

## Be Gentle 971

### Chapter 971

"Yes. Shall we discuss it further in the cafe downstairs?" Hera could see that Maxine was interested.

Maxine nodded briefly, though her demeanor remained arrogant. "Don't play any tricks this time. If I find out that you're lying to me, I'll make sure that your death is horrible."

"I wouldn't dare. Let's go." Hera smiled and reached out to hold Maxine's hand.

Maxine was a little suspicious when she saw how confident Hera seemed. She would like to see if Hera would pull off any tricks on her again.

The two women went into the elevator. Two burly men stood next to Maxine, in case Hera did something.

Hera kept quiet in case she offended them.

Meanwhile, Bianca helped Nina move to a private ward. After the caretaker arrived, she left the place with Luke.

Bianca held Luke's hand and waited in the elevator lobby.

She remembered what Nina told her. "Nina doesn't plan to tell Mr. Mallory."

"Mm." Luke nodded and did not give his opinion.

Bianca lifted her head and looked at him while he happened to turn his head to look at her. His eyes were as profound as the ocean.

Luke was dressed in a black suit, and he was standing straight. Bianca could not help but to lean on his body while at the same time wondering if he knew something but chose to hide it from her.

having it hard living all alone," Bianca sighed, though she was impressed by Nina's stubbornness. "I'd rather not go against her wishes, but I wouldn't want to see her being alone in the hospital. How about we tell

doesn't know how to take care of her. If she wants to hide it from him, then so be it. Moreover, he's not in the country now." Luke pinched her petite nose and rubbed her smooth and fair

loved every inch of Bianca's

nodded in understanding and wondered why Percy did not bring Nina along with

he traveled out of A City, he would force Nina to go along with him. It seemed that what Nina told her earlier

elevator door slowly opened on

was about to hold Luke's hand and go in. She saw the two people in the elevator and

Hera be together with Maxine? The two of them seemed close

Bianca quickly composed herself.

started beating faster when she saw Luke. She could not hide her embarrassment and quickly withdrew her hand from Hera's

had not seen each other for a while, but Luke remained handsome and noble as

**Hera also** could not help but straighten her hair with her fingers. Luke was the one who had caused her to be arrested, but she thought that Bianca was the **main culprit**.

**Maxine** could not hold back her joy. She smiled and said, "Long time no see, **cousin**."

Hera also greeted him, "Long time no see, **Luke**."

*Maxine* turned her head and looked at Hera, dissatisfied.

**Hera knew** that Maxine liked Luke and said sheepishly, "Well, Luke was my upperclassman in high school, so I'm just **greeting him**."

*Bianca* could not help but smile. Luke was too attractive to other women, even though his demeanor was ice-cold.

*The* two women in the elevator seemed to have ignored her too.

Luke glanced coldly at the two women, then held Bianca's hand and took a *step back*.

Maxine glared anxiously at Bianca. "Weren't you waiting for the elevator, **Luke**?"

"It's too crowded." Luke turned his eyes away and stared lovingly at Bianca.

*Maxine* was both humiliated and envious. The elevator could fit an entire gurney, and there were only four people inside. It was not crowded at all. "Get out!" She roared at the two bodyguards.

bodyguards were surprised by the

and wait for the next one!" Maxine pressed the door open button to keep the elevator doors

other elevator happened to stop on the same floor. Luke took Bianca's hand and went into

more people inside that elevator, but Luke did not

ran out of her elevator and wanted to squeeze into the other one, but there was no space for her.

"Please wait for the next one, Miss. You can't fit in here." A young nurse frowned when she saw Maxine. She gently shoved her away and pressed the button to close the

aggrieved as she saw the

would rather squeeze with those people than take the same elevator

have told him something that ruined his impression of

felt quite happy when she saw that. Luke might have ignored her, but she was happy to see Maxine being humiliated that

already thought of a way to make more money

## **Chapter 972**

Meanwhile, in the other elevator.

Luke hugged Bianca tightly in his arms and shielded her from the crowd.

She did not lean on him. Instead, she stood straight and looked at his face. She could not help but grin as she remembered the scene from earlier.

Luke lowered her head and noticed the grin on Bianca's face. "Why are you smiling?"

The elevator cabin was crowded, but his voice was warm and clear in her ears.

Bianca shook her head but did not say anything. How was she going to tell him that what he did earlier was extremely cool?

On the first floor, most of the people in the elevator went out.

Bianca was pushed from behind and fell onto Luke's chest. Tears nearly fell from her eyes when her nose knocked onto Luke's solid chest.

"Are you okay?" Luke instantly held her face and noticed that her forehead was slightly reddish. Instantly, there was a hint of gloom in his eyes.

He turned around. Most of the people in the elevator were gone, and he did not know who bumped into her.

Bianca shook her head and held his hand. "I'm fine, don't worry."

Luke turned around and gently wiped off a tear from the corner of her eye. "Lean on me next time."

That way, she would not bump into him.

nurse happened to see that and said enviously, "Your husband is so nice to you,

married couples be like that?" Bianca felt a little

nurse shook her head. Not only was the man handsome and the woman beautiful, but they were also so loving toward each

my husband isn't like that." The elevator reached the basement when she

and Bianca stepped out of the elevator while the nurse looked at them from behind. She would be satisfied if her husband treated her half as

they got home, Tommy instantly ran over with his arms spread wide. He wanted a

"Mommy, Daddy! I miss you."

her briefcase on the couch and lifted her son. "Alright, let me give you

was in a period of rapid growth. He was getting heavier and heavier, and Bianca found it harder and harder to lift him

down his briefcase, then reached out to take

let go, Tommy was already leaning on

Tommy laughed while draping his arms on his father's

hugged him for a while before putting him down. "Where's Lanie and

"**Lanie** and Rainie are doing their homework. Daddy, Mommy, I want homework too," Tommy mumbled. He thought that he could play with his elder siblings once they came home from school, but they said that they had to finish their homework first. That made him **extremely bored**.

