

## **Extraordinary 331**

### [Chapter 331](#)

There were numerous Gala Nights in Lake City that were organized by the TV stations.

Famous celebrities will be invited to attract audience rating.

As for the high-ranking officials in the government, fear and worry started to build up within them.

“Mr. Field, the Gala Night is about to go live. At that time, will it...” the Director of Lake City TV Station anxiously rubbed his hands. If the audience rating of the show went south, his bonus and other work benefits would be affected as well.

More importantly, reputation would be jeopardized.

Reputation in the media industry is of paramount importance.

Take a not-to-be-named TV station as an example. Last year, there was an unfortunate incident regarding the sudden death of an ailing guest during the recording of a variety show.

The TV station was later referred to by the public as the murder station. The internet army called for boycott over the station and their reputation went down the drain.

Besides, the TV station was even sanctioned by the State.

The director and higher-ups of the station were removed from their position.

Incidents like these caused immense regret and frustration.

It was a human life after all!

The director’s anxiety amplified.

Although he was not worried about matters of life and death, he was concerned with reputation! If Lake City TV station failed to live up to the expected standards again, it would be a laughing stock in the industry.

Furthermore, the viewers would be deeply disappointed and it would affect the audience rating of other shows as well.

The success of the Gala Night was of great pertinence.

If the station managed to rise up from the ashes, then he would not have much to worry about anymore.

On the flip side, if things went downhill, crying would be the least of his problems.

Looking at the confident look of Mr. Field, the director's heart started beating more rapidly.

"Yes, Director Smith accurately points out that we cannot mess up this time. Let's invite one or two top idols or actors to support the Gala Night," one minister suggested.

Mr. Field dismissed his suggestion while letting off a grin, "Small matters like these can be left in the hands of Ashlyn. Don't worry about it. Your job is to focus and enjoy the show at the front row tonight!"

Everyone was speechless.

How much does Mr. Field trust Ashlyn that amateur?

Ashlyn is involved in everything!

Is she capable of managing it well?

She is merely a woman in her early twenties!

She has only appeared a few times on Twitter's trending list!

They were even more worried after hearing what Mr. Field said.

\*

The sky grew darker as the night arrived. Aureate lights were switched on.

The practice lasted the whole day in the performing hall.

Janet was tired, the intense training caused her to suffer from aches all over her body and leg cramps.

She stood in front of the door and realized that her family car was not in the parking lot. She frowned and gave her driver a call.

The phone rang multiple times but no one picked up.

She saw the other actors leaving one by one and eventually she was the only one left alone there.

She angrily vented, "Where is the driver? You have the audacity to let me wait this long! I'll deduct your salary for sure!"

She looked around and wanted to call a cab.

Out of a sudden, a black car approached her, She tried to move away, but the doors opened abruptly and two tall men dressed in black came out of the car.

The men's faces were covered with black cloth. She didn't manage to react before they covered her mouth and dragged her into the car.

The door was slammed shut and the car sped off.

Everything happened in a nick of time.

She could only whimper. Her eyes were filled with fear while she struggled to break free.

One of the men gave her a tight slap and warned, "Don't move or I'll skin you alive!"

Her eyes widened in horror. She was afraid and stared helplessly in the car.

Who did she offend? Has she been kidnapped?

### [Chapter 332](#)

She was terrified and restless.

Where is the driver?

Where on earth is the driver?

Did he conspire with them?

Her mind was in a chaotic state.

She didn't dare to move, her mouth was kept shut.

She could only wait for the opportunity to act.

There was a performance for the Gala Night the next day. It would be broadcasted live on their collaboration partner's platform.

If she were absent, she would not be able to perform the sketch. Her training with the team would be all for nothing.

She had never been so serious in her trainings...

Tears started to well up in her eyes.

She could only pray that her family will notice her absence...

Mr. Smith was a generous person and he contributed substantially to the society. She couldn't figure out who was her kidnapper, as it was unlikely that the Smith family or her would make any enemies.

Who is it then Why is she being kidnapped? What is the motive?

The car headed west towards the outskirts of town.

Janet's head was forcefully covered with a black bag, causing her to lose sight of her surroundings.

\*

The Smith family's driver woke up and realized that the car was parked at an abandoned dumpsite. It was a secluded area filled with the buzzing sounds of mosquitoes.

He shook his head in an attempt to get rid of the dizziness. He fuzzily took out his phone and checked the time. A sudden rush of anxiety followed suit.

"It is already 9 PM!"

He tried to call Janet but no one picked up.

Without further delays, he started the car engine and raced towards the Concert Hall.

By the time he reached, the doors of the Concert Hall were locked.

The driver did not dare to waste another second and rushed back to the Smith family.

