## **Extraordinary 391**

# Chapter 391

"The sound you made just now was so sexy and attractive. Look, my fellow down there is already up," Lucas added in a casual yet evil manner without waiting for Ashlyn's response.

Ashlyn couldn't help but look at his crotch...

Resting his perfect and masculine chin on her neck, he let out an attractive chuckle. "Honey, do you want me to take off my clothes for you to check it?"

What a lunatic!

Ashlyn raised her leg to kick him.

However, Lucas grabbed her by the ankle and pulled her towards him. She was so flexible that her body actually assumed a split position after being pulled by him.

"Honey, you really can't wait to do it in such a difficult position, can you? It seems that I'll have to cooperate so as not to let you down then." Lucas flashed her another smile.

"Are you trying to be a hooligan today, Lucas Nolan?" Ashlyn said through her gritted teeth after taking a deep breath.

This man was very handsome and attractive, with unpredictable and imponderable mood swings.

Previously, he was an indifferent and nobleman in marriage. Yet, he was now a shameless hooligan, one who was also cruel, arrogant, and impatient.

Ashlyn wanted to withdraw her leg, but it was being so tightly held by him that she couldn't break free.

She had no choice but to find a way to push his chest that was as strong as a brick wall.

She raised her hand and slapped her palm towards the man's chest, but she was stopped by his other hand.

"Are you so eager to seduce me, Honey?" Lucas smirked and leaned in to rub the tip of his nose against hers.

Only then did Ashlyn react. When she tried to push him just now, her fingers got hooked to his shirt buttons. The moment he grabbed her hand, her fingers accidentally undid the top two buttons of his shirt.

The man's sexy collarbone was immediately exposed, and his chiseled chest was placed in her line of

sight.

Although they had been married for several years, Ashlyn still couldn't help but blush.

She wanted to withdraw her hand, but the man held it tighter. He then said shamelessly, "Honey, since you want to touch it so much, of course, I'll let you."

Lucas grabbed Ashlyn's hand and pressed it to his chest.

Ashlyn felt the high temperature of the man's skin through her fingertips.

It was so hot that her heart trembled.

"Touch here, Honey." Lucas took her hand all the way down, while Ashlyn's face turned crimson. She had seen a fair share of shameless people, but it was the first time she saw someone acting so shameless and brazen.

How could I not know before that this man is so shameless?

Her eyes went red. Nearly losing her mind, she lifted her leg to kick him.

Who would want to touch him?

Only ghosts, perhaps!

Upon looking at the woman whose face was flushed with anger, Lucas had a smile tugging at his eyes.

He suddenly grabbed Ashlyn's waist and lifted her off the floor before he leaned forward, pressing his body against hers.

Ashlyn wrapped her legs around his waist.

Such a position was ambiguous and intimate.

They were so physically close to each other that there was barely any gap or anything that separated them, other than the thin fabric of their clothes.

The minty scent of the man filled her nostrils.

Being held by the man with her legs wrapping around his waist, Ashlyn couldn't move at all.

Feeling embarrassed and angry, she looked up at the man, only to meet the man's eyes, which were like

a whirlpool that could take in everything.

The man stared at her with a dangerous look and a wicked smile on his unusually handsome face.

Ashlyn pursed her lips and said in a calm tone, "Lucas Nolan, I still have work to do. Please let go of me."

Looking down, Lucas pecked her on the lips, and her faint fragrance filled his nostrils. He leaned in to whisper into her ear, his relaxed voice filled with a hint of teasing, "Call me Honey, and I will let you go."

Feeling his hot breath on her ear, Ashlyn couldn't help but tilt her head to avoid looking at his sexy lips. She stared at him displeasedly. "We're already divorced! You're just my ex-husband."

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Lucas' face suddenly clouded over. He lifted her chin to raise her delicate and fair face.

He smirked coldly. "Sooner or later, Ashlyn, you'll be my wife again."

He pinched her chin a little harder, his eyes turning cold. "Don't try to run away from me, Ashlyn. As I said, you can only be my wife for the rest of your life."

Under his intimidating stance, Ashlyn looked up at him. This man is not only manic but also crazy and delusional.

He still dreams that I will still marry him! Hahaha! What a big joke!

Does he think he's so awesome and attractive that I will want to marry him again and again?

Dream on!

