

## Extraordinary 161

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With James Field's political background, it gave Joseph Field free rein to be the extremely powerful and arrogant yet highly eligible bachelor he was.

However, Mrs. Field preferred to keep a low profile. She refused all public appearance unless it was absolutely necessary.

When the other rich elderly ladies heard Mrs. Field was on the prowl for a daughter-in-law, they mobbed the Field family residence. Naturally, Mrs. Field was only interested in a diamond of the first water. She would not allow her son to meet with any ordinary woman.

Who knew Ms. Saunders would be so young and closely acquainted with Mrs. Field?

Hera was practically green with envy.

When she remembered her purpose for coming here, she forced the ugly feelings of jealousy down and turned her attention to Madeline Saunders.

The room had an air of serenity.

Suddenly, a merry chuckle erupted.

The woman carrying the harp slowly turned.

When she laid eyes on the woman's face, Hera was frozen with shock. Her eyes widened in disbelief and she burst out, "How can it be you?"

Ashlyn smiled faintly. Her breathtaking features settled into a calm expression. She had a tiny plum blossom painted between her eyebrows, adding to the enchanting glow she emanated.

Dressed in historical clothing, she resembled a dazzling painting come to life.

Lucas was also staring at the devastatingly beautiful Ashlyn with his jaw dropped.

His obsidian eyes shifted from hostility, to shock, then to anger.

No wonder... She spoke about Madeline Saunders with such nonchalance.

No wonder... She could make the decision to send that man a painting.

No wonder... She was able to help Madeline Saunders auction off paintings.

It was because!

She's Madeline Saunders!

Ashlyn had a cup of tea in front of her, plumes of smoke rose steadily from it. She set the harp down on a nearby harp stand before turning up the corner of the lips into a small smirk. "Mr. Nolan, pray tell what was so important that you were willing to pay nine million just to meet with me?"

Lucas scanned her like how a predator would track its prey.

His gaze was sharp, invasive, and would send shivers down its target's spine.

"What do you take me for, Ashlyn?"

"Mr. Nolan, did you pay nine million just to sit there and interrogate me?" Ashlyn relaxedly pulled down the scarf covering the lower half of her face. Her brows raised in mock derision.

Is it my fault he's never asked about my relationship with Madeline Saunders?

Until she introduced me as Madeline Saunders, no one suspected a thing. So no one would believe it even if this got out, right?

Judging from Hera's bulging sockets of astonishment, she definitely can't believe it.

Mrs. Field was unaware that Lucas was familiar with Ashlyn. "Lucas, you know Ashlyn?" Mrs. Field asked in surprise.

"Not only do I know her!" Lucas spat, his tone turning fierce.

Noticing his demeanor, Mrs. Field stretched an arm out in front of Ashlyn. "Lucas, Ashlyn is a good friend of mine. I won't allow you to lay a finger on her! If you injure even one hair on her body, I'll make sure you regret it!"

The Field family and Nolan family have always been close.

Their children have been friends for as long as they could remember. Lucas was like a second son to Mrs. Field.

In all my life, I've never seen her take the side of an outsider and use such a tone with me.

He was floored by her reaction. "Why... Why would I harm her?"

"Then you can speak amicably to her." Mrs. Field glared at him before continuing, "So, why did you want to meet with Ashlyn?"

Lucas was about to explain when he spotted Hera shaking her head. “No. I don’t want her as my mentor.” She declared resolutely.

Ashlyn’s shapely almond eyes glinted and her radiant features hardened with hostility. “I wouldn’t want to take you in either.”

“Ms. Chapman was it?” Mrs. Field gave Hera a once over. “Don’t you know? Ashlyn isn’t just Ms. Saunders, but she’s also LX’s head of design. You were shut down by LX because of this. As a socialite, you’re supposed to have received an impeccable upbringing yet you act otherwise. The Field Family and the Chapman family are friends and I can say that your behavior would bring shame upon your father.”

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After checking the trending pages, Mrs. Field was boiling with rage.

How dare that wretched Hera cause a scene at the LX flagship store? She even slandered the LX brand! Worst of all, she even hit Ashlyn!

I won’t take this lying down. Since she came here of her own accord, she can’t blame me for teaching her a lesson for the sake of Ashlyn.

Hera’s face contorted in a mixture of humiliation and rage.

Her features twisted and flushed with the flurry of emotions she was experiencing.

How dare Mrs. Field reprimand me so harshly? If only I could fight back.

But even Mum has to keep her mouth shut and allow Mrs. Field to continue hurling insults her way.

What’s so special about Ashlyn? How did she get Mrs. Field to become so protective of her?

