

## **Be Gentle 2141**

### **Chapter 2141**

Luca knew about medicines, and Old Master Crawford was worried that she would refuse to drink the tonic. If that happened, everything he planned would be for nothing. Hence, he tried his best to make Luca believe that he had no intentions of harming her.

"This is the tonic that the old master had prepared for the two of you. We got the herbs from Dr. Archer. It's good for young people who often stay up all night to work," added Mr. Griffin.

Mr. Griffin knew what the old master was up to.

Mr. Griffin had been serving the Crawford family for years. He knew Luke since he was a boy and watched him grow up into an adult. Hence, he had the same thought as the old master. They both hoped for the best for Luke.

At least that way, Luke would not have to be alone for the rest of his life. He would have someone he loved to keep him company.

The old master meant no harm. He could see that Luke and Luca had feelings for each other, but they were making slow progress. That was why the old master was anxious about it.

It was not a bad thing if someone gave them a push.

At least, it was not a bad thing for Luke.

Luca looked at the tonic in front of her and glanced at Old Master Crawford with her brows raised.

Old Master Crawford met her incredulous gaze and said, "Come on, drink it. Do you think I'm going to harm you?"

"Old Master Crawford, I had tea an hour ago. I'm worried if I drink this now..." Luca was worried that she would be taking too many nutrients today. She usually took care of her health well, and she did not need to drink any tonic.

Shanks had been giving her various types of medicines after she gave birth to Nyla. It was not because he treated her as an experimental tool to test his drugs, but because he was helping her recuperate health issues she used to have after giving birth and the complications she suffered because of her depression when she was pregnant were cured by Shanks.

health was better than most people's.

worry. The medicinal effects in the tonic and tea don't conflict with each other," Old Master Crawford said with a smile. He sounded more friendly only when he was talking to

on Luca's sleeves and said adorably, "Ms. Luca, just drink it. Great-grandpa prepared it for up the spoon, took a sip of the tonic, and frowned. "It doesn't

Master Crawford glared at Luke and said, "Is there any medicine that tastes sweet?"

the medicine Ms. Luca makes tastes sweet just like candy," Tommy raised his hand and

Crawford gave his great-grandson a kind look and replied, "Of course. That medicine is meant for kids, so it must be sweet. But it's normal for the medicine to taste a little bitter for adults. Luca, come on, drink it. Take it as a token of my appreciation."

Master Crawford had taken it this far. Luca would make him look bad if she refused to drink the tonic.

*Luca picked up her spoon and took a sip.*

The taste of the tonic was indeed as expected after seeing its color. It tasted bitter. Luca could taste that there were several herbs added to the tonic. She was able to differentiate some of them, but she needed to look at the dregs of the tonic to see what was inside *the tonic*.

Although the tonic tasted bitter, Luca looked calm as she finished the tonic while the old master stared *at her*.

**Tommy picked up** a cherry tomato from the fruit bowl and handed it to Luca. "Ms. Luca, the tonic tastes bitter. Have some *fruit*."

"It's okay. I'm alright with it," replied Luca. Although she could take the bitterness, she thought it would be better not to reject her child's kindness, so she took the cherry tomato from Tommy and ate it **anyway**.

**Susan was** green with envy looking at *them*.

*She heard* Mrs. Nancy say that Old Master Crawford had bought some expensive herbs. Although she did not know what herbs he bought, the old master had reminded them over and over again to seal them tight and keep them dry as the herbs had good medicinal properties.

**Perhaps the** herbs were cooked and turned into this bowl of **tonic**.

"Since I've been feeling tired after taking care of Thea these few days and the tonic has such miraculous effects... Mr. Griffin, please get one for me. Oh, by the way, Louis and Yuri must be tired too. Why don't you serve three bowls of tonic for us?" instructed Susan. Even though she had seen many precious and expensive herbs in Crawford Manor, she refused to get the short end of the **stick**.

**Mr. Griffin** appeared to be reluctant. Three *bowls*?

*It would be fine if Louis and Yuri drank it. They were a couple, after all. However, Susan might suffer the whole night if she drank the tonic.*

face turned gloomy when she realized Mr. Griffin did not intend to serve her the tonic. She scowled. "What's wrong? Surely, you didn't prepare only two bowls of tonic,

get her the tonic. Don't let the children have it. It's too nutritious for them, and it's not suitable for the children," said Old Master Crawford. Susan was too greedy. She had already drank the tea, yet she wanted the tonic

Crawford was not planning to stop her. He knew she would be suffering tonight.

Griffin had no choice but to follow the instructions given. He served all the tonic that was left in the pot.

was not planning on drinking it in the beginning. After all, this was the tonic the old master had prepared for Luke. Louis was still young, and he could still maintain his health well even though he was tired

was not jealous of the old master's special arrangements. After all, the old master did not side was much more tiring than

Susan insisted on Louis drinking the tonic. "You must drink a bowl of tonic since it's such a nutritious tonic. Otherwise, you'll waste the old master's effort in asking the servants to prepare it, right?"

no choice but to drink the tonic. There was nothing great about the taste, and it was pungent. Louis took a sip of it and refused to drink it anymore. "It

down her spoon too. The tonic tasted much more terrible than the one she used to

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Luca knew rumors would fly if she agreed to spend the night here tonight.

Luke was going on a business trip tomorrow. Luca thought of letting him spend the night peacefully to boost his mood and handle his work.

Luke had never shown his emotions on his face even after spending so much time together, and he seemed like a heartless person who never took the affairs of Crawford Manor seriously.

However, Luca knew that Luke was more concerned about the affairs in Crawford Manor than anyone else.

"Oh no, the tonic you just drank contains high alcohol content. You've considered to have drunk. Besides, it's snowing out there. There's no way Luke and you can drive back home. As for Zander, he's old, so it's better not to trouble him at this hour. So, both of you should spend the night here and get some rest." Old Master Crawford patted the table and decided for them.

Luca listened to what the old master said. It seemed like she was left with no choice but to stay here.

She could hire a designated driver or hail a taxi to go home if she insisted on doing so.

However, it would make the old master upset.

Although the old master did not mention it, Luca could sense that he was deliberately asking her to spend the night here.

Luke and the kids were certainly not going back if Luca was going to stay here. Luca was confused. Could it be that the old master missed his grandchildren so much that he especially made her stay?

"Alright, Old Master Crawford." Luca agreed to it.