She smirked and said, with a mocking look on her face, "You sure are a domineering president. Do you really think I will remarry you tomorrow just because you say something so domineering?"

"Do you want to marry someone else, Ashlyn? Is it the masked man? Who on earth is he?" There was a hint of irritability in Lucas' eyes.

Ashlyn had almost forgotten that this man was an arrogant maniac.

She never knew that her words would provoke him.

"Let go of me! Does who I'm marrying have anything to do with you? I'll marry anyone but you," said Ashlyn irritably. There was no love between them. To put it harshly, they were just taking what they needed from each other.

What on earth does he want?

She was now in a particularly upset and confused mood. She merely wanted to find out the whereabouts of her mother and sister; she had no interest in dating at all.

She really didn't have time to argue with Lucas.

The look in the man's eyes was getting deranged, accompanied by a vague trace of anger, as if it would be let loose and would sweep over her in the next second.

Before Ashlyn could react, her body was suddenly lifted in the air. The man carried her and strode towards the lounge of her office.

The man kicked open the door with a bang and threw her on the bed.

He then pressed his body against hers.

Holding her firmly in his arms, he managed to restrain her even though she was kicking her legs and struggling.

He sucked and bit her red lips in an angry and punitive manner as if he wanted to swallow everything up.

Ashlyn threw punches at his chest angrily, but her hands were instantly caught by the man and pinned against the bed on the top of her head.

His kiss grew deeper and more violent.

His wild masculinity filled the air as if he wanted to tear her to pieces and crumple her up.

Sobbing, Ashlyn silently endured the man's attack. In the face of such a powerful man, she found that she didn't have the strength to resist him at all.

Her thin white coat was torn to pieces by the man, leaving strands of fabric on her body, making her look disheveled yet seductive.

Underneath the white coat was merely a white T-shirt with a pair of blue jeans.

The white T-shirt tightly wrapped around her body, which was curvy and very attractive.

Lucas was deeply attracted to her.

His bloodshot eyes were filled with violent longing as he stared at her, looking like he was a trapped

beast.

The sound of him panting heavily filled the air.

"Ashlyn, you can't escape from me for the rest of your life. You can only be mine," he declared in a domineering and powerful manner.

"You don't love me at all, Lucas. I don't love you either. You're just not used to not having me live with you after we're divorced. You'd better look into your heart and figure it out!" Ashlyn said weakly.

"I know my heart very well." Lucas' eyes were gleaming with determination.

I want this woman!

I must have her!

I only want her for the rest of my life!

Seeing her red lips that became swollen after being sucked and bitten by him, he leaned in to kiss her again.

Ashlyn didn't know that Lucas had known about the Spirogyra in her.

Nor did she know that he was actually trying to help her with her Spirogyra attack.

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He was afraid of her having a Spirogyra attack, so he had made up his mind that he must regularly help her with it, even if she resisted or hated him. The best way to help her was to do the most intimate thing with her.

This was what Lucas had been planning to do after he and Jared summed up the patterns of her Spirogyra attack.

During the past four years, the Spirogyra attack was episodic. After the divorce, the frequency and number of the attacks began to increase.

This showed that Ashlyn's body could not leave him at all.

On one hand, he hoped that Ashlyn could be healthy. On the other hand, he secretly felt a little proud that she was inseparable from him.

He was even shamefully glad that Ashlyn had asked him, and not another man, to get married to her at that time.

The thought of other men having an RH negative blood type irritated him and made his blood boil.

No matter who it is that wants to steal Ashlyn away from me, I'll ruin him! No one can ever try to steal her away from me.

Lucas made up his mind and began to attack Ashlyn wildly.

There was only a simple wardrobe and a single bed in the small lounge. It had now become the breeding ground for the irresistible lust between Lucas and Ashlyn.

Feeling a little out of breath, Ashlyn got carried away as her mind turned blank.

The hot air from the man's breathing brushed against her face. She opened her eyes to see the man above her, with his chest bulging under his black shirt. The only thing that stood between their bodies now was the fabric of their clothes.

She could clearly feel the wild masculinity exuding from him.

Lucas raised his eyebrows. "Be good, Honey..."

His Adam's apple happened to be right in front of Ashlyn's eyes.

It bobbed up and down as he spoke, looking extremely sexy.

She parted her lips to speak, trying to keep calm. "I still have to work. Get off me!"

"How stubborn. Your body is clearly enjoying it."