Mr. Smith was playing with his pet bird when he saw the distressed driver. The driver asked nervously, "Mr. Smith, has Ms. Janet returned home already?"

"No!" Mr. Smith was puzzled, "Didn't you pick her up?"

"Mr. Smith, when I was waiting for Janet at the entrance of the Concert Hall, two masked men dressed in black abruptly approached the car and knocked me out. I was in an abandoned car park when I woke up!" the driver spoke in a fretful voice, sweat was dripping profusely from his forehead.

"I tried to call her but she didn't pick up. Now, she's not at home. I hope she is not in trouble!" he said.

If Janet got in trouble, he would not be able to clear his name.

The small tray of bird seeds that was held in Mr. Smith's hand fell to the floor.

Mr. Smith's lips trembled with fear and his face was pale as paper, "What did you say? Janet is in trouble?"

"Yes, it's very likely. Mr. Smith, you should hurry and start looking for her," the driver replied anxiously.

Mr. Smith calmed down and snapped out from his catastrophic state of mind.

He decisively instructed, "Inform Christopher now and ask him to rush back home immediately."

Christopher is Janet's father.

The next moment, Mr. Smith called Mr. Field. He skipped all the unnecessary greetings and went straight to the point, "Can you make arrangements for me to retrieve the security footage of the Concert hall? Janet is missing."

Mr. Field was taken aback by his disquietude. He shakenly asked, "How did she go missing?"

Mr. Smith did not have much time to explain, "Please do me this favor first. I'll call Chief Chase now to request for a search."

Needless to say, the next person he called was Chief Chase.

Chief Chase received the phone call from Mr. Smith, it was about the kidnapping of her granddaughter.

He immediately assembled a team of police to search the city.

Soon, the news spread like wild fire.

It was already late evening when Jared told Ashlyn about the kidnapping.

She was drying her hair while drinking a glass of honey lemon. Her gaze was glacial, "Janet went missing? Have they found her?"

"Not yet," Jared shook his head.

"Send a few of our people to look for her," Ashlyn took another sip, "At the end of the day, she was my student for a month. Besides, if she does not show up, the sketch will be jeopardized."

### [Chapter 333](#)

"Yes, boss," Jared immediately informed his subordinates to look for Janet.

"By the way, tell Jonathan to sing Peace and Glory tomorrow," Ashlyn's face was devious, "The National Day performance must be in accordance with the theme. I will not allow him to sing those modern

songs.”

“Alright,” Jared could not help but curve the corner of his lips. It was nonsensical to force a famous idol like Jonathan to sing the Glorious Group.

Five minutes later, Jonathon received the call from his brother, “Jared, this is preposterous! I’m a famous idol and she is asking me to sing this song?”

“You must obey it unless you wish to lose your job,” Jared was firm on the decision.

“I refuse to do so,” Jonathan was infuriated as he was doing a favor for Jared. Other TV stations offered high prices for him to perform, but he rejected all of them.

On the other hand, Lake City TV Station’s offer was unappealing. To make things worse, Ashlyn had asked him to sing a classical song that was outdated!

He certainly did not want that!

Jared calmly responded, “She has a multitude of methods to compel your obedience. If you don’t trust me, you can always try to challenge her.”

Jonathan was speechless.

“Think about what I said. Just follow my advice and things won’t go wrong,” said Jared.

The darkness of the night stretched to infinity.

Janet did not have any clue where she had been brought to. The car was on the move for a very long time. The rough estimation was two hours.

Finally, the car came to a stop. Two men dragged her out of the car and into a house.

The door was slammed shut and a loud bang echoed through the house.

The black bag which covered her face was removed. However, her limbs were tied together and her movement was restricted.

The room had a wall lamp with dim lights. It was extremely run-down and entangled with threads of cobwebs.

The floor was filled with wet hay; the room was humid and cold. During the night, the freezing cold would send shivers across a person’s spine.

She was terrified and yelled, “Who are you? Why do you want to kidnap me? What’s your intention?”

Open the door and release me!”

She changed to a different strategy, “My family has money. I can pay for the ransom money, please release me. I beg of you, I’m willing to pay!”

She sobbed and begged.

“Why are you screaming in the middle of the night? I want to sleep! If you don’t keep quiet, I will cut your tongue off!” a man shouted.

His threat was effective. She immediately kept quiet, petrified by the thoughts of horrible things that the mad man would do to her if she disobeyed him.

She was in the middle of nowhere on a quiet night. If the man decided to kill her, everything would be over.

She was frightened and quavered in a corner.

She did not dare to even lift a finger.

She was unnerved by the piercing cold of wet hay.

She had never endured such sufferings ever since she was born.

Now, she could only pray that Grandpa would be able to find her and rescue her from this misery.

She wanted to return home badly.