*Bianca smiled.* She thought that Tommy did not want to be left alone while Lanie and Rainie were busy with homework.

"**In a few months**, you can do homework like Lanie and Rainie," Luke said as he bent over and patted Tommy's *head*.

"Really?" Tommy blinked.

"**Yes.** It's about time you go to preschool," Bianca said while a little surprised by how fast time flew.

**While** she was pregnant with Tommy, Luke went missing in Moscow, and she had to take over T Corporation. When Luke finally returned, Tommy already knew how to walk **and speak**.

Soon, it was time for Tommy to go to **school**.

"*Yay! I want to go to school!*" Tommy clapped his hands happily. Thanks to his elder siblings' influence, he did not hate the idea of going *to school*.

**Lanie** and Rainie went downstairs after finishing their homework. They noticed that their parents were home.

"*Mommy, is Aunt Nina feeling any better? I want to visit her,*" **Rainie said**.

*Bianca touched her cheeks and said, "She's feeling better. We'll visit her in two days, okay?"*

"Okay," Rainie replied.

The caretaker came out from the kitchen and said courteously, "Sir, Madam, dinner is ready. Would you like dinner to **be served?**"

Tommy raised his hand. "I'm hungry."

was a growing boy, and he felt hungry easily. Bianca glanced at Luke and said,

hugged her waist as they walked toward the dining hall. Bianca turned her head to look at the children and said, "Remember to wash your

Rainie and Lanie said as they followed behind

behind the twins with his short and stumpy legs. "Wait

and reached toward him. "Come here, Tommy. I'll bring you to wash

was unhappy that his Daddy had occupied his Mommy. He mumbled reluctantly, though he had to follow his sister to wash

dinner, Lanie, Rainie, and Tommy went upstairs to play with their toys, while Luke and Bianca went to the study to continue with

later, Bianca finished her initial design for St. Heckler and uploaded it to the Internet so that Sue could see

began to ring. The call was from

with one hand while putting on the Bluetooth headset with her other. "Good evening, Aunt

you busy?" Wanda sounded tired on the other end of the

stopped typing and said, "I'm not. Why do you sound so

### **Chapter 973**

"But it's Friday tomorrow..." Bianca was a little troubled. Usually, the family would go back to Crawford Manor to have dinner on Fridays.

Old Master Crawford adored his grandson and great-grandchildren. He was dissatisfied when Luke and the children moved away because he would only be meeting them once a week. If they did not return to Crawford Manor the next day, the old man would be even unhappier.

"Grandfather will understand why we're doing this. Moreover, we can invite him over to your grandfather's house. The two old men can chat." Luke had already thought of a solution.

"Okay." Bianca nodded. She agreed with his suggestion.

The two old men enjoyed an amicable relationship ever since they first met. They could entertain themselves for an entire afternoon over a game of chess and a pot of tea.

They might be better friends if not for that incident.

The next day, Bianca and Sue went to visit Nina during lunch hour.

The atmosphere in the private ward was calmer and more comfortable.

After the caretaker exited the ward, Bianca helped prop Nina up and said, "I've brought some fish soup for you, Nina. It'll be good for your injury. Would you eat some?"

"Okay." Nina's face was pale, and there was no color on her lips. She had not eaten much since the day before, and she did not want her friend to worry.

Sue helped ladle some fish soup into a bowl. "Let me feed you."

fine. I can eat it myself." Nina did not want to trouble

right hand is hooked to the IV. You'd better not do that." Sue sat down next to the bed and scooped some soup. "I didn't prepare anything, so I should at least take care of

Nina smiled and ate a spoonful.

on the couch and asked, "Did the doctor come and examine

says that there's nothing serious, and I can be discharged the day after tomorrow," Nina said before eating another spoonful

good to know. It's so lonely staying in the hospital alone. You should eat more soup. I've heard that fish soup is good for flesh wounds," Sue

added, "Yes. I've heard from the caretaker that you didn't eat much yesterday. That won't do, Nina. You have to take care of your body, alright? At least do that

know. You two are too kind." Nina felt that the temperature of the soup was just right, took the bowl in one hand, and gulped it down in two mouthfuls. "Another bowl, please,

up!" Sue was happy that Nina was eating more and quickly ladled another bowl for

looked at Bianca and pleaded, "Bea, can you bring me to meet the doctor in charge of my

did not expect that request from Nina. "Can you get off

"I don't think I can walk too well. Can you get me a wheelchair?" Nina said. Her father was taking care of her mother, but she was nonetheless worried about her *mother's condition*.

**Bianca thought** for a while and nodded. "Alright, wait for me for a while. I'll go and ask for a wheelchair from the nurse."

"**Thank** you, Bea." Nina smiled gratefully. Sue had already cooled down the bowl of soup by stirring. Nina took the bowl and finished it in **two gulps**.

Bianca came back to the ward with the wheelchair. Together with Sue, they helped Nina get off the bed and sit in the wheelchair.

"Are you comfortable?" Bianca asked. She fastened the seatbelt for Nina in case she did not feel secure.

"*I am.*" Nina sat in the wheelchair weakly. She *looked aged*.

**Bianca's** heart wrenched. She felt that she was partially responsible for Nina's **change**.

Sue secured the IV drip to the wheelchair and said, "Alright, let's go!"

Bianca pushed Nina toward the doctor's office and found Anna's *doctor*.

