

## **Twins In Her Womb: Sir President Please Be Gentle**

Twins In Her Womb: Sir President Please Be Gentle Chapter 2301-“Your worries have been settled now, so just eat,” said Luke.

Luca had to stop bringing it up as she knew that talking about it more did not mean that he would take action.

The lunch break was over.

Luca then prepared for the meeting about the drug launch with the researchers.

Before the meeting started, she scanned through the data and found out that it was much better than expected.

Most of it was Shank’s blood, sweat, and tears, so of course, it would work out well.

Just as Luca entered the meeting room, Zoey came over to report, “Dr. Craw, there’s an important meeting at Watson that you have to attend.”

“When?” She asked.

“An hour from now,” Zoey replied.

“So urgent?” Luca frowned as one hour was just enough time for her to get there. If it was really an important meeting, they would have notified her in advance.

Without any advance notice, it was just an urgent meeting at most.

Luca then linked this meeting to the phone call she received from the general manager this afternoon.

“Yes, I told you right after I received Ms. Stone’s notice,” Zoey said resignedly. Watson seemed to be all over the place, unlike T Corporation which was always orderly whether it be work or other miscellaneous things.

“Alright, I got it,” said Luca as she looked at the researchers in the meeting room. “My apologies, everyone. You can work on other stuff for the time being. The meeting will have to be delayed, and I’ll have Ms. Davis notify you all then.”

The researchers nodded their heads and left with their files.

Luca said to Rhett, “Mr. Link, come with me.”

“Okay, Dr. Craw.” Rhett nodded.

Luca and Rhett went downstairs together, and when they got to the parking lot, Warren was already waiting for them in the car.

Luca was surprised as she had just informed Warren. He said that he would arrive in 10 minutes, but it has not even been 10 minutes yet.

Had he always been close by?

“Dr. Craw, please get in.” Warren saw her and Rhett walking over, and he opened the door to the backseat.

Luca sat in the car and noticed the seat was warm unlike the freezing weather outside as if the heater in the car had been turned on for a while.

After Rhett sat in the passenger seat, the three of them rushed to Watson.

After they reached Watson, Luca and Rhett went up to the laboratory floor.

She walked in and noticed that Dr. Linwood and the others were already inside waiting for them.

Luca glanced at the time on her watch. She was not late.

“Good afternoon,” she subtly greeted the people in the meeting room.

“Dr. Craw, you’re here.” Dr. Linwood greeted her first, and when she sat down, he sat beside her smilingly. “Dr. Craw, we heard that the data for phase three of clinical trials for your research is out?”

“Yes, it came out today.” Luca opened the laptop.

“How are the results?” Dr. Linwood showed concern.

“It’s much better than predicted,” Luca answered his question without telling him any additional information.

“That’s impressive. The drug must be really effective. Once it’s on the market, it’ll be really beneficial to mankind,” Dr. Linwood praised. Many of their clinical trial data were far from their expectations, and they barely met the listing requirements.

However, Luca’s research had surpassed expectations.

All the professors present knew about the prediction as they had been secretly discussing Luca’s report since the very beginning.

They thought this research would not succeed.

Now, not only did she develop the drug, but it passed all three phases of the clinical trials and even exceeded the expected digits.

Luca listened to his compliments while unfazed.

These compliments came with a bit of sincerity, a touch of envy, and even some jealousy.

She did not think it was anything impressive as all the early efforts came from Shanks anyway. She only joined afterward to lead the team in the research.

With the groundwork laid out, it made everything after it much easier.

Hence, Luca did not think there was anything to be proud of.

Her skills were far from Shanks.

Dr. Linwood added, “Dr. Craw, did you bring the report for phase three of clinical trials? I’m really curious about the data in it.”

“Dr. Linwood, are you the one who’s curious, or is the general manager who’s curious?” Luca asked. While they were talking, the rest of the professors had entered the meeting room, but the general manager was nowhere to be seen.

Luca reckoned that he was observing from afar.

Dr. Linwood was taken aback. “Isn’t that the same? Everyone is curious about how excellent your report is. We’ve been doing research for so many years, but we’ve never seen a report as outstanding as yours, so we want to take a look at it.”

“I’m sorry, Dr. Linwood. Just think of me as overly cautious, but I won’t disclose the report until the drug has been patented and listed,” Luca outright rejected him.

Dr. Linwood was a little upset. Although he had not achieved much in the company, he was much more well-known in the industry compared to Luca.

Yet, she dared to reject him. The report was not an important top-secret document either.

“Dr. Craw, if you don’t want to, forget it. We were just curious,” said Dr. Linwood.

“It’s just a phase three clinical trials report, so it’s indeed not some top-secret document. After the Dr. Albus case, I’m worried the drug will fail to apply for a patent and can’t be marketed, so it’s best to keep

the data a secret for now. Otherwise, if something happens, we need to expand the scope of the investigation,” Luca said to Dr. Linwood.

What happened to Dr. Albus was a lesson for them too.

Dr. Albus had shown the data to several of them because he was facing difficulties, and during that time, all of them became suspects.

It made everyone panic.

Dr. Linwood was stunned as she had a point.

She kept the data confidential not because she was petty but because it was a safety measure to prevent it from getting stolen.

He was the one to blame for listening to the advice of others.

Dr. Linwood hurriedly said, "You're right. I shouldn't have asked you for it no matter how curious I was. I'll ask you again after you've applied for the patent."

"By then, I can even show you the whole research report," Luca said while looking toward the surveillance camera in the meeting room.

"Okay, it's a deal." After finishing his words, Dr. Linwood returned to his seat.

There were not many people around Luca, so Rhett leaned closer and whispered, "Dr. Craw, it seems like many people are interested in the clinical trials data..."

"That's not it. In fact, it has always been just one person," Luca said. The general manager came in late.

Twins In Her Womb: Sir President Please Be Gentle Chapter 2302-Before Rhett could ask any further, the general manager walked in with his gaze locked on Luca.

Luca met his eyes for a moment, then averted her gaze to look at the computer screen.

Dr. Linwood looked at the general manager with a frown on his face.

The reason why he asked Luca about phase three of clinical trials data was because of the general manager.

His clinical research always did not perform well, so the general manager talked to him alone and asked him to learn from Luca's clinical research data. Although it was a different type of drug, he thought that he could still learn something from it, so he agreed.

Dr. Linwood was quite happy at first as he had one more piece of data to learn from, which would help him in his research.

However, after Luca's reminder, Dr. Linwood felt that something was not right as the data was crucial for the drug launch.

The general manager sat on the chairman's seat and discussed the meeting agenda.

"I gathered everyone here because the year is ending and I'd like to gather the opinions of the professors about where we should go for the team bonding trip at the beginning of the year. The professors are the main force of the company, and the future of Watson depends on all of you. The final decision will be based on the professors' opinion."

The professors looked at each other. They came for a meeting for such a trivial matter?

The corner of Luca's lips curled up. The general manager painstakingly did this just to see her phase three clinical trials data...

He even used this excuse to make her come to Watson.

Did he really think that she would show the data to Dr. Linwood because he was a senior?

Dr. Jackson spoke, "General Manager, you can just let the other departments decide. There's no need to waste our time on this when we could be doing research."

"Yes, yes," the other professors echoed.

Except for Luca, everyone there had a reputation in the pharmaceutical and education industry. At this point, fame and riches were what they were after. They could not care less about where to travel to.

The professors were not interested in team bonding. They would rather earn more money. If they wanted to travel, they would bring their wives and children along for the trip.

The general manager lifted his hands and pressed them down, gesturing for them to calm down. “Professors, this is just one of the matters. Since everyone is not interested in the team bonding trip, I’ll let the other employees decide on the location. We’ll move on to the second matter.”

Luca looked up and stared deeply at the meeting minutes the general manager put up.

The general manager looked at Luca and said, “First of all, please give Dr. Craw a round of applause.”

Then, a scatter of applause sounded.

Luca nodded in every direction to express her gratitude.

Then, the general manager said, “Dr. Craw’s research is nearing the end, and her drug’s phase three of the clinical trials data is out. The next step is to prepare for the patent application and the market launch. This will be our company’s first drug. Thanks to Dr. Craw, we’ll have a head start for the rest of our company’s research.”

Luca listened to the general manager’s impassioned statement with a poker face. “Thank you, General Manager.”

“Dr. Craw, why don’t you come over and tell the professors about your research?” The general manager wanted to put Luca front and center.

Luca sat on the chair without moving. “The professors here are all well-known in the industry, General Manager. Aren’t you making me show off in front of them by going up there? I’m not the one who should go up there and speak, so forget it. Continue with your meeting. I believe the professors also want to finish quickly so that they can go back to the laboratory.”

Admiration filled Dr. Linwood’s eyes as he listened to her words.

She was really something.

Capable, modest, and not humble nor arrogant. She knew that the general manager was stirring something up, so she fought back with just a few words to not offend anyone present.

The general manager's face was grim as he said, "Then it should be okay for you to show the data for phase three of the clinical trials to the professors, right?"

"General Manager, I've said this before. You can see my data if you make an application with Mr. Crawford. If he agrees, I'll make it public in front of all the professors," said Luca.

"There are only our own people here..." The general manager did not expect Luca to be like this. He still could not get his hands on the data even after asking Dr. Linwood for help.

She was not easily persuaded.

Luca smiled. "I'm just avoiding unnecessary trouble. I'm sure the professors present will be able to understand."

The general manager saw how she refused to hand over the phase three clinical trials data, yet he could not say anything else in front of so many people. He had no choice but to give up.

After the meeting, the general manager left with a nasty expression.

Luca sat in her chair and watched him leave with a serious look on her face,

There were not many key points in today's meeting. All of the general manager's topics revolved around her as he tried to get her to show the data of phase three of the clinical trials.

Rhett was packing up his computer and files as he asked, "Dr. Craw, are we going back now?"

Luca glanced at the time. She could still make it to the meeting if she went back now, so she stood up and gathered the documents in front of her. "Yes."

Dr. Linwood walked over with a look of admiration as he admired her for her humility and complacency. "Dr. Craw, good thing you're aware."

“Dr. Linwood, does the general manager usually ask for your research data like this?” Luca pretended to ask casually.

Dr. Linwood shook his head. “Not at all. Our research is not progressing as fast as yours anyway.”

“Okay, got it. I have another meeting to attend, so I’ll be going.” Luca held her computer and documents while bidding farewell to Dr. Linwood.

“Thank you for your hard work. It must be tiring for you to commute back and forth,” Dr. Linwood said. It must be tiring for her. There was nothing important in today’s meeting, yet the general manager still needed her to be present.

Traveling back and forth like this was indeed exhausting.

“It’s okay. I’ll be going now.” Luca left with Rhett.

The two of them returned to the car, and as usual, Warren was in charge of driving

Rhett sat in the passenger seat and glanced back at Luca. “Dr. Craw, the person you were talking about is the general manager, right?”

The general manager’s intent was so obvious during the meeting earlier that even the professors who were unaware of the situation felt that something was off.

“Yes.” Luca looked at the copy she brought over, which was also the document that the general manager wanted to see so badly.

She brought it with her with no intention of giving it to him. It was so that she could look at it in the car and do some simple analysis.

Twins In Her Womb: Sir President Please Be Gentle Chapter 2303-When she returned to the office, there was only half an hour left before it was time to get off work.

Luca called for a quick meeting to make rough arrangements for the next step.

Half an hour later, the meeting ended.

She received a message from Tommy after returning to the office.

[Ms. Luca, our teacher said we're on holiday now. When will you be on holiday?]

Luca was surprised when she saw the message as the kids' winter break had started early this year.

When she was still Bianca, she would go home as early as possible to spend time with her children even if she had work.

She would occasionally bring them along with her too and let them play in the office. That way, it would be easier for the nanny at home as she would not have to do house chores while taking care of the children.

Now...

Luca could not take the children with her, and her leave from work was not until next week.

She replied: [I have to wait until next week for my holiday. You have to listen to Aunt Neile while you're at home during vacation. Don't cause any trouble and do your homework.]

[I know, we'll be good.] Tommy replied quickly.

Luca's lips curled up into a smile.

She put her phone in her briefcase and turned around to leave the office.

Now, all that was left to do was make the application so that they could all get off work on time.

After returning to the villa in Warren's car, Luca noticed that Old Master Crawford was there.

She put down her briefcase hastily and walked in. "Old Master Crawford, what brings you here?"

"Isn't it New Year's soon? Although Luke won't be at Crawford Manor this new year, I still had to prepare some things, so I let Mr. Griffin pack everything up and send them over. I could come to visit my three lovely grandchildren too." Old Master Crawford showed a kind smile and raised his hand to pat Tommy who was doing his winter break homework next to him.

Tommy looked up and smiled at Old Master Crawford before greeting her, "Ms. Luca, you're back!"

"Yeah, I just got off work," said Luca. She did not see Lanie and Rainie in the living room, so she guessed that they were upstairs doing their winter break homework. The kids had a lot of homework for winter break, so they went upstairs to avoid getting distracted by Aunt Neile moving around.

"Old Master Crawford, stay for dinner," Luca invited.

"I can't. A friend invited me to his grandson's one-month-old celebration, so next time." Old Master Crawford noticed Mr. Griffin had come out, so he asked, "Has everything been put away nicely?"

"Old Master Crawford, it has been put away," Mr. Griffin answered. When he saw Luca, he greeted her respectfully, "Good evening, Ms. Craw."

"Good evening." Luca looked at Mr. Griffin, who had just come from the storage room. It seemed like the things that they had brought over were kept in the storage room

"Ms. Craw, Crawford Manor bought some New Year's goods this year. Old Master Crawford had me send them over, so I put them all in the storage room," said Mr. Griffin.

"Alright, thank you," Luca nodded and said with a smile. She was not expecting Old Master Crawford to prepare anything for her. She was still deciding whether to go buy New Year's goods.

Old Master Crawford looked at the time and stood up with the help of his cane.

Luca hurriedly went up to support him.

"Well, it's about time. I'll leave now," Old Master Crawford said as he walked out of the house.

Mr. Griffin also stepped forward. "Ms. Craw, let me."

"Okay." Luca let Mr. Griffin assist him and followed behind them as they walked to the foyer until Old Master Crawford said, "Luca, it's cold out here and you're still sick, so head inside."

"Yes, Old Master Crawford. Walk slowly and watch your step," urged Luca. She watched as Old Master Crawford left. Her nose was indeed stinging.

Time and tide waited for no man. Old Master Crawford had reached old age. Although he was stronger than most people, he was still old. Hence, his legs and feet were worn out.

The back view of the person who had looked after Luke for so many years was mighty.

If not for him, Luke would have struggled to survive at Crawford Manor...

Luca knew that although Allison was arrogant, domineering, and had cruel methods, he would not have the heart to go up against Susan.

Besides, Susan was born to the purple. Not only had she seen much more than Allison, but she was also more courageous too.