Tears escaped her eyes and streamed down her cheeks.

\*

At the police station...

Initially, Mr. Smith was waiting restlessly back at home. However, the long wait was torturous and unbearable. Thus, he decided to wait at the police station instead for first-hand news about his granddaughter.

He was served with a glass of earl grey. Nonetheless, he was not in the mood to appreciate the tea.

Chief Chase rushed to the police station. He empathetically consoled the old man before him, “Mr. Smith, Janet will return home unharmed. I’ve dispatched a huge team to look for her. We will receive news of your granddaughter at full tilt.”

“Chief Chase, as you know, the Smith family doesn’t have many family members to begin with. The youngest generation now only consists of two people, Janet and Gerald. If anything bad happens to Janet, I will not have the will to live anymore,” Mr. Smith’s physical condition appeared to have deteriorated significantly within a short span of time.

His well-being was severely affected by the immense stress and pressure.

He had always loved Janet. It had never occurred to him that his precious granddaughter would go missing.

He sighed and said, “This is obviously a calculated plan to kidnap her. They got rid of our driver before abducting her.”

### [Chapter 334](#)

They replayed the security footage for countless times.

The recording showed Janet being hurled into the car by two strong men was heart-wrenching for Mr. Smith.

“Don’t worry, we will find her,” Chief Chase could only try to reassure him.

\*

At the Haddock family.

Dixon smirked after hearing what Sienna said.

His elegant face revealed a wicked expression, “Ashlyn, let’s see how you make the Gala Night a success! You have the audacity to dream about gaining support from the Field family!”

Ever since that incident that occurred between Sienna and him, it was her natural instinct to be afraid of him.

She agreed softly, “Yes, it was a great move by you.”

“I want to witness the downfall of Ashlyn and to be the person causing her demise. This woman dared to interfere with my plans, this punishment serves her right! Her presumptuous act is pure stupidity!” Dixon said coldly and took a sip of coffee.

The rich bitterness of the black coffee stimulated his senses.

He squinted his eyes as if he were a viper enjoying his feast.



He sat nonchalantly on the couch.

It was morbid.

Sienna gulped and said, "I'll head out now."

She headed towards the door as she finished the sentence.

"How dare you leave without my permission?" Dixon's cold voice resonated in her ears.

She was rooted to the spot, her fingers laid motionless on the doorknob.

The sound of footsteps started approaching. She could feel his presence right behind her.

Dixon held out his hand and grabbed her by her waist.

He laid his chin amorously on her shoulder.

"Do you miss me?" he cajoled.

Terror manifested in her eyes. She stuttered and her voice trembled with fear "Dixon, please don't. This is the Haddock family. We will get caught."

"I tried to resist this. However, I could not suppress my body's biological urges." Dixon nibbed her tender earlobe.

"I want you. I have always been a very disciplined person and I thought I would not have immoral thoughts like this. Unfortunately, I'm still a human being. Therefore, I've decided to embrace my inherent nature."

Dixon held her chin up, "Are you not happy with my decision to fulfill my urges?"

His devilish look emanated horrifying wickedness, it sent shivers down her spine.

Unleash...

He wants to unleash himself...

No! I don't want this!

Sienna screamed deafeningly in her heart.

However, the man before her carried her up from the floor and held her against the wall.

"I don't want to suppress my instinct! That's all! Therefore, you are the tool for me to express and unleash myself!"

His crude voice oscillated between the two of them.

On the other hand, Sienna was consumed by despair and hopelessness.

Is she destined to be Dixon's toy?

\*

Ashlyn was wide awake in her room at Bayview Villa. She stared in front of the computer screen and her fingers were like butterflies as they danced elegantly across the keyboard.

She rapidly replayed the security footage from the Concert Hall. In a swift maneuver, she switched on all of the security footage of the Traffic Bureau.

She continued to follow the trails of the black car.

As the black car left the city, she speedily switched to recordings by security cameras ahead of the road.

The number of security cameras at the outskirts of the city is significantly lesser.

At the end of the day, she could still find some clues that would be of assistance.

At this moment, her subordinates were executing her instructions.

They raced towards the direction of the black car.

At the same time, Ashlyn took her laptop and headed downstairs.

A white Land Rover dashed across the dark night like an arrow.

\*

Janet was afraid to fall asleep and she curled up at the corner of the wall.

As the night got colder, she shivered uncontrollably.

### [Chapter 335](#)

She could feel the cold seeping into her body.

The silence was sheer torment.

She restricted all her movements and stayed motionless on the floor.

Out of a sudden!

The door opened loudly.

Janet was scared and she cautiously stared at the entrance.

She saw a dark-skinned and obese guy approached her.

He stood in front of her and gazed ferociously with his eyes half-closed.

