

## Extraordinary 861

### [Chapter 861 Be My Goddaughter](#)

"Happy birthday!" wished the two handsome men in unison. They then handed Penelope her presents.

As expected, they had gifted her luxury branded goods.

Penelope felt blissful.

She was elaborately dressed and stood out among the crowd.

When the two men looked at her, they could not help but smile. Penelope was even happier and touched when she saw that. "Thank you for coming to my birthday banquet."

She then turned to Jason and said, "Mr. Harris, you're too kind to me."

Jason looked at her with kindness before saying, "If I had gotten married, my daughter would be about your age. There's no need to be so polite. Since I don't have a daughter, will you mind being my goddaughter?"

"G-Goddaughter?" Penelope became emotional and stumbled over her words.

With one of the best actors as my godfather, I can join showbiz without any problem, right? If Jason is there to open up the path for me, I don't see an issue.

Jason continued, "You and I hit it off right from the start, and I like you very much. You may think that I'm being very hasty. Perhaps you would like to discuss this with Mr. Haddock first?"

"T-There will be no need to. I'm willing to be your goddaughter." Penelope was very emotional and touched. "Mr. Harris, I'm afraid I don't deserve such an honor."

"Why are you still addressing me as such?" Jason smiled with affection and reached out to caress her hair.

Penelope blushed immediately and called out shyly, "Godfather."

Jenny's expression darkened when she saw the entire exchange.

It is bad enough for Ashlyn to be in the limelight every day. Why is Penelope so outstanding too?

On top of that, she has one of the best actors around as her godfather!

Mary quickly exchanged some pleasantries with Jason. She was very proud that her daughter was so well-loved.

Now that the most famous actor had acknowledged Penelope as his goddaughter, she would have a very bright future.

It was the Yates family's loss for giving them the cold shoulder!

Just then, another car stopped at the entrance. It was Kate and Lochlan.

Kate had on a dark green gown which made her look very elegant.

There were peonies sewn onto her gown. When paired with the dark green fabric, it exuded a noble air.

The red agate necklace she wore certainly made her look even more attractive.

Her appearance stirred up the reporters. "Oh my! It's Mrs. Fraser and Mr. Lochlan!"

"I didn't expect Mrs. Fraser to attend too."

"Looks like Ms. Penelope is someone important!"

"That's right!"

While the reporters were gossiping, Mary led Penelope over to greet Kate. "Mrs. Fraser, it has been a long time since we last saw you."

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Tha rad agata nacklaca sha wora cartainly mada har look avan mora attractiva.

Har appaaranca stirrad up tha raportars. "Oh my! It's Mrs. Frasar and Mr. Lochlan!"

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"Looks lika Ms. Panalopa is somaona important!"

"That's right!"

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However, both the Fraser family and the Haddock family were on the same side now. As such, Kate would definitely attend the function even though she had no idea what Dixon was up to.

"Mrs. Fraser," Penelope greeted sweetly. "Mr. Lochlan."

Lochlan appeared aloof and nodded in response.

Kate, on the other hand, handed Penelope her present. "It's nothing much. Happy birthday."

While they chatted, another car arrived. An elegant-looking middle-aged lady exited the vehicle.

The moment everyone got a good look at her, they exclaimed softly, "Oh my God! It's Ms. Young, the president of a renowned international cosmetics brand!"

It was Faye Young!

Faye set up Young Group singlehandedly. The makeup manufactured by her company was sold both domestically and abroad. Her products had received several awards and became a world-renowned luxury brand.

Despite being in her fifties, her skin was extremely well-maintained and showed no sign of her actual age.

Since she was someone most usually wouldn't get to meet, even people like Jason went forth to greet Faye humbly when he saw her.

Meanwhile, everything was quiet on Ashlyn's side.

#### [Chapter 862 Waiting For Someone](#)

Penelope was very busy that night as she took photos with one bigshot after another.

Naturally, Winsor was aware that Penelope's guests were all high-profile people. He rubbed his nose and asked, "Ms. Ashlyn, do we still have other guests? If not..."

It would be better if they went to their private room rather than remain there.

The stunning woman responded with a clear voice, "Oh, we do have more guests. Just hold on for a moment longer."

Just then, Jenny came over to Ashlyn and said, "Ms. Ashlyn, Ms. Penelope is the star today. I'm not sure what you are doing here, but... if you want to eat with us, I'm sure we can add another set of cutlery."

Deep down, Jenny was jealous of Penelope's guest list. However, there was nothing she could do about it, so she vented her frustration on Ashlyn.

The moment she said that, it attracted the attention of many people around them.

After all, Ashlyn was just too outstanding.

Even though she was not dressed in any stylish gowns, nor did she have any heavy makeup on, her mere presence was overwhelming.

Initially, no one on Penelope's side was paying any attention to Ashlyn. They were more focused on Penelope's important guests, particularly those gorgeous celebrities.

