

Extraordinary 301

[Chapter 301](#)

That made Ashlyn seem like an annoying, arrogant, pretentious, and vainglorious woman who liked showing off and had also put her parents to shame.

Ashlyn shot a glance at Penelope, who was feeling smug that she had exposed her step-sister. With a frosty glint in her eyes, Ashlyn said nonchalantly, "I never knew that you were so eager for me to start work."

Penelope let out a scornful snort, "It's too bad, you can't get a job."

Ashlyn twisted her lips into an unfathomable smile and there was an icy look in her crescent eyes which also exuded an inexplicable sense of haughtiness. "Don't worry about that, Mr. Haddock will come and beg me eventually."

"Ashlyn, are you daydreaming? Did you just say Mr. Haddock was gonna beg?" Penelope burst out laughing as if that was the funniest joke she had ever heard.

Horace and Mary were both ashen-faced.

None of them uttered a word.

Ashlyn looked at that family with an ambiguous smirk on her face and turned her back towards them.

She had already told them. It was up to them to choose whether to believe her or not.

At the very moment when she turned around and was about to walk away, Ashlyn heard someone coughing violently.

She stopped in her tracks and cast a sharp glance towards the stairs. "Who's coughing?"

Horace laughed nervously, "It's just the nanny who's not feeling well."

Ashlyn noticed the momentary look of discomfort which crossed his face and said coldly, "If it's really the nanny, why are you looking so guilty?"

"Your dad is still the boss of a company no matter what, why would he lie to you?" Mary said with a forced smile and continued, "You're so busy that you didn't even have the time to eat. Don't starve yourself."

Just leave quickly! That was the one thing Mary did not say out loud.

It was obvious that the couple was hiding something from their anxious behavior.

Ashlyn kept a poker face and remained unfazed as she said, "Since the nanny is not feeling well and Penelope is a nurse, why don't we get Penelope to go upstairs and check on her? Penelope, let's go together, I wanna see for myself how proficient a surgical nurse from the First Hospital is."

"You don't have to worry yourself over such a trivial matter," Horace said quickly and continued, "Penelope had already treated her."

"Oh, is it?" The corners of Ashlyn's mouth curved upwards as she said that. "Can I know what medicine did she prescribe?"

Penelope was momentarily stunned and recalled what Mary had instructed her previously. The nanny isn't ill at all, the truth is...

However, she could not let Ashlyn know about it.

Penelope saw the meaningful glance which Mary had cast towards her. They had some chemistry as mother and daughter and Penelope knew that Mary wanted her to reply. "Oh, I gave her some lozenges and flu medicine."

"You're still a nurse after all. Her cough sounded serious and there's phlegm in her throat. Based on my preliminary assessment, it's not an ordinary flu but should be pneumonia instead."

After Ashlyn finished speaking, she walked past the other three Berrys and was about to head upstairs.

She must find out what exactly was it that these three were trying to hide from her.

However, Mary was quick enough to stop her, "What's there for you to see? She's just a sick nanny. What if she passes the virus to you?"

"I'm not scared of that," Ashlyn pushed Mary away and strode upstairs.

Mary was fuming mad and grabbed Horace's arm. "Hubby, what should we do now?"

"What else can we do? Stop asking useless questions!" Horace brushed Mary's hand away and stomped upstairs in frustration, chasing after Ashlyn.

Ashlyn dashed up towards the second floor. The coughing sound, which she heard intermittently, got louder as she approached.

It did not sound like it came from any of the rooms but from the attic instead.

Ashlyn did not mind initially, neither was she curious about it. However, after seeing Horace and Mary's dubious behaviors, Ashlyn felt that she would have let the couple down if she did not cooperate. After

all, they had tried so hard to put up the poor act.

The air in the attic was arid and the room was stuffy and warm. It felt very uncomfortable to be in it for even one minute.

Is this where the nanny sleeps? It's almost inhumane if that's the case.

Ashlyn could only imagine how much worse it would be for a sick person who had nowhere else to go to.

Just when Ashlyn reached the attic and was about to turn the doorknob to enter the room, Horace caught up with her.

Rubbing his palms together, Horace said frantically, "Ashlyn, I have something important to ask you."

Ashlyn stared at him calmly and halted her hand movements. "What is it?"

[Chapter 302](#)

"It's... It's regarding Mr. Haddock..." Horace stuttered as he struggled to come up with an excuse.

Ashlyn cocked her eyebrows and stared at him with a frosty look in her eyes. "The more you try to distract me, the more I want to know who on earth you are hiding in the attic. What secret are you keeping from me?"

The violent coughing started again.

At such proximity, the coughing sounds were clear and ear-piercing!

Ashlyn widened her eyes in disbelief. This familiar voice...

Fury surged through her as she pushed open the door forcefully!

The first thing she saw within the constricted space was a small bed. A pale-faced elderly was lying on the bed, all curled up.

The attic was extremely run-down and poorly maintained with trash scattered across the floor.

The air inside smelled stale, as if the room had not been ventilated for a long time.

In fact, it would be surprising if anyone who stayed there for a long time did not get ill.

Ashlyn could hardly believe her eyes when she saw the frail elderly lying on the bed.

“Grandma!”

The elderly woman, whose small frame was curled up like a ball, was Susan Blackwood. She was falling in and out of consciousness and could hardly register what was going on.

Susan slowly opened her eyes when she heard the familiar voice. As her clouded eyes gradually regained focus, she managed to recognize the beautiful face in front of her, “Ashlyn... Is that you?”

Her voice sounded weak and was barely audible.

“Grandma, how are you feeling?” Ashlyn knelt beside Susan’s bed and held her hand tightly.

“Grandma’s fine... “ Susan smiled lovingly at her granddaughter before shutting her eyes again.