“You’re a gorgeous woman,” he commended.

A strong stench of alcohol permeated the air.

Janet was disgusted and she could barely hold her puke.

Her pale face glanced at the man, “What do you want...”

“My superiors forbid me from touching you. However, it will be a shame if I don’t savor such a delicacy!”  
The fat man was squatting in front of her.

However, he lost his balance and fell towards her.

Janet who was curled up at the corner of the wall was not prepared. Before she realized it, the fat man clumsily fell flat on her.

The back of her head hit on the wall directly. The agonizing pain made her feel like she could see stars around her.

Her hands were tied up and she could not release herself from the restraints.

She struggled to break free from the rope that held her hands tightly.

However, it was a futile exercise.

The disgusting stench of alcohol attacked her senses and she was overwhelmed with the atrocious smell.

She held her breath and wanted to scream for help. Meanwhile, the fat man’s mouth started to linger on her neck.

“Go away! Don’t do this!” she yelled in distress, “Somebody please help me!”

“Help me! Help me!” her shriek was deafening.

The fat man gave her a tight slap. Her face swelled up and his finger marks were imprinted on her face.

“B\*\*\*\*, shut up! I’ll teach you a lesson!” he growled at her.

The man started to undress himself in a quick manner.

Janet was terrorized and shook her head profusely, “Don’t... please don’t. I’m a woman with dignity! I can give you money, as much as you want!”

Her heart nearly skipped a beat.

Tears started dripping from her eyes, “I beg you, please leave me alone!”

“I want to do this now! This golden opportunity will be gone once I release you the day after tomorrow!” The fat man with his drunken look held out his hand to grab hold of Janet’s clothes.

Janet closed her eyes and tears flowed down her face.

What should I do now? Is my dignity going to be trampled by this hideous man here?

I am the heir of the Smith family. Grandpa is also the pioneer chief of the city... It is unfair that I have to suffer such misfortune.

She suffered grievously, hope started to fade away. Her whimpers echoed through the place.

However, her desperate calls aroused the man further.

“Even if you cry till your death, no one will be here to save you!” he said.

The man’s hand gradually approached her pants. At the critical moment when he almost got his way...

Suddenly, there was a loud bang.

The door was kicked open.

The man leapt with shock.

Janet subconsciously looked at the entrance and saw a lean and tall feminine figure standing at the door. She was dressed in black and wore a pair of military boots.

“You...” He didn’t get a chance to finish his sentence.

The woman kicked him right on his chest.

The force sent him flying like an old trash bag.

### [Chapter 336](#)

With a loud bang!

The door crashed to the ground, and the man who tried to rape Janet collapsed as blood spurted from his mouth and nose.

The air was swiftly filled with the metallic smell of blood.

Ashlyn briefly eyed the man who was shrieking in pain disdainfully. "What a weakling."

Her tone was lazy and gentle, like soft clouds in the sky.

However, the words she uttered next were downright cruel.

"What if I chop off your hands instead? Don't worry, I'm a fair person. I'll only chop off the hand that has touched her before."

The tanned, plump man widened his eyes in shock and disbelief.

Ashlyn was just standing casually in her simple black outfit, yet she exuded the vibe of a strong woman in a superior position.

She was cold and powerful.

Sweat began to pour at the spine of the tanned, plump man.

Who is this woman? Why is she so strong?

"Why? The cat got your tongue? Or are you scared now?"

Ashlyn approached the man slowly, her hands were now playing with a razor-sharp dagger.

Before the man could react, the dagger flashed under the light and dug deep into his palm!

The poor man yelled in pain as his warm blood shot out immediately from his palm and splattered on the wall beside him.

Ashlyn pulled out the dagger as soon as she stabbed him.

Just when the man thought his torture had ended, the dagger stabbed yet again into his palm.

The poor man begged in agony as sweat poured over him. "Ahh! That's so Painful! Ahhhh! Please let me go!"

However, Ashlyn ignored him and continued stabbing his hand like it was an interesting toy made for stabbing.

After a few more rounds of stabbing, Ashlyn shook her head scornfully at the sight of his minced hand. "You're way too weak. It's just a bit of pain, and you can't even take it."

Her lips curled into a sadistic smile before approaching Janet, who was so shocked by the whole ordeal that she had ceased crying.

Completely stunned, Janet couldn't tear her eyes off Ashlyn as she looked at the woman in black like she had just known her.

It's Ashlyn... it's Ashlyn who came to save me!

All this while, I thought it would be the cops or Grandpa and Dad who would come to save me. But I never expect that Ashlyn would be the one to find me first!

The current Ashlyn looks so powerful and cold! Her face seems to be covered in permafrost when she unleashed her freezing aura.

She looked totally different from her usual self, as though she was another woman who had her face.

