

## Be Gentle 851

### Chapter 851

There was an unexpected guest at lunch. That was a young man in his late twenties who looked somewhat effeminate.

He was dressed in a suit and leather shoes, and his hair was in a side part hairstyle. He looked like a business elite.

Old Mrs. Norman explained that the young man was named Brody Hilton, and he was the grandson of a good friend. He had just returned from abroad and was here to visit Old Mrs. Norman.

She said that the young man had a good background. He had a doctorate from MIT, and he was currently the chairman of an Esports association under Hilton Corporation, as well as the general manager of several media companies.

Throughout lunch, Old Mrs. Norman's gaze flitted between Leia and Brody.

Her matchmaking intentions were all too obvious.

Bianca did not have a good impression of that young man. He might seem gentlemanly, but Bianca always felt that his eyes often wandered toward her chest.

Bianca was dressed in a conservative dress that covered her body from her neck down, but that did not stop Brody from ogling at her.

That was utterly disgusting.

Mrs. Norman held Leia's hand and introduced her to Brody. "This is Leia, my granddaughter whom I've mentioned to you before. She had a degree in Visual and Performing Arts from the London College

an outstanding actress. She's even won a gold award from the Houston International Film Festival, not to mention all the awards from the other events. It's just that she has been focusing on her career, and she hasn't found a significant other yet. As her grandmother, I'm so worried

put down the cutlery in his hands in a deliberate manner and said exaggeratedly, "Wow! That can't be! Your granddaughter is so outstanding, and she doesn't have a

been attracted by Bianca's pure demeanor ever since he stepped into the house. His eyes could not look away from Bianca, and he could not be bothered about

Mrs. Norman's insistent coaxing, Brody glanced reluctantly at Leia. He was not very interested in Leia's modest and diffident looks, especially when contrasted to Bianca's magnanimous and elegant

so, he reached out and shook Leia's hand as a sign of respect to Old Mrs. Norman, though he sounded quite arrogant. "Nice to meet you, Ms. Norman. I am Brody, and my parents own Hilton Corporation. I am currently managing one of Hilton Corporation's subsidiaries, and it is my pleasure to meet

was once part of the entertainment industry, and she had seen her fair share of handsome men. The young man in front of her was not considered exceedingly handsome, but he came from a wealthy family. Hilton Corporation could be considered one of the top corporations in

even more interested when her grandmother said that Brody was the sole heir to the family

**She pretended** to be bashful as she said softly, "Nice to meet you, **Mr. Hilton.**"

*In* the past, she would not even have bothered looking at him.

However, her current situation did not give her too many *options*.

After all, her reputation was in tatters, and her status in the Norman family was precarious. She needed to find someone wealthy and influential to support her. The young man in front of her was the perfect candidate in every **aspect**.

Unexpectedly, after shaking hands with her, Brody turned his gaze away and looked at Bianca. "Who is this woman, Grandma Norman? Won't you introduce her **to me?**"

*Bianca* was not in the mood to entertain him. She was picking off the bones from a piece of fish on her grandfather's plate. She smiled when her grandfather was happy *too*.

*When* Bianca was not smiling, she had the demeanor of a distant star -- noble yet untouchable. When she smiled, her eyes became crescent moons, and her pink lips curled upward. That caused Brody's heart to **beat wildly**.

*He* tried to calm his heart down as he asked Old Mrs. Norman again, "Is this woman from another family? Why haven't I met her before?"

Norman grunted happily. Like Bianca, he was also ignoring

Mrs. Norman seemed awkward as she explained, "Oh, she's also my granddaughter. She has only recently reunited with the Normans. You probably didn't know about it since you

sparkled with interest. "You're also Grandma Norman's granddaughter? Grandma Norman, why didn't you introduce this beautiful lady to me? May I know your name, Miss? How old are you, and are you currently

was appalled by Brody's ill-intentioned gaze. She was even more appalled by the fact that he was almost drooling. "I'm sorry, but I'm already married with children. My eldest children are eight, and the youngest is three," she said

young man's expression changed drastically as though he had suffered a major blow. He looked at Old Mrs. Norman and asked, "Is what she said true, Grandma Norman? Is she already married with children? She looks so

"Mm," Old Mrs. Norman replied impassively.

that moment, she was extremely dissatisfied with Bianca. Why would Bianca show up right when she wanted to match Leia with a

could not maintain the stiff smile on

**Chapter 852**

Brody might have been abroad for many years and interacted with many women there, but he remained a conservative and chauvinistic man. He could not tolerate his future wife having sexual relations with other men before marriage.

He grunted contemptuously and said, "I guess young women are more liberal nowadays. They like preening themselves and sleep around while they're barely legal. How shameless! If I were to marry a woman like that, she'd be making me a cuckold the next day!"

He thought that Bianca looked pure and innocent, but he did not expect that she was so immodest.

His expression was extremely unpleasant, as though he had swallowed a dead fly.

Bianca shot a disdainful glance at Brody and chuckled. She was not going to entertain him.

That man did not specifically name her, but Bianca was less than impressed by his beliefs.