How could Allison, who was only after money, go up against Susan?

Luke only got to where he was today entirely because of Old Master Crawford's compassion.

After seeing Old Master Crawford leave, Luca returned to the house and sat beside Tommy. "Tommy, do you have a lot of homework for winter break?"

"Yes, but Brother and Sister have even more," Tommy said with a pout as if he was not happy with the amount of homework. "I used to always hope to go to school and do homework with my brother and sister, but now, I find that not having to go to school is the happiest thing."

Luca smiled at his cool adult-like remark. "The winter break homework is not for you to finish in a day, so take it slow. I'll go see what New Year's goods your grandfather sent us."

"There's a lot of stuff. I saw Mr. Griffin carrying two big bags over," Tommy said before going back to his homework.

Luca stood up and walked to the storage room. She saw two red bags and knew they were from Mr. Griffin.

As Tommy said, the two big red bags were filled with New Year's goods.

In A City, the most eye-catching color during the new year was red, which would definitely look great.

Luca opened the bag to see that Old Master Crawford had sent some ornaments and decorations that would look great on the tree in the front yard.

She even took out some fairy lights from the bag and remembered the time she spent New Year's with Luke. He had hung these lights on trees and the roof. From the outside, their house looked like a star shining in the snow late at night. It was beautiful.

Luca took out everything in the two bags and realized there was nothing else other than these decorations.

She thought that Old Master Crawford had brought over some food instead.

She put everything away and returned to the living room to see that Tommy had gone upstairs.

She walked into the kitchen to help Aunt Neile with dinner.

"Ms. Craw, you're back?" Aunt Neile was surprised to see Luca.

"Yes," said Luca as she picked up an apron.

While washing the vegetables, Aunt Neile said, "I thought you'd be working overtime with Mr. Crawford today."

"Mr. Crawford is working overtime?" Luca was surprised as she did not know Luke was working overtime.

"Yes, he called at four in the afternoon saying that he wouldn't be home for dinner," Aunt Neile said as she put the cleaned vegetables to the side. Since Luca was here, she let her be the chef.

Twins In Her Womb: Sir President Please Be Gentle Chapter 2304-"Well, there'll be more work and business at the end of the year," said Luca as her heart ached when she found out that he was busy.

He was busy for the sake of the Crawford family, yet she could not do anything to help.

Right now, she could only take care of the children for him...

Aunt Neile picked up a piece of beef and cut it while asking, "By the way, what kind of New Year's goods did Old Master Crawford bring?"

"Some decorations and ornaments," Luca answered.

"The New Year's atmosphere is very important to Old Master Crawford. When I used to work in Crawford Manor, I would clean the house inside out and decorate it with festive lights, ornaments, and more. Old Master Crawford would also have us prepare a huge feast on the first two days of the new year. The must-have dishes were essential. Otherwise, he would be mad," Aunt Neil said smilingly.

"Really? I haven't spent New Year's in the country for some time," said Luca as she did not expect to have this opportunity.

"By the way, I remember that it's Madam Susan's birthday tomorrow. I reckon they've prepared a lot at Crawford Manor," Aunt Neile said. She had been moved here this year, so she was not as busy, but it was also less lively.

She looked at Luca cooking and wondered if she should remind her what foods to prepare.

Although Luca was good at cooking, she was raised abroad, so she would certainly not know about the traditional culture here.

"Oh." Luca paused. It was Susan's birthday soon.

When she was still in the country, Allison had yet to be sent to prison, so there would be a huge argument whenever it was Susan's birthday.

The only reason was because Allison enjoyed ruffling Susan's feathers.

Aunt Neile asked again, "Ms. Craw, will you go?"

"What?" Luca then realized that she was talking about Susan's birthday party, so she said, "I'm an outsider, and I wasn't invited either, so I won't go."

Aunt Neile wondered aloud, "Not invited?"

"Yes. Every time the Crawford family has a party, they'll always invite important and prestigious people, so how could they invite me?" Luca said. Although she had attended a wedding ceremony by the Crawford family, it was not a pleasant experience.

If she showed up with Luke, she would definitely become a topic of discussion.

Especially right now, when she had no official title.

She would rather not be invited and be comfortable in her own little space than get stares from people.

“Ms. Craw, you’re belittling yourself,” said Aunt Neile cheerfully as she put the meat on her left-hand side. “You’re just unaware of how famous you are in the upper class society.”

“Huh? Why?” Luca was shocked. Why had she never heard of this?

“I have a few friends who work as helpers in upper class homes, and they would mention you. Of course, they don’t know that you’re the one they’re talking about,” Aunt Neile said.

Those words confused Luca.

Aunt Neile continued to explain, “Although Mr. Crawford didn’t say anything, Old Master Crawford had said something that made me guess the person who helped with the detoxification of Mrs. Norman was you. Your medical skills are exquisite if you could tell what poison was in Mrs. Norman’s body from her pulse alone. This matter had long spread in the upper class society, and a lot of people want to look for you to help check their pulse, but Mr. Crawford has protected you well. Hence, they’ve been unable to look for you. Those rich people could only give up.”

Only then did Luca find out it was because of that incident.

It had been almost half a year. Why was the story still going around?

She thought that it had already been forgotten that she saved Queenie’s life.

“There are still people bringing this up now?” Luca asked. If not for Luke hiding her identity, she could not imagine how much these people would bother her.

“Everyone would get sick at some point. When they get sick, especially if it’s a chronic disease, they’ll think about you when they still don’t get better with surgery or modern medication. However, nobody has been able to find you.

Their maids would eventually know about this, and I'd feel proud whenever they mentioned it to me as I know someone as great as you—even though I can't say it."

"I'm not that great. It's all just medicine," said Luca. The most ironic thing was that only Shanks, a foreigner, knew the old mastery of medicine that was on the verge of being extinct.

However, it was linked to Shanks' childhood.

Although she was not clear about what he had experienced, she heard some rumors on the island about where Shanks' medical knowledge came from.

"But many old doctors are no match for you," said Aunt Neile. Many people used medicine to cheat, and many rich people had fallen for it before.

In the minds of many others, it was rare to meet a skilled practitioner.

"Aunt Neile, please continue to help me keep this a secret. I just want to live a peaceful life and do research," said Luca as she no longer wanted to bring up this topic.

"Of course, I'll help you keep it a secret!" Aunt Neile made a promise to her.

Luca knew that Aunt Neile would not tell others, so she was at ease.

After dinner was ready, she went upstairs to call the three children who were diligently doing their homework.

The children came downstairs after learning that dinner was ready.

Upon seeing the spread of scrumptious dishes yet no sight of Luke, Rainie asked, "Ms. Luca, is daddy working overtime?"

"Yes, I've already left some food for him. Let's eat first." Luca scooped up food for the kids.

Tommy stared blankly at the bowl in Luca's hands and said, "Daddy is always busy at the end of the year."

"You're right, Daddy is too busy. Good thing we have Ms. Luca with us. Otherwise, we would've been sent back to Crawford Manor," said Rainie. The

reason why she was so reluctant to go back there was not because of Old Master Crawford but Susan.

It was Susan's birthday at the end of the year, so things would be chaotic at the Crawford Manor at this time of the year.

Susan would reprimand the maids for not doing a good job with a nasty look on her face. In Rainie's eyes, they already did a great job, yet they still got scolded.

How pitiful.

Luca placed the bowl in front of the three kids. She knew that the kids did not want to go back because of the atmosphere, so she did not say anything.

After dinner, the kids had some fruit. For the first time, nobody watched cartoons. They just went upstairs to do their homework instead.

Twins In Her Womb: Sir President Please Be Gentle Chapter 2305-Luca wanted to let the kids relax for a bit and not rush to finish their homework.

However, she thought that she might kill their motivation to do homework and perhaps become lazy in the future, so she let them go upstairs and do their homework.

The kids did not need her to stick with them to guide them, so she went into her study and continued her research.

The antidote she was researching was almost ready, and when she was free during the new year, she would be able to analyze all the ingredients and do the rationing.

Time passed quickly when she was busy. The timed alarm on her phone rang, and only then did she realize that it was half-past ten.

After standing up and stretching, she quickly left the study.

Luca first walked up to Luke's bedroom to take a look. He had not come back yet.

It seemed like he was still working at T Corporation.

She then walked to each of the kids' bedrooms and gently pushed the door open. After seeing that they were all in bed, she returned to her room.

After washing up, she opened the bedroom door once again to take a look at the opposite bedroom.

Luke was not back yet.

Luca sighed softly and went downstairs to check on the food in the kitchen. Although she kept it insulated, it still got a bit cold.

She did not dare heat it up again because she did not know when Luke would return.

If she heated it too much, it would affect the taste.

Luca sat on the couch and watched the midnight news report while waiting for Luke to return.

An hour later, she heard the sound of a car coming from the front yard.

Luca stood up and looked toward the window to see Luke slowly making his way to the house.

She hurried back to the kitchen and heated the food she had left for him in the microwave.

When Luke walked into the living room, he heard sounds coming from the kitchen. He looked at the TV and the cups on the coffee table, then realized that Luca had been waiting for him.

He walked into the kitchen to see that she was busy.

Luke stepped forward to put his arms around her waist and rest his chin gently on top of her head while letting out a satisfying sigh. "What are you doing?"

Luca could not help but tense up while being held like this. "I'm warming up the food..."

"I already ate," said Luke. She did not like when he skipped meals to work overtime, so when Jason was ordering food, he had him order a meal for him too.

“Do you want some soup?” Luca said. The soup Aunt Neile made today was nutritious and good for his health. After all, he often worked overtime.

“Okay,” Luke said as he hugged her.

“Mr. Crawford, let go.” Luca told him. She could not do anything when she was being hugged like this.

As soon as she said that, Luke let go while smiling.

Luca put on oven mitts and took out the soup that was heated in the microwave. She placed it on a tray, along with the dishes. “Although you’ve already eaten, you can still eat a bit more. The food Aunt Neile made today was quite nice.”

“Okay.” Luke looked at the soup and dishes on the tray and started to feel a little hungry.

Luca brought the tray to the dining table and turned back to get utensils before placing them in front of Luke.

“Thank you.” Luke picked up the utensils and took a bite of the dish. After tasting it, he looked at Luca and smiled.

“What is it?” Luca was confused by the look on his face.

“Is this Aunt Neile’s cooking? It doesn’t taste like it to me,” said Luke.

“You have sharp taste buds. I made it.” Luca had to admit.

“Thank you for leaving this food for me. I’ll finish it all,” said Luke. In the past, when he had no choice but to work overtime, she would do the same and prepare a meal for him.

After eating the food she made, he would always feel much better.

Perhaps it was the power of love.

Luca smiled and sat aside while watching him finish the food before standing up to clean.

“Clean it later,” Luke said as he lifted his hand to hold hers.

She sat down and looked at him.

Luke said, "It's Louis' mother's birthday tomorrow. Go to the party with me."

Luca frowned as she thought that it had nothing to do with her, but now, Luke was asking her to go along.

"Mr. Crawford, can I not go?" She was hesitant.

"Why?" Luke asked.

"I don't like loud places, and I don't know many people there, so I'd rather not go to avoid awkwardness," Luca said. Moreover, Susan did not like her.

If she appeared, it would just fuel Susan's anger.

Luca thought that it would be better to give Susan some peace at her birthday party.

"This is an invitation from Old Master Crawford." Luke knew what she was worried about, so he brought up Old Master Crawford.

Luca fell silent. Did she have to go? She would rather not be invited. Besides, it had been three years since she attended an event like that. It would be hard for her to adapt.

"Louis and the others will be the stars of the show, so I can stay by your side," Luke said.

Luca was stressed out. Although the main characters would be Susan and Louis' side of the family, she would naturally become the focus of everyone if he stayed by her side.

"The kids want you to go too," Luke continued after she did not say a word.

"Mr. Crawford..." Luca wanted to refuse. She did not want to be on tomorrow's headlines or be a table talk topic of discussion for the rich and famous.

"Nina will also be there," said Luke.

"Why would Nina go?" Luca was surprised. Was it because Percy was invited? Was that why Nina would go with him?

However, the Mallory family was opposed to them being together, so would they not give her a hard time if she appeared?

“Grandpa has taken Nina in as his goddaughter. Although it was just a show for the Mallory family, he has to play the role till the end. If we don’t invite Nina this time, what will the Mallory family think?” Luke explained to her why Nina would attend Susan’s birthday party.

Luca nodded as he had a point.

Although it was fake, Old Master Crawford had to put on a show in front of Nina and the Mallory family.

That way, the Mallory family would have no reason or excuse to hurt Nina.

“If you accompany Nina, she’ll be much more at ease,” said Luke. Although Nina and Percy would attend Susan’s birthday party, he had specifically instructed Louis not to have them sit together.

Although Percy had fought a lot with the Mallory family, during occasions like these, the families still had to sit together. Nina would suffer if she were to sit with them.

“Okay..” Luca finally agreed because of Nina.

She could not bear seeing Nina getting bullied by the Mallory family, and she knew that Nina was the same as her. Although their past lives were wonderful, whenever they had conflicts with the upper class people, they would not want to get involved.

Twins In Her Womb: Sir President Please Be Gentle Chapter 2306-On the other hand.

In Percy’s mansion.

Percy held Nina’s hand and went to the cloakroom.

“What are you doing bringing me to the cloakroom in the middle of the night?” Nina looked at him smilingly with a tender look in her eyes.

“To pick out clothes for you,” said Percy as he opened the closet.

Nina noticed that there were many new clothes inside, so she asked in surprise, "Did you buy these for me?"

"Yes, these clothes are suitable for more special occasions, so I had someone send a few pieces over. Have a look and see which one you like?" Percy said. He understood Nina's style. If she was not working, she would wear more casual and comfortable clothing.

However, those clothes were not suitable for a dinner party.

"What special occasion..." Nina looked through the clothes. The clothes he filled the closet with were festive and seemed like they were for more formal occasions.

"A birthday party," said Percy as he picked a pink one and held it in front of Nina.

The pink color made her features even more delicate and beautiful. When their eyes met, his heart skipped a beat.

"What birthday party? Is it your friend's?" Nina took the clothes and held them close to her body, thinking that it was for his friend's birthday party.

"No, it's the Crawford family. It's Louis' mother's birthday," Percy said.

Nina suddenly shoved the clothes at him. "You can go alone. I'm not going."

She remembered Susan's arrogance and how she had made things difficult for Bianca, which was why she did not have a good impression of her.

Plus, they must have invited the Mallory family.

If she attended with Percy and bumped into the other members of the Mallory family, it would not go down well. The Mallory family would think of their reputation and not say anything on the spot, but they would secretly make her suffer.

Nina did not want to give Percy a hard time either.

"They invited me and you." Percy took out the other clothes and handed them to Nina. "So, you can pick one."

“Why did they invite me? I’m not close to Susan...” Nina wondered without moving an inch.