“Grandma! Grandma!” Ashlyn checked Susan’s pulse at once while ringing the hospital. “I’m Ashlyn Berry, please send an ambulance to the Berry Residence immediately. The address is XXX street, unit number XX.”

After Ashlyn got off the phone, she swept her cold gaze towards Horace, Mary and Penelope.

“Ashlyn... Please listen to me... “ Horace’s heart went cold as he looked at Ashlyn nervously. The imposing aura exuded by his older daughter was sending chills down his spine.

“Shut up!” Ashlyn bellowed.

“You! How can you yell at dad! You have really gone too far!” Penelope screamed.

“You have no right to interrupt!” Ashlyn swept a glance at Penelope before turning her attention back to Horace again. She fixed her icy gaze on her dad and said, “All along, I’ve thought that grandma was living comfortably. I’ve never expected that you would subject her to such torture.”

“Watch your words, I’m warning you. No one tortured her. We fed her well and tried to satisfy her every whim. She was the one who complained that it was too noisy downstairs and insisted on moving to the attic!” Mary jumped out to refute Ashlyn.

“Well, she’s obviously very ill to me, but not only did you not do anything for her, you even tried to lie and keep it from me. What was that for? Ashlyn narrowed her eyes and continued, “Mary Canter, are you really taking me for a fool?”

Mary’s eyes widened in indignation. “You... Did you just call me by my full name? I’m your step-mom and your elder! After disrespecting your dad just now, you’re disrespecting me now! You’re too much!”

“Ashlyn, we are still your elders after all. Besides, we have never ill-treated your grandma. She hasn’t been able to get used to city life after arriving from the suburbs and kept telling us that it’s quieter up

here in the attic.” Horace knew that there was no way he could admit that he had indeed mistreated his own mother.

“Oh wow, what a hypocrite! Lying without even batting an eyelid,” Ashlyn sneered and carried on, “Do you think I won’t have any evidence just because I didn’t see you torturing grandma with my own eyes?”

Ashlyn could no longer be bothered to argue with those people who were just like garbage. She wanted to feed them to the sharks.

However, she was rational enough to remember that she was still one of the Berrys.

She could only try to suppress her burning rage and start devising a plan.

Ashlyn contacted Harrison on social media at once, “Get Leonard to conduct a thorough investigation on Berry Furnishings’ finances and tax issues. You and Anderson are in charge of attacking Berry Furnishings’ firewall to see if you can obtain any incriminating evidence.”

“Yes, boss.”

Harrison, who was in his office, slid his chair towards Anderson and said, “Tsk tsk, boss is finally making a move against Berry Furnishings.”

“Horace Berry has been acting so ridiculously. Our boss has already tolerated him for a super long time,” Anderson chuckled.

[Chapter 303](#)

He typed a message in the gang’s group chat right away, “Guys, time to have some fun with Berry Furnishings! C’mon everyone!”

Meanwhile, the ambulance had already arrived at the Berry Residence. The head of the emergency department, Dr. McCoy, had personally led a team of doctors and nurses there.

The group of medical personnel dashed into the Berry Residence and asked, “Dr. Berry, where’s the patient?”

“In the attic,” Ashlyn replied.

“I’ll carry her down, I’ll go, you guys can just wait here,” Horace offered with a guilty conscience. It would be really embarrassing if these people saw the situation in the attic.

“That’s right. We are already feel bad enough that we have to call you guys to come all the way here. Let us go get her instead,” Mary added.

Dr. McCoy noticed the grim look on Ashlyn's face and figured out at once that something unpleasant must have happened.

Without another word, he charged upstairs with his medical team swiftly. When Dr. McCoy saw the scene in the attic, he couldn't help but frown.

At the same time, he cast a contemptuous gaze at the Berrys and was unable to fathom how anyone could be so cruel.

Penelope stood rooted to the floor and was plunged into icy fear. Her colleagues had all seen this, that her grandma was staying in the attic of her big house...

"Dr. Berry, we should get going now," Dr. McCoy said to Ashley respectfully.

The head of department behaved as if Ashlyn was the head of department instead.

Penelope was dumbfounded.

She grabbed Dr. McCoy's arm and asked, "She... Is she really a doctor?"

"Aren't you a surgical nurse? How could you not know that Dr. Berry is the best surgeon in the hospital? I can't believe you don't even know the most well-known person in our hospital! The two of you are..." Dr. McCoy glanced at Penelope, then at Ashlyn.

The way Dr. McCoy spoke to Penelope was filled with disdain and arrogance.

On the other hand, his attitude towards Ashlyn was extremely polite and respectful.

What a snob this guy is!

"I... I'm her elder sister!" Penelope said weakly.

"Excuse me, we don't come from the same mom," Ashlyn refuted and strode out of the villa.

The rest of the medical personnel followed closely behind her.

It was as if Ashlyn was the queen and behind her was her entourage of loyal courtiers.

Penelope's face contorted in a mixture of humiliation and rage as she stared at Ashlyn's diminishing figure which was moving further away. She clenched her fists in disbelief.

So Ashlyn is truly a surgeon!

It was an even greater shock to Penelope that Ashlyn was that 'best surgeon' she has been hearing all

this time!

Why?

They shared the same last name but she was just a nurse.

“Hubby, what should we do now?”

Mary’s face was white with fear. That bitch Ashlyn was not someone to be trifled with since the time she was a kid.

When Ashlyn was younger, Mary could still handle her. However, as she grew up, Ashlyn’s intimidating vibes often sent shivers down Mary’s spine.

Mary’s got more uncomfortable with Ashlyn’s presence.

She was fearful that Ashlyn would take revenge against them.