However, when they suddenly spotted Ashlyn standing there, they found her utterly breathtaking!

Her beautiful eyes looked cold. It was as though she had seen everything in this world and could not care less.

Light makeup had been applied on her fair skin, and her crimson lips resembled soft flower petals. Even though she was wearing a simple dress shirt, it looked drop-dead gorgeous on her.

No matter if it was her figure, her looks, or her aura, she attracted everybody's attention, even in the presence of those beautiful women in showbiz.

Penelope and Jenny stood there and heard everyone whispering.

“Ashlyn is truly beautiful.”

“Her aura is outstanding too! In the past, I thought her photos on the Internet were airbrushed. Now that I've seen her in person, I can tell she's a natural beauty.”

“What a stunning woman! Isn't it a pity for someone as gorgeous as she is to get married so young?”

“I heard she has been married to Lucas for a few years now. Lucas married her because of her looks, right?”

Lost in their gossiping about Ashlyn, they completely ignored the star of the day, Penelope.

Penelope stood there and bit her lip in humiliation. As long as Ashlyn was around, she would always seem insignificant.

That made her very unhappy.

Even Jason was looking at Ashlyn. “I heard Ashlyn and you are sisters. Perhaps—”

The instant Penelope heard that, she gritted her teeth and became irritated.

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Is Ashlyn also going to vie for my godfather's love?

She had no choice but to interrupt Jason, "Godfather, Ashlyn has a weird temper. In the past, her favorite hobby was bullying me. I-I don't dare to speak to her."

Jason was a cunning man and knew what Penelope was up to.

He sneered secretly and found her distasteful.

Jason was used to the fighting that invariably went on in showbiz.

However, he did not expect to see the same thing happening among the socialites.

After Penelope finished talking, she realized that she had made it seem as though she was afraid of Ashlyn. In the end, she decided to walk up to her half-sister and said, "You have been standing here for quite a while now. Why didn't you go in?"

Ashlyn glanced at her blankly before replying coldly, "I'm waiting for someone."

Short, sharp, and straight to the point.

It might have been a simple sentence, but it seemed to have an intimidating effect.

In that instant, Penelope looked upset, and her chest started to hurt. She pretended to look aggrieved and said, "Godfather, this is what I meant. Every time I say something, she will—"

"Just look at Ashlyn's attitude. It's disgusting. Who does she think she is?" Jenny also chimed in.

#### [Chapter 863 Esteemed Guest](#)

Jenny was already so jealous of Penelope's guest list, but she absolutely hated the fact that Ashlyn got to be by Lucas' side and became his wife!

Therefore, she intentionally provoked Ashlyn, "Are you intending to host some kind of event here too?"

She covered her mouth and sniggered with disdain. "Isn't Mr. Winsor an important enough guest for you? Yet you refuse to go in. Please don't tell me that you're expecting big shots."

Naomi was so angry that her face turned red. "How dare you! You're too much. How can you say such things about Ashlyn! I—"

Ashlyn smiled. "They aren't big shots. Just a few friends. That's all."

She paused, and her smile deepened. "Friends and guests are alike. It's meaningless to discriminate against them. Doing so will only make you appear low-class and rude."

When those mocking words reached Jenny's ears, she became so furious that her neck turned red. Is Ashlyn trying to imply that I'm a rude person with a lousy character?

Just as she was about to tell Ashlyn off, a car suddenly appeared at the entrance of The Peacock.

A middle-aged man dressed in a silver-grey suit got out with two antique walnuts in his hands. There was an awe-inspiring presence about this man. The walnuts looked very smooth and shiny from the patina, and the carvings on them were very intricate.

Judging from their perfect appearance, those walnuts must be worth a lot. They were not ordinary walnuts.

"Walnuts? Is that the chairman of Magnecal Tech?"

"Gosh! Old Mr. Laith? No way!"

"What is he doing here? Is he here to attend Penelope's birthday banquet?"

Everyone was aware that holding two antique walnuts in his hands was a trademark of Harvey's. It was said that the two walnuts cost a lot of money and had been passed down for generations in the Laith family.

"Old Mr. Laith?" The moment Mary saw him, she was thrilled. Everyone who attended the banquet that day came because of Dixon. Mary did not expect that he would have the ability to get the chairman of Magnecal Tech to attend the function.

She had heard that the chairman of Magnecal Tech never attended banquets and the like because he found them to be too noisy.

Yet, he came this time around.

In an instant, Mary was filled with pride and joy.

The computers produced by Magnecal Tech were the global top-selling products year after year. It would not be far-fetched to say that the majority of households used Magnecal Tech products.

Regardless, Magnecal Tech had always been a low-profile company. As far as the world was concerned, the company was shrouded in mystery.

This was particularly so for the chairman, who hardly ever showed up in public.

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What is he doing here?

