

## **Be Gentle 1711**

### **Chapter 1712**

Percy heard him and sighed. Both of them were pursuing the woman they loved but unfortunately, they could not make any moves because of their women.

He said, "If you want to eat home-cooked food, take her away quickly."

Percy could only be brazen-faced if Luca left Nina's home.

"What reason do I have to do that? What in the world did you do to make Nina run away again?" Luke said. He was upset that he could not see Luca as well.

Even when she was Bianca, she was still equally concerned about Nina. Although Percy had a poker face that scared everyone, Bianca would somehow summon the courage to defend Nina.

She would naturally act the same even though she was Luca now.

"Okay, that's enough. Ugh, you can't take your woman with you?" Percy mocked him impatiently and hung up the phone.

He did not intend to mock Luke. He was just a little upset.

He was overjoyed in the morning but in a blink of an eye, Nina had closed herself off from him and asked Luca to accompany her instead.

Fortunately, Nina did not seem to have the intention of moving out.

Percy took the elevator downstairs and found that Jean was still waiting at the entrance of the apartment.

"What are you doing here?" He stepped forward and asked. 'Is he planning to harass Nina after I leave?'

When Jean saw him, he said in a toady tone, "Mr. Mallory, I was waiting for you."

expression darkened. 'Isn't Nina's attitude obvious enough? He's sure he can't back get in so he's been waiting for

saw Percy's sullen expression, Jean immediately explained himself, "Don't get me wrong. I'm just waiting for you here because I have something to

ahead." Percy put his hands in his pockets with an

could not wait to curry favor with him. He told Percy about how Pierre had reached out to him. "Young Master Pierre came to the hospital to find me and he wanted me to help him pursue Nina. Now that I know you still have feelings for Nina, of course, I won't help him. However, I don't dare to offend Young Master Pierre. Can you do me a favor and explain the situation

to him and asked, "How much did Pierre give

was startled. He did not expect Percy to be so straightforward. He did not bring up the topic of money. After all, the money he received was nothing to the

much, just 20,000..." he said, embarrassed. He did not dare to hide anything from a saying in their circle. Whoever dared to hide things from the Mallory family was asking

looked at Jean's submissive appearance as he Jean was afraid that he would ask him to pay back the money. Percy's eyes could not help but be filled with contempt. Sometimes, he could not help but wonder if the man in front of him was really

is there such a big difference between the

Percy was just staring at him without saying a word, Jean could not figure out what he was thinking about. He made a guess and said, "Mr. Mallory, I know that it's my fault I made a promise to Young Master Pierre earlier but Nina had already broken up with you then and you had a fiancée too. I only agreed because I thought that it was the end between the two of you. From the bottom of my heart, I prefer you

listened to his words with an indifferent expression. What Jean said did not affect him in the After all, he was well aware of Percy's ambitions.

**"Don't** harass Nina anymore," he said as he headed to where he parked, which was right next to Nina's **car**.

"Yes, I promise not to harass her again. I hope you'll win her heart again soon and then the two of you will live a happy and sweet life together!" Jean replied. He hoped that they would reconcile as soon as possible so that he could use Percy's name to exploit others.

Jean left after he watched Percy drive *away*.

**The people** who followed him also quietly left.

Luca spent one night at Nina's house. The next afternoon, Luca received a call *from Luke*.

**"Mr.** Crawford, what's the matter?" She could not help but answer seeing that it was Luke who called.

"Open the door," Luke said.

"*Huh?*" Luca was not sure how to react.

"I'm outside. Open the door," Luke **repeated himself**.

Luca hurriedly stood up and looked out of the peephole. He was indeed standing outside...

*She* turned around and glanced *at Nina*.

**Seeing that** Luca was acting weird, Nina asked, **"What's wrong?"**

"Mr. Crawford is outside..." Luca replied.

he come in?" Nina

her head to indicate that she had no

the door." Nina reminded her when she saw her standing

no choice but to open the door. Outside, Luke was there standing with two bags in his hands. "Mr. Crawford, why are

came to see you," Luke said. It was Old Master Crawford's birthday banquet, so he came to

Crawford, how did you get in?" Nina stood up and asked. Her building's security was strict, and she did not receive any notice from the security before

is unrelated to Luke. How did he get

gave me the door card," Luke explained as he looked at Luca again. "Today is Old Master Crawford's birthday. Old Master Crawford invited you, so I brought you the gown and jewelry so you can get ready

at the bags and realized it was the gown that she previously

Crawford, I didn't receive the invitation," Luca

sent it to you. Didn't you get it?"

### **Chapter 1713**

Luca planned to do some light makeup and tie her hair casually, but Nina expressed her disapproval. She insisted on helping Luca get ready.

Over the years, to maintain her appearance despite her deteriorating mental state, she had acquired a certain level of skill in makeup.

After half an hour or so, Nina gave Luca a simple yet classic look. Luca looked gentle and virtuous. The makeup look was subtle and paired well with the gown.

"Nina, you're amazing at this." Luca praised Nina as she looked at herself in the mirror.

Nina proudly said, "That's right! This makeup look makes your charming facial features softer and more elegant. It matches your gown well."

