

Be Gentle 41

Chapter 41

Bianca's levels of humiliation reached an unprecedented high.

She never thought that Jean would one day call her an "adulterous pig"!

Luke grabbed onto her snow-white ankle and refused to let go. She shrank away backward, resisting the bitter taste in the mouth. At the same time, she was utterly terrified by those blood-red eyes threatening to eat her up.

After a brief struggle, he had abraded her ankle and turned it red.

"Ow..." she cried out.

Bam!

Bam!

Jean kicked the door two more times.

The door was on the verge of shattering. Bianca was beside herself with anxiety, the last traces of blood draining from her already-pale face.

While Bianca was stuck between a rock and a hard place, her lips were suddenly taken by the man whose face was magnified infinitely before her.

That was followed by another sound from outside.

Bianca's ears were filled with the man's burning breath and his sexy panting.

Outside the bedroom.

Jean turned around when he heard the sound and saw four men in police uniforms, as well as one security guard from the neighborhood. They walked in through the open door.

"Please come with us!"

Jean looked at the policemen and then at the security guard. He gave one more glance at the tightly-closed door on the verge of falling off its hinges from his kicks, his voice confused and defiant, "It's just a lover's quarrel. Since when did the cops get involved in these things?"

"Someone called the cops and said you trespassed into private property. Please cooperate with us," one of the policemen said as they grabbed hold of him.

...

the door, Bianca could hear the entire process as the police handled

long since let her

in her covers, wrapping herself up tightly. Although it was raining heavily outside, it was still extremely damp and stuffy inside. The air-conditioning in the room was not on, so she was sweating

the sweet smell of sex in the cramped

not know why he had suddenly stopped, but she was quite grateful for her luck. Perhaps he suddenly found his conscience and suppressed his

The bedroom window was open.

in front of the window, his tall body unmoving. Lowering his head and lighting up a cigarette, he frowned for a moment before he took a drag and pulled out his phone, dialing a

on the other end picked up, and Luke said, "Bring Dr. Joyce over. It's the same address as

hid under her suffocating covers. She could not understand why he was calling for

Joyce was the lady doctor who had treated her at the

he mean by the "same

also wondered, who had called the

Was it her neighbor?

thoughts, it was quite likely Luke's doing. He must have done it in

finished smoking the entire cigarette and turned around, only to see that she was still under the

rain continued pouring down, he walked toward and roughly picked her up, yanking off her

Bianca was exposed before his eyes, furiously saying, "What are you *doing now...*?"

Luke did not grow angry even when she called him a monster. Instead, he put her down and said softly, "Get up and go take a bath. Dr. Joyce will be here soon."

Bianca blinked after she was put down, slightly **stunned**.

"You're bleeding." Luke felt a little guilty.

Bianca's mind went blank.

She knew what the man meant when he said she was bleeding. She knew where she was bleeding from...

That sort of bleeding was the only thing that could have made him slam the brakes when his lustful blood was boiling **over**.

"What happened...?"

Bianca panicked.

She sat up, holding the covers around her. At the same time, she glanced at the trace of red on the edge of the bed. It was about the size of a fingernail.

At the time, he was assaulting her and Jean was kicking down the door, so she was too freaked out to care about **anything else**.

Now that she saw the blood, she realized how scary **it was**.

Bianca may not be scared if she was bleeding at any other time. After all, it was only a tiny bit. Now, though, only slightly over a day had passed since she had been drugged with **that aphrodisiac**.

She could still remember what Dr. Joyce **said**.

In the worst-case scenario, she could lose her womb...

Luke did not say another word, staying silent. After a glance at her, he turned and walked into the messy living room. The simple decor there had been upturned by all of Jean's **kicking**.

even a cigarette butt on the floor, and the cigarette ash

a deep breath, telling herself not to be afraid. It was fine. She was

waist was slightly sore, but that was all she felt. That had to be a good

her nightdress, she went to the

went inside the bathroom, she remembered she had nothing else to change into, so she opened the door and went to the closet to find another

intense interaction with Luke earlier, the nightdress she was currently wearing was now unacceptably dirty in

the new nightdress in hand, Bianca went to

a long time for her to wash the stickiness off of her body. After that, Bianca hugged her knees and crouched down on the bathroom floor. Although she was done with her shower, she still refused to go out and face

was only when Dr. Joyce arrived that Bianca dried her hair and walked out in her

had come along too, but he did not

this check-up inside the room," Dr. Joyce said to

noded and pointed at the bedroom, bringing Dr.

took about twenty minutes. Dr. Joyce asked her a few questions, but Bianca paled and reddened in turn as she

sense of shame was overwhelming her

Joyce packed her equipment and looked down to clip her kit shut as she said, "You're mostly fine, it's just your period came early. I'll tell you a few things that might help make you feel

heaved a sigh of relief and nodded. "Thank

worry about it." Dr. Joyce walked out, and Bianca naturally followed behind

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After Luke left, Bianca stood at the door and stared for a long time.

He was right, and the doctor's diagnosis was right too. However, she did not know if she was right. Her body and senses had completely betrayed her.

There would probably be very few women who would not feel anything for such an accomplished and capable man.

However, when faced with a man as superior as Luke Crawford, many women would appraise themselves. They would consider if they had any right to feel anything for him, and what the consequences would be.

Aside from someone like Charlotte Shaw, which normal woman would be able to match up to him?

Bianca knew herself well, so she had managed to keep her defenses up all this while. Today, though, when he forced her so overbearingly, her body had thrown in the towel and betrayed. It almost felt as though this body was not hers...

"Your body will speak the truth your mouth does not." That sentence was actually extremely discriminatory, but today, Bianca had to tragically admit that there was some truth in it.

She hated herself the way she was now.

She hated her body, which succumbed to his rough touch so easily, even more.

That night, Bianca did not sleep well at all.

First, she had to clean the soiled sheets before she could lie down in bed. Even then, her mind was filled with too many things, and her early period made her body feel exceedingly uncomfortable too.

...

At Crawford Manor.

Blanche stood in the first-floor living room, looking solemnly at his younger sister, who was drinking milk on the first second-floor landing. "Take your time, drink it slowly."