Basking in an air of glee and excitement, Mary walked over quickly. “Old Mr. Laith, you're here! Thank you for gracing us with your presence. This is our greatest honor ever. I have no idea what my daughter



has done to deserve this. I..."

She even pretended to cry and wipe her tears.

Her behavior was so disgusting, to the point that even Kate and Jason felt like puking.

Mary is, after all, a daughter of the Count's family. How can she behave in such a repulsive manner?

Has she forgotten about her upbringing? How can she behave like this just because Old Mr. Laith is wealthy?

That's sickening!

One could not help but wonder whether the Count did not host the birthday banquet for Penelope because they looked down on the mother-daughter duo.

Even so, the others had no choice but to greet Harvey.

After all, he was a man of status and position. Magnecal Tech was the real deal as Harvey had built his company from scratch!

The sole reason Kate came to the banquet was due to Dixon. Upon seeing that even Harvey had been invited, she felt a whole lot better. It would be beneficial for Fraser Corporation if she could become acquaintances with Harvey.

Ha! Who cares about Ashlyn and Lucas? They're nobodies when compared to Magnecal Tech!

#### [Chapter 864 A Surprise](#)

Penelope excitedly approached Harvey and said sweetly, "Old Mr. Laith."

Harvey furrowed his thick brows as he scanned the crowd in front of him, noticing that they had different countenances.

Who are these people? Why are they surrounding me? Where's Lynn timer?

The overwhelming perfume smell on Mary and Penelope was nauseating. He found it almost impossible to breathe in the overpoweringly pungent smell of the air surrounding him.

Harvey couldn't help but cough as he said, "Could you guys... move aside?"

Mary was still wearing her ingratiating smile as she hurriedly gave way to the man. "This way please, Old Mr. Laith."

She grew even more thrilled at the sight of the luxury shopping bag in the hand of the assistant behind Harvey.

It was a top-tier luxury brand. Luxury goods were divided into high-end and low-end as well.

Normal luxury brands would already make Mary feel very dignified.

Hence, she was delighted to see that Harvey was gifting a high-end luxury present to Penelope.

Penelope spotted the high-end luxury bag too, and her lips quivered in excitement. "Old Mr. Laith, I'm just celebrating my birthday. You didn't have to spend so much on the gift."

She was already reaching out to take over the bag, but Harvey's loud voice boomed, "Did you guys see Linnie anywhere?"

Penelope's hands froze mid-air, her face turning pale as a sheet of paper.

All air appeared to have been sucked out of her lungs right then. Did I hear him right? Linnie?

It was a really endearing term of address.

Penelope almost fainted.

This is impossible. How is it possible that Old Mr. Laith is looking for Ashlyn?

She dismissed the notion right away. How was it possible that Ashlyn knew the chairman of Magnecal Tech?

Mary's ingratiating smile also froze on her face, turning into a smile that looked worse than a grimace.

Hesitantly, Penelope asked, "Old Mr. Laith, who did you say you were looking for?"

"I'm looking for Ashlyn," the old man declared. "You're all blocking my sight. I can't see Linnie."

He impatiently twirled the walnuts in his hand, making louder and faster clacks with each turn, frustrated by the group of people swarming him.

Mary felt her vision darken, and her mind went blank at this point. Her heartbeat intensified as she felt her blood pressure soar.

They were the symptoms of a heart attack. Mary calmed down and stuttered, "Y-You're not here for my daughter, Penelope's birthday party?"

Refusing to give up, she asked again.

Even though the air was fraught with tension and awkwardness, Mary refused to give in.

Why does Ashlyn always get the best things in life?

Harvey scanned the group of people before him and didn't even deign to spare Mary a single glance. Then, a lazy voice rang nearby. "Old-timer, I'm here. Is your eyesight failing? How could you still fail to see me after searching for so long?"

There was a mock complaining undertone to her voice. Who else could it be if not Ashlyn?

The crowd was flabbergasted as they widened their eyes in disbelief at the sight.

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Thay wara tha symptoms of a haart attack. Mary calmad down and stuttarad, "Y-You'ra not hara for my daughtar, Panalopa's birthday party?"

Rafusing to giva up, sha askad again.

Evan though tha air was fraught with tansion and awkwardnass, Mary rafusad to giva in.

Why doas Ashlyn always gat tha bast things in lifa?

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Tha crowd was flabbargastad as thay widanad thair ayas in disbaliaf at tha sight.

The middle-aged man was Harvey Laith, the respectable chairman of Magnecal Tech, and Ashlyn had just grumbled about him right in front of everyone.

Hence, the crowd was waiting for Harvey to teach the insolent woman a lesson. So what if she was Mrs. Nolan? Harvey might spare her some courtesy on account of Lucas. However, he still had the right to teach the impudent woman to respect her elders.

Initially feeling dejected by the surprise turn of events, Penelope was suddenly filled with hope. She couldn't wait to see Harvey knock Ashlyn off her high horse.