Luca nodded in agreement.

Nina took out Luca's gown and urged her. "Come on, go and change."

Luca took the gown and was pushed out of the bedroom by Nina. Her eyes met Luke's while he was sitting on the sofa. She retracted her gaze and walked into the bathroom.

Nina stood there and waited for her to change.

Luke asked, "Did you do her makeup?"

"Yeah, what do you think?" Nina was confident in her skills and asked him for his thoughts.

"Not bad," Luke commented.

Nina raised her brows. That was his style—a simple evaluation without any added feedback.

that it would be difficult to get him to provide further feedback, so she did not push

into a gown in the bathroom and stared at herself in the mirror. She was in a

has been altered according to her size. The store manager was responsible and took the task very seriously. Every inch of the alteration was done perfectly. She could not find any faults to

perfectly complemented her beautiful

was confident in her figure. She was not too shy to wear a gown like this. She would definitely be able to attract the attention of

However, Luke was sitting outside...

felt a little nervous when she thought of walking out in this gown. Even though he had seen all of her long ago and they had been intimate, she was

was waiting in the living room, saw that Luca still had yet to leave the bathroom after some time. Hence, she knocked on the door and said, "Luca, what's the matter? Did you eat too much today and can't zip yourself

his eyebrows. 'Ate

can put it on." Luca's voice came from the

you fit into it. Come out when you're done. If you need help, let me know and I'll come in." Nina thought that the gown might be difficult to put on, which was why Luca was

reluctantly opened the

*Nina's eyes* lit up. She took Luca's hand and twirled her around. "Beautiful! You look great in this gown, just like a *model*."

The gown was from the autumn collection. Luca subconsciously grabbed the lace on the sleeve and looked at *Luke*.

*'Does he think I look good too?'*

It was not the first time that Luca had attended such a formal occasion with Luke. However, she was still **nervous**.

"*Not bad*." Luke met her gaze and commented. He looked cold on the surface but he was hot and turbulent on the inside. All he wanted was to hold Luca in his arms and cherish *her*.

"**It** seems that I have good taste." Nina looked at Luca with a satisfied expression. The gown looked gorgeous on her. Nina took her hand and brought her to the bedroom. She said, "Give me another 20 minutes, I'll get Luca's **hair done**."

*Luca* looked away and was taken to the bedroom by Nina. She sat on the chair.

She looked at herself in the mirror and said helplessly, "Nina, I'm happy with how my hair **looks now**."

"*You still* have to wear jewelry, no? It won't look good if your hair is disheveled. We'll do a simple hairstyle. I'm sure Old Master Crawford will be overjoyed when he sees you." Nina picked up the comb and was prepared to style *her hair*.

*Luca* had no choice and went with Nina's wishes to get a hairdo.

Nina looked at the woman in the mirror and snapped her fingers, looking utterly satisfied. "You look so beautiful. You'll be the shining star *for tonight*."

"Old Master Crawford is the main character tonight." Luca reminded her as she took out the pearl jewelry from the **jewelry box**.

took the jewelry and helped her put the pieces on one by one. "That's true. A lot of socialites will be present at his birthday banquet tonight. Can you do me

"What's up?" Luca asked.

close eye on Luke," Nina whispered in her

was stunned. She did not understand why Nina made such a request, so she

now think that Bea has been sent abroad and is not favored, so they're eyeing him. That's why I'm asking you to help keep watch." Nina joked, deliberately

Crawford is not someone I can keep watch on even if I want to," Luca explained helplessly. She noticed the look of playfulness that flashed through

helped her put on the bracelet and said with satisfaction, "We're done. I didn't expect that I'm so skilled. With an excellent model like you, I'll be sure to make a lot of money if I started

at herself in the mirror. The makeup made her charming face look gentle and pure. It would not be an exaggeration to say that she looked a few

beautiful." She muttered to herself. For a moment, she saw a shadow of

for the compliment." Nina cheekily accepted her compliment. As she looked at the person in the mirror, she was reminded of Bianca. After she covered up Luca's alluring charm, it vaguely revealed a sense of her

'How amazing...'

walked to the door of the bedroom but did not go in out of respect for their privacy. He stood with his back to them and asked, "Are

## **Chapter 1714**

Nina shook her head. She thought that they would make a cute couple but she was in a dilemma when she was reminded of Bianca, who was still abroad.

Nina looked at the closed door, then sat on the sofa. Before long, the doorbell rang again.

"Did you forget something?" She thought it was Luca, so she opened the door without looking into the peephole.

When she saw that the person standing outside the door was Percy, Nina subconsciously wanted to slam the door shut.

However, Percy moved fast and pressed himself against the door. The strength between them was so disparate that Nina could not close the door.

"What are you doing here?!" Nina stared at the person in front of her.

Percy lifted the bag in his hand and said, "I bought you some fruits."

"I don't want them." Nina refused angrily. 'Isn't Mallory Corporation about to go bankrupt? Why has he appeared in front of me three times in the last two days...'

Percy leaned against the door with a relaxed expression as if it did not take much effort from him to do so. "I bought all of your favorite fruits."

