

## **Be Gentle 1371**

### **Chapter 1371**

Amur immediately replied, "Do you think that Luke's subordinates are holding Bianca captive somewhere?"

Luca nodded. That was exactly what she was thinking.

When Luke returned from the Island of Despair, he had already given Gale and Rain legal identification documents in the country. The two people did not have to hide from the authorities, so why were they staying in the mansion and not coming out?

The only explanation was that they were carrying Luke's mission, and she could only imagine that it must have something to do with Bianca. She even thought that Luke had already found out that Bianca was an impostor.

"I'll go and check on that," Amur said. It was all too easy to access the immigration records.

Luca nodded. "I'll send you her passport number so that you don't have to comb through every entry."

"Mm." Amur nodded. The matter concerned the Island of Despair, so if he managed to get to the bottom of it, he would be able to protect Luca and him.

If Luke had really found out that the Island of Despair was still existent, Amur would have to make preparations for that too.

After Luke and Percy destroyed the Island of Despair, Abel had learned his lesson and kept a low profile. He forbade his minions from using that name when they were out on missions, and the only identifying mark was the tattoo on their bodies.

Everyone from the Island of Despair, other than Luca, had that tattoo. It was a symbol of their identity, and they had a choice of where they wanted it on their bodies.

It was obvious why Abel did not put the tattoo on Luca's body. It would be much easier for him to carry out his plan.

on the couch and turned on his laptop while Luca prepared to

the time Luca finished cooking, Amur had already written the program to hack into the immigration records. In a moment, he would obtain the list of people who left the country

halfway eating when Luca's phone began to ring. It was an unknown number. She showed the phone screen to Amur and said, "I wonder who this

local number. It's okay to pick it up," Amur said after noticing the area

Luca nodded and answered the call.

"Hello, who is this?"

on the other end of the call sounded nervous. "Hello, Ms. Craw. I'm the caretaker of the Crawford family. We met at the hospital earlier today. Do you

became nervous when the other party introduced herself. She wondered if something happened  
you. How can I help you?" She

stopped eating and looked at

caretaker said, "Ms. Craw, are you free to come to the hospital now? Master Tommy woke up earlier,  
and he began to throw a tantrum when he noticed that you were not around... At first, Sir managed to  
calm him down, but now that he's gone out to buy some groceries, Master Tommy can't stop crying and  
says that he wants you there. I... I don't know what to

*Luca* could faintly hear Tommy wailing in the background. Her *heart wrenched*.

**She knew** that Tommy was especially sensitive when he was sick. "When will Mr. Crawford return?" She  
asked.

"*I don't* know. Before Mr. Crawford left, he told me to take care of Master Tommy." The caretaker  
turned her head and looked at Tommy helplessly. He was beginning to hiccup from all *that crying*.

*The caretaker* gave Luca a call instead of Luke because Tommy kept calling out Luca's name.

"I see... Alright. Tommy hasn't eaten his dinner yet, has he?" Luca said while standing up and walking  
toward the *kitchen*.

"**He hasn't**. He's been crying since earlier, and he doesn't want to eat." The caretaker sighed. She was on  
the verge of *giving up*.

"*I'll* make some chicken soup for him. Tell him to be a good boy and not cry. I'll be there in an hour and a  
half," Luca **said**.

**When** she heard that the child needed her, she immediately sprang into action, not caring what other  
people might think *of her*.

**The caretaker** turned her head to look at the crying child. "Please, thank you," she said.

**After** the call ended, Luca took out a chicken drumstick from the fridge. She was going to make some  
chicken soup for the **child**.

Amur stood at the kitchen door and watched Luca work busily. "What's wrong?" He *asked*.

is sick," Luca said with a sigh. "I suspect that Bianca

in confusion. He could not understand what

Luke Crawford ask you to go to the hospital to take care of

The caretaker called me and told me that Tommy wants me there,"

Amur heard that, he wanted to tell Luca not to

the child in the hospital was Luca's son. On what grounds could Amur stop her from

Luca heated a pot of water, she noticed that Amur was standing at the door. "What are you doing here?  
Go and finish your dinner. The food won't be as nice when

woodenly. He did not know what to feel

the pot was boiling on the stove, Luca took a quick shower. Then, she filled up a flask with the soup. Before she left, she said, "I might come home late tonight, Amur. If you find anything, you can send me not say anything. Luca sounded like she was going on a date even though she was only going to visit

"Okay," Amur replied.

## **Chapter 1372**

When Luca turned away, her hair gently swayed in the direction of her movement. Luke caught a whiff of her shampoo.

His heart skipped a beat as he took in the slight fragrance. As far as he remembered, Bianca did not use perfume, and the smell of her shampoo blended naturally with the fragrance of her body.

Luca stepped out of the car and turned around to look at Luke, who was still sitting in the car.

"Mr. Crawford?" She called out gently.

Luke came to his senses and stepped out of the car.

They went into Tommy's room one after another. Tommy had stopped crying when he knew that Luca was coming, but his eyes remained puffy and bloodshot.