Tears of indignance and fury surged in her eyes.

She turned to leave but heard Mrs. Field’s voice exclaim, “Do you think the Royal Tea House is someplace you can choose to enter and leave of your own free will? Apologize! You must apologize to Ashlyn!”

Mrs. Field’s influence was undeniable.

Hera looked at Lucas with shame, but he did not even bother to meet her gaze.

If I had known Madeline Saunders was Ashlyn, I never would have brought Hera to meet her, much less request for her to be Hera’s mentor.

Hot tears spilled from Hera's eyes and she choked out, "It's all her fault... Why must you treat me this way? What did I do wrong? Why should I apologize? Netizens are all scolding and ridiculing me, all because of her. She's also the reason behind Glorious Group blacklisting me. I'm clearly the victim here so why should I be the one to apologize?"

Hera's spiel only further enraged Mrs. Field.

She was about to speak when she was stopped by Ashlyn placing her hand on her wrist. "Sister, lower your hand."

Sister?

Ashlyn actually addressed Mrs. Field as Sister!

Lucas stiffened and his eyes flared in anger.

"How could you call her Sister!" Lucas yelled, incensed.

"Lucas, I told you to take a nicer tone with Ashlyn. Do you understand? Ashlyn is my god sister. You should be grateful I didn't insist that you address her as Aunt! You should count your blessings!" Mrs. Field glared daggers at Lucas.

Lucas took a sharp intake of breath.

Aunt!

She's only 22 years old, while I'm already 28. Yet I still have to address Mrs. Field with respect. Why is she allowed to call her Sister?

There's clearly a mistake in seniority here!

His annoyance swelled but was halted before it could erupt.

Hera compared Ashlyn's situation to her own. Look at my pathetic sorry state. No one even tries to sympathize with me.

She shook her head as her eyes brimmed with scalding tears. "This is so unfair!"

She turned and bolted out.

Lucas stood rooted to the ground, his incisive gaze remained locked onto Ashlyn.

Ashlyn lowered her gaze and her slender fingers closed over the handle of the teapot. She was currently elegantly pouring out tea for Mrs. Field as she soothed the older woman, "Have some tea, Sister."

Mrs. Field sighed before accepting the cup of tea. "You're too nice. Only you would allow such a mediocre creature to take advantage of you."

Nice?

Aunt! Are we talking about the same person?

The woman who has the ability to strike a man so hard he flew into the air. She's nice?

Lucas inwardly bagged on her. But now that I think about it, Ashlyn has always been good with altering her personality to suit her audience. She probably acts all cute and innocent in front of Mrs. Field. It's the only way Mrs. Field would be so taken with her!

I fell for her act during those four years as well.

Ashlyn took a sip of tea before lifting her gaze to see Lucas's towering figure still seated. "Aren't you going after her?" She asked curiously.

"I'm not going!"

The man suddenly jumped to his feet, grabbed Ashlyn by the arm and dragging her away from the table.

"Excuse me while I speak to Ashlyn privately. It'll only take three minutes."

Ashlyn's wrist was trapped in Lucas's grip. He was exerting a significant amount of strength and she felt pain shoot up her arm.

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He looks mad.

He practically hauled me out of the room.

Once the bathroom door clicked shut, Lucas exploded.

"Ashlyn! Explain! Explain yourself now!"

Sister? Madeline Saunders?

Lucas could not hold it together any longer.

Ashlyn regarded him quietly. His inky gaze was clouded over by storm clouds of hostility.

"Lucas, you never asked me about my relationship with Ms. Saunders. You also never asked me if I was

her. How is this my fault?"

Ashlyn leaned back against the wall, her enchanting countenance shining with tranquil composure.

His arm held the back of her neck and his voice lowered to a dangerously menacing tone, "Are you blaming me? Are you blaming me for not paying attention to you? Or for not understanding you?"

Ashlyn returned his gaze with her own puzzled expression. "That wasn't my intention at all, Lucas. Why would I need you to pay attention to me?"

"What more are you hiding from me, Ashlyn?" Lucas growled threateningly.

The hand which held her neck gripped it tighter. "Don't make me guess anymore."

"When did I make you guess? You're the one who likes playing games. You're also the one who sought out Ms. Saunders and begged to meet her." Ashlyn wrenched her neck out of his uncomfortable hold.

"Mrs. Field is waiting for me. You better...Umph!"

Her lips were suddenly corked.

Mrs. Field was worried about Ashlyn and had come out looking for her when she saw the pair headed towards the bathroom.