**The** doctor happened to be holding a medical report in his hands. He nodded when he saw them come in. "Nice timing, Ms. Langdon. I've received a partial report from your mother's examination this morning. Come and take a look."

you, Doctor." Nina nodded and tried to cheer

Nina inside. The doctor turned on the computer and downloaded the report. "Do you remember what I asked you yesterday? About whether your mother has had any sudden ailments

that, but I'm not too sure about her condition because I don't live with her. As far as I know, she would suffer from occasional pains in her abdomen and her waist. She's usually fine after taking some

painkillers. The doctor in the neighborhood clinic said that it's only some minor gastrointestinal issues," Nina said. She could sense something ominous as she observed the doctor's

nodded and said, "It's like this. I've noticed something in the patient's CT scan. There is a lump on her skipped a beat. "A lump? What do

the scan to the director, and we think that it might be a tumor. However, we'll need to run further tests before we can conclude if it's a tumor or something else," the doctor replied. He could not make a diagnosis just from

feel her blood freeze. "What would happen if it's

can't say that it's a tumor yet. If it really is, we'll have to see if it's benign or malign. Of course, we'll have to wait for the rest of the report," the

will the rest of the report be out?" Nina's face was pale. The news was beyond

that her mother passed out because she was emotionally agitated. She thought that her mother

very specialized tests, so it'll take two more days. However, the day after tomorrow is Sunday, so the results should be ready by Monday," the doctor

#### **Chapter 974**

"Bea." Nina reached out weakly, seeking comfort.

Bianca quickly walked over, sat down next to her, held her hands tightly, and comforted her, "It'll be okay. The doctor said that the diagnosis isn't confirmed, right? It might be a harmless lump, or it might be a technical problem."

Nina shook her head. She had been an optimistic person, but she could not even pretend to be optimistic anymore. "I remember Uncle Kevin, Bea. His liver also had a problem, right?" she said.

Bianca nodded. "My dad was very sick, but he eventually got better, didn't he? Don't worry, your mom will be fine."

Kevin Rayne might not be her birth father, but he had raised her since she was young, and that was why she had continued to refer to him as "Dad." The Normans also supported her doing so.

"But if it's cancer, it'll be fatal..." Nina covered her mouth and sobbed softly.

Sue also tried to comfort her, "That's not necessarily the case. Medical technology is so advanced now, and they can remove cancerous tumors through surgery or chemotherapy. Also, the diagnosis isn't confirmed yet. Don't be too pessimistic, Nina. You should take care of your body while you wait for the rest of the report. Understand?"

After hearing that, Nina hugged Bianca and cried.

Bianca could not help but tear up when she heard Nina's crying. Why must life be so unfair toward Nina?

She had lost her child, was under Percy's control, and had gone into debt because of her mother. Now, she had received even more bad news.

When Bianca thought of that, she hugged Nina tightly and spoke with a shaking voice, "This will soon pass, Nina. You're not alone. You have me, and we can conquer any obstacle together!"

so sad, Bea. Why must all this happen to me?" Nina did

never done any bad deeds in her life, and she would even give spare change to panhandlers. Why was she not rewarded for her charity, but instead her life only became harder and

not bear watching the two women cry. She turned away and sobbed

later, Bianca and Sue left the hospital with

guilty as she sat on the side passenger seat. While in the ward, she could not control her emotions as she sympathized with Nina. Her crying got louder and louder until the nurse rushed into the ward wondering what had

glanced at Sue, who was driving, and said, "I must have made a fool of myself,

worry about it. I was crying too. Poor Nina," Sue said. She glanced at herself in the rear-view mirror and saw that her eyes were

did not say anything. If not for her, Nina's life would not have been so difficult. At least her mother would not have blamed her, and she would not have encountered the two

noticed that there was a pharmacy up ahead and thought that it would not be good if the two went back to the office with puffy eyes. "I'll go and get ice packs for the both of us,

"Alright." Bianca nodded.

out of the car and went to the

**Bianca** sat on the side passenger seat while looking at the roadside. Nina's words and her pitiful face replayed in *her mind*.

Next to the pharmacy was a jewelry *store*.

Bianca saw Pierre coming out of the jewelry store with a beautiful woman. She narrowed her gaze and noticed that the woman was not Pierre's so-called fiancée.

"**You** wretch!" She cursed under her breath when she thought of what Nina went through because of him.

*She* unfastened her seatbelt, opened the car door, and rushed out toward Pierre. When she got close, she lifted her hand and slapped Pierre's face. "*You wretch!*"

*Pierre* tried to turn away, but his cheek caught the full brunt of the slap. He could feel his cheek burning as he turned over angrily. He was surprised to see that Bianca was the one who slapped *him*.

'It's her?

'Luke Crawford's wife?'

Bianca thought that one slap was not enough. She wanted to slap *him again*.



*Pierre deftly caught Bianca's wrist. "Are you crazy?"*

Bianca glared at him with her bloodshot eyes. She wished that she would spit out venom so that Nina's violator would

his grip around Bianca's wrist, which caused it to turn red. "Don't think that I'm afraid of you because you have Luke Crawford behind you. Aren't you afraid that I'll kill you right here and now?" He said

pain in her wrist. She wanted to pull her hand away, but Pierre was much stronger

livid. "I was wrong. You're not an animal. You're worse than an animal! Come at me if you have the guts. I'm not afraid

into her bloodshot eyes. She was like a mad beast. It had been a while since he met a woman who was not afraid of him. He thought that Luke's wife was gentle and docile, but he did not expect her to be so fierce

interest was piqued. He wondered if she really was not afraid of

shoved the model beside him and pushed Bianca toward the road. "You're not afraid of death, right? Then you'll have to pay the price for slapping

struggled with all her might when she realized that the man was about to

afraid? Don't you always run rampant because Luke Crawford is behind you? Let me tell you, I'm not afraid of anyone, including Luke Crawford!" Pierre cackled sinisterly as he watched the cars that were speeding on

he shoved her onto the road, he wondered how many cars it would take to

afraid when she looked at the cars on the road, but she did not regret her decision. "You want to kill me, right? Very well. I'll haunt you even after I

## **Chapter 975**

Bianca and Sue ran back to the car and locked the door. They breathed a sigh of relief when they noticed that Pierre had no intention of chasing after them.