"Daddy, Ms. Luca..." His voice was soft and shrill, as though he had a lot of grievances.

Luca could empathize with Tommy. A fever was an uncomfortable experience, and it was normal for Tommy to be unhappy about it.

"Tommy, are you hungry?" Luca went to the bedside and asked.

Old Master Crawford had already gone home, so she did not feel restricted. She smiled gently, hoping that the child would see her smile and feel better after that.

Tommy shook his head and said cloyingly, "I'm not hungry, Ms. Luca."

haven't had dinner. You should be hungry by now," Luca said as she placed the flask on the bedside

"I have a fever, Ms. Luca, and I have no appetite now. I only want you to accompany

knew that Tommy was not lying. Usually, children would not have the appetite to eat whenever they fell ill, but they had to eat so that they could recover

removed the lid from the flask to let the fragrance of the chicken soup fill the room. "Are you sure you're not hungry? That's a pity, I thought I'd make some chicken soup

widened slightly when he smelled the

to coax him, "I made this before I came here. Won't you eat some? I can feed you if

of the chicken soup was becoming more and more intense, and Tommy nodded eagerly. Luca filled up a bowl with chicken soup and used a spoon to feed

caretaker was not planning on bothering Luca, but she had no other choice. Tommy's voice had gone hoarse from crying, and the caretaker was afraid that Luca would reprimand

it was her job to take care of

caretaker cleaned her hands with a wet towel. "Allow me to do it, Ms. Luca. I can't possibly let you do

Luca shook her head, and she brought another spoonful of soup close to Tommy's mouth. "It's okay. I can do **it**."

*She* could see that Tommy was willing to eat not only because the soup smelled good, but also because she was the one feeding him.

**It** was normal for children to cling to their mothers whenever they were sick. Even though Luca's face was completely different now, there was still a special bond between them that could not be replicated by **anyone else**.

The caretaker was surprised to see that Tommy was willing to eat. Tommy was fond of eating snacks, and he was very picky about his meals. If she made chicken soup for dinner, Tommy would usually only eat a bowl. This time, Tommy ate two bowls of Luca's **chicken soup**.

**Moreover, Tommy** was supposed to have no appetite when he was sick...

*The caretaker* cleaned up after Tommy was done eating. The chicken soup in the flask had already cooled down, but she could still smell the fragrance. She could not help but ask, "Ms. Craw, did you use any special ingredients in the chicken soup? It smells so nice, and Master Tommy loves it."

"*No*, I only use the usual ingredients," Luca said truthfully. She did not use anything out of the ordinary, but she had used extra care when cooking.

**The caretaker** was even more surprised to hear that. She kneaded her hands and said, "Can I get the recipe from you? Master Tommy doesn't like eating chicken soup at home. I hope to use your recipe so that he'll eat more."

"**Of** course." Luca generously shared the chicken soup recipe with the caretaker. She also wished that Tommy would eat more and grow up *healthily*.

**Luca** was sitting on the couch, observing Luca give her chicken soup recipe while the caretaker recorded *it down*.

as though Luca was the matriarch of

did not immediately leave after she managed to coax Tommy to take his medicine. She knew that Tommy would want to be with her, and she planned to leave after Tommy

seated on the couch. With Luca around, Tommy did not ask for him, so he had nothing to

the space next to him with his hand and said, "Come and sit here, Ms. Luca. Let's watch some cartoons

looked at the time and realized that Tommy's favorite cartoon was airing soon. On other days, Tommy would usually watch the cartoon, make a video call with her, then go to

nodded and sat down next to

caretaker turned on the television and switched to the children's channel. The cartoon had just

happily. He noticed that Luke was sitting on the couch

he felt sorry for his father. Luca was accompanying Tommy, but Luke was sitting alone on

the space on the other side and said, "Come over here, Daddy. Let's watch the cartoon

## **Chapter 1373**

From Luke's expression, Johann could tell what he was thinking.

He rubbed his chin and tried to speak up for Dr. Blake. "Don't be like that. Any head physician in our hospital has to be a skilled doctor. You can't blame him for what happened to Sis; none of us knew what happened, including me. It's only thanks to Dr. Craw that her condition improved, so you shouldn't think that Dr. Blake is incapable. Also, your tantrum has scared all the people in the internal medicine department. It took me a lot of effort to convince Dr. Blake to stay on duty tonight."

Head physicians need not take the night shift, but Johann could not trust the other doctors to take care of Tommy. That was why he went to convince Dr. Blake to stay back.

Luke did not say anything. He did not want other doctors to take care of Tommy.

Tommy was Bianca's favorite child. If the real Bianca eventually returned, she would be sad if she found out that Tommy was ill.

Johann took Luke's silence as consent. He turned his head to look at Luca and asked her, "By the way, Dr. Craw, I've been wondering what happened to Sis last time. What was the problem? I thought that the herbal concoction was more of a health supplement, but I didn't expect it to cure her."