When she arrived in front of the bathroom, she heard odd sounds coming from Ashlyn inside the bathroom.

I know all too well what sounds those are...

She was bewildered by this development.

What's going on? Lucas and Ashlyn? Thinking back, I have to admit Lucas had a strange attitude towards Ashlyn.

I watched Lucas grow up and understand him fairly well. But I've never seen him care about anyone so much.

But isn't Lucas married?

Could Ashlyn be...

Mrs. Field was dumbfounded.

The bathroom was dimly lit. Ashlyn was pressed against the wall, her face bright red.

Lucas glowered at her, jealousy screaming from his gaze. "Just how many people do you have in your heart? First Jared, then the twins, and now Mrs. Field. They all know you better than me..."

Jealousy was driving him up the wall.

I'm only a man.

After four years together, she's the most familiar person to me in this sea of strangers.

Is there greater agony than this?

Ashlyn cut him off, "Lucas, during the four years we were married, I was never completely honest about myself because I felt it was unnecessary. You know best how our relationship was. You don't love me and vice versa. You've also never looked into my background or cared about my family, hobbies and life in general. All you wanted was a wife to stay home and greet you every day you came home. So isn't it rather ridiculous that now you stand here, screeching about how you don't understand me? The only thing we're familiar with about each other is our bodies. Nothing else." Ashlyn turned her head away from the imposingly cold man.

She yanked the handle of the door and left.

When she returned to the room, the server at the entrance curtly informed her, "Ms. Berry, Mrs. Field had something to attend to and already took her leave. She wanted me to tell you."

"Noted." Ashlyn nodded before stepping into the room.

Lucas continued standing in the bathroom. A long time passed while he remained statuesque.

His heart was utterly vacant. Melancholic winds seemed to sweep in and out of the void.

In the Field family villa.

Joseph Field entered, closely followed by his mother.

He took in the historical garb she was dressed in and a headache immediately set in. "Mum, can you not always dress up in such weird get-ups? You're no spring chicken anymore so why are you still trying to cosplay?"

"You know nothing." Mrs. Field shot him a glare before tossing her custom-made historical costume onto the sofa and kicked off her embroidered slippers.

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"We're preserving our traditional culture, and we wear these oriental outfits to promote the traditional Han costumes. Have you been to the Royal Tea House? Do you have its gold card? I'm a Royal Tea House's diamond card holder. Ashlyn told me that there're only five diamond card holders, and I'm one of them."

"Okay, okay. I'm not much of a tea person, so I'm not interested in that place." Joseph felt his head throbbing.

His mom and Madeline Saunders were so close to each other, to the extent that he felt a little jealous.

"Hmph! Come over here." Fae sat on the couch and waved at her son.

"What's the matter?" In bewilderment, Joseph walked over and sat beside his mom.

"How are things between Lucas and his wife? Are they on bad terms?" Fae held her son's hand while looking at him squarely in the eyes. "Tell me honestly and don't lie to me, okay?"

"Mom, why do you ask about Lucas suddenly?" Joseph pursed his lips. "Is he your son?"

"Hey, don't change the subject." Fae slapped her son playfully. "Tell me already."

"They were divorced for more than a month." Joseph sat sluggishly on the couch with his legs wide open, snapping his fingers. "How could Lucas do this to me? Ever since he got married, he never let me see his wife, not even once. Are they really divorced?" Fae's eyes widened in disbelief.

"It can't be fake. Lucas will never lie to me." Joseph tilted his head. "After all, both of them don't love one another. They got married in a hurry for Lucas' grandpa's sake."

Fae heaved a sigh of relief. "That's great."

Thank God that Ashlyn isn't a mistress.

But Lucas is a divorcee, so he's secondhand goods. Fae felt slightly awkward that Lucas was pursuing Ashlyn.

Ashlyn is beautiful, kind and talented, so she's definitely out of Lucas' league. Even though Lucas is rich, influential and a man of integrity, he's someone's ex-husband after all.

That's not very appropriate.

Fae couldn't help but sneak a peek at his son. No, no. My son is incompetent, so he doesn't deserve Ashlyn at all. He is even worse than Lucas.

On the other hand, Joseph still had no idea that he and his best friend were losing their places in his



mom's heart.

He stared at Fae suspiciously. "What's so great about it? Mom, why are you happy that Lucas is divorced?"

"No, I'm not." Fae's expression was inscrutable. "It's none of your business, so don't be a busybody."

I have to ask Ashlyn for her opinion soon...

Meanwhile, James came downstairs from his study and heard their conversation.