Old Master Crawford shot Luke a glance when Luca agreed to spend the night at Crawford Manor.

knew what the old master was up to when he met his

at Luca. She was wiping Tommy's mouth with the napkin as though she knew nothing about the old master's

felt helpless, and he knew what the old master was up

wished that he could have gotten to know Luca earlier or used another identity to gain her trust and keep her by his

was holding Luca back. How could it be that

was staring at them. The old master had asked the kitchen to prepare some tea and tonic especially for Luca. That was not how he treated his guests. He was already treating Luca like his

a glance at Yuri and sulked at once when she saw that Yuri was busy feeding Thea some fruits.

noticed that Susan was about to say something, and he knew she was in a bad mood, so whatever she was going to say would piss the old master off. Hence, he rose to his feet and said, "Mom, Yuri got the set of jewelry that you asked us to get—the one you're planning to wear on your birthday. Would you like to try it on?"

birthday was half a month later.

was not her birthday yet, Susan took it very seriously. Besides, the old master had given her permission to host a birthday party. That was why she was planning everything herself.

a limited edition jewelry set in the magazine, and she wanted Louis to get it no matter what it took or how much

**Susan pondered** for a moment when she heard that Louis had gotten her the jewelry set. Luca was only spending a night here. It was unlikely that she could cause any trouble in Crawford Manor no matter how capable she was.

**Hence**, Susan stood up and followed Louis to take a look at the jewelry set.

Old Master Crawford shook his head and turned to look at Yuri. He said, "Yuri, did you really buy that jewelry set?"

*Mr. Griffin* found that the jewelry set Susan fancied was a limited edition. One could not buy it even if one had enough money. There were only three sets in the whole world. Moreover, the jewelry set had been on the display rack for quite some time. They were probably already purchased by someone else.

**Many** people in this world were more powerful and influential than the Crawford family.

Yuri hesitated. She was unsure if she should tell the old master the *truth*.

"*What's wrong?*" Old Master Crawford knew something was wrong when he saw Yuri behaving *like this*.

"It was hard to get the jewelry set that Mom saw. The people who bought it aren't thinking of letting it go either. So, Louis found a pretty similar set..." said Yuri. They were unable to find the one **Susan wanted**.

"Pretty similar? Will she be able to accept something like that?" Old Master Crawford knew his daughter-in-law very **well**.

*Susan* would never accept a similar piece of jewelry even if it was something she liked but could not get. She would think that them not getting her the genuine jewelry set was an act of disrespect.

Bitterness swept across Yuri's face. She deliberately told everyone about her family matter in front of Luke.

"Apart from the high price, the jewelry set that Mom wants is also a valuable collectible. Louis has been asking around, but the collectors who have the set refuse to let it go. It took a lot of effort for him to find someone willing to sell the jewelry set, but the price was ten times higher than the actual selling price. Grandpa, even though Louis has his own career now, it's just a small workshop. Raising Thea wouldn't be a problem, but buying such an expensive jewelry set is way too difficult for us. Besides, we're not as wealthy as Luke is..."

meant was she wanted Luke's help.

inadvertently frowned and smoothed it out again. She wanted to see how Luke was going to handle this all, something in Yuri's words suggested that she wanted Luke to help them to get the jewelry.

Susan accept it if Luke helped?

The answer was a no.

had a big ego, and it was unlikely that she would accept the jewelry set Luke gave to her.

Luke truly wanted to help, the only way was

had his career and family too. Judging from Louis' self-esteem, he would never easily ask for Luke's

she look for such an expensive necklace when she doesn't even have that much money? And why did Louis promise her that he'd get it for her when he knew he couldn't?" Old Master asked without going along with Yuri's idea of asking Luke to

Louis would voice out if he really needed help, but he did not tell Luke about

from the point of view of a wise adult, Old Master Crawford understood why Louis did so. That was why he did not go along with Yuri's idea. Otherwise, they would wound

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"Is this the jewelry set that I asked for? Louis, you probably think that I'm old and my eyes are getting bad. Is that why you're trying to fool me?"

Yuri stood at the stairs, holding Thea's hands. Susan must be in a bad mood now, not to mention that she was lectured by Old Master Crawford not long ago. Yuri grabbed Thea's hand and decided not to return to their bedroom to prevent her from getting into trouble. Hence, Yuri lowered her head and said, "Thea, have you finished your homework?"

Thea pouted, and there was clearly a disapproving look in her eyes. “Mommy, I don’t want to do my homework.”

“No way. Come on. Let’s go to your bedroom and finish your homework.” Yuri did not want to deal with Susan’s anger. She dragged her daughter and headed to Thea’s bedroom without a second thought.

The jewelry set was Louis’ idea. Yuri had thought it was a bad idea from the very beginning. After all, jewelry meant a lot to a woman.

However, Louis refused to listen to her. He thought getting something similar would cheer Susan up, so he insisted on buying this jewelry set.

Louis had gotten himself into deep trouble now.

Thea was dragged back into her room. She looked at her mother and said, “Mommy, Grandma seems angry.”

“Yes. That’s why you must listen to Mommy’s advice and do your homework.” Yuri was a little worried that Susan would come looking for her. After all, her mother-in-law was a censorious person. She was mean to the others, but she would pick on her more.

“I’m scared...” Thea sulked when she looked at her homework. She did not want to do her homework. She took the chance to use the excuse of Susan being angry to act cute and avoid doing her homework.

“Come on. It’s alright. Everything will be fine after you finish your homework.” Yuri was having a hard time convincing Thea. Her daughter was not as studious as Luke’s kids. Thea would always act cute whenever she was asked to do her homework.

Old Master Crawford had said, Thea’s personality resembled her father.

was almost the same back

Susan’s bedroom...

listened to his mother’s sharp question as a dull pain ached in his temples. “Mom, this isn’t the jewelry set that you wanted. But the price of this jewelry set isn’t cheap either, and it looks similar to the one you

this be the same? There’s nothing similar to it other than the color. It’s not even the same brand!” The design was important to Susan, but the price and brand mattered

was planning to wear the set to her birthday party. If the wives of those rich men saw her wearing one of the three limited edition jewelry sets, they would be green with envy. Then, Susan would be popular in the social circle.

wanted to prove that she was the favored daughter-in-law in the Crawford family with that jewelry set. Even though Allison had gotten out of prison, there was no way she could compare to her.

was the point of having a son who had all the benefits? Her son could give her a comfortable life too.

she did not expect Louis to buy another jewelry set to

jewelry set you want is a valuable collectible. Others are reluctant to let it go..." Louis was helpless. He was hoping that Susan would

Louis had gone to great lengths to look for the jewelry set, but he was still unable to **get it**.