Just then, Old Master Crawford entered the house from the yard and looked around before asking, "Your father isn't back yet?"

was covered in a milk mustache as she shook her head at

isn't at work either." Louis Crawford sat on the black leather couch, placing his legs on the coffee table and putting his phone down as he addressed the old man, "Maybe my brother has a dog

dog?" Old Master Crawford leaned against his cane, but he could not figure it out. His elder grandson, Luke, was always a bit of a neat freak. Why would he have a dog? Why would he keep

a huge garden right here at home. He had plenty of space to keep a dog

around, his impish eyes turning. He hurriedly wiped his little sister's mouth before running back to his uncle and saying with a grin, "Uncle Louis, does my dad really have

He really loved dogs!

kids and old men don't get it. I meant, my brother may have found himself a b— I mean, a female dog.” Louis had wanted to say “b*tch”, but there were two kids here, so

actually said it out loud, his grandfather would probably beat him to death with his

time, the old man saw through the generation gap with his younger grandson and somehow understood what the latter

Master Crawford sat on the couch and tapped his cane onto the marble floor, deep in thought— True, Luke was not too young anymore. He had children, yes, but he never had any women with him. It was a man, after all, and men

Master Crawford remembered the call he had received from the Shaws that

was adamant on having his daughter marry into the Crawfords, but at the same time, his older grandson might have a woman

What should he do now?

...

The next day, the sky cleared after **the rain**.

Bianca got up early in the morning.

It was rare for her to get the week off, so she took the supplement prescription Dr. Joyce gave her last night and left the **house**.

The department store was right next to the subway station, so Bianca walked toward it.

It was a working day, and there were far fewer people inside than there usually were on a *Sunday*.

Bianca brought her shopping cart to the shelf with the brown sugar and put one packet into her cart before heading off to get some fresh ginger.

Finally, she pushed her cart to the sanitary napkin **aisle**.

She was taking a packet of night-safe when some called her name, “Bianca... **Bianca Rayne?**”

Bianca looked toward the voice, turning her *head*.

That person had just only arrived at the sanctuary napkin aisle too. She saw Bianca before she could pick her poison, but it had been many years since they last met, so she did not dare to run up to Bianca. Instead, she just called Bianca's name tentatively.

The moment Bianca turned around to face her, she heard the girl scream, “Is it really you, **Bianca?!**”

Bianca looked at her blankly.

“Aaaah, it really is you!”

The girl ran right toward her and enveloped Bianca in a **hug**.

was so tight that Bianca could barely

while, the girl finally let go of her, tears in her eyes as she said, "Do you remember me? We were in the same class in middle school. I sat in the back row because I was too tall. My mother was our English teacher, and she gave you tuition at one point

at her. "You're Claudia

remember my name?" Claudia had always been a bit boyish, but now she was touched to reunite with her old classmate that she nearly burst

of them had been in the same class for all three years of middle school, and they had even eaten cup noodles together at the school store

friendships were actually quite common, but not for Bianca. This was because Bianca used to be bullied all the time at school, and Claudia was the only girl who dared to

same time, their other classmates were somewhat wary of Claudia because her mother was a teacher. In other words, Bianca could avoid their bullying every time she hung out

they bought what they needed, they paid and left

invited Claudia back to her place. The latter nodded and went

entered the neighborhood, Claudia said, "My mom had a problem with her leg two years ago, and the two of us moved here to this city to get

father was a teacher too, but he had cheated on her mother with a beautiful young teacher at the school so the two of them had amicably

knew that Claudia had changed her last name since elementary school to match her

Ms. Clinton now?" Bianca was more worried about Claudia's mother's

had been very kind to Bianca

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It did not matter if they were the same person or not. Bianca was still going to this gathering.

Not for her classmates, nor for the senior she could barely remember, but solely for the teacher who once gave her so much love and care, Miss Clinton.

It was one thing if she had not heard about Miss Clinton, but now that she had, there was no way she could not go.

...

That noon, at Crawford Manor.

From the moment Luke walked through the door, the old man had been following behind his oldest grandson, asking, "You're not getting any younger. Maybe you should think about finding a life partner. Tell me, what kind of a woman do you like?"

Luke went upstairs without saying a thing.

The old man followed him upstairs despite his walking stick, but he inwardly cursed his ungrateful grandson as he climbed the stairs. The boy had no love for the young or the elderly.

“Do you like them plump? On the fair side?” the old man pressed. He thought that was his older grandson’s type.

Luke walked into his room. As he took off his coat, he also pulled off his tie and tossed it aside.

The old man continued, “I heard that Director Shaw’s daughter is in town. Why didn’t you bring her to meet me? If Director Shaw hadn’t personally called me, I wouldn’t have known a thing. I’m your elder!”

“Why should I bring her home to meet you? Who is she to deserve that?” Luke refuted his grandfather coldly amidst the sound of running water.

The old man’s eye twitched, and he immediately understood. His older grandson did not fancy that Shaw heiress at all.

Old Master Crawford then turned around and went downstairs.

Louis Crawford was holding a blood peach. He was about to take a bite from it when suddenly the old man stabbed him in the back with his

around angrily. “Why’d you poke

Come sit with me.” The old man beckoned at him, looking quite

toward the stairs and then at his grandfather’s unnaturally solemn expression. He had no choice but to sit down and ask, “Did something happen,

man took a deep breath and looked at his younger grandson, saying, “Help me keep an eye on your brother from now on. Find out more about the woman he’s

to keep an eye on my brother?” Louis’ eyes threatened to pop out of their sockets. “You want me to follow him? Are you implying that I have a death wish? Or are you dying and want to drag me down

the two of them were talking, Luke finished his brief shower and walked

The old man immediately shut up.

only observed his brother carefully. To tell the truth, he was quite curious to know too. What kind of a woman would make his cold-blooded brother spend so many nights away from home like

walked to the dining table and picked up a set of newspapers, opening

minutes later, Susan Armstrong came downstairs as well, while Allison Tanner returned home

time for lunch at

Just then, Luke’s phone rang.

kept his eyes on the newspaper as he picked up the call and asked, “What’s the

Jason was eating his lunch outside. He had put his heart and soul into working for his boss over the years, and today he was doing his same old job as usual.

He had just sat down and checked his to-do list when he noticed that there was a part of Luke's schedule he had to arrange.

"Mr. Crawford, your high school teacher's birthday is next weekend. Are you attending this year? If you aren't, I'll make the arrangements for your trip to America on that day."

Jason asked carefully.

As he expected, Luke chose not to go.

Luke had only gone once before. Once he found out what they did at the birthday party, he simply found it extremely boring. Everyone there just kept sucking up to him and flattering him non-stop.