"Honey, please invite Ashlyn for dinner at our house one day. The National Day is approaching soon, and I need to organize a National Day celebration. Hence, I would like to ask Ashlyn to be the performing arts consultant and help me with the program planning. Do you think she'll go for it?"

"How much do you pay Ashlyn for this job? If it's not a well-paying one, I won't look for her then." Fae gave James a sideways glance.

James laughed and said, "Talking about money hurts our relationship."

"No, it hurts our pockets not to talk about money." Fae took a sip of water. "Dear, is there any outstanding and brilliant young men at your workplace? Especially the ones with noble character and prominent family background."

"What for? Are you trying to match make Ashlyn?" James could not hold back his laugh. "Ashlyn is so famous. The words 'Ms. Saunders' will scare any talented young man away. Who will dare get into a relationship with her?"

Anyone who praised Ashlyn was a good person in Fae's eyes.

Whenever Fae talked about Ashlyn, her face reddened with excitement, and her eyes were gleaming. "Ashlyn is breathtakingly beautiful. Look at Jared, he clings on to her every day, but I don't think he's the perfect match for her. Ashlyn's mother passed away when she was young. That's why I have to pay more attention to her love life."

"How about our son?"

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"Hah! Even Lucas doesn't deserve Ashlyn, let alone our son. Lucas is a divorcee, while Joseph is useless. So neither of them is good enough." Fae snorted.

My mom blatantly despises me!

Joseph let out a wail. "Mom, just how amazing Ashlyn is? Am I really your biological son?"

Fae reached out to poke his face. "Of course you're my biological son, but Ashlyn is better. She accompanies me to go shopping, tea time, concert, and she even plays piano together with me. What about you?"

"Mom, could it be that Ashlyn has an ulterior motive?" Joseph mumbled.

My mom has been bewitched after meeting Madeline Saunders two years ago. At home, she talks about Ashlyn all the time, and Ashlyn is the best and the wisest person in her eyes. Anyone who says a word against Ashlyn is her enemy.

She's comparable to those fanatic fans who blindly chase after their idol.

"Cut the nonsense," Fae said through gritted teeth while glaring at her son. "Ashlyn has never once asked us for anything, but we always ask for her help. Look at these paintings on our wall. Each one is worth over ten million, but Ashlyn has given them to us for free!"

Joseph bit his tongue as he looked around at the walls full of Madeline Saunders' paintings.

We can't have too much of a good thing. It can be tiresome no matter how artistic they are.

"You two should stop bickering. Please ask Ashlyn whether she's free on Friday night," James urged them before heading upstairs to continue working.

When he came upstairs, his assistant called him. "Mr. Field, regarding the Haddock Group's case, Zero informed us that the Haddock Group fell for the trick."

"That's fast," James said in surprise.

"Yes, but Zero still needs to investigate further to find out the actual situation."

"Please keep in touch with the secret society. We'll pump in extra funds if it's insufficient, as long as we can get hold of the criminal evidence of the Haddock Group," James said in a steady voice.

"Noted."

After hanging up the phone, James looked out the window at the night sky with an enigmatic look in his eyes.

On Friday night, at the Pearl Restaurant.

It was a private kitchen which served delicious and expensive cuisines. This restaurant belonged to the Haddock Group and was managed by Sienna.

The interior design and furnishings of the restaurant were custom-made according to her preferences. Therefore, she loved to organize gatherings at this place.

Since it was only a gathering, it wasn't as grand as the previous Haddock Group dinner. However, the Pearl Restaurant dining hall was opulently decorated.

Most guests invited were female, and the hall on the first floor was buzzing with activity.

As a fashionable lady, Sienna invited a well-known female social media influencer instead of the reporters. She was live-streaming the entire event on the official blog of the Haddock Group.

It was the first time the female influencer attended a gathering of the wives of wealthy men, so she felt ecstatic and spoke in an overly excited tone during the livestream.

"Oh my God! Guess who I just saw!"

The female influencer's name was Coco. She lifted her phone to aim its camera at the middle-aged woman who just stepped through the entrance. "Good day. Mrs. Jones. Please say hi to the netizens."

Coco jogged over to Mrs. Jones. Although all the guests had been notified beforehand that there would be a livestream during the gathering, Mrs. Jones still appeared abashed and reserved as she waved at the camera. "Hi, everyone. I'm Mrs. Jones, and I'm here today for Mrs. Haddock's private gathering."

"Mrs. Jones looks so gracious. It's obvious that you're from a wealthy family," Coco complimented her.

After that, she pranced around the hall and interviewed every guest in front of the camera.

Many comments kept popping out in the chatroom of the livestream.