'Is he from the Victorian era? Who still thinks like that nowadays?

'To think that he works abroad, too!'

Old Mr. Norman seemed extremely unhappy because of Brody's words, but he was not going to say anything because the young man did not directly insult Bianca.

coughed authoritatively to break the awkward atmosphere. "Let's eat. The food is getting

Mrs. Norman was a conservative woman. She agreed with what

not forget to praise her favorite granddaughter as she spoke. "Brody is right. So many young women are lacking in dignity. They wear spaghetti straps and short shorts while walking all over the streets, and that makes them look like prostitutes! Those women abandon their morals in pursuit of beauty and gratification, and some of them get pregnant before they're married. How shameful! Back in my days, those women would have drowned

isn't like that. She's docile, considerate, and obedient. She has a strict upbringing, thanks to my son and daughter-in-law, and she has always been a good girl who never steps out of line. She might have had a career in the entertainment industry, but she's never even gone on a

even gone on a

Brody looked at Leia excitedly.

that mean that she's still

woman was not as beautiful or fair as Bianca, but she seemed gentle and kind. She possessed a unique charm whenever she was

**Most** importantly, according to Grandma Norman, she had not even gone on a date even though she had a career in entertainment.

As far as he knew, the actresses in the entertainment industry often had unclean secrets. Brody guessed that no one dared to touch Leia because of her father's *status*.

*Brody suddenly* thought that dating Leia was not a bad idea after *all*.

He scrutinized Leia arrogantly as though inspecting an article of clothing before buying it. "Grandma Norman said that you have a degree in Performing and Visual Arts from the London College of Arts. Is **that true?**"

Leia nodded bashfully and flashed a perfect **smile**. "**Mmm...**"

"*Pardon me* for being blunt. I think that it's a good thing that women are educated, but it depends on what they do with that knowledge. I'm not too happy about dating an actress. When you act in a scene with other actors, there will be physically intimate scenes. I don't wish for my future wife to be so exposed in public. All I want for a woman is to raise children, do housework, and serve her in-laws at home. That should be the duty of a *married woman*."

**Brody** spoke so seriously, but Bianca wanted to laugh at his hilarious **expression**.

'Oh my god. Where did this guy *come from?*'

*If he* were at her home, she would have chased him out of the house with a broom!

could not maintain the smile on her face. "You're right, Mr. Hilton. I've been considering my retirement from the entertainment industry. I've been learning cooking, painting, and flower arrangement from my mother, and I only want to be a housewife in

were before, she would not have hesitated to give that man two tight slaps on

not do that now, and all she could do was smile

satisfied Brody. Once again, he carefully examined her from head to toe. "Mm, your face is a lot fairer than your neck, Ms. Norman. Did you put on make-up? It looks like you overdid your face. Your face is as pale as a ghost, but your neck is tanned like barbeque. Tsk

nearly spat out the cream of corn in her

'What's wrong with this guy?'

not help but look at Leia with some pity. Why did Old Mrs. Norman match her with

resisted the urge to throw up. She stopped herself from losing her temper by thinking of Brody's looks and his wealthy family. "I wasn't too careful with the make-up because the weather is too hot. I don't usually put on make-up at home

## **Chapter 853**

Of course, Bianca did not say it.

After all, she did not want anything to do with that man.

Whatever he did was none of her business.

The rest of the lunch was just as dramatic. Bianca enjoyed her meal while watching the comedy. On the other hand, Leia was the total opposite. The meal was tasteless, and she found it hard to swallow her food.

After lunch, Brody and Leia looked at each other for a while, and he invited her to go shopping.

Old Mrs. Norman stared earnestly at Leia, and she could only agree sheepishly.

After the couple left, Bianca stayed at home and played chess with Old Mr. Norman.

Old Mr. Norman was a skilled player, but Bianca was not bad either. That was how they spent the next two hours.

While playing, Bianca and her grandfather chatted about architecture. Bianca was surprised that her grandfather was quite knowledgeable in architecture, even more so than some professional architects, even though he did not have a degree in it. That impressed Bianca quite a bit.

As Old Mr. Norman captured one of Bianca's pawns, he said, "... The design of a building is influenced by both natural or manmade factors. A good design will make its surroundings better instead of becoming a burden. The interior and exterior of a building should follow the natural order. It's not easy to be an outstanding designer, Bea. You might have a degree in architectural design, but you still have a lot to learn."

moved one of her bishops backward to protect her other pieces and said respectfully, "Thank you for your wisdom, Grandpa. I will remember what you

Mr. Norman replied satisfactorily and continued, "Also, you should keep on practicing your painting. There are many similarities between painting and architectural design. When a designer designs a building, they will have to figure out how to place everything while allowing enough space for movement. Similarly, painting is about finding the balance between positive and negative space. We shouldn't always be looking for something that would fill our lives. Sometimes, we have to take a step back and enjoy the

"Mm, I know."

