deny that he has brought us massive financial benefits. That was the reason why I kept him alive. Otherwise, I won't have any use for a useless

not expect that her hypnosis did not work on that man, much less how he had pretended to be brainwashed for two years and managed to escape. He

chuckled sinisterly. His brown eyes were as sharp as a falcon's gaze. "Anyone who betrays me must die! Hmph, that kid won't be able to take down the organization that I have built up after so many years, just like no one would expect that this wanted man is brazenly sitting in his

always believed that the most dangerous place was also the

was why he decided to hide in his own

Matthew's men and the Federal Security Service had searched through the mansion countless times, but they could not **find anything**,

Furthermore, Robert had placed distractions at other places, which made them abandon their search at the mansion. That was how he got to return to his mansion in a grandiose **fashion**.

Kassy began to massage her godfather's shoulders, ignoring her cheek that was badly swollen. "You're much more intelligent and cunning than the others, Godfather. This is only a temporary setback. When all this has passed, I'll bring Matthew back alive, and you can punish him however you *want!*"

Kassy's eyes flashed with determination.

She had devoted her heart to Matthew over the past two years. Not only did he not treasure it, but he had trampled on her goodwill and dignity. Worse still, he had betrayed the organization for another woman and incited his godfather's *wrath*.

She was not going to let him get away with **it**.

If that was how he treated her, she would not show any mercy to him the next time they met!

While they were discussing their plan of action in the secret room, Ray's men had stealthily surrounded **Robert's mansion**.

Robert might be a careful individual, but his fatal weakness was his arrogance.

He did not expect that his enemies would return to the mansion to search for him, and that was why he did not station many guards outside.

in a corner. His blond hair fluttered wildly in the wind, and his blue eyes flashed with a sinister light as though he was the devil who had appeared

held an optical detector in his hand and searched every inch of the mansion, trying to figure out Robert's

Percy had tried to hunt down Robert everywhere, but they only managed to catch his underlings. The mastermind was nowhere to be

phone call with Luke, Ray brought his man to

a strong gut feeling that Robert might be

that he had his personal reasons for helping Luke. With the League of Shadows gone, he could expand his influence in Russia. Otherwise, he would not have bothered dealing with a grudge that did not

not expect that Ray was already onto him. He thought that the high-tech security measures and traps would protect him from

the secret room, Robert, Kassy, and the others discussed their future

alarm rang, indicating an

expression wavered slightly, though he remembered that the secret room was made with bulletproof and soundproof glass and had multiple escape routes. Even if the intruders managed to make their way in, they would not be able to find where the secret

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Robert looked at his subordinates sprawled all over the ground. They were shot in the heart and died instantly.

A devilishly handsome man stood not far away from him, smiling brazenly. His gaze was sharp as a knife as they stared at him as though he was prey.

Soon, Robert came to his senses.

He knew that the man in front of him was Percy Mallory, the underworld crime lord of A City.

However, they never had any interactions with each other because their territories were so far apart.

Why was Percy in Moscow pointing a gun at his head?

Robert smiled superficially and said arrogantly, "So it's you, Mr. Mallory. How unexpected. I don't remember having any grudges between us, so I don't understand why you're pointing a gun to my head."

Percy was not surprised that Robert recognized him.

"I don't need a reason for you to die!" Percy said coldly as he continued to point the gun at Robert's head.

Robert laughed out loud. "So many people want me dead. Do you think you can do it? What can you possibly do to me?"

They were very close to Moscow's administrative center, and security was tight. Any unusual movement would be easily detected.

Robert did not believe that Percy would kill him right there.

he finished his sentence, Percy pulled the trigger of the

clutched his chest that was oozing blood. He had a crazed look in his

veins on his forehead bulged and writhed like earthworms because of

physical abilities were greatly reduced after years of living

was beginning to feel fear. He could tell from Percy's icy gaze that Percy was

was not going to yield. He screamed through the pain, "I was right. You wouldn't dare to kill me! The Federal Security Service won't let you get away with this! Kassy, my dear daughter, will hunt you down, and there won't be another peaceful day in your

Mallory!" Mallory One shook his head and tried to warn his master, "Don't be rash. We're not on our turf now. Let's just hand him to the police. We shouldn't get ourselves involved like

Percy pulled the trigger...

