

Be Gentle 841

Chapter 841

When Mavis Laviere entered the CEO's Office, she saw Luke's side profile.

From her point of view, she first noticed his two crossed slender legs that made him appear elegant.

He was wearing a white shirt and a black tie, which highlighted his calm temperament.

Luke was flipping through the document with one hand while holding a cup of coffee with the other, gently blowing at it.

After hearing Mavis' footsteps, he slowly turned around to meet her bright eyes.

It was noon, and the light was bright and warm.

The height of the 80-story floor made it so that there was a lot of natural lighting in Luke's office.

The faint golden color shone through the floor-to-ceiling windows and landed on him, making his unique facial features even more alluring.

Even though she had stared at his face countless times throughout many years, Mavis was still taken aback by his beauty. She said softly, "Mr. Crawford."

wanted the most right now was to call him 'Luke', but she knew that he would be displeased if she

She dared not displease Luke.

here." Luke did not lift his head. He just lit a cigarette

heard Mavis say, "Mr. Crawford, here's the work schedule for this month, as well as the consumer profiles for our new target audience. And... my resignation

placed the documents on Luke's desk and stood

looked so well-behaved and gentle, very different from her usual image as a

his head. He looked at Mavis and noticed that she looked different

the past, she always had gorgeous big waves on her hair and wore fitting suits paired with pointed high heels. Even if she kept quiet, her presence alone would be

However, that day, she was standing in front of Luke in a bohemian-style floral dress. Her charming wavy hair was smooth and straight. She had bangs, and her makeup made her look young and sweet.

Suddenly, it seemed that she was ten years younger. She looked like a young intern who had just entered the corporate world.

Luke raised his eyebrow and threw the work schedule that Mavis had handed to him on the table.

He held her resignation report in his hand, his deep and sharp eyes locking on her as he said, "Why do you want to resign out of *the blue*?"

Mavis was one of his top-performing staff; her strong work ability **was undeniable**.

She was well-informed of the latest technologies and had a keen eye for industry development. From time to time, she would share her forward-thinking design concepts. Her excellent negotiation and public relations skills were **also top-class**.

Mavis' resignation would be a loss for T Corporation.

Mavis suppressed her emotions but was still affected by his magnetic voice. "Mr. Crawford, I've worked with you for ten years. It's not a short time, but it's not long either. I've learned a lot from you, but now I think it's time for me to part ways with T Corporation. I've been tired for as long as I can remember. I want to quit and travel the world. I want to live my life and check off the things that have been on my bucket list for the longest **time**."

at Mavis' face, quietly blowing out

was calm as he said, "Why do you suddenly want to take a break? Is there too much on your plate recently? Or, are you not satisfied with your salary? Ms. Laviere, I can give you an increment, or give you more shares of T Corporation. What do you think? If you're dissatisfied with T Corporation or me, you can tell me straight. The two of us have known each other and worked together for so many years. I think we understand each other well by now, and you know that I like things to

deeply into Luke's

as straight as a tree, his sexy thin lips moving as

had said something but she did not hear him clearly. His deep and elegant voice replayed in her ears, making her feel a burst

noticed that Mavis was staring at him, Luke coughed and gave her a gentle reminder, "Ms. Laviere, are you

brought back to reality by him and her expression stiffened a little. She said, "Mr. Crawford, I'm sorry, I was thinking about

asked, "Oh? What were you thinking about? Ms. Laviere, do you want to consider what I said before you make a decision? I can either raise your salary or I can give you shares of T Corporation. To be honest, you contributed much to the success of T Corporation. If you leave, it would feel like I lost one of my hands. I might not get used

Chapter 842

Mavis was a little scared by Luke. She had never seen him with such a gloomy expression before. He looked like he was ready to kill.

She raised her eyebrows and wanted to say something, but Luke acted first and spoke in an expressionless tone, "Ms. Laviere, since you want to leave, then you can leave. Although you're one of the top performers of T Corporation, we can survive without you. Since you've felt tired for a long time, you can take this opportunity to take a good rest."

What?

His change was so abrupt that Mavis was not able to keep up. She uttered, "Mr. Crawford, I... I'm not..."

She actually had no intentions of resigning. She did so only to find out how much he cared about her and to show him how important she was to him and T Corporation.

She did not want to leave the position she had struggled for years to achieve.

Luke flickered his cigarette as the ash fell into the ashtray.