Nina was surprised. 'My favorite fruits? How does he know what I like to eat?'

She glanced at the bag and saw that the fruits in the white bag were indeed all her favorites. However, how did Percy know?

When they were together, he had never asked her what she liked to eat. Most of the time, he gave her what he thought was good.

She never had to share her opinion nor express whether she liked it or not. All she could do was to accept it.

included everything she ate

after day, it was still the same. At that time, she almost thought that she was just one of his playthings, no, maybe not even a

was like a puppet that just accepted what he gave

thought Percy had never considered what she liked

was why Nina was surprised that he came over with a bag of fruits she liked. 'Where did he learn about were a lot of fruits currently in season but the ones he bought were what she liked. Nina did not think it was a lucky

come in?" Percy saw her staring at the bag in a daze and negotiated with

came back to her senses and looked at him vigilantly.

had not recovered since the last time she let

what she was afraid of, so he confessed, "I won't do anything to hurt you, dear. Let me

Nina heard the word 'dear', it felt as though Percy was coaxing her as if she was a child. The trick worked wonders on

in a little and thought that maybe Percy had something to tell

**However**, she knew that Percy's appearance was part of a plan, so she glared at the man in front of her and said, "Don't think you can come in just because you colluded with Luke. You're not allowed to come in **today!**"

*Seeing* that she was so determined, Percy sighed helplessly and hung the bag of fruits on the doorknob. "Since you don't want to talk today, I'll come back tomorrow. These are for you. Make sure you have your meals on time and have more **fruits**."

*Percy turned* and left after he left her the fruits, which made her stunned. 'He left... just like *that*?'

He did not continue to pressure her like he used to and instead left quietly. What's more, he had planned the timing carefully with Luke and chose to leave without getting what he came *for*?

**Nina** did not believe it. It was not until Percy's figure disappeared from the corner that she realized that he actually left...

*She* looked at the bag of fruits left behind and felt inexplicably *uncomfortable*...

Nina knew what Percy wanted to say but she did not want to hear it.

They were not going to get their happy ending, so Nina was unsure as to why he was so insistent. 'I'm not that great. There's no way he would be so **attracted**...'

Nina carried the heavy bag of fruits in her hands but felt her heart become heavier **than that**.

On the other hand.

**Luca** left in Luke's car, which played economic news the entire way. She listened to it but did not take the initiative to speak to him.

*After half* an hour, they arrived at the hotel.

*There* were not many guests because it was still early. Luca glanced at the parking space that had many empty spaces and suddenly thought of Old Master Crawford's previous birthday banquets. She arranged everything herself and every time the event was over, she would be so tired that she would fall asleep as soon as her head touched the bed.

Nevertheless, she did it willingly.

because she loved Luke and alongside that,

at that moment, she could only attend this birthday banquet as a guest. Luca could not help but sigh when she thought

go." Luke looked at her and reminded her as he got out of

out of it, unbuckled the seat belt, and was about to open the car door when Luke had already opened it for her. He opened the car door with one hand and put the other hand on the top of the door as though he was afraid that she would hit her

gentlemanly actions made her

slightly to get out of the car, being careful not to come into too much physical contact

flashed slightly when he noticed

out of the car and straightened her body. She felt that someone was watching her. so her eyes looked in the direction but she only saw a

other party seemed to have noticed her and quickly turned around to

in that direction with a deep gaze. 'Is it one of Abel's men or someone

other party left too quickly, so she could not see clearly. The only thing she was certain of was that the other party did not have good

## **Chapter 1715**

"A gift? I've prepared something on your behalf." Luke went to the trunk and took out a nicely packaged gift.

The gift was handed to her but Luca did not take it. "Is there only one? If you give me yours, what are you going to give to Old Master Crawford?"

"My gift has been passed to Grandpa. I prepared this for you. Take it," Luke said. He guessed that Luca might have forgotten to prepare a gift so he prepared one for her in advance.

In the past, she was not as forgetful and was always the one who reminded him about things as such. He was somewhat not used to it now that the tables were turned.

Luca took it. The gift was heavy and looked expensive. "Mr. Crawford, how much is this? I'll pass you the money for it later."

"We'll talk about it later." Luke helped her prepare the gift but had no intention of asking her to pay him back.

Luca felt impotent. Luke then took out an envelope from the pocket inside his suit and handed it over.

"I assume you didn't prepare any birthday money for him. Here," Luke said.

Luca shook her head. Her initial plan was to buy a gift or get an envelope at a nearby shopping mall so she could put some cash into it. Unexpectedly, Luke had already prepared everything. However, she did not have any cash on her.

"Mr. Crawford, I don't have any cash. I'll just give Old Master Crawford the present. Hopefully, he won't mind."

Luke shoved the envelope into her hand and said, "I got it all ready for you."

felt the thick envelope and realized that there was money in it. Luke had indeed gotten everything

these, she would not be ashamed to walk into the

"All good?" Luke asked.

The gift and birthday money were all prepared. Even if Susan made things difficult for her during the event, she would not be able to pick on

The two entered the hotel together.