*He now* owed others tons of favors just so he could look for the jewelry set. It was not easy for Louis to approach a noblewoman who was willing to let it go, but he could not afford to pay **the price...**

*Louis* would have to sell his shares in T Corporation.

**However**, he could not sell the shares that he held in T Corporation to satisfy Susan's *vanity*.

*Luke* told him that someone was secretly purchasing T Corporation's shares before. If Louis sold the shares, that person would probably buy them to threaten Luke's status.

*They* were a family, and Louis would never do something like that.

**"This has** nothing to do with the others letting it go or not. It's because you refuse to get it for me. I know you have the connections. Fine, you've grown up now. And you told me that you'd honor your mother. It's all bullsh\*t. Louis, I didn't raise you to get me a counterfeit jewelry set and make me look like a fool!" Susan stormed off and threw the jewelry box on the bed.

Fortunately, the mattress was soft. Otherwise, the jewelry in the box would have broken if it was thrown on the **floor**.

Louis felt helpless. Even though this jewelry set was similar to the one Susan asked for, it was not a counterfeit item.

After all, this jewelry set was released earlier than the one she **wanted**.

why don't you pick something else? I'll try my best to get it for you." Louis knew Susan was a picky person. Hence, it was unlikely that he would be able to get another gift for

it was better than arguing over this jewelry set.

him a cold glance and scoffed. "You're my good son indeed. I only want a jewelry set and you're giving me so many excuses. Fine. You're not buying it, right? I'm not going to host the birthday party if you don't get me that jewelry set before my birthday. I'm going to show everyone how my good son honors

that, Susan picked up the jewelry box and stuffed it into Louis' hands. Then, she pushed him out of the room and slammed the

looked at the jewelry box in his hands.

told him that she would not accept this jewelry set. Louis leaned against the wall, feeling exhausted while massaging his

Yuri said was right. A slight difference was poles apart in a woman's eyes.

set was beautiful too, and it cost a fortune. The only difference was that this jewelry set was not a limited edition...

Louis could not find that jewelry set, Susan's birthday party would be canceled.

Crawford family would become one of the topics of conversation

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Louis did not stop Yuri. It had been a long time since he gave Yuri any jewelry.

Yuri looked at Louis after she closed the safe and said, "Our family needs the shares no matter what. If you sell all your shares, we can't depend on my family when we're facing any difficulty in the future. Are you going to take out a loan when the time comes?"

"Mom said that she's not going to host the birthday party if she doesn't have the jewelry set." Louis pulled his hair fretfully.

"Why is this old woman so stubborn?" Yuri frowned. She had expected Louis to get scolded by Susan, but she did not expect that the old woman would threaten her son by not hosting the birthday party if he could not get the jewelry set for her.

No way!

The hotel had been booked and the invitation cards had been sent to the guests. People would think that there was something wrong with the Crawford family if they canceled the birthday party out of the blue.

Besides, Yuri had always relied on the parties held by the Crawford family to maintain her status in the Dunn family. If there was no birthday party this time, would she not be laughed at by those people?

"If Mom won't attend the birthday party, we can hold the party like nothing happened." Yuri proposed. After all, there was hardly anyone who truly wanted to please Susan.

People preferred to butter up Old Master Crawford and please Luke. As for Louis, they would only ask for the chance to cooperate or form a partnership at most.

"What? What will the others think of her if she doesn't show up at her own birthday party?" Even though those people would not be attending the party to celebrate her birthday, she had to be there. Moreover, Louis was afraid that Susan would annoy Old Master Crawford by refusing to attend the party out of spite.

Susan would still be the unlucky one by then.

me, what should we do if nothing's going to work?" Yuri's good mood was spoiled by Susan's matter in a split second.

sat on the dressing table chair with her arms crossed. "She's your mother. You'll have to handle this by yourself. It gives me the

a way." Louis was annoyed and upset. He thought of lighting up a cigarette to calm himself down. When Louis picked up the lighter and he was about to light the cigarette, he heard Yuri saying, "Get outside if you're going to smoke. It

still your husband no matter how stinky it is!" Louis yelled at her and stomped out of the bedroom with the cigarette and lighter.



door slammed behind Yuri. She frowned, feeling aggrieved. It was not her who wanted that jewelry set. Why did Louis vent his emotions on her?

in this family is weird," Yuri mumbled to herself depressingly. She recalled how Susan had complained to her that the old master took her herbs and made tea for Luca before the dinner. Yuri felt even more uncomfortable at the thought of

Yuri were not Louis' wife, she would have exposed the fact of the old master taking the liberty of doing anything he wanted and treating Luca kindly. She would also let the reporters know what kind of person Luke

public persona as a faithful husband was contradictory to his true personality—a Casanova.

a pity that Louis did not intend to go back to T Corporation. If Luke's reputation was destroyed, it would not do their family any good

could still gain benefits when the company was giving out bonuses.

got out of the bedroom, planning to head to the balcony to smoke. However, he saw Luke standing on the

Luke did not have any cigarettes in his hands. It seemed like he did not come here to smoke.

Louis knew Luke was not here to look at the scenery. Hence, there was a high possibility that he was standing here waiting for him.

**They had** been brothers for more than 20 years. Luke knew him **well**.

*Yuri did* not like Louis smoking. Hence, every time Louis wanted to smoke, he would have to come to the balcony here to smoke. Louis would want to smoke whenever he had something in *his mind*.

**"Brother,** why are you standing here?" Louis walked toward him and forced a smile on his face.

"One for me please." Luke looked at the cigarettes in Louis' hands and reached his hand out. Luke seldom smoked after he found out that Luca's true identity was Bianca. Other than the times when Luca made him mad, he would not smoke.

Louis handed Luke one and lit the lighter for him at the *same time*.

*Luke took* a puff and blew a smoke ring. He frowned, "The taste of this cigarette is slightly different."

"Yes. The peppermint tastes stronger," replied Louis as he lit another cigarette for himself. "I guess you're no longer used to it. I notice that you hardly smoke *anymore*."