"Mrs. Crawford's fever was caused by a hormonal imbalance. She just needs some nourishment," Luca randomly made up an excuse. Her concoction might look only like a supplement, but every component served to counter the pill's effects.

"I see. I'm not very well-versed in naturopathy, but it looks like I have a lot to learn. Sometimes, naturopathic treatments can be more effective than modern medicine," Johann said and nodded with an ambiguous smile on his face. He looked at the other people in the room; Tommy was focused on watching his cartoon, while the other people seemed to be concentrated in thought. He did not want to disturb them, so he said goodbye and left the room.

After the cartoon ended, Tommy hugged Luca's arm and said cloyingly, "Ms. Luca, can you stay the night with me?"

"Stay the night with you?" Luca said awkwardly. There were only two other beds for visitors in the room. One was for Luke, and the other was for the caretaker.

nodded and shifted away slightly on his butt. "My bed is big enough for the two of us. Daddy is too tall to sleep here, and I'd be scared if I'm sleeping

wavered when she heard

genuinely wanted to stay the night and take care of Tommy in case his fever returned in the middle of  
Luke was also in the

that moment, the nurse came in and said, "It's time to take your temperature,  
turned his head to look at the nurse

nurse took Tommy's temperature and frowned when she read the results. "99.5 degrees. It's still a  
heard that, she touched Tommy's forehead with her hand. It was indeed a  
back in ten minutes to take his temperature again. Please ring the bell if his temperature increases  
suddenly," the nurse

became more anxious about Tommy's condition when she heard that. She looked at Tommy and  
nodded. "Alright, I'll stay here with you tonight. Please get well soon,

"Yes, Ms. Luca. With you here with me, I'll be well again in no time!" Tommy grinned happily as though  
he was unconcerned about the rise in body temperature.

Luca helped Tommy lie down on the bed, then looked at Luke, who had already retreated to the couch.

She pressed her lips but eventually decided to lie down on the bed. She gently patted Tommy's **back**.

**Suddenly**, her phone vibrated. Luca saw that it was a message from Amur, so she immediately read *it*.

**Amur said** that he had gone through the immigration records of A City International Airport. Luca did  
not leave the country.

*In other words*, Luke had lied about Bianca going on an overseas **trip**.

Luca replied: [OK. Got it. I'll talk to you when I come home tomorrow.]

**Soon**, she received a reply from Amur: [Aren't you coming **home tonight?**]

Luca explained: [I'm not coming home. Tommy's condition is unpredictable, so I'd like to stay the night  
with him. I'll go home after I receive the bacteria culture test **tomorrow**.]

quickly replied: [Alright. Take care at the

the phone away and continued to gently pat Tommy's

later, the nurse returned to take Tommy's temperature. Tommy was falling asleep by

nurse looked at the thermometer and said softly, "99.7 degrees. We'll have to keep a close eye on

doctor would not prescribe any medicine for a mild fever like that. Too much medicine was not good for  
a

nodded and continued to pat

knew that the child was very sensitive, and he would complain at the slightest bit of illness. Even though  
Tommy was having a mild fever now, he huddled in Luca's arms

sitting on the couch, was thinking about something as he looked at Luca's

from the Island of Despair had a tattoo somewhere on their body. For example, the impostor Bianca's tattoo was on her back. It would not be easily discovered if she had her

Luca be from the Island of

#### **Chapter 1374**

Luca stopped moving when she sensed Tommy's reaction. She continued to pat Tommy's back.

The caretaker yawned and went to take her position on the other bed.

Luke turned off the lights. The only source of illumination in the room was a small table lamp next to the couch.

Luca slowly dozed off as she listened to the child's even breathing. She let her guard down, even though Luke was still observing her.

A while later, she sensed that the child's body temperature was beginning to rise. She placed Tommy on the bed and sat up straight.

The table lamp near the couch cast a long shadow from behind her, and she could not see Tommy clearly, so she turned on the bedside lamp.

Tommy's face was a much redder color. His fever had returned.

Luke noticed her movements and asked her, "What's wrong?"

"Tommy's fever is back." Luca rang the bell. Dr. Blake and the nurse quickly came into the room.

"Is Tommy having a fever again?" Dr. Blake asked and inserted a thermometer in the child's armpit.

Luca nodded. Her hair was slightly frizzy because she was lying down earlier. "It only happened a short while ago. I rang the bell when I felt the heat on my hand."

The nurse glanced at the temperature records and nodded. "Two minutes ago, the nurse came to check the child's temperature. His temperature was 99.9 degrees, and it was not high enough for the doctor to prescribe medicine."

a sigh of relief. Fortunately, she discovered it in

fever might be potentially lethal to a

Blake read the thermometer and said anxiously, "102.2 degrees. Get the dispensary to deliver some antipyretic medication and a saline drip bottle here. Prepare to lower his

nurse immediately went out of the room to make

away from the bed to make space, but Tommy instinctively grabbed onto her

no other choice but to sit down again and gently pat

Blake saw that and said, "The child likes you

that Luca was not Luke's wife, and he was curious why the child would want to cling to someone unrelated to

child was present when Luca was treating Bianca in the hospital, and Dr. Blake knew that the child was friendly toward Luca. However, the child was grabbing onto Luca's arm as though she was the only one who could save his

felt sorry for the young child as she tried to comfort

returned to the room with ice packs, a cooling strip, and rubbing alcohol. Luca said, "Give me the ice

She put an ice pack under each of Tommy's armpits. That would help lower his **temperature**.

