

## Extraordinary 971

### [Chapter 971 Sadie Breaks Down](#)

Her vision began fading, and she nearly fell down from the chair she was sitting on.

“No! This is impossible!” Her mind went blank as she leaped to her feet. “How could she possibly be the designer, X?”

Everyone turned to her when they heard her sudden outburst, and her tall figure only made her stand out even more.

The crowd already had a bad impression of her when she fell down twice before. Her losing control of her emotions certainly did not help the situation.

Everyone was glaring at her in shock and displeasure.

“Calm down, Sadie!” Robert grabbed her by the arm and tried to pin her down to her seat, but she continued screaming anyway.

“No, Dad! How could she be Ms. X?”

She even broke down in tears on the spot.

After all, Ms. X had always been her idol, her main source of motivation, and her role model.

She had always wanted to become Ms. X's model, only to have Richard tell her that Ms. X was Ashlyn, whom she looked down on.

Her legs gave out beneath her, and she slumped weakly to the floor as she recalled everything she had said and done to Ashlyn in the past.

It's over... I'm done for...

“Sadie! Sadie!” Robert called out to her while hugging her. It pained him deeply to see her like this, but there was little he could do about it.

Who would've thought that Ashlyn was Ms. X? That's such a huge contrast!

Even Shiela froze in shock on the stage.

After taking a moment to recover from the shock, she glanced at Cassandra, who was sitting there with a calm look on her face.

That b\*tch!

Cassandra must have known that Ashlyn is Ms. X! That's why she has been watching me and Sadie humiliate ourselves!

Noticing that Shiela was glaring viciously and vengefully at her, Cassandra flashed her a smug grin in response.

Well? Are you feeling ashamed of yourself now? Man, this feels so good!

Shiela took a deep breath and suppressed her anger as she stared at Ashlyn, who was making her way on stage in a tailored dress.

She looked like a white swan with her slender neck, curvaceous figure, and fair skin. On top of all that, she had an emotionless look in her eyes, which added to her elegance and gracefulness.

With looks like that, she easily stole everyone's attention whenever she made an appearance.

Ashlyn's high heels clacked loudly as she walked up to Richard, took the microphone from the host, and turned to face the crowd.

"It sucks how my brother insisted on me coming on stage like this."

"Well, tons of people have tried to impersonate you while you keep your identity hidden, so it's better if you step forward," Richard replied with a faint smile.

Shiela's face burned bright red when she heard that.

The embarrassment was so intense that she wished she could just disappear on the spot.

The guests were all shocked by Richard's response.

Mr. Shaw sure is something else! I can't believe he'd humiliate his fiancée in public without mercy!

Cassandra frowned as Richard had been staring at her while speaking.

What is he doing? Why does he keep looking at me while humiliating Shiela and Sadie? I am not about to jump to conclusions and assume that he did it for me! Besides, he's already engaged, so why would he give me that look? Is he planning to cheat on his fiancée or something? Unfortunately, I am not interested in becoming a homewrecker!

There was a hint of laziness and arrogance in Ashlyn's tone as she asked, "No one knows the truth. You could have just gotten anyone else. Why did it have to be me?"

Their awkward conversation was interrupted when the host said respectfully, "Y-You are amazing, Ms.

X! Not only did your design win the grand prize, but you also received tons of design awards from all over the world! What are your thoughts on this huge success?"

### [Chapter 972 The Downfall Of Sadie](#)

"Nothing much. I just enjoy designing, that's all," Ashlyn replied calmly.

"Okay... What was your inspiration for the night sky dress?"

Ashlyn was getting bored by the host's boring interview, but she didn't want to embarrass him in front of Richard and the crowd.

She simply broke into a sweet smile that melted everyone's hearts.

The crowd found themselves mesmerized by how charming and beautiful she looked when she smiled.

There was a gentle look in her eyes as she said, "The most beautiful pair of eyes I've seen looked like the brightest star in the night sky. That's why I designed this night sky dress. It reminds me of those eyes and makes me feel as if they are always watching over me, which fills my heart with warmth."

Lucas tensed up when he heard her say that.

He kept his gaze fixated on Ashlyn, who was shining brightly on stage.

What did she just say? The most beautiful pair of eyes? Fills her heart with warmth?

Lucas, too, felt a warm sensation filling up his heart and spreading through his entire body.

"It's a shame he isn't here today, but that's okay. I'm sure he's watching me on Twitter right now, so he must know who I'm talking about."

Richard's face was twisted with jealousy and hatred as he asked stubbornly, "Are you referring to Mr. Nolan?"

"Why would you spill the tea like that, Richard?" Ashlyn replied proudly, making no attempt to hide it at all.

"Because I know you very well," Richard said with a mysterious smile while suppressing his burning anger.