Then, his hand that was holding the cigarette moved closer to his sexy thin lips. He took a deep inhale. He looked so light and breezy, but Mavis, on the other hand, was beyond anxious.

was huffing and puffing, his eyes that were as deep as the vast sea were

handsome features displayed a dull expression that blasted Mavis to the past. She felt as though she was facing Luke for the first time again, just like when he had interviewed her

time, he had also looked at her with the same

Laviere, it's been a long ride for my wife and me. We went through a lot since we first met and fell in love. As long as she wants me, I'll never turn my back on her. I'll never say the word 'divorce' to her. If you insist on leaving, I'll not force you to stay. After so many years, I thought you were someone who understood me, but I didn't expect you to threaten

Mavis bit her lip awkwardly.

hear impatience and contempt in Luke's

bit her lip until it was bruised, yet she did not feel any

cigarette smoke was suffocating her. She wanted to cough, but she tried her best to endure it. Her pale face turned red from holding her coughs

"Luke, you know what I'm talking about. In the past ten years, there were so many well-known groups that tried to poach me with the promise of a lot of money but I never once considered any of their offers. I believe you're aware that you're the reason why I continued to stay in T Corporation. Luke, after so many years, I've become accustomed to seeing your face every day. I write about my love for you in my diary almost every day... My love for you is petty and humble. I never told you about how I feel for fear that it'll ruin our relationship. Luke, I love you with everything that I have..."

Maybe it was because Mavis was sharing her deepest secrets and finally talking about her grievances after so many years, so she felt like a wilted flower when she was done talking. Her tears could make anyone pity *her*.

Luke put out his cigarette and said coldly, "Ms. Laviere, I thought that you were a mature and wise woman who knew that love is fragile. What matters most is being responsible. I apologize if I've done anything to cause any misunderstandings. I want to make it clear that our relationship is strictly professional. You're a wonderful woman. There are countless bachelors in the world for you, so why are you waiting stubbornly for a tree that can't bear fruit?"

Mavis straightened her back and smiled bitterly. "Emotions are never logical. There are a lot of choices that one can make and there are a lot of temptations out there, but I chose you since the moment I saw you. I remember the first time I met you. You stood out from the crowd among so many interviewers.

Since then, you have become a unique existence in my life. Life is long and I don't want to live a life of regret because it's impossible to find someone else like you."

Mavis decided to let it all **out**.

It was the first time in years she felt so relaxed.

Luke threw the cigarette butt into the ashtray and suddenly smiled. However, the smile did not reach his eyes.

Luke's overpowering aura made Mavis' scalp tingle. She suddenly regretted telling him about how she felt.

Mavis thought that since her secret was revealed, she no longer had to hold

that if she wanted to leave a beautiful impression on him, she should turn around and leave. At least, she had said her piece after so many years and put a full stop to her one-sided love story—even if it was not a fairy tale

Luke looked at her trying to be strong and knocked on his table a little irritably. "I can't give you what you want. You don't need to waste your energy on me. You're a good woman and you'll find love.

delicate, elegant face and his words slowly penetrated Mavis' body like a poisonous thorn. He was cold and ruthless. He appeared calm as if he was just stating

not love her. He did not love her before and would never

He clearly told Mavis this.

her heart, almost biting her lower lip until it bled. Her other hand was tightly

had some hope in the beginning, but when she heard him confess that he did not love her, she could not help trembling as if daggers were piercing into her

Chapter 843

Coffee shop.

The coffee shop had a piano playing tunes in the background and was filled with chatter and laughter. It was one of the best places in A City.

It was elegant and stylish.

At a coffee table covered with a white tablecloth, two women with very different appearances sat across each other.

The woman on the left was Bianca. She had light make-up on, and her face was as beautiful as porcelain with her rosy cheeks. Her eyelashes were dense, long, and curly, highlighting her eyes that were as clear as spring. Bianca appeared like a goddess who made others feel comfortable in her presence.

The woman opposite her was wearing a white sundress. Her smooth black hair looked like a waterfall. Her makeup was exquisite and suited her oval face. Her big eyes were full of sadness.

She was still the ever arrogant Mavis Laviere.

Bianca was a little surprised that Mavis requested to meet with her, and she was even more confused when she noticed that Mavis was dressed so differently from before.

Mavis, a rose with thorns, had transformed into a reserved lily.

Bianca slowly stirred the sugar into her cup and asked softly, "Ms. Laviere, why did you want to have a chat with me?"

Mavis sat by the window, taking a sip of her coffee.

from the black coffee made her

a wry smile and looked at Bianca, asking, "Ms. Rayne, do I look terrible

was cold and hoarse as if it was mixed with a little

her makeup was exquisite and her blush concealed the paleness of her face, Bianca could see that Mavis was faking her

Mmm... How should she put it?

like someone who had just been abandoned and left in a place without oxygen and water. She was withering and losing her

never thought that Mavis would be the one who was

has always been arrogant, and it was usually she who would look down on men. No one in their right mind would

Ms. Laviere. To be honest, you still look beautiful. Compared to before, you make me feel fairly comfortable," Bianca

drinking coffee, she picked up a milkshake next

Unlike Mavis, who loved coffee, she had already begun to improve her health and fitness although she was still young.

An excessive amount of caffeine was not good for **health**.

Mavis heard Bianca's answer and chuckled. However, it sounded a little helpless as if Bianca had told a joke.

She took another sip of coffee and played with the handle unconsciously as she said, "Mr. Crawford... loves you very *much*."

This sentence was not rhetorical, nor did it carry any tone of denial. It was as though she was merely stating a fact.

However, Mavis started tearing up. No one knew about the sadness she had hidden in her heart for so many **years**.

