

## Be Gentle 981

### Chapter 981

Bianca brought the framed five-foot-long cross-stitch into the living room. Queenie quickly went forward and helped her, "That's so heavy! Why didn't you get the caretaker to help you?"

After they put the cross-stitch on the couch, Bianca smiled and said, "It's not very heavy, Mom. Where's Dad?"

"He knows that Tommy is coming, and he's messing around with something in the study." Queenie bent slightly and patted Tommy's head.

"Good morning, Grandma!" Tommy greeted Queenie.

"Good morning! You're a good boy, Tommy!" Queenie looked at her grandson lovingly. She grabbed a handful of candy on the coffee table and stuffed them in Tommy's hands.

All children loved candy, including Tommy. He held the candy in his hands and said sweetly, "Thank you, Grandma! I love you the most!"

"Do you love Grandpa then?" Jack said as he walked down the stairs. He heard what Tommy said earlier.

Tommy turned his head to look at Jack and nodded. "I love you too, Grandpa!"

Jack was happy as he looked at Tommy's adorable face. He patted the little boy's head and handed him a toy.

"I made this for you. Do you like it?"

Tommy opened his eyes wide and stared at the whirligig in his grandfather's hands. "What's that, Grandpa?"

"It's a whirligig. You play it like this." Jack demonstrated it to Tommy, then put it in his hands.

all the candy into his pocket and started playing with

felt quite accomplished when he saw that Tommy was having fun with

said, "It must be tiring to make that, Dad. You should have

from Queenie that Jack was involved in a large-scale city-planning project recently. The daily meetings lasted until eleven o'clock

was already past his prime. Bianca did not want him to spend his time messing around with toys instead of resting during his free

shook his head. He was satisfied seeing that Tommy was happy. "It's no big deal. Is it fun,

you're the best!" Tommy gestured a thumbs-up at

patted Tommy's head, seeing how happy he was. "What do you say when you receive

Grandpa. Thank you, Grandma." Tommy was having fun with his new

and patted Tommy's head too. "Where's Lanie and Rainie? Also, why isn't Luke

is in her ballet class, and Lanie is in his German class. Luke is on a business trip to handle some sudden company matters," Bianca replied. She pointed to the cross-stitch and said, "Aunt Wanda has a present for you, Dad. She made it herself. Do you want to hang

**"Galloping horses?** Not bad. Please thank Wanda on my behalf." Jack glanced around the living room and said decisively, "Let's hang it on this wall. It's been missing something. What do you *think*, Queenie?"

**Queenie** smiled. "I think that's a good *idea*."

"I'll get the caretaker to hang it up later." Jack **decided**.

**"Mm."** Bianca smiled gently when she saw that her parents loved the present.

Jack's position in the local government made it hard for him to accept gifts. The cross-stitch was perfect; it was not too expensive, and at the same time it suited his tastes.

"Come and sit over here, Bea. I have something to ask you." Jack pointed at the couch next to his.

Queenie knew what he wanted to ask, so she sat down on the other **side**.

Bianca saw that her parents seemed serious. She carried Tommy and sat down on the couch. "What's wrong, Dad and Mom?"

**Jack** and Queenie exchanged glances, then looked at her and asked, "Do you know that Leia has a boyfriend?"

"I know a little." Bianca was not too familiar with the Hiltons. She was quite surprised by Brody's display of chauvinism the last time they met, and she thought that Leia would not hook up with **him**.

After all, Leia had been spoiled by Jack and Queenie, and she was also once a glamorous actress. She would not be interested in that **chauvinistic man**.

did not expect that Leia would hook up with him, much less become pregnant with

looked at her parents, wondering if they knew that Leia

did they meet each other?"

Queenie had conducted an investigation after they knew about it, and the results were less than satisfactory. Brody Hilton's wealth came from his grandparents. His capabilities were mediocre, except for his propensity to indulge himself in entertainment. He was also said to be a frequenter of nightclubs and similar

Grandma introduced him to her." Bianca was not used to the

him to her?" Jack was shocked, not expecting that his mother would be the one to introduce that kind of man

was at Grandma's house that day. Grandma invited Mr. Hilton over for lunch and introduced Leia to him." Bianca nodded and told what

sighed and shook his head. "She made a  
that Old Mrs. Norman adored Leia, but why did she have to introduce her to  
held her husband's hand tightly, not knowing how  
that the elders were acting strangely. He stopped playing with his toy and looked at Bianca doubtfully.  
"Mommy, what's wrong with Grandpa

## **Chapter 982**

Bianca did not know what to say when she saw Queenie sigh. She turned around and played with Tommy.

If she had known that Leia was bringing Brody home, she would not have come.

Jack held Queenie's hand. "We'll see what happens."

Queenie nodded, though she remained dejected. "I think we owe Leia a lot, Jack."

Leia was already at the suitable age for marriage, but Jack and Queenie did not make arrangements for her. If they had found her a suitable significant other, Old Mrs. Norman would not have introduced her to Brody, and none of that would have happened.

Jack rubbed the back of Queenie's hand and was somewhat at a loss. He knew that Queenie was very protective of Leia, and he wondered what she would think if she found out what Leia had done.

The living room fell silent. Seeing that her parents were fretting over Leia, Bianca felt bad for them.

She was not jealous that Leia received the bigger proportion of their parents' love, but she felt helpless that Leia did not appreciate what they had done for her. Bianca thought that it was not worth it for Queenie to be sad.

After all, Leia would not be grateful.

The caretaker came over and refilled the teacups. "Sir, Madam, Ms. Bianca, Ms. Leia and Mr. Hilton are here."