F\*cking Lucas... Why is he always competing with me? I'm clearly a lot better than Lucas, so why did Ashlyn choose him? What is so great about that maniac?

Not wanting to show any sign of anger and frustration in front of Ashlyn, he mustered every ounce of willpower to keep his feelings suppressed.

“Ms. Berry... I mean, Ms. X, there are countless socialites and even a few celebrities who are fans of yours. What would you like to say to them?” the host asked on behalf of the fans.

“Thank you all for liking and supporting my work. I will continue to create even better designs in the future,” Ashlyn replied with a smile. “There will be a lucky draw event that lasts three days starting today on my Twitter account 'Mrs. Nolan.' I will announce the three lucky winners every night and gift them with my latest designs!”

The crowd exploded with excitement when they heard that.

What? The latest designs? You can't even buy that with all the money in the world, and yet she's giving them out for free?

The crowd applauded as they tapped into Ashlyn's Twitter account on their phones in excitement.

They could only imagine the pride they would have by showing off the latest design from Ms. X.

Sadie, on the other hand, became infamous on Twitter for falling twice in a row.

For a professional model like her, such levels of unprofessionalism were simply unacceptable.

She used to be one of the top models in the industry, but her falling twice in a row and her reaction toward her falls changed that.

The fact that she even needed the other models behind her to help her out only worsened the situation.

That led to an uproar on Twitter as netizens kept sharing pictures and videos of her falls.

Naturally, the comments section was filled with tons of angry and insulting comments.

Someone wrote: Oh, my goodness! How did she become a supermodel with such poor performance?

Another commented: What a joke! This is truly shocking! This is the first time I've seen a model fall on an anniversary celebration event!

### [Chapter 973 Fire At Haddock Group](#)

A third wrote: Sadie should leave the entertainment industry!

A fourth exclaimed: She has got to be the most unprofessional model I've ever seen!

Meanwhile, posts about Ashlyn could be seen all over the Trending page with the following hashtags: #AmazingShowByAshlyn, #AshlynTheBestModelEver, #AshlynTheQueenOfCatwalks, #AshlynIsX, #AshlynLuckyDraw, #AshlynNightSkyDress.

All searches were either for videos of Sadie's fall or Ashlyn's amazing appearance on stage.

The netizens were enjoying themselves as they criticized Sadie and praised Ashlyn.

Someone wrote: My goddess is simply the best!

Another added: Not only is she the God of Cars, but she's also Ms. X and an amazing pianist! I can't even keep track of her talents!

A third exclaimed: There's nothing my goddess can't do!

A fourth confessed: I love you, Ashlyn!

Another wrote: She's the real queen! That night sky dress is so f\*cking gorgeous! My heart can't take it!

Shaw Group's anniversary celebration event came to an end while the netizens were going wild.

Richard narrowed his eyes when he saw Ashlyn head for the exit with Cassandra.

He was about to go after them when Shiela grabbed his arm and asked, "Richie, are you mad at me? I didn't mean to—"

Richard forcefully suppressed his feelings of annoyance and frustration as he replied, "It's fine. You're still very young. I don't mind it at all."

Feeling touched, Shiela exclaimed while looking at him with teary eyes, "You're so nice to me, Richie!"

Richard could only watch as the two ladies walked out of the building.

Meanwhile, a black Bentley was parked outside the building entrance.

The man sitting inside opened the door and got out of the car when he saw Ashlyn.

Ashlyn arched an eyebrow in response when she saw Lucas dressed in a black shirt and black slacks.

His handsome face looked all the more alluring in the night, and he easily stole everyone's attention the moment he showed up.

No one could seem to take their eyes off him. He was like a magnet for attention.

As Ashlyn walked up to him, Lucas took off his coat and draped it over her shoulders. "It's cold at night. Come on. Let's go."

“All right,” Ashlyn said as she nuzzled against his chest and felt the warmth of his body.

Not wanting to ruin the mood by being a third wheel, Cassandra was about to leave when a car pulled up beside her. Spencer rolled the window down and said, “Passenger seat, now.”

For some reason, Cassandra felt her face burning up when she saw him. Even so, she did as told and got into the passenger seat.

While driving down the highway, they heard an update from the traffic news report.

“A fire broke out at Haddock Group just three minutes ago. The entire building ended up in smoke and flames. Fortunately, no one was working that late at night, so most of the employees had already returned. Only a few security guards were trapped inside. The firefighters have been deployed to help put out the fire. The cause of the fire is still being investigated. It is possible that the fire could have been caused by the recent hot and dry weather. Imperial Hotel caught fire a while back, and now, Haddock Group has fallen victim to it as well. This serves as a reminder to everyone that we should take great precautions to prevent fires.”

Ashlyn's eyes lit up when she heard that. “Dixon's office building caught fire?”