Ashlyn had now thrown away her patient demeanor when she was with the performers. Now she looked like a demon that came straight from hell.

She was bloodthirstily strong and vicious.

Yet, this vicious side of hers was so dazzling that no one could take their eyes off her.

Her exceptionally gorgeous face was charming yet cold, which emanated an imposing aura like that of an ice queen.

With a dazed expression, Janet looked at Ashlyn for a long time before muttering softly, "Ms. Berry... why are you here?"

Ashlyn raised her brows and started untying the ropes on Janet. "If I don't come here, how are you going to perform later?"

Ashlyn lowered her eyes as she focused on untying Janet. With those long lashes that framed her eyelids

and cast shadows on her beautiful face, she made the simple action of untying the ropes looked like a graceful sight to behold.

She was simply looked cool and suave when she did that!

At that moment, fighting sounds were heard from the outside, followed by the groans of pain from the fallen men.

A while later, the sounds of the police sirens reached their ears.

Janet's tensed and panicked heart finally settled in relief.

So that's how it feels like to be at ease. Staying by Ashlyn's side really instilled such a strong sense of security for me.

The security provided by Ashlyn comforted Janet greatly, and she really loved this feeling of being safe from all dangers.

In fact, the moment Ashlyn broke in through the door, Janet had the illusion of seeing a superwoman savior appearing before her!

Anyway, Janet followed Ashlyn out in a dazed state as the scene of various men in black subduing the kidnappers played before her, which then followed by the police's arrival.

Everything was playing in slow motion, and she felt that everything was so unreal to her.

Those men in black... are they Ashlyn's men? They're the ones who subdued the kidnappers!

Ashlyn actually came earlier than the cops!

Janet had no idea how she should react to this realization.

She could only gape at everything that had happened before her as shock rippled through her mind.

By the time she returned from her stupor, Janet suddenly found herself sitting in the police station.

"Janet! How are you? Are you alright?"

Janet looked up abruptly when she heard the familiar voice.

### [Chapter 337](#)

Tears flowed down her cheeks when Janet met eyes with Russell.

“Grandpa!”

She dived into her grandfather’s arms as she sobbed out loudly.

I am so fortunate this time. If it weren’t for Ashlyn who came to save me on time, I would be raped by that man right then.

Luck is really on my side for this.

After sending Janet to the police station, Ashlyn immediately left coolly.

With a wave of her hand, her men returned to the row of Mercedes Benz that were waiting at the police station in an orderly fashion.

It was a majestic sight to behold as the row of Mercedes left the police station together.

The police gaped at the unbelievable sight in surprise.

Who’s this woman? Why is she able to have so many martially trained men under her command?

“So you mean it was this Ms. Berry who saved you just now?” Russell felt his heart racing as he listened to his granddaughter’s narration of the events.

He was relieved to find his granddaughter safe and sound, yet he was also surprised by the identity of the person who had saved Janet.

Russell was not alone; even Chief Chase was surprised by the revelation.

“Wow! Ms. Berry is a really good example of a heroine who defends the weak and eliminates violence. I just gave her a silk banner of appreciation two days ago though...”

Seems like I have to give her another banner again. At this rate, I don’t think we can make all those banners for her in time.

“Indeed! Ms. Berry is so suave!” Janet covered her face in excitement as she fangirled over the incredibly suave image of Ashlyn kicking the rapist’s ass across the room.

She suddenly turned to Russell with a serious expression. “Grandpa, I have something to tell you.”

“What is it?” Russell asked her lovingly. He would not hesitate to fulfill any wish of hers, even if it were as unreasonable as picking the stars for her.

“I want to join the army, and I want to start right from the bottom. I cannot continue being such a useless girl who idly wanders around the State Concert Hall anymore. I need to realize my worth and be



a worthy person who can contribute to society!”

Janet’s eyes were sparkling with determination as she said that. “I am born a Smith, where all its family members are members of the army, yet I am the only one who enjoys such an idle life. Since I am born into such a family, why should I refrain from being a soldier? I want to contribute to the country like Gerald and be a worthy savior like Ms. Berry!”

Gerald Smith was Janet’s younger brother, who had graduated from a military school and was now the Colonel in his army.

Tonight had been a roller-coaster ride for Russell, as he was in a constant state of shock and panic with his granddaughter’s kidnap.

But no news was as shocking as Janet’s declaration to join the army.

She had been brought up as a spoiled girl for most of her life. Hence, although she was born into a family of soldiers and also had the fearless personality of a soldier, she was absolutely repulsed by the idea of joining the army and make herself suffer from such a tough life.

Earlier on, both Russell and Janet’s father, Christopher Smith, had wanted to send Janet into the army for training.