"Mr. Mallory!" Mallory One roared.

Bang!

bullet ejected from the silenced pistol pierced through

Robert opened his eyes wide and fell straight to the ground, as though unable to believe that Percy dared to **kill him**.

Bright red blood flowed like a stream from his chest and the corner of *his mouth*.

Mallory One was shocked. His muscular body turned stiff. "Mr. Mallory... you..."

Percy grinned like the devil. He turned around and tossed the pistol on the ground. "Clean it up. Don't leave any **evidence behind.**"

He was not going to leave any loose ends, especially not one like Robert.

He had never planned on handing Robert to the police. Only dead men would not tell lies or take revenge on **him.**

...

In the first-class cabin on the flight from Moscow to A *City*.

Bianca leaned her head on Luke's chest and looked at the dark sky outside of the window. She was experiencing a complicated mix of *emotions*.

She was finally going home with her beloved man next to her.

Bianca glanced at Luke with an unfocused gaze. Suddenly, she hugged his waist with all **her might.**

to her, Tommy sat on Selena's lap while reading a

flipped the pages with one hand while sucking on the fingers of

to ignore Bianca and Luke's brazen displays of affection. She read the comic book together with Tommy and

atmosphere in the cabin

his head to glance at his cousin-in-law and his son, then turned back to stare at Bianca's face with his pecked Bianca's lips and asked, "What's

fell on his lap. "Luke, I still can't believe that you're back with me now. I can touch you and feel you next to me, but I still think that it's all just a dream. Maybe it's because I've lost you for so long..." She

soft cabin light fell on her fair and delicate face like a

draped his coat over her body and ran his slender fingers through her hair. "Silly girl. I promise that I won't leave you or the kids behind again. Our family will be together

past two years, he had dreamed of sitting next to her, hugging her, feeling her warmth, and indulging in her

Being separated from her was agony.

Chapter 718

Paramount Hospital, A *City*.

When Bianca and Luke rushed over, the red light outside the operating room was still on.

Wanda Rayne sat on the bench in the corridor like a stiff puppet and stared blankly at the red light. Her sickly face appeared paler, and her expression was filled with numbness as well as sorrow.

"Aunt Wanda..."

Bianca quietly walked to Wanda. She suppressed her grief, squatted next to Wanda, and held her cold hand. "How's Grandpa now? How did it happen? How did he fall?"

Wanda's pale and tired face worried her.

The last time Bianca saw her was two weeks ago. Aunt Wanda, who was once as full of life like a peony in full bloom, now looked shriveled and skinny. Her alluring beauty had dissipated.

If the woman in front of her did not share the same face as Aunt Wanda's, Bianca would never have thought that they were the same person.

However, Wanda did not seem to hear her. She did not respond and continued staring blankly at the operating room.

was a little flustered when she saw how abnormally Aunt Wanda was acting. She turned and asked Luke wrong with Aunt Wanda? Aunt Wanda, will you please answer

onto Wanda's hand tightly, tears flowing down her elegant face as her misty eyes reflected Aunt Wanda's frail body. Bianca was

heart ached when he saw how upset Bianca was. He tried to comfort Bianca, but his voice was hoarse as he said, "Aunt Wanda may be overwhelmed and is shutting herself down temporarily. Don't worry, Aunt Wanda will be back to normal after a while. Johann is inside the operating room treating Grandpa. With him on the job, no matter how complicated the surgery is, he'll make sure that Grandpa will come out of the operating room alive and well. Grandpa is a blessed man, I'm sure he'll be

said that, Luke, who was standing beside Bianca, kept staring at the operating expression was gloomy as a trace of anxiety flashed in

that their conversation brought Wanda back to reality. She was still sitting on the bench with a blank expression, but she said to Bianca, "Bea, you're

that Aunt Wanda was finally responsive, Bianca anxiously asked, "Aunt Wanda, Grandpa... What's going on

Wanda took a deep breath, her heart feeling **heavy**.