Master Crawford was sitting and waiting for the guests to arrive. When he saw Luca walk in with Luke, he immediately smiled and stood up with the help of

here." Old Master Crawford was full of vitality. Luca could hear his every word even from a distance. She quickly walked toward Old Master

Crawford, I wish you a happy birthday, good health, and long life," Luca

Master Crawford smiled happily. He thought that her wishes were thoughtful and exactly what he wanted in life. "Thank you, Luca. You're too

and handed him the gift along with the birthday money. "Old Master Crawford, these are for

**Old** Master Crawford was delighted when he saw the gift and birthday money. It was not that he liked receiving gifts but that these showed Luca's care for him.

"I'm happy that you're here. You didn't have to prepare these." Since the last incident, Old Master Crawford has been more and more pleased with Luca.

**Luca explained**, "This is what I should do. Please *accept them*."

**Old** Master Crawford was satisfied. He nodded and gave the butler a wink. The butler, who was standing beside him, nodded and accepted the birthday money and gift in Luca's **hands**.

*Many wanted to send gifts to Old Master Crawford but there were not many gifts that the butler would manage personally.*

Susan stood not far away. She kept watch and understood what their actions meant. Luca was important to Old Master **Crawford**.

*There were many rich and famous in A City. Many of them were as established as Old Master Crawford but few could get his attention.*

**The** birthday money and gifts presented were usually handled by the maid and the waiters from the hotel. The butler stood behind Old Master Crawford, and only those who were valued would have their gifts kept by **him**!

*Susan* looked at Luca, who looked exquisite. She was fuming inside. She finally drove Bianca away but now, there was **Luca**.

Based on the present development, even if Bianca died, sooner or later there would be another woman by Luke's side. At present, the woman who was most likely to replace Bianca was *Luca*.

knew a lot about Luca. She was more difficult to deal with

most important thing was, she had talked to her before and found that Luca did not seem to plan to stand on her side nor did she care about being

seemed that it was not that she did not care about being Luke's wife but that she knew she had the chance to win, so she did not bother working

that a woman as such was ambitious and scheming. If she succeeded in marrying Luke, Susan and Louis' status in the Crawford family would worsen day by

She could not let this happen.

Susan thought of that, she walked over with a smile on her face and said, "Ms. Craw, you're here. You even brought a gift and birthday money for Old Master Crawford.

She knew that Susan did not have the best of intentions but she could not do anything about it. "Mrs. Crawford,

at the gift in the butler's hand, pretended to be curious, and asked, "I'm a little curious, Ms. Craw. What did you prepare for Old Master Crawford? Tell

in trouble. After being the granddaughter-in-law of the Crawford family for so many years, she knew that the gifts kept by the butler would have the sender's name written down on them. Old Master Crawford would unwrap them after he returned home from the

she did not prepare the gift

## **Chapter 1716**

Susan asked on purpose with the intention of humiliating Luca.

"Dr. Craw is not familiar with Antique Street in A City, so I took her there. She personally chose the gift for Grandpa." Luke knew what Susan had in mind and saved Luca from blushing out of embarrassment.

Susan would feel threatened as long as the matter was related to Luke.

"Oh, no wonder! Luke, items from the antique street that you mentioned should be very expensive, right? Dr. Craw is just a researcher. Her position and salary are decent but those antiques are worth tens of millions. Dr. Craw, wouldn't it be a burden for you to buy something so expensive?" Susan continued. Even if she could tell that Luke wanted to protect Luca, she was unwilling to let it go.

Luca felt powerless. She could tell that Susan was not going to let her off easily.

"It's nothing expensive. I'm happy as long as Old Master Crawford likes it," she said.

"It's not expensive?" Susan smiled and looked at the gift box in the butler's hand. "How can there be antiques that are not expensive? Could it be that you bought a fake and got scammed?"

She deliberately mentioned that because she knew that Old Master Crawford hated it when others fooled him with fakes.

Old Master Crawford absolutely hated counterfeiters, especially when it came to antiques.

Luca knew the kind of person Susan was and felt a headache coming on. When she was about to explain herself, she heard Luke say, "Grandpa will know whether it's genuine or not once he has a look at it,"

She was stunned, but she knew that it would be fine even if Old Master Crawford opened the gift in front of everyone. Luke would never buy fake things to fool his grandfather.

bothered with Susan unless it came to people or things that he held

at Susan with a cold expression and said indifferently, "Since you're worried that Dr. Craw will be deceived by others, let's open the gift while there are not many guests around. Grandpa can also check it so that if Dr. Craw bought a fake, she can hold the seller

Master Crawford did not want to do that but Susan was belligerent. He knew that he would never hear the end of it if he did not do as Luke

the same time, a guest standing by the side said, "That's a great idea! I heard that Old Master Crawford's appraisal of antiques is first-class. Why don't we take this opportunity to

helpless as she listened to their conversation. Susan was making a fuss and the others followed wanted was to have a good laugh at

a pity that they would not have a chance to mock her. Although she knew nothing about antiques, she was confident that the antique in the butler's hands would not be

looked at Luca and asked, "Since the gift is from Dr. Craw, do you agree to open it now, Dr.

his gaze and saw the staunchness in his eyes. She nodded and said. "No problem. Let's

Old Master Crawford saw that Luca agreed, he got the butler to open

*The waiter* brought scissors over, and the butler put the gift on the table before carefully opening the delicate wrapping.