How dare she talk to Old Mr. Laith like that? She must have a death wish!

However, once again, the crowd was left speechless.

Harvey hastily approached Ashlyn's side and reached out to pat her on her head while wearing a massive grin on his face. However, the woman cocked her head to one side and avoided his touch.

The middle-aged man continued to smile amiably and didn't seem bothered by the fact that she had avoided him. "It's been some time since we last met, and you're still this snobbish?"

It was clear as day that the two were close to each other. The esteemed chairman was setting aside his high status and treating Ashlyn affectionately, just like a doting elder would treat a younger family member.

He then shot a sharp look at Mary and Penelope standing nearby, who were both looking befuddled. It seemed as though he had just recalled what Mary had said earlier.

#### [Chapter 865 Pale In Comparison](#)

Harvey's voice was cold and authoritative. "I'm sorry, madam. I don't know your daughter. I'm here to celebrate Linnie's birthday."

His cold attitude starkly contrasted with how he had spoken with Ashlyn earlier.

Mary felt her face going hot with embarrassment.

Tears brimmed in Penelope's eyes. She had never felt so humiliated in her whole life.

She stood there and felt her legs going weak, ready to give out at any moment.

Other than putting up a weak front, Penelope could think of no other way to save her dignity.

Meanwhile, Harvey beamed at Ashlyn like the friendly grandfather next door.

He even turned to look at Naomi and the others.

“Oh, I'm so happy to see you youngsters here. You lot are so full of energy!”

Winsor considered himself a well-connected man, and he had seen his fair share of important things in life.

However, he still widened his eyes in surprise at the sight of Harvey.

The legendary businessman who dominated the business world was smiling and talking to him. Winsor was flattered beyond words.

“You're too kind, Old Mr. Laith.”

“You must be Winsy. When your father and brother were still around... Ah, forget it. There's no use bringing up the past now. You've grown so big.” Harvey tousled Winsor's hair, pleasantly surprised to see that the boy had grown up tall and handsome.

Winsor didn't dare to stop the man from ruffling his hair.

Hence, he kept his head low and basked in the moment.

It was an amusing sight to behold. Yet, many envied Winsor's position.

After all, it was an honor to let a man like Harvey ruffle one's hair.

Penelope and the others grew green with envy at the sight.

Winsor had Ashlyn to thank for his luck.

Earlier, they had looked down on Winsor for hanging around Ashlyn. However, now they were envious of him.

Naomi and Blair were so astounded at the sight of Harvey that they were rendered speechless.

Hence, they could only muster the words, “Hello, Old Mr. Laith.”

"Why so serious? Just call me Uncle Harvey like Linnie." Harvey grinned. "Same goes for you, Winsy."

"U-Uncle Harvey," Winsor stuttered out, struggling to recall the last time he had addressed someone so endearingly.

Winsor was also a respectable figure in the public's eyes. However, now he found himself in the position of a junior.

He reckoned he needed more time to get used to the change.

However, he knew that only a handful of people in Lake City could address Harvey as Uncle Harvey.

With Ashlyn being one of the handful, they had her to thank for the honor.

The group stared at Harvey with conflicted expressions on their faces. He was an individual who exercised significant influence over the country. H Nation might tremble if he so much as shook his legs.

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"Why so sarious? Just call ma Uncia Harvay lika Linnie." Harvay grinnad. "Sama goas for you, Winsy."

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And yet, Ashlyn dared to reject the man's attempt to tousle her hair.

Nonetheless, it seemed the man had a habit of tousling others' hair. They couldn't help but wonder if that was due to his fondness for twirling his prized walnuts in his hand.

After patting Winsor, Harvey turned to tousle Blair's head, and the latter felt like the walnuts clutched in Harvey's hand.

"You've got nice hair. Winsy, you've got to use some hair conditioner. Your hair is too hard and prickly. Then again, your eldest brother has the same type of hair. It's in your genes. You all have prickly hair, much like a hedgehog's spines."

Blair couldn't believe the old man had even patted Winsor's elder brother's head too.

Tinsor gulped and said, "Why don't you feel my hair too? I always use hair conditioner, so my hair is really soft and smooth."

His request invoked a chorus of laughter.

While the atmosphere was cordial on their side, the same could not be said for Penelope's side.

Jason suddenly felt he had chosen the wrong side by taking Penelope as his goddaughter.

He wondered what Dixon was up to since he hadn't seen the man anywhere.

Jason took a deep breath. He initially thought the Haddock family was good enough. However, it paled in comparison to Magnecal Tech.

### [Chapter 866 The Five Laith Sons](#)

Not just that, but Ashlyn also had the Jaquin family's support.

The more Jason thought about it, the more depressed he became. He initially wanted to bring the twins duo—his juniors—to grow more connections, but he supposed they were probably furious at that moment.

