

## Be Gentle 861

### Chapter 861

Jack calmly kept away the stamp pad and the documents.

Queenie happened to step into the study as he locked the drawer.

Leia remained kneeling on the floor, staring vacantly at her father's actions. How she wished that she could spit fire from her eyes to burn those documents into ashes!

Fortunately, her mother came back just in time. Her father would not give her a hard time.

Queenie's smiling face sank drastically when she saw her daughter kneeling on the floor while sobbing as though she was punished.

She hurriedly rushed up to Leia and helped her up. "Why are you kneeling on the floor, Leia? The floor is so cold. Get up!"

Leia stubbornly remained kneeling, her frail body swaying as though she was a dying flower, and shook her head at her mother. "I should be punished for my mistakes, Mom. Dad is right to punish me."

When Queenie heard that, she dragged Leia from the floor and glared at her husband. "Why did you have to make her kneel if she did something wrong? You could have disciplined her some other way. To think that you're the Provincial Committee Secretary, too!"

had sent Queenie out on some errands, knowing that she would protect their

did not expect that she would return so

glared at Leia coldly, knowing that his daughter must have gotten Queenie to come back. He wondered why he did not notice how scheming his

she would dare to

a deep breath. "I have my reasons for doing this, Queenie. You don't have to meddle in this. One must pay the price for their mistakes. If you continue to harbor her, she will only make bigger and bigger mistakes. There's only so much I can do to protect my daughter; I don't want to wait until it's too late!" It was the first time that Jack had used such a stern tone on

too protective of her daughter. She glared angrily at her husband. "Leia is a kind girl. She might have made some mistakes, but she's already learned her lesson. Why must you harp on them? Don't you know that you'll traumatize our child? Please keep your airs of a politician at work and not bring them

lovingly at her daughter. "Your dad is muddled, Leia. He thinks that he can order us around like we're his subordinates. Don't mind him. Let's

timidly at her father. Her legs were shaking. "Dad is still angry at me, Mom. I'll kneel here until he's not

**Queenie** poked Leia's head with a finger. "Silly girl, do you like kneeling that much? Don't you listen to your mother? Why, Jack, are you prepared to let our daughter for an **entire day?**"

**Jack** saw that his wife was glaring at him resentfully. He knew that he was not going to discipline their daughter **anymore**.

*In any case, he had already achieved what he wanted.*

*He wagged* his hands and said helplessly, "Alright, that's enough for today. I hope you remember your lesson today, Leia. There are some things that you shouldn't do. Otherwise, I won't go easy on **you**. **Understand?**"

His tone of voice might be calm, but Leia could tell from his eyes that his warning **was final**.

Her face turned pale as she averted Jack's gaze. "I know, Dad... I'll remember the lesson you taught me today, and I should know what to do in the future. I'll make sure that you and Mom are proud of me," she said timidly.

**Queenie held** Leia's icy hand and led her out of the study while complaining about how cruel Jack **was**.

**Leia** smiled dryly and showed a look of despair. "Mom, does Dad hate me? Does he only like Bianca? Is it because Bianca is related to you by blood, but I'm only adopted from an orphanage?"

heart wrenched when she saw how dejected Leia was. "That can't be. We treat the two of you the same. Moreover, you're already like a birth daughter after living with us for so many years. No one can come between us. You are our precious daughter, and we won't abandon you

grabbed onto Queenie's hand as though she was drowning at sea grabbing onto a

seemed thinner, but her eyes were sparkling. "Do you mean what you say, Mom? What if I disappoint you greatly one day? Won't you abandon me either? After all, I've tried to harm

had a feeling that Leia was not her usual self, but she did not think too much of it. Instead, she smiled and said, "Of course. We should let bygones be bygones. Your sister won't hold a grudge against you either. She's already forgiven you, and I'd forgive you

that Leia was talking about the harmless pranks that Leia had done to Bianca, and not those that threatened Bianca's

smiled and gently hugged her mother. "You're so nice to me, Mom. You're the only one who loves me in this

Queenie was not looking, Leia's gaze was venomous as she stared at the door of

how dare he force me to confess to

## **Chapter 862**

Other than giving the families of the victims a huge sum of money as compensation, Luke Crawford, the CEO of T Corporation, made a personal promise that he would grant a job for anyone from the victims' immediate family. If there were any elderly dependents, Luke also promised that T Corporation would support them with their living expenses for the rest of their lives.

The families of the victims were incredibly grateful for Luke's generous measures.

T Corporation had resolved its crisis, and its share prices continued to rise.

The companies that had severed ties with T Corporation during its crisis regretted doing so, but it was already too late.

However, the collapse of The Galleria was a serious incident. Even though T Corporation was innocent, the police arrested eighteen people, including the contractor, the general manager of the management company, and the construction company. The head architect of The Galleria was investigated by the Public Integrity Committee, and T Corporation was hit with certain sanctions.

The public was satisfied with the outcome of the investigation and T Corporation's remedial measures. T Corporation was also relieved that their reputation was finally redeemed.

Everything seemed to be taking a turn for the better.