What? Why did Dixon get eliminated before I could even do anything to him?

Lucas held her hand as he replied, “This is what it means to be burned when playing with fire.”

Ashlyn arched an eyebrow at him in amusement. “Oh? Were you the one who set fire to that building?”

Lucas lowered his gaze and looked her in the eye as he said, “No one gets away with hurting you.”

I'll take that as a yes, then.

Ashlyn felt a warm sensation fill up her heart when she heard that. “Thank you,” she said while holding his hand tightly.

#### [Chapter 974 Haddock Group Burns Down](#)

Meanwhile, Dixon was standing at a safe distance and staring at the office building as it got engulfed in flames and smoke.

So, this is the end for Haddock Group, huh?

The wind was very strong that night, which helped the flames consume the building even faster.

The firefighters gave their best efforts, but they were still unable to put out the fire.

Dixon had a vicious look on his face as he glared at the flames from afar. “F\*ck! Get a move on, you

guys! I'll pay you all twice your annual bonus, so hurry up and put that fire out!"

"But we're not professional firefighters, Mr. Haddock! We can't even get in there! Besides, the firefighters would never let us near the building anyway!" said one of the executives.

"Shut up! I know you guys are simply refusing to help me!" Dixon snapped back at him angrily.

Sienna came rushing over as soon as she received word about the fire.

She was in such a hurry that she didn't even have time to change out of her silk nightgown and Gucci slippers.

The fair skin on her slender legs was exposed as she got out of the taxi and ran toward Dixon.

"Dixon! Dixon! How did this fire break out?" she shouted with her face all red and the huge fire reflected in her eyes.

"I don't know. They're still investigating the cause," Dixon replied. His eyes grew cold when he noticed she only had on a nightgown and slippers. He took off his coat and draped it over her shoulders. "It's cold at night, Aunt Sienna. You should make sure to stay warm no matter how urgent the situation."

Sienna felt a warm sensation surround her body as Dixon wrapped the coat around her.

She opened her mouth to say something but held her tongue at the very last second.

The executives and managers of Haddock Group anxiously wiped the sweat off their foreheads as they watched from the side.

Mr. Haddock sure is scary when he's mad! Thank goodness Ms. Oates is here to calm him down!

"This sure is a huge fire! What will we do for work tomorrow? Do we look for a new building? Or do we rent one temporarily?" Sienna asked worriedly while staring at the burning building that was on the verge of collapsing.

Dixon maintained that icy-cold look in his eyes as he replied, "We'll rest for a week and start looking for a new place to set up our office."

This is definitely an act of arson! I bet it was Lucas and Ashlyn who did it! Imperial Hotel went down in flames a while back, and now, it's my office building's turn. Hah... Do they really think they can take me down simply by destroying Haddock Group? If so, then they really have underestimated me!

The fire at Haddock Group continued burning until the next morning.

Dixon and the group of executives waited until sunrise before the flames were brought under control.

The remaining employees of Haddock Group were to stay home and stand by for further instructions.

James and Joseph rushed to the scene early in the morning.

“I'm sorry to hear about your loss. You can always build new offices, so please do take care,” James said indifferently, which made him sound completely different from the Imperial Hotel fire.

James had been standing outside Imperial Hotel when it caught fire the other day.

Dixon's lips curled into a smile when he thought about the evidence he had obtained on James.

Fine, you can continue this smug act of yours for a while. When it's time for your commendation, I will be sure to congratulate you nicely!

Of course, James was completely oblivious to the impending crisis.

He didn't like Dixon, but he wasn't going to just ignore him completely either.

As a representative of the city council, James checked in on Dixon and bought all the firefighters breakfast and drinks.

Ashlyn and Lucas arrived at the scene after everything was over.

“Don't be too upset, Mr. Haddock. My Imperial Hotel and your Haddock Group now share the same fate. I wonder why these two fires happened one after another. Really strange, isn't it?” Ashlyn said nonchalantly while staring at Dixon.

#### [Chapter 975 More Than Meets The Eye](#)

Dixon answered expressionlessly, “You jest, Ms. Berry. What happened was either a natural disaster or an accident. No one could've prevented it. Anyway, I hear that you're a woman of many talents. Not only are you a designer but also a film producer. Are you looking for someone to invest in your latest movie, True Magnate? How about counting me in?”

“Sorry, but my husband and I are the sole investors, and we don't plan on getting anyone else in,” Ashlyn responded with a smirk. What a joke! I've no wish to have anything to do with him!

Lucas wrapped an arm around her slender waist in a familiar manner, then said frostily, “Mr. Haddock, I believe you'll be in need of money as rebuilding an office building costs a pretty penny. Here's one million. Take it for any emergencies.”

He took out a bank card and handed it to Dixon.