“What do you mean by ‘what should we do’? I’m her dad! What can she do to me?” Horace huffed and continued, “No matter what, I was the one who raised her. Even if she’s the most ungrateful daughter in the world, she is not going to kill me or beat me into a pulp, right?”

Horace did not believe that Ashlyn would take any extreme measures against him.

He could make a police report if she inflicted physical harm on him. If that happened, the whole of Lake City would know how unfilial this best surgeon was, to be treating her own dad like that.

By then, she would be drowned by negative comments.

That was exactly what Horace had in mind.

After Mary heard her husband’s words, she forced back her fear and said to Penelope, “Penelope, you’re a nurse too. You should go to the hospital at once and take a look at your grandma. Don’t let your sister claim all the credit for herself during this crucial time. You need to put up your best behavior too, yeah?”

Penelope looked at Mary reluctantly and said, “Mom and dad, why didn’t you two help me when I was being humiliated just now?”

“Do you know how dire our predicament is right now?” Mary realized that she had spoiled her daughter too much. She could not believe that Penelope could still be concerned over such a childish matter when Ashlyn was going to create trouble for them any time.

“Do you think Ashley is still the same person she was when she was a kid?” Horace patted his elder

daughter's shoulders and said, "She's capable of doing all sorts of crazy things now. Just listen to your mom and go to the hospital immediately."

[Chapter 304](#)

He thought about it and said, "No! All of us should go to the hospital together."

The ambulance whizzed through the bustling street and made its way to the hospital.

Once they reached the hospital, the medical personnel rushed Ashlyn's grandmother over to the emergency room.

Meanwhile, Ashlyn put on her white robe and told the director of the emergency room, "I'll take part in the rescue operation."

"Sure, Dr. Berry! Please come with me!" The director replied.

Finally, they walked into the emergency room together.

Without further ado, Ashlyn carried out a series of thorough tests for her grandmother while coming up with the appropriate treatment plan with the director of the emergency room.

"The patient is diagnosed with severe pneumonia. We have to run a CT Scan to ensure nothing else is wrong with the patient," Ashlyn instructed with a serious expression.

She got increasingly infuriated as she got a better grasp of her grandmother's actual medical condition.

Her grandmother had fallen seriously ill, but Horace had been keeping her in the dark all along. In fact, they refused to send her to the hospital despite being aware of her actual condition.

It was evident they wanted to send Ashlyn's grandmother to hell.

Horace Berry!

Mary Canter!

She took a deep breath in an attempt to calm herself down. "Let's bring the patient for a CT Scan now."

"Yes, Dr. Berry." The nurse took note of Ashlyn's instruction and brought her grandmother over to the CT Scan room immediately.

Once she walked out of the emergency room, she ran into a few nurses who were in the middle of a conversation as they were cleaning up.

"Does that mean Penelope is Dr. Berry's half-sister?"

"It feels like Penelope is really jealous of Dr. Berry! A friend of mine who's part of the surgeon team told me whenever someone praised Dr. Berry in front of her, Penelope would get infuriated. She would throw a tantrum in front of others."

"What? She's such a self-centered woman!"

"Exactly! I mean, isn't she Dr. Berry's sister?"

"Their grandmother is heavily bedridden, and yet none of them bother to rush her to the hospital. I can't figure out what's going on in the mind of those from the Berry family."

"You're right! I can't believe such an unfilial bunch of people actually exist in the world!"

"Thankfully, Dr. Berry noticed what was wrong with her grandmother. Actually, Dr. Berry doesn't stay in the Berry Residence with her family. If she's around, I'm sure those from the Berry family would not dare mistreat her grandfather either!"

"That's so inhumane! Unfilial people are the worst kind of people!"

"I'm grateful that isn't the case for my family because my grandmother and my great-grandmother stay with us as well, but my parents ensure they take good care of them!"

The trio from the Berry family, who finally made it to the emergency room, heard the conversation the nurses had since they were at the entrance.

Horace looked at the nurses who were reprimanding them with a grim expression, asking, "May I know where's Old Mrs. Berry who has been rushed to the emergency room?"

"She's currently away for a series of thorough diagnoses," A nurse replied indifferently.

Mary, who had been infuriated due to Ashlyn's impudent behavior, couldn't believe she would have to go through another round of humiliation in the hospital.

Hence, she went berserk in front of the nurses, yelling, "Please mind your manners! Is this how you're supposed to treat the family members of a patient?"

Since they were merely nurses, Mary was certain they had limited influences within the hospital. She warned them, "I will file a complaint on all of you with your supervisor! How dare you badmouth us behind our back?"

"Please suit yourself, madam!" The nurse took a peek at Mary and thought she must be Ashlyn's stepmother.

In fact, Penelope resembled her mother in terms of look.

On the other hand, Penelope, who was by her mother's side, felt greatly embarrassed because the ones her mother was picking on were her colleagues.

If her mother were to offend all of her colleagues, Penelope would have a hard time dealing with them at work in the future.

She got in Mary's way and stopped her mother immediately because she was aware of the potential consequences in store for her. "Mom, stop it! You're making a fool of yourself!"

"They're the ones who are making fools of themselves! Look at their attitude! How dare they badmouth us behind our back? They don't deserve to be nurses at all!" Mary yelled hysterically.

The nurse couldn't suppress her emotions either because she had never been scolded in the face ever since she was born. She rebuked and yelled back, "Who are you to tell me off?"

"I'm teaching you a lesson on your parents' behalf! Have you no shame at all? How could you gossip about others behind their back? I will definitely lodge a complaint against you! I want you to be fired! I won't allow you to be a nurse anymore!" Mary took her anger out on the innocent nurse who was merely stating the truth.

"You!" Although the nurse was equally infuriated, she couldn't rebut Mary's statement anymore.

In the end, her eyes brimmed with tears, keeping her emotions to herself.