The only worry was that Wayne Blatt, one of the chief culprits behind the incident, remained at large.

Even so, the reputation of the Blatt family was beginning to decline, and Wayne was widely despised.

...

T Corporation.

at the balcony, enjoying the

stood tall and straight like a god. He wore a simple white shirt and a bespoke patterned tie. The top button of his shirt was undone, and several kiss marks could be seen below his

were folded, and his forearms were revealed. His arms seemed to be glowing under the

trustworthy assistant for many years, was standing

Mavis left T Corporation, his position in the company became even

the latest financial updates of the company to his boss and anything his boss needed to know about the Galleria incident. "... The government isn't finding fault with us anymore, and the families of the victims are satisfied with the compensation. Everything is going according to plan, except that Wayne remains on the loose. We've tried to hunt him down multiple times, but Wayne was an ex-special forces soldier, and he's a very cunning one. Whenever we're about to arrest him, he will manage to

**Luke** listened to the report without saying **anything**.

**He** held a menthol cigarette between his fingers. There was a fresh smell of mint as smoke swirled in the air.

**The** smoke obscured his expression, though Jason could see a hint of danger on his boss's handsome face, and that made him feel **uneasy**.

Luke gave off an intimidating aura, but Jason had to continue to give his report while cold sweat dripped from his forehead. He wondered if his boss was not satisfied with his **performance**.

"Mr. Doyle..." Luke suddenly opened his mouth and interjected Jason's report. His voice was as cold and harsh as a rock. "Have you held your wedding with Sue yet?"

"Huh?"

**Jason was** surprised. He did not expect that his boss would change the conversation topic while they were talking about *company business*.

**Luke seemed** unsatisfied with Jason's answer and continued to ask him, "Have you registered your marriage yet?"

Jason wiped the sweat off his forehead and smiled drily. "Sue hates me now. She doesn't want to marry me or even register

since Bailey, his ex-wife, had ruined their photoshoot at the bridal boutique and injured them physically, Sue refused to marry him. They were almost about to get married, but Bailey's intrusion caused their wedding to be postponed

suddenly smiled, though there was a hint of pity in that smile. "Haven't you placated your ex-wife after so many years? I have no complaints about your capabilities at work, but you seem to be indecisive when it comes to your personal relationships. No wonder Sue doesn't want to marry

Bianca, Luke found out what was going on between Jason

he were Jason and someone harmed the woman he loved, he would make them pay, no matter who the other party

had allowed his ex-wife to repeatedly disrupt his personal life and even harm Sue and her twin daughters, only because Jason had a son with his ex-wife. Luke was quite disappointed

blushed and lowered his head guiltily. "You're right, Boss. I won't let Bailey bully us anymore! I'll deal with our relationship and protect Sue and

was a soft-hearted man. Moreover, his son with Bailey was suffering from

## **Chapter 863**

Wanda had been undergoing a naturopathic treatment procedure for her breast cancer. She took bitter herbal tonics every day, and her health slowly improved. She was happy that she did not have to remove her breasts.

One day, she came over to the mansion to visit Bianca and Old Master Rayne.

Bianca was giving some pointers on oil painting to her aunt in the studio.

On the walls of the studio were an assortment of paintings done in different styles.

The paintings were beautiful. Bianca had painted most of them during her free time.

She mixed some oil paints on the palette while explaining the theory behind oil painting to her aunt.

"Painting with oils is very different from painting with watercolors, Aunt Wanda.

"When you paint with watercolors, you treat the paper as part of your process. Even if you leave certain parts unpainted, it can still be a completed piece. On the other hand, oil painting emphasizes shape and

color. You'll have to fill in every square inch of your canvas. Look here, doesn't it look more beautiful when you fill this area with color?"

the canvas was a beautiful and ethereal lake. In the distance was an arch bridge, while green willows dotted the background. On the bank were several morning glories in bloom, and several birds were flitting mischievously in

was explaining to her aunt how to mix colors and balance the warmth and coolness of  
had been obsessed with oil

signed up for oil painting classes. However, after attending several classes, she thought that the instructor was not as skilled as her niece. That was why she asked Bianca for advice while she was there visiting her

quite impressed that the rather crude painting had become a lot more pleasing to

gestured a thumbs-up at her niece and praised her. "I only know that you're talented in design. I didn't expect that you're so amazing with oil painting too! You're a genius,

"You flatter me, Aunt Wanda. I'm not that great. I only doodle a little whenever I'm free. Luke is a much better artist than

Wanda put the brush away and said, "No wonder you're such a good match with Luke. I was worried that his family would bully you because your family isn't very remarkable, but it looks like the two of you have persevered through thick and thin. I'm relieved when I see that."

*Bianca took* a towel and gently wiped a paint stain on Wanda's hand. "You don't have to worry about us, Aunt Wanda. We're happily married with children after all. I'm worried about you though. Your condition is finally improving, and you'll have to take good care of yourself. Right, is your ex-... I mean, is that person still bothering **you**?"

Bianca wanted to slap herself when she saw her aunt's smile fade away upon the mention of **that person**.