The crowd watched as Harvey gestured for his assistant to hand the luxury brand shopping bag to

Ashlyn.

"These are your birthday gifts. They're just some worthless things. See if you like them."

Harvey might be smiling kindly on the surface, but his nerves were eating him on the inside. He was worried Ashlyn would hate his gifts and return them.

Ashlyn arched her brow at his words. This old-timer has terrible taste in choosing gifts.

"Last year, you gave me a black cat which was almost a decade old, along with the management rights to a pet store franchise. The year before that, you gave me a bright red helicopter. It's so red that it's the color of a fire engine! I don't even dare to fly the thing. It's so embarrassing!" she complained.

The crowd was stunned at Ashlyn's remarks.

Is she saying the red helicopter was a gift from Harvey? The management rights to a pet store franchise? That's not raking in money. That's raking in gold!

Harvey didn't get mad at her dig. Instead, he sounded ingratiating when he said, "Don't be like that, Linnie. Open up and take a look. You might like the present this year."

Ashlyn curled her lips. She didn't have high expectations of the presents. Despite so, she still felt happy about receiving one.

When the crowd saw the present, they were shocked again.

"SN Racing Team?" Ashlyn read out loud in a confused tone when she caught the business license. The team was one of the largest car racing teams in H Nation. They had won many competitions and were managed by Richard. Car racing was a hobby of Richard's, so she was surprised he was willing to let them go.

That can only mean this old-timer has spent a pretty penny on this.

"Yeah. I'll leave this racing team to you from now on. You're the God of Cars, so how about it? Do you like it?" Harvey studied Ashlyn's face as he asked. He figured she wouldn't complain about his present this year.

However, the racing team wasn't the only present he prepared. The property rights to an industrial park was also in the bag.

It was the entire industrial park.

"This is the new industrial park Magnecal Tech invested in. I'll gift you this modernized high-tech



industrial park. Do you want Magnecal Tech to manage it for you, or do you want to do it yourself?"

The mass watched as Harvey tentatively asked for Ashlyn's opinion.

He's treating Ashlyn like a princess!

Giving a helicopter and management rights as birthday gifts was already jaw-dropping enough.

Yet, giving her a car racing team and even an industrial park was beyond their expectation.

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Giving a helicopter and management rights as birthday gifts was already jaw-dropping enough.

Yet, giving her a car racing team and even an industrial park was beyond their expectation.

Oh, heavens! He's practically giving her untold riches on a silver platter! Moreover, it looks like he's worried Ashlyn won't accept his gifts. Anyone would've been over the moon with one floor of the industrial park, much less the entire park!

Ashlyn was rendered speechless by Harvey's deep pockets. She kept the bag and said, "I already have a

lot of properties under my name, so you don't have to give me these. Sometimes, a purse, jewelry, and such are more than enough.”

“You want purses and jewelry? I'll purchase them immediately.” Harvey turned to his assistant and ordered, “Get all the latest limited-edition goods of every luxury brand here now.”

“No, I was just giving an example.” Ashlyn hurriedly stopped him before he could start his spree.

With a smile, he explained, “Oh, I don't have any girls in the house, so I don't know what gift is suitable. I just like buying things for you. Your brothers always give me worries and headaches.”

It was commonly known the Laith family had five devastatingly handsome sons. However, the fact that none of Harvey's sons were married or intended to get married had always been on his mind.

All of his sons were mysterious. None of them worked at Magnecal Tech. Rumor had it they were elites in various sectors, but those were merely rumors.

Not many had seen or heard about them before.

#### [Chapter 867 Hatred](#)

Ashlyn nodded. “I'll invite them for a meal next time. I have a few girl friends who are nice that I can introduce to them... as long as they don't mind their women fierce.”

They won't mind fiery petite women, right? Hopefully.

Meanwhile, Cassandra, who just got out of the car, sneezed. Is someone talking about me behind my back?

Harvey's smile grew wider at Ashlyn's words. “I'm sure they won't! It's good that girls nowadays know some form of self-defense skills. They can protect themselves in dangerous situations and against domestic violence.”

The two talked comfortably without minding the others, but their conversation astounded the crowd.

Everyone's eyes nearly bulged out of their sockets from the shock.

What did he mean by buying luxury goods from every brand and sending them over?

Winsor was also stunned by Harvey's generosity. He had heard about the industrial park that Magnecal Tech invested in. In fact, many large corporations were eagerly anticipating renting a place at the park. They figured their work could be made easier with the modernized high-tech facilities.

Yet Harvey just gave it to Ashlyn as though it was nothing important.

Meanwhile, jealousy had gripped Penelope and Mary in a tight vise.

They thought Harvey's present was merely a luxury good at first. At most, it would be something slightly more expensive. Yet, they never thought the bag contained a license for a car racing team and the property rights to an industrial park.

What exactly is Ashlyn's relation to Magnecal Tech? No matter how close they are, Harvey shouldn't gift her such extravagant presents!