Even if she couldn’t achieve anything in the army, it would serve as a good experience to tone down her spoiled character.

However, Janet simply refused to go and even threatened to commit suicide if they pursue the matter further.

Because of that, Russell had to give up on that arrangement.

Now, the spoiled Janet who had so adamantly refused their arrangements actually requested to join the army herself!

What a shocking turn of events!

“Janet, are you sure about this?” Russell was so surprised by her request that he only managed to find his voice after some time.

“Grandpa, it’s my fault for being such a spoiled brat. From now on, I’m making Ms. Berry my idol and learn from her. I will work hard to be a woman like her and aspire to be an outstanding woman who could live freely and independently. I shall live my life to the fullest like how she did, instead of being the useless slime I am now,” Janet replied seriously.

The moment Ashlyn charged into the room, Janet could feel her heart ran wild in exhilaration.

She wanted to be the light that shines on the life of others, just like how Ashlyn did for her.

When Janet made this declaration of hers, no one had ever expected she would one day become one of the most highly ranked female military officer in the army.

Right then, the police in charge of the case came over to them. "Mr. Smith, Chief Chase. I have tried to interrogate the criminals, but they remained tight-lipped and refused to spill more. All they have mentioned throughout the interrogation is that they are desperate for money and that they only kidnapped Ms. Smith to get some ransom."

"Well, I'm sure it's not the ransom they want. If they want the money, they would've called my Grandpa from the start." Janet frowned. "I remember that plump dude mentioned in his drunken state that he would let me go on the day after tomorrow, so I think there's some hidden agenda behind this."

### [Chapter 338](#)

Janet was the victim of the kidnap, so the cops took her words seriously, as they were solid pieces of evidence to help solve the case.

Chief Chase turned to the said cop with a serious expression. "Continue the interrogation and dig out the truth! This is simply atrocious of them to kidnap Ms. Smith in broad daylight!"

After Janet was done recording her statement, Russell immediately brought her home.

The day was breaking as the first light of dawn peeked out over the horizon.

With her exceptional hacking skills, Ashlyn had managed to get her hands on the files for Janet's case.

According to the records, the criminals did not ask for any ransom, and there was only this fat man who tried to rape Janet.

In fact, when Ashlyn broke into the room, the other men were all fast asleep and only one was awake to patrol the place.

This is a weird kidnap case.

Usually kidnapers were either employed to murder, or they just want the ransom. Either way, they all do so for money.

Does that mean these people have other motives behind the kidnap?

They will release Janet on the day after tomorrow...

Unable to think further, Ashlyn closed the file and left to take a shower.

Tomorrow would be the D-day for the Gala Night. Ashlyn desperately needed a good sleep to keep herself fresh for the event.

By the time Ashlyn woke up, it was already 4 PM.

She reached for her phone on the table and realized there were quite a few missed calls, all from Pierre and the other co-producers.

Ashlyn checked her WhatsApp immediately, which was bombarded by messages from the co-producers and the performers.

She decided to call Pierre first. "Hello."

On the other side, Pierre raised his brows at her hoarse voice. "Ms. Berry, are you still in bed?"

"I just woke up. Why?" Ashlyn narrowed her eyes. Her brain was still groggy after waking up.

"We have all arrived at the Concert Hall for the final rehearsal. Any suggestions or changes you would like to make before the performance?"

"Oh, ok. Give me half an hour and I'll be there." Ashlyn hung up the phone and replied to her messages before getting out of bed to wash up.

Within a matter of minutes, she was done washing up.

After applying some moisturizers and lotions, Ashlyn took her bag and exited her room.

She had just reached the ground floor when she found a whole hill of gifts piled up in her living room.

Confused by the situation, she turned to Harrison and Anderson, who were munching on some peanuts. "Where are all these gifts from?"

Anderson looked up, and his eyes lit up at the sight of his gorgeous Boss. He then tossed his pack of peanuts aside and ran up to Ashlyn. "Boss! These are all gifts from the Smith family."

"The Smith family?" Ashlyn raised her beautiful brows.

"Yes! Because you've saved Ms. Smith from the kidnappers, so Mr. Smith is very grateful for your help. He almost groveled before us while expressing his gratitude. This is not all; he even gave each of us a cheque with a handsome amount!"

Harrison uttered with his legs crossed.

“Cheque?” Ashlyn replied in amusement.

“Yes! He said he wants to thank us for our hard work in saving his granddaughter.” Harrison munched on another peanut as he spoke.

“Fine, you guys may keep the gifts then, since all of you have worked hard last night.” Ashlyn nodded.  
“The Gala is due to start at 7 PM. Remember to bring the boys to the show. I’ll leave the tickets here.”

Ashlyn then took out a stack of tickets and placed them on the table.

“Goodness! There are at least a few dozen here!” Anderson exclaimed.