"Start the car, Sue," she urged.

Sue came to her senses. She was shocked when she saw that man drag Bianca toward the middle of the road. Throwing the ice packs at that man was pure instinct.

Seeing that the man was still looking at them, she started the car and quickly drove away.

After they were some distance away, Sue asked, "Who is that man, Bea?"

"Percy Mallory's younger brother," Bianca answered as she rubbed her reddish wrist. It would definitely leave a bruise, and she wondered how she would explain it to Luke.

Sue nodded and said nothing.

The Mallory family was famous in A City, though they were not similar to the Crawford family.

The Mallory's family business was famous, but not as famous as their underworld dealings.

Sue felt worried for Bianca. Fortunately, Bianca had Luke behind her. Otherwise, she would have paid a heavy price for offending someone from the Mallory family.

After work, Bianca picked up Lanie and Rainie from school, went home to pick Tommy up, then waited for Luke at the entrance of T Corporation.

Luke appeared at the entrance with his briefcase, and Bianca let him sit on the driver's seat.

"Good afternoon, Daddy," the three children greeted him as soon as he stepped into the car.

"Good afternoon!" Luke turned around and patted each of the children's heads. Then, he looked at Bianca, held her hand, and prepared to kiss her cheek.

gasp. Luke had held the wrist that Pierre

his head and noticed that there was a ring of redness around Bianca's wrist. "What happened?" he

Bianca shook her head. "Nothing."

Luke voiced his dissatisfaction in front of their children. He was not so easily

"Daddy, Mommy said that she bumped into the wall earlier. She also reminded me that I shouldn't be so careless like her so I won't

not going to be so easily convinced as Tommy. If she had bumped into the wall, why would the bruise go around

"Is that so?" He asked.

no other choice, Bianca sighed and told him everything. She also said that she had acted out of

incident, she realized that she should not have done

only was it dangerous, but she should not have slapped Percy Mallory's younger

all, Percy had helped Luke before. Without Percy's help, Luke would not have been free from the Island of Despair

had thought of Nina's

the car without saying

"Luke..." Bianca noticed that his expression was sullen and wondered if she should continue to **apologize**.

She did not expect that Luke and Percy would stop being friends, but she had nevertheless stepped out of line.

"**We'll talk** after we reach Grandpa's house," Luke **said**.

"Mm." Bianca sat straight, fastened her seatbelt, and glanced at the children in the rearview mirror. They were chatting and laughing earlier, but they had fallen silent, perhaps because they were influenced by the change in Luke's demeanor.

**That** made her regret it **even more**.

**Luke** went to buy some health supplements for Old Master Rayne and Wanda, then drove the car to Old Master *Rayne's house*.

After parking the car, the family of five got *out*.

**Tommy was** the first to point at the Rolls-Royce. "That's Great-Grandpa's car."

Luke nodded. Bianca wanted to say something but decided to keep her mouth shut because she sensed her husband's resentment. She took the two boxes of supplements and went *upstairs*.

**Luke's gaze** turned profound as he looked at Bianca's **back**.

*Rainie* noticed that. She tugged Luke's shirt and said, "Daddy, please don't be angry at *Mommy*."

**Luke** patted Rainie's head. He knew that the children were sensitive toward their emotions. He was not angry with Bianca, but some things should not be mentioned in front of the children. "I'm *not angry*."

"Mm." **Rainie** picked up a box *of supplements*.

the rest of the supplements and went upstairs with

entered the house, they saw Old Master Rayne in a game of chess with Old Master Crawford. The two old men were

Check!" Old Master Crawford moved a chess

Master Rayne shook his head and said, "Do you think I'm a fool?"

Master Crawford realized that he had fallen into

Old Master Crawford, Luke and Bianca are here," Wanda reminded the two old men, seeing that they were engrossed in their

Master Crawford said, "My precious great-grandchildren are here. Let's end the game

Rayne put the chess pieces away and said, "Fine. You're losing

over happily. "Great-Grandpa! I want to play

raised his head and smiled at the two old

two old men could not help but to rub the little boy's face. "Sure!" They

Bianca walked over, put the boxes of supplements down, and greeted them,

greeting was used for both of the old

**Chapter 976**

Rainie was not interested in chess, but she was curious about Wanda's handmade objects. "Mommy, I wanna see Grand-Aunt Wanda's handicrafts."

Bianca glanced at the nearby room. That was Wanda's handicraft studio. "You'll have to ask Grand-Aunt Wanda yourself then."

Rainie nodded. She saw that Wanda was coming out from the kitchen with a tray of cut fruit and drinks, so she went to her and asked, "Your handicrafts look beautiful, Grand-Aunt Wanda. May I take a look?"

The little girl was interested in beautiful things. Wanda placed the tray on the coffee table and held Rainie's hand. "Of course you can."

Bianca reminded her daughter, "Careful, don't touch anything without Grand-Aunt Wanda's permission."