I have a collection of antique books about traditional architectural design. You can take a few books home and understand how people in the

Norman imparted a lot of wisdom to Bianca, which

Mr. Norman began to yawn. Bianca could see that he was getting sleepy, so she helped him to his bedroom. After that, she went to the study and looked for the titles that her grandfather had told

were many shelves in the study, and the books covered many areas of knowledge. It was like a mini

the books were neatly arranged by categories, such as politics, economics, language, design, and art. It was easy for Bianca to find what

to look through the architecture section. All the books there were

**She picked** several classic books on architecture, sat in front of the desk, and began to read.

...

*When* Leia returned, she noticed that the door of her grandfather's study was ajar, while Bianca was sitting inside reading.

Her hair was swept back, and her fair and slender neck was revealed. As she sat there and read quietly, her tranquil and elegant demeanor seemed *irresistibly attractive*.

Leia was reminded of Brody's eager gaze on Bianca, and she became angry. She took several steps and went into the study.

After she was inside, she deliberately flaunted her new outfit.

Brody had given her the money to buy it. She wanted to show it off *to Bianca*.

*Unexpectedly*, Bianca did not seem to notice her, even though she tried to look as flashy as possible. Bianca's eyes were transfixed on that boring book, and she did not even lift her head to give Leia a single **glance**.

Leia was annoyed by that. She coughed loudly and shouted into Bianca's ear. "*Bianca!*"

*Bianca* was shocked by the sudden **noise**.

lifted her head away from the book and frowned when she noticed that it was Leia. "It's

are you reading? You're so engrossed. You didn't even see me coming in." Leia pouted and danced around Bianca like a butterfly. She wanted to show off her new outfit and

not even look at her. "Get out. I'm reading,"

instantly furious. She slammed the bags of luxury goods on the table heavily and said, "You don't have the right to ask me to leave! This is Grandpa and

did not even lift her head. "You're welcome to stay here, but please be quiet. I don't like being disturbed when I'm

was extremely irritated by

noticed her grandfather's antique inkwell in front of Bianca, and she had

far as she knew, the antique inkwell was over a hundred years old, and it was carved entirely by hand. It looked dark like ink, but at night, it would give off a gentle white light. Jack had won it in an auction at a high

Norman treasures the inkwell. He would usually keep it safe whenever guests were

## **Chapter 854**

The exquisite inkwell fell on the floor, but it did not shatter as ordinary ones would.

However, one of its corners chipped off when it hit the floor, giving it an ugly imperfection.

Leia pretended to cover her mouth. She half-closed her eyes to hide the cunning in her gaze. "Sorry for bumping into you, Bianca, but... you broke Grandpa's favorite inkwell! Don't you know that it's an antique? Dad bought it at his old friend's auction at a high price. Grandpa usually keeps it safe, but you..."

Bianca's heart skipped a beat when she saw the inkwell on the floor. She had an ominous feeling about it.

She had never seen that small antique before, but she could tell from the exquisite carvings that it was worth a lot of money. It was a pitiful sight that it lay broken on the floor.

At the same time, the old couple came into the study.

Old Mr. Norman could sense that the atmosphere in the study was not quite right. "What's wrong?" He asked sternly.

Leia hurriedly ran next to Old Mr. Norman, pointed deliberately at the inkwell on the floor, and spoke with fake regret, "Grandpa, Bianca accidentally broke your inkwell. She didn't mean to, please don't blame her..."

Mr. Norman's eyes fell on the lonely inkwell on the floor. For a brief moment, his brown eyes flashed with uncontrollable

vein on his forehead bulged

penetrating gaze fell on Bianca. "Why would you suddenly break the inkwell, Bianca? How could you be so

Norman began to reprimand shrilly, "You're such a nuisance, Bianca! That is your grandpa's most treasured possession. He doesn't even let me touch it, but you've broken it! You're already a grown adult, but you're still

Norman crouched down on the floor, picked up the pieces of the broken inkwell, and held them in see that he was very sad. He was trembling slightly, and his usually straight back was

did not attempt to make excuses. Instead, her heart wrenched as she saw her grandfather gazing dearly at the broken inkwell in

glared at Leia and saw that the woman was looking at her innocently but with a hint of smugness in her eyes. That made Bianca chuckle

She did not expect Leia would go to such lengths just to frame **her**.

**However**, this was not the time to point fingers.

*Bianca* lowered her head, slowly got down on the floor, and helped her grandfather pick up the pieces. "I'm sorry, Grandpa. This is entirely my fault. I'll bear responsibility for **this**."

**Meanwhile**, Old Mrs. Norman was not going to let go of the chance to criticize **Bianca**.

She instantly scrunched up her face and began to yell. "I told you not to let Bianca come and visit us so often, dear. Look, she always courts trouble whenever she's here. Your asthma flared up the last time she was here. Before that, she brought us some tea, and that made my blood pressure go up, and I had to be hospitalized. This time, she broke your antique inkwell. Don't you think that she's nothing but a nuisance? She's here to wreck **our house!**"

*Bianca bit* her lower lip, and her face became slightly pale.

**She had** already known that her grandmother was not fond of her, but when she heard those insulting words, she felt tears welling up in her eyes.