Bianca was taken aback and looked at Mavis. She tightened her grip on her cup as she said, "Yes, as you can see, we do love **each other.**"

Mavis thought that Bianca appeared a little nervous and chuckled weakly. She tucked her bangs behind her ears. "Ms. Rayne, don't get me wrong. Don't think of me as your enemy. After all, I was never qualified to be your rival..."

Bianca stared straight at her. "Is that all that you want to say **to me?**"

Mavis glanced at her and felt a pang of insecurity. "No, I asked you here to tell you that I've resigned from T Corporation."

"*When did* this happen?" Bianca's eyes widened, and for a moment, she was not sure how to *feel*.

had not wanted to meet Mavis. Although she knew that there was nothing between her and Luke and that it was just a crush, Mavis' existence was like a thorn stuck in her side. She could not remove her because of her role in Luke's

her lips and said, "Mr. Crawford agreed to my resignation

Bianca subconsciously avoided her scorching gaze.

in Mavis' eyes was so obvious that Bianca felt a sense of guilt, even though she knew that it was

sad appearance seemed to

had to leave because of

it seemed ridiculous, Bianca's emotions were complicated. "What's next

sighed lightly and kept silent for a long time before she spoke, "I'm not too sure. I have yet to think about it. I might leave this city. After all, this city has left me with a lot of bad memories. I might go abroad and start a

was not sure what to say to Mavis, so she asked mechanically, "Are you sure that you can let go of everything

years of love that had turned into an obsession would not be easy to let go

Chapter 844

Bianca walked out of the cafe and went to a well-known mall next door because she wanted to buy some clothes for her children.

She had not been spending much time with them as she was occupied with the recent events. She felt guilty about it.

Bianca shopped around and bought two large shopping bags worth of clothes for the twins and Tommy.

When she passed by a boutique, Bianca saw a pink, princess-like dress. The color, texture, and style were great. She thought that it would be perfect for Sue's daughters.

Once in a while, Sue would buy Tommy and the twins some clothes or other gifts. Bianca wanted to return the favor and went in to buy the dress for her daughters.

She bumped into someone as soon as she entered the boutique.

"Sorry..." A man apologized, his voice sounding magnetic.

That familiar voice startled Bianca.

The man's body was well-built, and the impact hurt Bianca a little. She lifted her gaze and met a pair of evil but sad eyes.

It was Xavier Tanner!

Bianca took a step back when she saw the man's face.

flight or fight mode was instantly

moment Xavier looked down and saw Bianca, he was shocked. A City was big and he thought the chances of bumping into each other were low. He did not expect to

he fantasized every day about when he would be able to meet her, now that she was in front of him, he thought that he was

heart twitched, and her voice was trembling as she uttered, "A City is pretty small, I didn't expect to see you

it had been years since the incident, the damage Xavier caused her

time she thought of him, she thought of how she had almost been humiliated. She did not want to see him

feel Bianca's hostility toward him as well as her strong resistance. His breathing grew erratic as he said, "A City is fairly small. You... How are you

gaze was locked on her. He was greedily looking at her innocent face. Pain and love were hidden in his charming

knew she was doing well without having

her so much, so he would never allow any harm to come her way.

What was more, she was the daughter of the Provincial Committee Secretary. No one dared to step on *her toes*.

Bianca was as beautiful as ever. Time had not left any traces on her body. She looked younger and more charming.

Xavier stared at her affectionately, but the latter kept avoiding **him**.

However, perhaps his gaze was too compelling, so Bianca eventually looked at *him*.

His face was evil and charming, but he looked a lot more haggard. His suit was wrinkled. It seemed that he had not ironed it in a while. His eyebrows seem to be in a constant frown as well. He had lost his playboy traits and only looked as though he had given up on life...

Bianca took a step back awkwardly. "I'm doing great. How about you? Are you with anyone?"

She meant to imply something.

People who visited children's clothing stores were usually married and had a baby. Otherwise, why would a free spirit like Xavier come to such *a place*?

The relationship between the Crawford family and the Tanner family was ruined the moment Xavier kidnapped her. The two families did not keep in contact, so Bianca was not sure whether Xavier was **married**.

Xavier put his hands in his pockets and stared straight at her. He said with a wry smile, "No, I don't think I'll ever get *married*."

He thought that time would make it hurt less and there was going to be someone better who would replace her. He thought that he had moved on from her, but the moment he saw her again, the scar in his heart ripped open once more. It was **unbearable**.

He still loved her...

getting old and at the age where we should start our own families. If you meet the right person, go for it. Otherwise, your family will be worried." When Bianca faced Xavier, she felt embarrassed

was awkward, and she was at her breaking point. Bianca was thinking of an excuse to leave when she heard a sweet female voice calling out to Xavier, "Xavier, come here and look at this! What do you think

where the sweet voice came from and saw a young woman about 165cm tall. She was slender and curvy at all the right places. The young woman was wearing a white

was spinning like a cheerful bird in front of the full-length

shop assistant was serving the young woman diligently, praising her for her good looks and fit

moment Bianca saw her face, her heart skipped

woman's face looked fairly similar to

looked to be around 20 years old. She probably had not graduated from university yet. Her face was beautiful, and her skin was fair and delicate like a flower covered with dew. Her beauty highlighted her playful and gentle

she was thin, there was a small bump on her lower

Chapter 845

Xavier did not answer nor explain anything to Riley. With that, the alarm bell in her heart went off even more.