Dixon's expression turned grim, and there was a tinge of darkness to his fury. His gaze was vicious as he



glared at Lucas' handsome face. "Mr. Nolan, is this your way of sending away a beggar? Do I look like someone who lacks such money?"

He's doing this on purpose. He's deliberately humiliating me!

The already livid Dixon felt as though he was about to explode with rage at Lucas' provocations, but he restrained himself.

Although I fell into his trap this time, I'll make him pay for his actions with interest next time!

Just then, Sienna took the bank card with a smile. "Thank you for the kind gesture, Mr. Nolan. Mr. Haddock isn't in a good mood, so his reply was somewhat blunt."

"Ms. Oates is indeed gracious and broad-minded." Lucas' lips curved into a slight smile as he glanced at Dixon, whose face was as black as thunder.

Indeed, I'm just here to add insult to injury. Back then, Ashlyn's Imperial Hotel got destroyed. Now, I've burned Haddock Group's office building. I suppose one can say... things are even between us now. Anyway, there were so many people inside Imperial Hotel when that happened. There were so many guests. However, Haddock Group was empty except for a few security guards, and they were all rescued. Hence, Ashlyn is still the one who suffered a greater loss.

Over at the Jensen family's mansion, Sadie was sitting on a couch, bawling her eyes out. She whined to Robert, "Dad, what will I do? The whole world is mocking me for tripping over! This can't be the end of my career, can it? But who'll dare to hire me in the future?"

Frustrated by her sobbing, Robert replied, "Stop crying, okay? It was just a show, am I right? If things don't work out, switch to a different career! That's enough now. I'll find someone to contact Twitter and see how we can manage the situation."

"Thank you, Dad!" Sadie wiped her tears and was about to go upstairs when the front door opened. A familiar figure walked in and began taking off her shoes in the foyer.

"Shiela? What are you doing here? Aren't you supposed to be at Richard's house?"

The pregnant Shiela looked somewhat upset as she explained, "A fire broke out at Haddock Group last night. At times like these, Richard needs to go and offer his support, so he sent me back."

However, she was not being completely honest. The truth was that Richard had already planned to send her back to stay at the mansion for some time, and it just so happened that the timing coincided with the fire at Haddock Group. I can't seem to understand him as well as before. What on earth is going through his mind?

"What did you say happened to Haddock Group?" Sadie asked. She had been too preoccupied with

checking on the negative comments about her fall that she had not paid any attention to anything else.

“There was a fire. Didn't you see it on Twitter?” Shiela answered impatiently. “Anyway, I feel a little tired. I'll be heading upstairs now.”

“Be careful going up the stairs. Don't trip,” Robert called out to her, but she did not take any notice of him.

Feeling annoyed, Sadie muttered, “What's with that attitude? She isn't officially Mrs. Shaw yet but is already treating you like that, never responding when you talk to her. Won't she become even worse once she really does marry into the Shaw family?”

“What do you know? Your sister is in poor health. It's not like you're unaware of that, so why can't you be nicer to her? With her health, it wasn't advisable for her to have a child. However, for Mr. Shaw's sake, she still got pregnant. Look what happened after that. Mr. Shaw was so touched that he got engaged to her immediately.” Robert spoke of Shiela's engagement with joy, not knowing that there was more to his daughter's pregnancy than met the eye.

#### [Chapter 976 Ask Richard To Help Me](#)

Sadie went on Twitter. Sure enough, it was inundated with news about the fire at Haddock Group. Despite that, there are still haters who keep attacking me. And here I was, hoping no one would pay attention to me anymore with the latest news making its rounds.

She flung aside her phone in anger. What the hell is going on with these keyboard warriors? It was just a fall. What's the big deal?

Meanwhile, Robert was already working on getting in touch with Twitter. He also came up with a brilliant idea. “I've asked a few contacts to get a few minor celebrities to help you explain why you fell. Just wait and see.”

“What?” she said, looking at him in astonishment. No sooner had she uttered that than she received a notification informing her that someone had tweeted her. In fact, several celebrities appeared to have posted almost simultaneously while tagging her Twitter handle.

One tweet said: She worked incredibly hard to give her best on the runway! Despite twisting her ankle, she refused to rest and insisted on doing the show!

Another posted: Here's a photo of the backs of her heels that were all scraped up. Wow, I have so much respect for her that she still went onstage for the opening show even though her feet were in such bad shape!

Someone else tweeted: Sadie is the most hardworking model I've ever seen!

All the celebrities who had received money from Robert began repudiating the criticism and standing up

for Sadie in an attempt to establish Sadie's professionalism and dedication.

Sadie breathed a long sigh of relief. "The older, the wiser indeed. You're amazing, Dad! I can't believe you actually thought of this idea to protect me."