“Because Old Master Mallory had said before that you’re his goddaughter, so he has to put up a facade even if it’s fake. Old Master Mallory had mentioned to me beforehand that it’s a separate invitation.” Percy held each garment up in front of her after seeing her not move at all.

Nina understood that separate invitations and attending with Percy were two different things.

Old Master Mallory admitted to her being his goddaughter in front of so many people just to save her from some trouble. It would not make sense for her to not go.

Even if that meant bumping into the Mallory family.

If she chose not to go, she would embarrass Old Master Mallory.

Old Master Mallory had done so much to help her, so she should return the favor too.

Nina took the light pink one Percy held just now and asked him, “What do you think of this one?”

“It’s nice. This color suits you.” Percy’s eyes sparkled as he complimented her.

In his eyes, Nina was the prettiest woman and no one could compare to her.

“Really?” Nina looked in the mirror. It was simple and nice. It was a festive color too, perfect for a party.

“How fitting. I had the staff pair some accessories too,” said Percy as he held her hand and walked to the dresser. Then, he opened a jewelry box.

Nina was usually pretty careless. She came into the cloakroom twice today, yet she did not realize that there were so many new things in it.

The pearl accessories caught her eye at first glance.

“So pretty,” she said.

“Yup, they suit you. Wear them to the birthday party tomorrow,” said Percy as he lifted an accessory and put it on Nina.

It was a new style of pearl necklace, so it was suitable for young people. The more Nina looked at it in the mirror, the more she liked it.

“I like it even more now.” She kissed Percy’s lips.

Percy’s eyes became deep as he held onto her waist tightly, and his voice became hoarse as well. “Nina, I haven’t bought anything for you in a while because I was busy. I’m sorry.”

“It hasn’t been long. You bought me a lot of snacks the other time,” Nina remembered everything he had ever done for her.

Each time was worth remembering.

“Those were just some small stuff.” Percy touched her neck and the white pearls that made her delicate swan-like neck even more exquisite.

He had the urge to kiss her and leave a mark.

“It’s getting late.” He lightly blew beside her ear.

Nina felt ticklish all over and shrank her neck as her body temperature kept rising.

“Help me take off the necklace. I’m afraid of destroying it in my sleep.” Her face was flushed as she touched the pearl necklace.

“It’s indeed really easy fragile. Let me help you.” Percy took off the necklace and carried the woman in front of him.

“Ah...” Nina did not expect his actions to be so direct.

“Let’s go rest,” Percy carried Nina into the bedroom.

It was nighttime. The wind and snow outside were making a racket.

However, the temperature inside kept rising.

Two people in love were whispering their love for each other into each other’s ears in their own ways.

It was the following afternoon.

Luca was busy arranging the documents in her office. Once she was done with the files, she could submit them to the relevant organizations for patent application.

Zoey was familiar with the process, so she did not have Mo help her.

She could do it with just Rhett and Zoey's help.

Her phone rang with Aunt Neile's name displayed on the caller ID.

"Aunt Neile, what is it?" Luca picked up the phone and asked.

"Ms. Craw, we have a problem here. Can you come back home for a moment?" Aunt Neile sounded anxious.

"What problem? Are the kids okay?" Luca thought of the three children at home first thing and asked worriedly.

"I can't tell you on the phone. It's better if you come back.." Aunt Neile was stammering as if she was hiding something.

Luca had a bad feeling, so she immediately put the documents back into the safe. "I'll go there right now."

She immediately hung up and called Warren. "Warren, can you come to T Corporation? I need to use the car."

"Ms. Craw, I'm in the downstairs parking lot," Warren replied.

Luca frowned. Was Warren always in the parking lot? However, every time she got out of the car, he would drive away.

"Okay, I'm coming down now." Luca put on her coat and walked out of her office. She walked to the assistants' office and said to Zoey, "Ms. Davis, I need to go out for a while. Please apply leave for me."

Twins In Her Womb: Sir President Please Be Gentle Chapter 2307-Zoey put down the work at hand and asked, "How long?"

"I probably won't be back today," Luca said. Aunt Neile did not explain to her clearly, so she did not know what was going on at home too.

“Okay, I’ll apply for leave for you, don’t worry,” said Zoey as she flipped open the leave of absence form.

Luca nodded and went downstairs

When she got to the parking lot, Warren was waiting in the car.

Luca opened the door herself without waiting for him to open it. The car was already warm, which seemed to show that he had not just arrived.

“Ms. Craw, are you going back home?” Warren asked.

“Yes, how did you know?” Luca was surprised.

Warren drove away without saying anything.

Luca did not continue asking either.

Warren drove Luca back to the villa.

She quickly walked into the house and was shocked to see the people sitting in the living room. She subconsciously looked for someone to ask what was going on.

“Aunt Neile, this is...” Luca saw the makeup kit on the coffee table and could roughly guess who these people were.

“These are the makeup artists Mr. Crawford hired for you to give you a makeover,” Aunt Neile said with a smile. This was all Luke’s plan. She was just in charge of making me come here.

Luca frowned. “Is this really necessary..”

The main character tonight was Susan, not her. The people who should dress up were the Crawford family. It had nothing to do with her.

“Ms. Craw, let the makeup artists help you do your makeup. This is what Mr. Crawford wants,” Aunt Neile advised her. According to her observations, Luca was not the type to like makeup.

She would usually keep it simple and go to work barefaced unless she needed to put makeup on.

“But there’s no need.” Luca said as she had never thought of making herself more glamorous. If she did not attract any attention and could even be ignored, that would be the best.

Besides, it was Susan’s special day. She did not want to steal her spotlight.

“Ms. Luca, this is a gift from Daddy. Just do it...” Rainie said. She had already changed into a new dress and tied up her long hair. There was a little tiara on her head. She was pretty like a princess in a fairy tale.

Rainie had always been praised for her looks, so Luca could not resist saying no when she told her to do it. She nodded and said, “Fine.”

The stylist smiled and stood up. “Hello, Ms. Craw. I’m the stylist, Andy. These two are my assistants. Shall we start now?”

“Okay,” said Luca. Of course, they would need to do the makeup upstairs. On the way up, she paused and looked at Aunt Neile. “Aunt Neile, can you please cut some fruits and send them up?”

“Okay, Ms. Craw,” Aunt Neile answered.

Luca brought the makeup artists upstairs, and when she sat down, they started doing her skincare.

She was familiar with these things, so she estimated that she would have to sit at the table for over two hours, which made her helpless.

If she were still Bianca, she would willingly waste this time for the sake of Luke. However, now that she was Luca, a nobody, there was no need to look so nice.

Rainie brought a small stool and watched at the side. Little girls liked dressing up too, so it was not a surprise that she would be interested in makeup.

However, she was not talkative like Tommy. She just sat quietly and watched.

After skincare, the makeup artist complimented her, “Ms. Craw, your skin is so nice. What face mask do you use?”

“I just use a lotion,” Luca replied as she rarely used masks.

When she was on the Island of Despair, Shanks would do skincare on her for fun. After she left, she had not done it anymore. She was lazy too, so she just put on some lotion to maintain her skin condition.

“Wow, so your skin is just naturally this good, then. How lucky!” the makeup artist said while starting her makeup.

Rainie said proudly, “Ms. Luca’s skin has always been good.”

“It truly is. I’ve done makeup on so many people. Some of them have good skin, but they spent a lot of money to achieve that. Not many people have good skin even when they don’t even use face masks,

unlike Ms. Craw” the makeup artist said as she believed Luca’s words.

She knew that she was telling the truth when she saw her dresser.

Luca’s dresser only had one branded cream, one bottle of eye cream, and some basic makeup products. There was nothing else.

Unlike the dressing table of celebrities that had a whole pile of every skincare product imaginable and even makeup.

Only high school students had such a simple dresser, not a working woman like Luca.

Aunt Neile sent up the cut fruit and Luca said, “Aunt Neile, just put them on the coffee table.”

“Okay.” Aunt Neile knew that the fruits were for the makeup artists, so after putting the plate down, she told them, “Let me know if you want anything to drink.”

“Thank you,” the makeup artist and her assistant thanked Aunt Neile.

After Aunt Neile left, the makeup artist continued with Luca’s makeup. Her movements were fast, and Luca had a good base to begin with, so she could finish it quickly.

“Ms. Craw, what do you think of this look?” The makeup artist asked for her opinion.

"It's very nice." Luca looked at her reflection. The look was light and natural, completely different from a heavy makeup look. It looked much better than her bare face too.

Her complexion improved as well.

Luca was satisfied as this makeup look was not too overpowering, perfect for her to attend the party and keep a low profile.

"It's so pretty," Rainie complimented.

The makeup artist smiled. "If you're satisfied, come pick an outfit."

"Okay, nothing too fancy. I want to keep it low-key." Luca stood up and turned around to see the makeup artist take out some clothes and place them on hangers for her to choose

"Of course. The clothes I chose for you suit your makeup look," the makeup artist said as she picked up the clothes one by one.

Finally, she picked a light blue dress and asked for Luca's opinion, "Ms. Craw, what about this one?"

"Not bad, but you need to have a nice figure..." Luca said. The dress was fitting. Would she be able to pull it off?

"Your figure is great. I think you'll look great in it. Want to try?" the makeup artist said as she thought that this dress suited Luca the best among all the dresses here.

"Okay," Luca answered, then she took the dress to the bathroom.

After changing into it, she looked at herself in the mirror. The dress was nice, and it did not look awkward on her.

Even after being fed well by Luke during this period, the dress did not make her look fat.

Twins In Her Womb: Sir President Please Be Gentle Chapter 2308-The dress was stunning, and Luca thought she looked beautiful in it as well.

The stylist always had a keen eye for things like this. While she found the dress fine, she believed that the dress did not truly accentuate Luca's curves.

Even as a woman, the stylist had to admit that Luca had a fantastic body.

Seeing how Luca had yet to come out, the stylist walked over to the bathroom door and asked, "Have you finished changing yet, Ms. Luca?"

"I have, but something about the dress feels weird..." Luca replied.

"Weird? Is the dress too big? We can have it tailored to fit your figure." The stylist thought that the dress was too big for Luca, considering how skinny Luca was.

"It's not that.." Luca opened the door.

The stylist's gaze brightened. "It looks so good! This dress was made for you!"

"It's too form-fitting for me," Luca replied. Sure, the dress was fitting, but it clung to her curves too much.

She had a bad history with clothes like this. The last time she wore something so form-fitting, the incident with Matysh occurred. Hence, she wanted to wear something looser.

"The dress was made to show off the wearer's figure. There's no better dress than this for you," the stylist said. Luca was no model, yet no model's body could compare to hers.

"I'd like to look at the other dresses." Luca truly did not want to wear this dress out.

The stylist looked uneasy. "Mr. Luca, if you think that this dress is too form-fitting for you, it'll be the same with the other dresses. You can take a look for yourself if you want. You have a great body, Ms. Luca, so all the dresses we brought for you are form-fitting ones. The dresses have different designs, but they were all made with the goal of accentuating the wearer's curves. They'll still hug tightly to your skin."

She handed the dresses to Luca while speaking.

Indeed, all the dresses were form-fitting ones.

Luca was speechless.

Rainie walked over and took her hand. "You look so pretty in this dress, Ms. Luca, and the color matches mine too. Won't you wear it?"

Luca looked over to the dress Rainie was wearing. They were of the same color palette.

Luca agreed reluctantly. "This dress it'll be, then."

"That's wonderful, Ms. Luca. Will you be picking accessories from our shop or will you be wearing your own?" the stylist asked next.

Luca originally wanted to decline the stylist since the dress itself already made her stand out enough. She would not get to keep a low profile if she were to wear additional accessories.

Not to mention that she did not have any appropriate accessories either. The accessories Luke gave her were too luxurious and expensive. They did not match her makeup today.

Rainie replied before Luca could, "Daddy already prepared accessories for you, Ms. Luca."

"Did he?" Luca looked at Rainie in surprise. She had no idea.

"Daddy told me to keep them safe for him first." Rainie left the bedroom for a short while before returning with a jewelry box in hand. "Daddy got these for you."

Luca opened the jewelry box and found a diamond necklace inside as well as a diamond bracelet and two diamond melee earrings.

The necklace was a simple platinum chain with a small diamond pendant. The diamond itself was rather small, and the necklace looked delicate but not ostentatious.

The bracelet came with the necklace as a set. It was a platinum chain with diamond melees embedded on the chain. The chain itself was fine and narrow, and the diamond melee shone under the light like twinkling stars of the night sky.

It was a nice set of jewelry; the necklace, bracelet, and earrings.

Luca felt conflicted looking at the accessories. The set may appear simple, but it must have cost a fortune considering it came from Luke.

The stylist exclaimed beside them, "They match perfectly with the dress! Let me help you put them on, Ms. Luca."

"Thank you." Luca nodded. The jewelry was not flamboyant, so she could still accept seeing them on herself.

After putting the jewelry on, the stylist moved to help Luca with her hair.

Instead of tying it up, the stylist thought that having her hair down would better suit today's look, so she took a hair curler and slightly curled Luca's hair. She gave Luca big curls that were slightly wavy, and the hairstyle added to Luca's charm.

It was a clean and simple look, yet also sexy and electrifying as it accentuated the beauty of Luca's features.

The stylist could not help but admire. "What a breathtaking look."

"Indeed." The assistant agreed beside them. "Imagine if we used this look to advertise our services." "It's a shame Mr. Crawford said no photos are allowed. Alright, Ms. Luca. What do you think?" the stylist asked.

"It's good. Thank you," Luca replied. She was feeling tired from sitting at the vanity for so long.

"You're welcome. It's our job to make sure you're satisfied with the look," the stylist replied with a crescent-eyed smile. She exclaimed internally that if not for Luca's status and identity, she would surely have tried to persuade her to let them take photos of her to advertise their shop.

"You look so pretty, Ms. Luca," Rainie looked up and said happily.

Luca caressed the younger one's cheek.

The stylist saw the interaction. "Well then, Ms. Luca, since we're done here, we'll be leaving first." "Alright. Let me walk you downstairs," Luca replied and sent them downstairs.

Aunt Neile saw them come down from where she sat in the living room. Her eyes lit up when she saw how pretty Luca looked.

“Aunt Neile, can you walk them out?” Luca said. She had already changed out of her clothes but her jacket was still upstairs. After what happened the last time, she did not really dare to leave the house without her jacket.

“Alright, Ms. Luca.” Aunt Neile nodded and walked the stylist out.

Luca looked at Rainie beside her and asked, “Rainie, where’s Lanie and Tommy?”

“Great-grandpa brought Lanie and Tommy back to the manor,” Rainie replied.

“You didn’t go with them?” Luca asked.

“Nope, because I wanted Ms. Stylist to do my look,” Rainie replied. She knew Luke had requested a stylist today, so she purposefully told her great-grandfather that she would be staying.