*The nurse* applied the cooling strip to Tommy's forehead, opened the bottle of rubbing alcohol, and said to the caretaker, "Please come over and help me apply the alcohol to the child's arms, legs, *and stomach*."

**The** caretaker immediately went over. She and the nurse rubbed the alcohol on Tommy's **body**.

Tommy's hand was hugging Luca tightly. It was hard for the nurse and the caretaker to do their *job*.

"Hand me a cotton pad. I'll rub his arm," Luca said.

**The nurse** handed Luca a cotton pad dipped in rubbing *alcohol*.

**Luca** began to rub Tommy's arm. The three people did not stop working until the items from the dispensary were delivered to **the room**.

*Dr. Blake* hooked Tommy up to the saline drip. Her heart wrenched when she saw that Tommy's hand with the needle had swollen a little, so she continued to rub Tommy's **arm**.

They had to do everything within their capability to lower Tommy's temperature.

**They were** busy for the next hour, and Tommy's temperature gradually decreased. Eventually, his temperature went below *100 degrees*.

**Dr. Blake** breathed a sigh of relief. "I hope that the fever doesn't come back again. If it does, all we can do is lower his temperature with rubbing alcohol. Take his temperature every half an hour. If it goes above 100 degrees, take it once every ten minutes instead."

"Yes, Dr. Blake," the nurse said.

had just finished speaking when Tommy began to mumble, "Ms. Luca, won't you give me a

shook his head and smiled when she heard Tommy's words. The little boy did not know how anxious she was earlier. She was afraid that Tommy's temperature would not

guessed that Tommy's fever was caused by a bacterial infection, and the bacteria was attacking Tommy's immune system, which caused his temperature to rise and fall erratically. She would only be able to prescribe the correct cure after she knew what bacteria it

Dr. Blake and the nurse left, Luca lay down by Tommy's side once



seemed to have sensed her warmth and leaned closer to hugged the child tightly, even though the stench of alcohol stung through the night, Tommy's temperature rose again, but other than that, it was morning, Luca helped Tommy wash his face, then fed had brought breakfast from Crawford Manor, but Tommy only took a few bites before he said he did not want to could tell that he was a picky eater, but she could not cook for him now. "Be a good boy and finish your food, Tommy. I'll cook something delicious for you next time,"

## **Chapter 1376**

"How could she do that..." Amur said while clenching his fists. Even though he did not want Luca interacting with the children too often, he could not help but be angry at what Bianca had done to Tommy.

That reminded him of what Abel did many years ago.

To quickly expand his influence, Abel attacked several nearby villages and abducted their inhabitants. Anyone who was not fit enough to be a mercenary would become an experimental subject, and no one cared if they lived or died.

Abel was physically weak, and he nearly became one of those experimental subjects.

Fortunately, he was still very young, and the mercenaries in charge of training them thought he still had room to grow. That was why he was spared of that fate.

After he met Luca, he trained hard so that he could become stronger.

Luca was angrier than he was, but she managed to control her fury. She analyzed the situation for Amur, "I'm guessing that the impostor Bianca is now held captive in Luke's mansion, and Gale and Rain are watching over her. I'm quite sure that Luke already knows."

Amur nodded in agreement. After all, Gale and Rain had not left the mansion for several days. They even had food delivered to the mansion.

He was sure that they were acting on a mission, and seeing how things were going, the mission was probably to keep Bianca detained.

"Abel will eventually find out about this, but I don't want him to know about it yet," Luca said. She knew that she would be in danger if Luke found out about the Island of Despair. However, she wanted to help him. As long as Abel did not find out that Luke had detained Bianca, Luke would be able to gather more information for his advantage.

If Luke eventually discovered that Luca was from the Island of Despair, she would not reveal her true identity to him. Nyla was still held hostage on the Island of Despair, and Luca did not want to risk her life just to save herself.

became dejected when she thought of her youngest

should be able to take good care of the little girl, but the conditions on the island were not conducive to the child's growth at

you sure this is what you want to do? None of us can tell how the situation will develop," Amur stared at her seriously. He could tell that Luca wanted to

would be the one to suffer the

as they could try to delay the inevitable, Abel would eventually discover that Bianca had gone missing, and he would eventually find out that Luke was

would then move to the next phase of his plan, and Luca would be his

sure. This is the best we can do for now. Continue to stake out at the mansion but don't act rashly. At the same time, take good care so that you're not discovered by Gale, Rain, or Abel's minions," Luca

as Amur did not act against Abel's minions, Abel would not blame it on

all, Amur had already completed Abel's mission for him, and his next mission was to

noded and agreed. He would agree to whatever Luca requested

**Bianca** might expose their identities, which might cause Luke to act against them, but Amur was ready to protect Luca.