After he went that first time, he started having his subordinates send his teacher a pre-booked gift instead. He would then personally call his teacher and wish her *happy birthday*.

Miss Clinton was just his teacher back then. However, when he had no choice but to leave the town he went to high school in all those years ago, he had asked Miss Clinton to take care of someone for him.

She had indeed performed her task **admirably too**.

That was enough for her to warrant his *lifelong gratitude*.

Once the call went through, Luke repeated the same things he said every year. He was busy, so he could not personally celebrate her birthday with her, and so *on...*

Miss Clinton said, "Go do your own thing. Men should always put their careers **first anyway**."

They exchanged a few polite words, but before Miss Clinton hung up, she added. "Oh yeah, there's one thing I'm quite happy about that you might not know. Do you remember that girl who used to be bullied by her classmates? Bianca Rayne? My daughter bumped into her today and even invited her to the gathering next weekend. Bianca looked like she's doing pretty okay, and I think she has you to thank for some **of it**."

Luke's hand shook around his phone. He did not seem to expect that Bianca would attend the gathering, so he paused and said, "I'm glad to know she's **doing well**."

a good man, and I'm sure your karma will reward you for it." With those words, Miss Clinton

old man peeked at his older grandson's expression. After the latter hung up, he seemed to grow randomly frustrated and upset! He was perfectly fine three

to eat now. Everyone, come over to the table," the old

did not seem to hear him, however. Frowning, he held up his phone and found Jason's number. The second he made the call, he instantly hit the red button to end it

a second there, he had called Jason, intending to ask the latter to cancel the trip to America. Luke was somewhat startled by his own actions. She was just a woman, so why did he care about her this

was a crafty woman who never said what she meant and made a habit of keeping

...

in Bianca's house all morning before she left

her to the subway station

was only after she watched Claudia leave that she

At the entrance to the neighborhood.

Anna O'Reilly, was standing there. She looked around her, clearly searching for

was almost at the door now, and she had no choice but to approach the

She could not hide forever.

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Anna was being wholly unreasonable. She yanked Bianca back and forth, messing up the latter's hair and even scratching her on the neck several times. Bianca's face was still smarting from before, too.

Anna grabbed Bianca's hair and refused to let go, cursing, "A woman like you should wear a scarlet letter! Are you that desperate for money? Will you give up your dignity for money? If you like having a sugar daddy, no one would care, but don't pull my son into this! How are you gonna pay my son back for the past five years of his youth?!"

Bianca could not stand it anymore. Wincing from the pain, she pulled her hair out of Anna's grip and then shoved the woman away forcefully. "That's enough!"

Anna was shoved more than a meter away, her face and neck scarlet with anger. Her finger trembled as she pointed at Bianca, "You're a despicable, shameless hussy! How dare you act like you're in the right!"

More people started crowding around them, watching the spectacle.

One of the older ladies tried to stop the fight, holding Anna back as she said, "Don't be too mad, sis. You can't just listen to a one-sided accusation and decide that your daughter-in-law is cheating on your husband, right?"

Anna knew the woman who was holding her back.

She was one of the women that had been with Daisy that day, gossiping about Bianca's immoral affair.

"I'll decide for myself if she's guilty!" Anna glared at the woman. "These are my family matters, stay out of this."

The woman saw that Anna was being completely unreasonable, so she looked at her awkwardly.

By then, Bianca had returned to her unit. She did not want to engage Jean's family in any more pointless squabbles.

Once she got home, the first thing Bianca did was log into a house rental site and look for a new place.

Her phone rang beside her.

The caller was Nina.

Bianca picked up.

sounded utterly flustered on the other end. "Bea, are you okay? Did my mom go to you? Did you bump but it's alright now." Bianca knew that Nina was worried about her, and she did not want Nina to freaking mad at my mom and brother right now!" Nina's voice was choked with sobs. "I'll come over right now. Wait

could tell her not to, Nina hung

of calling Nina again, Bianca sent her a WeChat message. "Don't be mad. It'll

kind, Bea. My family is in the wrong here." Nina responded quickly and even added a crying her head. What else could she do but

almost an hour, Nina finally arrived at Bianca's

she rang the doorbell, Bianca opened the door

in and changed into the slippers. Soon enough, she saw Bianca's face and went forward to look at her closer in surprise. Her eyes widened. "Did my mom...

Bianca nodded.

Nina frowned, speechless. Sounding utterly confused, she continued, "I'm really starting to think that my brother and mother have lost their minds. They would rather believe a resident gossipmonger instead of their closest family. I mean, they don't even believe

two of them went into

saw the website on Bianca's computer. It was a site

"Are you going to move?"

"Yeah. That's the only way I can get some peace and quiet," Bianca said helplessly.

Nina went to the fridge to grab a drink. When she returned to the bedroom, she looked at the rental information and said, "Why don't you get a two-room place? I can move in with you, and we can watch each *other's backs*."

Bianca looked at Nina. She did not want Nina to move out of her house and stay *with her*.

That would probably alienate Nina from her parents **and brother**.

Nina seemed to be able to read Bianca's concerns. She said, "Don't worry, I'm not moving out just for you. I've actually wanted to get out since the second year of college. My parents got into fights every **day...**"

Bianca had never seen her parents together in **her life**.

How was it like to have both parents? Was it peaceful and wonderful? Or was it filled with fights? Either way, she would not get to see it. It was a rare sight that she might never witness in *her lifetime*.

That afternoon, Bianca and Nina settled on a house.

The next day, the two of them checked the place out, signed the contract, paid the deposit, and moved out. It was all settled within a day.

The third day, Bianca wanted to clean up the *place*.

Nina was worried that Bianca did not feel up to it, so she went online and hired a cleaner.

“Ah, I finally have my own space...” Nina could not help but *sigh happily*.

Bianca was glad to be in a new environment too. The frustration that had piled up in her heart seemed to vanish as **well**.