"Yes, Mommy." Rainie turned her head and smiled at her. Then, she glanced at her father. All three children were not bothering their parents. Perhaps they could work out the disagreement in the car now.

In the living room, only Luke and Bianca were standing.

Old Master Rayne moved a chess piece and glanced at his granddaughter and grandson-in-law. "Don't just stand there, Luke and Bea. Come over here and have a seat."

"Alright," Bianca replied. She glanced at Luke standing beside her and could not feel any warmth from him. Still feeling dispirited, she walked toward the couch without saying a word.

Luke instantly held her hand gently. "Grandpa, the weather outside is quite nice. I'll sit with Bianca on the balcony."

Old Master Rayne did not think too much about it. He thought that it was normal for the

Luke led Bianca to the balcony.

Rayne liked to enjoy his afternoon tea at the balcony, so Wanda had furnished it meticulously. There were two rattan chairs and a small round table. Surrounding the place were potted

on one of the chairs, while Luke sat on the other. The warmth on his face was gone, and he looked sighed when she saw his face. She felt

had realized her mistake on the drive there, but she could not find the chance to apologize to him. Before Luke opened his mouth, Bianca spoke first, "I'm sorry. I've made a mistake in this

He kept a stern face to teach her a lesson, but he could not maintain that expression when he saw that she was about

moved his chair next

sat together face-to-face. Bianca lowered her head and glanced at the bruise on her wrist while thinking of what else to say. "You did nothing wrong. You don't have to apologize,"

*Bianca raised* her head in shock. "Luke..."

Luke held her hand and gently massaged her wrist. The slightly tingling feeling made her feel comfortable instead of **painful**.

He was trying to clear her bruise.

**"You did** nothing wrong. The person at fault is Pierre Mallory," Luke said. He could tell that Bianca had acted on impulse because she cared for *Nina*.

She had always felt guilty about what happened to Nina, and she thought that she was somehow responsible. Luke had known about Bianca's sentiment, but he did not call her out on **it**.

*Bianca* felt even more guilty when she found that Luke had forgiven her. She regretted being impulsive and thought that she should have considered Luke first before acting.

If Percy knew that she had slapped his younger brother, that would definitely affect his relationship with **Luke**...

**Luke** did not stop massaging her. "Your mistake is offending Pierre Mallory. Pierre might be Percy's younger brother, but they are not alike at all. The two are almost equally capable, and Pierre might even be slightly more capable than Percy. Do you know why the Mallory family let Percy take over the family business instead **of Pierre**?"

**Bianca** did not say anything. She shook her head, though her tears *kept falling*.

thought that Luke would scold her, but she did not expect that he remained so gentle toward

wiped away her tears and continued to explain, "Pierre is a lot more unrestrained and ruthless. When the two brothers were tested by the family elders, Pierre had used rather extreme means to achieve victory. The elders thought that Pierre would send the family business to its grave if they let him take over, and that was why they chose

cares about winning. He isn't as concerned about the family business, which is why he remains amicable toward Percy. However, Percy would not be able to rein in Pierre if he decides to do something. Bea, I'm angry not because your actions might affect my relationship with Percy, but because you don't know how to take care of yourself. If Pierre had lost control of himself back then, you or I can't imagine what might happen next," he said

of what happened earlier. She was quite sure that Pierre would not push her to the middle of

that Luke mentioned that and thinking about the details of that incident, she was sure that Pierre would have pushed her if not that he was hit by Sue's

the post-lunch rush hour, and the traffic on the road was heavy. If she was pushed onto the road, chances were that she would be run over. Thinking that she could have ended her life right there, she began to feel

I..." She wiped her tears. Usually, she was a sensible person, but she had acted on impulse because of her

Luke frowned when he saw her tears. He did not expect that she would react that

was not planning on scaring her. That was how Pierre's character was. Other people would usually think that he was only a playboy, but that had perfectly hidden the dark side of

## **Chapter 977**

Bianca wiped away the tears on her face and shook her head. "It's nothing, Aunt Wanda."

Wanda remained suspicious. Why would Bianca suddenly cry if nothing was happening? She handed her a napkin. "Don't use your hands. They might be dirty. Also, what's going on?"

Luke took the napkin and wiped Bianca's tears. "It's my fault, Aunt Wanda. I made her cry."

Bianca shook her head to indicate that it was not the case.

Wanda felt quite worried as she looked at the married couple who did not say anything.

"It's nothing major, Aunt Wanda, and it's also not Luke's fault. Don't worry," Bianca sniffed and said.

She had not cried for a long time, and she could not hold her tears back.

For a while, she thought that their marriage was facing a crisis. Her weak heart could not take it.

Wanda felt a little more at ease after hearing the reassurance from Bianca. "I'll get an ice pack for you. I wouldn't want the two elders to think that something happened between the two of you."

"Thank you, Aunt Wanda." Bianca smiled. After Wanda left, she held Luke's hand again and promised him, "I didn't think through it before acting earlier. I won't do that again."

Luke lifted his hand and gently caressed her cheek.

Wanda came back and handed an ice pack to Luke. "Help her massage her eyes, Luke. They're red like a rabbit's eyes. Come back in when she's feeling better. The sun is setting soon. The lightbulb blew out, and I haven't found someone to fix it yet."