Suddenly, a callous voice could be heard coming from their back, asking, "Oh? Who exactly are you trying to get rid of?"

The crowd was attracted by the presence of the professional-looking woman, who had a white robe on with her hair tied up, the moment Ashlyn showed up in front of them with.

She had a diagnosis report with her in her hand, evoking a sense of professionalism a doctor should have.

[Chapter 305](#)

She had her gaze on the shuddering nurse, asking, "Tell me what's going on."

"I..." The nurse was about to summarize the incident, but Mary got ahead of her and broke the silence, yelling, "Ashlyn, do you have any idea what she has done behind our back? She's gossiping with the other nurses behind us! Are you sure this kind of nurse is allowed to work at the hospital? We asked her Grandma's whereabouts, and yet she paid no heed to our query! I want to lodge a complaint against her with your supervisor! I want her to get fired immediately!"

Mary knew she wouldn't be able to take things out on Ashlyn, but she could at least vent her anger on the nurse.

Ashlyn frowned, staring at Mary, and replied callously, "I'm sorry, but you have no authority over the employees of the hospital! Guards, stop standing around idly! Chase them out of the hospital at once!"

"What did you say?" Mary's eyes widened in disbelief, asking because she couldn't believe her ears. "Huh? I'm your stepmother. I was the one who had brought you up over the years. Is this how you're repaying me? How dare you side with an outsider against me? Ashlyn, I want to lodge a complaint against you as well! You don't deserve to be a doctor either!"

In return, Ashlyn replied nonchalantly, "Seriously? Is threatening others by using the same excuses over and over again the only thing you're capable of? Can you please entertain me with something new?"

Finally, Horace got in Ashlyn's way because the guards were about to chase Mary out of the hospital as instructed, "Ashlyn, can you take the fact that we're a family into consideration and show some respect to your stepmother?"

Ashlyn scoffed, sneering, "Have you taken the fact that Grandma is also part of the family into consideration? Have you taken the fact that I'm part of the family into consideration? Have you no shame at all? How could you leverage on our relationship only when you need it?"

After she finished her sarcastic remarks, she repeated herself and instructed the guards, "Chase every one of them out of the hospital at once! Get them out of my sight immediately!"

"I'm a nurse affiliated with the hospital! You're not allowed to chase me out of the hospital!" The fact her sister wielded influence over the guards of the hospital took Penelope by surprise. In fact, the one who had shown up was none other than the captain of the security guards.

He took note of Ashlyn's instructions obediently and proceeded to chase the trio from the Berry family out of the hospital.

Penelope got worked up against the captain of the guards. Then, she yelled pointing at him, "Are you having an affair with Ashlyn? Why are you taking instructions from her?"

Thump!

Ashlyn slapped Penelope in the face. Consequently, a loud sound echoed at the entrance of the emergency room.

"You should watch your mouth and be mindful of your choice of words!" Ashlyn warned Penelope after retrieving her numbed hand.

Penelope's jaw dropped open in doubt. She detected the tingling sensation coming from her cheek. A clear slap mark could be seen on her bulging cheek.

Once Penelope returned to her senses, tears streamed down her cheeks as she shouted, "Dad! Mom! I can't believe she has the guts to slap me in front of others! It hurts! You have to avenge me, dad!"

She attempted to pounce on Ashlyn once again while cussing, but her half-sister returned the favor, kicking her in the abdomen area, sending her flying to the ground. "Chase them out at once!" Ashlyn instructed once more.

"Ashlyn, she's your half-sister! How could you do this to her?" Horace was about to avenge his beloved elder daughter since his younger daughter had the audacity to resort to such brutality in front of him.

However, someone got in his way and stopped him; a gigantic palm held on to Horace's wrist firmly in the nick of time.

Ashlyn glared at her father in the eyes, asserting, "I must say I'm very impressed! As a son, you have abused your mother! Are you trying to leverage your identity as a father and abuse your daughter again?"

Horace's face turned pale due to the racking sensation coming from his wrist. He turned around and looked in the direction of his wrist immediately.

He detected the presence of a tall man who had a grim expression on his face as he cast a stern gaze at him, devouring his soul through his penetrating gaze.

Horace was aware of the man's actual identity because he was, after all, part of the upper echelons, even though he could barely qualify as one. "M-Mr. Nolan?"

He couldn't believe how strong Lucas was because his wrist was almost broken due to the man's powerful grip.

Horace couldn't recall since when had he offended Lucas either.

"How dare you try to hit her? Do you have a death wish?" Lucas broke the silence, warning Horace. His words morphed into a sharp blade and penetrated the man's mind mercilessly.

[Chapter 306](#)

He cast Horace aside with all his might. Consequently, Horace staggered and fell to the ground.

It took him some time to bring himself up from the ground. He forced a smile in return in an attempt to please Lucas, asking, "Mr. Nolan, you're Ashlyn's..."

Lucas replied callously, asserting a dominating presence, casting a stern gaze at the man on the floor

before instructing, "You are in no position to know our relationship."

As soon as he finished reprimanding the man, he turned around and ordered, "Get rid of them at once!"

"Yes, Mr. Nolan." Spencer stepped forward and handed over Lucas a clean piece of handkerchief.

Immediately, Lucas took it over and wiped his hands clean as though he had just come in touch with a filthy creature.

Initially, Horace wanted to leverage the relationship Lucas had with Ashlyn, but it seemed to be a mission impossible because Lucas despised the presence of those like Horace the most.

Horace felt greatly humiliated because he had never been treated in such a manner before since he was the president of a small corporation.

Although he was irritated, he couldn't possibly offend Lucas due to the differences in their backgrounds.

Nonetheless, he couldn't figure out the sort of relationship between Lucas and Ashlyn.