With his chest heaving slightly, Lucas looked at her perfect figure under her white coat, as something in his blood gushed over him.

Feeling as though his throat was on fire, he said in a husky voice, "I've locked the door, Honey!"

After speaking, he leaned in to kiss her again.

Emotions ran so high that it was almost suffocating.

The scorching passion seemed to ignite the air.

Ashlyn narrowed her misty eyes slightly, feeling as though she was also on fire...

After being kicked out of the hospital, Penelope ran back to the Berry Residence in embarrassment.

As soon as she entered the house, she saw Mary standing in front of the fish tank and grabbing a handful of fish food to feed the fish.

She cried out loud and bawled, "Mom-"

"What's wrong?" Mary was startled, and her hand trembled, making all the fish food in her hand fall into the fish tank.

The fish scrambled for the food.

Without care for anything else, Mary hurriedly led Penelope to sit down on the sofa. "What's the matter, Penelope? Shouldn't you be at work now? Why are you back?"

"Mom, it's all the b\*tchy Ashlyn's fault!" Penelope complained resentfully.

She then proceeded to tell Mary about everything that had happened in the hospital.

After listening to her story, Mary was trembling with anger. Her well-maintained face twisted so much that it was almost unrecognizable. "Damn! How dare this little b\*tch do this to you! Who does she think she is?"

"Mom, what should I do now?" Penelope was crying her eyes out.

I've lost the job I worked so hard to get. What should I do?

"Let's wait for your dad to come back first. We have to plan it out. Otherwise, you can go to your dad's company to work. Sooner or later, the company is gonna be yours anyway." Mary patted Penelope on the hand to comfort her.

As soon as she finished speaking, the doorbell suddenly rang.

A servant hurried to open the door.

Unexpectedly, a few uniformed policemen walked in.

"Excuse me, is this Horace Berry's household?"

Mary was startled, and her heart sank. She had a bad feeling about their arrival.

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"Yes, this is the Berry Residence. What's the matter, Sir?"

The officer leading the group showed a piece of paper in front of Mary. "This is an arrest warrant. We went to Berry Furnishings but didn't see him. Is he at home?"

Mary's face was instantly drained of blood, as she asked with trembling lips, "Arrest? Why arrest him? What did he do wrong?"

"We received an anonymous report that Horace Berry engages in tax evasion, and we have solid evidence. So, we're arresting him," the officer replied. "Please get in touch with Horace Berry. Otherwise, we will post a nationwide arrest warrant on the Internet."

Mary went weak in the knees and staggered, nearly passing out.

Fortunately, Penelope hurriedly supported her by her side. "Mom, mom, are you okay?"

"W-Where should I find him? He went to the company in the morning. He hasn't come back since," Mary bawled.

What do we do if Horace goes to jail? What will we eat? Where will we get the money to spend? How will I maintain my lavish lifestyle? Penelope has now lost her job as well.

Mary felt like her whole world was caving in.

Just then, the doorbell rang.

Horace rushed in sweating and shouted anxiously, "Darling, hurry up and pack some clothes for me. I'm going out—"

Before he finished speaking, he saw the policemen standing in the living room. His voice got stuck in his throat, making him unable to speak anymore.

W-Why are the cops here?

He was ashen-faced. He had only escaped from the company after his assistant said that the police were looking for him.

He initially wanted to go home, pack some clothes, and leave, but to his dismay, the police were already waiting for him at home.

He widened his eyes in disbelief as the police walked up to him and handcuffed him.

It was not until the cold handcuffs secured his hands together that he came back to his senses, saying, "I was framed. I didn't evade taxes! I didn't!"

"Any reservations, you can talk to the judge in court." With an indifferent look, the officer then said

coldly, "Take him away!"

Mary rushed over and hugged Horace. "No one is allowed to take my husband away. He has done nothing wrong! If you dare to take him away, I'll bang my head against the wall and kill myself!"

Horace didn't expect Mary to be so protective of him. Feeling touched, he looked at her and said, "It's okay Darling. You should live a good life with Penelope while waiting for me to come out."

"We can't live without you, Darling! What will Penelope and I do after you're gone?" Mary cried bitterly. Who will give me money? She usually hung out with several wives of wealthy men when she was free. If she had no money and the company closed down in the future, she would not have the face to hang out with them anymore.