Norman glared at his wife and said sternly, "How can you say that about our granddaughter? Bea doesn't have any ulterior motive when she comes to visit us. She visited us the last time because she heard that my asthma was flaring up. My health condition has nothing to do with her. Also, you're already suffering from high blood pressure anyway. You didn't take the tea that Bea gave us, even though it's supposed to help you with your blood pressure, but instead, you ate the venison that she brought me. Bea even reminded you that you shouldn't eat the venison, but you were greedy. Why are you blaming her? The inkwell might be precious, but my granddaughter is priceless to me. How can you compare

felt a lot better knowing that her grandfather was on

you, Grandpa." Bianca sounded like she was sobbing. "This is indeed my fault. Don't worry. I'll find a way to restore it. Please trust

was extremely unpleasant. She did not expect that Old Mr. Norman would still be speaking up

the inkwell Grandpa's most prized

scolded me when I touched it the last time. Now that Bianca broke it, he doesn't even say a harsh word! Why does Grandpa treat his granddaughters so

'Pah! Is it because I'm adopted?'

Norman was exasperated by her husband's reply. She instantly looked older with all the wrinkles on

## **Chapter 855**

Bianca returned to her house unhappily with the pieces of the broken inkwell in her hand.

The caretaker noticed her from afar and said excitedly, "You're back, Madam. Sir was mentioning you earlier. What do you want for dinner?"

Bianca glanced at her watch and noticed that it was half-past six. She was quite surprised.

"Luke usually comes home late. Why is he home so early today?" Her voice was more shrill than usual.

The caretaker smiled. "I didn't ask him, but he seems to be in a good mood..."

Bianca nodded and stepped into the living room.

Luke was sitting on the couch reading a financial newspaper. He smiled happily when he saw his wife come into the house. "You're back."

"Mm." Bianca took off her jacket and tossed it on the couch.

Luke could see the worry in Bianca's face.



Luke put the newspaper away, hugged her from behind, and gently kissed her. "What's wrong? Why do you look so down? Did someone bully you?"

the box in her hands and revealed the broken inkwell inside. "No one bullied me. I was at Grandpa's house earlier, and I broke his antique inkwell..." she

up one of the pieces and rubbed it between

felt the sharp edges of the broken piece and suddenly smiled. "I thought it was something serious. Don't worry, I know a master conservator. No matter how broken an antique might be, it'll be as good as new in his hands. I'll bring the inkwell to

at Luke with surprise. Her eyes were sparkling, but there was a hint of doubt. "The inkwell is already broken like this. There should still be cracks even if your friend manages to restore it, isn't it? It won't be as perfect as it once

smiled and gently pinched her earlobe. "I trust in his abilities, and he'll definitely be able to give you a perfect inkwell. Why, don't you trust your

slightly relieved when she saw how confident he looked. "Of course I trust you. I hope that the inkwell can be restored. I felt so guilty when I saw how sad he was when he looked at the broken

something was amiss, Luke frowned. "What actually happened? You're not usually so clumsy. You rarely break anything at home, so how did you break

tell that the inkwell was very

Mr. Norman was an antique lover, and he would usually keep his antiques safe. What coincidence must it be for his wife to "accidentally"

her eyes and told him what happened at her grandfather's

Luke chuckled after listening to the entire story. "I thought Leia would've already learned her lesson. Don't worry, her days of running rampant are over. I'll make sure that she won't cause any more trouble."

**Bianca wanted** to ask if he was going to do something to her, but she did not ask the question *anyway*.

...

After dinner, the couple sat on the balcony to enjoy the *night scenery*.

*They had* not spent their personal time like that for a *long time*.

*It* would be the weekend tomorrow. The driver would bring the twins and Tommy back to their mansion, and the couple would not have any more personal space.

Luke saw that Bianca remained unhappy. There was a hint of worry in her eyes.

"Are you still thinking about the inkwell? Don't worry, it's no big deal **at all**."

*Bianca smiled* at him. "Mm, I know."

continued, "You should stay at home for now. Wayne hasn't been arrested yet, and I'm afraid that he might strike

worry, I'll be careful. I haven't been working for a very, very long time. I don't want to

though Bianca knew that she would not have to worry about her finances because she was married to Luke, she did not want to

was already running her own company. It was stressful, but she felt very accomplished whenever she was

not agree, and there seemed to be no room

his neck and said coyly, "I can look after myself, my husband. If you're still worried, I'll bring a few bodyguards with

in her fragrance and tightly hugged her slender waist. "Wayne is much more dangerous than you think. You should know how ruthless he can get. Zander is still in the hospital, and I don't wish anything to happen to

Bianca's driver and bodyguard. When Kassy abducted Bianca, she had heavily injured Zander. He was still in the hospital in a

uneasy after being reminded about what happened to her bodyguard. She could only comply with Luke's wishes. "Alright, I'll stay at home for another month. Next month, I'll have to go to work no matter what. I can't be idle any longer. The rent is expensive, and my employees are waiting for me to not help but chuckle. "So what about that? I can pay for it. You have nothing to worry

## **Chapter 856**

Bianca was watering the plants on the balcony with a watering can.