Luke took the ice pack and used it to gently massage Bianca's

reflexively wanted to move away when she felt the sudden coldness on her face, but Luke's warm fingers held her head. Those were two extreme

massaged her for a while before letting her

eyes were feeling better. "Don't cry anymore," he

help myself." Bianca felt a little embarrassed. She had not been so emotional for a while, and she could not hold back her tears when she found that Luke cared for

held the ice pack in one hand and Bianca's hand in the other. "Let's go

smiled sweetly and leaned

Old Master Crawford beckoned at Luke and said, "Come here, Luke, and play a game

Master Rayne could not help but take a dig at him, "Tsk, Old Master Crawford, I haven't met you in a while, and your chess skills are worse than before. Are you asking for

taught Luke how to play chess," Old Master Crawford said matter-of-factly, "So what's wrong if I ask him to avenge

Bianca's hand and walked over there. He glanced at the chessboard and noticed that Old Master Crawford's pieces were surrounded. Indeed, he was caught in a

*Old Master Crawford* pointed at the seat next to him and said, "Come and help me in this game, Luke."

**He had** already lost two games in a row, and he did not want to lose again.

Luke did not refuse. He sat on the chair and said to Old Master Rayne, "I'll play with you, Grandpa."

*Old Master Rayne* nodded. "Alright, I'll defeat the two of you then!"

**Bianca** refilled their cups with tea and went to the kitchen to help her *aunt*.

*Wanda* was in the middle of preparing dinner, and Bianca went to help her.

**Wanda noticed** Bianca and saw that the redness around her eyes had dissipated. "Why aren't you sitting outside?" She **asked**.

"I'm here to help you." Bianca did not want her aunt to prepare dinner for so many people alone.

Wanda was indeed slightly overworked. She pointed at the cabbages on the counter, "Please wash the cabbages for me then."

"Alright." Bianca rolled up her sleeves and brought the cabbages to the sink. "Grandpa seems quite healthy, Aunt Wanda. Has he been going to his monthly check-ups?"

Wanda nodded. "Luke's doctor will come every month to check on him. He was so happy last night when he knew that you were coming. He said that he wanted to sleep early so that he could see you soon. He's better today because he had enough rest."

that Old Master Rayne doted upon her and felt guilty that she had been too busy to visit him. Despite knowing that Bianca was not his biological granddaughter, his love for her did not decrease by the slightest bit, and he treated her just like his own biological

come and visit Grandpa more often in the future,"

"The thought alone is enough. You're already busy with your career and family, so you don't have to worry too much. Also, you have to visit your birth parents and Luke's family to maintain your relationship

the difficulties that Bianca was facing, so she was not too hard

know, Aunt Wanda," Bianca smiled and said. They might not be related by blood, but they remained close to each

know you know that, Bea, but you're still young, and there are some things that you're not doing properly. When your grandpa was sick earlier, Mr. and Mrs. Norman came to visit often and brought many presents. I've cross-stitched a piece lately, and you can bring it home. Please help me to give it to Mr. and Mrs. Norman when you're free," Wanda

wiped her hands and hugged Wanda's shoulders. "You're so nice, Aunt there's something else." Wanda enjoyed the intimate moment with Bianca. She had watched her niece grow up and had treated her as her

it?" Bianca continued to wash

Luke suggested that we move to a house near yours so that it's easier for your grandpa to visit the children. I've discussed it with your grandpa. He thinks that it's a good idea, but it's very expensive to buy a house there, not to mention that the current house is closer to the hospital. That's why we've decided not to move. Please thank him on

was surprised. She did not expect Luke to do so many things without her

## **Chapter 978**

Old Master Rayne lost two straight games to Luke. He patted Lanie's cheek and said, "But I'm better than your Great-Grandpa!"

"Nonsense! I'm the one who taught Luke how to play chess. If you can't beat him, then you're not better than me!" Old Master Crawford was not willing to admit defeat.

"And the student surpasses the master. Luke is a better player than you. If you don't believe me, you can stay here for the night, and I'll play you until you're satisfied," Old Master Rayne said. He usually played chess alone, and Old Master Crawford rekindled his interest.

"Challenge accepted. After dinner, I'll show you who's the better player!" Old Master Crawford was determined to win.

"Let's eat," Luke reminded them.

"Right, let's have dinner. We shouldn't let the children starve." Old Master Rayne pushed himself up with the help of the table and his walking stick.

His physical condition had declined after the operation, and he could only walk with the help of a walking stick. Bianca came out of the kitchen and supported him.

Old Master Rayne patted Bianca's hand and said, "Good girl. I can walk by myself."

"Let me help you, Grandpa." Bianca insisted on helping him walk to the dining table.

The dining table was not big enough to accommodate all the guests, so the children ate at the coffee table while the adults sat around the dining table.

Seeing the happy family, Bianca told herself that she should come and visit her grandfather more often.

After dinner, Old Master Crawford decided to stay the night to play chess with Old Master Rayne.

Luke had no opinion about that. They lingered for a while more before leaving with Wanda's cross-stitch.

in the car, Rainie asked, "Mommy, can I come to visit Grand-Aunt Wanda more



her head to look at her daughter and said, "Of course. We'll bring you to visit Aunt Wanda whenever we're

handicrafts are so pretty. She said that she'll teach me the next time I visit her," Rainie

also plays better chess than Great-Grandpa Crawford," Lanie

smiled when he heard that. "You'd better not let him hear you

Lanie immediately understood. "Yes, Daddy."

his eyes wide. He did not understand what his father meant. "Why shouldn't Great-Grandpa hear that, we have to respect our elders." Lanie gave a sensible

when she heard the conversation between the boys but did not say anything. She sent a message to Queenie, saying that she would go over tomorrow to deliver

was about five feet long, and it was a reproduction of a classic piece featuring galloping horses. That was suitable for Jack's status and

Luke's phone started to ring.

at it and saw that the call was from Jason. She knew that Jason was calling her husband about work-related matters, and such conversations would usually last for a long time. She took out the Bluetooth headset, helped him put it on his ear, and answered

Luke smiled gently. He was pleased with Bianca's care.