She bit her lip and looked as though she was a woman in love. However, she was staring straight into Bianca's eyes the entire time.

Faced with the young woman's hostility, Bianca laughed out loud and raised the shopping bags in her hand. "I'm just an insignificant person, an old acquaintance. I'm someone he used to know. We're not that close, so you can just think of us as strangers."

Someone that he used to know.

Strangers.

Bianca's words stung Xavier. His breathing became rapid as he stared at her, his handsome face looking embarrassed.

If an ex-wife was considered an old acquaintance, then their relationship was indeed like she said. It did not mean anything that they once had a marriage certificate. After all, they had never shared a bed nor held a wedding banquet.

The only thing that could prove that they were once husband and wife was that his 'married' status in the Civil Affairs Bureau's system had changed into 'divorced'.

listened to Bianca's explanation and saw her elegant demeanor. She was no longer hostile and smiled sweetly at Bianca. "Well, Xavier, since she's an old acquaintance, why don't you introduce me? You made me a little jealous there. Oh! Touch my belly, our baby isn't happy that their daddy is bullying

her cute mouth. When she wanted attention, she would act like a cat begging her owner. Even a woman like Bianca could not help but look at her. However, Xavier's expression was sullen and he turned away

who you are. You should know our relationship better than anyone else. Shut your mouth if it's not something you should ask. Stay in your lane and I'll let you stay with me for a few more days. Otherwise,

were cold and cruel. It seemed that the man who had just offered to pay for all of the woman's shopping

was stunned. Her beautiful pair of eyes welled with tears. She held back her tears because she was scared of him. She pitifully pressed her lips together, looking like a miserable wife who was getting bullied. She stood in place obediently, not daring to

was rich and handsome. When he was nice to her, he would spoil her in bed. He would tell her sweet lies that made her become an idiot in love. However, when his mood changed, he would be ruthless. When he was angry, he would make her leave if she did not know when to

was well aware of Xavier's violent temper. She was accustomed to his ever-changing moods. She lowered her head, held back her tears, and played with the hem of her dress. She did not dare to make any

Bianca could no longer stand still. She stood up for Riley and said, "Xavier, I didn't expect that your temper is still as terrible as ever. Now that Riley is pregnant with your child, you have **to change.**"

For some reason, Bianca felt a sudden surge of relief when she learned that Xavier had become a father. It was as though the curse bound to her **was gone.**

Xavier looked at Bianca and felt a pang of pain. He took another look at her but did not *say anything*.

Bianca was about to leave but before she did, she whispered to Xavier, "Ah, to be honest, this girl is much better than Melissa. Although she's a little clingy, she seems like a great person. Since she's pregnant with your child, treat them well. You're not young, it's time for you to start your own family."

When he saw that she was about to leave, Xavier wanted to grab Bianca's hand. "Bea, listen to me, I—"

Bianca immediately kept a distance from him by shoving the thick shopping bags between their bodies. He stared at him warily as she asked, "Xavier, what do you want? Are you planning to do something to me in public?"

"I didn't mean that..." Xavier sighed. He did not expect that she would still be so guarded against him. He said helplessly, "I just want to say that the past is in the past. Can you stop hiding from **me**?"

waved her hand impatiently and said, "Forget it, I don't want to talk about what happened before. You should mind your own business. Goodbye... No, I hope I never see you

said that, she turned around and anxiously walked out with the shopping bags in her hands. She did not want to look at this man and his

rushed off so hurriedly that she did not notice Xavier's obsessive gaze behind her or Riley's

as she got to the entrance of the shopping mall, the sun was shining brightly. Bianca thought of calling her driver to pick her up but decided against it. It would take at least an hour for the driver to arrive at the mall. Plus, it was peak hour. There was no point in doing

better for her to book an Uber or get a

Bianca booked her ride, she waited quietly in the designated waiting area outside the

after she sat down, she heard a sharp female voice screaming and crying. "Aunty, you have to help me! Xavier insists on canceling our engagement. Why does he want to marry that lousy art school student who has slept with God knows how many men? How can this be? I've waited for Xavier for so many years. He can't just get rid of

Chapter 846

Lacy was taken aback when she heard what Melissa said. There was a look of surprise in her eyes.

After all, her son had never been in a serious relationship for as long as she could remember. This was the first time she heard that a woman by her son's side was expecting. She was overjoyed to hear that!

However, when she saw how hard Melissa was gritting her teeth...