Tears rolled in her eyes as she explained the situation to Bianca. "The day before yesterday was the birthday of Florence's grandson, so she took a day off. It just so happened that I was free, so I stayed at home with your grandpa. However, after lunch, my chest felt like it was being stabbed by needles. The pain was unbearable and I ran out of painkillers. I was afraid that your grandpa would be worried, so I thought I'd get some medicine and hurry back as soon as possible. I didn't think too much of it, but I didn't expect that in just such a short time, your grandfather would fall when he went to the kitchen to pour himself a glass of water... When I got home, his face was covered in blood and he was unconscious. I was so scared! I rushed him to the hospital immediately... It's all my fault. If it weren't for my carelessness, Dad wouldn't..."

Wanda felt horrible as she recounted what had happened. She was riddled with guilt and could not help but weep *harder*.

Even though she was on the brink of tears herself, Bianca hugged Wanda and understood that it was not her fault. 'Aunt Wanda is sick and has to endure all the pain that comes with it. Even then, she was still taking care of Grandpa. She's in a vulnerable place, so what right do I have to blame her? If I had not insisted on going to Moscow to find Luke... If I had visited Grandpa as I usually did from time to time... maybe he wouldn't have been in danger. I'm to blame for this...'

Bianca hugged Aunt Wanda tightly and said softly, "Aunt Wanda, what happened to Grandpa has nothing to do with you. He's old and in poor health. I haven't done my duty as his granddaughter to take good care of him... It's all my fault, you're not to be blamed. Don't be too sad. Dr. Vylen said that you should manage your emotions to help with your condition. Grandpa is still in the operating room. Please stay strong for him and **me**."

Old Master Rayne had been in the operating room for nearly **ten hours**.

Bianca and Wanda waited on the bench while Luke stood and waited with them. It felt like they were sitting on pins and needles. Minutes felt like decades.

Luke's phone suddenly rang. It was Jim Holston checking in on whether he and Bianca had reached A City safely.

the call brief and then turned off

his two best friends, Percy Mallory and Jim Holston, knew about his return to A City. He did not share the news even with his grandfather and mother,

not that he did not care about them, but he had come back too suddenly and was not prepared to meet them

he was afraid to see his Grandpa

aware that Old Master Crawford was aging and his health was no longer what it was. He would not be able to take it. Luke planned to find the right timing to go back to Crawford Manor and explain to Old Master Crawford about his

that moment, the red light outside the operating room was turned off and the door was opened from the two surgeons in white coats who came out first. They were well known and served as the surgical director and deputy director of the

Bianca was about to run up to them to ask about her Grandpa's condition, Johann walked out in a sterile surgical

Chapter 719

Bianca was riddled with guilt and blamed herself for what was happening while Wanda refused to accept it.

Wanda, who had always been calm and restrained, suddenly covered her eyes and burst into tears. "God, are you trying to kill everyone in the Rayne family? Why are you making all of us sick? My brother passed away from cancer, I have cancer, and now even my dad has brain tumors. Why are you doing this to our family?!"

Bianca felt like she had lost all her strength.

Wanda's ramblings made her heart sink as if someone had stabbed through her heart with a chisel. It hurt so much that she felt like she was about to go mad.

All she could do was hug Wanda, who was on the verge of collapse. She kept comforting her, saying, "Aunt Wanda, everything will be fine. Trust me, okay? No matter what, I'll always be by your side..."

Luke was the first to come back to his senses. He furrowed his brows and asked Johann in a serious tone, "Based on Old Master Rayne's current situation, what are the chances that he can be cured?"