**Ever since** Luca saved him, he had decided that he would use his life to *protect Luca*.

"I will do everything just as you say. I'll go and change my clothes, then I'll continue to keep an eye on the mansion," Amur said and went into *his bedroom*.

**Luca** breathed a sigh of relief when she obtained Amur's assurance.

*It* was a selfish thing to ask Amur to do all that for her. She also did not expect that Amur would help her.

*She* said nothing as she watched Amur go into the bedroom and close the door. Then, she went back to her bedroom, changed her clothes, and went to **work**.

*She* was slightly late when she reached her office. After clocking in, but before she could put on her lab coat, Rhett came over hurriedly and said, "Bad news, Dr. **Craw**."

*Luca* turned around and looked at him. "What **happened**?"

**Rhett** took a deep breath and said, "When I went to the lab earlier, I noticed that things were in a mess. Some of our experimental data has been destroyed."

When Luca heard that, she quickly put on her lab coat and went into **the laboratory**.

laboratory, the assistant researchers were already in their positions, but they were standing there instead of sitting down. When they saw Luca come in, they greeted her, "Good morning, Dr.

did not reply. She looked at the mess on the tables and guessed that someone must have deliberately done

the security footage and see what happened,"

Craw, the security camera in the lab broke down two days ago. The people from the logistics department said that they were going to replace it today," one of the researchers

at the security camera

The coincidence was incredible!

about the security camera in the corridor?" Luca asked. She had gone off work on time the day before, and there were several other researchers at work when

given a call to the security department," Rhett said. "They'll be sending me a copy of the security footage

nodded. Things would be much easier if she had the security footage, but she remained

the situation. What else did we lose other than the experimental data?" Luca asked. The experiment was salvageable if they lost only a small portion of the data. However, if the losses were too great, they would have to

## **Chapter 1377**

All the researchers were in their respective laboratories performing their research to secure the next stage of funding. That was why Rhett thought that Cole would be in his laboratory rather than in his office. Seeing that Luca was so insistent, he did not say anything.

Luca walked in front of the manager's office and knocked on the door. "Come in." A voice was heard from within, which made Rhett surprised.

Luca opened the door and went inside, and Rhett quickly followed behind.

Cole was sitting on his chair, dressed in his white lab coat. He smiled and greeted the woman in front of him, pretending that he was oblivious to what happened in Luca's laboratory. "It's you, Dr. Craw. How can I help you? Are you taking the day off again?"

Luca shook her head and told him about the situation in her laboratory.

Cole acted as though he was shocked after hearing what Luca had to say. "How is that possible? I hope that you're not joking, Dr. Craw. Your research is far ahead compared to anyone else in the department. I was planning to use your research as an example when I submit my monthly departmental progress report to Mr. Crawford."

Luca had an idea of what happened when she observed his expression. "I believe someone in our company must have done it. Moreover, that person has a managerial position."

All the doors in the company were equipped with the most advanced security system. One could not gain access to a room without the proper access card.

The list of people who had access to Luca's laboratory was very short.

might not be the case," Cole said when he heard that Luca was suspecting someone inside the

Kidman, there aren't many people who can gain access to my laboratory. Usually, regular employees won't have the proper credentials to enter. Moreover, there were no signs of tampering on the magnetic lock,"

Luke set up the company, he had taken many precautions to enhance the  
rubbed his chin as though he was thinking of what

tell that he was only pretending. His gaze was unfocused, which would not happen if he were really

later, Cole nodded and said, "If that's the case, we should get to the bottom of it. I'll have to report this incident to Mr. Crawford though. You should know that the company has placed a lot of hope on your research because it'll be the first product to go into the market. Now that this has happened, the later stages of your research and the clinical tests would definitely be delayed. I'd rather not be responsible for that, if you know what I

do," Luca nodded and

his eyebrows when he saw that Luca remained calm instead of begging him to keep it a secret. "If Mr. Crawford intends to point the finger

**"Whoever is** responsible shall take responsibility," Luca said. She was not so stupid as to claim all *the responsibility*.

Cole was surprised to hear that Luca's answer was different from what he expected. He chuckled awkwardly and said, "Yes, yes, we'll have to get to the bottom of it, but before that happens and Mr. Crawford wants to assign responsibility, I'm afraid I'll have to be honest to him. I hope that you won't mind that, Dr. *Craw*."

Luca smiled. If Cole wanted to play politics, she would gladly oblige. "Dr. Kidman, I believe that you underestimate Mr. Crawford. He is a just and fair person. No single individual in the department should claim responsibility for the accident, and even if a single individual takes the blame, I don't think the rest of the department would be spared."

**Cole** glanced at her coldly and sized her up. 'Why won't she claim responsibility? She'd be more likable if *she's smarter*.'