“Did the stylist help you with your hair?” Luca asked.

“Yeah!” Rainie nodded before continuing, “But Ms. Luca, I don’t want to tie my hair up.”

“Why not?” Luca asked.

“Because I want to look like you. Your hair looks so pretty curled like that.” In truth, Rainie wanted just wanted to match her look with her mother.

They could not admit their mother-daughter relationship yet, but it should still be fine to match their looks.

“You want to curl your hair?” Luca gave it some thought before agreeing.

“Alright. I’ll help you curl it this once, but only once, alright? The curler is bad for your hair.”

“Okay! Thank you, Ms. Luca.” Rainie smiled sweetly and took Luca’s hand before pulling her up the stairs.

Luca had Rainie sit before the vanity and carefully undid the stylist’s hairdo.

Taking into consideration the fact that Rainie was still a child, the stylist did not create a too complicated hairdo. Luca was able to take it off easily.

Luca was secretly relieved that the stylist had not used any hairspray or wax on Rainie's hair. Otherwise, she would have to wash it first before curling it.

Twins In Her Womb: Sir President Please Be Gentle Chapter 2309-After taking down the hairdo, Luca took the curler and carefully curled Rainie's hair.

Rainie's hair was long but thin, so it did not take long before Luca was done curling. She let go of the lock of hair in her hand and reached for a hairpin to clip Rainie's hair in place.

"What do you think?" Luca asked.

Rainie looked at the mirror and saw how gentle Luca was with her. She felt doted on by her mother and nodded with a smile. "It's so pretty, Ms. Luca. You have very skilled hands."

"You're just very pretty, Rainie," Luca replied.

"No, no, it's thanks to you, Ms. Luca." Rainie was overjoyed when she saw herself in the mirror.

Luca looked at herself and Rainie in the mirror. She could not stop herself from putting her hand on Rainie's shoulder gently.

She did Rainie's hair all the time when her daughter was still young. Then, she was abducted to the Island of Despair. Her children grew up while she was away. Now that she had returned, her children no longer needed her help to tie their hair nor did she have any excuses to do so.

This time, she could finally help her daughter with her hair.

Luca felt remorseful.

Every girl in school had their mothers to help them with their hair, yet Rainie only had her maid and her own hands to do hers.

Luca was remorseful to her children for not fulfilling her role as their mother, and as for Luke...

Aunt Neile walked in and smiled mirthfully when she saw the two. "You're here with Ms. Rainie, Ms. Luca. Oh, you changed your hairstyle, Ms. Rainie. It looks great on you."

Rainie smiled sweetly and replied, "Ms. Luca did it for me."

"It looks great. With that tiara, you look just like the princess from a fairytale," Aunt Neile praised and placed the tray on the vanity table. "Ms. Luca, Ms. Rainie, I heard that a lot of people were invited to the banquet, so it might be a long while before food is served. I prepared some snacks for you so that you won't go hungry waiting for the food."

"Thank you, Aunt Neile," Luca thanked Aunt Neile for her thoughtfulness.

The Crawford family was big, and every considerably powerful person in A City would surely attend the banquet as long as they received an invitation. Some foreign entrepreneurs might attend as well, and with so many attendants, the banquet was sure to begin late.

Not to mention that the attendants were all people of status. They might not arrive on time either.

If they ate what Aunt Neile prepared now, then they would not have to wait in hunger for the banquet to start.

Luca wondered if Lanie and Tommy were also snacking in advance at the manor.

After Aunt Neile left, Luca took the tray and went to the living room on the second floor to eat the snacks.

"Oh, right, Rainie. Did Mr. Crawford say anything else?" Luca asked. She realized that Luke had already gone to the office and the children were playing around downstairs when she woke up this morning.

She thought that she had woken up late today, but after looking at the time, she realized that she had not.

"Daddy? Daddy told me to be good and wait at home. He'll fetch us to the hotel after he comes back," Rainie relayed Luke's message.

"Do you know which hotel we're going to?" Luca asked.

"Traders Hotel." Rainie had overheard the adults confirming where to hold the banquet, so she knew where it was.

“Traders Hotel, huh...” Luca suddenly remembered that Matysh used to stay there, though he no longer did. This meant that she would not come across the man even if she went to that hotel.

“Yeah, Traders Hotel. Great-grandmother likes grandeur, so Uncle Louis chose that hotel,” Rainie replied. She was still young, but she already understood such things.

Luca nodded. Traders Hotel had the most luxurious banquet hall in A City, and it could fit tables for around 300 attendants. Louis must have chosen this hotel for its grandeur and capacity.

Such a banquet must have cost a lot of money.

After eating, Luca and Rainie decided to play with puzzles since their outfits were unsuited for conducting experiments.

Luke only returned to the villa around six-thirty.

Rainie looked up and smiled at Luke. “You’re back, Daddy.”

Luca looked up when she heard Rainie. “Mr. Crawford.”

Luke felt an irrepressible urge rise when he saw Luca. She looked too stunning.

He walked over to them instinctively. “What are you two doing?”

“Ms. Luca and I were bored, so we’re playing puzzles,” Rainie answered with a crescent-eyed smile. Her smile deepened when she saw that her dad’s eyes were pinned on Luca.

“I see. Luca, go upstairs and help me pick something to wear,” Luke said, his gaze drilling straight at her.

“Huh?” Luca looked at him confusedly. Luke’s wardrobe was filled with expensive suits. Not to mention that the man was tall and lean. He would look handsome in whatever he wore.

There was no need to pick what to wear.

“I don’t know what to wear,” Luke said again when Luca did not move.

“Uh, I’ll go take a look, then.” Luca put down the puzzle pieces in her hand and went upstairs with Luke.

She walked into Luke’s bedroom on the second floor.

Luke followed her in and closed the door behind him.

Luca opened the wardrobe and solemnly looked through the suits. After a while, she picked a suit out and turned to ask, “What do you think of this, Mr. Crawford?”

Luke continued staring at her, his gaze never averting as he replied, “Looks good.”

Luca smiled exasperatedly. “You didn’t even look at it.”

“I trust you.” Then, he grabbed the suit in Luca’s hand and hung it back in the wardrobe.

“What are you—” Before Luca could comprehend what Luke was doing, the man closed the distance between them and wrapped an arm around her waist as he leaned down to kiss her lips.

“Hmmf...” The kiss was sudden and passionate. Luca felt her body go weak.

They had some close and intimate interactions these days, but this degree of passion was rare.

Like a young man in his early 20s, Luke delved deep into her beauty.

Luca slowly lost herself in the sensation.

Luke’s lips slowly made their way down as he praised, “You’re so pretty, Luca.”

“Mmph...” Luca felt herself going crazy under Luke’s ministrations. She placed her palms on his chest to create distance. “We still need to leave, Mr. Crawford.”

Luke paused before signing and softly pecking her neck.

He did not want to leave the house, but he concurred.

He let go of Luca, and his eyes darkened as he took in the mess his lips had made of her makeup. "So pretty."

There was a hint of something more in his raspy tone, and Luca felt her control over her body slip through her fingers. "You should change, Mr. Crawford. I'll go fix my makeup."

Then, she quickly walked out of Luke's bedroom.

Twins In Her Womb: Sir President Please Be Gentle Chapter 2310-Luca returned to her bedroom. She sat down and looked at her reflection in the mirror.

Luke had pretty much smudged her lipstick, and her lips were slightly puffy. Her eyes were dazed too as if she was hinting at something.

She looked like she had just slept with someone.

It was only a kiss, yet she had lost herself in it.

Luca did not dare to entertain that thought further and picked up the lipstick left for her by the stylist. She put it on.

Her newly drawn lips covered some of the puffiness. She looked at herself through the mirror. After ensuring that she had covered all traces of what had happened in Luke's bedroom, she grabbed her purse and threw on a jacket before leaving the bedroom.

Luke had already changed and was waiting for her outside the door.

Luca tightened her grip on her purse. She felt her body grow hot when she saw him, and the heat crept up her cheeks, flushing them enchantingly in a way makeup blush could not replicate.

The adoration in Luke's eyes grew when he saw her.

He did not want to leave the house at all as his desire for Luca kept growing.

"Are we leaving now, Mr. Crawford?" Luca looked up at him slightly before directing her gaze back to the floor. She was worried that the man would push her back into the bedroom and have his way with her if she kept staring.

“Let’s go.” Luke’s voice was raspy, even more so than hers even though Luca was the one with a cold.

Rather than illness, Luke’s raspiness was more desire-derived.

The two descended the stairs together.

Rainie was waiting for them at the base of the stairs, and when she saw Luke and Luca descend the stairs. She could not help but exclaim, “You look so handsome, Daddy! A perfect match with Ms. Luca!”

“Who taught you those things, hmm?” Luca berated softly. ‘Perfect match’ sounded weird to her for some reason.

“That’s what they say on TV.” Rainie stuck her tongue out. She did not think she spoke wrongly, not when her parents looked very good-looking standing next to each other.

“You’re watching too much TV,” Luke said. He agreed with Rainie, but if Luca did not want their children to say such things, then he would not allow their children to say those things.

“Okay…” Rainie replied. She felt indignant, especially when her parents were truly a perfect match. She said, “Daddy, Ms. Luca, can we all take a photo when we come back from dinner? You promised me the last time, Ms. Luca, but you fell sick and we didn’t get to take any photos.”

“Alright,” Luke agreed.

The couple had taken many photos together when Luca was still Bianca, including family photos as well.

Luca might have a completely different appearance, but she was still his wife. Hence, the photos taken before were no longer suitable.

Rainie turned to Luca once she heard Luke agree. “Can we, Ms. Luca?”

“Sure. Let’s get going, then,” Luca replied.

“I’ll go get Aunt Neile, then!” Rainie said. There was a specific table for the maids and caretakers of the Crawford family, considering the banquet was held by the Crawford family.

Rainie called for Aunt Neile, and the four of them departed.

Luke sat in the driver's seat while Luca sat beside him in the front passenger seat, leaving Aunt Neile and Rainie to sit in the back seats.

Half an hour later, the four of them arrived at Traders Hotel.

The hotel entrance was decorated with red as well as champagne-colored roses and oriental lilies. The word 'birthday' was hung up on top as well.

The entrance decoration was extremely grandiose, and one could only imagine how the banquet hall would be decorated.

Luca held Rainie's hand and waited with Aunt Neile by the side for Luke to park the car so they could go in together.

Aunt Neile exclaimed, "What pretty decorations."

"Yeah," Luca agreed. If not for the word 'birthday', one might assume that someone was holding a wedding.

She was more inclined to believe that the hotel's decoration was as per Susan's request instead of Louis' and Yuri's.

However, she could not help but wonder when Susan had grown such ostentatious tastes.

It was too flamboyant and unlike a birthday celebration.

Rainie tilted her head and looked up at Luca. "Ms. Luca, it looks like a wedding ceremony."

"Shh. It's your Grandmother Susan's birthday," Luca chuckled softly and squeezed Rainie's hand. Children tended to speak without much thought, yet Rainie had hit the bullseye with her remark.

Luke parked the car and walked over to stand beside Luca. "Let's go inside."

"Alright." Luca pulled out an envelope from her purse that had a thick stack of cash.

While it was tacky to gift money, it would not be inappropriate for an invited attendee to arrive at a birthday celebration empty-handed. She did not have the time to choose a present either, so money was the next best option.

“Why that?” Luke frowned when he saw what she was holding.

“I was invited individually,” Luca emphasized the word ‘individually’. Being invited individually meant that her gift had to be individual and she could not give her gift with Luke.

Luke did not say anything. He would make sure that this was the last time she would be invited individually.

They entered the hotel and arrived at the banquet hall on the third floor where Louis and Yuri were standing beside Susan, welcoming guests.

As the main character of the evening, Susan had a wide smile on her face and was donned in an elegant outfit. The set of jewelry she wore shone brightly and beautifully under the hotel’s lighting.

Quite a few wealthy housewives were attracted by the necklace on Susan’s neck when they came to send their wishes.

“Let’s go over,” Luke said.

Luca and Rainie followed hand-in-hand.

Susan’s smile felt slightly forced when she saw Luke and Luca arriving together. “You’re here.”

“Happy birthday, Mother.” Luke’s blessing was as curt and concise as he usually spoke.

“Thank you.” Susan’s eyes trailed over Luca before she finally said, “There aren’t any extra seats at the main table, Luke. Since you brought her over, you’ll have to arrange where she sits.”

What she meant was that Luca had no place at the main table.

Luke’s gaze sharpened. “Grandfather was the one who invited Luca. I’m sure she already has her own seat.”

Beside them, Louis quickly added, "Yes, she does. I've already arranged a seat for Dr. Craw. Let me show you to your table."

Susan glared at Louis. It was obvious that she was unaware of this.

If she was aware of it, she would never have allowed Luca a seat.

If Luca and Luke were to get together, there would be no room left for Susan and her son in the family. Not when Luca could help Luke even more than Bianca. Besides, her ability to feel pulses easily got her into the good graces of the elderly.

Luca knew that Susan did not like her. Honestly speaking, she would not have come at all if not for Old Master Crawford's invitation and the need to accompany Nina.

Still, she was already here, so she handed Susan the envelope. "Happy birthday, Madam Crawford."

"Thank you." Susan glanced at the envelope but did not accept it.

Luca felt awkward. Susan's actions reflected how unwelcoming she was of Luca. It was to the point of declining Luca's gift with disdain.

Twins In Her Womb: Sir President Please Be Gentle Chapter 2311-Luke's expression darkened when he saw how unwelcoming Susan was.

It was not that Susan disliked Luca as a person but rather showed hostility because he was close with Luca.

As such, Luke refused to let this matter be.

He was about to say something when Louis took the envelope from Luca and placed it with the rest of the gifts. "Thank you, Dr. Craw. Follow me."

"Alright." Luca smiled at Louis with gratitude. She would surely garner the curious gazes of everyone should she hold the red packet for too long.

The man had helped her out of the awkward situation.

"Let's go, Brother." Louis knew that Luke would not stand at the door to welcome other guests, so he showed his brother inside.

“Alright.” Luke nodded.

Louis greeted Aunt Neile as well and brought everyone into the banquet hall.

Susan watched them leave and cursed softly, “Vixen.”

Yuri heard what Susan called Luca clearly but chose to ignore it.

Susan then turned to Yuri. “Keep a close watch on your husband, lest that vixen manages to steal his heart too.”

“Yes, Mother,” Yuri acknowledged superficially but paid her no mind. After all, Luca’s target was Luke and not Louis, who had decided to open his own small workshop when he could have taken advantage of his family background.

Louis brought Luca to a table and said, “This is your seat, Dr. Craw. Nina will sit with you when she arrives shortly.”

“Alright, thank you.” Luca sat down elegantly.

Louis then turned to Luke. “Grandfather’s waiting for you at the main table, Brother. He said to go over once you’re here.”