The three people looked toward the front gate when they heard that.

It was almost summer, but Leia was dressed in a loose jacket. Bianca had not met her for a while, and she noticed that Leia's face was plumper, not to mention other obvious signs of pregnancy. She hugged Brody's arm as she stepped through the door.

Why are you here, Bianca?" The smile on Leia's face froze for a while when she saw Bianca. Her arms gripped Brody's arm slightly more tightly when she remembered the interest that Brody had shown her the weekend, and I'm here to visit my parents. Greet your aunt, Tommy," Bianca said and

was not very fond of Leia. Even so, he did what his mother told him to. "Good afternoon, Aunt Leia," he said while playing with

removed her sunglasses and brought Brody next to the couch. "Dad, Mom, this is Brody, my boyfriend," she

meet you, Mr. and Mrs. Norman. I hope you'll appreciate my little gift for you." Brody thought that the Normans were not as wealthy as the Hiltons. He was not too polite when he

was stern as he picked up his teacup and examined the gift in Brody's

you, Mr. Hilton. You can take these gifts back," Jack said. He was not going to accept the cigarettes and

instantly unhappy. He stood there and towered over Jack. "Are they not good enough for you, Mr. Norman? My parents bought these from overseas. You won't find them in

was more sensitive. She felt a little uneasy when hearing Brody's arrogant tone

expression sank a little. "You're mistaken, Mr. Hilton. It's not that they're not good enough for us, but you'll have to remember Mr. Norman's status. He cannot accept gifts that are too

felt a little awkward after hearing that. He should have known to be a little more careful when giving gifts to

He looked at Leia and blamed her, "Why didn't you *remind me?*"

*Leia* was at a loss for an explanation. She knew about her father's status, but she had deliberately requested those expensive presents to show her parents that her boyfriend was not in any way inferior to Bianca's significant other.

She became increasingly embarrassed as everyone in the living room looked at her. If she did not say anything, the other people might think that she was being rude. "It's the thought that *counts*."

When Bianca heard that, she thought that Luke was a more sensible person.

She glanced at the cross-stitch and thought the same about *Wanda*.

*Jack grunted* coldly when he heard that. All the education had been wasted **on her**.

*If* she was both malicious and stupid, what else could he expect from **her?**

"Yes, it's the thought that counts. Don't just stand there, come and sit down," Queenie said. She was not satisfied with Leia's boyfriend, but she did not say anything **about it**.

**Leia smiled** at Queenie, knowing that she was the more soft-hearted one.

She put the bag of gifts on the floor, then held Brody's arms and brought him to the couch, as though she was afraid that someone might snatch **him away**.

**Bianca** did not pay much attention *to them*.

took out a piece of candy from his pocket and handed it to Bianca. "Open it for

would not let him eat that many sweets in one sitting. However, she did not want him to whine. She unwrapped the candy and stuffed it into

looked at Bianca. He had not seen her for a while and thought that she was as beautiful as usual. Unfortunately, she was already married to

is already so big, Ms. Rayne,"

was instantly jealous. She wondered why her parents did not comment anything about Bianca for seducing her

Bianca could say anything, Leia interjected, "That's my elder sister's youngest son. She also has a pair of twins in third

eyes widened. Bianca looked so young, and he did not expect her to be so

her children were in third grade, did that mean she was pregnant when she was

sentiments that were leaning toward Bianca quickly returned to Leia. He was pleased that Leia kept herself

could hear the malicious undertones in Leia's words, but she did not mind it. After all, Lanie and Rainie were her pride and joy. "Yes, they're in the third grade now. The youngest one will be attending preschool

patted Tommy's head and smiled gently at

### **Chapter 983**

Brody was not showered with envious gazes as he would have expected. Leia gently pinched his arm and said with a smile, "Brody, my parents don't like coffee."

"Why?" Brody was not embarrassed as he continued to elaborate, "Appreciating coffee is a necessary skill in the upper circles of society. Every party or gathering must have coffee and wine. You'll need to know how to appreciate coffee so that you won't be looked down on. Also, one should prepare some premium coffee beans at home to serve guests."

As soon as he finished speaking, the living room fell into an awkward silence.

Leia pinched him again. She was getting nervous.

Jack hated people who loved to show off, while Brody was very fond of showing off. She thought that he had not done that for some time, so why would his old habits return?

It would not have been a problem if he showed off in front of her friends, but they were in front of her parents now...

Leia discreetly kicked him to stop him from speaking.

Brody impatiently pushed Leia's hand away, feeling a little irritated by the pinching and kicking. "I'll bring over some Blue Mountain coffee beans on my next visit, Mr. and Mrs. Norman. Once you try it, you won't want to drink tea or other types of coffee anymore."

"It's fine, Mr. Hilton. We don't sleep very well, and the doctor said that we shouldn't drink coffee too often." Queenie rejected Brody's offer once again. She sounded gentle but insistent.

Leia was surprised. 'Is that so? When did that happen?'

Brody was already cursing inwardly when Jack and Queenie had rejected his offer twice. He thought that they did not know how to appreciate the finer things in life.

fell on the cross-stitch that Bianca had placed on the couch

decided to flaunt his family's wealth again so that they would feel grateful that they would be getting such a

you just take that down?" He pointed at the cross-stitch with his

was already very displeased. Brody was frivolous and disrespectful. Was that how he should treat

not plan to stop Leia from being together with Brody. If she really liked him, he would want her to marry him so that he could announce to others that whatever she did had nothing to do with the

beginning to change his mind after seeing that man's

saw that her parents did not seem too pleasant and thought that they were unhappy about Brody's showing off and

the tension, she smiled and said, "That's a cross-stitch, right? I've never seen it at home. Did you buy it,

scoffed, "Who would buy that nowadays, or hang it in their house? That's so old-fashioned and cheap. Horses? How

was livid when he heard that. How high and mighty must the Hilton family be for that young man to say

his teacup angrily. It landed on the table with a loud

The people in the living room were *shocked*.