*When a sandalwood frame was revealed, Old Master Crawford smiled.*

He knew what the gift was the moment he saw the **frame**.

**Luca** was not sure what was the gift Luke had prepared for Old Master Crawford, so she watched silently while holding her breath. Susan saw her appearance and interpreted it another way.

She thought that since Luca looked so serious and nervous, there must be something wrong with what **was inside**.

"The frame looks good but the content inside is uncertain. Counterfeiters put a lot of effort into the packaging so that they can deceive others to buy these fake antiques," Susan said bitterly.

Old Master Crawford glanced at her and cursed at her in his heart for being ignorant.

**He** could tell the age of the gift from the frame *alone*.

**The butler** glanced at Old Master Crawford. After he nodded in agreement, the butler unwrapped the gift completely.

It was an antique painting.

The butler carefully picked up the antique painting and handed it to Old Master Crawford.

Crawford held it, looked at it carefully, and concluded,

could it be real? It would cost a fortune!" Susan could not believe it. She thought that Old Master Crawford said that on purpose to give Luca

Master Crawford snorted coldly and said, "This is an antique painting from the 1900s. It's old, but back then, the quality of this antique painting was considered average and not high-quality. That is why it's not expensive. You can get it cheap as long as you know how to

breathed a sigh of relief when she saw the antique painting. After all, antique paintings were

after she heard Old Master Crawford's explanation, she was relieved that Luke had picked a gift as such on her behalf.

Master Crawford enjoyed collecting antiques, especially

why he deliberately bought an antique painting but one that was not of the highest quality. As such, it would be believable even if she said she had personally chosen

she was an ordinary person and could not afford an expensive

Susan heard that it was real but the price was not high, her heart eased a little. She sneered, "It's a substandard product. Dr. Craw, how nice of

Crawford likes antique paintings, so I bought this for him. The boss knew I was going to give it to Old Master Crawford as a birthday present and gave me a discount so that I could afford it," Luca said. Since Susan wanted to pull her down, she also humiliated her. "This is within my abilities. I hope you'll like it, Old

## **Chapter 1717**

"Okay, please greet the guests. Luca, accompany me inside? Let's have some tea?" Old Master Crawford invited her.

"Okay." Luca nodded in agreement. Rather than standing here, it was a better option for her to accompany Old Master Crawford in for tea.

She did not have the right status to be standing here and greeting guests.

"Come, give me a hand. I'm old and my legs are not working as well as they used to," Old Master Crawford said. He was in a wonderful mood.

Luca obediently helped him, and the two walked in with the butler following closely behind.

Luke glanced at Luca's back with a tender gaze.

Susan was enraged by what happened and thought Luca must be proud of how things turned out. Getting the love and attention of Old Master Crawford meant that she had won over the entire Crawford family. If Luke was involved with her, she was unsure where she would stand in the future.

She felt threatened once again. To her, Luca was a bigger threat than Bianca!

Susan looked at Louis, who was standing at the side looking at his phone. He did not utter a word as things went down as though he was invisible.

'Even the guests played along with me but my son didn't say a word!'

Susan pinched his arm.

hissed in pain and looked at her. "Mom, what's the

matter?! All you know is to play with your phone! Today is your grandfather's birthday. Is it appropriate for you to stand here and play with your phone?" Susan stared at him. She was infuriated that he did not try to please Old Master Crawford on such an important day. She thought that he would lose his footing in the household if something happened

turned inexplicable after being yelled at. He had no choice but to put down his work, look at her, and ask, "Why are you angry? Today is Grandpa's birthday. If he sees you like this, he'll

happy to see how useless you are. What are you still doing here? Go and greet the guests. The guests can't think that there's only one young master in the Crawford family, right?" Susan was hopping mad when she saw how non-reactive Louis was. She could not let Luke take all

at the guests buttering up to Old Master Crawford. It was as if they were not here for the birthday banquet but just to compliment the Crawford family. He

that Luke is dealing with this. I'll focus on my work and not cause any

his behavior showed that he was not up to par. She got even angrier and pushed him, yelling, "What are you doing?! You're also the grandson of the Crawford family and one of the future heirs. Hurry up,

stumbled and almost fell. He knew Susan's jealousy had risen when he saw her expression. She was full of

the years, he had started his own business, which had grown bigger. It was not an issue for him to support a family of four but Susan still refused to admit his capabilities. She had been lobbying for him to go back to work in T

helpless. He had no choice but to put away his phone, walk to Luke's side, and greet the guests with Mom say?" Luke asked

*Louis* said helplessly, "She asked me to compete with you. Along with that note, make sure you protect Dr. *Craw*."

"Why?" Luke asked. He greeted the guests with only a slight smile on his face. He was not too enthusiastic toward anyone, even on this occasion.

"I feel like Dr. *Craw* ticked her off today. Maybe she'll try to do something again later." Louis knew his mother all too well, so he wanted to give Luke *a heads-up*.