He did not like Luca because he thought that she was lacking in **interpersonal skills**.

*"I'll return* to my lab, Dr. Kidman. They should have come up with a list of damages by now," she said.

*Cole* nodded and watched Luca and Rhett leave. He grunted coldly and dialed a number on the internal line. "Come to my office for a *while*."

"Yes," Talia replied.

the call, took out his phone, and found Jason's number in the address book. He rubbed his chin as he considered the extent of his responsibility if he were to make

had intended for Luca to take all the blame, but not only had she said that she would not claim responsibility, her responses had also

have to claim responsibility. If Luca was not willing to do so, the responsibility might fall on

entered the office and closed the door. She noticed that Cole was frowning, so she asked, "What happened, Dr.

I told you to do. Are you sure that you didn't leave any evidence behind?" Cole asked

tasked Talia to mess up Luca's laboratory. The reason was simple -- he could not stand

Luca's "mistake" affected the company's profits, her career would be over. It did not matter if she was Luke's woman like the

that Luke was not someone who would be so easily charmed by women. To Luke, the company's profits were more important than anything

### **Chapter 1378**

Dr. Cole waved his hand and asked Talia to leave after he heard her repeated assurance.

After Talia left his office, he picked up his phone and called Jason to report on the situation. He took the opportunity to wash the problem off his hands as well.

Jason did not comment after he listened to what Dr. Cole had to say. All he did was acknowledge the situation.

After Dr. Cole put down the call, he touched his chin and thought about it. He could not sense anything from Jason's tone and wondered whether Luke would take Luca's side once again.

He was not entirely confident.

After Luca left Dr. Cole's office, she went straight to the laboratory. The staff had already cleaned up the mess, including the broken experiment instruments.

"Is everything sorted out?" she asked.

One of the researchers handed her a few sheets of paper and said, "Dr. Craw, we just checked and these are the data that have been wiped clean. The computer archive has been completely deleted as well and we don't know if it can be repaired."

"Get ready, we'll have a meeting in ten minutes." Luca did not have to read the contents on the paper to know that a lot of data was lost. It was pointless to say anything. The next step was to have a meeting to see if they should redo the research or find a way to make up for the lost data.

"Yes." Several people responded to her. They took their laptops and walked to the meeting room.

glanced at the papers and then said, "Mr. Link, inform Dr. Cole that there'll be a

noded, turned around, and

left, Luca went back to her office to grab

asked Rhett to inform Dr. Cole as part of the preparation. Luke had the final say on how to solve this the missing data that was sorted out, her research would most definitely be

walked to the meeting room. Dr. Cole had arrived earlier and was sitting in the chairperson seat. She did not say anything and just handed him the information on the data they lost. "Dr. Cole, this is the data lost in this incident. Please preside over the

Cole flipped through the pages one by one and silently praised Talia for her good work when he saw that a large portion of the important data

key data was gone, Luca's previous research was done in

Craw, so much data is lost. Do you have a backup?" Dr. Cole put the papers aside. The more he looked at them, the happier he was. However, he could not show his true feelings in front of so

there was a backup, everyone wouldn't be so worried." Luca glanced at the

When a new drug was launched, the company stated that all members participating in the research would receive a large share of the profits. Now that the data was lost, the research done was all for nothing. If they wanted to redo the research, the time spent on it previously would all go to *waste*.

Everyone wanted to get their hands on the bonus as soon as *possible*...

When Dr. Cole heard her reply, his heart bloomed with joy as he secretly praised Talia once again. He cleared his throat and said, "On this matter... your only choice is to start your research again **from scratch**."

"If we redo the research, we need more funds. The research funds given by the company are limited. We won't have sufficient funds to redo the research. Dr. Cole, I have to trouble you on this matter. Also, please conduct a thorough investigation and find out who did this."

"Okay, I'm well aware of what you just mentioned. I can't give you an answer on the matter of funding at this moment as all the company's research funds for this year have been allocated. Dr. Craw, although you're far ahead in your research, I have no clearance to allocate other professors' research funds to you. How about this? I believe you're close with Mr. Crawford. Why not mention this to him? Maybe he'll agree to your request," Dr. **Cole said**.

*Luca* looked down. She frowned listening to how he was asking her to talk to Luke in front of so many people and even insinuated that they were close.

It was fine if he did not mention any of it. However, after he said so, she was fully prepared for what was **coming**.

*The researchers* heard Dr. Cole and looked at each other. If there was no funding, they would not be able to go ahead with their project.

Dr. Cole made it clear that he did not want to be involved in this matter, nor would he step up to fight for them. Their only hope was *Luca*...