Her week-long break passed in the blink of an eye.

had no choice but to gather herself and perk up before returning to

Bianca’s surprise, though, she had barely set foot into the design department when she saw Jean sitting at

to notice her gaze on him. He looked up and glanced at

immediately made her feel extremely

Jean had yelled at her from outside the door, calling her an “adulterous pig”. That was exactly what his gaze seemed to be calling

Carter sent everyone an email. “There will be a meeting at 9.20am sharp

in the design department gathered in their dedicated conference room at twenty minutes past nine. The head of the design department was a strong-willed woman who never bent to any man, so she inevitably had a preference for the competitive women in

the meeting, they settled on an important project. The head of department ordered Sue to handle it with a handpicked team, and Sue was fond of Bianca, so Bianca was fortunate to join in the project

The meeting ended.

the room with everyone

Bianca with you to the conference room on the 62nd floor. Hurry!” The head of department was about to enter the elevator when she had to take a call, so she turned around and pointed at Sue and Bianca, who had walked out

did not have enough time to ask why, but it had to be something good, so she immediately led Bianca into the elevator and up to the 62nd

Jean, who wanted to talk to Bianca, he had no choice but to return to the

was someone waiting at the door of the 62nd-floor conference room. When they saw Sue and Bianca, they let the two women pass. The women walked into the room quietly and settled in an unassuming corner to listen in on

atmosphere in the room was quite solemn. Bianca looked up, too afraid to even breathe too loudly. First, she saw the higher-ups of the company, but she was relatively new so she did not recognize all of

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Before they headed off to the lunch meeting, Bianca and Sue made a trip back to the design department.

Bianca walked to her workstation and put down the laptop she had brought upstairs earlier. After that, the phone she had left on the table rang once.

It was an unknown number.

The number began with 138 and ended with 6688. The contents of the message was, "Miss Bea, I'm almost on my summer break. Will you be free ten days from now?"

Bianca guessed that the number was Blanche's.

She quickly replied, "I'm really busy with work, and I just got assigned with an important project. I have to earn money so I can eat and live, so I can't take you out to play. Sorry."

She clearly expressed her reluctance to have too much to do with Luke Crawford's son.

She hated the way Luke misunderstood her. She had never approached his son because she wanted to seduce him.

In this society, any man as wealthy and powerful as Luke Crawford was probably used to having his guard up against women with ulterior motives approaching him.

If such a woman was lucky enough to not earn his ire, there was a chance she could start a relationship with him. However, such a relationship would only be limited to an exchange of money and bodies.

In short, the heart would never be involved.

Bianca had seen plenty of gossip surrounding these rich and powerful people, and she knew very well that it was not a game a woman like her could play.

Luke Crawford was a taboo, a taboo deep in her heart.

No matter how tempting he was, he could only ever be opium to her, a drug to avoid.

long time, Blanche finally replied with, "Oh, okay....." The six dots at the end showed just how upset and disappointed the little boy was feeling

no choice, though. She had to be wary of his

Lanie and Rainie were orphans, children nobody wanted, she might adopt them. She practically had no parents herself right now, so she might take them in and try to raise them as she earned money while reaching for her designer

they were not orphans. In fact, they had a very prominent man as

her heart and

phone away, she walked out of the design

up as well. He had seen just how conflicted she looked, and he did not know what she was thinking about, or who she was thinking about. Even so, he felt

had barely reached the washroom entrance when a large hand grabbed her from

are you doing? We're at work now, let go..." Bianca tried to pull her hand back, looking at Jean with "Come with me!"

He dragged Bianca into the pantry.

go!" Bianca struggled. "If you don't let go,

had forced her into a corner, taunting her, "Yell? Are you sure you can still yet? I thought you lost your voice that night after that man f*cked you

Bianca shrank away. "Jean Langdon, don't be **so unreasonable**.

"I'm being unreasonable?" Jean said wildly, as though he had just heard an absurd joke. "My fiancée cuckolded me, but I can't even complain about it? Are you bipolar or something? You got engaged with me on one hand and slept with another man on the other! Have you no shame, Bianca Rayne? How come I never knew you were so loose while we *were studying?*"

Bianca was so enraged that she burst out laughing. She looked at him and said calmly, "Well, now you know. It isn't too late **yet.**"

Jean did not expect her to admit it so freely. It only angered him even **further!**

After the 96 hours he spent in detention the last time, he did not dare to use violence on her anymore. The veins popping in his forehead, he resisted the impulse and swore at her, "I was so motherf*cking blind! How could I fall for trash like you? Thank goodness I didn't marry you, or else when I'm old and infirm in bed, you might just bring another filthy man into **our house.**"

"Do you know you're being really disgusting?!" Bianca felt cold all over. She did not want to listen to another word, so she turned and *left*.

Someone threw open the pantry door.

Sue had emerged from the washroom. When she saw Jean's vicious glare, she immediately told Bianca, "Let's go, Bianca."

Since there were others around, Jean did not go too far. He just looked at Bianca's back as he left, clenching his fist tightly. No man would be able to stand being cuckold **like that**.

That woman was not his wife, but she was the woman he **had chosen**.

From the day he chose her, he had decided that she was only ever allowed to **love him**.

Over all the years they had known each other, Bianca had never disappointed him. Now, though, he knew that she was not the well-mannered woman he thought **she was**.

Marie Rayne said she had been sleeping around even when they were abroad, and she even had several partners!

intense fight several days ago, he had regretted it and worried that he had misunderstood her, but after the voices he heard with own ears that night a few days ago, he was certain that she really was a

no way he wanted to touch a filthy whore like

was angry and resentful at her for playing him like a fiddle over the past five

would be able to brush off a grudge

...

Bianca went downstairs, utterly dejected.

at the office door and asked her, "Are

Bianca simply nodded.

came out of the bathroom, and I was too close to you, so I heard everything... I'm sure you're not the kind of woman he says you are. Your ex is nuts, methinks,"

not want everyone to think of her as a whore. She wanted to explain, but she did not know where to

decided on telling Sue what she really thought. "Jean wasn't completely wrong. He did find a man at my place, but that was after we had a huge fight and officially broke

Sue looked at her, surprised.

forced herself to continue, "I think that man might like me a little, but he doesn't really love me, I know that for sure... I can't tell if it's just a whim of his or anything else, but my refusals pale in comparison to his overbearing

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The car slowly began to move.

Jason had already made all the necessary arrangements at the hotel in advance.

Bianca sat straight-up in the car. She did not dare to look in front of her, just in case the man accidentally entered her point of view, so she kept looking at the road as it passed them.

Luke was lazily perusing some newspapers. His slender and well-defined fingers held the corners of the paper, and he emanated a chill, as though he was frozen in ice. He did not say anything either.

All of a sudden, Bianca felt parched.

Every time she was nervous, she always wanted to drink some water.

...