“Well, I’m the director of the event after all. Getting this mere stack of tickets is nothing for me.” Ashlyn raised her brows lightheartedly and turned to leave. “See you guys later. Dress yourselves properly. Don’t embarrass me in my event, ok?”

“Don’t worry, Boss! We will dress up nicely and keep our manners.” Anderson and Harrison noted with a fawning smile while sending Ashlyn off.

They waited until Ashlyn left in her Land Rover before returning to the house.

The moment they stepped indoors, though, the two of them turned to each other and smacked their thighs. “Oh, goodness! We got distracted by our Boss!”

“Yes! We’ve forgotten about the Berry Furnishings stuff!”

“Err... well... maybe we can report to her later after the Gala Night.”

“No... I think it’s best to wait till tomorrow. The National Day Gala Night will only end at 12 midnight.”

“Alright.”

With that, the siblings continued munching on their peanuts while watching TV.

### [Chapter 339](#)

By the time Ashlyn reached the Concert Hall, the performers were already conducting their final rehearsal.

But after scanning the hall, she noticed Janet was not around.

This made Ashlyn pursed her lips in displeasure.

After that, she turned around to the crew who all greeted her respectfully.

Ashlyn nodded and turned to Pierre and the other co-producers. "I'm sorry. Janet may not be able to perform later. Something had happened to the Smiths and we've lost contact with her."

"Lost contact with her?" Pierre exclaimed.

"Yes," Ashlyn replied. "She has been out of contact for some time now, so she most likely couldn't act in the sketch later. I think we have to come out with another program now."

"Ms. Berry, I think it would be best to get an idol or any popular young celebrity to save the show," Lisa uttered as a hint of delight flashed across her eyes.

It was so fast that no one could catch it, yet it didn't escape Ashlyn keen eyes.

She just smiled with her head low and replied in a slightly panicked voice, "No way! The idol has never practiced with us before, so she most likely couldn't play the character well. If we messed up this performance, I will be the one to bear the wrath of the higher-ups, which I don't want to face at all."

Lisa approached Ashlyn in her long, red dress and patted her shoulders.

The delight in her thickened as she saw how panicked Ashlyn looked. With a gloating tone, Lisa comforted Ashlyn over her misfortune.

"Well, you shouldn't worry too much, Ms. Berry. Who knows, Janet will be here later. After all, the sketch is one of the most important programs for the night."

"I shall discuss with the co-producers about this then," Ashlyn replied and turned to the crew. "Alright, you guys continue with your practice and rehearsal. The Gala Night is going to start at 7 PM sharp, so keep yourselves refreshed and do your best, ok?"

"Ok!" Everyone answered in their booming voices.

After that, Ashlyn dragged the co-producers to the backstage.

Unlike the bustle on the stage, the place was silent and only filled with props and costumes.

There was no one around at all.

Ashlyn's usually cool demeanor was laced with a hint of panic. "Pierre, do you have any idea on how to solve this? The Gala Night is starting soon, but Janet is missing now."

"Let me think, please. Don't panic, Ms. Berry." Pierre sank into deep thought as he pondered over the problem.

The other co-producers also tried to reassure Ashlyn. "Worse come to worst, the rest of us can be the

ones to perform. We can put together a good dance performance or sing some patriotic songs for the event. Regardless of whether the sketch can be performed, at least we can fill the gap and make the Gala Night a success.”

“But that sketch has an outstanding plot that is very relatable to our daily lives and also has a hidden message which indirectly mocks the current society, so it is a very important performance that cannot be dropped. Now, what should I do about this?” Ashlyn asked back in frustration. “How can I not panic? This is the sweat and blood of so many of us for the past one month!”

She had on a panicked and helpless expression, but her sharp eyes discreetly swept towards the box that contained the stage props.

She saw the hem of a piece of clothing flickering briefly behind the box.

It was a red piece of clothing.

Ashlyn curled her lips unnoticeably at the sight.

Ahh... so you're eavesdropping, huh?

After noticing the eavesdropper, Ashlyn continued her act further. “Forget about it, if Janet is not back yet, then I'm going on stage myself. I can play the harp or something to replace the sketch.”

“Ms. Berry, if you're going to perform, then what about the performers for the sketch? They have been practicing for so long for this piece! I'm sure they will be extremely displeased with the fact that they don't get to perform after all their efforts,” Pierre commented.

“Then what else can we do?” Ashlyn panicked. “We can't do this, and we can't do that. There's literally nothing we can do! Don't tell me we're going to mess up the Gala Night then?”

The red piece of clothing flickered and finally vanished behind the box.

Ashlyn let out a cold snort, and the panic on her face vanished into a confident one. “Thanks for your cooperation,” she said to the co-producers.