“Alright,” Luke replied without averting his gaze from Luca.

Their close distance gathered the curious and guessing gazes of many people around them.

“Go, Mr. Crawford,” Luca said. She knew that if Luke stayed any longer, they would only attract even more gazes.

“Are you alright sitting here alone?” Luke asked. They had arrived rather early, so the table was still empty.

“I’ll be alright.” Luca shook her head to appease him.

Hence, Luke took Rainie’s hand and walked over to the main table.

Luca looked around. When she looked up, she realized that there were much fewer people looking at her now.

Still, that did not mean people would stop talking about her.

It was very likely that the crowd would manage to find out about her background information in a moment.

Luca felt lightheaded. She had set off and arrived at the hotel with Luke, so she had already predicted such turns of events.

Not that it made being stared at and guessed about any more comfortable.

Luca picked up her phone. If she could not face the gazes, then the alternative would be to escape. She scrolled through social media to ignore the questioning gazes around her.

Luke brought Rainie over to Old Master Crawford's side. "Grandfather, you were looking for me?"

"Hello, Great-grandfather," Rainie greeted Old Master Crawford with Luke.

"Oh my, let me take a look! Whose little princess is this, hmm?" Old Master Crawford put down the teacup and looked at Rainie. He was elated by what he saw.

"The Crawfords' little princess!" Rainie smiled sweetly and responded according to the cue.

"Oh, it's my little princess! No wonder she's so pretty, hmm?" Old Master Crawford did not hold back as he praised Rainie.

However, his praises stirred jealousy within Thea.

None of the elderly had praised her like this when she arrived, yet Rainie easily gathered the praises of their great-grandfather. It was unfair.

Thea was also wearing an expensive little dress with a small tiara. She was just as pretty as Rainie.

Despite her indignance, Thea did not dare to do anything in front of the elderly.

Rainie smiled and leaned against Old Master Crawford. "Great-grandfather, did you know Ms. Luca was the one who did my hair? It looks nice, right? It's just like her hairstyle!"

“No wonder you’re even prettier than you used to be! Luca did it for you, hmm? Where is she, by the way?” Old Master Crawford looked up at Luke and asked.

“Over there,” Luke pointed in a direction.

Old Master Crawford narrowed his eyes slightly. “Why isn’t she sitting with us?”

“There’s no space,” Luke replied. A table had 10 seats, and there were nine of them and one butler. “She’s sitting there with Nina.”

“I see. Still, Luca should’ve come to say hi.” Despite his words, Old Master Crawford showed no displeasure on his face.

“Luca prefers to keep a low profile. She’ll come and say hi after dinner,” Luke said as he sat on his chair. Not seeing his two sons, he asked, “Where’s Lanie and Tommy?”

“There’s a children’s playground in the banquet hall, so they’re there playing. Don’t worry, the butler’s there with them,” Old Master Crawford replied. Boys tended to have more energy to burn, so when he saw how the two boys wanted to play, Old Master Crawford had the butler bring them to the playground.

Luke nodded.

“Oh, right. I heard there’s good news with Watson recently?” Old Master Crawford asked.

“Yeah. It’s Luca’s research. Clinical data for phase three is out and results are better than predicted. We should be able to apply for a patent and have it in the market after the new year,” Luke replied. This meant that Watson Pharmaceuticals was formally about to make gains.

“Luca’s a smart girl,” Old Master Crawford praised.

Luke nodded in agreement.

She had always been this smart. As long as she put her mind to it, she would give it her all and never give up until she achieved her goal.

This was something that persisted from when she was still Bianca.

Over at Luca's table.

Percy sent Nina to her respective table and turned to Luca. "Dr. Craw, I'll be leaving Nina in your care for now."

"Don't worry. As long as I'm here, no one will get to bully her." Luca smiled and put her phone back in her purse. With Nina here, she no longer needed to busy herself with her phone.

"Oh my God, stop. Go back to your seat already." Nina pushed Percy away. She had already gained the attention of a lot of people by coming with Percy.

She was unused to being stared at by so many people. It reminded her of a wedding ceremony in the church.

If she truly got married, she would openly accept those gazes on herself. However, she was not getting married now and the questioning gazes thrown at her made her feel very uncomfortable.

"Alright. Look for me if anything happens," Percy said.

"Don't worry about me. I have Luca here." Nina then wrapped her arm around Luca's.

Percy shook his head with a smile and left.

Nina let out a sigh of relief. "He's finally gone."

"What's this? Do you dislike Mr. Mallory?" Luca teased her.

"What? No, of course not. But didn't you see the looks everyone was giving me? Everyone's been looking at me from the moment I walked in. It's like they're pointing guns at me. All that staring is giving me goosebumps," Nina complained.

Twins In Her Womb: Sir President Please Be Gentle Chapter 2312-"Maybe they think you're beautiful, so they want to keep looking at you," Luca comforted her with a joke.

"Don't joke around. I know they're staring because of that news headline." Nina was well aware that even if the news was kept under wraps, everyone else still knew of her dark past.

Not to mention that she was still together with Percy. This banquet was the perfect time for everyone to gossip about her.

“That didn’t affect your relationship with Mr. Mallory, so why does it matter what other people think?” Luca consoled.

“Thank you.” Nina smiled at Luca gratefully. It was thanks to Luca’s comforting words that she managed to recover from that incident so quickly.

She wanted to live for her own sake and not care about what other people thought.

Luca looked around. More people have arrived since she sat down, and most of the seats in the banquet hall were filled.

It should be another half an hour before the banquet began.

“What a splendid banquet,” Nina exclaimed beside her.

“Mhmm. It’s Young Master Louis’ mother, after all. It’s only right to have grander decorations,” Luca replied.

“Did you see the necklace she was wearing?” Nina’s eyes lit up as she started to gossip.

“I did. It’s a very pretty set.” Luca thought back to the necklace she saw Susan wear. The light reflected off it beautifully. It must have cost a fortune.

“The set was only released last month. It’s limited, and there are only three sets worldwide,” Nina told her. To improve herself and better match Percy, Nina fostered the habit of reading fashion magazines frequently.

Among the magazines was an article introducing the set of jewelry, and it reported how two duchesses had physically fought each other over it. She was shocked to read such a thing, so she kept in mind the design of the jewelry set.

“Only three worldwide?” Luca frowned.

Sure, Louis was a Crawford and held shares of T Corporation. He also had his own company. However, his own company was more of a workshop than a corporation. Louis might earn more than ordinary salarymen, but he was far from being extremely wealthy.

Since Louis' business was under his own name and not his family's, the money he earned from his own company was about the same as the dividends he earned from T Corporation.

Where did Louis get his hands on so much money to buy this set of jewelry from someone else?

"Yeah, and this incident occurred overseas too. I think Susan put in a lot of effort just to get her hands on this set of jewelry," Nina said. She saw a lot of wealthy housewives surrounding Susan when she arrived, so she looked over and happened to see the jewelry Susan wore.

The fact that she allowed so many people to take a closer look meant Susan was wearing the real deal.

Nina could not help but exclaim how wealthy Susan must be to spend so much money on just a jewelry set.

"Young Master Louis has many connections," Luca replied. She had never heard Luke say anything about the jewelry, so it must have been from Louis.

"Regardless, she's truly become the spotlight of all the wealthy housewives tonight. Thank goodness Luke's mother isn't here, or she might faint from anger." Nina knew a considerable amount about infighting within the Crawford family.

After all, when Susan and Allison used to fight, her best friend Bianca was the one who ended up suffering the most. As Bianca's good friend, it was only normal for Nina to know more about it.

Luca nodded. She was not interested in Susan's matters, but Nina had brought Allison up.

Luca felt uncomfortable.

Susan was holding a banquet happily while Allison was undergoing treatment for her face outside the country. It was certain that any treatment was just a stopgap measure and no amount of treatment could truly fix the issue.

Meanwhile, Luke was alone and silently suffering.

Luca looked over to the man sitting at the main table.

More attendants started to fill the banquet hall, including the other members of the Mallory family.

Madam Mallory had no idea that Nina had arrived too, not when Percy was the only one sitting at their family table.

She only saw Nina when someone at the adjacent table brought it up.

Madam Mallory frowned. Not wanting to cause a scene, she whispered to Percy, "What's going on? This is an important event. How could you bring her here? Are you trying to turn against the whole

Mallory family in public?"

Percy looked up coolly and irony flashed in his eyes. "Nina was invited."

"Why would the Crawford family invite her? Who does she think she is?" Madam Mallory refused to believe him. Then, she recognized Luca who was sitting beside Nina.

In Madam Mallory's eyes, both of them did not have the status to be in the banquet hall. She believed that Luca was only invited because of Luke.

However, she knew that Luca was not the kind to invite Nina, so she assumed that Nina was here because of Percy.

"Nina is Old Master Crawford's god-granddaughter," Percy reminded her coldly.

Madam Mallory glared at him. When they went to ask for an explanation, Old Master Crawford had admitted Nina as his god-granddaughter on a video call. Then, there were no further updates on the matter.

Madam Mallory initially believed that the news was fake and something Luca had asked for from Luke, so she did not pay it any mind.

"What kind of nonsense are you spewing?" Madam Mallory did not believe him.

"If you don't believe me, you can see for yourself later. Old Master Crawford personally invited Nina," Percy stated.

On the other end, the butler walked over to Old Master Crawford and whispered in his ear.

Old Master Crawford stood up with the help of his walking cane. He had been entertaining people of high status from various industries and was rather tired, but there was still something important that he

had yet to do.

“Where are you going, Grandfather?” Luke asked.

“Off to do something good,” Old Master Crawford said with a mysterious smile. He waved off the people who approached to greet him and made his way to Luca and Nina’s table.

Everyone watched the old man make his way through the hall before stopping at Luca and Nina’s table.

Guests who arrived early knew that Luca had arrived with Luke.

“Old Master Crawford!” When Luca saw the man stand by their table, she quickly stood up to support him.

Old Master Crawford waved her off and quickly said, “There’s no need to be so nervous. I just decided to come and say hi since I saw that you’ve arrived. How are you doing, Nina?”

Nina stood up as well and smiled at Old Master Crawford. “I’m doing great, Old Master Crawford. Quick, come sit.”

“No need, it’s alright. I just came to greet the two of you. You’re both extremely beautiful today,” Old Master Crawford praised the two of them.

Nina knew that the man was helping her and looked at him with gratitude.

“Nina, you must come more often to the Crawford Manor when you’re free. Spend more time with your god-grandfather, hmm?” Old Master Crawford continued.

“I promise,” Nina replied. Their conversation was heard by the few tables around them.

“Alright. The banquet’s about to begin, so I’ll go back first. Eat more tonight, alright? We’ve got a lot of good food in store.” Old Master Crawford winked at them mischievously before he made his way back

to the main table.

Twins In Her Womb: Sir President Please Be Gentle Chapter 2313-From afar, Madam Mallory was infuriated by the sight she saw. She gripped the silk table cloth as she tried to suppress her emotions.

She thought that Percy was lying.

She was so sure that Nina’s attendance today was Percy’s doing.

Yet Old Master Crawford’s behavior made it clear that she had assumed wrongly.

Today was an important event, and countless people were trying to find a chance to talk to Old Master Crawford. Still, the old man did not even smile at most of them. Instead, he opted to respond superficially and leave Luke to entertain them.

Even so, he was smiling at Nina now.

Percy naturally deduced what his mother was feeling and said calmly, “So, now do you believe that I say is the truth?”

“Even if Old Master Crawford admits her as his god-granddaughter, your grandfather still won’t ever allow your relationship.” Madam Mallory wore a slightly wretched expression on her face.

Percy replied calmly, “I don’t need anyone’s allowance. This is my marriage. I’ll choose who I marry myself. Force me again and what happened to the Johnston family will happen again.”

Percy reminded Madam Mallory of what he had done before.

The once powerful Johnston family was now in shambles, unable to even sustain the business of one company under their name. Madison had also gone crazy after what he did.

Percy's actions had caused Madam Mallory to be the target of discussion and commentary. People believed that she suggested a marriage union with the Johnston family just to slowly acquire all the Johnston's assets.

As such, no one else agreed to marry their daughters to Pierre.

Madam Mallory's expression soured greatly.

With Pierre's support, Old Master Mallory returned to his seat.

The old master had wanted to use the bathroom just now, and Pierre saw it as a great opportunity to prove himself. Hence, he volunteered to guide his grandfather there.

As such, neither of them saw the scene regarding Old Master Crawford and Nina.

Old Master Mallory took in his daughter-in-law's sour expression and asked, "What happened?"

"I'll tell you when we get home, Father," Madam Mallory replied. There was no guarantee if her father-in-law would make a ruckus if he found out now. A ruckus would not reflect well on their family.

Old Master Mallory did not press further and merely glanced at Percy in response.

Ever since what happened with Nina, the grandfather-grandson had stopped talking to each other.

Pierre was curious, though. Hence, he leaned over to his mother's ear and whispered, "What happened, Mother?"

"I'll tell you when we get home. No more asking about this now." Madam Mallory waved her hand in annoyance and moved her chair slightly away.

Pierre was even more curious when he saw his mother's indignant expression.

However, he did not pester her further. The guests had mostly arrived. With the emcee's opening speech, the banquet officially began.

It was as Old Master Crawford said. The dishes were flavorful and rich, though Luca herself could not eat too much.

Nina saw how little Luca ate and asked softly, "Are the dishes not to your liking, Luca?"

"It's not that. My dress is too tight. My stomach will become bloated if I eat too much, and I'll look weird when I leave," Luca replied softly.

The two did not know anyone else at the table, so they did not speak too loudly when they conversed.

"What're you worried about? You're so skinny. Eat more. Don't starve yourself," Nina replied. The situation with the news made her extremely anxious. While her anxiety did not affect her diet, her sleep quality did get affected and she lost some weight because of it.

As such, Nina decided that she would eat more and gain back what she had lost.

"You should be the one eating more. Look, Mr. Mallory's watching you." Luca happened to glance over at Percy's table and saw the man smiling over at them.

"Stop. What are you saying that for? Eat your food." Nina tugged on her sleeve, not daring to look over in Percy's direction.

She was afraid of seeing the facial expressions of the other members of the Mallory family.

The rest of the family was maddeningly against her relationship with Percy. If not for Old Master Crawford, Nina would surely have faced even more of their wrath.

As a result, Nina was afraid of the other members of the Mallory family. She finally understood where Pierre learned his behavior.

It was because everyone else in the Mallory family acted like that, so Pierre grew up in such an environment. It was an environment that nurtured a fearless individual who would do such compulsive things.

From kidnapping to abuse, to even stealing confidential documents.

"You're embarrassed," Luca teased. She did not doubt that Old Master Crawford's visit was his way of helping Nina.

Luca could not help but admire how smart Old Master Crawford's strategy was. He went all out even for a small matter like this.