"*She* can handle it." Luke believed that Luca was no longer the Bianca he used to have to protect at all times.

"You brought her here, so be sure to take good care of her. Otherwise, she'll become afraid of our family and your plan won't succeed." Louis knew about Luke's intentions but did not lay it all out. Instead, he chose to hint at *it*.

Luke glanced at his half-brother. Even though their mothers often got into fights, the relationship between them was still *solid*.

At least, in private.

"Got it," Luke replied.

On the other hand.

Thanks to Old Master Crawford, Luca got to know some people of status. At the same time, these people were very curious about her.

*Old Master Crawford* took the trouble to introduce Luca to those who were curious. After they were introduced to Luca, they were still curious. 'She's just an employee of T Corporation. Why is she valued by Old **Master Crawford**?'

Luke and Louis were not married, they would understand. After all, Old Master Crawford could be selecting

of them were married with children and no one had ever heard about their relationships being unstable. What was the situation with this

The crowd speculated.

than half an hour later, Zander walked into the hotel with Luke's three

that Luca was coming. After he quickly greeted Luke, he wanted to find

did not stop Tommy from being so eager to find his mother. He only asked Zander to watch the into the banquet hall with the

quickly found Luca and stood in front of her in unison. "Good evening,

"Good evening, Ms. Luca."

"Good evening, Ms. Luca."

at them, her embarrassment from being constantly questioned reducing greatly. She touched their heads respectively and said, "Good

## **Chapter 1718**

Tommy was unwilling to be outdone and said, "Ms. Luca is more beautiful than a fairy princess! In my heart, Ms. Luca is the most beautiful woman in this universe! Brother, what do you think?"

Lanie, who was named, nodded nonchalantly. In his heart, his mother was indeed the most beautiful woman in this universe.

The smile in Luca's eyes deepened as she listened to the compliments from the children. She enjoyed being with her children more than anything.

She touched the children's heads and asked, "Are you hungry? There are refreshments here. I'll have them send some over?"

"Yay!" The children clapped their hands. They were picked up by Zander from school and had not had anything to eat yet.

Luca picked up the landline nearby, dialed the service desk, and told them to bring some refreshments.

There was a knock on the door of the lounge as soon as she hung up the phone.

Luca went to open the door and found that it was the maid from the Crawford family. When she saw Luca, the maid asked with a smile, "Ms. Craw, I heard from Zander that the kids are with you?"

Luca nodded. "Yes, they're all inside."

The maid said respectfully, "That's great. I brought their clothes. Can I take them in and have them change into them?"

"Come in," Luca stepped aside.

The maid walked in, saw the children sitting on the sofa, and said, "Young Master Blanche, Ms. Rainie, Young Master Tommy, I've brought the clothes you chose this morning. Hurry up and change into them."

the children heard her, they immediately stepped forward and took their respective

were the children of the Crawford family, so they had to be well dressed for Old Master Crawford's birthday banquet. The children took their clothes one by one, from big to small. Then, they went into the bathroom to get

out with a mini bow tie in

that, the maid thought he did not know how to tie it and hurried forward while saying, "Young Master Blanche, let me help you

took a step back and looked at Luca. He seemed a little shy as he said, "I want Ms. Luca to

who was named, was stunned. She did not expect Lanie to make such

independent. He had already learned to tie a bow tie before she was kidnapped, but now, he seemed to want to get closer

as she stepped forward to help him tie his

waiting for Rainie to get dressed. When he saw that, Tommy quickly said, "Ms. Luca, Ms. Luca, I want you to help me tie my bow

looked at him and nodded with a smile. "Okay, I'll wait for you to change into your

watched the scene unfold. Lanie, who had always been very capable, also approached Luca first. She could not help but sigh. "Ms. Craw, you're a kid magnet. They seem to like you

nodded with a smile on her face but said

**'How can my children not like me?'**

**Luca** felt sorry for missing out on the period when they were growing up and not being able to openly admit that she was their mother when she saw how much they relied on **her**.

She could only use the identity of Luca to accompany them. She was unsure when she would disappear from their **lives**.

Luca remembered the man watching her in the parking lot when she got out of Luke's car and wondered if he was one of Abel's **men**.

*Come to* think of it, she had not heard from Abel in a few days...

*While* she was deep in thought, Rainie came out from the dressing room. She had changed into a long pink lace dress and looked like a princess who came out of a **storybook**.

*She* walked to Luca's side and snuggled up to her while calling out, "Ms. Luca."

*Luca* snapped out of it, looked at her daughter, and patted her head with a smile. "What's the **matter, dear?**"

"Ms. Luca, you look so beautiful today. I like your hairstyle. Can you do my hair like that too?" Rainie **asked**.

*"The same hairstyle?"* Luca felt a little uncomfortable with that request. After all, she was not Rainie's mother right now.

*If* she were still Bianca, she would have no problem with having the same hairstyle as her daughter. However, she was just a guest of the Crawford family. If she went out with the same hairstyle as Rainie, others might gossip...