The man with a noble presence approached the gorgeous woman, behaving entirely different from the way he treated Horace by asking her gently, "Are you okay? Have you been hurt anywhere?"

"I will never allow myself to get hurt by these bunch of fools," Ashlyn replied with a poker face.

"That's good to know." Lucas turned around and cast a stern gaze at Spencer once again.

Spencer knew what Lucas was up to. Thus, he chased the trio from the Berry family out of the hospital along with the guards of the hospital.

"I'm not leaving! I'm the nurse of the hospital!" Penelope yelled as she retaliated against the guards, staring at Lucas lustfully as she thought.

Is that Mr. Nolan, the captain that everyone in town is talking about? He's such a heartbreaker. I can't believe such a flawless-looking man exists in the world. Apart from that, he's both good-looking and rich at the same time!

How does Ashlyn get to know him? In fact, it seems like they're pretty close! This b*tch must have had gone around seducing men again! She's such a lustful vixen!

Penelope mustered her strength and managed to break free from the guards who had suppressed her. Once she broke free, she sprinted over in the direction of Lucas, requesting, "Mr. Nolan, I'm Penelope, Ashlyn's sister... C-Can we get to know each other?"

In return, Lucas frowned in disgust and cast a skeptical gaze at Penelope before turning around to size

Ashlyn up.

"Is she your half-sister?" Lucas remarked.

This is unbelievable! She's actually Ashlyn's half-sister? They don't look alike at all! I mean, her half-sister is so ugly.

"Actually, we're not related at all," Ashlyn shook her head.

"No wonder she's so freaking ugly," Lucas concluded.

"U-Ugly? Me? That's impossible..." All of a sudden, Penelope's heart sank to the bottom of her stomach because she had been criticized by others regarding her look. Although I'm not a match for Ashlyn in terms of look, I'm, by no means, ugly, right?

"Look at you and your craggy nose, small eyes, and wrinkled lips... None of your features resemble the ones on Ashlyn's face. Don't you think you are the perfect definition of ugly?" Lucas avoided Penelope's gaze because he found her presence irritating.

"I-I'm sure you have been deceived by Ashlyn! She's a vixen! She's having an affair with the captain of the guards! Apart from that, she is also having an affair with Jared..."

Slap!

Before Penelope could finish her sentence, Spencer took a step forwards and slap Penelope in the face because he couldn't hold back his anger anymore.

Since Penelope had belittled Ashlyn in front of him, he would avenge her even without Lucas' instruction.

Consequently, the other side of Penelope's cheeks bulged too. She heard a buzz and suffered from blackouts for some time because Spencer had slapped her in the face with all his might.

"Teach her a lesson. I want you to slap her twenty times!" The wrathful man instructed. Those in the corridor of the hospital shuddered in fear upon detecting the menacing aura coming from the man.

It's so nasty! He's such a horrifying man!

Ashlyn was the only one who managed to pull herself together, unaffected by the man's menacing aura.

Ever since Penelope decided to engage in a conversation with Lucas, Ashlyn had been observing quietly in anticipation of a great show from her half-sister.

On the contrary, Penelope wouldn't stop picking on Ashlyn in front of Lucas. She had been pushing her

luck in hopes of causing a conflict between Ashlyn and Lucas.

Spencer rolled his sleeves up and raised his hand and he started slapping Penelope in front of others.

In return, Penelope groaned in pain repetitively, complaining, "This is against the law! I- Ouch! I-I'll sue you for intentional assault!"

[Chapter 307](#)

"Suit yourself as long as you can succeed!" Lucas replied nonchalantly.

Since she has the audacity to pick on Ashlyn, I'm sure she's aware of the potential consequences in store for her.

Before long, Penelope passed out due to the racking sensation she felt throughout the session.

Spencer stated, "Mr. Nolan, she has passed out."

"I want you to resume once she regains consciousness! Keep it up until she learns her lesson!" Lucas instructed.

"Yes, Mr. Nolan!"

Finally, the trio of the Berry family had been chased out of the hospital.

Mary had a disheveled appearance as her hair was in a complete mess. She didn't seem like the wife of a nobleman at all.

She threw a tantrum, complaining, "Horace, you're such a coward! How could you leave our daughter alone when she needed you the most? Look at how they have beaten her to a pulp! Argghhhh! They're ruining our beloved daughter's face! It's over for her! How is she supposed to get married in the future?"

"Can you please keep your mouth shut for a few minutes?" Horace, who felt a headache coming, yelled in return.

"No! That's impossible! I'm not going to shut up!" Mary wailed hysterically to vent her frustration.

Once Horace brought Penelope, who had passed out, into the car, he warned his wife, "If you don't shut the f*** up, you'd better think of ways to get home on your own because I'll chase you out of the car!"

"Damn it, Horace! Are you trying to cast me aside since I can't be of use to you anymore? If I hadn't gone into hiding and allowed the woman to take over my role as your wife back in the day, you wouldn't have achieved this stage in your life either!" Mary lunged at Horace with her nails once she got into the car.

Horace kicked Mary away from him, warning, "Shut up! I'll throw you out of the car for real if you bring up the incident back then again!"

In return, he asked rhetorically, "Are you sure you're not one of the beneficiaries over the years? Do you have any idea how much money you have spent over the years? If it weren't because of my hard work, both of you would have long passed on, starving!"

As a result, Mary bumped into the door of the car. She yelled, groaning due to the racking sensation she felt, "How dare you hit me?"

Actually, wrath had taken over the man's rationality. Otherwise, he would never have engaged himself in such an intense fight with Mary because they had always been a loving couple.

Since the man was in a foul mood, he couldn't deal with his infuriated wife anymore.

In the end, he decided to neglect Mary and started his car before warning her again, "If you try anything silly again, I'll throw you out of the car!"