**Wanda's ex-husband** was her nightmare. Bianca should not have **mentioned him**.

*Wanda's gloom* only lasted for a brief moment before she resumed her usual expression. "He isn't. He has his life now, and I have mine. I think it's a good thing that we won't ever meet **again**."

"Oh..." Bianca nodded knowingly.

*Suddenly, she* remembered the handsome diplomat she met when she visited her aunt, and she instantly **became curious**.

remember that a diplomat was trying to court you, Aunt Wanda. He seemed like a gentleman and cared greatly for you. How are things between you and

and used a finger to poke Bianca's forehead. "Why are you suddenly so nosy, Bianca? We're only friends. It's not like what

Bianca's face was full of disbelief. "Are you sure that you're not

ruffled her niece's hair. "I didn't know that you're such a gossip, Bianca. Anyway, how are things between you and Luke? You've already registered your marriage, and you have three children. Has he ever mentioned if he'd give you a wedding? A wedding is a symbol of love, respect, and tradition. You might be legally husband and wife, but you'll feel like you're missing something if you don't have a wedding

momentarily startled. "Aunt Wanda, T Corporation had only recently extricated itself from a PR crisis, and Luke has been terribly busy. The wedding can wait. Moreover, I don't think we need to go through with the formalities if we truly love each other. What can be more blissful than spending the rest of my life with

shook her head in disapproval. "You're so considerate about him, but have you considered your own feelings? You might have registered your marriage with him, and it's also published in the newspapers, but it's different when your husband is from a wealthy family. If you don't hold a wedding, the tabloids will gossip

shook her head determinedly. "You worry too much, Aunt Wanda. I've been through so much all these years. Do you think I'd care about what some tabloid

## **Chapter 864**

The next three months passed in the blink of an eye.

The growth of Brilliant Architectural Design LLC, Bianca's company, was on track. Other than her, Sue and Nina were also in the company.

Bianca's designs were spectacular, and she treated every client with equal respect. Moreover, she remained in contact with many clients from the time she was the CEO of T Corporation, and Sue and Nina had many contacts of their own. The company was swamped by projects ever since it started operating.

The company made a profit in less than three months of operation, and it had to hire new employees to keep up with the workload.

Bianca and Nina went to a few prestigious academies to scout for prospective employees. TO their disappointment, most of the graduates were boastful with their abilities, and they demanded a high salary despite having no work experience.

She posted job listings on several recruitment websites to hire some experienced employees.

While Bianca was working in her office one day, the receptionist knocked on her door. "Ms. Rayne, this is the resume of our interviewee today. Her name is Shireen Williams, and she has just graduated from university. I think she is quite outstanding, please take a look."

Bianca nodded. She read through her resume and her design portfolio.

She was quite excited. "Ask her in."

The receptionist did so.

young woman in her early twenties entered

short hair, a serene face, and clear eyes. She seemed quite thin, but she had a naturally refreshing demeanor. Bianca instantly had a good impression of

to meet you." The young woman was visibly surprised when she saw Bianca. Perhaps she did not expect that the general manager of the company was a young woman

was dressed in dark-colored office clothes that exposed her neck. Her hair was braided behind her so that her face and her pearl ear studs were uncovered. She seemed like a gentle woman, but Shireen felt pressured by Bianca's

have a seat, Ms. Williams." Bianca pointed at the chair on the other side of her desk. "I see that you have a master's degree in architectural design from Capital University, and your results are

genuine smile made the young woman

Her tightly clenched fists relaxed.

*However*, when Bianca mentioned her name, she became nervous once more.

She had applied for a job at several other companies, but they rejected her instantly when they saw her name.

*Shireen* had asked her interviewers why that was the *case*.

Those people only shook their heads and returned her resume to her. "I am sorry to say that we cannot hire you, and we are unable to tell you the reasons why. **Please leave.**"

**Shireen** felt her hope fading away. If bigger companies refused to hire her, chances were that the young general manager in front of her would do the *same*.

She held tightly onto the CV in her hands, crumpling its corners.

Bianca noticed Shireen's changed mood, and her eyes returned to Shireen's resume. "Ms. Williams, you have been the top scorer of your cohort every year for the four years you were in the degree program, and you have As and A+s for your associate course. You have won the special award of the National Undergraduate Design Competition for two consecutive years, and even more awards while you were pursuing your master's degree. You have also published several highly-acclaimed articles in SCI and EI. You are an outstanding individual, Ms. Williams. I'm wondering why you'd apply to a small company **like us.**"