She looked at him gratefully, instantly feeling much more at ease. I hope this storm will blow over quickly. Otherwise, my subsequent resources, including my overall image and career, will take a big hit. My goal is to break out of Eurasia and make my mark as an international supermodel!

Alas, it was soon evident that the negative sentiment online about her falling twice in a row did not take a turn. On the contrary, the comments became increasingly scathing.

Some netizens, who were either people falsely claiming to be her fans or those who hated her, also kept circulating screenshots of the moments after her clumsy blunder. They criticized her for losing her composure after stumbling, and even after someone helped her up, her catwalk was a mess. They noted that she seemed to have no clue how to carry on with the show and was smiling awkwardly, and they mocked her for being unprofessional. Their argument was that while the fall was not her fault, she did not handle the situation well after that.

On top of that, netizens even dug up videos of the top models at an international runway show from the year 2006. One had an issue with her heels and had trouble walking in them. In the end, her shoes slipped off her feet. In response, the model stood on her tiptoes and continued strutting her stuff, impressing everyone with how calmly she handled the crisis.

Another incident was when a model sprained her foot badly while walking the runway. However, she quickly steadied herself after momentarily losing her balance. If nobody pointed it out or watched the footage at a slower speed, no one would have noticed she had sprained her foot and how serious it was.

Twitter soon became flooded with those images and videos, and when placed side-by-side with screenshots of Sadie's tumble, they were in stark contrast with each other.

Sadie broke down completely. All her efforts to promote an image of professionalism and dedication had failed and triggered a backlash.

Overcome with rage, she swept everything from the table onto the floor. "Dad! These internet trolls just can't bear to see me do well!"

"What are you so worked up about?"

Shiela had been resting in her bedroom upstairs. Upon hearing the sound of things crashing onto the floor, she got up irritably. As soon as she walked out the door and glanced down the stairs, she saw the mess in the living room. That made her even more exasperated. I'm already not feeling well because of the pregnancy, and now here's Sadie throwing a tantrum!

“What on earth do you think you're doing, Sadie Jensen? Aren't you going to let me get some sleep?” she demanded impatiently while heading downstairs.

“Shiela!”

Hearing Shiela's voice, Sadie rushed toward her sister. “Go to Richard, will you? Ask him to help me out. I really don't know what I should do! Everyone on the internet is taking digs at me and siding with that b\*tch, Ashlyn!”

### [Chapter 977 Love Me More](#)

“Shiela...” whined Sadie.

“If I mess up this time, my modeling career is going to be affected quite badly in the future. How will I participate in major competitions and win awards, let alone be hired for runway shows?”

Sadie wept till snot and tears covered her face. “I bet it's that b\*tch Cassandra and Ashlyn that's dragging my name through the mud. They must've hired ghostwriters!”

“All right, all right. Stop crying.”

Shiela reached out to wipe away Sadie's tears. Regardless of what happened, Sadie was still Shiela's sister.

Even if they had their squabbles as siblings, nothing could break the bond between family members.

“Later tonight, I'll give Richard a call to see if he'll pick me up. I'll then ask if he can come up with a solution to this problem,” replied Shiela.

“Thank you, Shiela.”

When Sadie heard what Shiela said, she suddenly broke into a smile. “I knew that you would look out for me.”

“Stop trying to flatter me. I'm heading upstairs now.”

Having said that, Shiela turned on her heel and left.

Many days had passed since the disaster had happened. Things were now mostly under control in the Xanfield disaster zone.

On top of that, the heavy rain from the past few days had come to a stop too.

Post-disaster reconstruction was now a top priority.

A group of staff under James' command, including some of the experts and leading figures in various fields, were discussing how to carry out exhaustive reconstruction efforts.

Ashlyn and Lucas were present at the scene too.

The warm winter sun shone on the two of them as if bathing them in a faint golden glow.

“With only the post-disaster reconstruction left, it feels like a weight off my shoulders,” said Ashlyn, glancing at the clear river water as she sat by the banks.

Lucas raised a brow and leaned close to Ashlyn's ear. “Apart from the reconstruction efforts, are you really not thinking of anything else?” he asked with a hint of mirth in his voice.

Goodness me, my wife is certainly a workaholic.

As Lucas got to the end of his question, his tone was now slightly raised with a little mischief in it.

Ashlyn raised a brow and looked at him pointedly. “What else is there to think of?”

Lucas laughed and gently squeezed Ashlyn's delicate hand. “I'm asking that you love me a little more tonight.”

His eyes gaze had darkened a little as he stared at Ashlyn with a fiery passion in his eyes. Lucas shook his head. Here he was, a living, breathing person with a good figure and the looks to match, but he was stuck with a wife who liked to busy herself with other things. It was truly heartbreaking.

D\*mn. How bold of him to ask for my affection like this.