The netizens had always been curious about the lives of wealthy people. Now Sienna revealed their lavish lifestyle through the livestream. Hence, it attracted countless netizens, and the viewership skyrocketed.

"Wow. The place looks magnificent."

"These ladies' outfits are all from luxury brands."

"Tsk, tsk. I saw Mrs. Gracia. Her husband is a filthy rich real estate developer."

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"Isn't that Mrs. Miller? She looks so luxurious."

"Cindy is there too! I'm her hardcore fan. She looks great in her white LX dress."

Just then, Ashlyn arrived at the first floor.

Coco hurriedly turned the camera toward her. "Look, everyone. Our popular queen, Ms. Berry is here."

More comments popped up on the screen.

"Wow! She's so attractive!"

"Oh my. My goddess is a charming one."

"She's wearing LX latest collection. The pinkish red dress looks elegant on her."

"She's so tall. Maybe she's over 170 cm."

"Totally stunning and stylish."

In the meantime, Sienna had been sitting on a couch at the lounge. She was the star of today's gathering, and all the socialites revolved around her.

Sienna held a high status in the Haddock family.

The first son and the third son's families were nowhere near as good as her, and there were no signs of them at the gathering.

Even if they came, they would only be here to complement Sienna.

The other Haddock family members cursed Sienna behind her back, suspecting that something was going on between her and Dixon.

Otherwise, why did Dixon have such high hopes for her?

In fact, Sienna was good-looking, carefree, and generous. She had good interpersonal skills as well.

Although she was about to turn forty years old, she seemed youthful for her age because she took good care of her skin and appearance.

However, the moment she saw Ashlyn, a look of astonishment flashed in her eyes.

From a woman's perspective, Sienna could not deny that Ashlyn was incredibly beautiful.

Every socialite present was wearing branded clothes and accessories, looking graceful and sophisticated.

Nevertheless, when Ashlyn showed up, everyone around her faded into the background. Ashlyn was always the center of attraction.

The pinkish-red dress outlined her perfect hourglass figure.

Her silky long hair was styled in a messy bun, revealing her slender neck. With delicate makeup on her face, she was utterly eye-catching.

Her expression seemed noble and aloof as she scanned through the crowd. Lastly, her gaze landed on Sienna.

Immediately, Sienna smiled and welcomed her, "Ms. Berry, welcome to my private gathering. It's an honor to have you here."

"It's too bad that Ms. Saunders didn't come together with Ms. Berry. It seems like we're not as lucky as Ms. Berry and didn't have the privilege to meet Ms. Saunders," a young woman said. She was Sienna's secretary and right-hand man.

Sienna shot her a glance at her. "Lisa, what're you talking about? Ms. Saunders is not an average person whom we can meet so easily."

Sienna then turned to look at Ashlyn with a smile. "Am I right, Ms. Berry?"

"Ms. Oates, don't worry about it."

Ashlyn nodded faintly at her.

Sienna and her subordinate seem to work together very well.

On the other hand, the other socialites felt jealous that Sienna greeted and entertained Ashlyn personally.

"Look at her face, she must have made her face perfect through plastic surgery."

"And her boobs too. They looked so full and round. I bet she has breast implants."

"Her butt is so firm. Maybe she injected fillers too."

A few women whispered among themselves bitterly. In their eyes, Ashlyn had no prominent status, and she made her way to the top via her connections with Jared. Thus, they thought that she would fret over attending a gathering of the upper echelons.

But they were disappointed after seeing Ashlyn.

She carried herself with elegance and grace. Her gaze was distant yet piercing, giving off an intimidating aura.

At the same time, Naomi was walking past behind the few women who were cursing Ashlyn under their breaths.

She glanced at Sienna and Ashlyn while feeling smug. She could not wait to see how Ashlyn would end up when she had offended so many socialites.

Meanwhile, the netizens were still enthusiastically commenting on the livestream.

“My goddess is out of this world. Her gaze sends chills down my spine.”

“Her aura is domineering.”

“I don’t know why, but her gaze just now reminded me of Mr. Nolan.”

“Me too... Mr. Nolan’s face crossed my mind when I saw her just now. Her strong aura and icy gaze look exactly like Mr. Nolan’s!”

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“Yeah, you’re right. It’s too bad that she’s Jared’s girlfriend.”

“I wonder how Mrs. Nolan looks like, whether her gaze is gentle or sharp.”

“Oh, look! Our goddess and Ms. Oates are moving.”

All the netizens could not stop praising Ashlyn in the chatroom.