Lacey grabbed her hand again. She started telling white lies as she comforted her, "Melissa, it doesn't matter even if the woman is pregnant. She still won't be able to join the Tanner family. It's no big deal, we'll let her give birth to the child. My husband and I will raise them. You and Xavier can still get married... I can guarantee that the child will never be a barrier between you Xavier. I'll not let the child get in your way..."

Melissa's brows were tightly knitted together. She screamed, "What? Are you going to let that b*tch give birth to the child? That can never happen! As long as I'm a part of the Tanner family, I'll never allow that child to exist!"

Her voice was sharp and piercing, causing other shoppers who were passing by or resting by the corridor to look at her.

Melissa did not hold back and became even more frantic. "Aunt Lacy, I need to make this clear. If the Tanner family wants to have me as your daughter-in-law, you must respect my principles. Unless the baby was conceived in my belly, I'll kill the rest of them! My parents will not let me be wronged. You can only choose between the bastard child and me..."

Bianca looked at Melissa's jealous expression that had turned vulgar and hideous. She was a little creeped out.

Melissa's jealousy was still so strong. Previously when she found out that Xavier had something to do with Bianca, she had framed her again and again.

Melissa had not changed much over time, but it seemed that she had gotten even more sinister...

Lacey's expression changed. She looked embarrassed and helpless.

she noticed that people were staring, she pulled on Melissa's sleeves and whispered, "Okay, my dear, I'll do as you say. You need to work on getting

her foot and said angrily, "What can I do if your son doesn't want to sleep with me? Do you think I can give birth to a child on my

speaking, she stepped on her seven-inch high-heels and walked into the mall while swaying her

wait for me, I'm still tired." Lacey grabbed the shopping bags and followed behind Melissa like an

did not notice Bianca because there were a lot of people inside the mall. Bianca was sitting in a high-traffic area where the bustling shops were. Hence, the crowd blocked her from

Melissa entering the shop she had just left. She narrowed her eyes

still be in the shop with his pregnant

likely that the two parties would run into each other.

good show it

had nothing to do with her. After all, it was about time Xavier paid for his

...

Rayne Manor.

Bianca went to visit her **grandpa first**.

The caretaker was taking care of him. Her grandfather was in a deep slumber. He needed a lot of rest after undergoing major surgery at his old age. His immune system was affected and his body was recovering slowly, so he was not able to move around as much.

Seeing that her grandfather was resting, Bianca checked in with the caretaker and learned that he just had dinner an hour ago. He took his medicine immediately **after**.

Bianca tucked her grandfather in, told the nanny to take good care of him, and placed the gifts she had bought for her grandfather at the mall earlier on the side of his bed. She then returned to the living room.

As soon as she got to the living room, Tommy pounced on her like a cheery bird.

He hugged her thigh tightly and said, "Mommy, why did you come back so late? Tommy missed you **so much...**"

The twins were sent to Crawford Manor to spend time with Old Master Crawford a few days ago, so Tommy was the only one left in the *manor*.

Old Master Rayne stayed in his room a lot because of his poor health, but when the weather was great, the caretaker or Bianca would bring him out to bask in *the sun*.

Therefore, the only person in the villa who was active was her baby **son**.

warmed when she saw her son's handsome little face that was filled with joy.

down and looked at her son. "Mommy bought something for you and your brother and sister. That's why I

is that so? Thank you for the gift." Tommy planted a kiss on Bianca's

giggled at her son's actions and placed the gifts on the

took out one of the smaller shopping bags and handed it to Tommy. "Mommy bought you a pair of overalls, two T-shirts, and a leather jacket. Do you

Tommy loves them. Mommy, you have the best taste! You must be tired after shopping, so let me massage your legs..." Tommy was trying to make Bianca happy while he attentively hammered her leg with his tiny

son's uneven massage on her legs, Bianca smiled brightly. Her heart seemed to be full of

child was better than raising a kitten or a

Tommy was naughty and often pushed her buttons, when he was well-behaved, he was

...

Chapter 847

Bianca smiled and continued to massage him.

The slender fingers of her right hand occasionally stopped at his sensitive Adam's apple, while the other hand kept pressing gently on Luke's temples, smoothing out his furrowed eyebrows.

Her strength was just right, and the acupoints were accurately massaged. It made Luke feel comfortable, his exhaustion seemingly melting away.

While she was massaging him, Bianca said softly, "Luke, you seem to be frowning a lot recently. It's not good. You're a young man, but you're turning into an old man with wrinkles."

Luke looked back at her and saw her obsidian eyes. A loving look appeared when he saw Bianca's face. "You won't love me if I turn into an old man?"

Bianca gently hit him a few times with her fists before saying softly, "What do you mean? Even if you become an ugly monster, I'll always love you. It's just that your expression is always so serious and you don't even seem relaxed when you get home. I'm worried about you."

Bianca's tone was gentle and kind. She was like a little girl who wanted attention. It made Luke gently curl his lips.