*"Nothing's* bothering me. I don't need it." Luke looked at him. Although they were born to the same father but different mothers, their brotherhood was not influenced by the grudges that their mothers held for *each other*.

Mom's matter. Is she dissatisfied with the jewelry you bought her?" Luke had been standing on the balcony for some time, so he heard what Susan said to Louis.

She's not happy with it. And she told me she's not going to attend the birthday party if I don't get her that jewelry set. Come on, she's almost 60 yet she's behaving like a child. Is that what she's supposed to do?" Louis was

Louis' brows furrowing as his forehead wrinkled. Susan was always causing trouble for him, but she was much better than Allison.

another puff of smoke. "Grandpa will be pissed if anything happens at the

jewelry set is it?" Luke asked. He was planning to lend a hand when he saw Louis was deeply

it's alright. This is my mother's request. She'll never accept it if she knows it was you who helped to buy that jewelry set," replied Louis as he shook his head. He did not want to trouble

Bianca had helped him a lot when he had just started building

years had passed, and Louis had his own career, but he still needed his brother's help. When was he going to grow up and become a

I can help you to get that jewelry set first, then you can pay me in installments." Luke suggested. He knew Louis was too ashamed to ask for his help. That was why Luke took the initiative

was not considered doing him a

Louis did not expect Luke to help

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Louis nodded. He understood the undertone of Luke's words.

Luke was telling him not to be concerned about borrowing less from him and spending all his cash on this jewelry set as it would affect his family.

"Brother, don't worry. I know what to do," replied Louis. He would not let his family suffer just to satisfy Susan, especially Thea. He needed to spend a lot of money on her now.

"It's getting late. Get some rest." Luke patted Louis' shoulder and left the balcony.

Louis watched Luke leave from behind. Luke had always been taking up responsibilities since he was a little boy. Until now, Luke was still the well-qualified big brother in Louis' heart.

Louis recalled that when he was still young, the relatives of the Crawford family were unhappy that Allison brought Luke back home. They often spoke ill about the mother and son in front of him. They even told him that he had to be better than Luke. Otherwise, they would lose everything they had.

Although he was not as outstanding as Luke was now, he was living the life he wanted. Besides, he did not lose everything because of it.

The brothers got along pretty well.

Louis smiled at the thought of what Pierre told him two days ago. He had tried to make mischief between him and Luke. At this moment, he thanked Luke while watching him leave from behind.

Louis thanked Luke for being willing to be his brother.

Luke did not return to his bedroom immediately after he left the balcony. He headed to the guest room instead.

This was the guest room that Old Master Crawford had asked the maid to clean for Luca to spend the night here.

Luke pondered for a moment and knocked on the door.

"Who is it?" Luca's voice came from the other side of the door.

"It's me," said Luke.

came from the room after that. A few seconds later, the bedroom door was opened. Luca was in her pajamas, and she stood at the door to ask, "Mr. Crawford, can I help you?"

only allowed to talk to you when I have instructions for you?" Luke

felt a little awkward. She always had this feeling that Luke seemed to be dissatisfied with something else. She shook her head immediately, "No, I didn't

hoping that she could see Luke every minute and every second of the day, but due to their current relationship, they were not allowed to do

other often would only start rumors about them.

came to see you," said Luke. He glanced at the bed in the room. The blanket had been laid properly, and it seemed like there was nothing that Luca needed.

folded her hands and rubbed her hands unconsciously when she heard what Luke said. Then, she turned around and looked at him.

need anything, just call the maid with the phone beside the bed and ask them to prepare it for you,"

I got it." Luca met his gaze, then she shifted her gaze away and let her

his mouth as he wanted to say something more, but he noticed Luca's uneasiness. It melted his heart

knew what Luca was worried

worried that the old master or Susan would see them standing so close to each other. Also, she was worried that the others would speculate about their relationship and stop

She had tons to worry about.

Luke had been concealing his knowledge of her identity from her. He was not sure whether it was right or wrong to let her suffer like that.

**However, they** had made it this far. He had to continue regardless of the choice he made was right or wrong. The only way to end this was to figure out who was the mastermind behind Luca.

**That** way, Luca would be able to stay by his side without having to worry about anything.

*"Go to sleep. Goodnight."* Luke was a little disappointed, but he turned around and *left*.

**Luca** secretly let out a sigh. She knew Luke wanted to tell her something, but if he said it out loud, things would change.

*That was* why Luca would not give him the chance to say it to **her**.

In the middle of the night.

*Luca* could hardly sleep. Her body was burning, and she unconsciously placed her hand on her forehead. There was sweat all over her **palm**.

*However*, the temperature on her forehead was normal.

**She stretched** her legs uneasily and let out a moan. Before she was completely awake, she knew there was something wrong with her. This **feeling...**

Her body seemed to have lost control, and the heat rushed to her head as though every cell in her body was affected. Luca forced herself to sit up on the bed. She groped in the dark, looking for the switch.

*Luca turned* on the lights in her bedroom. She narrowed her eyes once the lights were lit, and it took her a while to come back to *her senses*.

*She* felt that something was wrong with her. It was as if she had been given that kind of drug.

*However*, the symptoms did not seem like it. Luca pondered for a few minutes and found a term to describe how she was feeling *now—heaty...*

the heat came from the body's primitive reflexes. It did not seem like she was being controlled by a drug.

wrong?" Luca could not help but frown. Had she been alone for too

she never had this feeling when she was on the Island of Despair for such a long time. Why did

the bed sheet helplessly. It looked like tonight would be another sleepless night for

knock. There were knocks on the door. The sound that rang in her ears stirred up the restless cells in her it?" Luca asked, secretly hoping that the person outside the door was the man she was thinking of.

Luke's voice came from the other side of the

frowned. It was him. The moment Luca heard his voice, she had the urge to rush out and hug him. However, her rationality was stopping her from

in bed, Mr. Crawford." After that, Luca bit her lip, worried that she would make some weird noises.

that Luke was outside the door, her body trembled uncontrollably. The rush of sensations crawled across her body, asking her to open the door and leap into the arms of the man outside the

had the urge to take a cold shower.

it was winter now. She would catch a cold if she showered now.

was living with the kids. She would easily spread it to the kids if she caught a cold. That was why she had to

coming from outside the door seemed to

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Luca's mind went completely blank, just like what happened a few days ago. Her brain froze uncontrollably...