By visiting their table, the Mallory family naturally would not suspect the truth of whether Nina was Old Master Crawford's god-granddaughter.

"What? No, why would I be? Stop talking nonsense," Nina raised her glass of red wine and took a sip. "Oh, right. Are you staying in the country for the new year?"

"Where else would I go?" Luca asked.

"I was just curious if you'd take the opportunity of the long holiday and go back to visit your parents," Nina replied.

Only then did Luca recall that as far as everyone else was concerned, she came from Russia. It was only natural for her to visit her parents during the holidays.

However, Luca was the only one who knew that everyone on that document was fake.

Her parents were here, so there was nowhere for her to go. Luca shook her head. "I'm not, it's too much of a hassle to travel to and fro."

"Makes sense. They don't make such a big deal out of New Year's there anyway, right? If you're staying for the holiday, then we could probably meet up more often. Percy always has a bunch of dinners to go to by the end of the year, and they're all too boring for me. We can meet up and do something together during the holidays, yeah?" Nina proposed. She did not like going to work dinners with Percy.

She had never liked going to those dinners with Percy, and her dread for them only grew after what had happened recently.

"Sure," Luca agreed.

With Luca's company, Nina spent the rest of the banquet in high spirits and did not face any especially embarrassing situations.

By the time the banquet ended, Percy walked over and left with Nina in tow.

Luca, on the other hand, had to wait for Luke and their children before she could leave.

They had come in the same car and would be leaving in the same one as well.

As the Crawfords were hosting tonight's banquet, decorum insisted that Luke stand by the door and see the guests out even if he had not stood at the entrance to welcome guests earlier.

Not to mention, many people wanted to make connections with Luke. Those who had not had the chance to do so before the banquet took this opportunity to crowd him and leave an impression in hopes to foster a good opportunity for business cooperation.

Thus, Luke ended up busier than Susan and the others.

Luca sat on the chair and watched Luke who was standing outside. He was surrounded by a crowd.

The scene reminded her of die-hard fans swarming their idol for a signature and photo.

Twins In Her Womb: Sir President Please Be Gentle Chapter 2314-Luca could not help but chuckle at the thought.

Luke was very busy, so she waited patiently for all the guests to leave. Once he was done, Luke walked over to her.

Beside him, Susan was sporting a huge frown on her face.

Her expression was filled with distaste when she watched Luke's retreating figure.

"Mother, I'll go and pay the hotel the rest of the fees." Louis watched the guests leave and decided to pay the outstanding figure.

"All you have in mind is matters like this. You're really going to infuriate me to death one day." Susan looked at him with disappointment.

Louis had also stood at the door to wave the guests off, but there were considerably fewer people who wanted to talk to Louis than those who wanted to talk to Luke. In fact, Louis' presence at the door did not seem to make any difference at all, since everyone only wanted to talk to Luke.

Her birthday celebration had easily become Luke's banquet.

Louis saw how Old Master Crawford was still within earshot and whispered, "Why are you angry again, Mother?"

He did not understand what his mother was dissatisfied with considering everything had already gone according to her standards.

"Can you not tell why I'm angry? You're both Crawfords, yet Luke's the one being surrounded by everyone else. What about you, hmm? Today is my birthday, not Allison's birthday!" Susan was

disappointed at the fact that Louis did not even show the desire to mingle when the crowd swarmed Luke. Instead, her son continued to wave the other guests off with a smile.

She did not understand why her son was so hopeless in comparison.

Louis was no stranger to comments like this. He usually responded with a smile and some consolation.

However, hearing Susan complain again today ignited and flamed the annoyance within him.

In truth, he knew that there was no comparing himself to Luke.

Louis understood why so many people liked talking to Luke. After all, it was only normal for people to want more profit-making opportunities.

As such, Louis had never gotten envious of Luke.

He knew he could not manage a business as big as T Corporation, especially not when the company was only getting busier each year.

However, Louis was also braver than Luke in the sense that he dared to chase after his dreams. As such, Louis had always seen himself as someone who lived a happier life than Luke since he could do what he wanted to do.

The life he lived was an easy and carefree one. Sure, there were occasionally some obstacles and difficulties, but having the support of the Crawford family made it so that even if his business failed, he would still be the respected second master of the Crawford family instead of a bankrupt man with nothing to his name.

He liked the life he was living.

However, Susan kept seeing his disinterest in the family business as hopelessness. He had already arranged the birthday celebration for her according to her requests, yet she still picked on him.

Louis found himself irked by her harsh words and wanted nothing more than to toss everything down and leave.

Yuri saw the shift in the expression on his face and summed up the courage to defend her husband. "Louis is already doing his best, Mother. Don't get angry at him. Let Louis pay the hotel manager first and then we'll go home, okay?"

Susan harrumphed, still displeased that Luke had stolen her limelight.

It was just further proof to her that Louis was not as competent as Luke.

This comparison only made Susan feel even more at lost. More than once, she had spoken of her desire for Louis to close his business or hire a professional manager to take over so that he could return to work for T Corporation. She wanted her son to work in one of the managerial levels in T Corporation so that Luke would not hold full control over it.

Louis never agreed.

Susan harrumphed again.

Yuri took Thea's hand and turned to Louis. "Go pay first. I'll be right here."

Louis' expression did not brighten, but he nodded and left.

"Mother, today's your birthday. Don't get angry today, alright?" Yuri consoled. She did not want to be the one to console Susan, but they were in public, and Susan's frown would only garner unruly discussions from other people.

“Does it look like I can be happy? Tell your husband to do better. Tell him to work harder or else he won’t be able to afford Thea’s expenses,” Susan started berating when she heard Yuri.

Susan believed that the wife was to blame for her husband’s lack of motivation, completely forgetting the fact that Louis had grown up in a carefree environment where he had never experienced any difficulties. Louis had not even experienced starvation or had to worry about not being able to afford his next meal. This was that fostered his personality now.

Not to mention that Susan had already started fighting Allison for her husband’s attention back then. As such, she missed out on many opportunities to educate her son. This was why Louis acted the way he did now.

Yuri’s expression soured as well when she heard Susan’s remarks. “Mother, I’m sure Louis has his own reasonings. He’s able to pay for Thea’s education too.”

It was not that she had never tried to talk to Louis about this, but every time she brought it up, Louis would refute her and his expression would darken.

Their marriage was an arranged one. While she had feelings for him, Louis treated her more as a family member than as a romantic partner. Therefore, with her experience, Yuri no longer dared to bring up the topic. Even if Louis did not appear to be high-achieving, he was still doing his best.

He was no longer as playful as he used to be too. That was enough for her.

Not to mention that the Crawford family was very wealthy and Louis’ shares were enough to promise her a comfortable life.

Sure, she would feel regretful sometimes over the fact that her husband was not standing on the top of the power chain, but there was no point fussing over such a matter.

“Children must be spoilt. Look at Thea. She doesn’t even have the chance to be admitted to her dream academy by way of connections. Imagine if it was Ranie. All anyone had to say is that she’s Luke’s daughter and she was admitted into the academy Thea’s been wanting to get into for so long. Thea had to go through interviews twice and she still didn’t make it. Do you not feel

remorseful toward your daughter?" Susan's words were straightforward. She showed no regard for how her words would affect the children's feelings.

Most of the guests had left already, so she did not care if others would hear her. Even Old Master Crawford had long left with the butler.

Yuri was exasperated. Susan was talking about the academy where Ranie was learning dance.

Thea had applied a few times but had not passed or gotten enrolled in the academy.

An indignant look flashed through Thea's eyes.

On the other hand, Luke was slowly walking to the exit with Luca and their children. He saw the frown on Susan's face.

However, out of politeness, he still greeted her. "I'm bringing the children back first, Mother."

"Go. Thank you for helping Louis bid the guests farewell. You sure worked hard today." Despite thanking Luke, Susan's tone was rather ambiguous.

Everyone present could easily understand what she was intending to say.

Luca frowned slightly and glanced at Susan. However, if Luke said nothing, then it was not her place to make any remarks either.

Twins In Her Womb: Sir President Please Be Gentle Chapter 2315-Luke's gaze darkened when he heard Susan's ambiguous tone.

Susan felt the strong and angry aura from Luke and took an instinctive small step backward. Only then did she realize that she was afraid of Luke.

Luke quirked his lips. From Susan's ambiguous tone and harsh appearance, Luke knew that Louis must have gotten an earful moments ago. "We'll be going back first."

"Drive safe, Brother," Yuri quickly said.

After Luke and Luca left with their children, Susan turned to glare at Yuri with displeasure. "Even you're so ready to chummy up to him, huh?"

“Mother, I’m not...” Yuri defended. She did not understand how her act of common courtesy had become chumming up to Luke in her mother’s eyes.

After all, an act was only believable when one kept it up.

“Cut the attitude in front of children, lest they take after your bad example.” Susan harrumphed. She did not like it when people tried to get in Luke’s good graces.

Yuri listened exasperatedly to Susan, unable to defend herself.

Luke, Luca, and the children took the lift to the lobby on the first floor and happened to stumble into Louis who had just finished paying.

“You’re leaving already, Brother?” Louis greeted Luke first.

“Yeah.” Luke saw the receipt still in Louis’ hand and asked, “Did you just pay?”

“Yeah. I only paid the deposit before, so I came to pay the outstanding amount once the banquet ended.” Louis smiled. Despite how harsh Susan’s words were, Louis harbored no resentment toward Luke.

“Are you free tomorrow?” Luke asked.

“I am. Why?” Louis assumed that Luke needed his help with something.

“Could you come over to T Corporation?” Luke asked.

“Sure. I’ll arrive around 10, then. My mother and Yuri are still upstairs, so I’ll be going first.” Louis put the bill away. Susan’s birthday celebration cost him a lot of money, but he did not dare to tell Susan so.

He was certain that if he did, Susan would only use it as fuel to scold him for being too incompetent to compete with Luke for T Corporation.

“Alright.” Luke nodded.

Louis smiled at Luca and said, “I’ll be going first, Dr. Craw. By the way, you look truly stunning today.

You’re a great match with my brother.”

Then, he went to the lift.

“Bye...” Luca waved. The compliment made her feel rather shy.

It was not because she was embarrassed over Louis saying that she looked stunning but because he said she was a great match with Luke.

Beside them stood Tommy who was rubbing his eyes after standing for a while. He turned to tell Luke, “I’m sleepy, Daddy.” The little boy had exerted most of his energy playing with the other children.

Luke looked down at his son. Tommy and Lanie had gone wild in the children’s playground today, so it was only natural that they were running out of energy. Luke replied, “We’re going home right now.”

“Up, Daddy. I’m too sleepy to walk.” Tommy reached out. He originally wanted to ask Luca to carry him, but she might not agree, so he turned to ask Luke instead.

Luke was not the type to spoil his children too much, but Tommy looked truly pitiful at the moment. Luke glanced at Luca and realized that if he declined Tommy, Luca might end up carrying Tommy instead.

However, Tommy was no longer the same young toddler he used to be and the boy was considerably heavy now.

Luca might suffer if she were to carry their son.

As such, Luke bent down to carry Tommy before turning to look at Lanie and Rainie. “Let’s go home.”

“Okay, Daddy,” the siblings replied.

Luca stepped forward and took both Lanie and Rainie’s hands, holding one in each of her hands as they walked out of the hotel.

They looked like a happy family of five.

In the car, Tommy fell asleep where he sat between his siblings.

Luke had drunk tonight, so Luca took over the driver’s seat on their way home.

It was late at night and snow was falling, so Luca made sure to drive carefully and slowly.

It was almost ten-thirty by the time they arrived back at the villa.

She let out a sigh of relief once the car was parked.

Tommy was napping, so the interior of the car remained especially quiet throughout the drive. Luke smiled at her before pushing open the car door and getting out.

Then, he opened the backseat door.

Rainie was the first to get off. She whispered, "Tommy's asleep, Daddy. Will you carry him upstairs?"

"I will." Then, Luke crouched into the car and picked Tommy up before walking toward the villa.

Luca entered the villa with the other two in tow as well.

After putting Tommy in his bedroom and closing the door, Luke turned to Lanie and Rainie. "It's getting late. Go wash up and sleep."

"Okay, Daddy," Lanie replied before retiring to his bedroom.

Rainie nodded as well and went to her bedroom.

Thus, Luke and Luca were the only ones left in the second corridor.

"I'm going to open a bottle of red wine. There's something I'd like to discuss with you," Luke said.

"Sure, but let me wash up first," Luca agreed. Her makeup look was exquisite, but wearing makeup for long hours blocked her pores. It did not feel comfortable on her face.

"Alright. I'll sober up as well," Luke replied.

Luca nodded and pushed open the door to her bedroom. She took her makeup off first and then took a shower and washed her hair.

She let out a long sigh of relief when she took off her tight-fitting dress. She much preferred loose clothing.

While she busied herself in the bathroom, Luke opened a bottle of red wine and washed up. After washing off the smell of food from the banquet, he changed into something comfortable and waited downstairs for Luca.

After all, women had more to do than men did.

Luke placed the bottle on the coffee table and took out two wine glasses. Then, he dimmed the living room lights and played some music.

In an instant, the atmosphere turned romantic.

Luca was stunned when she saw the scene after descending the stairs.

Luke sat on the sofa. The two glasses and bottle of red wine were still placed on the coffee table in front of him. It reminded Luca of the past when they would share a drink during their leisure time and chat about what was happening around them lately as they drank.

The children were all asleep by then, and without the disruption of their children, all they heard was music and sweet nothings from each other. The atmosphere also quickly led to them doing something else other than talking.

“What are you doing just standing there?” Luke looked at her and asked.

Luca snapped back to reality and sat on the sofa next to his.

“What did you want to talk about, Mr. Crawford?” She felt rather nervous as the atmosphere was starting to feel like a date to her.

Luke did not respond, instead opting to pick up the wine bottle and pour the two of them a glass of red wine. Then, he handed one to Luca. “Have some.”

Luca wanted to decline, but she had already recovered from her cold and had no reason to reject the wine. She took the glass, thanked him, and clinked glasses with him.

Twins In Her Womb: Sir President Please Be Gentle Chapter 2316-Luca’s heart skipped a beat at the sound.

If not for the ambiguous and warm atmosphere of the living room, she might have thought that Luke realized something and wanted to question her under the excuse of drinking.

The gentle sound of the piano drifted from the speakers, and Luca felt herself relaxing. She did not ask Luke what he wanted to talk about and opted to listen to the music instead.

With her emotions calmed, she started drinking more wine without realizing it.

The red wine was tasty and quickly made her lightheaded. Luke stared at Luca's flushed cheeks and decided that she looked much more enchanting like this than she did with the makeup blush.

He wanted nothing more than to engrave this enchanting look in his mind forever.

Luke's gaze darkened. His desire for Luca was growing, but he forced himself to rein it in.

He did not want this woman to feel afraid of him.