He tilted Bianca's chin and said in a light but flirty tone, "It seems that I haven't been giving you attention lately, that's why you're having such thoughts. I haven't been satisfying you recently, eh? "

glared at him angrily and landed a fist on his shoulder. "Stop being silly! You're the one who's not satisfied. Stop thinking about things like that! Aren't

held her fist and pulled it closer to his lips. "Other wives take good care of their husbands... but my wife hits and scolds me every day. Why do I have such a hard

bit her lip, trying hard to shake her hand loose. "You made your choice. I didn't ask you to marry me. Let me

laughed out loud and pulled Bianca into his arms. "I had no choice. I fell in love with you the first time I saw you. You have two choices now. One is to follow me to the bedroom, the second is to do it on the sofa. Which do

blushed and pushed him. "You're crazy. This is the living room. I don't want to do it with you

smiled even more wickedly and pulled her pure white pajamas down. He pinched her flushed face and said, "You're the mother of our three children. I've seen every inch of you. Why are you still shy? We have to spice things up once in a while. We can't have sex in the bedroom every time, can we? We can occasionally change places to make it more fun. Baby, let's go take a bath

to wriggle out of his arms, but she was being held so tightly by him that she almost

She could finally breathe normally again when she escaped. "I don't want to take a bath. We're already past 30 years old. Can you not behave like a *teenager*?"

Luke carried her and walked toward the bedroom. He kicked open the bedroom door and said, "What's wrong with being past 30 years old? I'm in my prime now. You might not be able to get it anymore when I'm over 80..."

After he said that, he kicked the door shut and placed Bianca on the *soft bed*.

...

The decorations in the room were comforting. The interior had warm but simple colors that created a relaxing *environment*.

Bianca had just landed on the bed when she smelled the familiar and masculine breath by her nose.

Her body stiffened slightly as Luke's strong arm grabbed her. He opened her mouth to kiss her ears, and he asked in a low voice, "Why are you in a daze?"

Even though they had slept together countless times, Bianca would still get a little nervous each time. "I'm not thinking about anything. I'm just a little tired today and want to rest **early**."

laughed wickedly, his hand beginning to touch every part of her as he said, "You don't have to think about anything. You just need to enjoy it quietly. I'll be the one doing the

turned redder as she grabbed his hands. "Don't say it like that. I contribute as well, okay? Let's talk about other things, such as poetry and music, or how the universe is formed, ahem... We can also talk

put his jaw on her shoulder, and the sound of his exhales from his nose turned her on. "In 1932, the paleontologist and theologian, Father Pierre of the Church of Jesus Christ, wrote 'The Evolution of Chastity'. The article specifically emphasizes that love is the source of happiness given to mankind by God. Only through in-depth exchanges between men and women can you get ultimate enjoyment and the love between the two can be

being naughty while speaking about a serious topic. It made Bianca ashamed

to say something, but Luke pressed himself onto

few hours of fun, it was already late at night. Both of them were sweating

cuddled her and kissed her affectionately on her forehead. "What are you thinking about? Are you tired? Do you want to do

Chapter 848

Bianca knew that he was most likely joking with her, but she could not help but smile as she gazed into Luke's focused eyes.

She gently rubbed his chin with her tender hands. "Hmph! Stop making fun of me!"

His chin was clean and smooth.

He had shaved his stubble beard while he was in the bathroom earlier. She could smell his unique body scent and the freshness of the shower cream.

Bianca's gaze fell on his hair...

There were several gray hairs among his damp black hair.

Bianca carefully plucked those gray hairs and showed them to him.

She smiled stiffly as she gazed at his handsome face. "This is the second time I found gray hairs on your head, Luke..."

hugged her slender waist and brought her close. He did not mind the gray hairs that much. "That's normal. People of my age should have at least a few gray hairs. Do you think that I'm already old, my
kissed his thin lips and rested her head on his chest. "You're not old, and I'm not saying that you are. You should be at the peak of

returned the kiss, but there was a hint of melancholy in his eyes. "Sometimes I feel guilty when I'm with you, Bea. I'm a few years older than you, and you're still so young and beautiful. I've brought you a lot of unwanted pressure. If I'm not your husband, your life would be totally different, and it might be a lot better. I don't think I can ever let you go though. After all, I've waited for you for so long that I thought I'd be alone for the rest of my

were like honey that brought sweetness to Bianca's heart. "If I hadn't met you, I don't think I'd fall in love with anyone else. People don't always fall in love at first sight, Luke. I'm your wife, and you are my husband. I guess we are destined to be together, and we hope that we can continue to love each other

slender fingers touched her tender lips, and he gazed at her indulgently. "Tell me honestly, Bea. Do you feel aggrieved being together with me?" His voice was hoarse and

might satisfy all her material needs, but he was always busy at work. Sometimes, he would only return home

would come home drunk because of the business dinners he had to attend. His business trips would last for as long as half a month, while she had to stay at home

knew that Bianca was sensitive to emotions, and just like any woman, she would want to be pampered and showered with love. Scarlett, Jim's wife, was a good example. She wanted to cling to him at

If that were what it took to be a husband, he would fail as one. He would fail as a father too.

Bianca almost melted in his **warm embrace**.