*Bianca turned* around and placed her finger over her lips, indicating that the children should not disturb **their father**.

The children nodded and kept quiet.

From what Luke said, Bianca could tell that there was a problem with one of the subsidiaries. She frowned. Ever since Mavis left, Luke had been lacking a capable assistant, and he had to personally attend to the matters of T **Corporation's subsidiaries**.

*Luke* was still talking when the car **reached home**.

*The* children got out of the car. Bianca opened the boot and prepared to take out *the cross-stitch*.

Luke came over, picked up the cross-stitch, and said, "**Allow me**."

*Bianca* nodded and let him **carry it**.

Jason was slightly startled. "Boss?" He asked.

"**Nothing**. Continue," Luke replied. The five-foot-long cross-stitch was quite heavy, but he carried it without any fuss.

*Bianca* walked beside him and entered the house. She pointed at the couch and said, "You can put it here for now. I'll deliver it to *Dad tomorrow*."

Queenie had replied to her message, saying that both of them would be at home tomorrow. Bianca would take the opportunity to spend some time with them.

placed the cross-stitch on

could hear Bianca's voice through the phone. Remembering that his boss was very protective of his wife, he paused for a while before asking, "May I

stood next to the floor-to-ceiling window and listened to Jason's

upstairs with the children and coaxed them to take a bath and go to

hour later, Tommy was the last one to fall asleep. She exited the bedroom, walked around the second floor, and noticed that Luke had not come upstairs yet, so she went

to have finished the call. He saw her coming down the stairs, so he went over and hugged her.

sounded quite helpless. Bianca lifted her head and looked at him. "Is it very

Luke nodded. The scheduled project was delayed for no reason. The company would suffer a great loss if the delay

there anything that I can help with?" Luke had always helped Bianca, and Bianca had always wanted to return

the stray strands of long hair behind her ear. "I'll be able to handle it myself. I'll be going on a business trip tomorrow, so I can't go to Mom's

that the matter must be quite troublesome if Luke had to fly there himself. "I'll go to Mom's place myself then. Where are you going this time, and for how long? I'll go up and pack your suitcase

going to New York. If everything goes well, I should be back in about a week," Luke said as he held her hand and

## **Chapter 979**

Luke was also reluctant to be separated from her for so many days. He hugged her tightly and said, "We'll send the children back to Crawford Manor, and you can come along with me."

Bianca knew that the children would be taken care of in Crawford Manor, but there were other reasons she could not leave.

She leaned on his chest and said unhappily, "I have to attend to my company. There's St. Heckler's new project, and Nina is in the hospital. I'll have to take over her work."

Luke stroked her hair gently, feeling a little sorry for her. She would not have been so busy if he had not supported her decision to start her own company.

He could only accept that she was too busy with work to accompany him on a business trip. "I'll be back as soon as I can."

"Mm," Bianca replied. She glanced at the suitcase next to them and hugged him even more tightly.

Luke held her arm and carefully examined it. The redness had dissipated, but the bruise became even more obvious. He led her out of the bedroom, took the first-aid kit, and sat on the couch in the living room. "I'll massage it for you."

"Mm." Bianca gave him her hand.

Luke placed her hand on his lap and took out a bottle of tincture.

"Please be gentle..." Bianca reminded him.

"Are you still afraid of pain?" Luke was not very happy when he looked at the bruise on Bianca's wrist and wondered how strong Pierre's grip was. He dared not be too rough with her, but Pierre...

He thought that he had to do something.

but I'm afraid I'll wake the kids if I scream too loudly," Bianca said as she watched him pour some tincture onto his

sting a little." After Luke warmed up his palms, he gripped onto Bianca's wrist and massaged it. "I'll have to press hard so that the bruise

not to make a noise as Luke massaged

hurts, you can lean on me." Luke poured some tincture on

her head on Luke's shoulder and pressed her lips together

hurt whenever she lightly touched it, and it was even more painful when Luke massaged it. Bianca tried hard not to scream, and her forehead was wet with

getting warmer these days," Bianca grumbled softly. Indeed, summer

not to kick the blanket if you're turning on the air-conditioning. Don't catch a cold," Luke said while

know. Do you think that I'm three years old? I won't kick the blanket." Bianca was distracted by those words and

kick the blanket." Luke stopped massaging when he was done. He closed the bottle and put it back into the

I won't. I always behave in bed." Bianca stretched her wrist and felt a lot better. She thought that she never kicked

kick the blanket, Bea," Luke said, hearing how confident she

"Really?" Bianca asked doubtfully.

"I *always* tuck you in." Luke's hands smelled of the tincture. He was not going to touch her but instead went to the washroom.

Bianca followed behind him. "Why don't I know about it? Are you messing **with me**?"

"I'm telling you the truth," Luke said as he pumped liquid soap on his hands. After washing his hands and drying them, he turned around, hugged her, and caressed her waist, which aroused her. "It's late. Let's rest."

**Bianca** pushed him away as she felt every cell of her body awaken. "You haven't taken a bath yet," she said, blushing.

"I'll do that later." Luke brought her into the bedroom and closed the door. Thinking that he would spend the next week away from her, his body could not hold back *anymore*.

**As the** night progressed, the gentle moonlight shone on the windowsill. The love between Bianca and Luke only grew stronger.

...

Luke woke up before the sun rose. He went to brush his teeth and wash his **face**.

Bianca did not sleep in. She got up and made breakfast **for him**.

**After** breakfast, she sent Luke off at the door and watched his car leave. A long while later, she turned her head back and glanced at the clock. It was only half-past *five*.