At that time, Ashlyn was trending on social media. The Most Outstanding One In A Private Gathering; The Beautiful Goddess Ashlyn

Meanwhile, Hera was in her room at the Chapman family villa as she dared not go out these days.

Feeling bored, she browsed her social media and saw the trending topic about Ashlyn.

“Bitch!”

Most socialites shunned her ever since she got into trouble. Although some of her friends kept in touch with her, they often mocked her indirectly.

Not only did she see Ashlyn’s news, but a few socialites also posted status about Ashlyn with a caption: Did she get plastic surgery? Is that why her face looks perfect?

An idea came to Hera’s mind when she saw this caption.

An evil smile spread across her face. Then she couldn't help but send an email to that person again.

A few minutes later, the photos of Ashlyn before and after having plastic surgery went viral and became the top trending topic.

Numerous netizens tapped on it and saw many photos of Ashlyn's ugly face before the plastic surgery versus her current photos.

The photo of her ugly face before the plastic surgery was jaw-dropping.

She had a pair of small eyes, a flat nose, tanned skin and a big mouth.

To make the matter worse, a certified plastic surgeon testified that Ashlyn had undergone plastic surgery for her entire face, which would have cost at least 500 thousand.

He even called Ashlyn 'a plastic surgery freak', who went to the extremes to entice men.

His insults toward Ashlyn were awful.

At that moment, Lucas just got off a plane. It was the beginning of the month, so he was on duty.

A group of cabin crew trailed behind him.

The tall and well-built man was dressed in a captain's uniform, looking aloof yet dashing.

When Jenny switched on her phone, she saw a notification from her social media.

She promptly clicked on it as she read a familiar name.

"Captain Nolan."

Running to catch up with Lucas, she raised her head to stare at the tall and striking man.

The man was exuding an unapproachable vibe all over.

He looked down at her and asked, "What's the matter?"

"Look..." Jenny plucked up her courage and lifted her phone in front of him. "Ashlyn had plastic surgery. A plastic surgeon compared her before and after photos and verified that she really did it."

Lucas's eyes were fixed on the screen, and his face turned grim all of a sudden.

It was full of hue and cry on the Internet, and the so-called plastic surgeon's confirmation had been shared over ten thousand times.

His expression became increasingly sullen, and a storm was brewing in his darkened gaze.

Spencer cast a cautious glance at Lucas.

Mr. Nolan's mood is visibly turning sour...

He's getting restless, irritated and furious...

Lucas's gaze grew more and more frigid. Then he instructed Spencer, "Get the manager of the Public Relations Department to deal with this matter right away."

He added in a stern voice, "And that plastic surgeon too."

Jenny was dumbstruck.

What does Lucas mean?

The proof of Ashlyn's plastic surgery is right in front of his eyes, but he isn't against Ashlyn.

He's even helping Ashlyn to suppress this news.

Is he out of his mind?

He's protecting an unfaithful gold digger who had undergone plastic surgery.

Jenny became anxious and could no longer hold back her emotions. "Captain Nolan, don't you believe that Ashlyn went for plastic surgery? She made her face look perfect so that she could seduce men. She's not a natural beauty."

A sardonic laugh echoed above her head. "It doesn't matter if she's not a natural beauty, and I don't care about her appearance. As long as she's Ashlyn, she'll be my wife."

Jenny's eyes turned red-rimmed. "But she cheated on you... She's a loose woman!"

The man's voice sounded as cold as ice. "She has her own circle of friends. I'm sure that she'll never cheat on me. Stop slandering and ruining her reputation, or else I'll make you pay for this."

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Jenny yelled hysterically, "If she's that great, why did you marry her in secret? Do your parents know about her? Will you dare let her live under the same roof as your parents? Don't you think that your marriage is abnormal?"



Lucas looked daggers at her and remained silent for a moment.

“It’s none of your business. You have no right to talk about or meddle in our relationship.”

After saying this, the man immediately marched away and left her alone.

The other air stewardess shot glances of sympathy at Jenny. Has she gone crazy?

How dare she talk to Captain Nolan this way?

Something must be wrong with her. Even if she’s madly in love, she shouldn’t behave like a madwoman.

She’s only making Captain Nolan hate her more.

After that, the air stewardess walked past Jenny and ran toward Lucas to catch up with him.

Standing motionless, Jenny broke down and wailed.

Why does Lucas trust a bitch like Ashlyn unconditionally? He’s so protective of her.

Is he not afraid that Ashlyn would have an affair behind his back?

Ashlyn is his wife, but she swindles everyone under the guise of Jared’s girlfriend.

Soon after, the trending topic of Ashlyn’s plastic surgery disappeared.