"**I love** horses and handicrafts like that. What about it?" Jack said while staring at **Brody**.

"He doesn't mean that, Dad," Leia tried to **explain**.

"That's enough. Our house is full of cheap and tacky stuff, and we're an embarrassment to him. Go get the toolbox and hang the cross-stitch on the wall," Jack ordered *the caretaker*.

The caretaker nodded and went to the storeroom.

**Brody did** not expect Jack to react so violently. He became even **more disdainful**.

*The caretaker* brought out the toolbox and got the driver to help *him*.

*Jack* wanted to hang the cross-stitch after they had left, but he could tolerate how disrespectful Brody was.

**If Brody** did not show him any respect, then he would not show him any *either*.

The driver drove the nails into the wall. With the caretaker's help, they hung the *cross-stitch*.

"Careful, this is my favorite piece of art," Jack's resonant voice rang in the living room.

Sir," the caretaker and the driver replied together. After hanging the cross-stitch, the caretaker asked, "Is this

up and carefully examined the cross-stitch. After seeing that it was straight, he nodded in satisfaction and said, "Yes,

shot a glance at Brody. He should have been smarter than that, so why was he repeatedly offending her father? He stood up, leaned closer to her father, and said intimately, "That's a beautiful cross-stitch, Dad. Did Mom make

"It's from your aunt," Jack said.

aunt?" Leia did not know that she had

sister's aunt," Queenie said while refilling Jack's

understood. It was Bianca

knew that her father loves works of art featuring horses, but she attributed the reason why her father loved the cross-stitch to Bianca

at Brody and explained, "My dad loves

a look of understanding and could not wait to flaunt his family's wealth again. "So you like horses, Mr. Norman. What do you think of oil

too expensive and will raise unwanted suspicion." Jack could understand the implication in Brody's words, and he rejected him directly. "I have some work to do. You can go on without

## **Chapter 984**

Leia was surprised by what Queenie said.

When she divulged everything that day, Queenie felt sorry for her and said that she would not want Leia to suffer anymore. Leia had already treated that as an approval to their relationship.

"Mom..." Leia stood up, sat next to Queenie, and refilled her teacup. "Have you forgotten what you said that day?"

Queenie sighed. She thought that Leia was more intelligent than that, so why did she behave as though she had been hypnotized? Back then, Queenie did not know Brody's character, but things were different now.

She knew of Brody's character after the investigation, and she had changed her mind since then. However, she did not tell Leia about that because she knew that Leia would not want to hear an opposing opinion.

Before she could say anything, Brody spoke, "Mrs. Norman, I only want to marry Leia."

Bianca, who was playing with Tommy, turned her head together with Queenie and looked at Brody.

"Mr. Hilton, we're not a wealthy family. Leia's father is only a government worker, and we can't compare to your family. In terms of status, I don't think Leia is a match for you, and I'm surprised that

for someone who emphasizes one's wealth, you'd want to marry her and no one else." Queenie frowned. She did not want to tell him so directly that she objected to their marriage, but he had mentioned it first.

Her tone of voice was gentle but resolutely firm.

Leia finally understood what Queenie had been saying, and that made her angry. She thought that her mother was being difficult because she did not appreciate Brody showing off, but it turned out that she objected to their marriage!

Brody also finally knew Queenie's intentions. He was not angry, but instead, he smiled. "Are you objecting to our marriage, Mrs. Norman?"

sense Leia's unease and patted the back of her hand. "Mr. Hilton, you have to understand that marriage is not child's play. Not every family can be blissful because of money alone. Leia needs a loving husband and not a rich

did not think that Leia would be happy being married

bit her lower lip. Why would her mother say that? Why would she make that decision on her behalf? She shot a glance at the young man next to

see that Leia was aggrieved. He could not believe that the Norman family would reject an outstanding man like

looked down upon the Norman family. Why would a mere politician receiving a fixed salary be you think so too, Ms. Rayne?"

surprised by the question. She had tried to make herself invisible, but Brody involved her in the her head and said, "I don't have any thoughts on the matter. This is between the two

knew that no one in the household would be able to change the outcome. Leia was furious because Bianca might as well have not said

about this? I'll tell you something, then you can decide if I get to marry Leia." Brody stood up and towered over Queenie as though making an important announcement. "Leia is already pregnant with my child. If you continue to object to the marriage, I can choose to walk away, and Leia would be the one at a

Brody might be his grandmother's favorite, but he had conducted an investigation on his father without his grandmother and mother's knowledge. He found out that his father had many extramarital relationships, and he needed a child to secure his position in **the family**.

**Leia** was already far into her pregnancy, and the baby could not be aborted. The only way was to induce labor.

Even if he did not marry Leia, he would take the baby away after it was delivered. If the Normans wanted the baby, he was prepared to fight them legally. He would like to see if the Normans wanted their reputation or the *baby more*.



*Queenie* stood up in shock and instantly felt her head spin. She held onto the couch and looked at *Leia*. "Is that true, **Leia**?"

*Leia* did not expect that *Brody* would tell *Queenie* about her pregnancy. They had promised to tell *Queenie* after she agreed to *their marriage*.

Seeing how smug he was, as though he was victorious, she inwardly cursed his stupidity.