When they arrived at the hotel, Sue did not wait for Bianca to catch up with her. Instead, she enthusiastically greeted the three partners and went into the hotel.

She thought of herself as quite the veteran in the field. Of course she noticed what was happening.

The overbearing man Bianca mentioned who may be pursuing her on a whim was probably the boss of T Corporation himself. In other words, he was her highest superior.

She was also certain that the special assistant to the president, Jason Doyle, knew that as well. He was walking in front of her, looking completely calm and composed.

The proof was that Jason had specially arranged for Bianca to take the boss' car.

Suddenly, Sue Carter was overjoyed. She was a hundred times happier now than she had been when she landed that important project. At the end of it all, she was a pragmatic woman, and she knew that women had it just a little tougher than men when it came to climbing the corporate ladder.

Bianca Rayne was her lucky charm. After all, she was the woman the boss fancied now!

not matter if it was just a whim or just a temporary change in tastes. No matter what, the truth remained that Bianca was the only woman the boss was interested in

men had a common weakness. They always thought the grass was greener on the other side, and the harder it was to get to that grass, the more obsessed they would become with it. Sue was starting to think that she should do something

leave playing hard-to-get to that good girl Bianca. Sue's job now was to play matchmaker and get the two of them

career was in its developmental stage right now, and Sue knew very well that she needed an "ally" who could put in a good word for her with the boss. Right now, the only possible candidate was

all of them reached

was a nobody in the company, so she was relegated to walking two meters behind Luke. As they got out of the car, went through the hotel lobby, and arrived at the elevators, she kept her head down and walked silently without

the elevator doors opened, she had no choice but to

she was the last to get inside, she had to stand at the front of the elevator. If she wanted to move backward, she would have to squeeze past the man. Since she wanted to avoid all physical contact with him, she just had to stay where she

The elevator doors closed.

they arrived on the floor with the restaurant, Bianca went inside and took her seat alongside

food was served, followed by the

Just then, Bianca's phone rang.

me, I have to go out and take a call," Bianca stood up and addressed everyone

turned to look

Luke, however, did not look up at her. He just said coolly, "Be quick **about it.**"

Bianca immediately went outside.

Once she left the room, Bianca stood in the corridor and took the call. "Hello?"

The caller was one of her female colleagues from the design department, Nelly Lowe. She wore her heart on her sleeve and was quite friendly to Bianca.

Nelly said in a whisper, "I came out for lunch and saw your boyfriend, Jean. He... He was dragging a woman into the fire escape, looking all suspicious. You know what **I think?**"

Bianca, "...":

"*He's a* cheating a-hole, he totally is!" **Nelly said.**

"*How* is he an a-hole...?" It had barely been a month since they arrived at the company. There was no way he managed to snag another woman at the company so **quickly.**

If he really had a new girlfriend, he would not keep bothering Bianca, his ex, anyway.

Most importantly, she was engaged to Jean just half a *month ago.*

If he had a new woman, why would he propose **to her?**

"*I'll* put the phone on speaker, so listen but don't say anything. I only heard this cuz I was eavesdropping..." Nelly whispered before turning around the corner to the fire escape door. She put her phone, on speaker, in a flowerpot nearby and then ran far away, worried that the two of them would come out and find **her.**

"*So* are you trying to bail on me? That's not what you said when you f*cked me senseless back **then.**"

Bianca paused when she heard that.

were the one who seduced me first, weren't you? Are you going to pin the blame on me now?" Jean

Marie sounded completely

seduced you, but you took the bait on my first try. That doesn't make you much better than me, does it? Only a man who can actually control himself has any right to accuse

up, I don't intend on wasting my breath on you. Just do as I say and abort that kid. I don't want

you really think I'll abort it just because you told me to? You were the one who was yelling about knocking me up as you plowed into me, that's why I let you go in raw! That's why I didn't take any morning-after pills and let you shoot into me. Now I'm really pregnant, and you're saying you don't want to marry me? Who do you take me for, that idiot

in the hotel corridor, closing her

was pregnant, and Jean did not say that the baby was not his. He just wanted to get rid of it. That proved that they had slept together, probably more than once

at least twenty to thirty days before a pregNelly test could

was starting to feel like she was an idiot, just like they said. An idiot among idiots. Marie had been sleeping with Jean for a long time now, but she had not noticed at

boyfriend had slept with another woman and then come to her, pretending to be all innocent as he fell on one knee and proposed to her. Meanwhile, she was moved to tears and said yes so

pulled at the corners of her mouth

suddenly remembered that time when Jean went on a business trip soon after they started working at this company. She had sent him a WeChat message, but after they ended their chat, he sent her another random line of words. Now that she thought about it, there was a high chance Marie had sent her that on purpose when she was in his

night when he was at the hotel and on the phone with her, someone had knocked on his door. After that, he turned off his phone and did not respond to her all day. He had probably been with Marie

did not listen to the rest of

Chapter 47

Bianca did not think a mere glass of wine could make her this dizzy.

She shook her head and glanced underneath the tablecloth on the large round table. The table had eight legs, and there was a particularly thick one right in front of her.

Perhaps she had accidentally tripped over that table leg.

She had spilled the glass of red wine all over her boss' pants and directly on the most embarrassing part of a man too. It was completely soaked. Bianca figured she deserved ten thousand deaths right about now.

Luke always thought that she was purposely seducing him. After this incident, she would never be able to stand with her back straight again.

"What are you standing around for? Help Mr. Crawford wipe it off!"

Sue handed her a packet of tissues and hastened Bianca urgently.

Bianca did not have any time to think. Her first reaction was to pull a tissue and press it against her boss's crotch...

The tissue immediately grew drenched once it touched the red wine, turning a seductively deep red.

Bianca soon realized that her fingers were touching something. When she wiped him with a tissue, it was inevitable that her fingers would rub her boss' groin back and forth.

She seemed to feel something scary behind his pants...

That place was growing at a visible rate, too.

Bianca's face inexplicably grew hot...

All three of their business partners were here in the room, men and women included. This was probably deeply embarrassing to the boss. Bianca bit her lip, blaming herself, but she kept getting it worse the more nervous she became. Her fingers were even shaking.

used up half the packet of tissues, but Luke's pants were

man had always been something of a clean freak. How could he possibly stand having a meal with his pants soaked with red

was panicked and frustrated, the man suddenly grabbed her wrist in a vice-like

up and met his deep

was tall and had deep-set features. Looking into her little face, filled with guilt, he forced the words out through his teeth, "Come

in the room all looked surprised to

three business partners had instinctively realized that Miss Rayne was not just another employee to Mr.