*Shireen looked* at her and hesitated. "It's because... I can't find a job anywhere *else.*"

your achievements in your resume and your design portfolio are genuine, that shouldn't have been the case." Bianca inspected her carefully, trying to discern any changes in her

smiled dryly and shook her head. "Don't worry. I didn't not fake my resume, but I don't know why no company wants to hire me. I've lost count of the number of companies I applied to. It's either they don't give me a reply or the interviewer would tell me that

offended anyone?" Bianca thought for a while and asked. She guessed from her experience that it must be the

have offended someone important and influential. Otherwise, there was no reason that she could not find

circle is very small. I usually stay at home and study, and I've never fallen foul with anyone. I can't imagine offending anyone." Shireen thought for some time but remained

not going to pry into her personal life. She browsed through Shireen's CV once more and smiled brightly. "If that's the case, would you like to start your career in our company? It's not very big, and we've only just started, but I believe you'll enjoy working

jaw dropped in disbelief. "Are you sure? Am I

noded sheepishly. "Yes, I would like to hire you. Our company has just started operations, so we can't afford to pay a lot yet. Your salary in the probationary period will be \$2,500, and after that, it'll be \$3,000 with commission and meal allowance. We'll pay for your insurance and 401K, but we don't

## **Chapter 865**

Bianca walked up to Nina and gently patted her back. "Hey, it's time to go home, you workaholic. Let me treat you to supper."

Nina put her pen down, tidied up the scattered pieces of paper on her desk, and smiled gently. "No, thanks. I'll have to rush home later. My mom called me earlier and said that she's fallen sick. I'd better go home soon. Otherwise, she'll be yelling at me again."

Bianca was worried when she saw that Nina's complexion was pale. "Should I go with you?"

She knew that Anna, Nina's mother, had always abused Nina.

Anna's abuse was not so flagrant. Even since Jean was sent to prison, Anna's character seemed to have changed totally. She had become a leech that sucked Nina's blood.

Nina declined. "It's fine. I can manage it. My mom is still very prejudiced against you. I don't think it's a good idea that you show up."

Jean was sentenced to six years in prison because he had plotted to harm Bianca. He was still in prison.

Bianca was silent. She remembered how Jean used to love and care for her, but he suddenly became as terrifying as a demon. He had drugged her and let his friends violate her as though she were nothing but an object.

It was a painful incident that she did not wish to remember.

so, they were once in a relationship, and Bianca could not help but ask Nina about Jean. "How is... how is your brother

tried to sound relaxed. "He's alright. I visited him a few months ago. He's thinner and more haggard, but his personality seems to have changed. It looks like he's become a more positive person. Looks like he has learned his lesson

long more will he be



sentenced to six years in prison for attempted rape. Usually, someone who committed that crime would have received a three-year sentence, but Luke had fought for the maximum sentence of six

from the wardens that my brother's sentence is reduced by two and a half years because of good behavior. He's already been inside for three years, so it'll be another year before

silent for a while before sighing. "Do you hate me, Nina? Your brother is in prison because of me, and your life has

playfully punched Bianca's shoulder and glared at her. "What are you talking about? Jean deserves to be sent to prison. If I were the victim, I'd also do what you did. Also, I've told you many times that you're not the one at fault. I just happened to meet a bad guy. Alright, let's not mention the past anymore. I'll be heading

was worried as she watched Nina

not say anything and shook her

...

Nina drove for almost three hours back to her parents' house at Caerhill Town. It was almost midnight when she **arrived**.

Her high heels clicked on the old steps of a *residential building*.

**She could** hear her mother before she entered the house.

"*You* worthless, good-for-nothing bum! You don't make any money, and you sit at home and mope every day! I've never known a day of bliss ever since I married you. What kind of father are you to be so indifferent to your son in **prison**?"

**Naturally, the** voice belonged to Anna, who was relentlessly dressing down on the down-to-earth Mr. **Langdon**.

*Mr.* Langdon's hair was graying, and his back was hunched. He was only fifty years old, but he looked as though he was in his sixties or seventies.

He took another drag of his cigarette, allowing himself to be battered with insults from his wife. His clouded eyes were filled **with misery**.

floor was littered with

hard on the door to break the tension in the house. "I'm home,

opened the door and smiled caringly when he saw his daughter. "You're back, Nina. Why are you late? Have you had dinner? I'll heat up something for you in the

fine, Dad. I'm not hungry. I ate something on my way back home." Nina stopped her father from going to the

glanced around the living room. It was a mess. Her mother had broken

when she saw her daughter return. "Heh, you've finally remembered that we're waiting for you at home! Looks like you don't need us anymore. What have you been

put her handbag down and controlled her temper. "You said that you're sick, Mom, and so I'm here to check on you. You seem to be quite healthy to me. If there's nothing else, I'll be going off. I still have to work tomorrow; I'm

hurriedly stood in Nina's way and grabbed her handbag. "It's rare that you come home. How about you stay for

her daughter's LV handbag and

## **Chapter 866**

Nina tried very hard to control her anger as she watched her mother rob her clean.

Mr. Langdon coughed awkwardly and could not help but reprimand Anna, "I say, Anna, our daughter is already tired from work. Can't you give her a moment of peace? Nina isn't very rich in the first place. Why must you deprive her of every cent? Can't you..."

Anna retorted shrilly, "You're in no position to speak, you useless bum! If you had made your fortune, I wouldn't have to take money from our daughter! Our poor Jean is still suffering in prison! I visited him a few days ago, and I saw that he's become thinner than ever. My poor son! I feel so sorry for him..."