Mary started to cry, bringing up the trivial incidents that occurred back in the day, stating, "Even though I was pregnant with Penelope back then, I couldn't get married to you. Once I have given birth to Penelope, I spent most of my time alone with her in the tattered place you have rented for me until the woman passed on. It took you years before you reached out to us and brought us home. Look at you! Once you're rich, you return the favor to us in such a manner. Woohoo..."

Horace almost ran into a car halfway through their way home because his wife had distracted him since she wouldn't stop crying.

"If you're not going to stop, I'll run into the car opposite the road immediately! We'll take a one-way trip to hell together as a family!"

Upon her husband's warning, Mary finally stopped nagging her husband, but she couldn't suppress her emotions.

Tears continued to stream down her face as she was engulfed by wrath. She was on the verge of having a meltdown once more in front of her husband.

Ashlyn, I'll definitely get my revenge and avenge Penelope in the future!

...

On the other hand, Lucas, who dropped by the hospital, finally figured out the sort of relationship Ashlyn had with those from the Berry family.

He was taken aback once he figured out the truth, but he managed to return to his usual calm and collected self soon, stating, "To be honest, it doesn't seem like you're related to them by any means."

They had been married for four years, but he had never once run a background check on Ashlyn. Therefore, there were a lot of things about Ashlyn which he wasn't aware of.

Little did he know the sort of relationship she had with her family. In short, they were as good as complete strangers.

Lucas never expected Ashlyn to have such a complicated family background because he once thought she was an orphan.

"I will take care of grandma once she recovers. I want her to spend the rest of her life by my side," Ashlyn told Lucas.

She didn't want her grandmother to be apart from her anymore.

"Hasn't it crossed your mind to take her in back in the day?" Lucas was heartbroken the moment he detected the aggrieved expression on her face.

He wanted to rush over to her side to hold her hand, yet he resisted the urge of doing so.

Ashlyn explained, "Previously, I had brought it up for a few times, but she had always been a stubborn one. Therefore, she refused to give in to my suggestion. Maybe she thinks I'm having it tough on my end as well..."

"It's my fault and I'm the one to be blamed." The man's hoarse voice could be heard, stating his responsibility.

"Huh?" Ashlyn raised her head, looking at the man in the eyes confusedly.

"If only I had paid attention to you and the details, I would have long taken your grandmother in on your behalf."

Upon hearing Lucas' words, Ashlyn's heart skipped a beat because his words hit her hard.

[Chapter 308](#)

It took her some time to return to her usual self, declining in a croaky voice, "That won't be necessary..."

She had denied the man's offer because she had the capability to take her grandmother in as well.

After all, she was an influential and wealthy woman who possessed properties, cars, businesses, yielding influences over her underlings. In short, she didn't have to rely on others.

Although she was touched by the man's words, she had no intention of giving in to his suggestion because she didn't want to owe him any favors.

"Why are you here?" Ashlyn turned around and asked, avoiding the man's gaze in an attempt to divert the man's attention.

Lucas looked at Ashlyn quietly, recalling the purpose of his visit.

Initially, he had dropped by because he wanted to keep her to himself in the emergency room once again.

He had planned to get the director to get Ashlyn over to tend to him once he reached the hospital but came across the feud Ashlyn was involved in as soon as he reached the emergency room.

Nonetheless, Lucas was certain fate must have had brought him to her because he showed up when she needed him the most.

Therefore, he was in a very good mood. It was obvious as it was written all over his face.

"My friend has been hospitalized. His name is Joseph. I believe you have run into him back in the day," Lucas made use of his friends and lied to Ashlyn.

"What's wrong with him?" Ashlyn asked as she raised her eyebrow.

"I think he has caught a cold or something. Actually, I'm not sure what's wrong with him either, but he insists on checking in to the hospital." Lucas could be considered a veteran con artist because he didn't even flinch while telling a lie.

He would never admit he had dropped by the hospital because he wanted to spend some time with her again.

"If that's the case, I'll drop by and check on him. Where is his ward?" Ashlyn got up from her seat while she asked him.

Lucas just reached for his phone as he replied calmly, "I have no idea. Let me ask Spencer."

Meanwhile, in a random ward on the fifth floor of the hospital.

Joseph, who was rendered speechless by Lucas' absurd request, asked, "What is this so-called emergency? Why the hell does he need a so-called patient out of the blue?"

"That's not the point, sir! I'm sure Mr. Nolan has proven his sincerity, right? Look! He has reserved the whole floor for you!" Spencer explained, tucking Joseph in.

"I don't need him to prove his sincerity in such a way..." Joseph was rendered speechless by Spencer's reply as well.

Since he was a perfectly healthy and normal man, he couldn't figure out the reason Lucas had gotten him over to play sick out of the blue.

"Mr. Nolan will grant you three days' worth of leaves if you're able to put on a great show according to his request. Apart from that, he'll get you the latest set of fishing equipment too."

"Really?" Joseph got worked up all of a sudden because he had been longing for the latest set of fishing equipment for quite some time, but he couldn't bring himself to purchase it since it was quite expensive.

To begin with, the Field family was never a filthy rich family. Instead, they had always been referred to as the most disciplined ones amongst those from the upper echelon.

Hence, Joseph wouldn't allow such a golden opportunity to slip by his side since the 'filthy rich' had offered to them for him as a gift.

Suddenly, footsteps could be heard as someone approached the ward. Immediately, Joseph pretended to be sick, coughing consecutively.

Lucas knocked on the door once they reached the doorstep of the ward. Spencer played along, rushing over to answer the door instantly. "Mr. Nolan, Ms. Berry."

Ashlyn nodded in return. She turned around to ask Joseph, who was on the bed, "Why didn't you get in touch with me beforehand?"

Cough... Cough... Cough...