Rainie blinked her eyes and said innocently, "Ms. Luca, your hairstyle looks good. I want to wear this hairstyle too."

at Rainie's big watery eyes and her heart softened. She nodded and said, "Okay, I'll help you do your hair. Do you have any tools with

Rainie asked me to pack them and take them with me before she left for school. Here! I'm just not sure if they're enough, though." The maid hurriedly handed over

at the accessories in the bag. Rainie had put all her favorite accessories

saw that there were several hair clips that she had given to Rainie before she

hair clips were luxury goods, so they still looked new after a few

Luca, can you do it?"

be possible. I'll try my best. Someone else did my hair so I can only do a similar one. Is that okay?" Luca asked for Rainie's

Luca." Rainie smiled sweetly, and the unease in her eyes dissipated after she got Luca's

time Luca picked up the tools and was about to do Rainie's hair, Tommy got dressed up and

not help but laugh out loud. She asked him to come to her side when she saw her youngest son looking like a mini adult after he put on his suit. "Come here, Tommy. I'll help you tie your

Tommy happily walked over to her.

up the bow tie and helped him tie it. Tommy looked at how carefully she was tying his bow tie and muttered in a low voice, "If only you could help me tie the bow tie every

## **Chapter 1719**

Luca was ingenious. She quickly helped Rainie to do her hair. It looked good but it was somewhat different from her own.

Rainie looked in the mirror and boasted, saying, "Ms. Luca, you're amazing. My hair looks great!"

Luca smiled, looked at the smile on Rainie's face, and said, "It's still a little different from mine."

"This looks good too! Ms. Rainie, do you want to put on a necklace?" The maid, who was by the side, asked.

Rainie nodded.

The maid took out the necklace Luke had prepared for Rainie and helped put it on her. Luca noticed that Rainie's necklace was also made of pearls.

She was stunned, "Are Rainie's accessories also made of pearls?"

"Yes, these are what Daddy bought for me yesterday. Ms. Luca, do I look good?" Rainie fiddled with her necklace. Luca could tell that she liked it very much.

"Yes, you look wonderful." Luca wondered if Luke did it on purpose. Although Rainie's necklace was for children, it was similar to the necklace on her neck.

"It's the same necklace as yours, Ms. Luca. If we wear the same dress, will people think we're mother and daughter?" Rainie said as she looked at Luca with a smile.

Luca was glad that Luke did not go as far as to buy an identical dress for Rainie. Otherwise, they would be mistaken for a mother and daughter if they walked out together...

She smiled and straightened the necklace around her neck. She complimented her, "Rainie, you're so beautiful—just like a princess who came out of a fairy tale."

heard that, Tommy deliberately asked, "Ms. Luca, do I look like

you're all little princesses and little princes." Luca looked at the three children, her heart

of the guests were there, Luke finally left and walked to the lounge. He knocked on

in." Luca's voice came from inside and he pushed open the door. He saw the children sitting around Luca, eating refreshments brought by

so happy. He was the only

saw that it was Luke who came in. She stood up shyly and said, "Mr. Crawford, you're

Luke walked into the lounge, closed the door to cut off the noise outside, and looked at the three children. His gaze fell on Rainie as he said, "The hair you did for her

did you know..." Luca was

Luca, I took a photo when you were doing Rainie's hair just now. It looks lovely. Do you want to see it?"

Lanie took the initiative to admit that it was his masterpiece before Luke

at him helplessly. She did not expect Lanie, who had always been clear-headed, to take a photo

please send it to me," she said. When Rainie added her as a Facebook friend back then, Lanie also added her within a

**Lanie** nodded and made an 'okay' gesture.

*Rainie said*, "Brother, send it to me too."

"I'll send it to you later." Lanie **agreed**.

*Luke* looked at them. It was a cheerful and joyous atmosphere. He thought to himself that this was how his home should be...

There was music outside, so he reminded them. "The banquet is about to start. Let's *go*."

The children stood up one after another. Although they liked being with Luca, they wanted to participate in the joyous event outside as **well**.

*Luca also* stood up and suddenly thought that she had not been assigned a seat. If she went out, she probably would not have any seats and seemed to have only *two choices*.

**She could** just find an empty seat to sit down but she felt awkward when she thought of how she would be surrounded **by strangers**.

Her other option was to sit at the same table with Luke and the others, but that was an even more awkward choice. After all, she was not a member of the Crawford **family**.

Luca would rather choose the former.

**Luke seemed** to see through her troubles and said, "I've arranged a seat for you."

With whom?" Luca asked and prayed that it was not with the

Normans and Raynes," Luke said. He planned it on purpose. She was close with the Norman and Rayne families. Even if there were other people at the table, she would not feel awkward accompanied

Normans were her biological parents and she grew up with the Rayne family. She would be happy to sit at the same table

breathed a sigh of relief. She was alright sitting with Jack Norman and the

They left the room together.