Mary felt her blood pressure rising at the scene. She had always desired wealth and status, but why was it always Ashlyn who got them?

She had been chasing after fame all her life, but why did everything have to be stolen by Ashlyn?

Penelope was upset, feeling as though Ashlyn had slapped her across her face before wiping the floor with it. She felt like a lowly maid in front of Ashlyn.

The more she mulled over it, the more she cursed at her luck.

Everyone wants to get acquainted with the chairman of Magnecal Tech, yet he seems close to Ashlyn. I'm sure he's an acquaintance of Lucas and only talks to her out of respect for Lucas.

Mary's eyelid was twitching incessantly. She felt a strong urge to rub her eyes, but the thought of smudging her makeup had her dropping her hand. Sucking in a deep breath to calm the restlessness within her, she then spoke. "Don't worry, Ms. Oates. We're sincere in our offer to collaborate with Mr. Haddock."

Sienna merely smiled at Mary's comment.

Mary turned to Penelope. "Don't worry. It's not a big deal. Mr. Harris is your godfather, and others gaze at you with envy. Stop comparing yourself to Ashlyn. So what if she has the chairman of Magnecal Tech supporting her? Does she have as many guests as we do?"

What exactly is Ashlyn's relation to Magnecal Tech? No matter how close they are, Harvey shouldn't gift her such extravagant presents!

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Penelope felt much better at her mother's consolation.

Mom's right. He's nothing but an old-timer. It doesn't mean anything. Look around me. I have more guests than she does. All of them are prestigious in their fields. Besides, I even invited a lot of reporters. I'm the one who's going to be headlining all the news. Surely, they won't go back on their promise since they've already accepted our bribe?

Glee flitted across her face at the thought.

Her eyes were filled with uncontained joy as she told Mary, "Mom, I still miss those days when you would prepare a birthday cake for me back in the countryside. All we had was each other back then, but we were happy."

Mary patted Penelope's hand gently. "I feel bad for how you're always so thoughtful and understanding."

The more her heart ached for Penelope, the more her jealousy grew for Ashlyn.

Consequently, her hatred for Ashlyn grew too. The toxic bitterness was engraved deeply in her bones.

I'll make sure Ashlyn falls into despair one day! Why do we see her everywhere we go?

[Chapter 868 Here For Ashlyn](#)

Why is it that no matter what Penelope and I do, Ashlyn will get involved and ruin everything?

At that moment, a few more cars stopped in front of The Peacock's front door.

Dozens of men got out of the car. Leading them was a man with a rugged face dressed in a robe. Sienna's expression stiffened when she recognized him.

Others might not put a name to that man's face, but she knew who he was.

Isn't he the heir of a prestigious clan in ancient martial arts? I think he's Ben Zene. What is he doing here?

The corner of Sienna's eye twitched. How does Ashlyn know all these people? What about today's plan?

She subtly clenched her jaw at the thought.

No matter the cost, today's plan can't go wrong.

Meanwhile, Jason and Mary were bewildered when they spotted Ben.

Jason had visited the Zene Clan two years ago, pleading to hire a younger member as his bodyguard, but they declined his request.

He still bore a grudge over it until that day.

His expression slowly turned to a mask of anger as he curled his fingers into fists, his lips pressing into a thin line.

What exactly is Ashlyn's background? Why would she have any ties to the Zene Clan? How did she get someone from that clan to come?

Ben strode over to Ashlyn and congratulated her, "Happy birthday, Ms. Ashlyn."

Ashlyn raised a brow at him. "I don't remember inviting you, Mr. Zene."

Ben's expression didn't falter when he answered casually, "When the Clan leader placed us in your care, we became a part of your life. Hence, our presence here is justified. There was no need for you to invite us."

Ashlyn didn't know how to respond to his shameless comment.

He wins since he has the numbers on his side. Whatever he says goes.

Kate's expression turned dark. She had heard about the ancient martial arts clan before.

Word through the grapevine is everyone in the clan is an elite, so how are they related to Ashlyn?

Annoyance surged within her. Then, she spotted the mayor James and his family getting out of his car.

Fae was in a maroon dress, looking elegant as she stepped out of the vehicle.

Not a bandage could be seen on Charlotte's face, revealing her exquisite features.

The baby-pink gown she wore was clearly picked by Fae.

However, Charlotte would look like an adorable young lady with her fair skin and stunning features no matter what color she wore.

Clad in a dark blue suit, Joseph looked like a couple with Charlotte as he stood next to her.

James was much more low-key than the rest. Dressed in a black suit, he kept an elegant smile on his face.

Together, the quartet made a beeline for Ashlyn.

When the crowd noticed the direction they were heading, their expression turned grim, especially Jason's.

It's Mr. Field and his son! Am I seeing things? Are they both here to attend Ashlyn's birthday party?