"Mom, I..." *Leia* wanted to say something but checked herself. She looked at *Brody helplessly*.

*Her father* would kill her if he found out that she was pregnant before *her marriage*.

*Brody* ignored her gaze and whistled. "I'll be going off now. I'll leave it to you to decide if I can marry **Leia**."

He walked away without turning back.

wanted to give chase, but her mother stopped her. "Are you really pregnant,

was clutching her forehead. The news was too shocking, which made her feel dizzy. She looked as though she was going to pass out at

stood up and supported her. "Don't be too agitated, Mom. Please

*Queenie* sat down, she looked at *Leia's* loose clothes. It would be summer soon, and it should have been the season for short sleeves. She instantly understood why *Leia* was dressed in that thick

furious as she watched *Brody* leave. She stopped walking and turned to look at her mother. Her priority was to convince *Queenie*. Once *Queenie* agreed to the marriage, Jack would

me, Mom..." *Leia* stepped forward and pushed *Bianca*

was pale as silent tears flowed out of her closed eyes. She did not expect that the adoptive daughter she had raised and pampered would get pregnant before she was

*Brody* was so arrogant. Ever since *Leia* became pregnant, *Queenie* never had a say

that a woman who got pregnant before she was married would face harsh criticism from society as well as being at a disadvantage in her in-laws'

disappoint me, *Leia*," she said while

## **Chapter 985**

Tommy watched all that happened. He thought for a while, then ran upstairs to look for Jack.

Jack carried Tommy and walked down the stairs. He saw *Leia* fall to his knees to beg for forgiveness from her mother. "Please forgive me, Mom. I'm begging you, please don't be angry, alright? I don't want the baby anymore. I'll go and get it induced tomorrow. Don't cry."

"Are you crazy? I won't let you do that," *Queenie* exclaimed in surprise.

Jack frowned. "What's going on?"

As soon as he spoke, the three people in the living room turned their heads toward the stairs. When Leia noticed him, she stood up and turned her body away.

As her adoptive daughter for twenty years, Leia knew her father's temperament.

If she remained on her knees, Jack would definitely keep her kneeling as punishment.

The floor was hard, and she had a bulging stomach. She would not be able to take it.

"Dad." Leia shifted her body to hide the bulging stomach from him.

Jack had already noticed her stomach. He put Tommy down and walked over. "Turn around."

Leia shuddered but did not move. "Is there something, Dad?"

on with your stomach?" Jack walked toward the couch. Leia would not be able to hide it

turned around while trembling. She lowered her head to hide the malice in her eyes and began to cry.

"I'm sorry, Dad. It's all my fault. You can hit

spoke loudly enough so that everyone in the living room could hear that. Queenie clutched her heart and looked like she would pass out at any

glared at Leia's round and bulging stomach sternly. He was no expert in obstetrics, but he could tell that the pregnancy was more than three

child a Hilton?" He asked, furious after seeing that Brody had already left while Queenie was sitting on the couch with a

that man leave while the Norman household is in

and nodded. She tried to squeeze tears from her eyes to evoke pity from her parents. "It's all my fault, Dad. The child is

was about to fall on her knees again. Queenie's heart softened when she saw her frail daughter with a bulging stomach. She took her daughter's hand and wanted to say something before tears fell from her eyes again. She shook her head and looked at

Normans did not own a big corporation, but they were fairly well-known in

thought that the daughter she had raised had become pregnant before marriage and felt that she had failed her husband and her family. Her daughter would become the subject of ridicule, and her husband's reputation might

Bianca sighed, gently patted Queenie's back, and said, "Dad, Leia isn't in the physical condition to be punished. Shouldn't we come together as a family and work out a **solution?**"

Jack became angrier as he glared at Leia's bulging stomach. However, he was sensible enough not to place his anger **on Bianca**.

He sat down and glared coldly *at Leia*.

**She shuddered** again. She might hate them both, but she was nonetheless scared of **Jack**.

*She was* already tired from standing, but without her parents' permission, she dared not move **a muscle**.

**Bianca** sighed again. That should have been none of her business, but she could only blame herself for visiting at the wrong **time**.

"*Dad*, won't you let Leia sit down? She's already heavily pregnant," she advised.

*Jack* grunted coldly and pointed at the couch opposite him. "Sit down and tell me everything from the start."

Leia weakly wiped away her tears and sat on the couch. Instantly, her weary feet felt a lot better.

Under the gaze of the three people, Leia repeated her story, shifting the blame **to Brody**.

was livid after hearing that. His hatred for Brody shot through the roof as he glared at Leia's bulging stomach. "Contact the hospital. The baby cannot be

wanted to abort the baby and have Leia cut all ties with the

"No!" Two people objected at once. One was Queenie, and the other

want to lose this baby, Dad. I've already carried it for so many months. I don't want it to go away..." Leia caressed her stomach and begged. She sounded so sincere that one might be forgiven for forgetting that she had tried to medically abort

already so advanced in her pregnancy. It would be harmful to her body if the baby is aborted now. We can't do that,"

feeling very upset by the two women. He turned to look at

knew that Jack was asking for her opinion. However, she also knew that her opinion might not be something Jack wanted to hear at that moment. She shut her mouth and shook her

quietly on Bianca. He did not know what was going on among the

his lips together tightly, not willing

was beginning to be afraid. She looked at Queenie, hoping that her mother would speak up for her. If she lost the baby, she would not have a hold on

## **Chapter 986**

When Leia heard that, she quickly fell on her knees. She had to keep the baby no matter what! "I don't want to lose the baby, Dad. I love the baby! Don't you want it to call you 'Grandfather' after it's born?"