“Huh?”

“What?”

“Are you alright, Ms. Berry? You're confusing me. What do you mean by cooperation?”

“Someone is trying to ruin the performance, and it's one of the performers. What I said to you just now was all part of my act to fish them out. Janet will arrive on time. Don't worry.” Ashlyn's tone turned stern as she declared, “Since someone wants to ruin the Gala Night, then I shall make sure it will be an

unprecedented success instead!”

“Seriously, Ms. Berry?” Pierre exclaimed in surprise.

“Yes, so I need all of you to keep this a secret and continue to act like Janet is still missing,” Ashlyn instructed the co-producers before walking out of the backstage together.

#### Chapter 340

You want to see me make a fool of myself, right? Over my dead body!

By 6.30 PM, the spectators gradually entered the Concert Hall and sat in their places under the directions of the crew.

The two rows closest to the stage were roundtable VIP seats filled with exquisite dishes of food and desserts.

Each seat was labelled with a nametag, who were all VIPs of Lake City.

The Mayor, Mr. Field, sat at the middlemost table and he was flanked by the other political leaders of Lake City, while the other tables sat the other important administrators of Lake City.

While the first row consisted of VIPs from the leaders of Lake City, the second row was filled with important figures in the business realm and famous artists of the city.

Behind the tables were the third and fourth rows, where they were regular rows of seats with no tables.

These two rows were now empty, as they were prepared for the performers who have finished their performances.

Currently, the stage was empty as the show hadn’t started yet.

Most of the spectators were seated in their places now. Led by Harrison and Anderson, Ashlyn’s men had also found their seats and were waiting for the show to start. The seats assigned by Ashlyn were located right in the middle of the Concert Hall. Hence, they all get to enjoy the best view of the performances.

As for Jared, he was sitting in the second row as the representative of Centennial Healthcare.

Sitting beside Jared was Winsor, who also brought his younger brother Tinsor with him.

Dixon also happened to share the same table as them.

The four of them merely exchanged pleasantries before taking their seats and then talked no more.

Except for Tinsor...

He was almost jumping in excitement in his seat.

“Hey, Winsor. Do you think my goddess, Ashlyn, will perform today? The social media is in chaos now and they are waiting to see her make a fool of herself.”

“I’m going to fanboy over my goddess and cheer for her later.”

“Winsor-”

“Shut up!” Winsor growled lowly at his brother and glared at him. “Mr. Field and the other VIPs are all sitting in front of us. Do you want to embarrass yourself?”

Finally, Tinsor pouted his lips and kept them shut.

It was already 6.59 pm.

Almost everyone had arrived at the Hall, except for one.

The middlemost table of the first row was left with one empty seat, and the name label for the reserved seat was a very famous one. It was Lucas Nolan.

The Deputy Mayor put on an awkward smile. “Seems like Mr. Nolan is not coming here today.”

Everyone knew that Lucas never liked to attend such events. In fact, the last time when he had attended the charity event was such an unusual occurrence that everyone’s eyes had fallen out of their sockets when they saw him.

Knowing his character, and that the time was almost 7 pm now, everyone had guessed that Lucas would most likely not attend the Gala Night as well.

Once the Gala Night started, the doors of the State Concert Hall would be closed, and everyone who was late would not be allowed in anymore.

“I guess so... Mr. Nolan had always been a busy man. He is a pilot, and also the president of his company. How will he have the time to attend such events?” The Director of Lake City TV station assented.

He had just finished his words when the crowd by the door stirred suddenly.

The spectators turned their heads towards the door to see a tall man in his captain uniform and pilot cap striding towards the first row.



“Mr... Mr. Nolan?!” The director got the shock of his life and immediately stood up from his place to welcome Lucas. “You’re here!”

Lucas merely nodded in acknowledgement.

He had rushed to the Hall the moment his plane touched down.

Luckily!

We made it on time.

Poor Spencer had the fright of his life for Lucas. Mr. Nolan had run the red light thrice just to be at Ms. Berry’s Gala Night on time!

Bless my fragile heart!

Upon reaching his seat, Lucas placed his cap on the table and sat down in his place.

The people at his table finally came back from their initial shock and greeted Lucas immediately.

“Pleasure to see you here, Mr. Nolan.”

“I didn’t expect you would attend the Gala Night!”

“It’s been a while, Mr. Nolan.”

Sitting in the second row, Dixon’s handsome face was now clouded in an air of displeased gloominess. After all these while, the Haddock family is still considered a family of lower status compared to the Nolans.

What an irritating fact!

In contrast, Jared and Winsor bore no hard feelings towards Lucas. Winsor, in particular, simply ignored Lucas’ presence as the Nolans and the Jaquins were not on exactly good terms with each other before that.