Anna's tears fell like rain as she complained resentfully.

She insulted her husband for being useless while scolding Nina for not bringing enough money home.

Nina wanted to cover her ears.

Eventually, she could not hold it back anymore. "I give you about eight thousand dollars every month, Mom. That's almost a hundred thousand dollars in a year. What else are you not satisfied with? I've already given you more than two million dollars over the last three years. Which other girl would be stupid enough to feed the bottomless hole in their family with their salary?"

Nina's forehead. "That's what you should do. You should help out your family who's in need. Who else in the family can help your brother? Your good-for-nothing dad, or your jobless

have spent all your savings on Marie! That woman threatened you with Jean's child to pay for her house. I told you that it was a bad idea, but you don't listen. Now that the child is miscarried and Marie is sent to prison, you can't get the house back, and your savings are gone. You've brought this upon

was livid when Marie was mentioned. "Don't mention that b\*tch's name in front of me! Jean wouldn't have done such a stupid thing if Marie didn't instigate him. That b\*tch deserves to rot in prison! Sigh, my poor grandson. He'd be almost three years old if Marie had given birth to

impatiently handed a napkin to her mother. "Stop crying. There's nothing you can do now that the child is gone. Marie sleeps around with so many men. Who knows if that child is actually

stopped crying abruptly as though she gained an

right. That b\*tch is a sleazy woman. She's also sleeping with other men even when she's pregnant.

have become pregnant with another man's child and blamed it all on my

**'Fortunately,** the child was miscarried. I wouldn't want to raise someone *else's child!*'

**Even** so, Anna remained stubborn. "Your brother will be in prison for another year, and I can't bear to watch him suffer inside there anymore. Can't you help your brother? I met someone a few days ago, and he says that he can help with getting Jean released early. He needs one million..."

*Nina rubbed* her temples that were beginning to ache. "I'm a single woman with no money or influence. I've already given you all my money, and I don't have any savings. I don't know anyone influential either. Stop trying to pull strings to get Jean released, Mom. Do you remember that you trusted your friend who said that she knew someone in the department that could help Jean? You gave her two million dollars, and where did all that money go? Haven't you learned your lesson? How many more lessons do you need?"

Anna felt a little guilty, but she soon found her crutch. "That's because I'm worried about your brother! Right, Nina, don't you have a sugar daddy now? Ask for his help to bail *Jean out.*"

**"Mom,** how did you know..." Nina was dumbfounded. She had tried to keep her personal life secret from her mother, but somehow she found *out*...

*Anna* grunted smugly. "Don't think that I don't know what you do just because you live far away from us! If you haven't found a sugar daddy, where would you get so much money? The word in town is that you're sleeping with someone in A City, and it's not a secret anymore. I don't really care what you do as long as you send money home... Oh, I also want to buy a house for your brother and look for a job for him so that he'll be settled once he's released. No woman would want to marry him if he doesn't have money. Whatever you send every month isn't going to be of much **use.**"

That materialistic and selfish mother!

furious. She picked up the tattered cloth bag and stepped toward the door. "It seems that my presence is not welcome here, and you're not sick at all, Mom. I'll

better find a way to get more money! We don't have any more food in the kitchen! All you know is dress up and go to work every day. You don't care about your brother at all. I nearly died giving birth to you. I should've let you

more Anna spoke, the angrier she became. She lifted her hand and slapped Nina's

not manage to dodge in time. A red welt instantly appeared on her face. She accidentally bit her tongue, and the taste of blood instantly filled

anger, she stormed out of the

Langdon tried to pull her back. "It's rare that you come back, Nina. Why not stay for the

her father away, covered her face, and smiled superficially. "You saw what happened, Dad. There's no place for me in this house. Take care, Dad. I'll come and visit you another

**Chapter 867**

Nina stared at the message for a while before laughing drily.

She eventually chose to ignore it.

She was like a pet, subject to her owner's beck and call.

That was such a horrible feeling!

Nina got into her car, fastened her seatbelt, and drove away from her parent's house.

She sped all the way back to A City. It would usually take three hours to make that journey, but she reduced it by half.

Soon, she found herself in the most happening part of A City.

She looked through the car window at the scenery outside. Street lamps like stars adorned the tree-lined avenue, giving off a dreamy atmosphere. She did not like nights like these.

The neon signboard read "Queen's Pub" and gave off an alluring glow.

Nina parked her car, took a deep breath, and stepped out.

The moment she opened the door, she was hit by a wave of body heat. She looks coldly at the depraved crowd on the dance floor.

The speakers in the nightclub blasted loud music, causing the bodies and limbs of those people on the dance floor to jerk and writhe.