Jack was finally moved, but it was not because of Leia's words.

He knew how it felt to lose one's child. Even though Bianca eventually returned to their side, they had lost a lot of time with her, and the regret lasted forever.

He decided to wash his hands of the matter.

"You can keep the child, but the child has to have a father," Jack said. That was as much as he was willing to concede.

Leia was overjoyed. With their support, she believed that she could convince the elders in the Hilton family. "I'll let Brody know so that he can come over and have a meal with us."

"Tell him not to bring any gifts. We can't afford to accept them," Jack said coldly.

"Yes." Leia could not be bothered about everything else. She instantly took out her phone and called Brody.

Bianca breathed a sigh of relief, glad that the issue was settled without too much chaos or violence.

After the call, Leia smiled cheerfully. "Brody will come later. He promised that he will be respectful this time."

Among all the people in the living room, she was the only one smiling.

Queenie looked at her daughter's stomach. The baby was saved, but she could not smile. Her emotions were gloomier than ever.

always been her pride and joy. She did not know why Leia had been bringing anger and shame to their it the right decision to adopt her from the orphanage? Queenie sank into

that Brody would be coming soon, Bianca excused herself without having lunch at the

She brought Tommy to a restaurant.

why aren't we having lunch at Grandma's house?" Tommy asked. He was looking forward to Queenie's meatloaf, but they left the house before

Tommy's head. She did not answer his question but instead said, "Then why did you sneak upstairs to get

hate Aunt Leia's crying." Tommy pretended to cover his ears. He had gone upstairs to look for his grandfather because Leia's crying

smiled and pinched Tommy's face. If Tommy had not done that, the matter would not have been resolved

not accept the fact that Leia was pregnant with Brody's child, but at the same time, she did not want Leia to abort it either. She would not be able to find

was the only way out of the

miss Grandma's cooking, Mommy," Tommy said

**Bianca poured** a glass of milk for him. She understood how the boy felt. "Grandma is busy today, and she can't cook for you. You want to eat meatloaf, **right?**"

"Mm." Tommy nodded.

"*Let's* order some meatloaf then. If you can't finish it, we'll bring it home for dinner," Bianca said. She summoned the waiter and made another **order**.

Tommy seemed a lot happier. "Mommy, when will Daddy be back?" He asked with a smile.

"He'll only be back in a week. You can start counting from today, and he'll be back on the seventh day," Bianca explained patiently **to him**.

"*I know.*" Tommy nodded. "Daddy will be back in seven days. I'll be a good boy, and Daddy will bring me to the **theme park**."

**Tommy still** remembered what Luke told him earlier that morning. As Bianca watched Tommy count on his fingers, her fondness for him *grew*.

**She hoped** that he would settle the matter in New York as soon as possible and return to *them*.

At night, Bianca checked that the flight had successfully landed in New York. She sent a message to Luke. [Have **you arrived?**]

She received a video call request ten minutes **later**.

Bianca instantly answered it and pulled the phone slightly farther from her face so that he could see her **clearly**.

was standing in the airport. Travelers were moving about behind

wore a Bluetooth headset and looked at Bianca's smiling face. The dim yellow light of the room cast a gentle and holy light on her

very late, Bianca. Why aren't you asleep yet?" Luke's voice was gentle. He had just turned on his phone after landing, and his heart warmed after seeing

wanted to sleep after you've landed." Bianca's fingers gently touched the phone screen, as though she could touch his face and

landed. You should rest." Luke wanted to chat with Bianca, but he did not want to keep her

there's something else." Bianca briefly explained what happened at the Norman residence earlier. She knew that Luke was not interested in domestic matters, but it was better for him to know about it since she might become

knew about the things that Leia did in private. "You don't have to involve yourself in Leia's business. Take a good rest. I'll be back next week,"

Bianca felt a lot better after hearing her husband's voice. Her hands made a heart sign to Luke, then yawned. "I'll be going to sleep

Luke did not want to hold her back and affect

smiled and tapped on the end

the next three days, Bianca and Sue were incredibly busy because of Nina's absence. Not only did they have to take care of their family, but they also devoted the rest of their time to

**Chapter 987**

The door opened five minutes later. Nina thought that the caretaker had returned with breakfast. She continued to pack her bag without looking back. "Thank you, Ma'am. You can put the breakfast on the table."

She did not hear any reply after a while. When she lifted her head, she was utterly shocked.

The person who had entered her ward was Pierre Mallory, the man whom she never wanted to see again.

Every time she saw him, there was nothing but trouble!

Nina's body started trembling as she recalled the things that he had done to her. She did not want to show her weakness to him, but the fear was borne from a primal instinct. She feared that devil of a man!

The wounds that he had inflicted on her had never healed. Whenever she saw that pair of sinister eyes, she would feel as though her body would break out in blisters from which foul blood flowed!

"Heh, you're really in the hospital. No wonder that crazy b\*tch Bianca Rayne came to look for trouble!" Pierre was satisfied when he saw that Nina was shaking. It seemed that she remembered to fear him.

He had never forgotten what happened on the Zephyr. When he returned to A City, he was distracted by many other things. Bianca was the one who reminded him about Nina.

"What did you do to Bea?" Nina knew that Pierre was ruthless enough to even hurt Bianca. She was very worried about her.