When he thought about Old Master Rayne's condition, Johann frowned and told Luke the truth, "The craniotomy itself is a high-risk surgery. Old Master Rayne is old and has a severe decline in his physical functions as well as a poor tolerance. Moreover, he had a sudden cerebral hemorrhage. If he doesn't undergo surgery, his life will be in danger as his meningioma would put pressure on the nerves linked to his vision and leg function. It may eventually cause him to go blind and he won't be able to walk. Even his cardiopulmonary function will be severely impacted. However, with the consent of Ms. Wanda, I performed a craniotomy on Old Master Rayne. I didn't go for a more conservative option because it would not be as effective. As for whether the operation was a success, I have to wait for Old Master Rayne to wake up before I can run a check-up on him. However, I can assure you that Old Master Rayne will live, but there will be certain sequelae. He may not be able to speak clearly and may even be paralyzed, so you have to be mentally prepared for this..."

Bianca breathed a sigh of relief when she heard that Old Master Rayne's life was not in danger. "As long as Grandpa is alright, I'll take care of him even if he's paralyzed in bed for the rest of his life. Thank you, Johann. We appreciate your hard work."

She knew that Johann was an excellent surgeon, but even he could not ensure that her Grandpa could go back to normal. Even so, she was just glad that he was safe and sound.

had downplayed Grandpa's condition, she could tell that it

the horror of a sudden cerebral hemorrhage. The grandfather of her colleague had suffered from such a disease and passed away within a few

Rayne's condition was more complicated. He not only had a sudden cerebral hemorrhage but also brain he had been sent to the hospital slightly later, would she have been separated from her grandfather welcome. Even if it weren't Old Master Rayne, I would've still done

smiled and shook his head. His gaze then fell on Luke, who was used to taking charge of everything. "Although Old Master Rayne's tumors have been removed, we still have to monitor his condition closely for the next 72 hours in the ICU.

became solemn as he said, "We'll go with your

asked Johann impatiently, "Dr. Stiles, can I go in and visit my

Johann nodded and replied, "You can go in, but he's still weak. Only one visitor at a time."

Bianca and Wanda looked at each other. Bianca said softly to Aunt Wanda, "Aunt Wanda, you've been waiting outside for so long. You must be tired. Besides, you're still sick. I don't want to see you collapse too. Let me go in and visit Grandpa. You should head back and have a good *rest, okay?*"

Wanda bit her lip gently.

She wanted to go in, but before she could do so, Bianca went inside with **a nurse**.

Wanda had no choice but to back down, knowing that her sickly body was at its limit. Hence, she let Bianca *be*.

"Aunt Wanda."

Luke *held* on to Wanda, whose frail body was struggling to hold itself up. His gaze fell on her pale face and anger flashed through his eyes as he said, "Grandpa Rayne is hospitalized but no one from the Crawford family came to *visit?*"

He was not aware of Bianca's relationship with the Crawford family during the two years that he was absent from A City. He thought that she might still be at odds with **his mother**.

Master Crawford and Louis should be on her side. Even so, he did not see a single member from the Crawford family in the hospital. He could not help but be

bitterly and answered, "This is the Rayne family's matter and we're not used to troubling outsiders. Besides, Old Master Crawford is getting old. If he hears about my dad, he might be worried. His health is not very good and it's best not to trouble him. As for Mrs. Crawford, let's not talk about it... Fortunately, Dad is no longer in critical condition. After this, we'll work on his recovery, and hopefully, he'll get

Luke was not around, the relationship between Bianca and the Crawford family had been a little stiff. Her so-called mother-in-law, Allison Tanner, had given her an especially hard time. If it were not for their three children, she would have kicked Bianca

was not any better. To fight for the family fortune, she paid someone off to secretly inject her with aborticide when she was delivering

Wanda would choose to handle most things on her own and avoided asking for favors from the Crawford family to ensure that they would have nothing on her.

Wanda did not mention anything to Luke there

knew that Luke was a smart man who would be able to find out about all these even if she kept her made Luke's dark-brown eyes flash with a suffocating cold

Chapter 720

By the time Bianca came out of the ICU, it was almost noon.