Instead, the scandal about the plastic surgeon was exposed and spread all over the Internet.

He once caused the death of an average influencer during the operation. However, no one paid attention to the case because the influencer wasn’t popular.

As a result, the plastic surgeon settled the issue with only little compensation.

Someone discovered it, and it became the new trending topic.

All these happened within only half an hour.

The topic about Ashlyn’s plastic surgery had been reversed completely.

“So whatever this plastic surgeon said cannot be trusted.”

“This surgeon is a troublemaker. Why didn’t the influencer’s family sue him?”

“Perhaps she signed a consent agreement before the surgery, but she didn’t read it.”

“He has no regard for human life.”

“Ashlyn’s face seems very natural to me. Her facial expression doesn’t look stiff at all.”

The public opinion took a drastic turn.

At that moment, Ashlyn was still chatting with Sienna. She was clueless that there was a storm on social media because of her.

“Ms. Berry, let me introduce you to some of my friends. They’re in close collaboration with the Haddock Charity and donated a lot to the needy. I am amazed and grateful towards them,” Sienna said with a smile.

In fact, Sienna yearned for Madeline Saunders to join her. It’ll be best if I can merge Saunders Charity with the Haddock Group.

Ms. Saunders’ influence can greatly benefit the development of the Haddock Charity.

Hence, I have to win Ashlyn over first. I heard that this woman is only a pretty face, and she’s busty but brainless.

She’s indeed very stunning and elegant. I can use her stupidity to my advantage.

“I’m keen to meet them then,” Ashlyn replied impassively. “I always admire outstanding women like them.”

Sienna felt a sense of disdain in her heart. What a hypocrite.

Then she brought Ashlyn to mingle with the wealthy wives and showcased her diplomatic skills.

These wealthy wives were courteous toward Sienna, whose status and influence surprised Ashlyn.

Due to Ashlyn’s connection with Madeline Saunders, many of the wealthy wives greeted her enthusiastically while urging, “Please bring Ms. Saunders along next time so we’ll have the honor to meet her face to face.”

Ashlyn maintained an expressionless face, and her gaze was calm. She appeared modest yet dignified.

Nonetheless, some of them looked down on Ashlyn. She’s just a bimbo who depends on a man to make her way up. What’s the point of making friends with her?

Ms. Oates personally entertains her only to get in touch with Ms. Saunders through her.

Why is Ms. Saunders so close to her?

#### [Chapter 169](#)

Cindy saw the close interaction between Ashlyn and Sienna from afar, then she strolled over to them and greeted Ashlyn, “Ms. Berry, how have you been?”

Cindy had a good impression of Ashlyn after the LX brand incident.

“Good day, Ms. Wynn.” Ashlyn had not spoken to any of the wealthy wives, but she greeted and chatted with Cindy.

All the wealthy wives’ expressions turned grim at her reaction.

Are we worse than an actress?

Both of them are lowly people and cut from the same cloth. It’s true that birds of a feather flock together.

“Ashlyn!” a high-pitched voice called out suddenly.

Wearing an unusual outfit, Naomi stormed toward them and pointed at her phone while shouting, “Did you ask my brother to remove the trending topic for you?”

Naomi?

She’s here too?

Ashlyn’s eyes glinted with surprise. She asked discreetly, “What are you talking about? I don’t understand.”

When everyone saw Naomi’s expression, a scornful look appeared on their faces, knowing that a good show was about to unfold.

Naomi was known for her quick temper. After she returned from overseas, she did not go to school, doing nothing other than hanging out with some female gangsters.

She had a few friends in the upper echelons of society. If it weren’t for her identity as the daughter of the Nolan family, the socialites wouldn’t be bothered to look at her.

Some well-educated socialites even refused to associate with her.

“Stop pretending like you’re so pure and innocent.” Naomi was used to scolding Ashlyn every time she met her in the Nolan family home. In Naomi’s eyes, Ashlyn was only her brother’s kept woman.

Hence, she scolded Ashlyn straight away when she bumped into her here.

Ashlyn stared at Naomi with an indifferent face. "Ms. Nolan, are we so close that you have forgotten your manners?"

"What are you trying to say!" Naomi shrieked angrily with embarrassment.

Ashlyn raised a brow in silent while glancing around.

Naomi unconsciously followed her gaze and look around. Only then she realized the wealthy wives around her were staring at her with disgust and contempt.

It suddenly hit her that she was only humiliating herself when she yelled at Ashlyn in public.