That was the rhythm of the night.

stepped past the crowd and went into the

her clothes and wore

was her part-time job at night. Her salary at work was not enough to satisfy her mother's

she was in charge of private room

smiled faintly when she thought of all the tips that she would be

6 was a VIP room that served the most wealthy and influential clients of the nightclub. They were usually very

next to her was Leona, her colleague. She wore smokey makeup, but unfortunately, her body was thin and

Nina's ID and said jealously, "Hmph, why are you in charge of room number 6 again? You're not all

dressed in the same uniform as Nina, but Nina looked much better than her. Nina's curves were accentuated by those clothes, and even a woman would be enchanted by that ample bosom and slender

at Nina's chest jealously. She was not going to get breasts like those even if she went for plastic

smiled mockingly at Leona, picked up a tray, and headed toward the

if she has a nice body? She's still ugly anyway!" Leona grumbled as she watched Nina

**She tried** to push her chest up, but no matter what she did, her chest remained flat. She was so angry that she wanted to smash the **mirror!**

...

**Nina** held a tray in one hand and opened the door to room number 6 with her other.

*It* was very quiet inside, a stark contrast to the **chaos outside.**

After the door was closed, none of the noise from outside could be heard in the well-insulated *room.*

She placed the glasses and fruit plate on the rectangular table.

Overcome by curiosity, she looked around the room.

Her manager had warned her during the training session that every customer that came to Queen's Pub had a powerful background. No matter what she saw in the private rooms, she should keep her head *down.*

*She should* not even ask a question even if she saw someone being murdered inside.

Nina composed herself as she arranged the fruit **plates.**

**As her** gaze wandered to her left, she saw a tall man sitting on a bright red Italian couch and hugging two women in his *arms.*

**His** face was obscured by the dimness of the room, and Nina could only see his long legs and expensive crocodile skin *shoes.*

*Nina turned* away and began mixing **the drinks.**

soda water into the glasses elegantly. Then, she deftly mixed it with

tranquil room, only some light music and the occasional clinking of glasses could be

caught a glimpse of the man's face, her blood instantly turned

That was Pierre Mallory!

was very sure that it

glared at Pierre hatefully. The man had ruined her life and made her abort her child. Her health had been permanently affected after

glared at Pierre, she discreetly took out her phone, sent a message to her police officer friend, deleted it, and turned off

here and give Mr. Mallory a drink," one of the men who was inspecting the goods said

heart was beating wildly. She tried to keep her head lowered so that her long hair obscured her

arranged the glasses in a row and began mixing the contents of each glass

room was filled with the thick smell of

She cursed under her breath as she continued mixing the drinks, trying to stall for as long

## **Chapter 868**

Nina lifted her head in surprise and realized that she was in an awkward position. While panicking, she grabbed Pierre Mallory's...

Boom!

Nina's face turned tomato red as her brain froze.

In that instant, she felt ashamed and annoyed. She wanted nothing more than to bury her face in the ground. Why was luck not on her side?

Pierre laughed, grabbed her chin with his long fingers, and forced her to look at him. "Why? You can't wait to get closer to me?"

Everyone around them laughed, while some of the men even wolf-whistled to cheer Pierre on. One of the frivolous voices rang the loudest. "Young Master Pierre is too irresistible!"

Nina's cheeks were burning hot, and her hateful eyes shot daggers at Pierre, startling him.

"Oh, it's you." After a long time, Pierre's sexy thin lips were raised into a sneer as he said, "What happened to the good girl who was top of her class? How did you end up as a bottle girl? Do you need money? Come be my woman and you'll never have to worry about money again."

He did not expect that the ugly duckling had turned into a charming, attractive woman.

Her presence reminded him of that memorable night.

Nina was furious and said, "Ugh, who do you think you are? Go to hell!"

Everyone around them kept quiet.

one thought that this woman would be

that Young Master Pierre had a bad temper. A lot of people would not dare to even speak loudly to him. Anyone who annoyed him always ended up miserable. They were looking forward to seeing how this woman would be

Pierre said in a stern tone but did not raise his voice, "Little wild cat, your temper is still the same as

next to Pierre laughed and said to Nina, "Little girl, you have a lot to gain from dating Young Master Pierre. He's handsome and great in everything. Sleep with him once and you'll get more than what you'll earn working here for a

lowered her gaze and tried to ignore him. She was used to

took out his wallet and pulled out a large stack of money. He stared at Nina lustfully and stuffed the stack of money into her

the first time Nina had met a customer like

not sure how to deal

while, Nina snapped out of it and slapped his hairy hand off her as she shouted, "What are  
smiled evilly and finished the wine in one gulp. He stared at Nina as he said, "Not bad, seems...

knew that she should throw the money back at him and ask him to

However, it was a lot of money and she needed the cash. Being arrogant and keeping her pride would  
not fill her *stomach*...

*She calmed* herself down and ignored the raging hatred she felt for Pierre. She smiled gently and said,  
"Thank you, Young Master **Pierre**."

*Contempt* and disgust flashed in Pierre's eyes. He threw the wine glass somewhere. He started talking to  
other women as though he was no longer interested *in her*.

**Nina took** the money stiffly as if she was scalded by fire. It felt like she had gotten **burnt**.

Not long after, the manager brought a few beautiful young women over. They all wore all kinds of sexy  
clothing, and their average height was over 170cm. They were alluring and a treat for the eyes with their  
seductive long legs.