Penelope also grabbed Horace in the arm. "Dad! I was sacked from the hospital today!"

"What?" Horace looked shocked. "Why?"

"It's a long story. Dad, you can't leave mom and I behind! We really can't live without you!" Penelope also started to weep.

Horace stared at Mary with a look of trouble. He was heartbroken and worried. In the end, he was taken away by the police without saying anything else.

Mary chased after them and watched the police car speed away. She couldn't help but fume with anger.

"Mom, what's wrong with you?" Penelope asked, feeling curious after noticing the abrupt change on her mother's face.

Wasn't Mom worried so much about Dad just now? It was as if he's in a life-or-death situation!

Why the sudden change in her attitude?

"Your dad still doesn't trust me enough," Mary scowled, her face darkening. "Hmph! He has a safe with some of his cash. I thought he would tell me the password, but he actually left without saying anything. It's driving me crazy!"

It seems like I can't rely on Horace anymore. I'll have to find another way out.

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Berry Furnishings was being closed down because of a tax evasion incident.

Their assets were seized, and they could not cover the huge amount of taxes they owed.

Berry Furnishings had been losing money over the years, and their income had never been enough to cover the expenses. Dixon's insignificant investment was only enough to relieve Berry Furnishings of their urgent needs - it never solved the root of the problem.

The company's seizure only added to the problem and angered Dixon so much that he threw the documents onto the ground.

"Horace's useless!"

"At least Ashlyn agreed to the operation, didn't she, Mr. Haddock?" Sienna lowered herself to pick the documents up and place them in front of Dixon.

The handsome-looking man stared blankly at the documents with his coal-black eyes before breaking the silence, "Leave me."

"Understood." Sienna quickly pushed the door open and went out.

As soon as she went through the door, a sudden feeling took her by surprise. She felt discomfort in her stomach as if she were about to throw up.

Could it be?

Sienna's face turned pale. She dared not waste another second standing still. After dashing to a stall in the bathroom, she did nothing but dry heave, so much that she almost vomited stomach acid.

After a moment, she patted herself on the chest as she walked out of the stall.

Sienna was a thirty-six-year-old woman, so she knew to take birth-control pills because Dixon cared not about taking any safety measures.

She had no plans to have children as her husband was disabled, so it would not make sense for her to be pregnant.

If she got pregnant, that would mean that the baby was illegitimate. It would be a bastard child of the aunt and her nephew.

Am I going to let my child be called a bastard?

Sienna dared not to go further with that thought, so she returned to her office, still distracted.

"President. President..."

Lisa called Sienna a couple of times before she snapped back to her senses. "Yes, what is it?"

"This is the list of donations for our charity foundation for this quarter." She handed Sienna the report before looking at the latter with concern. "Are you okay? You don't look so good."

"I'm fine. Just a little tired." Sienna forced a smile and started to go through the report.

Sitting at his desk in the office, Principal Potter of University T was going through a file when the director of admissions, Mr. Granger, approached him. "Principal, the graduation season is near. Graduation Night will be held soon, not to mention the talk for the new term. Who should we invite to do the medical school talk this term?"

Last time, the principal invited somebody called Ashlyn, and she accepted the invitation. She didn't bluff, did she? If she's not the big deal she claimed to be, we're in trouble.

Principal Potter looked up from the file before handing it over to Mr. Granger. "Take a look at this, Granger."

Mr. Granger took the file with a puzzled look on his face. "What's this?"

"Just look," instructed Principal Potter softly.

Five minutes later, Mr. Granger opened his eyes wide in shock as his hands trembled, "How is this possible?"

"It really is her," sighed Principal Potter, "I thought she was familiar the first time I saw her at the Haddock Charity gathering."

"She really was the one who wrote the paper that took the medical world by storm! Not only did she publish several first-level theses, but she was also a guest editor at a world-class medical journal. How is that possible? She's only how old? Wasn't it said that the medical genius disappeared after publishing a paper four years ago? It was a great loss to the medical community," exclaimed Mr. Granger as he found what he read in the file to be unbelievable.

"My brother is the dean of the institute of medicine in Maredania. This file he sent has to be correct. He said that the genius got poisoned and that it was the incurable kind. However, he never gave up searching for the child. His only fear is that she might have fallen," explained Principal Potter as his eyes turned red.

Mr. Granger lowered the file in his hands. "I didn't expect her to still be at First Hospital in Lake City."