He coughed intensely once again before replying, "I don't think it's necessary to trouble you because it's not a big deal either... I'm sure I'll recover in no time..."

"Mr. Field, has the nurse dropped by to change the fluid? What sort of fluid is involved in your treatment plan?" Ashlyn stared at the man whose face reddened due to the intense cough, asking with a straight face. Joseph's mind was all over the place all of a sudden because he had no idea what Ashlyn was talking about since no fluid was involved as he wasn't sick.

Thankfully, he managed to make something up in the nick of time, stating, "I'm not sure either. I think it's the one for anti-inflammatory purposes?"

"Since IV therapy is part of your treatment plan, why ain't the back of your hand pricked by needles then?" Ashlyn removed the man's blanket, exposing his hand, asking callously, "Why don't you tell me what exactly Lucas and you are up to?"

Damn it! There goes my latest set of fishing equipment!

Since Ashlyn managed to see right through his act, the only thing Joseph cared about was the latest set of fishing equipment Lucas had promised him.

Once Ashlyn exposed their plan, she glared at Lucas before leaving the ward.

Lucas strode over, going after Ashlyn immediately, "Honey, listen to me..."

"What is this about? Are you trying to fool me with your friend?" Ashlyn asked with a poker face.

Lucas couldn't tell her emotions apart, but he held on to her wrist, explaining himself, "Listen to me! I didn't mean it either... I-I have dropped by the hospital to visit you because I missed you a lot..."

"You know what? It doesn't really matter what you're up to because I can't tell if you're lying to me or not. It has nothing to do with me either." Ashlyn shrugged Lucas off and left.

"I was going to drop by the emergency room and get you to tend to me in a similar manner as my last visit. However, I ran into you being in a nasty situation..." Lucas explained himself anxiously.

[Chapter 309](#)

However, his explanation had made things worse because Ashlyn saw those to be another one of Lucas' excuses.

"When are you going to stop behaving like a child?" Ashlyn glared at Lucas once more because she had had enough of the man's childish behavior.

Suddenly, a nurse sprinted over, announcing, "Dr. Berry, your grandmother is awake!"

"I'll drop by her ward immediately." Ashlyn nodded, rushing over to Susan's ward as soon as she could.

Without a second thought, Lucas went after her immediately.

Susan, who was lying on the bed, looked pale and haggard. Since she had just regained consciousness, she was extremely worn out.

Her hands had been pricked by the needle because part of her treatment plan was IV therapy. In short, the nutrients she required would be delivered into her system through infusion.

She surveyed the surroundings and realized she wasn't in the attic; neither was she in the Berry Residence because she was in an entirely unfamiliar place.

While she lost herself in the process of thought, she heard footsteps as someone approached her ward.

Before long, a familiar voice could be heard as Ashlyn asked, "Grandma, how do you feel?"

"Ashlyn..." Susan turned around and had her gaze fixated on the woman in front of her. She stretched her arm, attempting to hold Ashlyn's hand.

Ashlyn quickly held her grandmother's hand firmly, asking, "Grandma, why didn't you get in touch with me? I'm sure you're aware of your condition?"

Susan heaved a long sigh of despair, explaining, "I don't want to cause you any trouble. Ashlyn, it's not a big deal, I'm sure I'll recover in a few days..."

"Grandma, what are you talking about? I'm your granddaughter!" Ashlyn was heartbroken, she stared at her grandmother in the eyes as she helped her to sit upright.

"That is the reason why I don't want to cause you any trouble because you're my beloved granddaughter. I can't possibly waste your hard-earned money because the medical bill may cost you a fortune," Susan looked at Ashlyn in the eyes, explaining the rationale behind her decision.

"How can you keep me in the dark when dad has treated you this badly? If I hadn't dropped by to visit you, I wouldn't have found out that they have forced you to live in the attic!" Ashlyn's eyes glinted wrathfully, reprimanding her father's action.

"There's nothing wrong with living in the attic. It's actually quite a comfortable space since I'm the only one around," Susan tried to lighten the mood so she pulled her granddaughter's leg.

"Grandma, once you're discharged from the hospital, I want you to move into my place! I won't allow you to return to dad's place anymore no matter what! I don't want you to suffer anymore, Grandma!" Ashlyn held on to her grandmother's hand, suggesting, "I'm currently staying with a few of my friends in a villa. Do you remember the twins? They are my housemates. I'm sure they'll enjoy your presence as much as I do."

Susan shook her head. "That won't be necessary, Ashlyn. It doesn't make any sense for an old woman like me to stay with a bunch of youngsters, right? Since I have a son, it only makes sense for me to stay with my son."

"Grandma, can you please listen to me for once? Please?" Ashlyn begged her grandmother.

Suddenly, a man's husky voice could be heard as the man greeted, "Grandma, this is for you." The moment Susan raised her head, she was astonished because a handsome man had made his way into her ward. ...

What a great looking young man!

Susan had encountered all sorts of people throughout her life, but she had never once run into such a

handsome man with a majestic presence before.

She asked confusedly, "You are..."

"I'm Ashlyn's friend, Grandma. My name is Lucas. I have dropped by to pay you a visit." Lucas handed over the bouquet he brought along with him to Susan. Apart from the bouquet, the few boxes of tonics Spencer brought along with him seemed to be those of premium qualities.

"Since when have you befriended such a handsome young man, Ashlyn?" Susan asked her in a soft voice.

Ashlyn was rendered speechless by Lucas' performance.

What's wrong with him? He's getting gradually out of control by the day.

"I met him a few years ago," Ashlyn replied helplessly.

"Thank you so much, Lucas. I'm sure Ashlyn has always caused you all sorts of troubles, right?" Susan said courteously in return.

He's such a handsome young man!