**The** manager walked up to Pierre and introduced the women one by one, "Young Master Pierre, this is  
the cream of the crop in Queen's Pub. Is there anyone who catches your eye? This is Candy, a student at  
the School of Economics at A University. This is Carmen, a newcomer, a student of Juilliard. She's 18  
years old. I'm sure she'll suit your appetite, Young Master Pierre."

Pierre's gaze fell on the purest-looking young woman named Carmen.

*He stared* straight at her and scanned her top to *bottom*.

Carmen acted a little shy at first, but when she saw Pierre's handsome face, she was overjoyed and  
turned *red*.

She leaned toward Pierre, her eyes clear and innocent as she called out to him, "Young Master *Pierre*..."

*Pierre took* her into his arms and Carmen happily put her hand over his **shoulders**.

pouring wine on the side. She had a headache from looking at the unscrupulous scene in the private  
room.

it were not because the pub paid her well, she would never

to do it because her mother had been asking her for money. If Nina did not do as she said, her mother  
would go to the company and make a scene. Her mother even disturbed her neighbors so much that she  
had to move many times. Nina had to do what it took

manager walked out with the rest of the young women who had not been

she walked out, she winked at Nina and asked her to take good care of

The party was on!

her eyes in disgust, secretly praying that her police friend would

seemed that the angels heard her prayers. Just as Pierre was about to go further, many police officers swarmed into the

"Don't move, raise your hands!"

Pierre and his group were about to be taken away by the police, he glanced at Nina coldly and seemed to

of his lips was

## **Chapter 869**

After all that had happened, Old Master Crawford now understood Luke's love for Bianca.

He would ruin his relationship with Luke if he insisted that he go along with his wishes.

Old Master Crawford was well aware of his grandson's abilities through how he handled the incident involving The Galleria. He was confident that T Corporation would thrive under his management.

He was happy to go with the flow when it came to Luke and Bianca.

After all these years, Old Master Crawford knew that Bianca was a wonderful wife to Luke and a great granddaughter-in-law. Her capabilities at work and personality were perfect. He would not stand in their way since the two of them truly loved each other.

Once upon a time, Old Master Crawford had forced his son, Zachary, to marry and interfered in his private life. His actions had caused his son to renounce himself for many years. Since then, Zachary had acted rebelliously.

Zachary's married life did not bring him joy, and he was not successful in his work.

The old master did not want this tragedy to continue with his grandson.

Peace in the household was Old Master Crawford's only wish.

was aware that Luke owed her a wedding, but she never thought that he would bring it up out of the

looked furious, and it led to Bianca biting her lip out of nervousness. She tugged Luke's sleeve lightly and said, "Luke, it's not a good time to talk about

hands underneath the dining table squeezed her small hands tightly and patted them comfortingly.

he turned to his mother, his tone became uncompromising and firm. "I'm informing you about our wedding date, not asking for your permission. Mom, it's your call whether you want to show up. It doesn't matter if you don't attend our wedding. My mother-in-law will be there

like she was suffocating. She was unable to say anything back

a few times and almost vomited blood when she met Susan's mocking

glared at Bianca and then cursed at Luke angrily, "Bastard child, do whatever you like! You've never thought of me as your mother. I hope you won't regret your stupidity in the



Rainie were overjoyed when they heard that their parents were getting  
as they ate, their adorable faces were filled with

**Rainie smiled** and asked Luke and Bianca, "Mom and Dad, if you have a wedding, can Lanie and I be your flower boy and girl?"

*Luke rubbed* his daughter's head and said gently, "Of course you can. You're the little angels who witnessed our *journey*."

*When* Tommy heard it, he threw the spoon in his hand and swallowed the last bite of his food before he made a fuss. "Mommy, Tommy wants to be your flower *boy too!*"

"**Yes**, of course." Half of the food prepared for Tommy ended up on his face. Bianca took out a wet wipe and gently cleaned *his face*.

**Louis, who** had always been playful, was enthusiastic. "Luke, where do you plan to get married? What style are you thinking of for the ceremony? Will you hold it in a church or outdoors? I'm experienced with event and wedding decorations. Bianca, what do you like? I can help you with research *and advice*."

*Yuri* pinched Louis and stared at him, saying unhappily, "You weren't this enthusiastic when we had our wedding!"

Louis happily said, "This is Luke's wedding. Of course, I'll take it seriously! I only have one brother. What's more, he's a wonderful man while Bianca is beautiful and kind. They're meant for each other. I must let them have a perfect wedding. Thea, hurry up! Once you're done, we'll head out *to play...*"

*Louis* squeezed Thea's sweet face. His love for her radiated like the sun, creating a juxtapose from his usual playboy **appearance**.

a little unhappy and pushed his hand away. She pouted as she said, "Dad, you're hurting me. I don't feel like playing today. When I'm done eating, I need to rush off to ballet class. There's a dance competition next week. I want to bring home a

She looked at Rainie with jealousy.

and Yuri always compared her to Rainie, going on and on about how great Rainie was. They kept telling her to work hard and win against

four years older than Thea, looked more beautiful than her, was better in academics, and won many more medals than

Thea was only four years old, Susan and Yuri had instilled the idea that Thea had to be better than Rainie since she was young. She had been hostile to Rainie since she was a child and wanted to compete with her in

was shocked by what his daughter

knew better than anyone else that Thea loved to play. He was curious about the sudden

pleased that Thea was working hard at something. He praised her, "It's great that you're spending time doing what you love. Whether you win or not, I'll buy you a big present. I'll get you whatever you want. Rainie is good at ballet, maybe she can give you some advice? Rainie, would that be

sweetly at Louis and replied graciously, "Not a problem,

## **Chapter 870**

The drama at the dining table ended abruptly.