"What could I have done to her?" Pierre thought that Nina's frail figure was very ugly in those loose clothes. She looked better when she did not have any clothes on. "Why don't you ask her what she did to me? How else would I know that you're in the hospital?"

closer and closer

took a step backward and saw that the door was closed. She remembered hearing a click earlier, indicating that he had locked the door from

away from me, you animal!" Nina moved behind the bed and pressed the panic button when he was not paying

smiled sinisterly as he saw she was curled up in a corner of the spacious ward like a helpless little rabbit. He continued to step forward as though he was

haven't learned how to appease me yet, Nina Langdon." Pierre stood there with a vicious smile on his face. "After all, we've spent a night together, and I don't believe that you don't have any affection for me. Why would you scream and curse at me every time you meet me? Have you forgotten how you begged for mercy that

covered her ears, not willing to listen to

her countless nights to forget that unmentionable past. Thanks to Pierre's reminder, the memories came flooding back

smiled and took another step closer. "I don't know why you're so repulsed. I miss what happened that night. Your looks might be average and your figure isn't fantastic, but we can relive the memories of that night if you'd like

shook her head, trying to shake away those words that entered her ears. As he got closer, Nina took out the flowers from the vase and flung them at the man. "I don't want it, Pierre Mallory. I don't want to see you anymore. Stay away from

*Water droplets* splashed on Pierre's expensive suit. His expression darkened as he swept away the water with his hand. "We can do this the easy way or the hard **way, Nina.**"

He did not mind abducting her and taking her back to his home. After all, his elder brother was not in the country, and no one could help her now.

**"Get lost!"** Nina pointed at the door. Her eyes were bloodshot. If she could, she did not mind sacrificing her life so that the man would go to **hell.**

**Unfortunately** for her, she had to suffer while the man remained **free.**

**The** punishment that should have befallen him had fallen on *her instead.*

*Pierre* kicked the scattered flowers away and said, "It looks like you need a lesson to remember who I am. You were lucky that Percy was around to help you the last time. This time... just you **wait!"**

**Nina** saw that he was getting serious. She picked up the vase and knocked it on **the table.**

**Crash!** The glass vase shattered. Nina held the neck of the vase and pointed the jagged end at him. "I'll kill you if you dare take another step *forward!"*

**Pierre** smiled disdainfully when he could see that her entire body was shaking, especially the hand that was holding the vase. "Do you think you can? At least steady your grip first."

fell into despair when she saw him continue to inch closer to her. She thought that the man's touch was had caused her downfall. If not for him, she might have

tears began to fall. She missed her carefree life and that baby that could have been

by sorrow, she turned the jagged end of the vase toward her jugular vein. "If you come any closer, I'll kill stopped walking. He could see the determination on her face. Her hand that held the vase was not shaking

his gaze, though he was secretly flustered. "Are you not afraid of

should I be afraid? You've ruined my life. If I die, I'll come back to haunt you and curse you with the most sinister curses. You will never have another good night's sleep. May tragedy befall you, and may your bloodline end with you!" Nina was not afraid anymore when she thought of her child who had departed died, she would no longer have any

door was kicked open, and Bianca and a nurse rushed in. She was shocked when she saw the broken vase in Nina's hand. "Calm down,

## Chapter 988

"Bea!" Nina collapsed at that instant, and the sound of glass crashing on the floor made her tremble. If Bianca and the nurse had not come in, the shard of glass would have pierced her neck.

Pierre squinted and looked at Nina who was holding Bianca and crying. He felt as though a needle had stabbed his heart.

A security guard pushed him and said impatiently, "Why are you still standing here? Do you want us to send you to the police station?"

They would usually give them a warning, note down their appearance, and prevent them from entering or leaving the faculty. If the person was a repeat offender, then they would send them to the police.

Pierre retracted his gaze, squinted at the rude security guard, and said, "Do you know who I am?"

The security guard looked at the man who was dressed in branded clothing. He was not afraid of Pierre. After all, they had seen a lot of men who dressed in counterfeits show up in the wards. He thought that Pierre was one of those fools.

"I don't care who you are. If you don't want to go to the police station, you'll follow us without saying another word." The two security guards worked together to throw Pierre out of the ward.

Bianca hugged Nina tightly and comforted her. "It's okay, you're okay."

"Bea, why did he show up? Why?!" Nina broke down. She hugged Bianca and cried her heart out.

The nurse was shocked when she came in with breakfast. She said, "Head nurse, what happened?"

The head nurse shook her head. They were in between shifts when Nina pressed the call bell, so no one noticed Nina's cry for help.

It was not until the papers for Nina's discharge were sorted out that the head nurse found that the call bell was on. She hurried over to see what was going on.

was hugging Nina, distressed. Nina was feeling better but everything was ruined when

not the only one who hated Pierre, Bianca hated him

hated two men, Xavier Tanner and Pierre

it's okay. I'm sorry that I wasn't able to protect you." Bianca guessed that Pierre was offended by her behavior on the street when they last bumped into

not go after Bianca because of Luke, so he chose to attack the helpless

Bianca and cried for a long time. She gradually let go of Bianca and sat on the bed. Her face was as white as a sheet because she was overwhelmed by

looked at her tear-filled eyes and felt

the information to the head nurse, took out her credit card, and said, "Can I pay the



head nurse was scared and grateful that nothing had happened to Nina even though she missed her calling bell. If something had happened, she would have to bear

immediately agreed to Bianca's request. She took the information and credit card to settle

looked at Nina's swollen eyes, sat down, and put one hand on her shoulder. She comforted her, saying, "Nina, it's okay, it's all my

**Nina put** her head on Bianca's shoulder and sobbed slightly as her tears flowed freely. She said, "Bea, why is this kind of person still alive but I have to live even though I'm so **tired?**"

**Pierre was** living a good life in A City and could get any woman he wanted. Even so, he chose to target her.

A lot of women were after him, utterly obsessed with him. However, he showed up in front of her time and again, irritating her and hurting **her**.