She had just put the watering can away when she saw Luke browsing the movie catalog.

She noticed the name of the movie that Luke had picked and could not help but ask, "Why are you playing a horror movie? I thought you always like sci-fi or war movies."

She did not want to admit that she was afraid of watching horror movies. That would make Luke think that she was a coward.

Luke smiled and turned off all the lights in the room. "Let's watch something else today. Don't worry, I'm here," he said mysteriously.

He beckoned at Bianca and told her to sit on his lap.

Bianca hesitated for a while before sitting down next to him. She was not fond of horror movies, but she was very curious about the contents of the movie.

With Luke sitting next to her, she was not as afraid. In fact, she was quite looking forward to it.

She leaned on his chest as he started playing the movie.

The movie had just started playing when the caretaker placed a plate of cut fruits on the round table in front of them...

Next to them were the floor-to-ceiling windows. If they turned their heads, they could see the scenery outside.

The curtains were sheer and white. The moonlight shone in through the thin curtains and created romantic patterns on the floor.

flowers on the balcony were in full bloom, and the starry sky was the backdrop to the dreamy

blissful indeed to be curling up in her beloved man's arms on such a perfect

the fruits while watching the movie. After a while, the movie became scarier

classic movie was about a man who could see ghosts and spirits. After a botched seance, he caught the attention of a malicious female ghost. After his friends died one by one under increasingly mysterious circumstances, he began to see more and more malicious spirits. Bianca was increasingly frightened by the

Bianca felt afraid, she would start eating to calm herself down. She did not notice that Luke's hand was creeping up onto her intimate

a pair of sharp claws appeared on the ground in the movie, Bianca shrieked in fear and spat out the cherry that she had just placed in

nearly jumped out of her seat. "Oh my god! That was too frightening! Fortunately, the movie isn't in 3D. I'd have a

though it was not a 3D movie, the sound effects and music were top-notch. The frightful scenes on the big screen made Bianca burrow deeper into Luke's

looked at the screen without showing any expression on his

bloody scenes and horrifying characters did not scare him. Instead, he thought that classic movies seemed rather cheesy. His gaze eventually fell on the

face was pale, but her eyes remained transfixed on the screen. She did not realize that a cherry had fallen from her

**Luke decided** to play a prank on his wife. He abruptly poked Bianca's back, which caused her to jerk up and hug his neck tightly. "Ahh! A *ghost!*"

**She clung** onto Luke tightly. Luke almost could **not breathe**.

*He* did not expect that his seemingly frail wife could be so strong when she was in a panic. He was beginning **to sweat**.

'This woman!'

He did not say a word, though each of her movements continued to arouse *him*.

Bianca managed to catch her breath. She noticed that there was something wrong with **Luke**.

**She** saw that Luke was dripping with sweat, and his expression was rather abnormal. "Are you afraid of horror movies too, Luke? Should we stop here for today?" She asked as she gently patted *his cheek*.

"**No**, I'm not afraid," Luke said with much difficulty.

**Of course**, Bianca did not believe him. She wiped away the sweat on his forehead and said, "See? You're already sweating, heheh. Your body temperature is also quite high. Don't tell me that you're **not afraid...**"

*Luke* hugged her tightly in his arms. "That's all because of you!"

*Bianca shifted* away guiltily. She was blushing hard. "I... I was quite afraid earlier. That guy died so suddenly..."

out in laughter and stuffed a piece of fruit into her mouth. "Watch the movie and keep your hands to yourself. I can't be responsible for what

out her tongue at him. She looked like a squirrel when she nibbled on the piece of fruit. Luke became quite aroused watching her, but she was too focused on the movie to pay any attention

minutes later, the scene became scary

shrieked fearfully. One of her hands hugged Luke's neck tightly, while the other hand dug into his

to tolerate her reactions while enduring the physical abuse she inflicted on him. He gently patted her head and said softly, "Good girl. If you're afraid, you can close your eyes. There'll be much more horrific and bloody scenes

him. She instantly closed her

grinned mischievously. He leaned over and held

His thin lips converged onto hers.

lips tasted faintly of cherries, while his of

they made in their moments of intimacy while watching the horror movie were surprisingly gentle

kisses were gentle, as though he treasured

## **Chapter 857**

Meanwhile, at the Norman residence.

The lamp in the yard cast a dim light on the fragrant garden and onto a gentle breeze of the early fall.

Under the dense canopy of leaves was a white steel table. On it was a white porcelain pot with a small mouth that emitted a wisp of vapor.

Next to the pot was a basket with an assortment of delicate desserts.

Jack stared vacantly at his beautiful and elegant wife, who was sitting in a rattan chair and sipping a cup of tea.

The entire space belonged to the couple.

As he stared at her, time seemed to have frozen, and they were back in their younger days.

Jack was in a calm mood. He was not bothered by the political squabbles at work or any other earthly worries. All he wanted to do was sit there and enjoy the tranquility with his wife.