"Even though University T can't compare to her alma mater, we can still invite her to give a lecture. I just don't know if she's managed to detoxify the poison," responded Principal Potter as he looked worriedly out of the window.

Ashlyn graduated from Zenith University - the best university in H Nation. She became famous after publishing a world-class paper before she even graduated. Such news shook the entire medical community.

But after graduation, Ashlyn simply vanished. Nobody knew where she went.

Even her name and photo on the honor roll of the medical university had disappeared from the list of honorary alumni.

Ashlyn was gone as quickly as she came, and like the wind, she left without a trace.

"Now that we've determined Ms. Berry to be the genius, why don't we just invite her to give the last lecture before graduation?" Mr. Granger could not help but make the suggestion.

"I'll need to see to this invitation personally. You should come with me. Oh, do ask the director of teaching and vice-principal to tag along," ordered the principal.

"Yes, Sir. Right away," responded Mr. Granger before standing up. "About Graduation Night..."

"We'll talk about that tomorrow. Let's deal with the lecture first."

Meanwhile, in Ashlyn's office at the hospital, Ashlyn's face was flushed with passion as her apricotshaped eyes stared at a satisfied man.

With his legs crossed, a man sat lazily on the sofa, gently swiping his phone screen with his long, slender fingers.

"Shouldn't you be out?" asked Ashlyn harshly, whose back was sore and painful.

The man was a wild animal in bed, though he did not look like it. He now looked like Prince Charming who could only be found in fairy tales. Of course, that was only his physical appearance.

The 'animal', Lucas, lifted his head and looked at Ashlyn who was sitting behind her desk with his coalblack eyes. The woman's features were exquisite and her gorgeous lips that were now swollen because of his kisses looked alluring. She was looking down at a medical record as a strand of her hair hung at the side of her face, making her look all the more amorous.

Lucas could not help himself as he stood up and approached Ashlyn. He then reached out to pull that

strand of hair and wrapped it playfully around his finger.

Annoyed, Ashlyn lifted her head to glare at Lucas. "Let go!"

"You're making me feel like I failed to satisfy you just now. Why the temper, honey?" Lucas asked with a smirk.

The way Lucas looked at her reminded her of the steamy scene they had both been in just now.

Ashlyn could almost feel the warmth of his muscular body still lingering at the tip of her fingers.

The pen she was holding onto suddenly dropped onto the floor as she got distracted.

"It's all your fault, Lucas!" Ashlyn's feeling of embarrassment suddenly turned into anger.

Lucas lowered himself to pick up the pen and put it back into her hand.

"How is my fault?"

Ashlyn kept quiet and did not respond.

Man!

I wouldn't have dropped the pen if he didn't distract me by reminding me of his wild side.

Why is this jerk bothering me anyway?

The more I try not to think about it, the harder it is for me to control my head.

Once again, flashing before her eyes was the scene in which the man's sweat rolled down from his forehead and dripped onto her chest.

Ashlyn internally screamed as she shook her head in an attempt to shake off the image.

Holding his chin while looking at Ashlyn, Lucas found her reaction very interesting as he knew Ashlyn had many sides to her. Some were cute, others lively, interesting, or simply just charming, but he had recently only seen the cold and strong side.

What Lucas liked the most was the way she looked when she was lit up with fiery passion on the bed.

She was like a beautiful rose dressed in passionate and bold colors.

She may not want to admit that she wanted it but look what happened.

We went at it several times in the end anyway.

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Lucas was feeling like a new man while Ashlyn's back was killing her. It was indeed a strong contrast between the two.

Ashlyn could not figure out how the man could still look so energetic after exerting himself so much. The vigor he had was unbelievable.

When Ashlyn was deep in thought, someone suddenly knocked on the door of her office.

Ashlyn took a deep breath to recollect herself before calmly responding, "Come in."

Though she could see the doorknob being turned, the door remained closed.

She then remembered that the door was still locked. So, she kicked Lucas and ordered, "Go unlock the door."

Lucas, the arrogant but handsome captain, did as he was told and moved his long slender legs to get the door open.

The person on the other side of the door was stunned to see a man when the door finally opened.

Worried that he might have knocked on the wrong door, Principal Potter quickly took another glance at the name on the door to make sure.

Looking puzzled, he hesitantly asked, "Mr. Nolan, would this be Dr. Berry's office?"