"Mr. Crawford..." Luca tried to push the man away. She accidentally touched his fiery skin and quickly pulled her hand away. His skin was burning.

"Luca, am I sick?" Even though Luke knew what was happening to him, he still hugged her.

Luca drank the tonic too. He believed that she was not feeling any better than he was now.

"Let go of me. Let me check on you." Luke's scent filled her nostrils. Perhaps the scent used to be hypnotic, but now, the scent seemed to have triggered something in her body. It silenced her thoughts. All she wanted now was to drown herself in him, do something crazy, and let the chips fall where they may.

"You can cure me, right?" Luke was still hugging Luca, refusing to let go of her. He longed to make Luca melt into his body, his blood, and his cells.

Luca knew it was impossible to ask Luke to let go of her now.

She had no choice but to say, "How are you feeling?"

Luke buried his head in the curve of her neck, breathing in the smell that belonged to Luca. It smelled good and was sweet. The woman he longed for was in his arms now. He said, "It's hot. And it's uncomfortable. Am I having a fever?"

Fever?

Luca reckoned that Luke was having the same symptoms as she was. It must be something they ate...

The tonic. Could it be that the old master...

Before Luca could continue thinking, Luke, who was beside her, was rubbing his face on her neck. The itch of his hair on her skin shot through her nerves and into her heart, awakening something within.

Luca was already suspicious, but there was nothing she could do with Luke behaving this way now.

hands were bound. It took a while for Luca to lift her hand and touch the face that was buried in the curve of her

was not radiating heat when she touched

how he felt. It was not the body but the cells in their bodies that were frenetic.

you're not having a fever," replied Luca. She was feeling uncomfortable now

his head. His gaze did not seem muddled. Aphrodisiac was not added to the tonic. It was only a nutritious tonic.

herbal medicine well. She assumed that it was too nutritious for them, and their bodies could not accept it. That was why they were having

do I feel unwell?" Luke's dark eyes were staring at her, and he noticed the red flush on her cheeks.

probably because of the tonic. You'll be fine. Just bear with it," answered Luca. Although they were looking each other in the eyes, she was still unable to break free of his

strength was not something a woman like her could

Luke leaned closer to her and pressed his lips on her soft, silky ones.

seducing him every moment he was together with her. Hence, he could no longer suppress it anymore.

widened her eyes. The touch on her lips eased every muscle in her body, and the cells in her body were shouting and cheering as Luke kissed

was so good at kissing. It made her forget to breathe and abandon her thoughts of resisting him.

lips crashed on hers unrestrained. He enjoyed the enticing flavor that belonged to her. His hands held Luca in his embrace uncontrollably.

"Mmm..." Luca could not help but let out a muffled hum.

Luke's kiss was like a switch, waking up all her memories of the past.

**Her** body, which was still under her control just seconds ago, was only focused on one thing now—she wanted more of Luke.

**Luca** closed her eyes and let Luke take over her. She knew she could not push the man away, and she did not intend *to either...*

**Luke could** feel the woman's cooperation. His lips were slowly moving down, kissing her chin. It was as though Luke was teasing her every time he planted a kiss on her.

**At first**, Luke was only asking for a kiss to make it a better night for him. However, now he realized that he could not stop himself and things were getting out of *hand*.

"Mr. Crawford, no..." Luca was immersed in his kisses, but her rationality was trying hard to regain the initiative.

She was afraid of the intimacy they were sharing without taking any drugs. There was barely any rationality left in her. If they took things to another level when they were aware of what they were doing, how could she face him tomorrow when she woke up?

**Some** things could never go back to the way they were.

Luca's body was trembling uncontrollably.

Luke was startled for a moment when he saw the tears falling from the corners of Luca's eyes. He helplessly let out a sigh. The burning desire within him surrendered to her tears.

"I'm sorry. I was being impulsive," apologized Luke. Then, he held her in his arms *again*.

Luca buried her head in his chest and shook her head. There were shivers, disappointment, and gratitude in her heart.

was a complicated feeling, but she was hoping that Luke could forget everything as though nothing ever was not drunk this time. How could he forget about

I feel terrible, but I respect you. It's because I value you, care for you, and love you." Luke confessed to her all of a

feel as if her heart had been hit by lightning.

was unable to think straight, but she still replied calmly, "Mr. Crawford,

know you have feelings for me. Otherwise, you wouldn't have accepted my kiss. And I know you won't agree to be together with me, but I'll wait for you. I'll prove my love for you. It's true. You don't have to feel pressured about this. I'll wait for you." Luke was not holding back this time. He thought of telling her how he felt

not expect the tonic the old master had prepared for him could work in this way

stay tonight? I'm not going to do anything to you. I only want to hold you in my arms tonight. Only you can cure the discomfort in my body." Luke did not give her the chance to reject him and immediately asked her.

down and thought it would be just for one night. Hence, she

smiled after getting her permission. There was a twinkle in his eyes. He held Luca's hands and sat on the bed.

down. I'll take just one-third of the bed," said

like she had been bewitched by him. She listened and obeyed every word he said.

Perhaps it was the kiss...

lay down on the bed and moved a little to the side, giving him half of the bed to sleep on.

## **Chapter 2147**

The following day.

Susan yawned while making her way down the stairs. She could not sleep after waking up in the middle of the night. The heat in her body went away not long ago. She wanted to rest more but did not feel like sleeping anymore, so she thought of getting up and keeping an eye on Luke and Luca.

"Good morning, Madam Crawford." Mr. Griffin noticed how pale Susan was, and he understood why she was looking pale.

Susan must have had a hard time trying to fall asleep last night. After all, she took the medicine that the old master had asked someone to prescribe. Even though she was a middle-aged woman, it was hard to resist the effects of the medicine.

"Is breakfast ready?" Susan asked.

"Mrs. Nancy is still on it," Mr. Griffin lowered his head and answered.

Susan complained, "She's still making breakfast? What's wrong with her working efficiency?"

Mr. Griffin glanced at the time, lowered his head, and replied respectfully, "Madam Crawford, Mrs. Nancy didn't know you'd be waking up this early today."

He did not tell her that it was still early in the morning. If Susan heard him saying this, she would point at him and say that it was just an excuse to slack off.

Susan sneered. There was only Mr. Griffin and her in the living room. It looked like the other maids had not come to work yet.

She had indeed woken up early today, but she would not allow that to be a reason. She said, "Ask Mrs. Nancy to speed up and prepare breakfast earlier next time."