When her fingers intertwined with his, she said very softly, "I hope you won't ever ask me that question again. I've never felt aggrieved when I'm with you. Instead, I think that I'm very lucky. You might be busy with work, but you always make it a point to come home every night, and that's enough for me. When you're not at home, I'll be occupied with my business, and time will pass very quickly when I'm busy. Whenever you leave early in the morning, I thought that time would pass in a flash, and I get to see you again at night. I'm very happy with **you!**

"On the other hand, I thought you'd be the aggrieved one for marrying me. You're an outstanding man, and you can marry the daughter of any wealthy or influential family if you want. You should have married someone that matches your status, but instead, you married a woman with an unremarkable background. You're the one who's at a disadvantage!"

Luke gently nibbled her earlobe and whispered softly, "I don't need anything other than you, Bea. Sometimes, I think that you're the rib that God has taken *from me...*"

Bianca gazed into his eyes and smiled mischievously, "Now that you have all your ribs once more, you won't feel any *more pain*."

Luke smiled sinisterly and pinned her under his body. "I guess I'll have to take extra care of this lost rib of *mine!*"

Sensing that Luke was getting in the mood once more, Bianca trembled and frantically grabbed Luke's **hair**. "..."

softly. 'She's a vicious one. She's going to

tensed up, and he punished her in his own unique

Bianca was like a small boat in the turbulent sea. Every inch of her body was

...

health had been improving lately, and Jack returned to

been very busy at work. Every day, he would bring Ms. Bosch, his personal secretary, and his other subordinates to survey the communities in various areas of

almost constantly traveling. One day, he would be in the slums. The next day, he would be inspecting a waste treatment plant. Sometimes, he would not even find the time

Bosch was a good

Chapter 849

Doubtfully, Jack began to unwrap the mysterious delivery package. It was mysterious because there was no name or address on it.

Ms. Bosch was worried that it might be a letter bomb or that it might contain harmful substances. She scanned it and made sure that it only contained paper documents before handing it once more to Jack.

When Jack opened the envelope and read the document, his usually stern face turned ashen, and his body began to tremble slightly.

He slammed the document on the table, picked up his coat, and rushed back home.

...

A few days earlier, Luke had obtained several bottles of imported herbal liqueurs.

Bianca gave Old Master Rayne two bottles. She wanted to give two bottles to Old Mr. Norman, but she was busy with her new business, and she had nearly forgotten about it.

She only remembered it when she happened to glance at the two bottles sitting in the wine cabinet.

Old Mr. Norman was her biological grandfather. Bianca did not have too many interactions with him, but the kind and wise old man treated her well, and she respected him very much.

That day, Bianca took the two bottles of liqueur and drove to Old Mr. Norman's house.

old man was still living in his

residence had been designed by Bianca, and it was a major project. Bianca had been busy with handling T Corporation's matters for a long while, and the project had been

guilty about that. She wanted to get an experienced designer from T Corporation to replace her in the project, but Old Mr. Norman insisted on Bianca. He did not mind waiting for Bianca to be free again so that work may

the plain-looking Volkswagen through a stately

Norman's residence was guarded by guards armed

saluted Bianca as she drove

recognized her license plate, and the gate

wide asphalt road was flanked with pine trees. It seemed that the road had been

end of the road were several majestic yet aged administrative buildings among blooming flower beds

The car drove past the classic-styled administrative neighborhood. Each of the mansions was surrounded by a high wall with an electrified fence, and behind the mansions were a row of townhouses.

Old Mr. Norman's residence was among the row of mansions in front of the townhouses. There was a grape trellis in front of the mansion. Grapes were growing in bunches on the vines; those that were almost ripe were a tantalizing purple-red color, while some were green like emeralds. It was a lively sight.

Bianca had just parked outside the mansion when someone opened the **front gate**.

She could hear two sets of footsteps *walking out*.

A caretaker helped an old man walk out of the house. The old man looked at Bianca endearingly. "You're here, my granddaughter. I've been waiting for **you**."

"*Grandpa*." *Bianca* felt a wave of tenderness when she saw Old Mr. Norman. "Didn't I say that you should wait in the house? Why did you come out?" She *said*.

"**You've lost** weight, Bianca!" Old Mr. Norman's lips trembled slightly as he looked at Bianca from head *to toe*.

He wanted to go closer to greet Bianca, but the caretaker stopped him. "It's too hot outside, Sir. Let's go inside the house, and you can chat with Miss. Ms. Rayne, when Sir got to know that you were visiting, he'd been mumbling over and over about when you'd come, and he would look at the front gate. He was so worried that you might suddenly have an emergency and postpone the visit..."