If not for the villagers passing through the area, Ashlyn would have loved to send the man before her hurtling into the river.

What on earth is going on inside his head?

When the pair's intimate gestures found their way into the eyes of the nearby villagers, they could not help but smile kindly upon Lucas and Ashlyn.

Sheryn, who was not too far away, also witnessed the scene. Inexplicably, she found herself thinking of Joseph's handsome face.

When will Mr. Joseph hold my hand as intimately? Wouldn't that be nice? I think I'd pass out from sheer happiness.

As she thought of this, Sheryn then made her way toward the tent.

Sheryn had heard that James was leaving tomorrow and was bringing along the students from the village who had been handpicked for scholarships.

She had to stand out among these students and not fall behind.

As such, she needed to make her presence known.

Sheryn glanced at the basket she was carrying and quickened her pace.

When she arrived at the tent, she noticed that James was the only one inside.

Sheryn walked over silently and glanced at James, who was poring over documents with full concentration. "Mr. Field?" queried Sheryn gently. "I went fishing for fish and shrimps at the river today. You can take this back with you when you leave tomorrow. I think it'll be good for you and Mrs. Field to have something more nourishing."

James heard a rather timid voice addressing him. He then raised his head to see an earnest-looking young girl. She appeared to be quite comely and vibrant.

With a gentle smile, James replied, "There's no need for that. You should save that for yourself. Besides, we're not lacking in anything at home. How can I possibly accept such a gift?"

After all, fishing for seafood was no easy feat.

### [Chapter 978 The Peacock](#)

What a thoughtful young woman.

"But I've already caught the fish anyway. Look!" Sheryn then extended her arms to show James.

James took a closer look and saw that Sheryn's hands were covered with wounds from being pricked by fish scales and shells. The very sight of that could make anyone feel distressed.

"Thank you for your kindness, but I really can't accept this." James was a little moved by her kindness, but he still insisted on refusing.

Just then, Ashlyn and Lucas walked in.

Upon witnessing this scene, Ashlyn raised a brow and looked pointedly at James. "James, can't you tell? This young woman deliberately came all the way here to thank you."

With a single glance, Lucas knew exactly what was going on. "Miss, he really can't accept this. You should take this home with you."

As soon as Lucas finished speaking, he picked up the basket and stuffed it into Sheryn's hands.

Sheryn had not expected to run into two obstacles like this. She gritted her teeth in secret and forced out a smile. "Very well."

Ashlyn looked at Sheryn's back darkly.

I think this woman is not as innocent as she looks.

Early the next day, the sun was shining brightly, and the weather was pleasant.

Sheryn and five other students packed their suitcases and boarded the car to leave the village.

James came over personally to do a headcount of the students. When he saw Sheryn, he smiled gently and said, "Ah, it was you."

"I was also selected for this scholarship," replied Sheryn with a vigorous nod.

"You appear to be quite excellent, then!" James then looked at the other students warmly and added, "When you all get to the capital, you need to study hard. Do you understand?"

"You appear to be quite excellent, then!" James then looked at the other students warmly and added, "When you all get to the capital, you need to study hard. Do you understand?"

"Yes, sir!" replied the students in unison.

Soon, the vehicle started to move slowly along the rugged mountain roads.

However, Sheryn's thoughts had been dwelling on the Field family for quite some time now.

She needed to seize whatever opportunity she could find to enter the Field family.

Sheryn was determined to be Joseph's lover. She wanted to force out that awful and disgusting Charlotte.

Meanwhile, at the Field residence, Fae had booked a private room at The Peacock first thing in the morning.

"Oh, Ashlyn and Lucas will be back soon, along with the students your father is sponsoring. I've booked the largest private room available. It should be enough to seat us all, right?"

Joseph looked at a very flustered Fae and couldn't help but retort, "Mom, we can always add a second table if we don't have enough seats. Don't forget Dad's staff as well. I don't think one private room will suffice!"

"You're right, you're right. Let's book two more private rooms, then. These people have risked their lives working for your father. It's hard work." Having said that, Fae booked two more private rooms immediately.

This was akin to a celebratory feast to welcome the troops back from a hard-fought battle.

"Mom, do we need to sort out anything else?" asked Charlotte, blinking her large eyes at a very busy Fae.

"Oh no, not at all," replied Fae with a smile. "It's very kind of you, Lottie."

Charlotte blushed and mumbled, "Oh, that's nothing, really." She then looked at Joseph and asked, "Joseph, has your head been hurting lately?"

"Not so much," replied Joseph, looking at Charlotte dotingly. She blushed beet-red and looked particularly adorable.

Despite having said that, Joseph could still feel pinpricks in his head.