**Bianca sighed** gently. Whenever Luke went on his business trips, she would feel that he had taken away something.

sat on the couch in a daze before standing up. She would go to deliver the cross stitch to the Norman residence, then go to the

woke up at seven

was the first one to come downstairs. He saw his mother preparing the table for breakfast and greeted her, "Good morning,

darling. Have you brushed your teeth?" Bianca turned her head and looked lovingly at

I have, Mommy." Lanie looked around and did not see his father. "Where's

home, Luke would either be working or be somewhere close to Bianca. Lanie thought that it was strange when he did not see his

a chair and replied, "He's on a business trip. He should be boarding the plane by now. Come here and eat your

nodded. He was not too surprised because Luke often went off on business trips without informing

happened all the time before Luke married Bianca. Sometimes, Lanie would wake up and not see his father. He would only know that his father went on a business trip when he asked

Lanie's favorite breakfast food. "Are Rainie and

is up. Tommy is still sleeping," Lanie replied. Luke had raised the two to wake up early, but Tommy had been

upstairs for a while. Careful not to choke on your food, darling." Bianca patted Lanie's head, thinking that the boy looked more and more like his

## **Chapter 980**

Tommy flopped over, though his eyes remained closed as he mumbled, "I'm not going anywhere today, Mommy. I only want to sleep."

Bianca was at a loss of what to do. Her son looked too adorable, and she could not bear to wake him up.

Tommy had slept for nine hours since the night before, and he already had slept enough. Bianca opened the closet and took out Tommy's day clothes.

Her phone started ringing. Bianca put her son's clothes away and answered the call.

"Bea." Luke's voice was heard on the other end of the call.

Bianca was surprised; she did not look at the call notification before answering it. "Aren't you flying yet?"

"Not yet," Luke replied. "Is Tommy awake?"

"He hasn't," Bianca said helplessly. She could not persuade him, but the little boy was too young to be punished. It seemed as though only Luke could deal with Tommy.

"Turn on the speaker." Luke had guessed that Tommy did not want to wake up, which was why he made the call.

Bianca did what she was told and put the phone closer to the bed. "Tommy, your Daddy has something to tell you."

"Mm," Tommy replied but did not move.

Luke's voice was heard over the phone speaker. "It's time to wake up, Tommy." His tone was stern, unlike the gentle tone that he used earlier.

Bianca did not expect the simple sentence to have any effect, but Tommy suddenly opened his eyes and looked at Bianca. "Where's Daddy?"

to you on the phone." Bianca wagged the phone in

sat up instantly. "Are you up yet?" Luke

"I'm up," Tommy replied obediently.

was impressed that Luke's voice was so effective. Perhaps she should record his voice and use it as a morning

continued speaking, "Tommy, Daddy will be away on a business trip for the next few days. You'll have to listen to Mommy. Don't be a picky eater, and wake up

to pout. Bianca thought that he was about to cry when he instead said, "Yes, I know,

you to the theme park when I come back. Be a good boy and take care of Mommy," Luke said. He could not see his son, but he could guess that Tommy

and Bianca did not have the habit of sleeping in, so he wondered if Tommy learned it from

happy when he heard that. He clapped his hands and said, "Yay! I'll wait for you to come back,

the flight announcement on the other end of the call. She brought the phone close to her ear and said, "Looks like you'll be taking off

Luke looked outside the window. The plane was beginning

be a long flight across the country. If Bianca were around, the flight would not be

safe flight. Call me when you land," Bianca

"Mm, alright," Luke replied.

**"Bye."** Bianca ended the call. Suddenly, she realized that her mind was full of thoughts of him, even though he had not been gone for a few hours.

She composed herself after Tommy got out of bed. She picked up the clothes at the side and asked, "Do you want to wear this outfit *today, Tommy?*"

"Alright, Mommy!" Tommy nodded and yawned.

*Bianca helped* him change, took his hand, and led him into **the bathroom**.

Tommy picked up his little toothbrush and said, "I can do it **myself, Mommy.**"

Bianca smiled, nodded, and let Tommy be alone in *the bathroom*.

**After** Tommy brushed his teeth, Bianca brought Tommy downstairs and brought out his *breakfast*.

*Rainie* and *Lanie* had finished breakfast. They sat at the dining table, watching Tommy eat *ravenously*.

*He wanted* to pick out the carrots from his food when *Lanie* reminded him, "Daddy said that you shouldn't be a picky **eater.**"

**Tommy** pouted. The two other pairs of eyes watch him finish all *the carrots*.

*Lanie nodded* in satisfaction. He looked like a miniature version of Luke. Bianca could not help but cover her mouth and smile.

you going to Grandma's house today?" *Rainie*

planning to deliver the cross stitch to them." Bianca nodded. Jack had been complaining that he missed the three children, so she wanted to bring all of them

loved Jack and Queenie but did not like Leia. She did not want to go to the Norman residence because she would meet Leia there. "Can I not go, Mommy?"

was surprised, though she was curious to find out why. "Why don't you want to

to go to ballet class instead," *Rainie* said. Ms. Shannon said that she could go to

heard that, he also said, "I'd like to go to my German class

looked at the twins. She was happy that they loved to learn, but she had not heard them mention the

Rainie, why do you want to go to classes suddenly?" Bianca asked

Rainie exchanged glances at each other and

why you don't want to go to visit Grandma. I'll let you go to your classes if it's reasonable." Bianca could tell that the twins were hiding something from

stood up and said, "We don't like Aunt Leia, Mommy. Every time we go to Grandma's place, we'll always meet

understood that Leia was the reason why the twins did not want to

Leia nearly became their stepmother. Bianca could understand if the children did not feel comfortable around