Bianca handed the two bottles to the caretaker and held Old Mr. Norman's arm. "I told you that I'd be coming, and I'd keep to the promise. You should have waited for me in the living room. It's so hot outside, you shouldn't have come out."

helped Old Mr. Norman walk back into the

air conditioning made her feel a lot

in Old Mr. Norman's residence were old-fashioned, but the house was kept clean. There was a retro-style couch and a painted

baskets hung from the ceiling. Below them were several stools with miniature palm trees as well as a bonsai

Victorian-style partition was the

door was ajar. One could see that a variety of paintings were hung on the

the table was a rack that contained a variety of brushes and

that Old Mr. Norman loved painting, and Bianca's mother seemed to have picked up the habit

caretaker came over carrying a tray with a plate of cut watermelon and a bunch of grapes. "Ms. Rayne, these are the grapes from the trellis outside, and Sir bought the watermelon earlier. They have been refrigerated. I hope you'll

Chapter 850

Leia was dressed in a pure white sleeveless scalloped dress with a round neckline and a tapered waistline. She had light makeup on, and that made her look like an innocent young woman. She seemed quite docile, just like the character she always portrayed back when she was an actress.

Her right hand was holding Old Mrs. Norman's arm, while her left was holding two big shopping bags. She was whispering something to her grandmother.

Old Mrs. Norman was giggling happily. Wrinkles appeared on her well-maintained face.

"Grandma," Bianca stood up from her seat and greeted Old Mrs. Norman. She held a grape in her hand.

The sweetness that had lingered in her mouth suddenly became tasteless.

Old Mrs. Norman reflexively turned to the voice that had greeted her. She was visibly surprised when she saw Bianca, and the joyous expression on her face reduced by a little. "It's you, Bianca. Why did you come here when it's so warm outside?"

She was not fond of that granddaughter, even though the DNA test had conclusively proved that Bianca was biologically related to her.

Firstly, the old woman showered her love on Leia, who had lived in the Norman residence since she was a young girl.

Secondly, Bianca was not a meek woman, and she had embarrassed the Normans publicly several times before she was reunited with her birth parents. Moreover, Bianca did not suck up to her grandmother, and Old Mrs. Norman could not find any reason to like her.

though Bianca was reunited with the Normans, she insisted on being a Rayne instead of changing

the reasons why Old Mrs. Norman was not fond

that her grandmother was not fond of her, and she was not going to play up to her

came to visit her grandfather, she would greet her grandmother and

Norman was unhappy that his wife treated his granddaughter that way. He had told his wife multiple times in private that she should not be so cold toward Bianca, but she never changed, which made

that it was rare that Bianca visited him, Old Mr. Norman told his wife with a long face, "So what if she's here? Can't she come to her grandparents' house? Bea's considerate enough to bring me two bottles of herbal liqueur too. Why, you're her grandmother, yet you don't

not what I said! You misunderstand me, old man!" Old Mrs. Norman replied sheepishly. She did not say another word, but her expression toward Bianca became even

that Old Mrs. Norman was aggrieved, Leia tried to speak up for her grandmother. "You've misunderstood Grandma's words, Grandpa. She's saying that it's warm outside, and she's worried that Bianca might have a heatstroke... isn't that so, Bianca?" She said

a side-eye to Leia. "It is indeed quite warm outside. If you can bring Grandma shopping despite the heat, then I shouldn't neglect my

She looked at the bags with luxury brand logos that Leia held. Her implication was obvious.

Leia's smile froze on her face. "Grandma hasn't gone out for a walk for a long time! She needs the exercise. It's not good for her to stay at home for too long."

Bianca chuckled. "You're so considerate, Leia."

Old Mr. Norman could sense the tension between those two siblings.

He coughed deliberately and told the caretaker standing there awaiting orders, "It's rare that both of my granddaughters are here. We should have a sumptuous lunch today, Jen. Please buy double the ingredients when you go to the grocery store later. Let's have a good **lunch.**"

At Old Mr. Norman's age, what he wanted the most was a harmonious family. Even though Leia was not his biological granddaughter, she had lived with the Normans for almost twenty years, and he had already treated her like family.

Of course, that was provided that Leia behaved.

*Old Mrs. Norman sighed and picked up Leia's hand. "You're a good girl for going around town with me today. I hope you didn't find me troublesome. I've missed you, and you should stay over for a few days. I'll give a call to your parents later in the evening," she sounded very caring when she said **that.***

rested her head on Old Mrs. Norman's shoulders and said coyly, "Alright, Grandma. I'd like to take a bath now. You should join me too so that I can wash your

take my bath later in the evening. You should go first." Old Mrs. Norman beckoned to the caretaker. "Jen, please prepare Leia's bathwater and a set of clean clothes for her. You should tidy up her room too. She's going to stay over for a

"Yes, Madam."

caretaker undid her apron and helped Leia carry the shopping bags. "Please follow me upstairs, walked behind the caretaker, she glanced knowingly at Bianca, as though saying, "So what if you're the Normans' biological granddaughter? Grandma loves me

Norman did not like where this was going. He said, "If that's the case, you should spend some time chatting

could finish his sentence, Old Mrs. Norman faked a yawn and said lazily, "I'm tired from all that walking. I'll be back in my room for a

Mrs. Norman turned around and walked away without looking

Norman was furious. "You're becoming more muddled as you age! Can't you see