*Nina* hated Pierre with everything she had. She regretted not smashing the glass vase on him when he was still in the ward. 'If I had smashed the vase on him, I'm sure he would've *bled*.'

She wanted him to bleed out and see if his heart was black in color.

Bianca was not aware of Nina's dark thoughts. All she knew was that she was scared and *sad*.

*She stayed* by Nina's side silently and lent her **shoulder**.

*About half* an hour, Nina calmed down. She wiped the tears from her cheeks and said, "Bea, I'm *fine now*."

"Are you really okay?" Bianca glanced at the floor. The broken glass had been swept away by the caregiver. Bianca was still in shock from Nina's breakdown. She thought that if she had been a minute late, the glass might have cut through **her veins**.

*Bianca felt* shivers down her spine when she thought about it.

**Pierre was** exactly as crazy as Luke said he was. He would take revenge on whoever wronged him, and there were no **exceptions**.

okay." Nina sniffed. She did not want to be vulnerable. Her idea to commit suicide was just a momentary lapse of

a lot of things to deal with. Jean had not been released from prison, Anna had yet to be diagnosed, and Pierre had

not die just yet,

the sadness in her eyes, sighed, and wondered if she should get Johann to help. After all, he had some accomplishments in the field of

nurse helped with the discharge procedures and sorted the medicine that Nina would

pack up Nina's belongings. Before leaving the ward, she asked, "Do you want to visit

been in the hospital for a while. The doctor did a biopsy a few days ago and the result was not out yet, so they were keeping her in the hospital to monitor

shook her head. She was in a bad mood and did not want to visit her mother. They would quarrel every time they met, and she was not in the headspace to fight with her mother.

her shaking her head, Bianca nodded and said, "Okay, I'll bring you

stood at the door and said, "You have so many things to worry about, I'll just go back by

of schedule with my work, and the company's largest project is on the right track. I have nothing on hand now." Bianca held her duffel bag in one hand and Nina's hand in the other. "My most important task today is to accompany you. Didn't you say that you want to eat my food the other day? When we pass by a supermarket, let's get some vegetables and I'll cook

## **Chapter 989**

After they were done with groceries, Bianca drove Nina home. She planned to cook, so she parked the car in the villa.

Nina got out of the car and stared at the Maserati in a daze.

"Nina, what's the matter?" Bianca also noticed the Maserati, which she knew was not Nina's car.

Nina had a complicated look on her face. "He's here."

"Who?" Bianca was puzzled and glanced at the numbers on the license plate. The license plate ended with three eights. The person who owned the car was well to do. Bianca immediately knew who the car belonged to.

Percy Mallory.

"Master Percy of the Mallory family." Nina retracted her gaze. Percy had not called her for a while. She thought that he had gotten bored with her and did not expect him to appear out of the blue.

Percy treated her place like a hotel. He came and left as he pleased.

Bianca frowned, grabbed the groceries, and held Nina's hand. "Don't be afraid, I'll go in with you."

Nina smiled gratefully at Bianca. She was not afraid, but considering her recent encounter with Pierre, she did not want to deal with Percy.

The brothers looked similar, and she would think of Pierre when she saw him.

The two went into the living room and saw Percy sitting on the sofa. He had opened a bottle of red wine and was tasting it alone.

"Where did you go?" Percy raised her eyebrows when he saw Bianca next to Nina.

did she get hurt?' He noticed at first glance that her forehead was bandaged. He felt

just came back from the hospital." Nina was expressionless as she turned to Bianca and said, "Bea, please put the groceries in the refrigerator. I'll cook for myself

was stunned. She wanted to say something so she could stay with Nina a she could, Percy said, "Mrs. Crawford, I have something to discuss with Nina. Please allow us a look at Percy. Even though he knew that Nina was injured, his tone and expression were neutral. There was no doubt that he had no love for her. He was nothing but a that Percy would not have visited if he had no motive. She let go of Bianca's hand and said, "Bea, let me know when

knew it was not her place to insist on staying. She placed the groceries in the refrigerator, took out Nina's medicine from her bag, and put it in her hand. "Make sure you take this on time."

"Thanks, Bea." Nina smiled gratefully.

was still feeling uneasy, so she said, "If you need anything, please call

will. Let me know when you're home." Nina escorted Bianca out of the living room. After she walked Bianca out, she turned around and looked at Percy, who was enjoying his wine on the sofa. She felt a sense

exactly when Pierre was in a

was in a bad mood, his expression would remain calm and cold. No one would be able to guess what he was thinking about at that

*However, he* was swaying his glass now. She thought that perhaps he was in a good mood.

**Nina walked** over and glanced at the red wine on the coffee table. Percy had brought over the bottle.

*He* would occasionally bring some personal belongings, but she was not allowed to touch or use the things he brought. That had always been the case.

*Take, for example,* the bottle of red wine that he brought. It would be finished by him alone. He would never share it with her. Similarly, he would not touch the bottles of wine **she bought**.

**Nina tried** to manage the disappointment she felt. She was unwilling to show vulnerability in front of this man. Nina asked Percy, "When did you **come back**?"

*"Today."* Percy took a sip of his wine, the corners of his mouth stained with a coquettish red, making him look *like Satan*.

**"Mm."** Nina sat on the *single sofa*.

*"How did you get hurt?"* Percy asked. He felt inexplicably unhappy looking at the injury on her forehead. He felt the sensation of being pricked by pins and needles. He could not ignore it despite trying his **best**.

**"I** accidentally hit the wall." Nina did not tell him that Anna was hospitalized. She knew that even if she told him, it would not arouse any sympathy nor would he feel inclined to help out. He might even ridicule her for *being useless*.