No one wanted their efforts to go to waste, and they were **the same**.

nodded and said, "I see. There are still some research funds left. I'll re-do the research. At the same time, I'll find someone to investigate who's behind this

Dr. Cole felt a little anxious when he heard her calm tone and saw her murderous look. Soon enough, he calmed himself

is just a woman, there is nothing to be afraid of. She's capable of doing research, but to investigate the truth? I doubt she has the ability

were almost done with the discussion. Just as Dr. Cole was about to say that the meeting was over, Talia knocked on the door and walked

Cole looked at her impatiently and said, "What's the

Cole, Mr. Crawford is here," Talia said helplessly as she stepped aside and pushed the

Luke walked in.

was stunned. She looked up and met his gaze. 'Why is he here? Even if Dr. Cole had told him about it, how did he appear so

glanced at Luca, who had a surprised expression on her face. He then retracted his gaze and sat down next

when Luca saw Dr. Cole sitting in the chairperson seat, she did not want to get too close to him because she thought it was disgusting that he had a family but was cheating with Talia. Hence, she sat a distance away

## **Chapter 1379**

"Are you sure that the computer's backup data can't be repaired?" Luke asked. His tone was still calm after such a serious incident.

The research progress of the new drug was disrupted, and the expected profits would be affected as well. However, he seemed to be indifferent.

"I'm not certain. We have to wait until the relevant technicians check on it to know for sure," Luca said. She returned to her seat and quietly moved her chair farther away. She thought that it was best she kept a distance from Luke. The farther, the better.

"The company is going to go through a comprehensive upgrade of the system and the team will have their hands full with that. If you know some talents who are skilled with computers, feel free to make a recommendation." Luke flipped through the data, his expression still flat.

Luca smiled upon hearing his words, and she replied, "Mr. Crawford, I don't know anyone like that. Maybe you can ask the other staff and Dr. Cole."

Luke was turning the page and paused. 'She doesn't know anyone skilled in computers?'

He put down the papers and folded his hands. Even though he was not sitting in the chairperson seat, he was full of vigor and appeared more powerful than Dr. Cole. "I have a general understanding of what has happened. I'm certain this was done by internal personnel. I'll get Mr. Doyle to investigate. I'm not

familiar with the research process. Dr. Craw, do what you believe is best. All I want is to see a product that can be circulated in the market as soon as possible."

When Dr. Cole heard that Luke did not blame Luca, he was taken aback. He rubbed his hands and thought that everything he did was for nothing.

Luca glanced at Dr. Cole's reaction and said, "Mr. Crawford, the budget I applied for before for the project was just right, but now that the research needs to be redone, I need more funds."

"Give me a detailed funding application report." Luke did not turn her down.

When several of the employees heard this, they breathed a sigh of relief. They could continue with their study if they had the funds. Their time was wasted but the profits were still in sight, which was good enough for them.

after the application form is completed, I'll hand it to Mr. Doyle," Luca said. He arranged for Jason to investigate the incident, so it was not an issue to pass him the funding application

"What else?" Luke asked.

it." When Dr. Cole heard that not only did Luke not blame Luca but even agreed to allocate additional funds for the project, he was bewildered. He had managed the situation before he arrived for fear that Luca would say something that would put him in a

quiet. She looked at the laptop in front

surprised that Luke did not put any blame on her on this

stood up, and said to Luca, "Dr. Craw, come to

startled. While she was thinking about what Luke was going to do, she stood up and was about to leave with Luke. Just then, she heard him say, "Dr. Cole, cooperate with Mr. Doyle in his investigation. Otherwise, you'll be responsible for

Cole heard it, he

understood from what Luke said was that if the real culprit was not found, he would lose his

resume, it was not a problem for him to work at other pharmaceutical companies or even to teach at a university. However, if Luke used this as a reason to dismiss him, he was afraid that it would be very difficult for him to find a good job in

He knew that the senior executives who were fired by Luke either moved to another city or went to work in small companies.

*Dr. Cole* did not answer. Luke turned around, looked at him, and asked, "Dr. Cole, is there *a problem?*"

"**No...** No. Mr. Crawford, although this incident was caused by someone within the company, there are a lot of people with access to the lab. It won't be easy to find out who did this..." He shivered.

Luke's gaze was cold as he replied, "Mr. Doyle will investigate this matter, you just need to cooperate with *him*."



Dr. Cole understood what he meant. He could only nod weakly *in response*.

Although he was reluctant, there was no **other way...**

He felt hopeless. He was not planning to be involved but it seemed that he could not avoid **it**.

*Luke* walked out of the meeting *room*.

Luca knew that she had to go with him so she handed her laptop to Rhett, asked him to help take it back to her office, and then followed behind *Luke*.

**The** others also stood up and left the meeting room when they saw that their boss was **gone**.

meeting room, Dr. Cole was the only one left. He was holding his forehead and having a headache.

'What should I do

all the dirty work but it was based on his instructions. It would not be easy to have Talia take the blame. She got close to him to gain access to more work resources and make her life easier. If she was asked to take the blame, he would also be dragged through the

Dr. Cole thought about it, the worse his headache

only hope was that Jason would not find out

other side, Luca followed Luke back to his office and watched as he sat down in his chair. She was standing far away by the doorway, in

Luke pointed to the seat opposite

heard that, Luca had to bite the bullet and sit opposite him. She asked directly, "Mr. Crawford, what do you need me

for taking care of Tommy," Luke

was taken back. His thank you was too rusty but it also fit his current

felt quite uncomfortable, but she nodded and said, "You're

## **Chapter 1380**

Luca's expression was calm. She moved her lips in response. Her heart was beating like a drum and she was overthinking.