Up until this moment, Luke had yet to find out why Luca was so willing to stay under the control of the Island of Despair.

He knew that she would not allow herself to be controlled unless the Island of Despair had a very important token in their hands.

As such, Luke did not dare to act rashly, not even if the woman in front was someone he was most familiar and intimate with.

Luca saw the burning desire in his eyes and put down the wine glass, straightening her posture in the process. The music and the wine had her almost forgetting what they were here for in the beginning.

"Mr. Crawford, there was something you wanted to talk about?"

Luke frowned with displeasure when he heard her call him 'Mr. Crawford'. However, upon remembering that she was being forced, he could only sigh and accept her distancing herself from him.

"Are you going back to Russia for New Year's this year?" Luke asked.

"I'm not," Luca replied without much thought. Everyone else could spend New Year's at home with their family, but it was different for her. She was with her family, but she had a completely different identity now.

"That's nice. So you'll be spending the holidays in A City, right?" Luke confirmed.

"Yeah." Luca nodded.

"Let's go buy gifts this weekend, then," Luke suggested.

Luca did not expect such an invitation from Luke, since gift purchasing was usually done by Aunt Neile.

Luca had no choice but to brave on. "Mr. Crawford, I don't believe I'm well versed with the practices of New Year's here."

Luke watched her try to lie with exasperation but knew that he could not expose her. "Then we'll have Aunt Neile come with us."

Luca's lips parted. She originally wanted to offer to leave the preparations to Aunt Neile, but the man's decision had destroyed all chances to raise such an offer.

"Don't you want to experience the Thanksgiving atmosphere?" Luke looked at her. "Lanie and the others look forward to this holiday a lot. Buying gifts is a crucial part of this festivity."

"Alright, then..." Luca wanted to spend New Year's with her children as well.

Luke put down the glass. As they chatted, they managed to drink more than half a bottle of red wine. Luca herself had finished the other half.

He raised his gaze to look at the time. It was already past 11.

They had both drunk and were slightly tipsy. To retire to bed now guaranteed the best sleeping quality.

Luke took Luca's hand and stood. "Time to sleep."

"Hmm?" Luca let him pull her up. She was confused since Luke said that there was something he wanted to discuss. 'Was gift purchasing all he wanted to discuss?'

“We’ve already discussed everything,” Luke said as he walked toward the stairs.

Luca followed him to the second floor.

Luke pushed open Luca’s bedroom door and walked in. Then, he took off his jacket to reveal sleepwear underneath.

Luca made no comment when she saw his actions. She took her jacket off to reveal her sleepwear as well. Then, the two of them climbed into bed.

Luke shuffled around until he found a comfortable position and wrapped his arms around her to sleep.

Luca was used to sleeping in his arms as well, so she did not move around and fell asleep too.

The following day at Crawford Manor.

Susan sat on the sofa as she scrolled through the photos sent to her by the photographer.

It was the photographer Louis had employed to take photos of the banquet the night before. The photographer was rather famous in A City, and Susan scrolled through the photos projected on the TV

screen with satisfaction.

The photographer was skilled, and she looked beautiful in his photos.

The photographer continued to show her the photos seeing as Susan made no comments about them.

That was until Susan saw a photo of Luca and Luke entering the venue. She frowned. “Why’d you take photos of them?”

The photographer looked at the photo and explained, “I take photos of essentially every guest, but because they’re candid pictures, I can’t guarantee that every photo is of good quality. So I usually save photos that are relatively well taken.”

He was an experienced photographer and knew that many hosts liked to have photos of their guests taken for reference.

Not to mention that the photographer recognized Luke. Besides, a good-looking couple was always nice to take photos of, so he snapped a few more shots of them.

He did not expect the photos to garner Susan's displeasure.

"I was the main character of the night. Why were you taking photos of unrelated people?" They were on the second floor, so Susan had no fear that Old Master Crawford would hear what she was saying. As such, Susan's choice of words was harsh and implied that Luke was not part of her family.

"Unrelated..." The photographer was confused. Luke was a Crawford too, so he did not understand why Luke was suddenly 'someone unrelated'.

"Every photo that contains Luke is to be deleted. I don't want to see any photos I'm not in," Susan said as she scrolled through them, only to realize that the next few photos were all of Luke.

Three of them had Luca too.

The woman was dressed simply that night. When Susan saw the necklace Luca was wearing yesterday, she found it rather plain and did not understand why the photographer took photos of her.

"Alright. I'll delete them right away." The photographer did not understand what Susan was thinking, but since the customer was always right, he immediately deleted the pictures on his computer.

Susan was still displeased. She felt insulted to know that Luke's photos were taken along with hers.

After all, Luke was Allison's son, and Allison was a mistress her husband cheated on her with. Susan had never been able to throw either of them out of the Crawford family. She took it as a personal attack on her status as her husband's legal wife.

She had endured the humiliation for years, and it built resentment deep within her.

The photographer arrived at the next photo after deleting the photos of Luke. It was a family photo, so he decided to ask Susan first before deleting it. "Do you want this deleted too, Madam Crawford?"

It was a family photo, meaning Luke was in it too.

Susan glared at the photo and was about to tell the photographer to delete it when she suddenly thought about Old Master Crawford.

Old Master Crawford was the one who asked for a family photo as he said that it had been years since the one at home was last updated. Hence, he wanted to take the chance to update it.

If she deleted this photo, she did not know how she should explain it to Old Master Crawford.

“Leave it.” Susan finally decided after much thought.

Old Master Crawford was still the head of the family, so it was not her place to decide whether to delete the photo or not.

The photographer nodded and continued to scroll through the photos.

Since Louis had selected the most expensive photo-taking service, many photos ended up being saved and left for Susan to decide whether to refine the photos or leave them be.

Twins In Her Womb: Sir President Please Be Gentle Chapter 2317-Half an hour later, Susan had already made her selections for which photos she wanted to refine.

Excluding the family photo, every other photo was of herself.

The photographer could not help but complain internally. He had taken photos of so many guests and business big shots, yet Susan only chose the photos she was in.

After her selection, the photographer kept his computer and stood up.

“Madam Crawford, now that the photos have already been selected, I should be able to finish editing and refining them within a week. We can decide on a date then for you to come and take a look at the photos. I’ll further refine them if need be.”

“Alright. There’s no rush. Just make sure that the photos look great in the end,” Susan replied.

“Of course. I’ll make sure to further heighten your looks.” The photographer knew what Susan wanted to hear, so he promised her as he walked down the stairs.

“That will be best.” Susan was very pleased with his business attitude and stood to walk him downstairs.

Then, she had the butler send him out when they arrived on the first floor.

Old Master Crawford was currently having tea on the sofa when he asked, “Have you chosen the photos already?”

“I have, Father. They should be edited within a week. If they look alright, we should be able to update the family photo before the new year.” Susan turned to look at the family photo on the wall and smiled ambiguously.

It would be nice to change the family photo since the new one did not have Allison on it.

She had dressed elegantly for her birthday yesterday and looked perfect as the madam of the house.

“Alright. I’ll leave it to you to make sure that the photo’s changed before the new year,” Old Master Crawford said.

Susan’s heart soar. Old Master Crawford was the one who suggested updating the family photo. This meant that he no longer cared about Allison anymore.

This was the best outcome since it meant that there would only be one madam of the Crawford family.

The Island of Despair.

Abel pushed opened the door and walked into Shanks’ lab with his phone in hand. “Is my cigar done?”

“Left cabinet, second drawer, first compartment.” Shanks was currently preparing medicine and did not look up at Abel.

Abel found two boxes of modified cigars and sat in front of Shanks pleasedly. “Aren’t you bored studying medicine here all day? You won’t even help me teach or train those people either.”

“Those people are hopeless. There’s no point in training them,” Shanks replied without looking up.

Abel took his phone and tapped on the image he received. “As far as you’re concerned, she’s the only person who has any degree of talent.”

Shanks knew who Abel was talking about. Luca was indeed the most hardworking woman he met.

She did not have much talent for medicine, but she was smart and willing to work hard, so she learned quickly.

“It’s a shame, though. What do you think? Should I have her stay permanently on the Island of Despair to learn medicine and save the people on this island, or should I have her continue her mission and

dirty her hands with blood?” Abel asked.

Shanks frowned and finally looked up at him. “You’re planning to call her back?”

Abel did not respond, opting to show Shanks the photos on his phone instead. “Look at these photos. What emotion do you see on her face?”

The photos of Luca and Luke were taken during Susan’s birthday banquet.

Shanks replied indifferently without thinking, “Happiness.”

“Yeah, happiness.” Abel’s gaze darkened. Despite being someone completely different, Luca could still stay at Luke’s side happily. This irked him.

It was unfair that they could still be so happy when his Kassy...

“You have great skills, you know. You managed to change her appearance so well to the point where Luke, someone so devoted to his wife, couldn’t hold himself back from her.” Abel pulled out a cigar impatiently only to recall Shanks telling him not to smoke in the lab. Hence, Abel suppressed the desire to smoke and continued, “If we were to have Luca destroy this happiness right now and destroy everything Luke possesses, how pitiful would the two of them be?”

Shanks handed the phone back to him and replied calmly. “Very, but how certain are you that you’ll manage to destroy both Luke and Ivana?”

“Not completely, but I’d say I’m around 60 to 70 percent certain? Which is enough. Ivana’s the most important weapon I want, actually. Once Luke knows that the woman who betrayed him is actually the Bianca he’s been yearning for. Oh, I can already anticipate the elation I’ll feel!” Abel exclaimed. He and Kassy did not get their happily ever after, so he would not allow Luke and Bianca to have theirs.

“What do you have in mind?” Shanks asked again. Whether the plan was in action or not mattered little to him.

As long as Abel continued to pay for his research, nothing truly mattered to him.

“I’m thinking probably after the new year,” Abel said.

Shanks frowned and opposed immediately. “No.”

“Why not?” Abel did not like his plans being opposed. He slapped the desk in anger.

“Don’t tell me you’re pitying Ivana. You can’t possibly have fallen for her during those three years together, have you? And even if you have, so what? All she thinks about is that man. You’d better act quickly if you really want her. Destroy Luke so she no longer finds him outstanding. Once she no longer thinks about him, then only will you have any semblance of a chance.”

“You think you much. My issue is that your recruits have yet to find the ingredients I want. If you call Ivana back now, who’s going to distinguish the real ones from the fakes?” Shanks asked.

“Hmph. If we find out that they’re all fake when they get back, then they’ll just have to go out and look again,” Abel replied without a care.

“Are you sure? The outside world already knows that the Island of Despair’s forces is bouncing back. Everyone is looking for us. If you keep sending people out, they’ll manage to trace us in no time. I’d like to remind you as well that the Russian air force frequently circles above our island because of this,” Shanks tells him.

The outside world was growing nervous now that they could confirm the existence of the Island of Despair.

Some forces were even trying to locate the island as well.

However, no one seemed to have guessed that they were just underground. In fact, in an attempt to avoid being detected or traced by all sorts of instruments, they were also using various anti-detection and anti-tracking instruments of their own underground.

“Hmph.” Abel had to admit that Shanks made a point.

Not to mention that the medicine Shanks was currently studying was going to be very useful for the Island of Despair, so Abel needed his help.

“Fine. I’ll let Ivana spend another year with her dearest husband, then.” Abel agreed to it.

Twins In Her Womb: Sir President Please Be Gentle Chapter 2318-Shanks did not say anything more.

After all, he would fulfill whatever he had promised Abel.

Shanks looked at the microscope on the table that was not far away from him after Abel left. That was the microscope Luca used to do her research.

Ever since she left the Island of Despair, the microscope had never been used again. The dust had begun to settle on it.

His words just now made it seem like it was only for the sake of his experiment, but he was also giving Luca a chance.

Shanks had been to A City before. The people there took New Year’s seriously. They thought it was an important day to reunite with their family members.

All the students who went to study abroad and those who were working elsewhere would return to their hometowns and celebrate New Year’s with their families.

It was probably Luca’s last chance to celebrate New Year’s with that man.

In that photo just now, Luca looked so happy when she was looking at Luke. Shanks looked at the microscope. He could still remember the happiness of seeing his family members during New Year’s.

Regardless if one was rich or poor, New Year's would be one's happiest moment.

"Ivana, appreciate what you have now..." Shanks shifted his gaze away and continued to mix the solutions.

It was 10 o'clock in the morning.

Louis arrived at the T Corporation on time.

The receptionist recognized him as Young Master Louis of the Crawford family. She did not stop him and greeted him instead, "Good morning, Mr. Louis."

"Good morning. Is Mr. Crawford upstairs?" Louis asked. He did not intend to distance himself from Luke, but he was in the office now, so he should be formal.

Although he was T Corporation's shareholder, he was not an employee of the company.

He was hoping that his presence was not too noticeable in the office.

"Yes. Boss hasn't left the office," replied the receptionist.

"I'd like to go upstairs for a while. Please help me to inform him," said Louis. Although it was Luke who asked him to come, Louis still followed the procedures.

"Okay. Please go upstairs first. I'll inform him," the receptionist smiled and replied.

Louis got into the elevator and headed to the top floor. He did not head straight to Luke's office. Instead, he came to Jason's office first.

Knock, knock. Louis knocked on the door.

Jason lifted his head and noticed that it was Louis. He smiled and said, "Mr. Louis, you're here."

"Yes. I came to look for Mr. Crawford. Is he busy now?" Louis asked.

“Boss is in the office. He told us that you should just head to his office right away when you’ve arrived,” Jason delivered the message as told by Luke.

“Okay. I’ll head to his office, then,” replied Louis as he nodded. He marched toward Luke’s office door and knocked on the door.

“Come in,” Luke’s voice came from inside the office.

Louis pushed the door open and walked into the office. He sat down on the chair opposite Luke. No one else was there, so the way he addressed him was not as distant as it was just now. “Brother, what’s the matter?”

“How much did you spend on Mother’s birthday dinner?” Luke asked.

“Why are you asking me this?” Louis smiled. He knew Luke would like to share the burden with him when he heard him asking.

“Do you need me to call the hotel’s manager?” Luke questioned him.

“No. There’s no need to. I know you’d like to help me, but I have my own career now. It’s not a big deal,” replied Louis. He refused to accept Luke’s offer. After all, it was Susan’s expenditure.

Besides, Susan wanted nothing to do with Luke.

He would feel sorry for him if Luke really helped him.

“She’s also my mother,” said Luke. “I should make some contributions to her birthday,”

“But you’ve already lent me the money, and your gift was expensive. You’ve done enough, Brother,” Louis pointed out. The first thing Susan did was unwrap Luke’s gift. She initially thought of ridiculing his gift in front of the old master. However, she did not expect Luke to give her such an expensive gift. Even though Susan meant to nitpick, there was nothing much she could say about it.

“Do you think I’m not aware of what’s happening to your company?” Luke shook his head. “I didn’t mean to investigate your company, but one of your partners is one of my company’s customers. He told me everything about it.”