Percy listened to her flat tone. She was calm as though nothing significant had happened.

'If nothing is going on, why were you in the hospital for several *days*?'

He was on a business trip abroad for the last couple of days, and he deliberately did not reach out to Nina. He did not expect not to hear from her throughout the time he was gone. 'Am I dispensable to her?'

irritated the more he thought about it. He did not show it on his face. He raised his chin, finished his wine, and took off his

felt more sorrowful when she saw his actions. She thought that he was not at all considerate of her even when she was in a state like this. All that he cared about was getting her in

here." Percy was irritable and wanted nothing but to

stood up and walked over numbly. At that moment, she suddenly realized that she was not his lover. He owed her nothing and did not have to be sympathetic.

herself to be mindful of who she was to

up to him and took off her coat with a numb

...

Bianca left Nina's house, she was worried sick. She parked the car on the side of the road and stayed there. She thought that if Nina needed her, she could be there for

Her phone rang.

immediately picked it up thinking that it was Nina but it turned out to be Luke calling from

answered the call. "Luke, are you done

nine o'clock in the evening on Luke's side. It had been the same for the past few days. They would talk on the phone after he was done with work. It was their way of easing

## **Chapter 990**

Bianca was gentle and lovely. Luke felt a surge of warmth in his heart from her words. He nodded and said, "Yeah."

Bianca looked into his eyes and touched the screen. She had been doing it a lot recently. As long as they were video calling, she could not stop her hand from touching the screen. It was as if she was trying to touch Luke.

She missed him more and more with each passing day. If she were not caught up with her responsibilities in A City, she would not hesitate to buy a plane ticket and fly to New York to be by his side.

Before she was together with Luke, she had never thought of herself as a clingy person. At that time, she lived alone and did not rely on anyone.

However, she realized that she loved being near him after they got together.

Bianca saw Jason appear in the video and asked, "Do you still have work to attend to?"

Luke looked back at Jason and asked, "What's the matter?"

Jason realized that he had disturbed Luke and Bianca's catch-up. He shook his head quickly and said, "No, boss, you can continue."

Bianca noticed that he had a stack of documents in his hand. She smiled and guessed that Jason just did not want to disturb them, so she said, "I have to go back to the company. You go ahead with your work."

Luke knew that she was being considerate. He wanted to talk to her more, but he changed his mind. If things here were dealt with sooner, he would be able to go back sooner.

He replied, "Be careful."

will, it's not the first day I got my driver's license," Bianca said to Luke and ended

leaned on the back of the chair, adjusted the position of the seat, and opened the photo album on her phone to look at photos of her

the most part, he was not a fan of taking photos but would still look at the camera when Bianca wanted him to. Bianca swiped through the photos with a big, heartwarming smile on her

at the door of the villa. It seemed that Percy was still

to wait a little longer. Suddenly, her phone rang, and it was

good morning," Bianca answered, knowing that it was likely Queenie had called to talk about

not interested in Leia's affairs but she had to pick up her

voice was heard. "Bea, are you in

I didn't go to the office today. What's the matter?" Bianca replied as she glanced at the

having dinner with Brody's family tonight. Your dad thinks that it'd be wonderful if you could join us. Are

her because Bianca was Leia's sister. Both she and Jack thought that it would be better if she

Bianca thought to herself, 'Didn't Leia cry a few days ago saying that the Hilton family doesn't accept her? It hasn't been that long ago but they're having **dinner together?**'

She did not want to go as she knew that this dinner would not be a peaceful *one*.

**"Bea?" Queenie** called out to Bianca gently after not hearing **a reply**.

**Bianca** sighed helplessly in her heart. Luke had told her to avoid matters as such but no matter how much she tried not to be involved, it seemed that drama would come looking for her. She replied, "I'm looking at my calendar now. When is **it?**"

**"The dinner will be in the Westin Hotel at noon today," Queenie replied.**

"Okay, I'll be there. Do you need me to pick you up?" Bianca knew that it would not look great for Leia if she did not *show up*.

**The Hilton** family did not like Leia so they may disrespect her mother. She had to go because she did not want her parents to be looked *down on*.

"**No worries**, your father will drive me there." Queenie was overjoyed when she heard Bianca **say yes**.

"**Okay, see** you then." After Bianca ended the call, she kept looking at the time in her car. By noon, Percy still had not left the villa. She had no choice but to leave for the Westin Hotel.

After she mentioned Jack's name, she was brought to a private room by the waiter.

Her parents were already there.

Queenie saw Bianca, she motioned to her to sit next to her as she said, "Bea, sit

Mom." Bianca smiled and walked over to sit down while she greeted her parents. Seeing that Leia and the Hilton family had not arrived, she asked, "Where's

for a check-up. She'll come with the Hiltons later," Queenie

expression turned sour when Leia's pregnancy was mentioned. "They're late! They need to work on their time

her hand on his arm and patted it to comfort him. "It's okay, maybe something held

could've happened?" Jack had gone through hardships when he was younger and was able to manage his emotions in whatever situation. However, when faced with the Hilton family, he could not bring himself to calm

worried that his negative emotions would affect the lunch later. Leia was pregnant with Brody's child. No matter what, the two families would be in-laws. If things went badly, Leia would have a

comforted him, saying, "There are so many people in the hospital, so you have to wait

irritated. Even if the hospital was crowded, the rest of the Hilton family should not be late. Brody was the only one accompanying Leia for the

be angry. If someone sees this, they might think that you have a bone to pick with them." Queenie poured him a cup of tea. Her soft fingers lightly pressed on his