He admitted that he had failed her. Because of him, their birth daughter had gone missing for more than twenty years, and they had adopted Leia from an orphanage. His wife had doted upon the young girl, but Leia turned out to be an ingrate.

not predict how Queenie would react if he told her about what

not walked out of her depressive episode, and Jack dared not take the

could not bear to see his wife being deceived by that unfilial

that her husband was about to say something. "Is there anything, Jack? You've been sighing. You're usually not like

his teacup on the table and ventured, "What do you think of our two daughters,

gently. "They're good girls. Bianca is sensible and outstanding. She has inherited our genes, and I'm proud of what she has done. She is like a diamond that sparkles brilliantly even

for Leia, she might not be biologically related to us, but we've been raising her for so many years, and I know her character quite well. She's not as outstanding as Bianca, but she's also sensible and considerate. She might have made some mistakes, but it's good that she learns from them. It's just that... I feel sorry for her for not protecting her, and she has experienced things that someone of her age shouldn't

up in Queenie's eyes when she thought of the time when Leia was violated. She wiped her eyes with a handkerchief and said guiltily, "I didn't expect the Blatt family's third son would perform such inhuman deeds on our Leia. She's in the prime of her life, and she still has a long way to go. What if that incident causes her lasting trauma? What should we

The breeze was cool, bringing with it the gentle fragrance of flowers.

**Only** Queenie's stifled sobs could be heard in the *tranquil night*.

Under the mottled shadows of the tree, Jack could see the sorrow and pity in Queenie as though she were **translucent**.

Jack sighed helplessly, hugged his wife, and gently patted her back. "You can't just see how things are at the surface, Queenie. There are a lot of things that we don't know... for example, our younger daughter. Are you sure that you understand her character? Have you ever considered that her docile and obedient character might only be **a ruse?**"

Queenie abruptly lifted her head and looked at her husband. "What are you trying to say, Jack? I know that Leia made a big mistake, but she's learned her lesson, and she's also very nice to Bianca. You've also witnessed her change. Don't... don't you trust our *daughter?*"

Jack's hands rested on Queenie's cheeks and held her face in front of his. "If she's as considerate as you think, she wouldn't have tried to destroy Luke and Bea's relationship. If she's as docile as you think, she wouldn't have threatened Dr. Hoover to falsify Julie Anderson's DNA test report. If she's as obedient as you think, she wouldn't have involved herself with drugs and been taken away to a rehab center. Do you see what our younger daughter has done, Queenie? Or could you not accept that the girl that we've brought up has such a heinous character?"

"I... I..."

Queenie stubbornly turned her head away, averting her husband's stern gaze. "That's all in the past. We all make mistakes, don't we? Leia did so many stupid things because she's insecure. You should also know that kids who grow up in an orphanage can be more sensitive **than others**.

return might have made her more insecure than ever, and that's why she... You can't be asking her to pay for her mistakes forever, can you? That's not fair for

a happy family now. Bianca and Luke are a loving couple, and they've given us three cute grandchildren. Leia has decided to quit the entertainment industry and learn business management from me, and she would also paint and practice yoga with me too. I think our life is

his wife remained stubborn, Jack swallowed the next words that were at the tip of

had been irredeemably deceived by Leia's charms. She would not believe it even if he showed her the evidence of their daughter's

mind. Looks like I'll have to keep it a secret

won't forgive anyone who dares to harm my birth

...

Leia received an emergency call from her father, she was sitting on the toilet in the bathroom of Old Mr. Norman's house, staring incredulously at the double red lines on the pregnancy test

## **Chapter 858**

Leia could not accept that horrible fact. She instantly went to the best hospital to confirm if she was really pregnant.

'What if the pregnancy test kit is faulty?' She remained hopeful.

'What if I'm not really pregnant?'

She rushed into the VIP wing of the hospital wearing a mask and an oversized pair of sunglasses. The nurse took a urine and blood sample for the hCG test.

Half an hour later, the head of the obstetrics department read Leia's test report carefully.

"You are pregnant, Ms. Norman. The baby is thirty-six days old," she announced formally.

"That's... that's impossible! I can't be pregnant!" Leia shrieked and covered her mouth. She felt her blood turning cold.

"Your urine and blood tests both show that you are pregnant, Ms. Norman. It is almost impossible that both tests are wrong. Do you want to carry the child to term?" The doctor did not know how else she should explain it to Leia.

Leia was already an adult. If she did not want a child, she could have taken preventive measures and not panic like what she was doing now.

Leia instantly shook her head and looked at the doctor with pleading eyes. "No, I'm not going to carry this child for another day. I want to abort it right now! Can you arrange an operation for me now? I want to get rid of it now!"