At the time, he had listened to Ashlyn and transferred to a different hospital. Joseph also had surgery done. However, he could not tell if this was unhealed sequelae from the operation or that his condition was not completely cured. Joseph was prone to getting bouts of tingling and prickling pain from time to time.

He did not want his family to worry and thus said nothing of it.

Given that Ashlyn was helping out in the disaster zone, she was not the one who performed the surgery.

It was a different doctor.

Joseph suppressed the sudden pain he felt in his temples and picked up his phone to call Luca. "Luca, where are you now?"

"We've just landed," replied Luca concisely.

"They've already landed. Let's head over to The Peacock," said Joseph.

He looked a little pale.

Upon hearing Joseph's magnetic voice, Charlotte instinctively raised her head to look at him. However, she was startled by what she saw. "Joseph, you don't look too good."

"Oh, is that so?" Joseph then smiled like he usually did. "I think I'm feeling quite all right."



“Oh no, not at all,” replied Fae with a smile. “It's very kind of you, Lottie.”

Charlotte blushed and mumbled, “Oh, that's nothing, really.” She then looked at Joseph and asked, “Joseph, has your head been hurting lately?”

“Not as much,” replied Joseph, looking at Charlotte dotingly. She blushed beet-red and looked particularly adorable.

Despite having said that, Joseph could still feel pinpricks in his head.

At the time, he had listened to Ashlyn and transferred to a different hospital. Joseph also had surgery done. However, he could not tell if this was unhealed sequelae from the operation or that his condition was not completely cured. Joseph was prone to getting bouts of tingling and prickling pain from time to time.

He did not want his family to worry and thus said nothing of it.

Given that Ashlyn was helping out in the disaster zone, she was not the one who performed the surgery.

It was a different doctor.

Joseph suppressed the sudden pain he felt in his temples and picked up his phone to call Lucas. “Lucas, where are you now?”

“We've just landed,” replied Lucas concisely.

“They've already landed. Let's head over to The Peacock,” said Joseph.

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#### [Chapter 979 Who Would Be That Lucky Girl](#)

“Lottie, he's a grown man. Don't worry about the change in his expression.” Fae did not have time to care about Joseph as she had been busy with work at The Peacock.

After uttering those words, she swiftly grabbed her bag and made a move to leave.

Charlotte frowned and wondered if it was just her overthinking.

The three then left together, and Joseph drove toward The Peacock.

As they drove smoothly on the road, Fae looked out the window and said something unexpected, "Lottie, I remember you have a driver's license."

Charlotte blinked, not quite understanding what the woman was implying. "Uh, yeah!"

Fae grinned. "You'll be celebrating your birthday next week. What gift do you have in mind?"

Charlotte blushed, feeling a little shy. "I'm not lacking in food or clothes. In fact, I have everything I need, Mom. You don't need to prepare a gift for me."

"How can I not give you a gift?" Fae held her hand. "We might not be wealthy, but in our family, a birthday celebration is an important event. It's only right if we make it feel more ceremonious."

Charlotte recalled that only Lochlan would celebrate her birthday when she was in the Fraser family, and the gifts that Lochlan had given her were items that would appeal to young girls. Nevertheless, the celebrations often involved just the two of them.

Kate was unlike Fae. She had never discussed Charlotte's birthday celebration with the same gentle and joyful tone as Fae.

Suddenly, Charlotte felt as though the life she had lived with the Fraser family was a distant memory. Suddenly, Charlotte felt as though the life she had lived with the Fraser family was a distant memory.

Joseph remained silent, his focus fixated on the road ahead. From the side, his profile appeared flawless.

The man's chivalrous and carefree nature made him exceptionally popular among girls. Furthermore, his background as the mayor's son made him a desirable target for countless girls who pursued him relentlessly.

Despite this, Fae was very selective in choosing the most suitable daughter-in-law.

She had carefully weeded out girls who did not quite fit the bill or those who displayed inappropriate behavior.

Charlotte could not help but wonder what Joseph's future wife would look like. Who will become the daughter-in-law of the Field family? She should count herself lucky because Mr. and Mrs. Field are such nice, down-to-earth people. They're also kind-hearted and well-mannered.

While she was still lost in thought, the car stopped steadily outside The Peacock.

She got out of the vehicle and reached out to help Fae.

Fae responded with a grin and patted her hand gently. "I can still walk, Lottie. I'm not that old."

When the three of them walked into The Peacock, the manager promptly strode over and greeted them, "Mrs. Field, the private room is ready. When will Mr. Field and Mr. Nolan be coming?"

"Soon, I guess!" Fae stood in the lobby and glanced at the entrance. "We'll stay here for a while. You can leave if you have something to do."

"All right. I'll go to the kitchen to check on the dishes." After saying that, the manager walked toward the kitchen.

Ten minutes passed, and suddenly, the screeching sound of car brakes sliced through the air.