"Everyone here can see that you're ill-bred." Ashlyn gracefully swayed the glass of red wine in her hand before taking a sip. She leaned closer to Naomi and whispered into her ears, "It's obvious that someone manipulated you, but you still think that you're all that. How silly of you."

Ashlyn shoved the glass into Naomi's hand. "I told you to study harder in school since you're so dumb."

Naomi's face flushed beet red with shame.

Initially, she had no intention to cause trouble for Ashlyn. But a few girls incited her to start a fight, saying that only she was bold enough to stand against Ashlyn, who was so pretentious and disgusting.

Now she started reflecting on her actions. Are these girls genuinely my besties?

Although Cindy was afraid of offending Naomi, she mumbled, "Ms. Nolan, scolding Ms. Berry in public makes you look like..."

"What do I look like? Explain!" Naomi rebuked her furiously, "What do you think you are to criticize me?"

Cindy's face turned pale at her words. She could not afford to offend a girl from a wealthy family, but she could not stand to see Ashlyn get insulted.

Cindy was only an average celebrity who had plastic surgeries for her face and boobs. Since the LX brand event, she felt really impressed by Ashlyn.

The world of show business was complicated, and she went through much bullying and oppression, but she eventually adapted herself to people-pleasing and politics. Yet, Ashlyn was magnanimous, and it blew her mind.

Ashlyn's frigid gaze landed on Naomi. "Shut up. Aren't you embarrassed enough? Or do you want to continue living overseas? If you don't, then get back to the Nolan family home now!"

## [Chapter 170](#)

Biting her lips, Naomi stomped her foot in anger and walked away.

I ended up studying overseas because Ashlyn convinced my brother to do so. I just don't understand why my brother treats Ashlyn so well.

Cindy looked at Ashlyn gratefully.

"Ms. Berry, you're courageous indeed," Sienna praised her with a flattering smile. "Everyone knows Ms. Nolan is a fearless spoilt brat, but you managed to subdue her."

Ashlyn looked down and smiled faintly. At that fleeting moment, she appeared so mesmerizing that she outshone every other woman present.

"She's still a little girl. Please excuse her tantrum."

"Ms. Berry, you've supported Ms. Saunders' charity before. Would you like to support the Haddock Charity as well? The Haddock Charity is much more established and famous compared to Ms. Saunders' charity." Sienna paused briefly before adding, "As far as I know, you don't have a job now. How about joining me to manage the Haddock Charity together?"

"Ms. Oates is right. As women, we must have our own careers. We can't depend on men all the time. By the way, I'm a senior consultant of the Haddock Charity," one of the wealthy wives said.

Then another wealthy wife said, "I'm at diamond tier."

Sienna explained with pride, "Almost everyone here is a consultant of the Haddock Charity. Some of us are directors and deacons. Charity can also be a career. It's not merely donation or financial aid, but it's also a virtue, belief, and love. I believe Ms. Berry will join the Haddock Charity and spread the love."

Ashlyn gazed calmly at Sienna.

This is interesting. The Haddock Charity has brainwashed everybody.

These rich wives gather here only because they are given nominal positions in the organization.

They usually had nothing to do other than play mahjong and go shopping. Now each one of them has a so-called career of her own.

In short, charity means donating money.

The Haddock Group must be eyeing Ms. Saunders. Sienna wants me to join the Haddock Charity, so she can make me bring Ms. Saunders here in the future.

"I'll think about it." Ashlyn chuckled.

And everyone present held their breaths.

How captivating! She looks even more stunning when she laughs.

These wealthy wives couldn't help feasting their eyes on Ashlyn. When she smiled, she looked so enchanting that they couldn't take their eyes off her.

They were green with envy.

Such a minx! So young and beautiful.

No wonder Jared and Winsor have fallen head over heels for her.

"Sure. We organize a gathering almost every week. You can bring your female friends to join us, like Ms. Saunders." Sienna hurriedly added, "Ms. Berry, we genuinely look forward to your participation. Hope you'll let us know soon."

"No problem," Ashlyn replied indifferently, and the meaningful smile on her face grew wider.

In the Field family villa.

"Is Ashlyn not coming?" James stared at the empty living room in bewilderment.

When Fae saw James come back home, she quickly stood up and approached him while saying with concern, "She's attending Sienna's private gathering tonight. Honey, the Haddock family is greedy and heartless. Why does Ashlyn go there?"

James' brows knitted together as he sat on the couch. "Don't worry. She's smart, so she'll be able to protect herself."

"But Sienna's very capable. She keeps inviting me to the gathering, but I rejected her every time. If I had known that Ashlyn would attend the gathering tonight, I would've gone there to back her up." Fae felt a lump in her throat.