Lucas did not wear a friendly face towards the old man who had interrupted his time with his girl.

"What do you want with Dr. Berry, Principal Potter?"

It was supposed to be just the two of us!

What the hell are these old geezers doing here?

Lucas had donated quite a significant amount to the university after asking for Principal Potter's help last time.

Out of respect, Principal Potter responded to him, "Oh, the thing is we're hoping to invite Dr. Berry to give a lecture. Would you mind letting us in, Mr. Nolan?"

After glancing at the assistant and a few other directors behind Principal Potter, Lucas reluctantly got out of their way and let the old men in.

"Ashlyn's inside. Come on in."

Principal Potter had noticed how Lucas treated Ashlyn differently since the last time they met, but he had never expected to meet Lucas in Ashlyn's office.

Doesn't this president have a great deal of business to tend to? Why is he lounging about in Dr. Berry's office?

They couldn't have been just talking, could they?

Principal Potter could not help but let his imagination wander.

"Principal Potter, directors, please have a seat," invited Ashlyn after standing up behind her desk.

She then glanced at the tall man who refused to leave her alone. What an eyesore!

"Why aren't you serving the directors tea? Get me my Oolong tea," ordered Ashlyn.

A useless eye sore, that is.

Lucas kept his silence as he thought to himself.

Oh, I dare them to have me serve them tea!

The directors quickly stood up in a panic. "We're good. You don't have to do that, Mr. Nolan."

They would not even dream of having Lucas serve them.

Doing as he was told, Lucas grabbed the Oolong tea from the cabinet and proceeded to make some tea.

Ashlyn was the only person who could have ordered him around like a servant.

What a surprise!

Mr. Nolan is actually making tea like Ashlyn ordered.

Feeling uncomfortable about it, Principal Potter immediately tried to help out, "Let me do it, Mr. Nolan."

"You're our guest, Principal Potter. Leave him be. He can do it," assured Ashlyn as she glanced at Lucas

once again. Let's see how vigorous you are now. This will keep you busy.

Meanwhile, Lucas was deep in his own thoughts. 'Our guest'? So I guess we're together now that she's started to use the word 'our'.

It's only fair that I serve these old geezers since I'm also the host here.

With that thought in mind, Lucas had no problem with making the tea and serving the old men. They thanked him profusely, "Thank you, Mr. Nolan. You're too kind."

Mr. Granger even had to wipe the sweat off his forehead. He never thought he would be fortunate enough to enjoy the tea made by Mr. Nolan himself.

Ashlyn was very much amused at the sight of the directors, who were revered among the students, panicking, "So what do you have for me?"

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With this many directors in my office, has something happened?

With her eyebrows raised, Ashlyn focused on Principal Potter.

"Well, it's about the lecture I've mentioned to you last time. Now that the National Day Gala Night is over, I was wondering if you would have the time to give a lecture at our university. After all, you've saved countless lives with your expertise." Principal Potter was finding it hard to look directly at Ashlyn because of how beautiful she was.

She's that genius from many years ago!

She made it!

There was so much going on inside of Principal Potter that, for a while, he did not know what else to say.

Dr. Berry specializes in surgery, but she's well-versed in Chinese medicine too. She can definitely give a great lecture.

Principal Potter looked at Ashlyn with inexplicable enthusiasm but also with mixed emotions.

Puzzled by his gaze, Ashlyn asked, "I have no problem with giving a lecture, but why are you looking at me like that?"

"Oh, I didn't mean to." Principal Potter did not expect Ashlyn to agree to his proposal without hesitation.

He froze for a while before continuing, "Thank you, Dr. Berry. Can you do Monday and Friday afternoon?"

"Sure, I'll be there on time." Ashlyn nodded in agreement.

"My assistant will contact you to sort out the details for the lecture," responded Principal Potter immediately.

"Sure, it'd be my pleasure to help out the students." Ashlyn smiled.

After standing up happily, Principal Potter glanced at his watch. "Why don't I treat you to dinner at the Imperial Hotel tonight, Dr. Berry?"

"I think you should save it," Lucas sneered before he caught Ashlyn's glare. Suddenly, his tone changed, "Because dinner's on me. You can have whatever you want."

He sure changed his tone fast enough.

What a manic psycho!

At the entrance to Imperial Hotel, Ashlyn answered a call after signaling Lucas to bring Principal Potter and the others inside first.