Sue were surprised too. They did not expect their boss to act so boldly and unapologetically possessive of

was so open about it that he was practically declaring to everyone here that Bianca Rayne was his woman. Sue Carter secretly thanked her lucky stars, glad that she got along well with

...

dragged Bianca all the way to the elevator, pulling her inside

doors closed and the elevator rose slowly. She did not know which floor they were going to, but when the ride went on and on without stopping, she was finally certain that they were going very high

the elevator rose, she grew even

To think she had been taken down by a single glass of wine! Now she knew that she had overestimated her tolerance for alcohol.

The elevator doors opened, and the man yanked her by the hand again. They arrived at a suite door, where he pulled out a room card, swiped it, opened the door, and dragged her into the room with one hand around her **wrist**.

As soon as they went in, the man forcefully pinned her down by the entryway to the suite.

The lights above them were dim, doing weird things to the duo's vision and expressions. Luke's beautiful features looked like an artistic three-dimensional painting.

*His hot kisses rained down on her from **above**.*

She tried to fight back weakly with her whole body, but the man pulled her into his strong and sturdy arms.

"Mm... Mn..." Her small mouth was ravaged by his ferocious assault as he slowly entered her.

Her pants of protest tasted of sweet red wine, such that the man simply could not let her go. He just wanted to swallow all of her struggles down *his throat!*

“Ah... No! Ah...” Her hair was a mess now. Luke’s large hand wandered down her clothes, touching her everywhere through her clothing without a shred of hesitation.

Finally, he pulled off the three buttons on her blouse. They fell onto the carpet without making *a sound.*

She frantically hammered her fists into his chest, **crying.**

Luke suddenly stopped kissing her, his large hand holding her fair little face. His voice sounded impatient as he asked, “Why are you crying? Are you saying you don’t want me to touch you like that? Or are you too afraid to admit that your body craves my touch **too?”**

“If you’re mad at me for being clumsy, I promise that I’ll stay far away from you from now on.” She had interpreted his rough behavior as a punishment for ticking him *off.*

of red wine between his lips was bold and deep and utterly mesmerizing. True, which woman would not be mesmerized by a man

knew that this infatuation would not

was afraid that this man would be yet another mirage in the desert. Maybe she would wake up tomorrow and find that he was suddenly

known Jean Langdon for four years, but the truth was a slap to her face. He looked like a nice guy, but he may not necessarily be one. On the other hand, even at a glance, she could see that there was nothing nice at all about this rich and accomplished man before her. There was no way he would turn out to secretly be a

gap between them was too large. It had been that way since the moment they

more experienced in life, had solemnly advised the younger generation to find a partner of the same social class. Even if she dated him, she would only be a temporary toy

proud and confident must she be to even dream about marrying a man like

ever indulged in those dreams, reality would give her yet another

was why Bianca did not want to dream. She was especially averse to sweet dreams, because she was afraid that her heart would be empty when she woke up. All that remained would be a dull ache. If she ever had a nightmare, at least she could wake up and comfort herself, saying it was all just a

palm pressed against her waist. His mind was a little addled now, and he plastered his burning-hot face to hers, rubbing her back and forth. His thin lips at her ear, he said, “Were you really that clumsy when you wiped the wine off my pants, or did you purposely want to

course she knew what he meant

be really drunk, Bianca thought to herself. The tall man before her was like a bright blaze, burning her rational mind away and rendering her unable to

of me. My period hasn't ended yet..." She was panting heavily now, lowering her head and leaning it against

Chapter 48

After all that rubbing and friction, the woman's fair soft foot felt scalded by the burning heat of the man's large hand...

She did not know when Luke let go of her foot. All she remembered was a pain from her lower abdomen that came in waves. Eventually, there was a thin layer of sweat over her forehead...

The dizziness from the wine and the cramps made her curl up on the large, soft, and warm bed. Before she knew it, she had drifted off to sleep.

Every so often, Luke would come to rest in this suite here at this hotel.

The hotel belonged to T Corporation.

From the day he officially returned to the Crawfords and began work at T Corporation, this suite had belonged to him. Unrelated persons were usually not allowed to come even close to this place.

After she fell asleep, he adjusted the air-conditioning temperature and carefully covered her with the blankets.

By the time Bianca woke up, it was already dark outside.

She looked around the unfamiliar hotel room and took a second to react before she finally remembered what had happened.

She propped herself up, certain that she was sober now. There was still a slight dizziness and headache, though.

Her phone was right next to her, so she grabbed it.

There was a text from Sue Carter.

"I'm at the company now. The head asked where'd you gone and why you didn't come back. I told her that Jason Doyle had assigned you a last-minute assignment and that you wouldn't be able to make it back today." Sue had sent that message at half-past four.

Bianca blinked.

Sue were both T Corporation employees, and Sue should have seen the way their boss treated her in that room. Bianca figured that Sue should have guessed where she had

why Sue lied for her? She did it to cover up another fact that would inevitably get tongues

not know to explain, so she simply replied with, "Thank you,

don't be polite with me, just remember to throw me a bone once you become the lady boss... I'll be counting on you, sis..." Sue replied instantly,

for a moment before replying, "I know my limits, and I'll

limits? Are you stupid? I don't care, I'll be counting on you anyway," Sue responded, frustrated by Bianca's

were filled with sorrow and worry. Who should she count on when Luke grew tired of her and abandoned her in

as she was chewing her nails and wondering how to pry the suite door open, a warm touch suddenly came up to her from behind. She turned around in shock and met Luke's sharp

send you home." With that, Luke pressed his index finger to the fingerprint scanner and opened the of them walked out of the room, one after the

the lead in a mild panic, while the man followed behind

that Luke was the only one staying on this floor of the hotel. It was unnaturally quiet, with not even an attendant in sight. Finally, they went downstairs and the atmosphere turned to the usual rowdiness of a they walked, everyone they passed bowed and greeted the

Bianca quickened her footsteps, putting a huge distance between the two of them. Even so, she could not avoid others' curious gazes. When she wanted to hail a cab, his private ride stopped in front of *her*.

A cab drove toward her and came to *a stop*.

Bianca opened the door and immediately got **in**.