“Everything?” Louis frowned. One of his company’s clients was declared bankrupt not long ago. It was a big client, and there was no way Louis could claim the payment that the client owed him.

It almost affected the cash flow of his company back then.

The problem was only solved when the other clients took the initiative to make their final payments after that.

However, Louis had also secretly put a large sum of money to fund the company and stabilize it. That was why he was broke now.

“I roughly know the size of your company. That’s why I understand the situation you’re facing now. Stop denying it,” said Luke. He took a check out of his drawer and handed it to Louis.

“Brother, I can’t take your money. You know that well. Although she’s also your mother, she has never treated you kindly. That’s why it’s not your obligation and responsibility to spend money on her. You’re already helping me by not urging me to pay you back so soon,” Louis insisted.

“Why are you insisting on doing this? How are you going to pay for Thea’s school fees, then?” Luke asked.

It would be the new school semester after New Year’s. The school fees of the school Thea would be attending were expensive.

“I’m Thea’s father. I’ll handle her school fees myself. Besides, I’ll ask for your help if I really can’t hang on anymore,” replied Louis.

Luke had no choice but to take the check back. Then, he said, “Okay. Remember to tell me if you really need help. I’m your brother. I care for you more than the others.”

“Brother, you’re being talkative,” Louis smiled. Although he did not accept Luke’s help, he appreciated his kindness.

“What nonsense are you talking about?” Luke rolled his eyes.

“You’ve become talkative after you got together with Dr. Craw. It feels like the man who was in love in the past has returned,” Louis teased him. No one else was in the office, so Louis spoke without hesitation.

After Bianca was kidnapped, Luke became quiet and this change lasted even after she came back. He would never say another word unless he had to.

It was just like before he got married.

He seemed to be more alive now.

“Don’t be ridiculous,” said Luke.

“I know. I’m not going to tell anyone. But the photographer sent me some of the photos. I thought maybe you’ll like them,” said Louis.

“Photos?” Luke asked.

“Let me send them to you,” answered Louis. The photographer told him about what had happened when they were selecting the photos. He recovered the photos that he deleted after Louis requested him to do so. Then, the photographer sent them to Louis’ phone.

“Okay. Take a look at the photos,” Louis sent the photos to Luke.

Luke’s phone notification rang. He picked his phone up and tapped on the screen to open the photos. A few photos of him standing and walking with Luca came into sight.

He smiled.

“They look great, right? Do you like them?” Louis asked.

Twins In Her Womb: Sir President Please Be Gentle Chapter 2319-Luke saved the photos and said in a calm voice, “You talked too much today.”

“When do I not?” Louis said, “I’ve always been chattering away while following behind you since I was young. You should’ve gotten used to it, right?”

Luke was already Louis’ brother when he was born.

Although Susan had always told Louis that Luke was his enemy, it did not affect his admiration for Luke.

Louis loved following behind Luke since he was young. He was naughty and playful too. Thus, he did not learn much from Luke and his strengths.

“That’s true. You’re as talkative as an old woman. Oh, give me the photographer’s contact details. I’d like to print some photos too,” answered Luke.

“Nonsense. Don’t you ruin my tall and masculine image,” Louis laughed jokingly. Then, he gave the photographer’s contact number to Luke. Louis glanced at the time, then he rose to his feet and said, “Brother, I’ve sent you his contact number. I shouldn’t be bothering you anymore. I’m leaving now.”

“Stay for a while more. Let’s have lunch later,” Luke invited him.

“No, thanks. I have a meeting to attend at 11. I’ll be just in time if I go back and prepare for it now,” replied Louis. Although the crisis had been overcome at the moment, that incident also showed that his company was not strong enough to handle the crisis.

Louis had to come up with a plan and prepare himself so that he would not be at his wit’s end when he met such clients in the future.

Luke did not make him stay when he sensed that Louis was preoccupied with his work.

After Louis left, Luke picked up his phone and stared at the photos. A warm smile appeared on his cold and expressionless face.

Luke looked at the photos of Luca and himself. A thought came into his mind, ‘We’re made for each other.’

Luca looked stunning in that dress that night.

One of the photos was taken from behind them.

Luca’s face could not be seen, but he could see that she was just like before just by looking at her silhouette.

She was still Bianca.

Luke missed the old days, but at the same time, he knew it was useless to reminisce.

He had to investigate the background of the Island of Despair as soon as possible.

However, it was easier said than done.

Back then, it only took him a while to wipe out the Island of Despair because he had been taken there. He kept his mind clear when they tried to brainwash him, and he was able to figure things out quickly.

Now, it seemed that other than Luca and the people from the Island of Despair, no one else was familiar with the organization.

Many forces in Russia were currently looking for the stronghold of the Island of Despair. The comeback of the Island of Despair had caused them to be taken advantage of. That was why they were working together to find out where their stronghold was. They hoped to turn the tide.

However, they had yet to find anything until today.

Luke's brows furrowed.

He felt helpless about Luca's matter this time.

He had spent a long time looking for the Island of Despair, but he had no idea where their hideout was.

His computer screen lit up, notifying him that he had received an email.

Luke clicked on it. It was an email in Russian. He quickly opened the email.

It was an email from Ray.

Ray stated in the email that his men had not found the stronghold of the Island of Despair. At the same time, he would bring Vivian to his country for a vacation during New Year's. He wanted Vivian to get familiar with the environment there.

Vivian was offered admission to the Capital University in A City.

There was a slight trace of disappointment in Luke's eyes. There was still no sign of the stronghold. He replied to Ray in Russian: [You're always welcome here.]

The moment Luke sent the email, Ray sent another email to him and reminded him not to tell Gordan about their schedule.

Luke frowned. What did this have anything to do with Gordan?

He had been investigating the Island of Despair and instructing people to keep an eye on Matysh after he returned.

That was why he did not pay attention to what had been going on with Gordan and Vivian after they divorced.

However, Vivian seemed to have moved on. Was Gordan unable to let go? Luke did not think Gordan would be looking for Vivian, so he just replied: [Don't worry. I won't mention anything about it.]

Aunt Neile delivered the lunchbox to the office when it was noontime.

Luke headed downstairs carrying the lunchbox in his hands. Jason called him when he walked out of his office, "Boss, are you going to have lunch now?"

"Yes." Luke turned around and looked at him.

"There's an unscheduled international video conference around 1:30 p.m. Will you be able to make it? The branch office in New York requested it," Jason discussed with him.

"Yes," Luke agreed to attend the meeting. He should have finished eating lunch with Luca by then.

"Okay. Then let me have it arranged," said Jason.

Luke arrived at the laboratory downstairs with the lunchbox in his hands, and he directly walked into Luca's office.

Zoey saw him passing by when she was in her office. She did not stop him. After all, who would have the guts to stop their boss?

Zoey shot a glance and lowered her head to continue her work.

Rhett got out of the laboratory and returned to the office. He noticed that Zoey was still working and asked, "Aren't you going out for lunch today?"

"I've ordered takeout. It's too cold out there. I don't feel like moving at all," answered Zoey.

Rhett nodded. He picked up the document on his table and glanced at it. Then, he asked, "Is this for Dr. Craw to sign?"

"I think so. Let me see," Zoey took the document from him and glanced at it. She confirmed and said, "Yes, Dr. Craw has to sign on the last page of the document."

"Let me take this to her office," said Rhett. He was about to walk out of the office.

Zoey quickly stopped him, "Mr. Link, it's not urgent. Why don't you wait until after lunch break..."

"Why? Dr. Craw has just returned to her office. She hasn't left yet," Rhett asked with confusion.

Zoey shook her head and replied, "You're too busy to notice that Boss has been bringing lunch boxes into Dr. Craw's office every day. Won't you be the third wheel if you head there now?"

"Boss. Mr. Crawford? He's in Dr. Craw's office?" Rhett widened his eyes. He was a little lost as he had never seen him here.

"Yes. This has been going on for the past few days. Just wait until lunch break is over. You can ask Dr. Craw to sign the document after that. It's not urgent anyway," Zoey returned to her seat calmly.

Would they not be getting themselves into trouble if they knocked on Luca's office door now?

Everyone knew Luke's character. Usually, they would not bother him if it had nothing to do with work. Sometimes, they even had to be careful when they needed to see him to discuss work. They had to be careful around him if they wanted to avoid getting into trouble.

"Okay," Rhett put the document back on the table and left a note to remind himself that he must bring the document to Luca and have her sign it.

"Has Mr. Crawford been having lunch with Dr. Craw these days?" he asked.

“Yes. Every day. And it seems like his maid is the one who delivers the lunchboxes,” Zoey answered. She happened to see his housemaid delivering the lunch boxes when she was buying lunch downstairs.

“Fortunately, you told me earlier. Otherwise, I could have gotten myself in trouble,” Rhett said calmly. He seldom stayed in the office. That was why he did not see who came in.

If it were not for Zoey reminding him, it would not be as simple as becoming the third wheel.

Twins In Her Womb: Sir President Please Be Gentle Chapter 2320-Zoey gave a snort of laughter and said nothing more.

Luca’s office.

After Luca watched Luke fill up her plate for her, she took it from him and thanked him, “Thank you.”

“My pleasure,” replied Luke. He was not in a hurry to have lunch. Instead, he picked up his phone and sent their photos to Luca. “I’ve attached three photos in the message and sent it to you. Take a look at them.”

Luca put down her plate, picked up her phone, and saw the message.

The photos of Luke and her came into sight.

Luca looked at him with surprise and said, “The photos...”

“They were taken by the photographer last night,” replied Luke, “Louis thought they looked good, so he sent them to me.”

“They do,” Luca gently touched the photos on her phone screen as though she was caressing the people in the photos.

The photos were just of the two of them.

They were candid shots.

Their truest moments were captured in every photo.

One of the photos was taken from behind them. Luca could see that her silhouette was still the same as before, and there were hardly any changes.

Although she did not put her hand on Luke's arm, the distance between them was very close.

Anyone would have known that Luke and Luca came to the dinner together with just a glance. They stood close to each other like they were a loving couple.

The photographer had captured the other two photos well too. One of them was of Luca looking at Luke, while the other one was of Luke staring at her.

Although they were only photos, she could feel the sweet sentiments between them in the photos.

Luca could not help but feel surprised. Before seeing the photos, she never knew that the way she looked at Luke was so tender.

Luke was smart. He must have noticed that too.

"They're great photos," she mumbled. "It's a pity that we didn't get to take a photo with the kids."

Luca had promised Rainie that they would take a photo together after she came back. They did not get the chance to take one as Tommy had already fallen asleep.

"I've already contacted the photo studio the photographer is working at. Let's bring the kids to the photo studio for a photoshoot session after we get some stuff this Saturday," said Luke. He had already made the appointment with the photographer.

"Photoshoot session?" Luca clicked her tongue. She had promised Rainie to take a photo yesterday, but was there a need to head to the photo studio?

Besides, Luca had a tripod stand and a camera.

"Lanie and the others have grown up a lot this year. It's almost New Year's, and I think we should take some photos of them so we can look back on this time. That's why I got them a portrait photography

package," said Luke. He even booked a portrait photography package for Luca.

Also, he did not tell Luca that he had already contacted the person who did her makeup last night. The makeup artist would head to the photo studio and doll her up this Saturday. After all, Luke liked how she dressed Luca up for the birthday dinner.

“Okay,” Luca nodded. She thought Luke’s idea was great.

The children were still young, but they would grow up soon. If they could take some portrait photos every year when they were growing up, they would be able to look back at the photos when they grew up in the future.

It was meaningful.

Luca picked up her plate and spoon while saying, “Let’s go to the photo studio this Saturday, then.”

“Okay,” Luke picked up his plate as well and began eating.

Luke left Luca’s office after lunch. Then, Luca sat on her office chair while holding her phone. She had been looking at the three photos.

When lunch break was over, someone knocked on the door. Only then did Luca put down her phone and say, “Come in.”

Rhett pushed the door open. Even though he saw Luke leaving Luca’s office when he was in the assistant’s office, he still acted carefully as he was scared by the thought of getting into trouble.

“Dr. Craw, this is a document that you need to sign,” Rhett looked around the office to make sure that there was no one else there. Only then did he hand the document to Luca.

“Okay.” Luca took it from him, glanced at the contents, and said, “I’ll have to read through the document first. I’ll hand it to you after I sign it.”

“Take your time. Just inform me to come over and take the document from you after you sign it,” Rhett quickly got out of Luca’s office and closed the door behind him after that.

Luca was dumbfounded. Were there any monsters in her office?

Why did Luca feel that Rhett was not as comfortable as usual when he was facing her just now?

Luca stopped thinking about it. She opened the file and read the document.

Her phone rang when she was about to finish reading the document.

Luca picked it up and glanced at her phone. It was an international call, and the calling code seemed to be from Russia.

Could it be Amur who was calling her?

Luca immediately answered the call and spoke in Russian fluently, "Hello."

"Is this Luca?" Vivian's voice came from the other end of the line.

Luca recognized her voice. She was a little disappointed as she thought it was Amur. Although he had returned to the island, he would be assigned to carry out missions anytime. Hence, she thought it was Amur who called.

"Yes, it's Luca. Vivian, how are you doing these days?" Luca asked.

"I'm fine. Thank you," Vivian sounded gentle.

Luca was listening to her from the other end of the line. She had always thought that if she had never seen Vivian in person, she would imagine her to be a gentle and beautiful woman through her voice alone.

"Luca, there's something I'd like to tell you. I've been officially accepted by Capital University. I'll be heading there for my studies in February," said Vivian. She was admitted to the university as a transferred student.

Capital University had made an exception to take Vivian in. It was not only because Vivian's application report was well-written but also because Ray had talked to a senior executive working at Capital University about sponsoring a library.

Hence, one of the slots for transfer students was reserved for her.

"Congratulations, Vivian! You're one step closer to your dreams," Luca knew applying for Capital University was Vivian's first step toward her dreams.

"Thank you. Oh, Ray told me that we'll be going there for a holiday around New Year's so that I can get familiar with the culture and weather in A City as soon as possible. Luca, you should be around during New Year's, right?" Vivian confirmed with her.

Luca had left quite an impression on Vivian after she came to Russia for a short business trip.

“Yes, I’ll be here. We can celebrate New Year’s together if you’re coming here together with Mr. Lacroix,” replied Luca.

“That’s great. I love the culture there. We’ll celebrate New Year’s together, then,” replied Vivian.

“Sure,” Luca agreed with it.

“Luca, I’d still like to thank you.” Vivian paused for a moment and expressed her gratitude. If it were not for Luca who ran into her on the street and comforted her in the hotel, Vivian would not have made her decision so soon.

Crying was not the best choice to say goodbye to her past. It would be better if she could start to live the life she had always wanted. The dreams she had never achieved were her motivation to start a new life.

Luca was the one who told her all this.