"Yes," replied Mr. Griffin. Although he agreed with her, he was not planning to listen to her instructions.

The time to prepare breakfast in Crawford Manor was usually based on Old Master Crawford's routine. He was normally the earliest to wake up, after all. Breakfast would be served just in time after the old master woke up. This was to ensure the breakfast was freshly made and would not go cold.

had no choice but to sit on the sofa while waiting for breakfast to be served. When Mr. Griffin was about to do his work, he heard Susan ask him, "Did anything happen in Crawford Manor

do you mean?" Mr. Griffin paused and turned around to face her

as she secretly scolded him for being ignorant. She had no choice but to make it clearer. "I mean the person who spent the night here... Did anything happen to her?"

Crawford, you know that I'm not allowed to head upstairs to disturb anyone at nighttime if I'm not required" answered Mr. Griffin. He was dropping a hint that there was no way he would know what had happened last night.

would not go upstairs unless his master allowed him

had spent the night here. You should've kept an eye on her. You've failed as a butler." Susan was dissatisfied with his answer, and she thought Mr. Griffin should have watched over

felt helpless. He knew that Susan was picking on Luca, but he did not know what Luca had done wrong to receive such

Master Crawford was very fond of her, and their young master had feelings for Luca, that was why Susan was behaving like this.



old master invited Luca to spend the night here, and he even arranged a room for her upstairs. That indicated that he trusted Luca very much.

not allowed to touch those who had the old

the old master asked her to stay here, you should be careful. Isn't that one of the butler's responsibilities?" Susan found herself another excuse to vent her anger on Mr. Griffin after bottling everything up and not getting enough sleep the whole night.

Griffin glanced at the time and replied helplessly, "Madam Crawford, Old Master Crawford will be awake soon. I'm heading to his room to help him freshen up."

*Susan watched* Mr. Griffin leave from behind. She was so furious that she grasped the material of the leather sofa tightly. The butler of the Crawford family did not take her seriously!

**It** took a while before she loosened her grip, which left the material of the sofa all wrinkled.

**Susan** secretly swore that the first thing she would do after Old Master Crawford passed away was to fire Mr. Griffin.

An hour later.

Luca and Luke made their way down the stairs.

**Old Master** Crawford was already sitting in the dining room, waiting for them to have breakfast *together*.

A *hint* of disappointment flashed across the old master's face when he saw Luke and Luca not holding each other's hands as he had imagined.

**Could it** be that Luke did not seize the chance last **night**?

*Both of* them drank the tonic, so it could not be...

**Old Master** Crawford looked at their faces carefully. There seemed to be some dark circles under *their* eyes.

"Good morning, Grandpa."

"*Good morning*, Old Master Crawford." Luca greeted the old master together **with Luke**.

on. Sit down and get ready for breakfast," replied Old Master Crawford. He wondered if the two of them had lowered their pride and endured the medicine's effects last night. Was that why they could not get a on the same seat as during the dinner last night.

Griffin and the maids were busy serving

Crawford took the chance and asked, "Luca, did you sleep well last

believed that Old Master Crawford was deliberately asking her that question. She was pretty sure that there was something wrong with the

her abnormality seemed to last longer than Luke. She believed that it was not because of her physique but that the herbal tea had the same effects.

the old master had given her two doses of

was speechless. She did not expect the honorable old master would do something like this to her

a good rest. Thank you for asking.” Luca bit the bullet and said

she did not have a good sleep

The same went for Luke.

she would be able to sleep well until dawn cuddling with Luke. After all, Luke could make her sleep well like her sleeping

## **Chapter 2148**

“Business trip? Why are you going on a business trip again?” Old Master Crawford said querulously. He knew that Luke was going on a business trip to handle T Corporation’s matters, but the old master was unhappy now.

Luke would rather stay up all night and waste his efforts than take the initiative to look for Luca and solve his problem.

One could not make a silk purse out of a sow’s ear!

“It’s the company’s affairs,” replied Luke.

Old Master Crawford sneered. He knew it must be related to the company. It was just that Luke had never thought about his marriage!

Even though the old master was dissatisfied, there was nothing he could do about it. After all, he could not rewind the time to last night no matter what he did. Besides, Luca was smart. She should have noticed that there was something wrong with the tonic. Hence, the old master could not use such ways anymore.

“Let’s eat,” said Old Master Crawford.

Luca let out a sigh. It was fortunate that the old master did not continue asking them. Otherwise, she would recall everything that happened last night. She would have to lie to cover it up...

What happened last night...

Luca was reminded of Luke’s body temperature and how he held her in his arms last night. She glanced sideways to look at him.

Luke was eating his breakfast with the fork in his hands...

Luca’s face reddened all of a sudden.

There was no way she could look Luke in the eye after everything that happened...

drove Luca and the kids back to the villa after

luggage was still in the villa, so he had to go back to the villa to get his luggage before he headed to the Master Crawford waited until Luke had left, then he leaned on his walking cane and rose to his feet.

Griffin hurried over to help him and asked, "Old Master Crawford, where are

me." Old Master Crawford walked into the elevator in Crawford Manor. He waited until Mr. Griffin entered the elevator before pressing the button heading to the

doors slowly closed. Mr. Griffin asked, "Are you going to the control

Master Crawford smiled and replied, "You do understand me after years of serving

to believe that Luke did not do anything. Although Luca claimed that she had a good sleep and nothing happened, he noticed that Luca was blushing when they were eating their

was on Luke every time she

know why I arranged for Luca to stay in that guest room?" Old Master Crawford asked.

Griffin nodded. He knew why the old master was behaving like this after serving him for so many years. He had already figured it out. "The security camera installed in the living hall happens to capture the door of the guest

"Bingo." Old Master Crawford nodded.

reached the basement, and Old Master Crawford sat in front of a computer.

Mr. Griffin helped him to find the security camera that captured the guest room's door. After he found the right security camera, he asked, "Old Master Crawford, do you need to cast it on a projector screen?"

"*There's no need,*" answered Old Master Crawford. "*Speed it up.*"

**Mr.** Griffin heard him and operated the computer.

**Old** Master Crawford's cloudy eyes were on the computer screen. He saw Luke knocking on Luca's door in the middle of the night. Although he had no idea what they were talking about, the old master smiled excitedly when he saw Luca open the door for Luke. "Did you **see that?**"

He was asking Mr. Griffin, who stood beside him.