Luca did not know where the Normans sat, she had no choice but to follow Luke. Rainie and Tommy held her hand as they

saw this scene, they could not help sighing about how they looked like a family. Nevertheless, everyone knew that Luke had a wife, so those who did not know Luca's identity

walked down the aisle and she felt pressured. Sure enough, not everyone could stand near Luke, not to mention, the two children were still holding

how they would talk about her, but she couldn't bear to let go of the

still young and sensitive. If she did that, they might think that she despised

Luca to the table where the Norman and Rayne families were. He said, "You'll be sitting

## **Chapter 1720**

"Yes, I said that too." Queenie was busy admiring Luca's beauty. Luca had always dressed up casually, and she looked pretty even then. Now that she was all dolled up, she was even more stunning. She could not help but compliment Luca.

"Thank you. You look great too." Luca felt embarrassed receiving compliments from them. She lowered her head a little and looked down.

Wanda laughed and took a sip of the red wine before saying, "Luca, let me tell you something. My father has been taking the medicine you prescribed and using the herbal concoction to soak his feet in. He feels a lot more comfortable now. He can sleep early every night without waking up in the middle of the night all of a sudden. He'll only wake up around six in the morning. You're amazing."

Luca nodded as she listened to Wanda's feedback.

She already knew that her prescription would have long-term effects on Old Master Rayne. That was why she was not surprised to hear that when Wanda told her about it.

Queenie, who was listening, said in surprise, "Did Luca treat Old Master Rayne?"

"Yes! It's all thanks to Luke for bringing her over. After she checked his pulse, she gave him a prescription. The medicine works effectively. He's been taking the medicine for quite some time now and is getting better. I seldom hear him complaining that he's in pain anymore. It's unlike those medicines that he used to take. After he took them for a while, they no longer had an effect on him. I must say, Luca, you're very impressive." Wanda complimented Luca.

Luca looked at Queenie and thought of Leia.

Too many things had happened during this time and she forgot to ask about Leia's situation. However, Queenie did not contact her either, so she reckoned that Leia's situation should be under control. She asked, "Mrs. Norman, how's the patient?"

She intentionally used the word 'patient' to refer to Leia as Wanda was here too.

smiled gratefully and replied, "The prescription you gave me is good. Her condition is much more stable now. It's a pity that this kind of illness is irreversible, so she can only take things one step at a time. We'll see how things

who was standing beside her, heard what his wife said. He recalled what Luke had mentioned to him before. After that, Queenie mentioned to him that she thought of giving money to Leia to buy an organ from the

outraged. Leia's condition was not that serious at first. She would have recovered if she was willing to take the medicine that Luca prescribed. Leia was the one who got herself into her current

talked to Queenie after knowing what she had in mind. He regained control over the family's finances. He did not give her a chance to be

the same time, he warned the two elders in the house not to have a soft spot for Leia. The Norman family's reputation would be ruined if they fell

noticed that something was wrong with Jack's expression and thought it might be because of Leia. She should not be asking, but she could not help herself and asked with concern, "Mr. Norman, what's on

everything was doomed to be this way. If she was willing to take the prescription you gave her from the beginning, things wouldn't have turned out this bad, right, Luca?" Although Jack was furious with Leia, he was still kind

after she saved Queenie, she had left a good impression on him. With time, it only got better

right, but things have come this far. If she can recover her health after she's discharged from the hospital, it wouldn't be too difficult for her in the future," Luca

Queenie let out a sigh.

*She had* initially thought of getting a new organ for Leia, but it was impossible when she thought of it now. She was worried that she would put Jack in a difficult position because of her soft-heartedness, which was why she agreed to let him manage the family's finances now.

*Her daughter* was important to her. However, the man she had spent her whole life with was much more important *to her*.

**Luca** took Queenie's hands and comforted her in a soft voice, "She'll get better."

*Queenie held* her hands too. She felt warmth surging in her heart. She smiled and nodded her head.

**As Wanda** listened to their conversation, she made a rough guess and comforted Queenie too. "Things won't keep getting worse. That's the best thing about misfortune. Don't worry, she'll certainly get better with Luca's *help*."

"**Yes, Luca's** capable. She'll get better." Queenie exclaimed. She thought it must be fate that brought her and Luca together.

Although they met each other because of Luke and she had mixed feelings for Luca, she knew that the familiar feeling she felt toward Luca was not fake.

*Luca* looked down as she listened to the two closest people to her were talking about her. It left such a sour feeling **in her**.

*The* only thing that she hoped now was that with her return this time, she would be able to bring them happiness and improve their health. She did not want to bring them disasters.

After the master of ceremony finished making his speech on the stage, it was Old Master Mallory's time to give a speech. The old master's speech was formal, but he received warm applause. Then, it was Luke's turn to give a speech.

this while, Luca had not looked at the stage. However, she could not help but look over at this

standing in the middle of the stage, holding a microphone. He thanked everyone for their support and concern. He looked great

applaud and cheer with every sentence he said.

looked at the man on the stage. As moments passed, she could only hear his voice in her ears. His hoarse yet powerful voice tempted people to follow such a

not resist the man's charm since she was in high

applause was getting deafening as he continued speaking as though these people were his fans. It was exaggerated.

only had eyes for Luke.

was done reciting the last sentence of his speech that he had memorized, he looked at Luca's table. The moment they met each other's eyes, he smiled

photographer turned the camera and focused on him, projecting that smile of his on the

confused. Did Luke smile just