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Lochlan's feet were rooted in place when he caught sight of Charlotte's gorgeous face.

As though his eyes had been glued to her face, he couldn't tear his gaze from her.

Unable to stand watching her son's infatuation with Charlotte, Kate forcefully pinched him on his arm. "What are you looking at? There's nothing to see. I think Olivia is a hundred times better looking than she is."

The second the words were out of her mouth, Olivia got out of her car with a box from Bulgari.

Kate hurriedly went up to Olivia and greeted, "You're here, Olivia. I haven't seen you for the past few days. Let's sit together later."

Without even a glance at Lochlan, Olivia gave Kate a faint smile before responding, "Mrs. Fraser, I'll have to respectfully decline your offer."

Flummoxed, Kate asked, "Why?"

Isn't she infatuated with Lochlan? I thought she was head-over-heels in love with him? What is the meaning of this?

"I'm heading over to Ashlyn's side." Olivia gently shoved Kate aside before walking to Ashlyn with sparkling eyes. She handed the box to Ashlyn and said, "This is your birthday present from me. I hope you like it."

"Thank you." Ashlyn beamed at her. "You're too courteous."

"Happy birthday, Ashlyn!" Charlotte congratulated before adding, "I invited Olivia over. I hope you won't blame me."

"Why would I?" Ashlyn asked as she studied Charlotte's face. "Are your injuries all better?"

[Chapter 869 Quiet Forest](#)

“Yeah. My skin is more radiant and glowing than before too!” Charlotte answered cheerily.

A grin broke out on Fae's face. “It's such a pleasure to see you young people. It's as if time has turned back, and I've reverted to my youth again.”

Nearby, Lochlan's gaze was trained on Charlotte, but he couldn't muster the courage to approach her.

His heart clenched at the sight of her until Kate pinched his arm, the sharp pain jolting him out of his reverie. His eyes flew to his mother. “What are you doing, Mom?”

Kate almost blew a gasket at Olivia's earlier action.

How dare Olivia snub me! And she is best friends with Charlotte now?

Fury simmered beneath the surface of her skin, nearly driving her insane.

“What's wrong with you? The Warhol family is perfect. How could you let Olivia leave to befriend Charlotte? You disappointed me, Lochlan!”

Kate would have berated Lochlan further if there wasn't an audience.

She regretted attending this birthday celebration for Dixon's sake. All that had brought her was humiliation, and right in front of everyone too.

Damn you to hell, Olivia and Charlotte! Damn you straight to hell!

A red smear of wrath colored her vision, and she almost went crazy because she couldn't vent.

Mary and Penelope were disconcerted when James and his family arrived.

The mayor... Is he serious now? How could he be here for Ashlyn's birthday celebration?

When Penelope noticed how tall and handsome Joseph was, she burned with jealousy. She couldn't understand why all the attractive men seemed to flock to Ashlyn.

How infuriating!

Harvey stilled when he caught sight of James, which didn't go unnoticed by Ashlyn.

“This is my brother-in-law, James. James, this is Old Mr. Laith,” Ashlyn introduced.

Brother-in-law... She referred to the mayor as her brother-in-law!



Kate already knew Ashlyn had an unusual relationship with the Field family, but she was still taken aback to hear Ashlyn say “brother-in-law,” and so was everyone else.

Mr. Field is her brother-in-law? She's Mrs. Field's sister? Oh my God, that's amazing!

James stretched his arm to shake Harvey's hand. “How are you, Old Mr. Laith?”

“I'm doing just fine.” Harvey laughed, exchanging pleasantries.

Ashlyn thought it was rather meaningless and inappropriate for everyone to stand around the entrance talking, especially for men of status like James and Harvey.

“Why don't you all head in first? I'm still waiting for a few friends.”

“It's fine; everyone is having fun here. Or do you find us old-timers obnoxious?” Harvey frowned, injecting feigned anger into his tone.

Tha mayor... Is ha sarious now? How could ha ba hara for Ashlyn's birthday calabration?

Whan Panalopa noticad how tall and handsoma Josaph was, sha burnad with jaalousy. Sha couldn't undarstand why all tha attractiva man saamad to flock to Ashlyn.

How infuriating!

Harvay stillad whan ha caught sight of Jamas, which didn't go unnoticad by Ashlyn.

“This is my brothar-in-law, Jamas. Jamas, this is Old Mr. Laith,” Ashlyn introducad.

Brothar-in-law... Sha rafarrad to tha mayor as har brothar-in-law!

Kata alraady knaw Ashlyn had an unusual ralationship with tha Fiald family, but sha was still takan aback to haar Ashlyn say “brothar-in-law,” and so was avaryona alsa.

Mr. Fiald is har brothar-in-law? Sha's Mrs. Fiald's sistar? Oh my God, that's amazing!

Jamas stratchad his arm to shaka Harvay's hand. “How ara you, Old Mr. Laith?”