"*Old Master Crawford, I see it. Young Master Luke entered Ms. Craw's bedroom,*" answered *Mr. Griffin*.

"They closed the door." Old Master Crawford was satisfied. He knew his plan had helped the two of them. "Let's see what time Luke came out from there." Old Master Crawford was relieved after he saw Luke enter Luca's room. He leaned back on the chair and looked at the computer screen.

Mr. Griffin looked at the old master's expression and nodded. Although it seemed bad to spy on Luke and Luca, the old master was worried about his grandson's happiness, which made it reasonable for him to *do this*.

"Old Master Crawford, let me break the footage into sections and open a few more windows. It'll work faster that way," Mr. Griffin suggested.

"Alright. That's a good idea. Break it up, then," said Old Master Crawford. Although they were watching the video at a faster speed, it would take one or two hours to watch the footage from the entire night.

Mr. Griffin operated the computer and started playing the footage.

Old Master Crawford began to watch the videos.

*Half* an hour later, he pointed at the screen and asked, "When is this?"

Griffin paused the video, glanced at it, and answered, "Old Master Crawford, the time shown on the footage is already

Luke didn't waste my efforts. This kid was still trying to deny it. Hah, I've got you now, huh?" Old Master Crawford was grinning. He was pleased with this outcome.

man and a woman who had taken the medicine were alone in a room. Something must have happened.

Griffin looked at the old master's cheerful expression and thought that Luke was innocent. After all, it was not Luke who denied it. It was

master leaned forward, looked at the time, and said, "Delete the footage. Make sure it's deleted permanently. Don't let anyone see this."

was worried that Susan would come here and look at the footage. That was why he asked Mr. Griffin to do so.

Susan was a troublemaker. She might leak the footage to the public to crush Luke if she saw

Crawford knew about the impostor Bianca, but the others had no idea about it. They only knew that Luke had a wife and a family. He would get into trouble if the footage was leaked.

was why the old master had to protect Luke.

Master Crawford," said Mr. Griffin. He thought he might as well delete all the footage recorded yesterday. It would arouse suspicion if he deleted only a part of the

I'm in a good mood today. Follow me. I'm going to visit Old Man Rayne for a game of chess." After Old Master Crawford watched Mr. Griffin delete all the footage, he leaned on his walking cane and stood

Mr. Griffin helped him up the

who was in the living room, saw Old Master Crawford come out with a happy face. He headed to the entrance. She was curious about what happened.

## **Chapter 2149**

"Madam Crawford, isn't it a bad idea to look at this?" The guard hesitated. Although Old Master Crawford did not tell him that he should not watch the footage, there was a chance that he might get fired if the old master found out about it.

"What's wrong with it? The security cameras installed in the house belong to the Crawford family. Am I not the madam of this family? Why can't I see it?" Susan raised her brows and threatened, "You'll be fired if you don't help me get the footage."

The guard had no choice but to search for the footage after getting threatened by her.

"Give me a second," replied the guard. He began to open all the security footage folders and checked which one had been opened recently.

Susan rushed him, "Make it fast. I have an appointment later."

The guard nodded and looked at a bunch of security camera footage recordings.

There were many security cameras in Crawford Manor. Most of them were installed outside the gate and in the public areas in the house. All surveillance footage would be saved for up to two months before they were automatically deleted. That was why there were a lot of recordings.

After a while, the guard turned to look at Susan.

"What's wrong?" Susan asked. Judging from the expression on the guard's face, Susan knew he was unable to get what she wanted. Susan threatened him again, "If you dare to brush me off, you won't only lose your job but you might not be able to find a new one in A City."

Susan had no sympathy for him. She would not have those who refused to listen to her instructions stay.

She had been treating most of them who worked in the villa badly other than Mr. Griffin, the old master's aide. She could not lay a finger on him.

"Madam Crawford, it's not that I don't want to find the footage for you. The surveillance footage Old Master Crawford checked was probably deleted." The guard gave her a sullen look.

Are you sure?" Susan

did the old master see that he needed to delete

recordings here have not been opened before. There's only one surveillance footage missing, so it must've been deleted," explained to the guard as he pushed the screen toward her.

did not know a lot about this and asked, "Which security camera?"

one on the second floor, near the guest room. I remember that the security camera was adjusted after what happened three years ago. The contents missing were recorded by that camera," said the guard. He had been working for the Crawford family for years, and he was involved in the adjustment of the security cameras three years ago. That was why he remembered

guest room..." Susan frowned. The old master had arranged for Luca to stay in that guest room

were guest rooms on the first floor and the second floor. It seemed like the old master had come here to watch what Luca did last

Luca have done last night? Susan was puzzled, and she asked again, "Can it be

permanently deleted and can't be recovered." The guard shook his head. Luke was the one who hired people to install the security system of Crawford Manor. The expert installed a program on the computer to protect the privacy of the Crawford family. If one had the administrator password, the deleted surveillance footage could not be recovered.

no matter what happened in the house, there was no way anyone with evil intentions could get the surveillance footage as long as they deleted it in

administrator password was used to delete the footage this time.

"You're nothing but trash." Susan turned around and walked out of the control room after knowing that the security footage could not be recovered. She could not help but wonder what did the old master see that made him delete the footage.

Besides, it seemed like what Luca did was exactly what the old master wanted.

**It was** because Old Master Crawford had come out with a smile on his face.

Susan headed upstairs and ran into Louis and his wife. She sneered at him and planned to ignore them at the thought of Louis trying to fool her with another jewelry set **yesterday**.

*Yuri* nudged Louis with her elbow, asking him to ask for *peace*.

*Louis* got *Yuri's* hint and secretly let out a sigh. He stepped forward and said, "Mom, don't be mad."

Susan turned away from him.

"*I contacted* the buyer abroad yesterday. We'll be negotiating the price today. I'll get that jewelry set for you," *said Louis*.

Susan was delighted at once. The unpleasant feelings caused by Luca were gone immediately. She looked at Louis and Yuri and asked, "Really?"

"*Yes,*" *replied* Louis. Luke had promised to lend him the money to buy the jewelry. That should not be a problem.