'What does he mean?'

Knock, knock. When his shut office door was knocked on, Luke looked away from her face and said, "Come in."

Mo came in holding a cup of coffee. She delivered the coffee following Dr. Cole's orders. The moment she opened the door, she saw Luca.

She froze but quickly returned to normal. She brought the coffee to Luke, put it down, and said, "Mr. Crawford, this is your coffee."

Luke glanced at the coffee and nodded. "Close the door when you leave."

Mo nodded and slipped out of the office. She closed the door on her way out.

The thick wooden door acted as a barrier, so she could no longer see what was happening inside.

Mo fiddled with her hair in annoyance. She did not expect Luca to be in Luke's office. Dr. Cole had set her up.

After Mo left, Luca changed the subject and said, "Mr. Crawford, is there anything else that you'd like to discuss?"

"What do you think about what happened?" Luke asked.

"My research was sabotaged and I trust that the matter will be investigated." Luca's hands were tightly intertwined and placed on her thighs. She was highly cautious as she was well aware of his shrewdness.

noticed how calm she was. He raised his eyebrows and asked, "It seems like you already know who did have a long name list but I'd need to trouble Mr. Doyle to investigate further on who exactly did it," Luca said. When Luke announced that Jason would lead the investigation, she knew that he took this matter her surprise, he did not hold her accountable but rather admonished Dr.

did not have a separate conversation with anyone before setting his target on Dr. Cole. Luca was not sure if he did it on

will find out who did this. Also, I want to ask you for a favor." Luke's gaze darkened

what can I help you with?" Luca did not agree just yet. She wanted to see what was the favor he wanted from

said, "Dr. Park gave Tommy a physical examination and advised us to pay more attention to his health. You seem to be an expert in this aspect. I want to ask for your help to improve Tommy's

child going through a serious illness would not cause their immune system to weaken, but Tommy was different. He was sick due to a bacterial infection. After antibiotics, his body would be weaker

to agree. She felt more at ease if she could take care of

was troublesome for her to take care of Tommy considering that she did not live with

that Luca had yet to agree, Luke said, "Every afternoon, after Tommy is back from school, I'll have Zander send him to your apartment. When he's done with dinner, Zander will take him home. I want you to improve his health by focusing on providing him with a nutritious dinner. Would that be

**Luke asked** for a favor humbly. Luca could tell that he was being sincere from his tone of *voice*.

There was no hidden meaning in his **words**.

Luca thought about it for a while. It was not an issue for her to make use of the opportunity to cook nutritious food for Tommy for *dinner*.

In this way, she did not have to go in and out of Crawford Manor in the name of improving Tommy's **health**.

Luca nodded and said, "Mr. Crawford, if you trust me enough to leave your child with me, I'm happy to have him over for dinner every day."

Luke nodded when he heard that she agreed. His phone happened to ring at that moment. He glanced at the caller and said, "That's about it. When Tommy is discharged from the hospital, I will make arrangements as per what we've discussed. As for the charges for your troubles, you'll be paid once a week."

Luca stood up when she heard his reply. She nodded and said, "No problem, Mr. Crawford. I'll leave you to it."

**After she** said that, she left his *office*.

After she left, Luke answered the call. The person on the other end of the call was Jason, "Boss, I'm already at Watson **Biopharmaceuticals**."

"Go straight to the top floor," Luke said. He had already planned to meet Luca, so he made an appearance not long after the **incident happened**.

That was why he was able to make it when they had a *meeting*.

As for Jason, he arranged for him to come over after the incident so he arrived **late**.

Boss." Jason ended the call after he heard

stood up and swayed his coffee cup. The coffee had cooled down and was not as fragrant as before. He had always been picky with coffee so he simply put the coffee cup down and left it

...

The other side.

soon as Mo returned to the office, she was summoned by Dr.

she walked in, Dr. Cole immediately asked, "Was the coffee delivered to Mr.

it has been delivered." Mo felt a little dissatisfied. Everyone in their department thought that Luca and Luke had something going on. Dr. Cole planned for her to barge in when they were both in the

like Dr. Cole wanted her to collect some intel for gossip. She felt lucky that Luke did not blame her. Otherwise, she would

to hear." Dr. Cole rubbed his hands and asked, "Do you know what Mr. Crawford and Dr. Craw were the soundproofing in Mr. Crawford's office is great. How would I know?" Mo was still smiling on the surface.

seems that he did send me to listen in on their conversation. All I did was send Mr. Crawford a cup of coffee. How could I have heard anything? Did Dr. Cole do something wrong? Why is he acting so panicky? How could he think of such things and even send me to do his dirty