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"It's fine; everyone is having fun here. Or do you find us old-timers obnoxious?" Harvey frowned, injecting feigned anger into his tone.

Ashlyn slanted him a look. "So the rumors of you not liking noisy occasions are unfounded. You appear to love socializing."

"It all depends on the occasion and who's the host, of course," Harvey replied proudly.

A black car screeched to a stop in front of The Peacock, and a young man around thirty years old slid out of the vehicle.

He was extremely attractive. Dressed in a casual plaid shirt and jeans, a pair of leather shoes completed his outfit.

His attire was casual yet refined.

Lochlan was surprised at the man's appearance. "It's him!"

"Do you know him?" Kate arched a brow.

"He got the firefighters from a neighboring city to help put out the fire at Imperial Hotel last time," he answered, the memories still fresh in his mind.

This man is not to be underestimated.

"You came," Ashlyn greeted Quiet Forest neutrally. They hadn't spoken much last time since he was busy putting out the fire. However, they did find out from that incident that they both resided in Lake City.

He stood in front of her, his gaze roaming across her face as he studied her features and appreciated her beauty.

Everyone in Mysterious yet Majestic expected him to come and see Zero.

#### [Chapter 870 Precious Herbs](#)

I never thought Zero was so beautiful and that she was the famous Ashlyn on the internet!

He was suddenly at a loss for words. Ashlyn, on the contrary, generously stuck her hand out for a handshake.

Quiet Forest's heart skipped a beat, and he extended his hand to grab her soft one.

Who would have imagined that these pair of smooth hands could operate a computer with such finesse to solve many big cases?

Their hands fell away, and Ashlyn introduced dispassionately, "This is Quiet Forest."

"Hello, I own a modest security firm. I'm a minnow compared to the rest here." He chuckled.

"Quiet Forest Security?" Harvey's brow rose. "Don't be coy. Your company supplies security systems to eighty percent of Lake City's corporates, including several security firms. Despite my age, I'm still up to date with the news, you know?"

Quiet Forest chuckled abashedly, feeling his cheeks growing warm like a timid scholar, unlike how the head of a security firm would act.

"You're too kind, Old Mr. Laith. I'm just trying to make ends meet." He quickly shook Harvey's hand before shaking James'. "I've heard a lot about you, Mr. Field."

"Not many can achieve what you did. Don't be too modest, Mr. Quiet Forest." James had heard of him as well.

"Let's head in, shall we?" Ashlyn said to everyone.

The sound of brakes squealing sounded behind them, followed by the slam of a car door.

"Aren't you going to wait for me on your birthday, Honey?" a magnetic voice said from behind Ashlyn.

Her head whipped around as her heart lurched. She saw a lanky man standing in front of a car and looking at her from a distance.

Sunlight burnished the handsome strength of Lucas' face. He squinted his eyes from the glare, and when he opened them, his onyx gaze held everyone captive.

It was as if God had sculpted his chiseled features, and no flaws could be found.

Standing well over six feet, he dwarfed everyone. He wore a suit tailored to his measurements and tapered to his long legs.

At that moment, he strode toward Ashlyn.

She snapped out of her reverie and regarded him in surprise. "Why did you come?"

Lucas stopped in front of her and looked down at her with a hooded gaze. "Of course I would spend your birthday with you."

As they locked gazes, Ashlyn's heart skipped a beat.

His eyes were smoldering, sending hot tingles down her spine.

“Lat's haad in, shall wa?” Ashlyn said to avaryona.

Tha sound of brakas squaaling soundad bahind tham, followad by tha slam of a car door.

“Aran't you going to wait for ma on your birthday, Honay?” a magnatic voica said from bahind Ashlyn.

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As thay lockad gazas, Ashlyn's haart skippad a baat.

His ayas wara smoldaring, sanding hot tinglas down har spina.

A ripple stirred the throng of reporters, and the tension in the air heightened.

“Lucas is here.”

“He looks normal!”

“Yeah, he doesn't seem neurotic!”

“Quiet Forest Security is the best! They safeguard all our websites.”

“Wow! Ashlyn invited many of Lake City's bigshots. This is too amazing!”

“There's Mr. Field... Did I see the principal of T University as well?”

“Am I seeing things? The principal is here?”

The principal and dean got out of the car and headed toward Ashlyn. “Dr. Berry, why didn't you tell us about your birthday banquet? I instantly came after seeing the news on Twitter,” Principal Potter uttered with a smile.

“Happy birthday, Dr. Berry. This is a classic publication from T University's collection about precious herbs.”

Everyone gasped.

They gifted Ashlyn a volume from T University's library? And a rare one that's coveted by many people?

“Thank you so much.” Ashlyn was caught off guard that the two men would make an appearance.

“It's nothing.” Principal Potter smiled.

A reporter called out, “Take pictures!”

Cameras flashed at Ashlyn in a barrage of white light.