The next moment, though, the man had gotten out of his car and grabbed her wrist, pulling her out of the cab. He then opened the backseat door of his own car and stuffed her inside before politely turning around and apologizing to the cabbie for her. Finally, he got into the car and personally drove her home.

Countless employees had witnessed just how handsomely and fluidly he had completed that entire series of **actions**.

Bianca wanted to find a hole and bury herself **in it**.

She was just a lowly employee, a perfectly average woman, but the boss was treating her like this. To everyone else, that could only mean one thing: she must be "craftily" "playing hard-to-get" with the boss, purposely "seducing" the boss to give her "preferential *treatment*".

Those nasty accusations were going to nail her to **the cross**.

She was going to be crucified alone.

The black Land Rover drove through half the city before reaching the new neighborhood she was staying *in*.

On the way back, Bianca's stomach started hurting again, and by the end of it, she felt completely weak and powerless. She never got carsick, but the world spun around her when she got out of the car, her knees threatening to give *way*.

"*Be careful*." Luke had already gotten out of the car, his large hand naturally supporting her shoulder.

Bianca subtly evaded his touch and turned around, saying, "Have a safe trip, Mr. Crawford. Thank you for sending me home, and I'm very sorry for spilling the wine on your pants **earlier today.**"

current neighborhood was much nicer than the previous one, but its location was not as convenient. That made the rent much

other hand, her new place had many tangible benefits, one of which was a community hospital right outside

the doctor, or else I'll worry." Luke did not use force on her right here on the main street. Instead, he stood a meter away from here and stared

up. She was standing on the tactile path, while he stood on the left of the car, which was stopped by the curb. The night lights shone and flickered around his body, as though this enormous city only existed to highlight

just glanced at him before she shook her head and said, "It's alright. I know what my

out his phone and dialed a number, his expression dark as he said, "Call Dr. Joyce over. The address

Luke could finish that sentence, Bianca tried to grab

she tried to take it from him, though, he just caught her easily, holding her tightly. Her slender wrist was fair and smooth, the faint green of the veins ahead reflecting into

Luke put down his large hand which was holding the phone. When he looked down at her, his gaze turned

face pale, Bianca looked at the phone he was holding. It was true; nothing on the screen said he was on a call. He had not really dialed the number at

if she did not go to the community

especially did not want Dr. Joyce to stop by again. The first time she met Dr. Joyce, it was because she was drugged with an aphrodisiac, and the second time was at home because she started bleeding halfway through an intense love-making session with

was more embarrassing than

Chapter 49

A blush crept up Bianca's face.

The lady next to her was not at all restricted with the topics she conversed with Bianca. Instead, she was excitedly chatting about any topic under the sun without the slightest care if there were any men nearby.

'Spill it to me, I'm very curious!' The lady next to Bianca had a look of anticipation on her face.

Bianca was dumbfounded to find that sex-related topics that used to be frowned upon by the society were now being discussed so openly.

"He isn't..." Bianca shook her head.

However, Bianca's 'he isn't my husband' had not been completed when the lady next to her discreetly turned to look behind Bianca with a lustful gaze directed at Luke.

Subsequently, the lady turned around to interrupt Bianca. The lady blushed as she said, "We're both women. We've surely done it with our husbands. What is there to be shy about? Can share some details with me? How many sessions do both of you have in a week? I can see with just a look that your man is very skilled..."

The lady once again shifted her admiring gaze to Luke's body. He was seated not too far behind. She mumbled, "Even his body carries the overbearing sense that he can make a woman climax countless times anytime and anywhere..."

Bianca was rendered speechless.

She felt that she could not continue on with this topic.

Firstly, Luke Crawford was not her husband, and neither did she dare to tempt herself with that thought. Secondly, she did not want to observe nor check if Luke did carry the overbearing sense that he could make a woman climax countless of times.

"Excuse me, I need to use the ladies' room." Bianca picked up her handbag and created an excuse to leave the nosy lady.

After exiting the washroom, Bianca looked for a relatively secluded place to sit down.

sat in the waiting area for about 20 minutes before her number

up, opened the doctor's consultation room door, and walked in. She followed the instructions of the doctor to remove her skirt and underwear before she laid down on the bed to wait for her examination to

down lower, further down," the lady doctor in her fifties said after giving Bianca a

downward upon hearing

knees and spread your thighs. Open wider," the lady doctor said. Once Bianca was in a good position, the doctor asked again,

"Bianca Rayne," came the reply.

examination was not something new to Bianca. The first time she underwent a gynecology examination was on a fine day five years ago. Before she had the privilege of bearing a child for that man, she had to ensure that her body was in

could not erase that memory for a lifetime. She had been stripped naked, interviewed with tons of questions, and examined by all that icy cold apparatus. She had to go through the long and

time, she felt ashamed and angry at the

that experience was five years ago, she could not help recalling that whenever she went for a gynecology

examination was done in less than five

down from that small bed. She looked down and huffed softly. She cleaned herself up before anxiously getting dressed. She then followed the lady doctor

the examination, she sat back in the waiting area to wait for

Outside, those who had completed their examination went in one after the other to get their **results**.

When her name was called, Bianca stood up. However, she noticed that at one secluded corner of the waiting area, a man stood up **as well**.

He walked in the direction of the doctor's office.

Bianca stood still and looked at him.

'Is he planning to go in with me?'

Since they were not husband and wife, it was rather inappropriate of a man to listen along during a woman's gynecology consultation.

"If there are any problems, I want an immediate follow-up. I will not allow you to take your health lightly." Every word that Luke spoke was full of vigor. That deep voice was so overbearing that it did not give any room for a refusal.

Bianca frowned and wanted to **say 'no'**.

However, while in the community hospital, Bianca was asked by a random lady regarding their 'marital life'. Perhaps it meant that society had become very open and realistic about these *things*.

Things were no longer the same as when she was 17 or 18 years old when society shied away from the taboo topic about sex.

Luke Crawford was a successful businessman who had taken over the whole Crawford empire without any early foundation. It proved that he was no ordinary man. Every successful man had one thing in common, and that is they would weigh the pros and cons before doing *anything*.