"Who's calling?" asked Lucas curiously.

"None of your business. Now get inside!" exclaimed Ashlyn with a scowl.

Lucas shrugged, rubbing the top of her head affectionately before bringing the old men to the hall.

After talking to Jared for a while on the phone, Ashlyn hung up.

When she looked up, she noticed a black Mercedes-Benz parked at the entrance of Imperial Hotel.

Just as Ashlyn was about to go inside after putting her phone away, she heard a familiar voice, "Ashlyn, it's really you!"

Penelope?

Ashlyn turned to see Penelope stepping out of the Mercedes-Benz. The woman was wearing a light yellow dress, a pair of three-inch high heels, and heavy makeup as she walked with swaying hips over to Ashlyn.

"Can you really afford the Imperial Hotel? This place has the most expensive restaurant in Lake City! A meal will probably cost you half a month's salary," mocked Penelope.

"And how is that any of your business?" Ashlyn looked at her with a stoic expression. I'm guessing Penelope's wrist has recovered since she's her arrogant self again.

"I'm just worried about how much you have in your wallet. Has Lucas just dumped you? Is that the reason why you're standing out here alone? What a shame!" Penelope covered her mouth with her hand and chuckled.

This woman and her assumptions sure are pissing me off.

Turning to go inside, Ashlyn could not bother to put up with her.

Before Ashlyn could walk away, Penelope stopped her and grabbed the man who just walked over. "Let me introduce my boyfriend."

Ashlyn glanced at the man, who looked thirty-six or thirty-seven years old in front of her. He was wearing a casual outfit and a pair of gold-rimmed glasses.

He has to be way older than Penelope, right?

"Darling, this is Ashlyn. The one I've mentioned to you." Penelope held onto the man's arm as she continued, "Ashlyn, this is my boyfriend, Matt. He's the vice president of University T, and he's only thirty-eight. Very young and promising, I know."

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"That's quite young," mocked Ashlyn with a nod. Young enough to be forty soon.

She's only in her twenties, and yet she's dating a man who's almost forty. What's there to be proud of?

She needs to get her priorities straight.

"So, you're Ashlyn? You look pretty, but could you treat Penelope a little better in the future?" Matt looked at Ashlyn displeasedly.

He had heard a lot about Ashlyn from Penelope, so his impression of Ashlyn was that she was a vile woman who liked to pick on the former.

Matt would get furious whenever Penelope complained about Ashlyn to him.

Now that he finally met Ashlyn in person, it did not matter that Ashlyn looked prettier and more charming than Penelope. Matt had nothing but disgust for Ashlyn.

Matt continued to lecture Ashlyn the way he would lecture his students. "Penelope's kind and innocent, but that doesn't mean you can always pick on her like that. You're sisters, and you're supposed to help and love each other. You can't continue to treat her the way you used to."

Ashlyn looked at Matt in disbelief. What's wrong with this guy?

I know Horace's in jail right now, so is Penelope getting another cash cow?

She was just with another jerk from the hospital a few days ago... She's with this guy now?

Her boyfriend turnover rate is really astonishing! I guess she's trying to show people what it means to change your boyfriend like you change your clothes.

What Ashlyn did not know was that Penelope was actually cheating. She was dating both men at the same time.

What's wrong with the principal? Why would someone like Matt be assigned the position of vice president?

Someone who would get manipulated so easily by Penelope.

It was almost laughable.

"Be careful who you're talking to, Mr. Zane." Ashlyn glanced at Matt once again but coldly this time. "Who are you to talk to me that way?"

"I'm Penelope's boyfriend and your soon-to-be brother-in-law, so you have to listen to me!" Matt's face turned red from embarrassment. He had not expected Ashlyn to talk back, so he grew upset when she did.

"Well, excuse me! Not even Horace could've made me listen to him. So just save it." Ashlyn turned and left as soon as she was done speaking.

She could not bother wasting any more time with the two idiots.

Penelope got so upset as she leaned helplessly against Matt. "That's the attitude she always gives me, Darling. Look how she despises me."

Feeling heartbroken for her, Matt quickly kissed and comforted her softly, "It's okay Darling. We'll go inside and have her pay for her attitude."

Embraced by Matt, Penelope smirked as she thought about getting back at Ashlyn.

Following closely behind Ashlyn, the two made their way into the Imperial Hotel as well.