Study.

Old Master Crawford looked at his handsome grandson who was sitting on the sofa and sighed at how fast time passed.

Unknowingly, Zachary had already left for so many years and the baby who was wailing in the swaddle had grown into one of the most influential and highly praised business leaders in the world.

Old Master Crawford talked to Luke about T Corporation and then the topic shifted to his personal affairs. "Luke, are you firm on having a wedding with Bianca on the 16th? To be honest, Bianca is a wonderful woman and it's your luck to be able to spend your life with her. It's just that... the timing of your wedding is a little rushed. After all, the collapse of The Galleria happened not long ago. I'm afraid that a grand wedding at this timing will lead to strong dissatisfaction from the families of those victims."

Luke ashed his cigarette and replied nonchalantly, "I had set the date long ago. I wanted to give her a make-up wedding a long time ago but I haven't had the time. I don't want to postpone it anymore. We'll have our wedding somewhere private, where no reporters will be able to follow nor interfere."

When Old Master Crawford saw that his grandson was firm with his decision, he did not comment further. He said in a grandfatherly tone, "I'm happy for you and Bianca. She's a kind and sensible woman. Take good care of her and make sure that this doesn't end in a divorce or some sex scandal."

Luke smiled and replied, "Grandpa, do you think I'm that kind of person? Bianca is the person I'm going to spend my life with. I'll love her until my last breath."

On the way back, Bianca looked at Luke who was in the driver's seat. She still could not believe he had said what he said in Crawford Manor.

He said that they would have a grand wedding.

glanced at Bianca, whose skin was radiant and cheeks were rosy. Her cherry lips were slightly parted and her beautiful eyes glanced at him from time to time. She was fascinating

the steering wheel with one hand and squeezed her face with the other. "What's the matter? Why do you keep looking at me like

grabbed his hand and said, "What did Grandpa talk to you about in the

raised his eyebrows and replied, "Nothing to worry about. Grandpa told me that you're going to make a wonderful granddaughter-in-law. He said that you're knowledgeable and reasonable. He also asked me to treat you well. He said that he won't forgive me if I disappointed

her head and asked blankly, "Huh? Did Grandpa say that? I thought he didn't

nor her parents were able to help out much with the incident with The Galleria. Old Master Crawford, who used to be enthusiastic toward her, turned cold

flicked her and said, "Silly girl, why would you think that? Who doesn't like a good woman like you? Grandpa

her gaze and then blinked her bright eyes. "Are we getting married on the 16th? Why didn't you talk to me about it? This is too sudden, I don't

locked on her pretty face. He could not help but squint as he said, "I thought you were looking forward to being my bride and would be happy to hear the news. I thought all women wanted a romantic

had not said anything about the wedding that he owed her, he could tell that Bianca was envious whenever they were invited to

**Therefore, he** wanted to give her a fairytale wedding, write their romantic chapter, and draw a perfect end to **their marriage**.

...

**On the** other end of the city, Norman Residence.

For the past couple of days, Leia had been feeling that something was off. She had been experiencing a loss of appetite, nausea, and a constant urge to *vomit*.

**She thought** it was related to stress and did not think too much *about it*.

**That** was until Queenie placed a delicious piece of cooked fish onto her *plate*.

**The** moment she sniffed the fishy smell, Leia grew nauseous and forcibly covered her mouth. However, it was too late. Before she knew it, the contents in her stomach spilled onto the dining *table*.

*Queenie* was concerned when she saw Leia react in such a way.

**She** patted her daughter's back lightly, her elegant face frowning as she said, "Leia, what's wrong? Did you eat something bad? Or are you..."

Queenie did not dare to finish her sentence.

felt a chill going down her spine at the thought that it might

such a well-behaved child like my dear Leia get pregnant before marriage? Although... her symptoms are similar to mine when I

had acted the same way when she was pregnant with Bianca. Her stomach was always upset and she could not stomach

my stomach has been acting weird recently. Maybe it's because I had some unsanitary food in a restaurant outside. Don't worry, I'm sure I'll be fine," Leia said in a calm tone, but she was

can't be pregnant! I took the

had bled for several

That bastard child should be gone.

still had a bad feeling about

worried. "How about this? When you're done eating, I'll take you to the hospital for a check-up. I know a gastroenterologist in

gaze flickered as she refused. "Mom, it's okay, don't worry. I'm going to an art exhibition with a friend today and the art exhibition center is very close to the city hospital. I'll just go there for