Bianca glanced at Wanda who was still waiting on the bench and a pang of sadness hit her. She said in a low voice, "Aunt Wanda, you need to take care of yourself. Please go home and get some rest. I'll be here to watch over Grandpa. When you come back, please bring some of his necessities with you."

Wanda got up from the bench and shook her head. "Bea, you came to the hospital as soon as you got off the plane. You must be very tired after the long journey. I'm alright. You and Luke should go home first. I'm sure Lanie and Rainie must miss both of you very much."

Bianca insisted, "No, Aunt Wanda. I can't go back now. I won't be able to have peace of mind until Grandpa wakes up."

Wanda looked at Luke for help.

Luke glanced at Bianca's somewhat wrinkled clothes and said tactfully, "It's pointless for so many of us to stay here considering that Grandpa hasn't woken up yet. We should head home first to ease our family's worrying hearts. I've already contacted Jason and he'll be here soon. After we have lunch, you can go home and have a change of clothes. We'll come back to the hospital then. Otherwise, if Grandpa wakes up and sees how haggard you look, he'll be distressed. Aunt Wanda, come with us."

His tone was commanding, and there was no room for discussion.

Wanda sighed softly and agreed.

Bianca was convinced. "Okay, let's go home first."

She kept staring at the ICU ward as if she was expecting Old Master Rayne to wake up immediately.

they were talking, Jason rushed

he saw Luke, Jason, who was always calm and mature, started tearing up as he said, "Boss, I knew you were still alive! What an amazing surprise! Where have you been in the past two years? Why did you just go off the

looked at Luke and thought to himself, 'Luke is still as handsome as ever! His eyes are as deep as the night and his tailored casual clothes highlight his excellent physique. His aura is more powerful than before. Everything and everyone next to him would just serve as a background for

It was really Luke!

his eyebrows slightly and answered, "It's a long story, Mr. Doyle. Please take care of Grandpa. I'll explain to you when I have

Jason agreed with him. "Okay."

stared at Luke and Bianca who were leaving, Jason felt like tearing up.

that Luke had died in that fatal explosion. He did not expect Luke to

That was wonderful!

of T Corporation had quietly returned. When news got out, T Corporation's stock price would break into a new high in

Luke, Bianca, and Wanda took the elevator to the underground parking lot together.

Luke and Bianca had rushed from the airport without getting anyone to pick them up. Instead, they got a taxi and went straight to Paramount Hospital. At this moment, they were in Wanda's car.

Wanda's car was a silver Mercedes that was a little smaller in size. It was suitable for women, but it was tight for a tall man like Luke.

Luke drove while Bianca and Wanda sat in the backseat. They chatted quietly from time to time.

The car drove toward the direction of *Crawford Manor*.

When they were on a viaduct, a black Land Rover passed them *by*.

When he saw the driver, Luke's grip on the steering wheel suddenly tightened. His gentle gaze suddenly became sharp and gloomy.

Wayne Blatt!

The culprit who caused him to end up on the Island of Despair for more than two years dared to appear in front of him. Terrifying revenge awaited him!

When Wayne and Luke locked eyes, Wayne's expression turned gloomy **and horrifying**.

dead? Why has he suddenly appeared in

passed by each other at a swift speed and the two men were plotting against each other. Something big was about to happen in

...

Crawford Manor.

Luke returned to the manor with Bianca, there was a range of

filled Old Master Crawford's eyes the moment he saw Luke. He almost fainted from the

held Luke's hand and refused to let go. Two streams of tears flowed down his eyes as he said, "Luke, my dear grandson, you've finally returned! I'm so glad you're back! I'd have no regrets if I were to die this

Master Crawford's wrinkled and trembling hands kept touching Luke's handsome face as he murmured, "Thank the Lord for bringing back my dear grandson! You've lost weight... You must've suffered in the past

was deeply touched by Old Master Crawford's reaction toward his return. He had never seen Grandpa so kind

Crawford, who served as his mentor, had been harsh and demanding with him since he was a child. However, it was precisely because of Old Master Crawford's earnest and meticulous teachings that Luke managed to establish himself as a distinguished figure in the