The department head had been a doctor for many years and had performed many abortion procedures on women. It was her first time seeing a woman so anxious about aborting the child.

that Leia had an elevated social status, so she asked carefully, "Is this your first pregnancy, Ms. Norman? If you would like to abort the child, what procedure would you like? Do you want to abort it by surgery or by

Her hands that were holding the handbag were shaking. "What's the difference between the

explained both procedures to Leia. "Medical abortion is suitable for pregnancies less than seven weeks. By taking medication, it will cause the female uterus to contract and expel the fetus. It is less damaging to the body, but the drawback is that the abortion might not be thorough. On the other hand, surgical abortion is performed by a machine. You'll be sedated, the procedure will only last for a few minutes, and you'll barely feel any discomfort. The chance of success is 100%, but you'll risk damaging your uterus. If you would like to perform a surgical abortion, you'll have to wait for a few more days for the fetus to grow a

the chances that a medical abortion will

are healthy, Ms. Norman, and this is your first pregnancy. The chance of success is more than eighty considered her options and bit her lip. "I'll go for medical abortion!" She said

not wait to remove that b\*stard child from her

extra minute having Wayne's spawn in her body made her want

performed another full examination of Leia's body and made sure that her body was suitable for medical abortion. Then, she prescribed her mifepristone and

a few more pointers from the doctor, Leia left

...

*Leia left* the doctor's office in a daze. She had to accept the fact that she was pregnant.

*She did* not expect that the fetus was so tenacious. She had already taken emergency contraceptive pills, but she was pregnant *anyway*.

*Her* expressions shifted from shock to confusion, to regret, and finally numbness. She could only curse her luck.

**Her eyes** fell on the word "Pregnant" on the test report in her hands. She wanted to tear it into pieces.

**How** would her parents react if they found out that she was pregnant with Wayne's child? Would they disown her?

*She* was not going to be driven away just like that. She still wanted to live a comfortable life.

**Leia put** on her sunglasses and quickly stepped away.

*She* bumped into someone as she walked past the *long corridor*.

"Excuse me..."

woman instantly apologized to

you blind? Can't you see where you're going?" Leia's bad mood was exacerbated by the bump. She instantly started yelling at the

young woman looked quite beautiful. She had a slightly bulging

felt aggrieved. She had already apologized to that woman, but that woman remained so arrogant. She fell into the arms of the man behind her and complained to him. "What's wrong with that woman, Xavier? I've already apologized to her, but why is she acting like a

you calling a shrew, you b\*tch?" Leia could not control her

raised his hand and wanted to slap that woman, but when she saw that man's handsome face, she slowly put her hand

'Xavier Tanner!

'Why is he here?'

could not recognize Leia behind

do you want?" His voice was as cold and harsh as

## **Chapter 859**

Leia stepped out of the hospital entrance and hurried over to the parking lot. She did not want to be late.

After all, her father had summoned her back home, and she dared not disobey him.

She had just fastened her seatbelt when she realized that the pregnancy test report was missing.

She must have accidentally dropped it when she bumped into that young woman earlier!

Leia's head spun. She wanted to go back up to collect it, but there were so many people in the hospital, and someone might have already taken it. Moreover, if Xavier had picked it up, he must have already seen it.

There were so many people with the same name in the world. Even if Xavier had seen it, he might not guess that it was her.



Even if Xavier guessed that it was indeed her, all she had to do was not admit it.

Leia breathed a sigh of relief after thinking of that. She started the car and left the hospital.

She tuned in to a radio station, hoping to lighten the mood by listening to some music.

There was a news flash after a song. "Good afternoon, fellow listeners. We have just received news that the Wayne family is currently undergoing investigations. Victor Blatt, the eldest son of the Blatts, has been taken into custody for allegedly being involved in several corrupt dealings that involved family members. At the same time, Blatt Corporation is also suspected to have ties with the criminal underworld. Vincent Blatt, the second son of the Blatts and the CEO of Blatt Corporation, has been suspended from his position and is being investigated. Wayne Blatt, the third son, is currently wanted for heinous crimes, and his current whereabouts are currently unknown. The police have promised a hefty reward for anyone who can provide information that leads to Wayne Blatt's arrest."

was shocked. She did not expect that the influential family would be hit by multiple scandals

like they're about to fall from grace. They're not that powerful after all!' She thought

same time, she wondered who might have the power to bring down the three

Could it be Luke Crawford?

it were really him, then the man was more ruthless and powerful than she expected. He was quite thorough in dealing with the entire family if he wanted to get back at Wayne for attempting to kill

thought of the time when she wanted to kill Bianca with poisonous snakes. Luke had abducted her and had given her a taste of her own medicine. He had placed dozens of poisonous snakes on her body and tortured her for the entire night. She almost lost her mind from

might look gentlemanly and noble, but Leia knew better than anyone else that he was not a gentleman at all. His gentle looks were nothing more than

uncontrollably when she thought of what Luke could do, and she broke out in a cold sweat despite the a hand on the steering wheel, while the other was on her lower

*Whatever* happened to the Blatts was none of her business. She never liked *them anyway*.

*However*, she was carrying the scion of the Blatts in her womb. She could not wait for it to be gone!

Leia gave a call to her mother right before she **arrived home**.

"**Are you** at home now, Mom? You're not? Can you come home soon? Grandpa and Grandma gave me a lot of local produce, including the morel mushrooms that you've been craving for a long time. I'll make mushroom soup when I get home. Please come back soon..."