For these men, relationships were ranked the cheapest and *unworthiest*.

what Luke was concerned about was if she carried any serious illnesses that could infect a man. Dr. Joyce had been too rushed in her consultation. She only addressed the acute problem and did not delve deeper into

sort of illnesses could be spread to a man that made men

Syphilis? AIDS?

acted like her husband and entered the doctor's consultation room together with her, a dark thought occurred in Bianca's mind. What if the doctor misdiagnosed and announced that she

looked forward to seeing how the man next to her would react when the news was broken

be so frightened that he would immediately dash out the door and never wish to see her

long time, Bianca found out that tests for any sexually transmitted diseases had to be done at the tertiary hospitals where they had labs to specially test those. The community hospitals did not carry about my condition..." Bianca was rather

looked down at her notes and said, "Everything seems fine. You just need to be careful not to catch a cold, avoid strenuous physical activities, and get

then looked up to observe Bianca. "Based on your attire, you must be an office worker, I suppose. Try to avoid wearing high heels whenever you can for the time

Bianca nodded. "Okay."

serious problem, so don't scare yourself too much. I'll prescribe you some medications which you can easily get from any pharmacy." Once the prescription was written, the doctor noticed the man standing next to Bianca and saw that he only had eyes for his wife. The doctor could not help but throw in a word of reassurance, "Don't worry, your wife is in good health. I've scanned her ovaries and uterus. Everything seems to be well. Her pelvic bones are in good shape as well. From my years of experience, she seems

flushed red once again. Somehow the saying 'big butt indicates fertility' appeared in

Chapter 50

Bianca had to admit that with this man around to protect her, she was feeling doubly safe.

Which woman in this world would not like to be protected by such an outstanding man?

However, whenever you feel that the man was the right person, you would still end up getting yourself hurt. It was only when you were laden with wounds that you would understand that love could be as sweet as honey and at the same time, it could suddenly become as cold as the blade of a knife.

What would this man leave for her in the end? She did not know, and neither could she afford to bet on it.

Bianca did not say anything to Luke until they reached the entrance of her residential area.

She did not plan to invite Luke in as she did not want him to know which floor and which unit she lived in. Otherwise, he might suddenly appear with his kids at her door.

She was now sharing rent with Nina.

If Nina saw them together, it might bring up some unnecessary misunderstandings.

At the office, Jason and Sue had misunderstood her relationship with their boss. That had been awkward enough. She did not want to cause another misunderstanding about her private life.

Besides, she had just broken up with Jean not too long ago. If Nina saw that she was being escorted home by Luke so soon after the breakup, even if Nina believed her, it was unavoidable that Nina might mistake her for a promiscuous woman.

"Mr. Crawford, have a safe trip back." Bianca passed him his coat without looking up.

Luke stood about half a meter away from Bianca and lowered his head to look at the coat. The pure black coat was being squeezed tightly by her delicate and fair hands.

He did not receive his coat.

neon lights, Luke lit a cigarette and took a drag from it before looking at her. He asked with a deep voice, "What are you afraid

was afraid of him as a whole. His perfect physique, noble identity, each of his movements that appeared so regal no matter how minute it was... All of him made her feel that she could only look from afar and not get

why do you need to make life difficult

I need to?" This question made Luke take half a step forward. He was now standing right in front of her. Right at the moment when she had the slightest hint of wanting to avoid him, he raised his hand and caught her lower jaw, caressing her with his thumb before answering, "I have my reasons for making life difficult for

Bianca looked into his unreadable eyes.

is his reason for making life difficult for

a global man's disease that the best things are those that remain unattainable? Once they successfully conquer it, they'll gradually lose interest. With a wave of a hand, I'll then be worthless, and finally, I'll regain my

her head away slightly. Her jaw was released from the man's long and

that was still holding the cigarette lifted. Luke placed the cigarette between his lips, but he still had no intention of retrieving his coat from

feeling exasperated and decided to be forthcoming about it. "I hope that Mr. Luke will show me mercy and not play these games with me. I believe that you don't have a lack of women around you. Thin or plump, tall or short, you can have any woman

Luke blew a puff of smoke in her direction. With arched brows, he said, "Continue."

Bianca stood against the neon lights. Her eyes shone brightly from the reflection of the lights. They looked as if they had tears in them. 'I do not wish for any riches or fame in this life. I only want a stable and healthy life. Thus, I have no intention of grabbing on to your legs, Mr. Crawford, nor do I have any dreams of turning from Cinderella into a princess.

"I believe that there are plenty of other women who are praying fervently that they can grab on to your legs and go above others. From A-list actresses, daughters of powerful men, aristocratic young ladies... Any of them can be your pick, Mr. Crawford..."

Luke gazed deeply at the woman in front of him. On the surface, he looked expressionless, but on the inside, his heart was going through a heavy storm where the ocean tossed and crashed around. Had he ever willingly tagged behind a *woman*?

Even his mother had never received such treatment from *him*.

Did she not notice how he had humbled himself for her?

“Do you think that anyone can grab my legs as they please? For you who had easily shivered in pleasure when my third leg lightly touched you, you’re now setting up a gateway,” Luke said some unruly things toward her with a cold **expression**.

Bianca looked up in shock. Even the neon lights could not mask the blush that crept up her *cheeks*...

“Wait for me in this spot. You can let your imagination run wild about what your consequences will be for disobeying me,” Luke said. He then took his coat from her hand while taking a drag from his cigarette before turning *to leave*.

Bianca was left stranded on the spot in a daze.

Luke’s back view was tall and straight, filled with authority.

closed her eyes and could not help but compare. ‘No matter how much alike Luke is to Senior Crawford, he is not Senior Crawford at all. The former is a gentleman, a prince charming. The latter has a wicked tongue, a bad temper, and makes everyone want to

is such a huge personality difference between these two men. How can these two be the same

lost in her thoughts and did not notice an Audi Q5 approaching from the corner of the

was frowning in the driver seat, made Marie’s mood sour as well. He planned to drive to one of the parking lots at a nearby hypermarket when Marie suddenly called out, “Stop the

looking at Marie, Jean said annoyingly, “The road is not your house. We can’t stop anywhere we

saw Bianca. Stop the car!” Marie shifted her gaze from outside the car to glare at Jean. “Your darling is just outside. Aren’t you going to stop the

Jean’s expression changed when he heard Bianca’s name

was utterly disappointed and felt that the baby inside her was a joke. She screamed at him, “Didn’t you reprimand me for being the cause of you losing your darling? Alright, I will put in a few good words for you right away and help you to reconcile

Marie immediately opened the door and

to call her back, but nothing came out of his mouth. He merely frowned, turned his steering wheel, and drove toward a parking

was shocked to see Marie