Fae hurriedly looked toward the door and saw a few cars parked outside the entrance of The Peacock.

As the first car arrived and its door opened, James stepped out, followed by Lucas and Ashlyn.

In the car behind them were the mayor's subordinates, while the six students who had received sponsorship to study in the city were in the last vehicle.

Dressed in a grey suit, James looked particularly elegant. Upon lifting his head, he saw Fae standing in the lobby. Fae's eyes instantly welled up with tears. "James!"

"Why are you so worked up? We're already an old married couple," James uttered with a gentle smile as he patted his beloved wife's shoulder. "Let's not embarrass ourselves in front of so many people, okay?"

Ashlyn walked over while holding Lucas' arm. "Long time no see, Fae."

"Ashlyn..." Fae was overwhelmed by the wave of emotions surging within her. "Didn't you just come back to attend the meeting a few days ago? Why did you return to the disaster zone again?"

"After attending the meeting, I went straight back to the disaster zone. I don't feel at ease until I do." Ashlyn's porcelain-like face, radiating in the noon sunlight, appeared even more beautiful as she spoke.

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#### [Chapter 980 Envious Of His Achievements](#)

Lucas greeted Fae when he saw her, "Mrs. Field."

"Lucas, you've lost weight. You've always been a picky eater, so I bet you didn't eat well in the disaster zone, right?" Fae felt bad. "Come on, now. Let's head inside."

She then turned to Joseph and instructed him, "Joseph, take them to their respective private rooms and make the necessary arrangements, okay?"

"Got it, Mom." At her behest, Joseph had his subordinates make the arrangements.

Sheryn, who was standing at the back of the crowd, was in awe of the magnificent lobby of The Peacock. What a luxurious building! I've never been to a place as sophisticated as this!

She then turned her attention to Joseph and Charlotte, who were a stone's throw away from her.

Charlotte wore a white coat over a pink dress and a pair of white boots, looking as beautiful as Snow White.

After glancing at her own clothes, that were plain and humble, Sheryn was instantly consumed with envy.

Nevertheless, she followed the crowd into a private room.

The private room was intricately decorated, and even the tables and chairs exuded extravagance.

All the students were led to a separate private room, where a young man, one of James' subordinates, was assigned to look after them.

The teenagers from the village felt a sense of surprise and unease as they entered the lavish hotel since they had never set foot in such a place before.

The young man led them into the room and welcomed them with a grin. "Have a seat, everyone. This hotel belongs to Mr. Nolan. Please, make yourself comfortable, and start enjoying the dishes."

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Sheryn gave the other students a disdainful look. What a bunch of country bumpkins. It's just a meal in the city. Why are they so frightened?

While she was lost in thought, she could not help but wonder which room Joseph was in. I wish to be there too.

Meanwhile, James, Fae, Ashlyn, and the others had gathered in another private room.

"There'll be a banquet tonight, alongside a reception for the higher-ups." James let out a sigh as he spoke. "Lucas and Ashlyn, you must be there for the event since you're the key figures of the operation."

"What's with the sigh?" Fae knitted her brows as a sense of unease crept into her heart.

"The relief efforts in the disaster zone are successful, and it counts as one of my political achievements, but I've been hearing rumors lately that someone has lodged a report against me." James frowned.

Clink!

Suddenly, Fae dropped her fork and gazed at James with a pallid face. "How come? James, you've always been honest and upright, and you had never done anything that would harm the country and the people. How could someone report you?"

"I'm not sure either. We'll have to investigate further." James handed Fae another clean fork. "Don't worry, Fae. I've been in the public eye a lot lately, so I suppose someone might be envious of my achievements."

"I hope so." Fae took the utensil over. However, her eyebrows could not stop twitching.

Upon hearing that, Lucas and Ashlyn exchanged glances.

The latter asked in a deep voice, "James, do you want me to find out who's the culprit?"

"It's all right. It's just a minor issue." James waved his hand to dismiss the idea. He did not want to trouble Ashlyn. "You've already got a lot on your plate. Just be careful in handling the higher-ups at tonight's celebration. Saying one wrong thing might lead to disastrous consequences."

"Don't worry, Mr. Field." Lucas bobbed his head in response, expressing gratitude for the mayor's advice.

"I'm glad that Joe didn't follow in my footsteps. Otherwise, I would really..." James was somewhat overwhelmed by emotions.

"Dad, why are you so emotional tonight? It's been a while since our family got together. We should be happy instead!" Joseph immediately comforted his father.

Charlotte, too, served the mayor some food. "Don't worry too much, Dad. We should be thankful that we're together again."

"You two were very thoughtful," James responded with a cursory smile. The disaster relief efforts were a good opportunity to build political achievements, but it was also a high-profile job that might stir up feelings of jealousy in others.

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