After she ended the call, Leia's expression abruptly changed, as though the young woman who had spoken coyly through the phone was a totally different person.

**She knew** that she could not face her father alone. He was too authoritative and discerning.

*She believed* that her mother would be able to *save her*.

...

Back at the Norman residence, Leia braced herself before opening the door to her father's *study*.

"Dad," She greeted her father.

she could ask what was going on, her face was battered by a thick stack of

on, Dad? Why are you so angry? Did I do something wrong?" Leia took a panicked step backward and discreetly pinched her arm hard so that tears started to fall. She looked at her father with

glared at his adoptive daughter coldly, not influenced by her tears. "Look at what you have done, you wretched girl! I thought that you were kind-hearted despite being capricious, but I didn't expect that you'd be hiding this ugly side of yours from

entire body was shaking from anger. He would have kicked her if not that she was a

clenched her fists tightly. She was breaking out in cold sweat, but she tried to remain calm. "What are you saying, Dad? I don't

his fist on the table and nearly broke it. "Are you still trying to deny all the things that you've done? I might be able to forgive you for your poor character, but you even tried to harm your elder sister! Why did we raise an immoral ingrate

lips were pale as she tried to deny what she had done. "No, I haven't harmed Bianca. I can swear to God, Dad.

a look at the evidence at your feet before saying another

## **Chapter 860**

Jack paused for a moment as he looked at Leia's pathetic demeanor. "Are you still trying to deny what you've done, despite all the evidence that's been laid bare in front of you? If you've been honest with me right from the start, I wouldn't have been so angry. Do you think that I'm an idiot?"

Jack had to admit that the mountain of evidence presented to him was true.

He was stunned when he first saw the evidence. He could not believe that his "considerate" daughter could be so ruthless in private. It took him a long time to accept it.

Tears swished in Leia's eyes.

Her back was straight, but her chest was heaving. "I only have one question for you, Dad. In all my years in the Norman household, have you ever treated me as your daughter? You've always been cold to me, and I can never figure out what you're thinking. You don't seem to like me no matter what I do to gain your favor. I thought that it's just how your personality is, but the truth is cruel to me...

"Ever since Bianca returned to the household, you've been so nice to her because she's your birth daughter. You fulfill her every wish, and you've even helped her with her business. Not only her, but you've also pampered her children.

"How have you treated me? I've been an actress for so many years, and Mom is the one who always helps me with all my problems. The only thing you've ever told me is that girls should keep away from the chaotic environment and settle down with a stable job. Don't you know how sad I am when I see you treat Bianca so differently? Now, you shower me with all these baseless accusations without even asking me. How unfair is that?"

was stained with tears. Every word was an accusation of how Jack had unfairly treated her. Jack, despite being a seasoned politician, started to

was not going to be swayed

"Hmph," he grunted.

furrowed his brows as he thought of how he had treated Leia. "I admit that I haven't been fair to you, but is that what you think of me? Without my permission, do you think your mother would have brought you back here so that you can live a comfortable

been known for your purity in the entertainment industry, and no director, producer, or funder would force you to shoot a kissing scene or join any of those business dinners. Do you think you alone could command their respect? If I haven't warned them to stay away from you, do you think that you can maintain your pure reputation or win so many awards? Do you think that you can keep a clean record if I hadn't

were raised in an orphanage, Leia, and you might think that you deserve pity, but that doesn't mean that the world should revolve around you. You always play the victim, even though none of us owe you anything. My wife and I have done our best to raise you as our daughter, but I didn't expect that you're an ingrate! Queenie might be soft-hearted, but it doesn't mean that you can fool the rest of us. It looks like we shouldn't keep you in the

Jack's words made Leia's face even *paler*.

"I'm sorry, Dad, I... I..." She mumbled, unable to finish **a sentence**.

Jack glared at her and ordered her sternly, "Pick up all the documents on **the floor!**"

*Leia dared* not go against his wishes. She picked up the pieces of paper one **by one**.

She would have ripped apart the documents in her hands if not that she was intimidated by Jack's authoritative *demeanor*.

Holding the thick stack of documents in her hands, she knew that there was no use denying it any longer.

**Her** father was not going to be as easily deceived as **her mother**.

she could do was fall on her knees and beg. "I know that I'm wrong, Dad. I shouldn't have tried to harm Bianca... I was only jealous that Bianca had replaced my position in the family, and I was even more afraid that you might disown me, and that's why I've done so many silly things. Please don't disown me... I swear that I'll treat Bianca nicely. If I ever go against my word, may I get hit by a

thought that her father would forgive her after making that

did not soften at all. He took out a stamp pad from

indicated to Leia to put the documents on the table. Leia could only comply despite feeling

tossed the stamp pad on the table. "I can allow you to remain in the household, but I have to be prepared for any eventuality. I want black-and-white evidence and not verbal promises! Sign on the documents and affix your

bit hard on her lower lip. "Dad, you can't... you can't treat me