"Not all, Grandma. I'm the one who has caused her all sorts of troubles," Lucas looked at Ashlyn in the eyes intimately, saying.

"Thankfully, you're aware that you're nothing but a nuisance," Ashlyn replied nonchalantly.

Lucas was rendered speechless by Ashlyn's reply because she actually made sense.

"Ashlyn, you should mind your manners. After all, he's our guest. You're not supposed to talk to a guest like this," Susan reprimanded her granddaughter as she chuckled.

Ashlyn remained silent thereafter and behaved obediently as her grandmother instructed.

I can't believe it! The fearless woman, who doesn't even flinch in front of a bunch of thugs, is behaving like a timid little girl in front of her grandmother.

I guess it goes without saying that her grandmother plays a huge role in her life.

Once again, Lucas detected an interesting side of Ashlyn unknown to others.

"Lucas, please take a seat," Susan invited Lucas to join them enthusiastically.

Lucas' lips curved upwards, grinning. Throughout the years, he had encountered countless people from all walks of life.

Most of them would try to flatter him because they needed Lucas to do them a favor. There were some who would put on a pitiable front in an attempt to get Lucas to sympathize with them.

In short, others had never once treated him as an ordinary person all these years.

Susan was the first person he had encountered who treated him as though he was an ordinary young man, deserving concerns from a senior like her.

The man could feel the old woman's sincerity through her gentle gaze as she looked at him in the eyes lovingly.

Although this kind old woman had been mistreated by her son and her daughter-in-law, she didn't hold a grudge against them.

Instead, she dealt with it casually, as if it weren't a big deal for her.

Deep down, Lucas was impressed because it wasn't an attitude an ordinary person might possess in life. Perhaps the only one who could achieve such a state in life was the one who had gone through the extremes in life.

"Grandma, do you want to have some fruits?" Lucas asked gently, offering to cut Susan some fruits, signaling Spencer with his eyes.

Immediately, Spencer unboxed the pack of fruits they brought along and grabbed a few apples out of the box.

He was about to peel the apples, but Lucas stopped him, instructing, "Hand it over to me."

Spencer shuddered at Lucas' instruction. He almost accidentally pricked himself with the knife because he couldn't believe his ears.

Is Mr. Nolan going to cut the fruits? Oh, God! Ms. Berry and Old Mrs. Berry are the only ones who have ever received such treatment in the whole of Lake City.

Ashlyn stared at the almighty Lucas as he held on to the knife with one of his gigantic palms; the apple with another one. He lowered his gaze and started peeling the apple.

An ordinary woman might fall for Lucas the moment they saw his flawless side profile.

The bright illumination in the ward enshrouded the man, adding a mysterious touch to the majestic man, intriguing the onlookers.

As Ashlyn lost herself while staring at the man's gorgeous face, her cheeks flushed, and her heart pounded furiously.

She shouldn't have stared at the man for such an extended period because it would put her rationality at stake. Although she was extremely familiar with Lucas, she would still be charmed by the man, who had been blessed with great features, if she were to stare at Lucas' face for a long time.

In the end, she heaved a long sigh in an attempt to catch her breath. Finally, she calmed herself down and returned to her usual calm and collected self.

Once she turned around, she heard her grandmother's voice, asking, "Lucas, what are you working as?"

"I'm a pilot, Grandma. Once you're discharged from the hospital, I'll take you out for a plane ride, okay? You don't have to worry about motion sickness because I'm an extremely skilled pilot," Lucas held his head high, replying with a bright grin.

Lucas had always had the habit of looking at others in the eyes whenever he engaged himself in a conversation with them. However, the usual stern gaze he had was nowhere to be seen as he had concealed it.

He was having a great time chit-chatting with Susan casually because the old woman would look at him in an intimate manner, making him feel as though he was at home with his late-grandparents.

He enjoyed being around Susan because he had established a good rapport with the old woman; hence, he could be himself whenever he was around her.

"You're a pilot? That's a great occupation!" Susan got increasingly satisfied with the young man in front of him.

Anderson and Harrison, whom I have encountered previously, are exceptional men, but they only stand out against ordinary people.

I'm afraid they are no match for Lucas because they are lacking in a few aspects as compared to him.

Since I need a reliable grandson-in-law to keep my beloved granddaughter company, I have to go for the best candidate that's available.

"It's quite a satisfying job. I think Ashlyn and I are a pair made in heaven since Ashlyn is a doctor while I'm a pilot," Lucas replied, staring at Ashlyn in the eyes.

She was at a loss for words due to the man's reply because she knew he did it on purpose.

Why don't you tell Grandma you're the President of Nolan Group and the sole proprietor of South Star

Airlines? Haven't you always been a shameless person? Why don't you tell Grandma the truth?

Actually, Lucas wanted to tell Susan his actual identity, but he was afraid the simple-minded old woman would be intimidated.

Susan nodded in return, sharing a tale of the old days, "I know it must be tough to secure a job nowadays... Back in those days, Ashlyn made it through the qualification exam of the university at the age of fifteen. However, her father wanted her to go through the ordinary route of education and complete the national exams. Thankfully, I stopped him and insisted on sending Ashlyn to the university."

She heaved a long sigh of despair as she recalled the past. Previously, her son and her daughter-in-law would listen to her because she was in her prime. However, over the past few years, they started showing her their true colors as she was getting weaker.

"Grandma, why are you bringing this up out of the blue?" Ashlyn was rendered speechless by the topic her grandmother brought up in front of Lucas.

"There is nothing wrong with it, right? Lucas isn't an outsider either," Susan replied, chuckling at Ashlyn's response. "Lucas, do you know Ashlyn was the top scorer of the national exams? Back then, the chief of the village gave me some money as a reward for doing a great job in educating Ashlyn. I spent it all to Ashlyn as her school fees."