Lucas was sitting at a long European-style table with Principal Potter and the others when Ashlyn took a seat beside him. She only did so because there was no other seat available at the table. She knew that seat had been undoubtedly saved specifically for her.

To Ashlyn's surprise, nobody had ordered any food yet.

"What do you want to eat?" Lucas asked softly as he handed Ashlyn the menu.

"Oil-braised chicken, fresh shrimp, and stir-fried vegetables." Ashlyn made the orders without hesitation.

Only after her orders did Lucas and the others started making theirs.

When Matt and Penelope appeared suddenly at the scene, all they saw was a woman with bright eyes, pearl teeth, long eyelashes, fair skin, and lips that are as tender as rose petals.

Next to that woman was an unusually good-looking man surrounded by a powerful aura. Even though he was only wearing a regular black shirt, his presence was so strong that it was almost palpable.

Matt's eyes opened even wider when he realized who the others around them were.

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He could not hold it in any longer. "Principal Potter, why are you having dinner with this vile woman? Don't you know... "

Before Matt could finish, Principal Potter scowled at him and interrupted, "Vice-President Zane, what's the meaning of this? Dr. Berry is an excellent doctor who has treated many severely ill patients. Where are your manners?"

Matt's EQ had always been very low. That was the reason why he had always had trouble finding himself a girlfriend. Even though he came from a wealthy family and was almost forty, he never got married.

Matt was decent at work, but there was just something he was missing.

It then hit Principal Potter when he noticed Penelope beside Matt.

His heart burned with anger, and he could hardly contain it anymore. The thought of choking Matt to death even crossed Principal Potter's mind.

How dare he ask me why I'm having dinner with Dr. Berry! She's the big shot I've just managed to invite for a lecture.

How will he ever make it up to her for his offensive actions?

"Don't be fooled by her beautiful appearance! She bullies her sister, stepmother, and stepbrother at home every day. She even abuses her grandma! There's no good in her!" exclaimed Matt when he thought Principal Potter was clearly trying to protect Ashlyn. "If you don't believe me, you can ask my girlfriend. She's lived under the same roof as Ashlyn for many years."

Matt then pushed Penelope forward in front of everyone. The woman never thought Matt, the idiot, would do something like that.

Penelope's face flushed as she was totally caught off-guard. She was trembling when she stood in front of the directors and under Lucas' cold gaze.

"My father went to prison because of Ashlyn. It was also Ashlyn's fault that my mother got sick."

"Was she also the one who forced your father to evade taxes and forced you to date Jerry?" mocked Lucas as his face turned dark and his sullen eyes shot straight at Penelope.

How dare she make up stories to make my girl look bad!

This woman disgusts me!

When bad things happened to the Berry family, I thought she would stop and reflect on herself for a bit.

But I didn't expect her to get even worse.

I guess people really don't change.

Lucas's ice-cold expression made Penelope very uncomfortable. She could not help but wince a little and went to hide behind Matt.

Matt was not going to go down easy, especially not in front of his girlfriend. "I know you're an important person, Mr. Nolan, but Ashlyn really isn't who you think she is. I advise you to stay away from her because God knows when she's going to start taking advantage of you."

"Shut up!" Lucas's roar was so powerful that everyone around him was stricken with fear. The atmosphere in the restaurant turned stagnant.

After shooting daggers at Matt and Penelope, Lucas signaled Spencer, who was standing just behind him.

Spencer quickly dialed a number, and before long, dozens of bodyguards rushed in from all directions to surround Matt and Penelope.

Even though Matt came from a wealthy family, he spent most of his time either at school or at home. That was why he had never seen anything like this before.

His face turned pale as he exclaimed, "What do you guys want?"

Holding his wine glass with his long slender fingers, Lucas's fingers somehow seemed more visually striking as they contrasted with the crimson color of the wine.

The man took a sip from the glass before casually ordering, "Throw them out."

"We, too, are here to dine at the Imperial Hotel, so what gives you the right to drive us away? You can't do this! Do you think you own the world?" shouted Matt insufferably as the bodyguards dragged him and Penelope out without any intention to reason with him.

After wiping the sweat off his forehead, Principal Potter apologetically smiled at Lucas. "I'm so sorry for the way Matt acted, Mr. Nolan. He's not right in the head sometimes because of his horribly low EQ."