"*You're* not fooling me this time, right?" Susan warned him, worried that he would look for a counterfeiter to make a counterfeit jewelry set to **fool her**.

worry. I'll bring it to the jewelry appraiser and let them identify and appraise the jewelry set. It's not going to be a counterfeit." Louis looked at the smile on Susan's face and knew she was not mad at him anymore.

mysterious creatures. She was mad about the jewelry set, and the only thing that could cheer her up was the jewelry set.

the price paid to cheer her up was a little heavy...

wonderful." Susan's day was brightened. She looked at Yuri and said, "Why did the two of you wake up late today? I told you so many times that you shouldn't sleep in when Grandpa is at home. You're lucky he didn't complain about anything

Yuri exchanged glances with each other. Louis scratched the back of his neck and said, "We were tired. That's why we slept

her sharp eyes, Susan noticed there were love bites on Yuri's neck. Then, she understood at once. She smiled and said, "That's good. It's a good thing for young people to feel tired. I wonder if there'll be any

Susan meant was getting pregnant with another

face reddened. Louis was not planning to have another child. However, things escalated quickly last night. They had used up all the condoms, and the two of them could not hold themselves back any

Perhaps there could be a surprise...

please excuse us. We're heading downstairs for breakfast," said Louis. He grabbed Yuri's hand and walked into the dining

was pleased as she had received two pieces of good news this morning.

## **Chapter 2150**

Luca nodded. She did not expect the old master to sign up for a class for the kids.

"There's no need to trouble Uncle Zander. I'll send you there. Wait a minute. I'm going to get the car keys." Luca turned around and headed to the living room to get the keys.

Although it was difficult to drive on a snowy day, she had been driving often lately. That was why she was confident to take up the job.

Lanie and Rainie nodded. They stood still while waiting for Luca.

Tommy was the only one pouting his mouth and following behind Luca. "Ms. Luca, I don't want to go to class. Can I stay?"

"Why?" Luca picked up the car keys and looked at him with confusion. Were they not the ones who chose which classes they would be attending?

Tommy's dark pupils were filled with a grievance as he said, "I didn't want to go to that class. But Great-grandpa said I'm too naughty and need to train my character so I could be calmer. That's why he chose the calligraphy class for me."

Luca nodded to tell Tommy that she understood.

Tommy held onto Luca's thigh. He continued to play the victim when he noticed that Luca did not say anything. "Ms. Luca, calligraphy class is boring. It's all about picking up a pen and writing. The teacher is an old man with a beard. What a bore! You're not working today. Why don't I stay home and keep you company?"

Luca looked at the child who was trying hard to negotiate with her just because he did not want to go to class. She did not know whether to laugh or cry. Although she felt great having the kids by her side, she had to let the kids attend their classes.

It was the old master's decision, after all. He did it for the children's own good.

not a little boy anymore. Great-grandpa arranged this for you for a reason. Be good. Let me send you to class." Luca held Tommy's hand and walked out of the

Rainie, who had been standing at the door waiting for Luca, exchanged glances with each other and younger brother was trying to skip class, but unfortunately, their mother did not let him get away with mother would not pity them if it was for their own good. She would insist they do it.

realized that Luca insisted on sending him to class. He had no choice but to strike a pose and look as though he was negotiating in a meeting. "Ms. Luca, I can go to the class, but you have to promise me that you'll pick me up when my class

did not want to attend the class. Not only was the class boring, but most importantly, he wanted to keep Luca's company.

No problem. But you must behave yourself when you're in class. Listen to your teacher and practice your calligraphy," Luca asked for something in

have one more condition." Although Tommy was still young, he got his negotiation skills from Luke. He refused to lose out on anything.

it." Luca waved her hands at Lanie and Rainie, asking them to follow her to the parking lot.

to eat your home-cooked meals!" said Tommy. It had been a few days since he last ate Luca's home-cooked food, and he was craving it.

"**That** shouldn't be a problem as long as you listen to me," said Luca. Tommy would surely cause trouble for the calligraphy teacher during class. She heard Tommy say that the teacher was an experienced calligraphist, but it would certainly be difficult for the teacher to handle kids like him.

*Hence*, Luca promised Tommy that she would fulfill his wishes when he was negotiating with her. It was to make him behave himself *too*.

**Rainie, who** was standing beside her, smiled and said, "Ms. Luca, don't worry. Tommy loves your home-cooked meals. He's going to behave **himself**."

*Tommy waved* his chubby little hands querulously and said, "Rainie, don't you like it too?"

"**I do**," Rainie admitted. Their mother's home-cooked meals were the best. The delicious food from other countries or the dishes a five-starred restaurant made were incomparable to their mother's *home-cooked meals*.

"*So, you're riding on my coattails, huh?*" Tommy was flattered. If it were not for him who negotiated with Luca, Lanie and Rainie would not have had the chance to eat their mother's home-cooked meals either.

"**You'll have** to behave yourself and not have your teacher complain about you." Rainie adjusted Tommy's cap for him.

"*I'm going* to be the most well-behaved student in class this time," said Tommy. He would not give his calligraphy teacher a chance to complain about *him*.



**Luca did** not know if she should laugh or cry when she heard that. She opened the door of the backseat and said, "Come on, get in the car or you'll be late *for class*."

**The three** kids climbed into the car.

*Luca drove* the car and sent the kids to their classes. After Luca dropped them off at the entrance, she watched them enter the building before turning around and leaving.

got back into the car. When she was about to drive back to the villa, Nina called.

I heard that you're back in the city!" Nina exclaimed the moment the call

I've already been here for a few days." The way Nina sounded reminded Luca of people who were in high spirits when something good happened to them. Nina was having a good time

not sound as upset as she was before. It seemed like she made the right choice by choosing

least Percy was able to give her a happy life, so she was not as gloomy as she used to be.

you not look for me when you're back here?" Nina could not help but complain. Although Nina had only known Luca not long ago, she was unexpectedly fond of her. Besides, Luca had been a great help to her. Nina could not help but want to grow closer with

sorry. I've been busy..." Luca replied helplessly. She had been busy with the research after she came back. Moreover, she did not even have the time to send the gifts she had prepared for Nina and Sue. Luca remembered that she would not be going to the office today, so she might as well just ask Nina out. "Nina, why don't we

I have something for you. Where would you like to meet?" Nina was thinking of meeting her today when she called her. She wanted to give Luca her engagement

Luca did not attend Nina and Percy's engagement ceremony, Nina still wanted to give Luca the

we meet at the hospital? I'd like to check on Tyrone's condition," said Luca. She had been planning to do so, but she never had the time.